

Executive Summary

State Party	The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
State, Province or Region	South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State(SNNPR)
Name of the Property	The Gedeo Cultural landscape
Geographical Coordinate to the nearest second	N 6° 14' 56" and E 38° 17' 16"
Textual description of the boundary (ies) of the nominated property	The property is predominantly bounded by Sala watershed in the North, North West, and North East and partly by Galana watershed in the South, South East and South West.
A4 (or “ letter”) size map of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone (If present)	Reduced size version of the original topographic map (1:50,000) showing the nominated property is attached.
Criteria under which property is nominated	III and V
Draft statement of the Outstanding Universal Value	<p>A. Brief Synthesis: The Gedeo Cultural landscape is located in south Ethiopia flanking the Eastern ridges of the Great East African Rift valley. The landscape rises from 1327 meters above sea level near Abaya Lake and rises to an altitude of 3037 meters above sea level in the East, within a distance of 20 Kilometers.</p> <p>The Gedeo people have established an indigenous agroforestry system based on locally evolving knowledge, cultivating enset and coffee along with indigenous trees and shrubs; while maintaining the natural forest to sustain the environment. Using the locally evolving knowledge system, they cultivate enset (<i>enset ventricosum</i>), together with coffee and other tuber crops to ensure moisture for the coffee and other tuber crops, during dry seasons due to its water retaining nature. Although, varieties of enset are documented elsewhere in the tropics, it is only in South West Ethiopia that it is domesticated and used as staple food. The Gedeo cultivate more than 50 local varieties of enset and is one of the domestication spots for enset and coffee. Through their indigenous knowledge, they managed to pursue a sustainable land use system notwithstanding a high human population pressure and a landscape which is susceptible to degradation and landslide. The agroforestry system developed several layers of canopy, in which the bigger indigenous trees provide shade to the underlying enset plant; which in turns provide shades and water during drought periods to the underlying coffee; while the smaller plants at the base are prospering with enough moisture. This symbiotic relationship between the various components is well understood by the Gedeo and is part of their evolving indigenous knowledge and practices. Through such practices they sustain their livelihood while ensuring environmental sustainability. These features are illustrative of the complex human – environment interaction which makes agroforestry system unique.</p> <p>The cultural land scape is also marked by abundant megalithic archaeological sites dated between the 8th. and 15th century and a prehistoric rock art site dated to be older than 2000 years BP. This landscape is an example of rich evolving culture, resilience and sustainability.</p> <p>B. Justification for Criteria: The Gedeo have, between the 8th. and the 14th. Century AD,</p>

