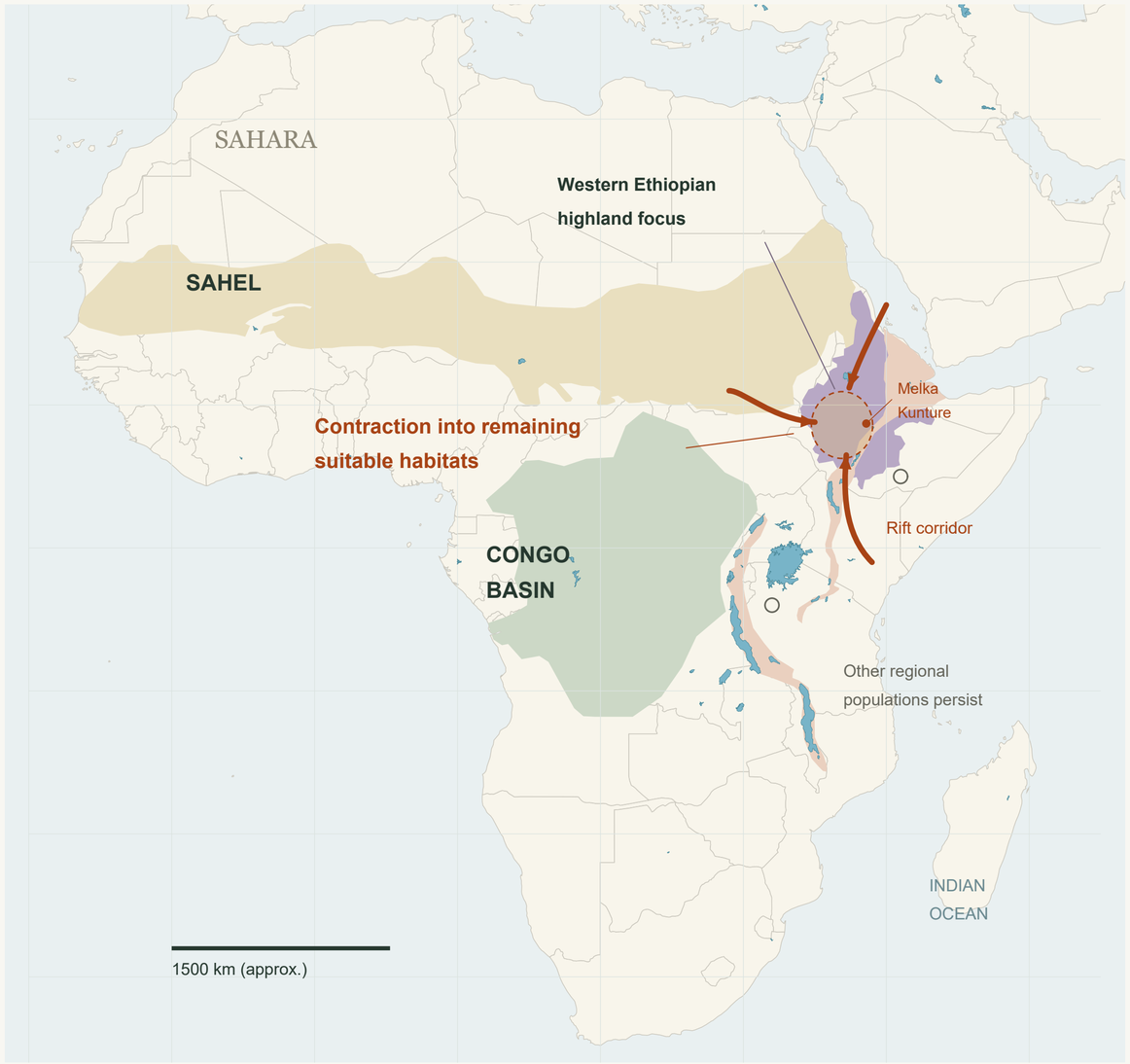
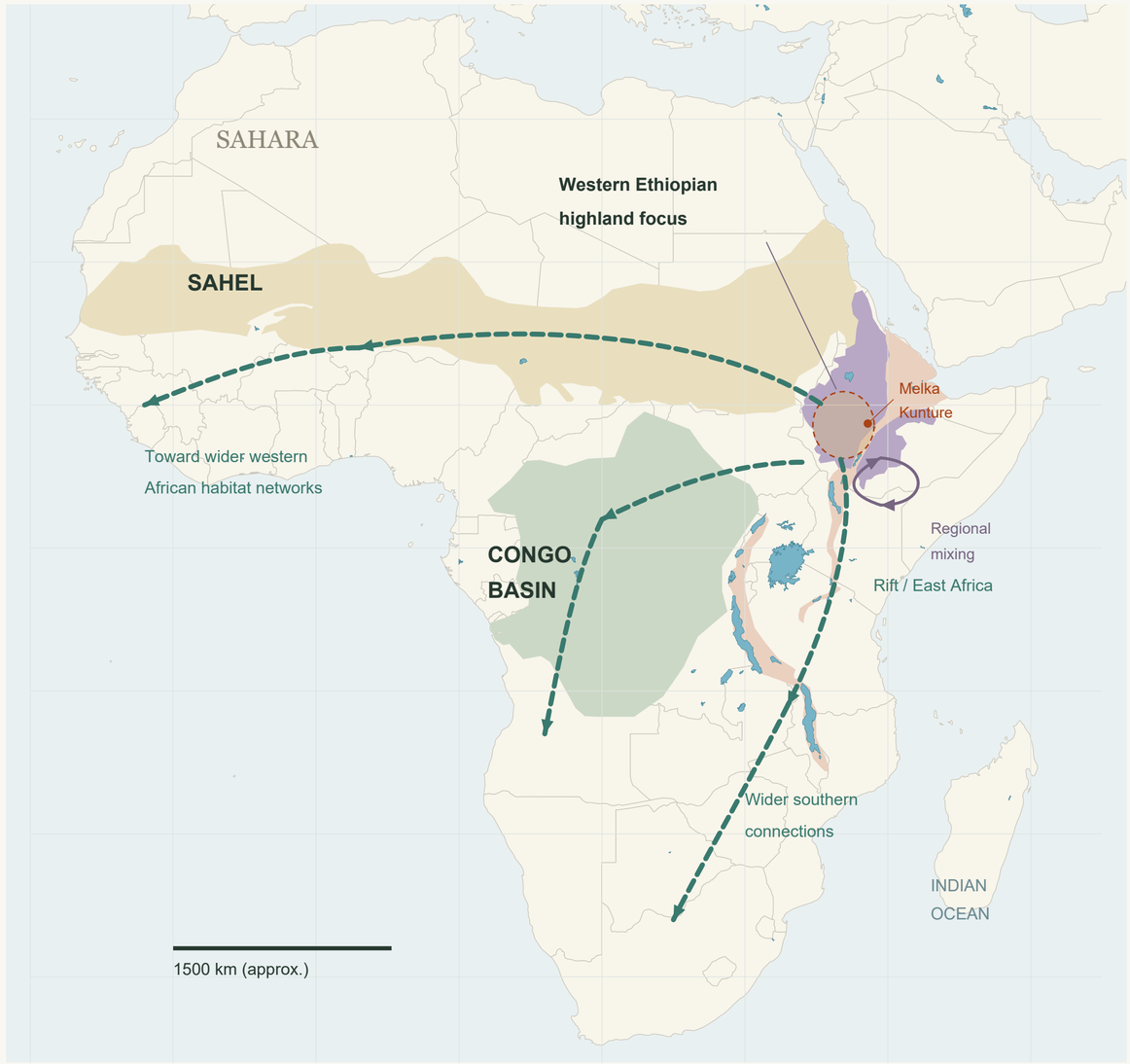
Contraction, expansion and renewed contact

