

Annual Progress Report

Institutional Strengthening for the Forest Sector Development in Ethiopia



Reporting period: January - December 2017

Submitted: February 2018



MEFCC



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
THE ENVIRONMENT



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Acronyms

CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
REDD+	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
NFSDP	National Forest Sector Development Project
FSDP	Forest Sector Development Project
MEFCC	Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change
MoFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation
GTPII	Growth and Transformation Plan
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
A/R	Afforestation Reforestation
EEFRI	Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute
NPCO	National Project Coordination Office

1. Introduction

Deforestation and unsustainable land management practices in Ethiopia are causing significant environmental problems, including soil erosion, loss of soil fertility and associated loss of crop productivity, flooding, sedimentation of water courses and dams, loss of carbon and biodiversity assets. At the same time, Ethiopia continues to show strong commitment and leadership to grow greener by creating resilient landscapes. This is confirmed by the country's design and implementation of its Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy, which is embedded in the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPII).

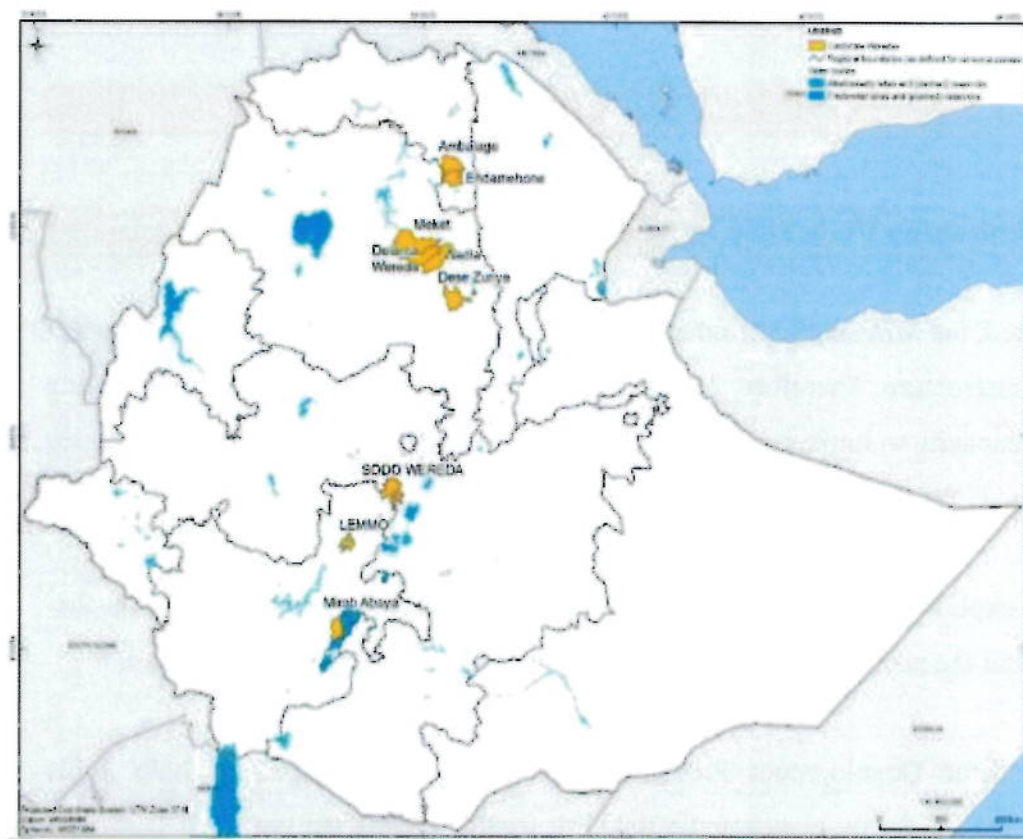
The forest sector has received strong focus in the national strategy and has a mandated institution has been established for the sector. However, the new institution requires its capacity built at all levels.

The project has the following five expected outputs;

- i. Strengthened institutional capacity of the forest sector at all levels
- ii. Forest conservation and development for their multiple benefits in selected areas piloted
- iii. Broad-based stakeholder engagement in forest conservation and development enhanced
- iv. Private sector involvement in forest development strengthened
- v. Science and innovation in the forest sector strengthened

This project is designed to contribute towards reversing negative trends through building the capacity of the national institution and at the same time piloting strategic interventions. The project implementation is supported by the strong commitment of the Government of Ethiopia and the involvement of key stakeholders, in particular the local communities.

