



Key Challenges

- ▶ Problems of soil depth, water stress and rainfall variability, limited diversity in available tree species, occurrence of frost, as well as difficulty in finding tree seeds left an impact in the quality and quantity that is needed by the Ethiopia Forest Development (EFD).
- ▶ Low wage rates for labor had a consequence of labor shortage and this slowed down activities within tree nurseries.
- ▶ Limited resources, constrained in forestry tools such as the MRV system and bureaucratic hurdles of the IPs have contributed to project delay and inefficiency of the project.
- ▶ Absence of the policy, access to land, low private sector engagement in the forestry sector, and inadequate access to credit facilities for forest development.
- ▶ High staff turnover within the project.

Lessons Learned

Close engagement with government and project beneficiaries is key for effective project delivery.

The project worked closely with local communities from planning to implementation of activities.

Securing ownership of restored sites or sites designated for restoration is important for successful restoration schemes.

Forest and land restoration tends to be unpopular in areas where land tenure rights are contested. This disincentivizes communities or individuals to engage in restoration activities as they may be stripped of any entitlements over the restored sites if they lose ownership of the land. Through this project, members of local communities are supported to secure ownership of over-restored land so that they can reap the benefits emanating from the restored sites, serving as a motivational factor for their continuous engagement in restoration activities.

Setting a prerequisite for subsequent transfers of project funds could encourage timely delivery of project activities but could equally retard some project actors. A minimum burn rate of 80% of previously disbursed funds must be justified to release project funds to the concerned ministry.

However, this also meant that outstanding Woredas in terms of project execution would have to suffer the consequences of other Woredas who lag due to a low burn rate of the budget caused by a low level of implementation of project activities.

The use of species that generate benefits in the short to medium term is an important factor towards successful restoration. Restoration within the framework of the project employed species with economic benefits to communities, and community members were therefore motivated to engage in further restoration initiatives, as they could enjoy benefits from their restoration work produced in the short-term.

- www.undp.org/ethiopia
- @UNDPEthiopia
- UNDPinEthiopia
- communication.et@undp.org



5 GENDER EQUALITY



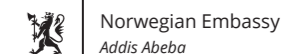
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



FAST FACTS

Institutional Strengthening Forest Sector Development Programme Highlights





Project Title: Institutional Strengthening Forest Sector Development

Project duration: 2015-2022

Budget: US \$11,042,652*

Target group: Jobless youths and vulnerable communities for climate change and environmental degradation.

Total beneficiaries: 269,944 (107,244 females) beneficiaries of income generation and employment activities 358,848 individuals (99,520 women) beneficiaries from community engagement and mobilization

Regions: 3 Regions (Amhara, SNNP and Tigray) in 13 districts.

Partnerships: - UNDP
- Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD)

Contribution to SDGs:

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

About the project

Ethiopia's forests play a crucial role in supporting various sectors of the economy and have the potential to contribute significantly to the country's social and economic development through various environmental, ecological, economic, and social services. Besides providing diverse wood and non-wood products, Ethiopia's forested landscapes offer a wide range of environmental benefits, including watershed protection, energy and soil protection, biodiversity conservation, and ecotourism potential, all of which contribute significantly to the country's overall health and wealth. However, the primary challenge facing the forestry sector in Ethiopia is the high rate of deforestation and forest degradation.

To address this challenge, there is a need to focus on forest restoration, increase landscape productivity, and develop and promote forest enterprises while generating income. Additionally, to achieve the goal of increasing forest cover from the current 15.5% to 30% by 2030, there was a need to expand technical capacities beyond the existing capacities to support innovation and strong engagement with private sector and civil society partners.

The Swedish and Norway Governments have been partnering with UNDP to support Ethiopia's forest sector through financial and technical assistance to the Ethiopian Government to strengthen the country's forest sector, with the primary goal of promoting sustainable forest management practices and contributing to Ethiopia's growth and development.

Objective of the programme

To enhance the capacity of institutions and promote sustainable and competitive tree-based production systems thereby contributing to the resilience and improvements of community livelihoods and ecosystem services.

Progress against project outcomes

| Outcome 1: Institutional Capacity of the Forestry Sector Strengthened at All Levels | Outcome 2: Forest Conservation and Development for Their Multiple Benefits Enhanced | Outcome 3: Private Sector Involvement in Forest Development Facilitated | Outcome 4: Science and innovation for enhancing sustainable forest management promoted | Outcome 5: Stakeholders' engagement in forest development enhanced. |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Supported the development of National Forest Sector Development Program (2018-2028), and implementation commenced. | 20,751 ha of new productive forest developed. 154,308 ha of degraded land restored. 311,758 (41% are Female) people are benefited from the alternative livelihood options. | 232 cooperatives were established of which 26 are certified. | 16 highly useful research projects were completed on species selection, carbon estimation methodologies, and value chain development and restoration area management. | 4 consultative meetings were organized to enhance the role of the community in forest development discussion platforms. |
| Supported region-specific RFSDPS development for 11 regions. | Local level land use plan was prepared for micro watersheds. | 3 trainings for a total of 251 people were given in value chain and business development. | 3 research papers are published | 56,000 engaged in the various stakeholder engagement platforms. |
| Forest database is published | Geo-maps are produced for all intervention sites. | 3,043,925 ETB annual incomes generated through the cooperatives. | Integrated Rural Land Use plans prepared for all 9 project woredas to be used as a master plan to undertake selection of plantation site, restoration and related activities. | |

**In addition to the budget specified, there was an additional resource of \$7.5 million. This was channeled through the Ministry of Finance and contributed to the overall project achievement documented in this report.*