A geographic reading of the manuscript’s proposed recurring cycle, centred on western Ethiopian highland refugia.

A SEVERE ECOLOGICAL COMPRESSION



B HUMID-PERIOD EXPANSION



Habitats contract. The model places some populations in buffered highland refugia. Loss of preferred fruits intensifies proposed fallback reliance on ancestral caffeine-bearing Coffea. Other populations occupy different refugia and experience different pressures.

Habitat connections reopen. The model proposes population spillover into the Rift corridor, connections toward the Sahel and wider African expansion. Renewed contact permits regional mixing; this need not occur in a single pulse or follow one fixed route.

RECURRING CYCLE

Compression → proposed fallback pressure → improving conditions → expansion and regional mixing → renewed compression

READING THE ARROWS • All movement lines are schematic expressions of the author’s model, not mapped migration tracks, dated dispersal events or genetic reconstructions. Branches indicate broad connections, not population sizes. The highlighted area is a conceptual focus, not a reconstructed ancient coffee range or the sole African refugium.

GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE • Natural Earth modern country/coast and lake geometry; approximate physical-region label areas. Melka Kunture: UNESCO component 13rev-001. Present-day boundaries and lake outlines orient the reader; they do not reconstruct a particular humid or arid interval. No universal African synchrony is implied.

An illustration of the proposed model • Geographic arrows are schematic