

# Monitoring forest restoration with local communities in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, Ethiopia

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# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Methods
3. Site presentation
4. Preliminary results
5. Conclusion and recommendations





# 1 Introduction

- Main objective: understand the motivations of local communities and leaders in implementing, monitoring and reporting forest restoration activities in which they take part – **still an ongoing research**
- Four research questions:
  1. What are the roles of local communities in monitoring restoration activities?
  2. What are their motivations for reporting data/information about restoration activities?
  3. What can be improved in monitoring restoration?
  4. How can we use the lessons learned from restoration to contribute to REDD+ MRV in Ethiopia?



# Why doing the research in BGRS?

- Earlier plans to have REDD+ in BGRS – but did not happen
- BGRS is using bamboo in restoration already despite no project on REDD+ yet
- Local communities are self-motivated with the support from the Bureau of Agriculture (e.g., in Amba 2)

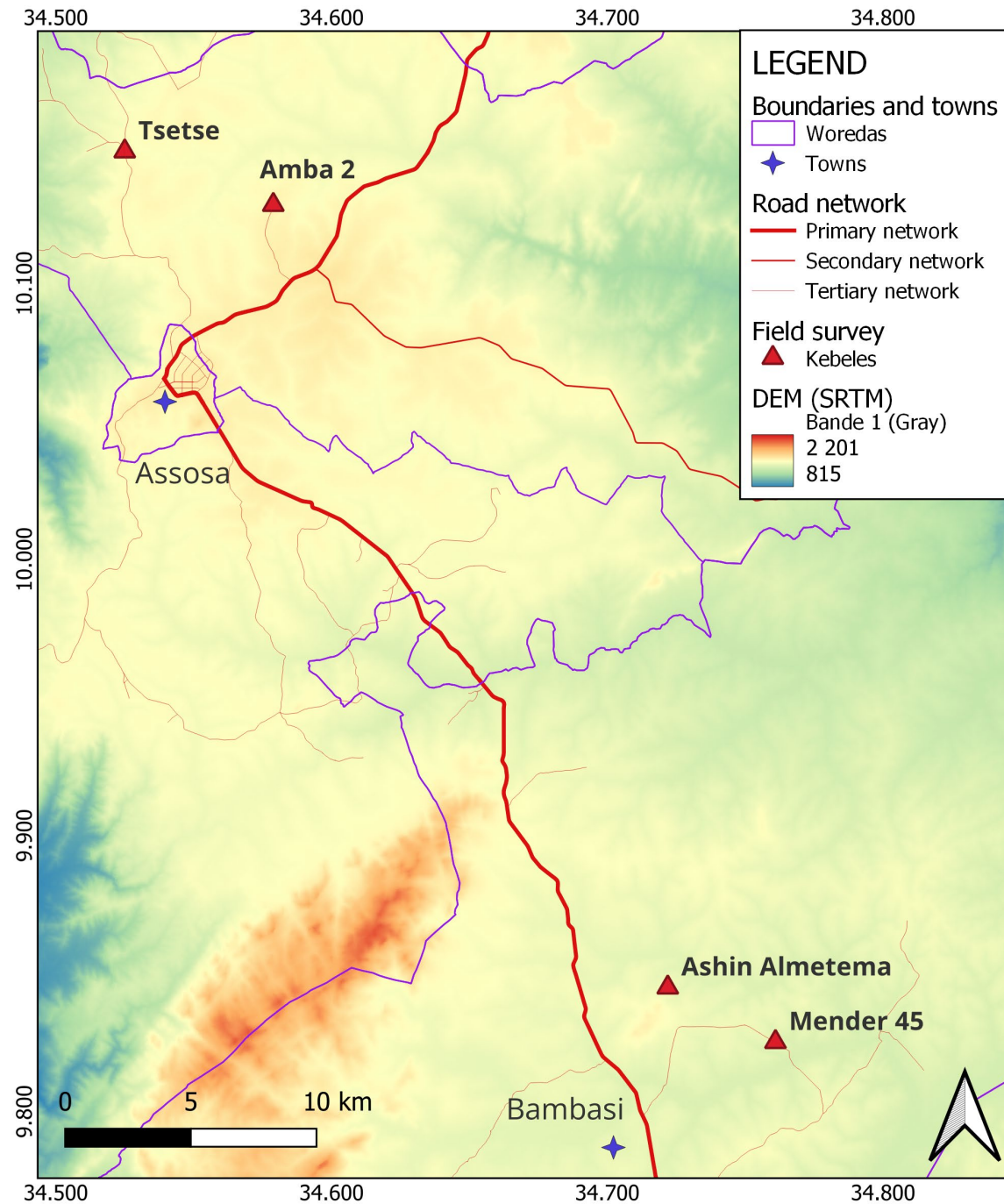
## 2 Methods

- Pre-testing of the instruments
- Selection of 4 kebele in BGRS with restoration activities
- Instruments using qualitative data collection methods
  - Key informant interviews: kebele leaders and women association heads – general information about the kebele and restoration activities
  - Household surveys: 40 HH per kebele (total 160) **with about 42% women interviewed (67)** – participation in restoration activities and local motivations to report
  - Direct field observation: visit of restoration sites incl. in communal land and homestead
- Data analysis – (1) data entry, (2) cleaning, (3) coding (Excel), (4) analysis (R)





## 3 RESEARCH SITES



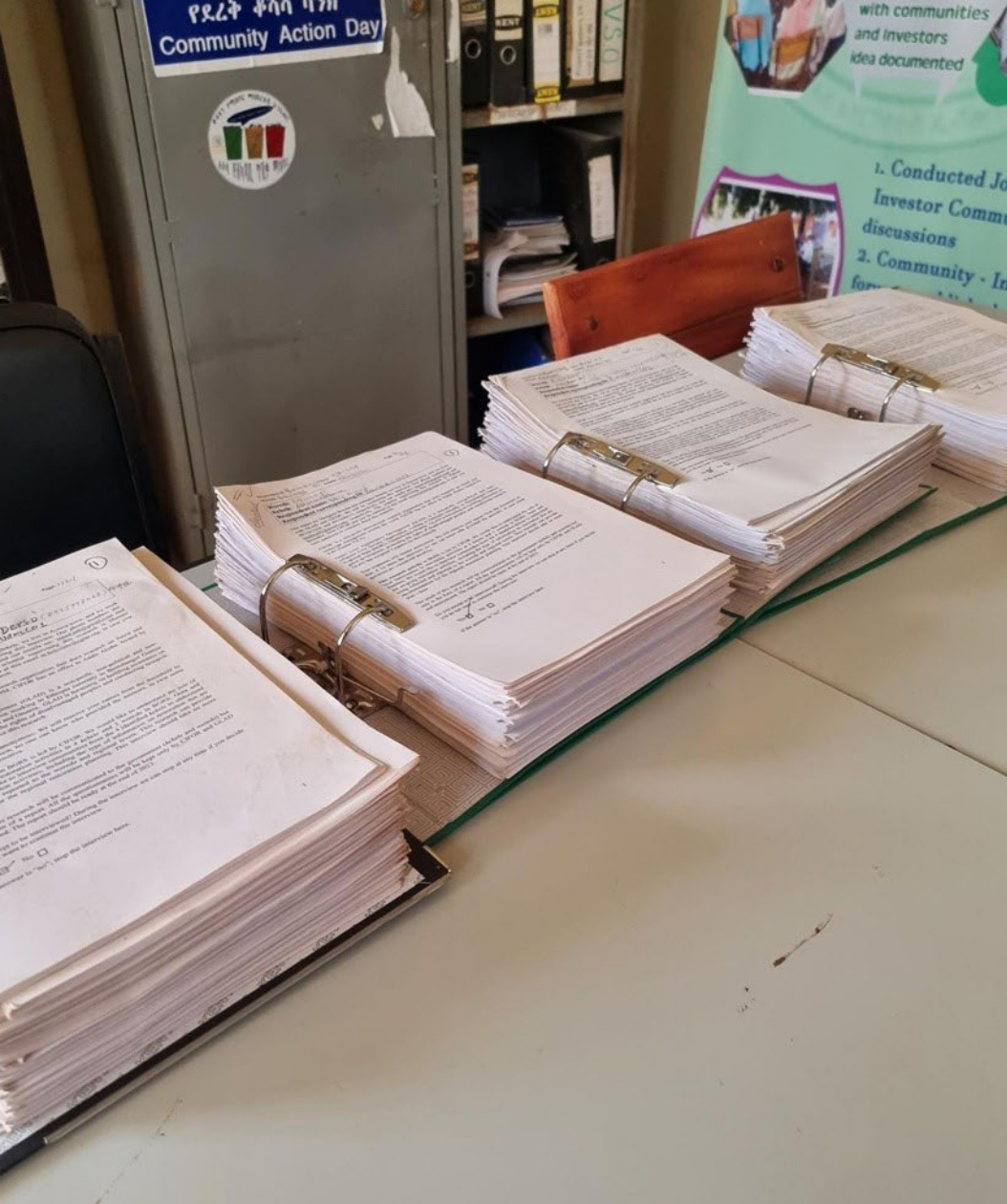
**Cartography : Clarisse Vautrin - CIRAD June 2024**

