

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

International Conference on Community Based Ecotourism Development Call for Papers

The institute of development research of Addis Ababa University is engaged in development oriented research work and training graduate students in development studies. Currently the institute is actively working on development project entitled "community based ecotourism development", in its environment and natural resource management division. The objectives of the project are 1) to explore natural and cultural resources including: geological, archaeological, historical, scenery sites, and potential national park areas; 2) create public awareness; 3) draft development of ecotourism plan with community participation and within the framework of maximizing community benefit; and 4) create sustainable ecotourism development in the area.

To broaden this new vision and approach on ecotourism and to call upon collaborative implementation work with government institutions, NGOs, private sector and higher institutions, the Institute of Development Research of Addis Ababa University is organizing a conference on *Community based ecotourism* on January, 2007. The main thematic issues to be covered by the conference include:

- 1. Role of geology and paleo-environment in ecotourism development
- 2. Role of archeology and heritage management in ecotourism development
- 3. Role of history in ecotourism development
- 4. Alternate land use and park development
- 5. Ecotourism and infrastructure development, the tradeoffs
- 6. Socio-cultural and environmental challenges in ecotourism development
- 7. Role of community in ecotourism development
- 8. Role of private sector and NGOs in ecotourism development
- 9. Role of government in ecotourism development

There will also be a two days tour to the most selected historical, archeological, and fascinating-scenery sites during the conference.

The conference will be held in Adwa town, Tigray, northern Ethiopia where the first multidisciplinary ecotourism project study has been conducted.

We call upon all interested individuals and organizations to submit an abstract not later than **August 30, 2006** via mail: Institute of Development Research/AAU

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