Figure 1. The location of the piloting sites (yellow) for Afforestation/Reforestation and Rehabilitation targets¹



2. Implementation arrangement

The lead organization for the implementation of this project is MEFCC, technically supported by the UNDP. MoFEC, UNDP, the Norwegian Embassy, the Swedish Embassy and MEFCC are expected to conduct joint monitoring and evaluation of the project. Technical and administrative bodies at regional and local level are also responsible for the implementation, monitoring and follow up of the project execution on regular basis. The project is monitored based on the Monitoring and Evaluation guidelines of the CRGE Facility, UNDP and MEFCC. Nine project offices are opened in the selected project districts to coordinate project activities in the thirteen

¹ The sites indicated on the map are the areas supported both by Norway and Sweden support. Additional four woredas (*Hintalowujirat, Ofla, Dessie and Shashego*) are selected to be supported by the Swedish government

- Five Consulting firms have been hired to prepare 11 regional forest sector development programs for all regions and city administrations
- The procurement process for two field cars, one dump-truck and three tractors with trailers and ploughs is at the final stage
- A national consulting firm has been hired to develop baselines and environmental, social management framework for nine districts of supported through the project. The firm has submitted its inception report.
- Key database infrastructure facilities are procured and distributed while the remaining are on process of delivery.

3.2 Output 2: Forest conservation and development enhanced

This project emphasizes supporting land use plan based rehabilitation efforts in targeted micro-watersheds. Moreover, short rotation forestry activities were initiated as community forestry scheme, which include primarily plantation establishment of the fast-growing species to fill the pressing need on wood products while reducing pressure on the remaining natural forests and woodlands. This all requires careful selection of species, raising seedlings and establishing and management of plantation. During the reporting period, the following main results were delivered. Further comparison of progress during the reporting period against planned activity results is highlighted under table 1.

- 22 targeted micro-watersheds demarcated with management and use plan;
- 1500km of terraces, 32,272m³ trenches, 130,015 (number) basins, 9310.9m³ check dams, 1114km bunds constructed;
- 1047.7kg of tree seeds used to raise 18,063,370 seedlings in 33 nurseries
- Tree planting activities supported on 5090ha of land for short rotation plantation with the financial support of Sweden while tree planting on 2000hectars was supported by Norway.

3.3 Output 3: Private sector involvement in forest development facilitated

The focus of the project with regard to the private sector was to engage the farmers who are interested to be involved as tree growers. Accordingly, a series of private sector targeted awareness

46,100 beneficiaries (21,272 female) have benefited out of which 38,039 (13,005 female) have gained semi-permanent (seasonal) job opportunities through this project.

Using the Norwegian and Sweden resource, both at strategic level (e.g. by designing a ten-year national forest sector development project document) and piloting model approaches, the project has gained the trust of stakeholders and is starting to be showcased to other similar government interventions. Recently, there is strong government and donor interest to expand the model and accommodate additional activities in the coming few years. The 80 million USD grant, of which 35 million USD is for Afforestation /Reforestation for REDD+ Investment funded by the Norwegian is one testimony for this.

Due to the trust, interest and sense of ownership of the project felt by the local communities, the communities have been engaged heavily in rehabilitation of degraded forest lands and establishment of fast rotation plantation. Accordingly, the monetary value of the free community contribution for rehabilitation and fast rotation plantation has amounted USD 323,076 and 232481 USD respectively.

3.7 M&E

Progress was made in strengthening the overall M&E system with attention given to the improvement of the quality of the data reported, data management and overall reporting. The physical monitoring and reporting by the project will be improved through joint monitoring and evaluation by the Donors, UNDP and Government to ensure consistency and satisfactory reporting of the project achievement.

Furthermore, documentation of best practices through documentaries and brochures to reach out the public and wider stakeholders is in progress. Quarterly discussions with regional and woreda level stakeholders on the progress of the project is well under way as per the plan. This is believed to benefit future scaling-up and expansion of the intervention.

			Swedish support while tree planting on 2000 hectares through the Norwegian support
4. Promote forest based Science and Innovation	Building capacity of the forestry research and education institutions	Capacity building Academic exchange Joint research	Project document prepared on future collaboration with SLU on research and training The SLU scoping mission paid a visit in Ethiopia and 40.9 million USD project document developed where capacity building on forestry research and education is one of the major focus areas. MoU signed with Wondo Genet and Mertolemariam Colleges Planned to be executed in 2018
5. Enhance Stakeholder involvement	Mapping stakeholders involved in forestry Establish Stakeholder platform and network Prepare Future Engagement road map for forestry sector actors		
6. Project management	Project management and administration Vehicle purchase Monitoring and evaluation, including communication	Purchasing vehicles and tractors Field M&E	Shipping document on the procurement of two additional field vehicles received and customs clearance initiated. Shipping document for the tractors and dump track is expected March 2018 National mission deployed to evaluate project activities on the ground. Mission report synthesized and one annual report presented to donors
	Communication		One Brochure produced, and a documentary video is currently under production.