- Sources :
- Administrative boundaries and towns: Ethiopia - Subnational Administrative Boundaries  
<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/cod-ab-eth?>
  - Road network: OSM  
<https://download.geofabrik.de/>
  - Elevation: Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM)  
<https://dwtkns.com/srtm30m/>
  - Field survey in the kebeles : Manuel Boissière

# Restoration in the research sites (BGRS)

Woreda	Kebele	Area (ha)	Pop	Restoration from	Restoration area (ha)	Main restoration activities	Stakeholders	Reasons
Oura	Amba 2	1000	1500	2009	100	Nursery, plantation, fire protection, site protection	Villagers, kebele DA, woreda agricultural office, SLMP/RLLP	Land degradation, lack of firewood, construction material, crop depletion
Oura	Tsetse	9792	1900	2013	200	Nursery (stopped), plantation, fire management, soil and water conservation	Villagers, kebele DA, woreda agricultural offices, World Vision, SLM	Land degradation, low agricultural productivity
Bambesi	Mender 45	1277	1300	2011	31	Nursery, plantation, fire management, PFM	Villagers, government, SLM-RLLP, AEPA-GLAD, DRDIP, INBAR	Wide degradation, Decrease in land productivity,
Bambesi	Ashin Almetema	10146	1650	2012	160	Nursery, plantation, protection and fire management	Villagers, government, SLM, DRDIP	Degraded land





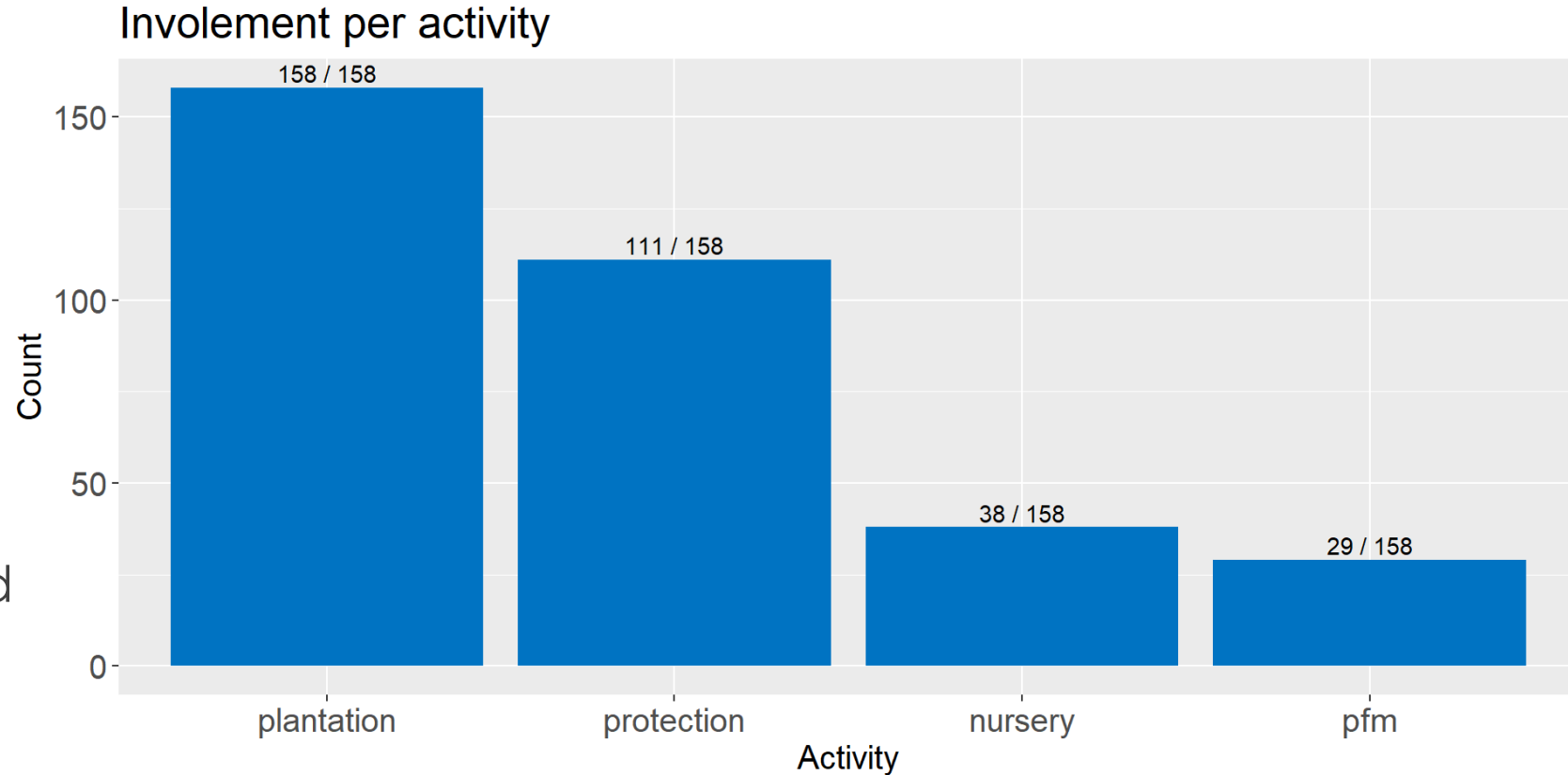
## 4 PRELIMINARY RESULTS



# Background - Types of restoration considered

- Plantation
- Protection & monitoring (incl. fire management)
- Nursery
- Participatory Forest Management cooperative
- (*Area closure*)

