



## *GURSUM COMMUNITY IN DIASPORA NEWS RELEASE*

*The Fugnanbira Community Group Association*

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### **Gursum Community in Diaspora Applauds the Italian research team of Mount Kundudo.**

*This was confirmed today in a letter sent by Gursum Community Vice President Meftuh Shash to Professor Marco Vigano and his team.*

#### ***Mr. Meftuh Shash in his letter to the research lead said:***

We applaud you and your team for your initiatives and bring to light one of the most beautiful and breath taking high mountains in East Hararge region (Kundudo) of Ethiopia with its unique wildlife (Wild horses) in the verge of extinction. We strongly believe this region is with high potential for the country's tourism resources if due attention is given and revitalized and protected as you have indicated in your report.

We are highly in support of Prf. Vigano's report and recommendations and encourage all the local government bodies, such as the FDRE **Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)**, Ministry of Tourism and International Environmental Protection Program **UNEP** to give due attention in protecting these environment and saving its unique Wild horses. It is fare to say this region was not explored and little or no attention was given to its wildlife. The study by the team indicates may be these are the only living wild horses found in East Africa and highly potential for the country's tourism. This area needs active promotions at all levels and facilitating the required amenities.



**Mount. Kududo, 3000 meters high located in Eastern Hararge Region of Ethiopia.**

Here we would like to take this opportunity to share our experience and adventure trip to this magnificent and one of the highest Mountains in the region, with a very unique plain field that happen to be the home of the exotic Wild Horses in Eastern Ethiopia.

### **1974 Adventure Trip to Kundudo Mountain:**

In 1974, ten of us as young teenagers including myself all of us from the town of Gursum, took an adventure trip to Mount Kundudo in search for the Wild Horses. Our journey started from Mount Stinico in the town of Gursum, where the chain of mountains stretches all the way to Mount Kundudo. After three hours journey on foot, we reached the bottom of Mount Kundudo which was covered by a very thick cloud with zero visibility. Though we had difficulty to find the only narrow ally way entrance to the top of the mountain, finally we reached to our dream height. At the time the plain magnificent field looked like a green golf course. On the beautiful landscape on top of the Mountain we met with a colony of Baboons to the east of the entrance and around 10 beautiful Wild Horses to the West. We were so excited to meet these beautiful horses and as they see they had company they started moving away. As we approach them for a close look they started running with a beautiful display. On the other side as we approach the baboons, they quickly took an exit down the mountain to the east. We were all amazed of the height and the beauty of the overlook of the environment, it was just breath taking.

From the pictures released by the research team we also noticed severe environmental degradation on top of the mountain field, which during our trip over 30 years ago, it was golf green plain as if it was trimmed with mower.

Although we planned to camp on the field of Mount Kundudo, this was not possible due to heavy rain fall in the evening and we were forced to climb down to the nearest town called Fugnán Hujuba. We spent the night over and left for hometown of Gursum the next day.

### **July 23, 2007 our Journey to Eastern Hararge Regions.**

On July 23, 2007, During Harari Millennium Celebration event my colleague and I took a trip to our hometown of Gursum, Fugnánbira. Our Journey began from Harar via Babile for a shortstop at **Dakhata Valley**, Known as (**Marvel Valley of Rocks**) and also an Elephant Sanctuary. We found this magnificent valley and natural phenomenon spectacular and have a great potential for tourism. As we arrived to Gursum and toured various areas, we also had the opportunity to speak with the Deputy Administrator of the town and discussed to work together as a community to introduce the regions tourism potentials. Kundudo Mountain Wild Horses were part of our discussion. We were advised that soon there will a documentary to promote the potential areas and we extended our desire to promote our home town around the world to get the exposure needed internationally.

**Our way back to Harar we drove the route to Mountain Kundudo, via Awe Bare, Fugnán Hujuba, Ejarsagoro, Jarso, Fellana, Kombolcha and finally our destination the City of Harar.**

This was the memorable adventure trip we had ever, traveling over the chain of mountains and hill sides over looking forests, it was just amazing. Although we didn't climb to the top of Mount Kundudo due to time constrains as darkness prevailed, we enjoyed being just at the bottom of the mountain and took our memories with us that we will never forget and to promote the hometown beauty. It was a great experience for us to be back home after leaving for over 30 years.



**Marvel Valley of Dakhata, Babile in Eastern Ethiopia**

Harar is also an ancient walled city with ample tourist resources and the administration has been striving to promote its region world wide.

We believe as a community it is our obligation to elevate the awareness in conservation and promote our country's potential resources for its development. Our community has been promoting conservations and reforestation of the degraded environment of the region as can be seen in this attached document.

[http://www.wscsd.org/ejournal/article.php?id\\_article=232](http://www.wscsd.org/ejournal/article.php?id_article=232) you may notice our activity on one of our members study paper. We will continue striving in our capacity to communicate with the local administration and our community back home in an effort to help promote our Country's development endeavors.

We hope to see Mount Kundudo once again revitalized and not only become the home of the Wild Horses but also one of recognized tourist resource for the country.

***Released by:  
FBCGA/PR/Kundudo***

***END***