Budget utilization by outputs

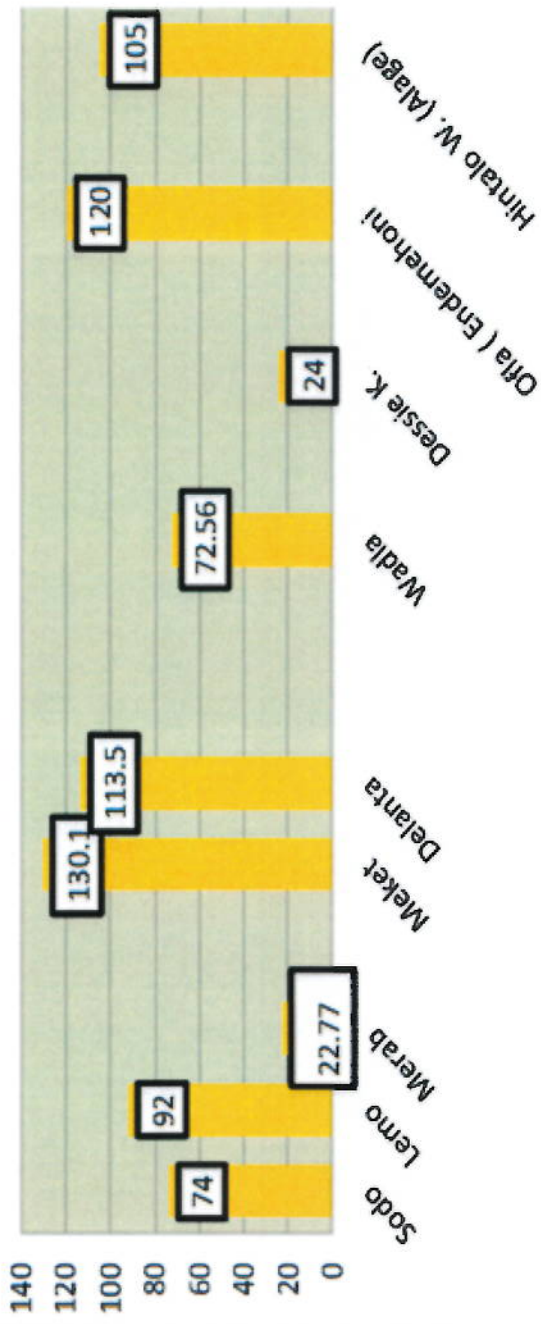
Outputs	Expenditure (USD)	Advance (USD)	Commitment (USD)	Total
Forest management offices established at regional and national levels	509,802.17	383,982.41	10,882	
Forest conservation and development for their multiple benefits enhanced	1,006,258.41			1,006,258.41
Private sector involvement in the forest sector development enhanced	38,285.09			38,285.09
Science and Innovation for enhancing sustainable forest management promoted	100,486.96			100,486.96
Stakeholders engagement in forest development enhanced	14,021.45			14,021.45
Total	1,668,854.08	383,982.41	10,882	2,063,718.4

Conclusion

This project is a key mechanism to build institutional capacity at all levels and pilot new approaches on rehabilitation and afforestation by triggering more stakeholders' engagement in the forest sector. The project supports the national green growth strategy, CRGE, and the work started under this project can make a significant contribution towards the achievement of the forest sector target in the green growth development agenda of the country.

Progress was noted in the overall project management with key staff in place at both national and regional levels. The commitment of government staff at various levels, the participation of communities in project sites, the leadership by the government bodies at various levels and support provided by the Norwegian and Swedish Governments, UNDP and MoFEC is encouraging. Considering the time from inception to implementation on the ground activities, the project is well positioned to deliver the outcomes and targets as per the plan. Sustaining the existing momentum will help to prove that the project's implementation model is working for the Ethiopian landscape and livelihood systems.

Fig 2 Short rotation in woreda's supported through funding from Sweden



Annex 2. Public participation and some of the plantation site preparation activities