In communal land, farmland and private homestead



# What do local people report for each type of restoration?

**Number/types of planted seedlings per species and/or seedlings received for plantation**

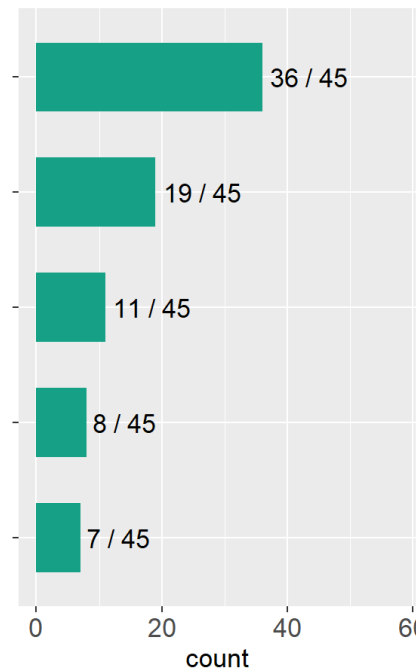
**Number of participants in plantation**

Area covered daily by plantation

Problems occurring during plantation and what was done to address them

Names of people not participating/absentees for measures to be taken

Five most collected infomations



## PLANTATION

## PROTECTION

**Encroachment events (eg illegal cutters) and actions taken**

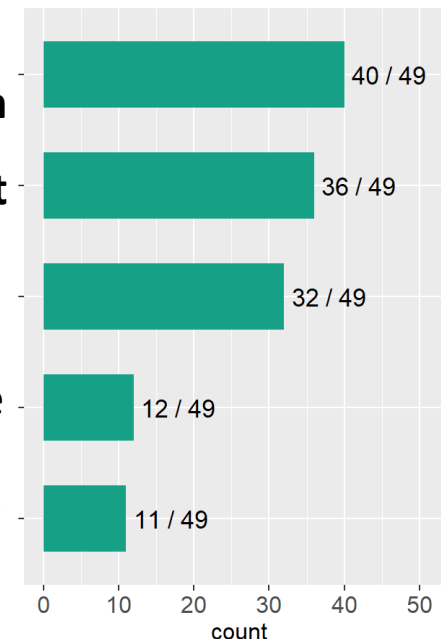
**Fire occurrence and reasons for it**

Occurrence of cattle grazing in restoration site

Illegal extraction of forest products in restoration zone

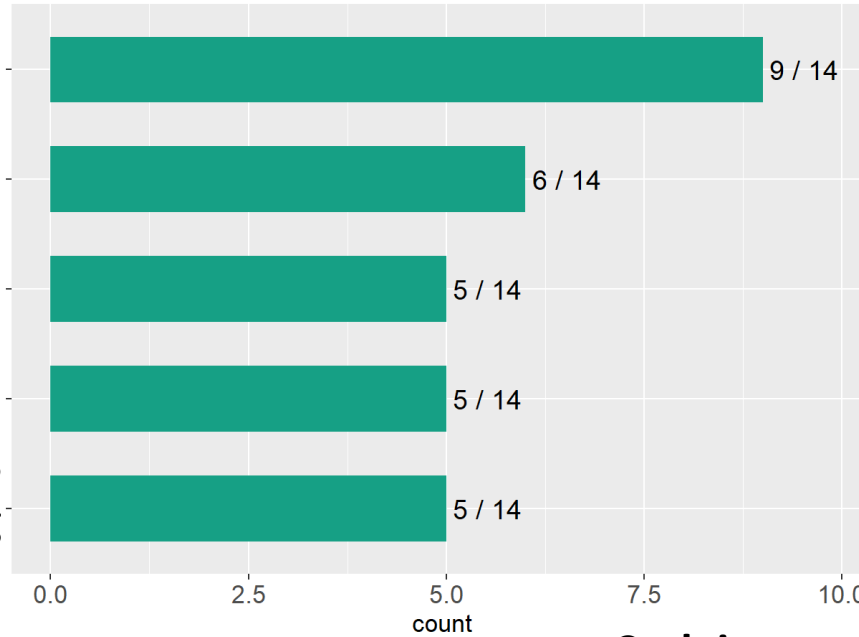
Data to identify destroyed parts of restoration sites, increase or decrease of the restored area

Five most collected infomations



# What do local people report for each type of restoration?

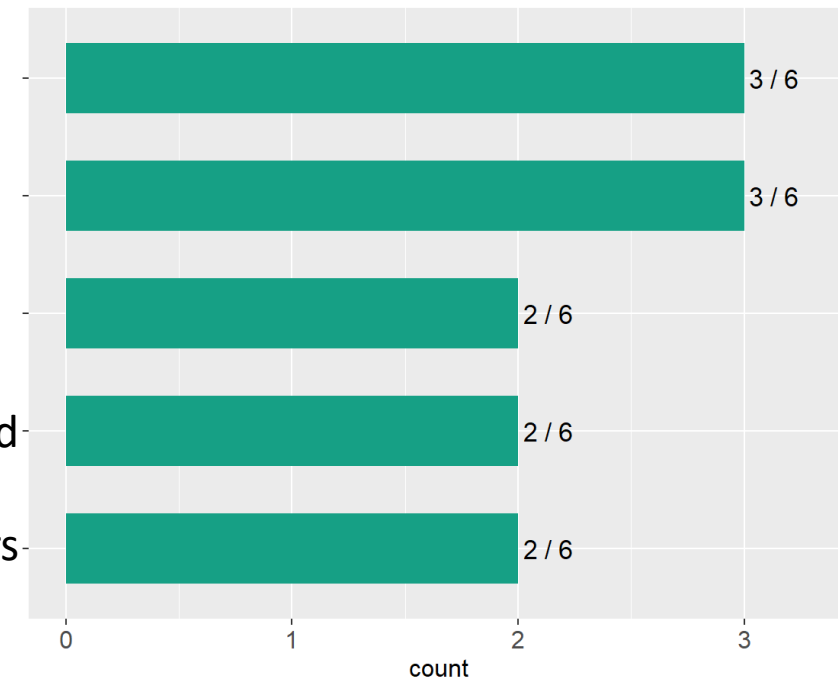
Five most collected infomations in nursery



