

# Ethiopia's Church Forests — Community Wall-Building to Protect Sacred Afromontane Forest Islands

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Ethiopia

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

## Summary

Ethiopian Orthodox churches guard the last fragments of northern Ethiopia's native forest, which has shrunk from 45% to under 5% cover. TREE Foundation and local clergy have catalogued 106 church forests and completed protective stone walls around 17 of them.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                               | Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced             | 0/3   |
| Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced    | 2/3   |
| Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control | 0/3   |
| Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced             | 0/3   |
| Governance, certification & transferability             | 3/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[TREE Foundation; Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church; Debre Tabor University; California Academy of Sciences](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[TREE Foundation — Church Forests of Ethiopia](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[Africa Geographic — Ethiopia's church forests](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

---

Cite this — Evidoria. *Ethiopia's Church Forests — Community Wall-Building to Protect Sacred Afromontane Forest Islands*. Persistent ID: 409f3094-f0bc-447a-9164-e49da16acb06.