	<p>adopted a megalithic culture in the whole landscape in at least 60 locations. Three of the most representative of the megalithic sites are nominated for inscription. These archaeological sites are protected through traditional institutions. Petroglyphs representing earlier form of cattle are engraved in ancient cave walls, and are present. All these features are illustrative of the complex social order and in situ cultural development. The megalithic sites are embedded within a rich and vast indigenous agroforestry system. The Gedeo practice a locally developed agricultural system, which sustain the food security of the communities since ancient times. Enset is domesticated and used as staple food in South West Ethiopia. They also cultivate other root cultivars and coffee (Indigenous to this area) together with enset. They use their traditional management system, which revolve around their traditional belief systems. These belief systems ensure the conservation and protection of the landscape. The nominated property thus ‘bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared’ (Criteria III).</p> <p>The Gedeo have established an indigenous agroforestry system based on locally evolving knowledge, cultivating enset and coffee along with indigenous trees and shrubs; while maintaining the natural forest to sustain the environment. In this system, the local people intentionally cultivate enset (<i>enset ventricosum</i>), together with coffee to ensure supply of moisture during dry seasons for the coffee and other tuber crop. Although, varieties of enset are documented elsewhere in the tropics, it is only in South West Ethiopia that it is domesticated and used as staple food. The Gedeo cultivate more than 50 local varieties of enset and is one of the domestication spots for enset and coffee. Through their indigenous knowledge, they managed to pursue a sustainable land use system notwithstanding a high population pressure and a landscape which is susceptible to degradation and landslide. They also sustain their livelihood while ensuring environmental sustainability. These features are illustrative of the complex human – environment interaction which makes the agroforestry system unique. Thus, it fulfills criteria V “...be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land use, which is representative of a culture, or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.”</p> <p>c)Statement of Integrity (for all properties)</p> <p>The Gedeo have developed an indigenous agroforestry system highly adapted to the climatic and topographic constraints of the land they occupy. The enset and coffee cultivation is done through traditional methods and is the main feature of the landscape on which the people depend for their livelihood. Sacred lands are marked with traditionally protected forests which harbor important biodiversity. The traditional elders/ leaders perform rituals from these sacred places.</p> <p>Megalithic sites dated between the 8th and 15th. century are also one of the main components of the cultural landscape. They are located at high points where the sites over-look the surrounding lowlands in almost all directions. Some of the most important groupings of stelae which are proposed for nomination, i.e. Tuto-fela, Sede-mercato and Chelba-tutiti, have 253, 663 and 1530 stelae respectively. Engravings at the Odola Galma rock art site depict hampless cattle on a rock face and are attributed to be older than 2000 years. The sites are managed by the local community and elders.</p> <p><i>d) Statement of authenticity for properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi)</i></p> <p>The Gedeo agroforestry represents a sustainable land use system maintained through indigenous land use system. They cultivate enset plant which is the basis of their livelihood. The Gedeo have developed this system thanks to the culturally embedded land use system which is developed in response to ecological constraints presented by climate and topography.</p> <p>Within this landscape, several megalithic sites are found. Three of these: Tuto-fela, Sede-</p>
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	<p>mercato and Chelba-tutiti are nominated as representative of the whole. Phallic and anthropomorphic forms are the main types of stelae; and were studied since the beginning of the last century. Most of the stelae are made on local ignimbrite and basalt rocks. The odola-galma rock art site is a witness of pastoral activities in the area at the turn of the Christian era. All the archeological sites are well preserved and protected and have been subjects of a number of publications.</p> <p>E)Requirements for protection and management: Local communities ensure the management and protection of the cultural landscape. Management committees are formed at local, district and Zonal levels to insure the day to day management of the property. Policies, proclamations, and directives provided for the protection of cultural heritages in the country by the federal and regional governments apply for the Gedeo cultural landscape. This is further reinforced by a proclamation now provided for the protection of the nominated property.</p>
Name and contact information of official local institution/ agency	<p>Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural heritage (ARCCH), Address: National Museum Compound, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel:+251 11 154 00 4; +251 11 154 00 54; + 251 11 154 00 41 Fax: +251 11 154 00 33 P.O. Box 13247. Email: mulugetafyg@gmail.com Web address :www.arcch.gov.et</p>

38°10'30"E

38°13'30"E

38°16'30"E

38°19'30"E

38°22'30"E

6°24'0"N
6°22'0"N
6°20'0"N
6°18'0"N
6°16'0"N
6°14'0"N
6°12'0"N
6°10'0"N
6°8'0"N
6°6'0"N
6°4'0"N6°24'0"N
6°22'0"N
6°20'0"N
6°18'0"N
6°16'0"N
6°14'0"N
6°12'0"N
6°10'0"N
6°8'0"N
6°6'0"N
6°4'0"N

The Gedeo Cultural Landscape



Bolocho sacred forest
Birbira Sacred forest

Basura Grave yard

Odola-Gelma

Tuto-Fela

Chelba-Tutiti

Wogida Amba sacred forest

Sede-Merkato

0 2.25 4.5 9 Kilometers

Source: EMA, 1988
Sheet No. 0638 C1-C4

Legend



Sacred_forest



Megalithic & Rock art_sites



Proposed boundary for the nominated property

38°10'30"E

38°13'30"E

38°16'30"E

38°19'30"E

38°22'30"E