## NURSERY

## PFM

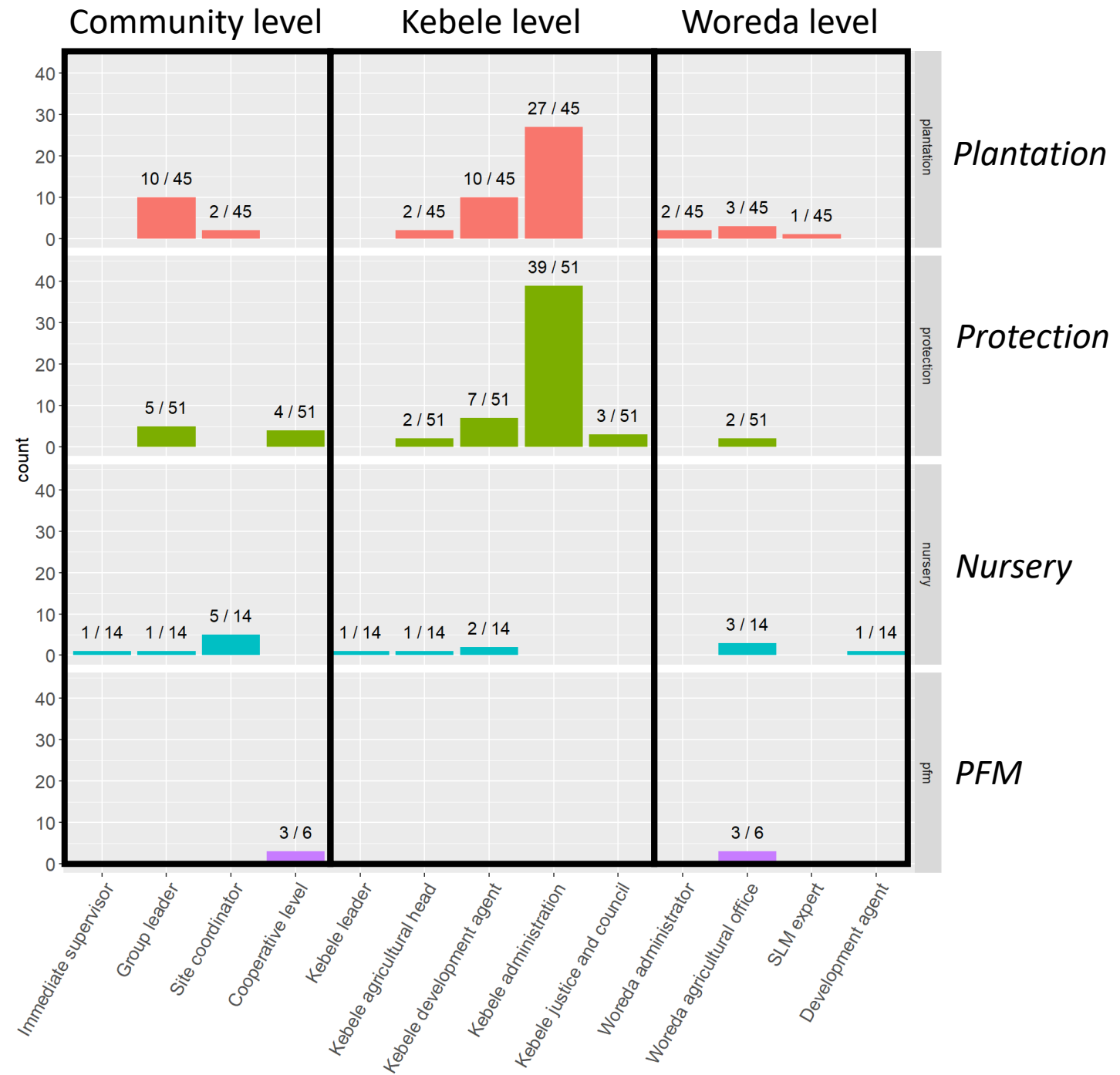
Five most collected infomations in pfm



# To whom information is reported?

## Main findings:

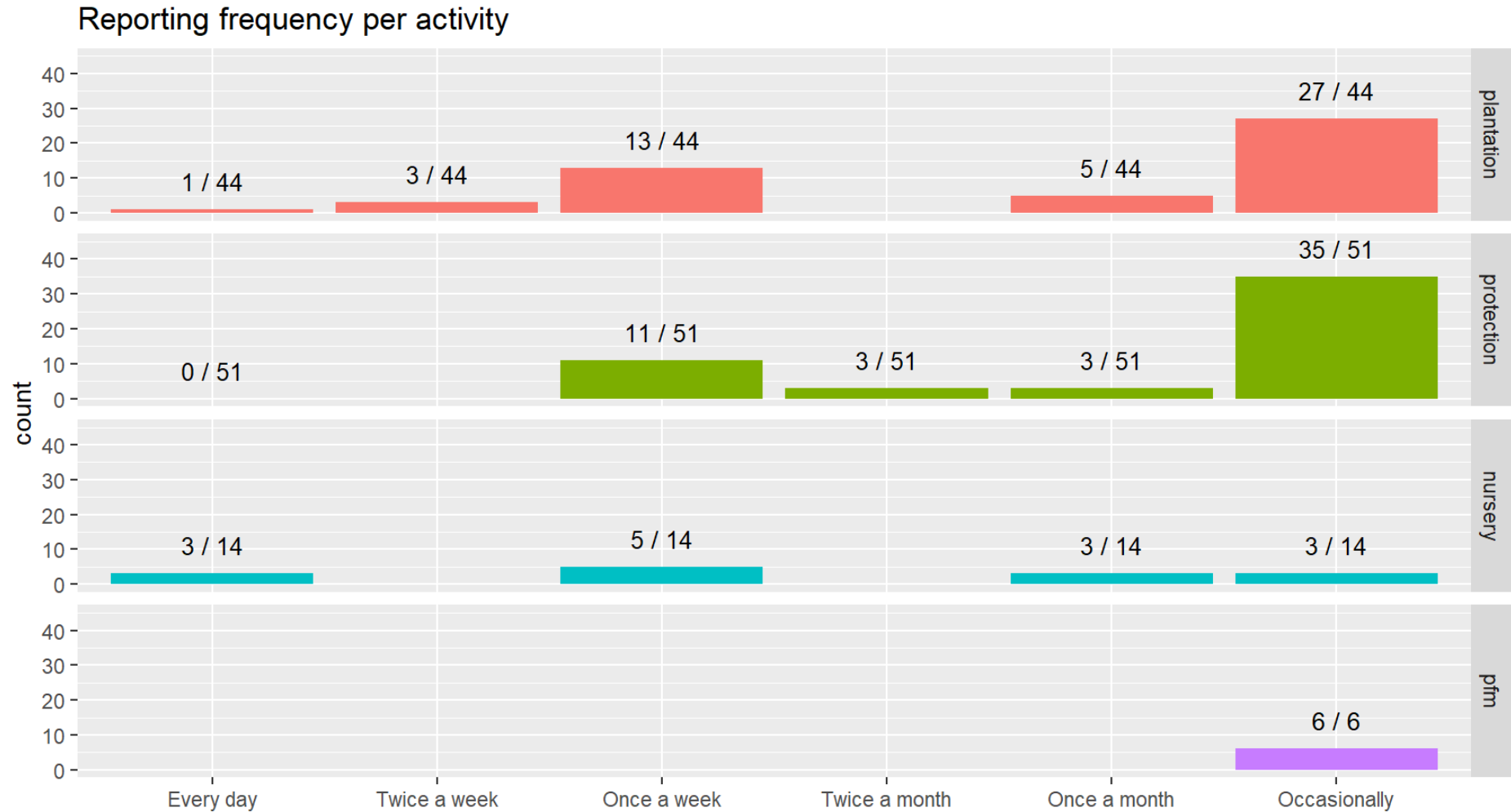
- mostly at the Kebele level (especially for plantation and protection)



# How often is the information reported?

## Main findings:

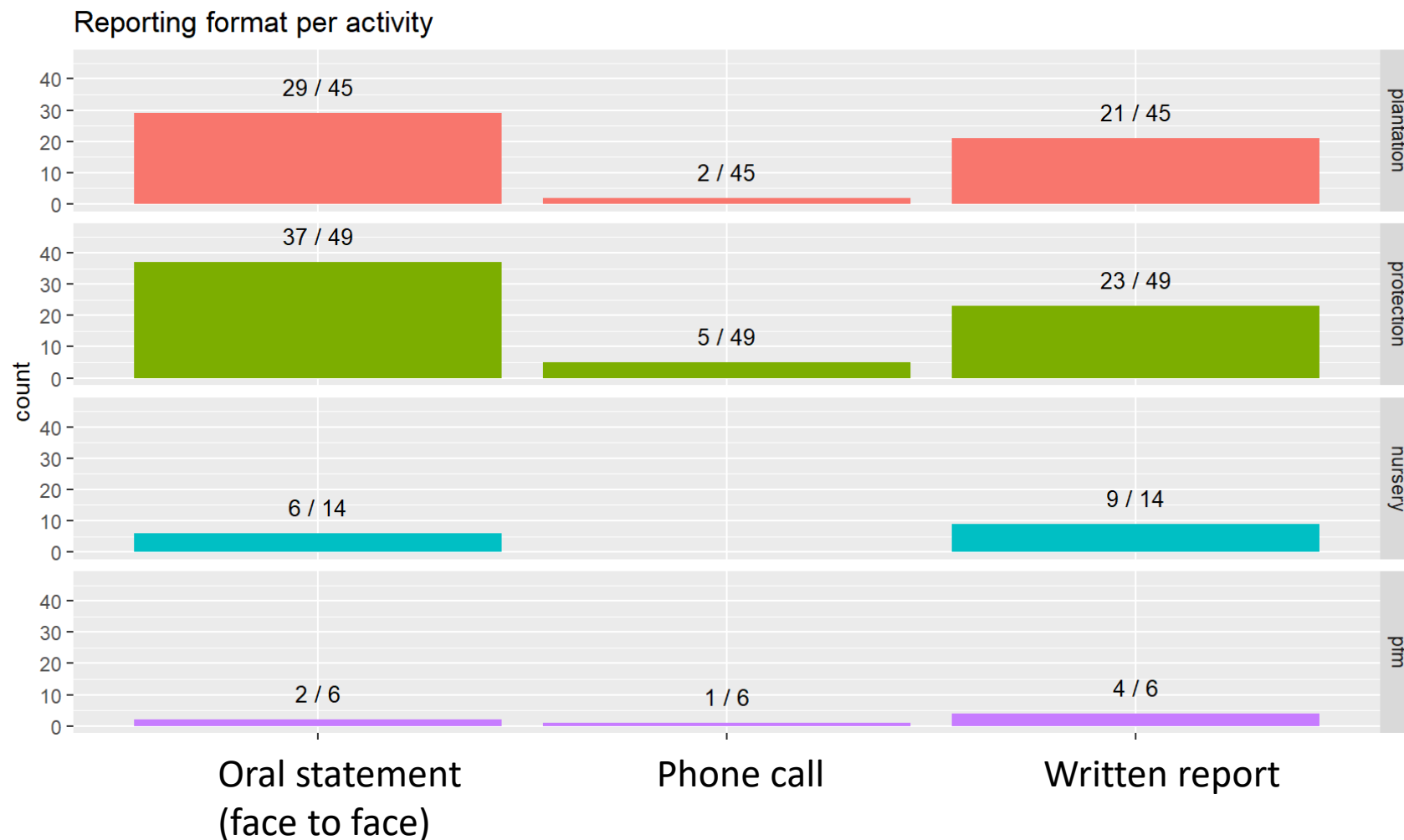
- Not all restoration happens all year round
- Not all people report regularly
- But reporting happens for all types of restoration



# In what form is the information reported?

## Main findings:

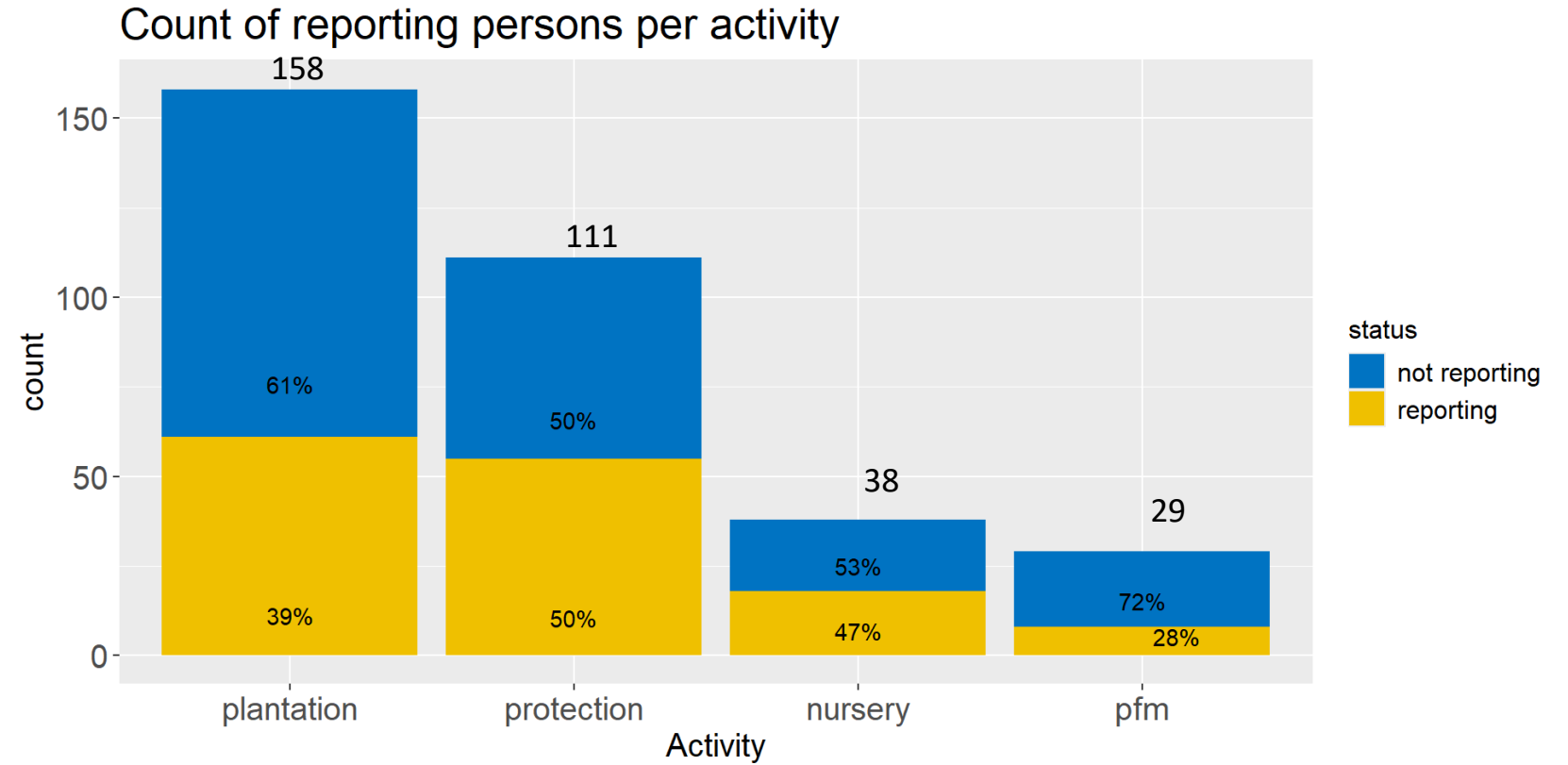
- Oral reports, phone calls can be confusing, not always consistent, time-consuming and difficult to document
- Information difficult to be aggregated
- Need systematic system to organise and use the reports (e.g., Kobo toolbox)



# Proportion of people reporting (or not)

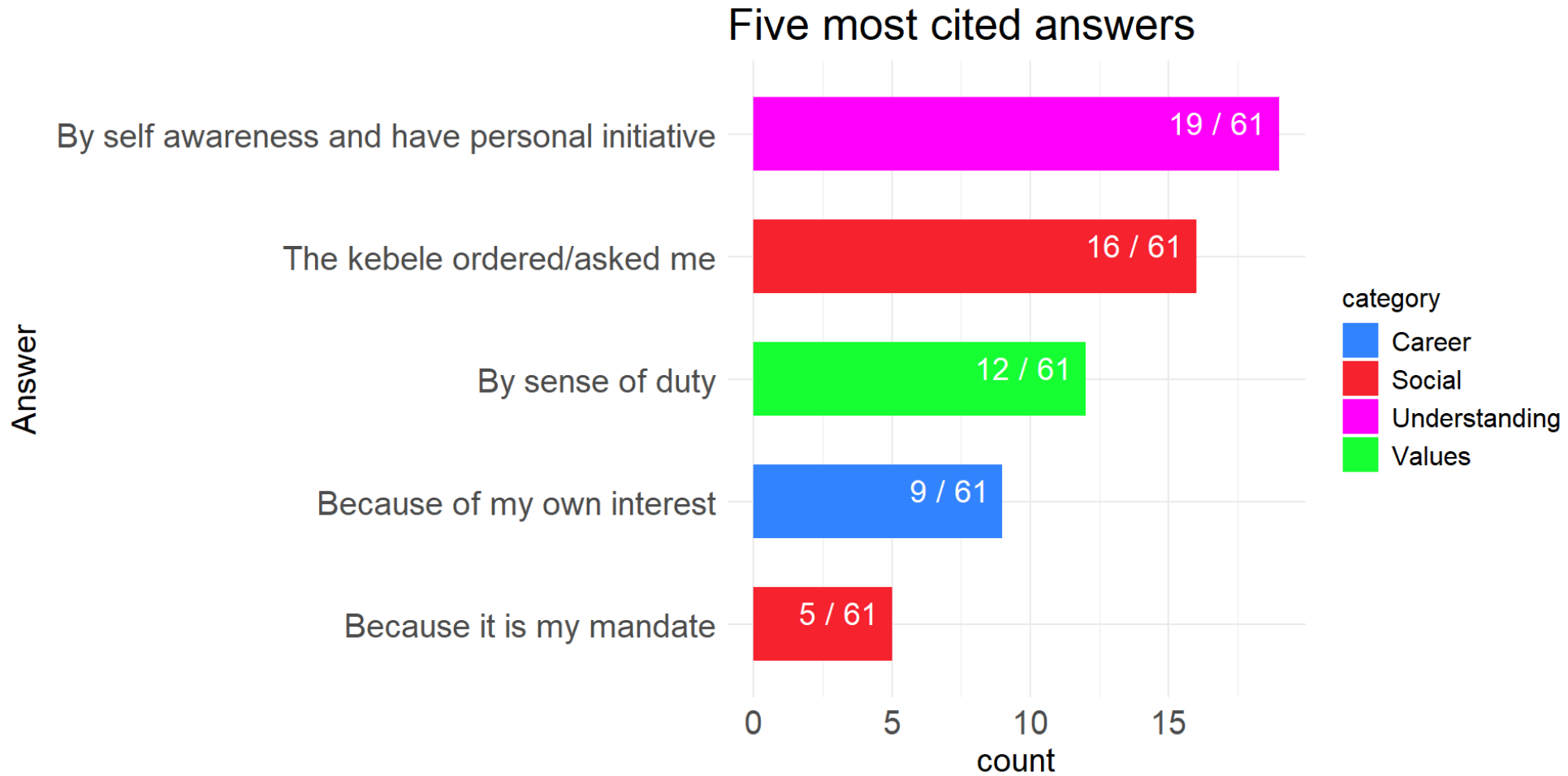
>60% not reporting: why?

- Not being asked
- Not interested
- Not the duty of the person
- No time for that activity

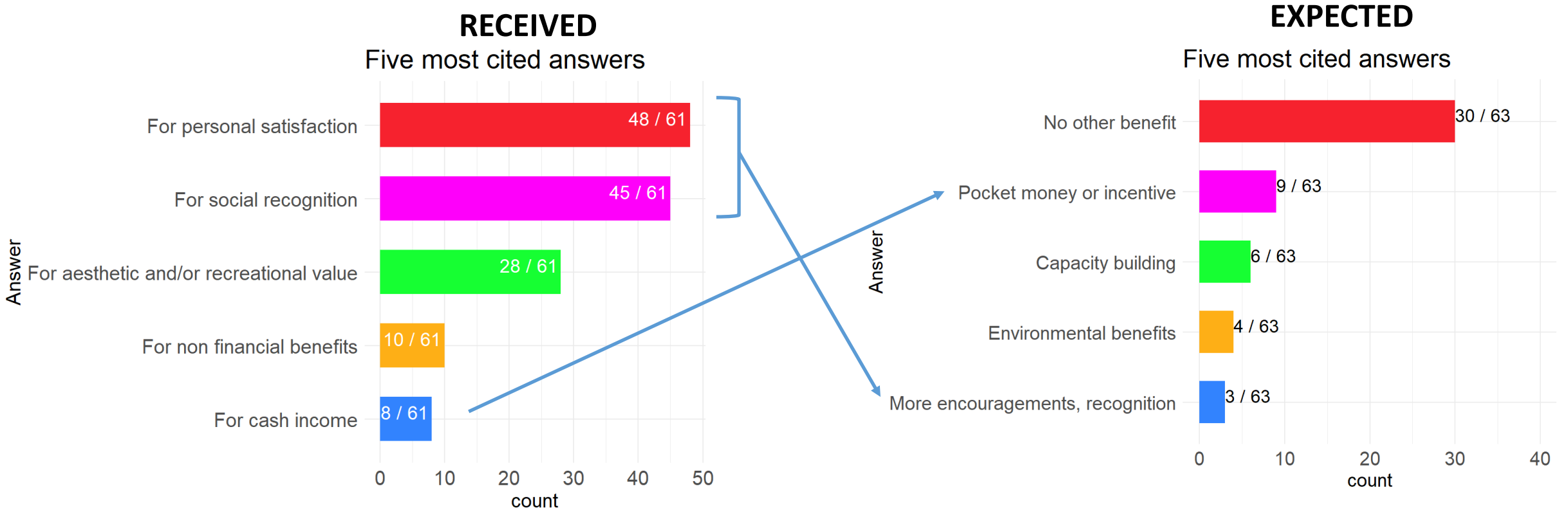




# Main motivations for reporting on restoration



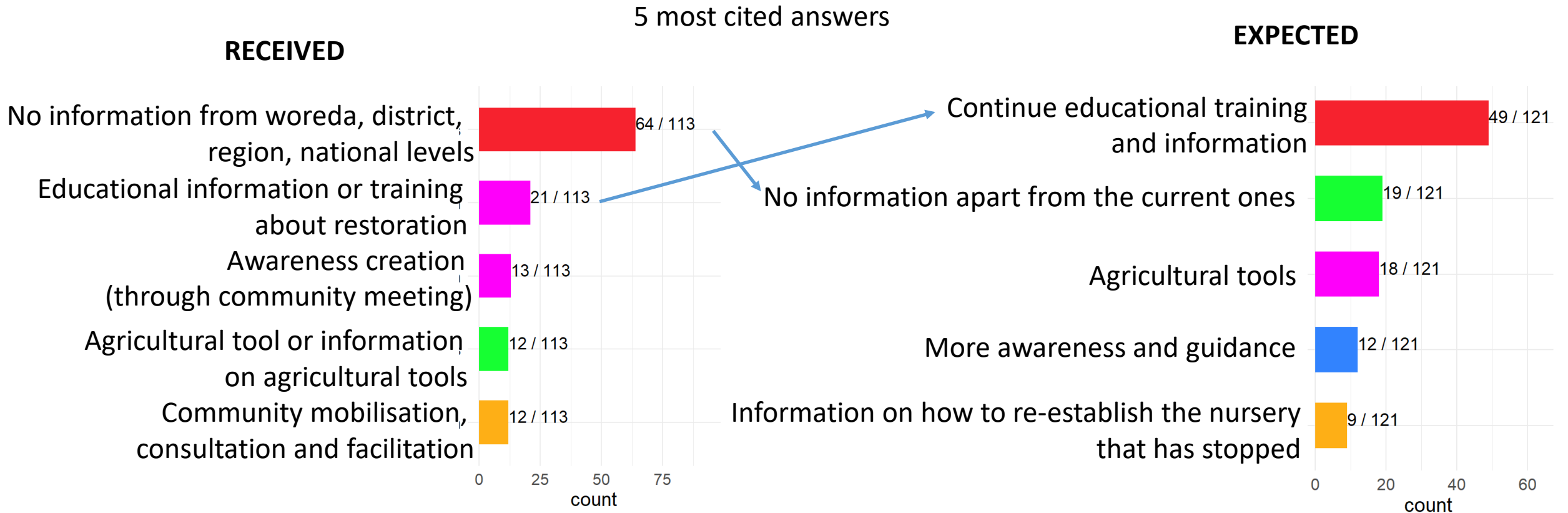
# Benefit received and expected from reporting



## Main findings:

- Already a lot receive **social recognition** or do it for **personal satisfaction** and **do not expect more recognition**
- **Cash income comes last** in the received benefits => would like to have more financial incentive

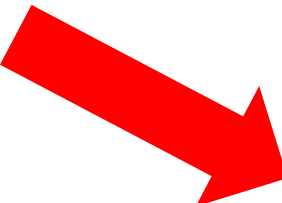
# Feedback and information received from higher level



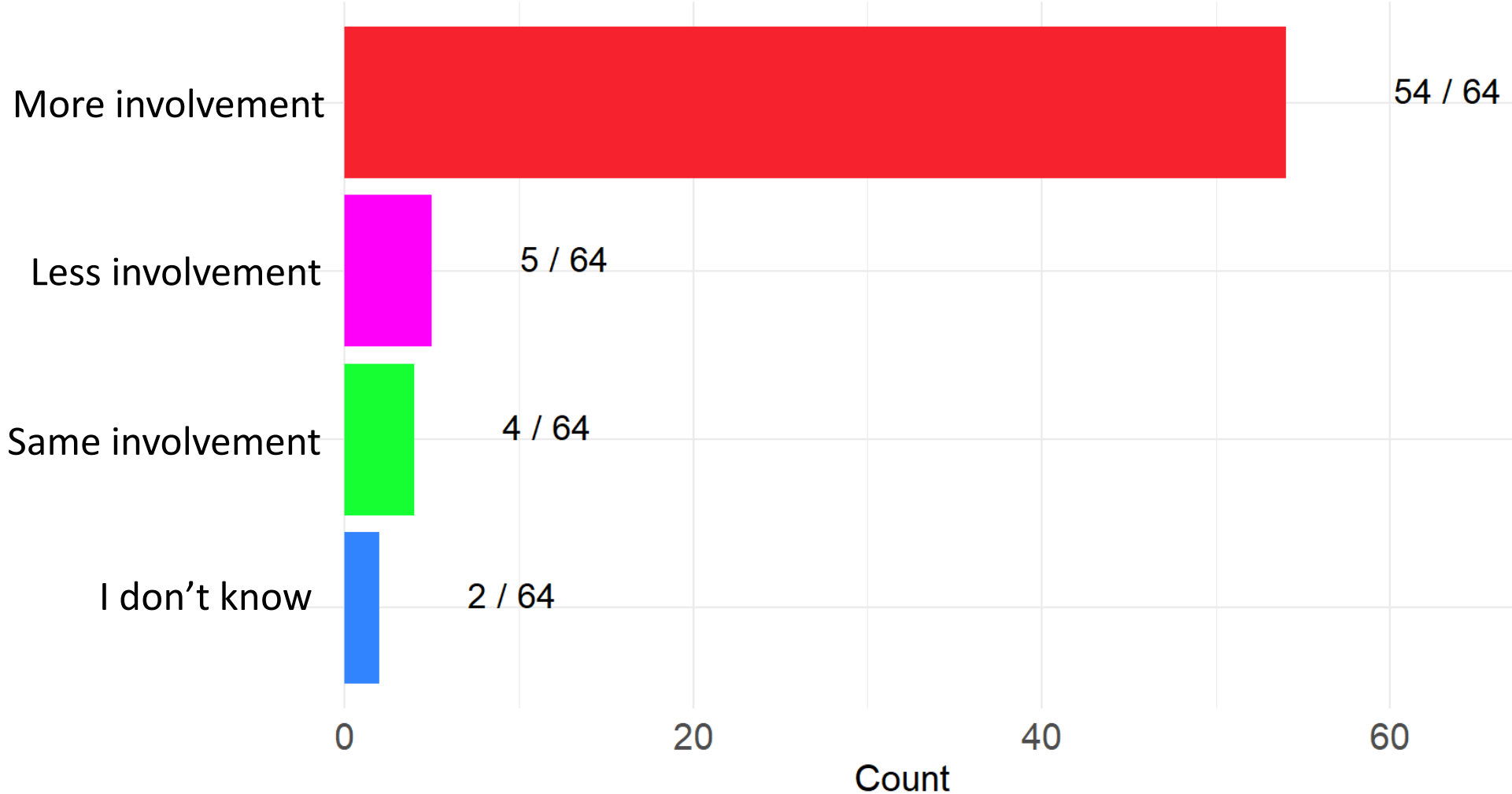
## Main findings:

- 64 respondents **do not receive any feedback** => 19 **do not expect to receive** any other information in future
- The second most received feedback is **capacity building** (21) => becomes the first expected feedback (49)

# Future involvement in reporting?



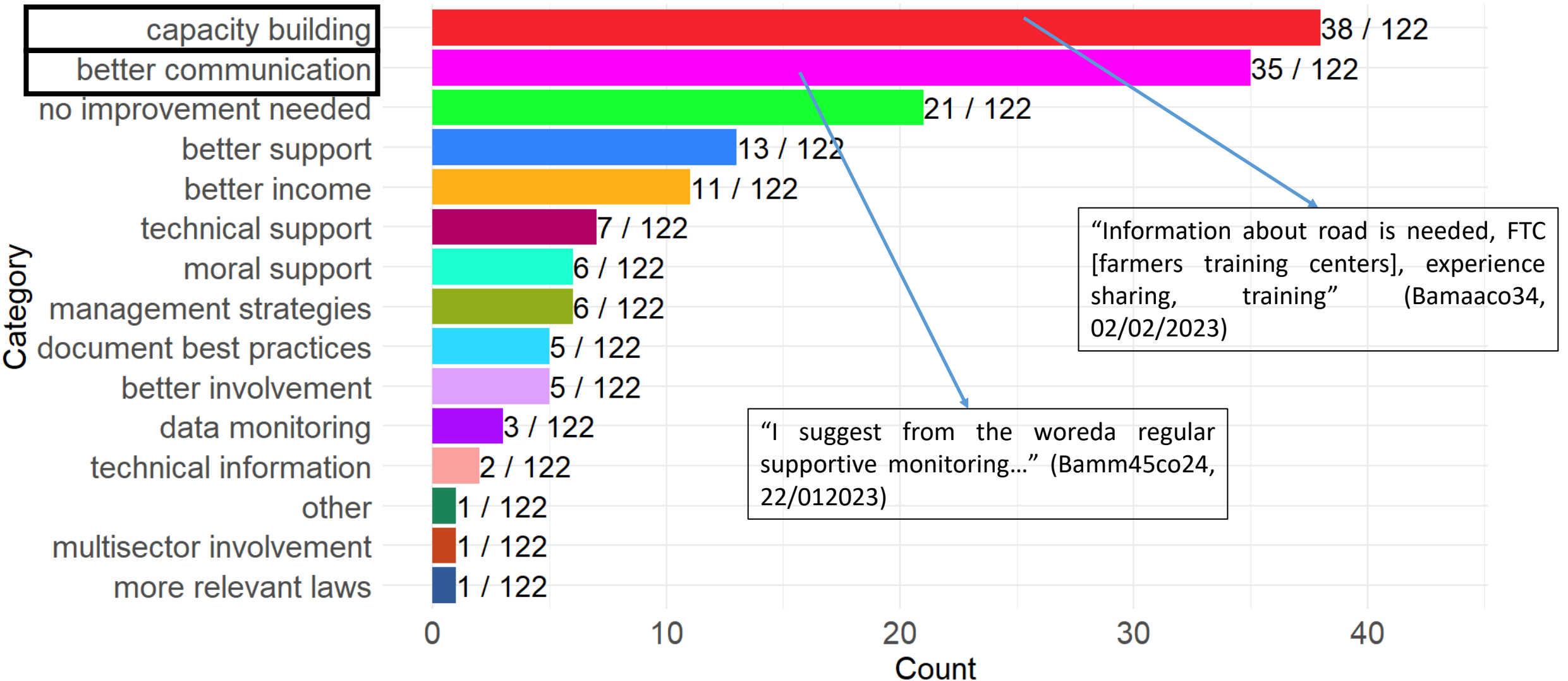
Answers by categories



Main findings  
- Among communities already involved in reporting, **most would like to be more involved** in the future

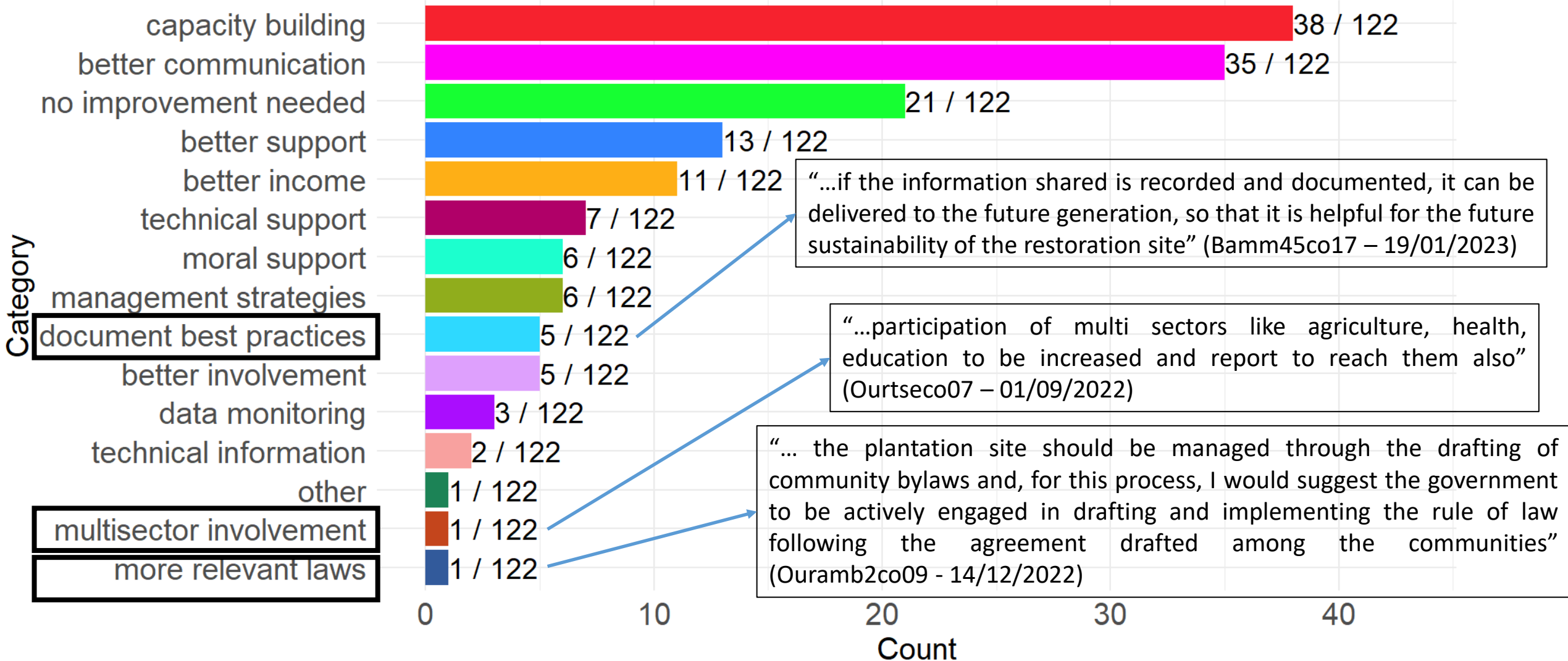
# Local recommendations for future improvement in reporting

## Answers by categories



# Local recommendations for future improvement in reporting

## Answers by categories



# 5 Concluding remarks & recommendations

## ✓ What are the roles of local communities in monitoring restoration activities?

- Providing data on seedlings, participants, meetings

## ✓ What are their motivations for reporting information about restoration activities?

- Social recognition: in their relation with others in the kebele, when asked by others
- Altruistic: for future generations
- Understanding: building awareness, own interest

## ✓ What can be improved in monitoring restoration?

- Gender inclusion: people are not involved in the same restoration activities; e.g., most people reporting in “PFM and protection” activities are men, but in nurseries, they are women; personal benefits and constraints are not equal, but recognition goes to the entire families
- The type of community investment needed = strengthened capacity building, access to information, feedback, guidelines, and bylaws

# 5 Concluding remarks & recommendations



- ✓ **How can we use the lessons learned from restoration to contribute to REDD+ MRV?**
  - Involving communities in reporting is essential to get reliable information adapted to each type of activity
  - Activities happen not only on communal land but also on homesteads, where communities feel more ownership
  - Respondents ask not only to be paid or provided with alternative livelihoods but also to improve communication (timely feedback), get access to management plans, receive information on laws, get input from other sectors, and benefit from technical support
  - BGRS should be considered for future REDD+ programs => communities are already involved in restoration (the + of REDD+) and monitoring





# Thank you አመሰግናለሁ

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