

ETHIOPIA

Community-Based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project



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The Global Environment Facility (GEF) brings together 183 countries, the private sector, civil society organizations and international institutions to address global environmental problems. The GEF-IFAD partnership promotes win-win solutions to deliver both global environmental benefits as well as significant gains for rural poor people.



ISSUES

Lake Tana is the largest lake in Ethiopia and covers an area of about 3,000 km². Along with its 60 rivers and streams, it accounts for about 50 per cent of the total surface water of the country. The Lake Tana Watershed includes about 250,200 hectares of irrigable land but only about four per cent has been developed.

The quality of the watershed has deteriorated at an alarming rate mainly because of severe land degradation resulting from poor agricultural practices, deforestation, over-grazing, population pressure which has increased land fragmentation, encroachment on fragile hillsides, over-exploitation of wetlands, and insecurity of land tenure. Land degradation has also resulted in massive soil erosion, which has silted water bodies and threatened the livelihood of about 4,000 fishing households.

Land degradation is accompanied by the release of carbon into the atmosphere which contributes to the build-up of greenhouse gases (GHGs). It is estimated that about 20 per cent of all greenhouse gases emanate from carbon losses associated with farming and in particular, practices such as burning crop residues and the use of animal dung for fuel, which are common practices in Ethiopia. In turn, climate change will further increase the vulnerability of rural households to food insecurity, drought and famine. The effects of climate change are already being felt in Ethiopia with exceptionally heavy floods recurring in rural areas where flooding was hardly ever experienced before. This has resulted in the loss of life, cropland, and community and productive assets.

ACTIONS

The Community-based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project is located in the Lake Tana Watershed within Amhara National Regional State. The project covers 21 Woredas (districts) comprising 347 kebeles. Project operations

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$27.2m
IFAD loan: US\$13.2m
GEF grant: US\$4.4m
Spanish Fund: US\$1.6m
Government of Ethiopia: US\$2.78m
Beneficiaries
Contributions: US\$5.2m

Project period:
2010-2017

Executing agency: Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD), Bureau of Environmental Protection, Land Administration & Use (BoEPLAU), Amhara National Regional State (ANRS)

Project objective: To support a natural resource and economic asset base for poor rural women and men that is more resilient to climate change, environmental degradation and market transformation.

will consist of two components, namely: (i) Community-Based Integrated Watershed Management; and (ii) Institutional, Legal and Policy Analysis and Reform.

The project will engage with all smallholders living in the Lake Tana Watershed, estimated at 450,000 households specifically to expedite land certification. Other project activities including pasture development, soil and water conservation, participatory forestry, and development of watershed management plans will benefit over 250,000 households. About 25,000 unemployed youths including women will be assisted to engage in off-farm income generating activities.

Community Based Integrated Watershed Management. The main thrust of this component is to promote sustainable natural resource management within the LTW through: (i) participatory watershed management; (ii) land certification; (iii) improved pasture and participatory forest management; (iv) off-farm soil and water conservation; and (v) biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

Under the **Institutional, Legal and Policy Analysis and Reform** component, the project will create an enabling environment and institutional capacity at local (kebele, woredas/district, and regional) levels to mainstream sustainable land management principles into regional policies, strategies and plans for agriculture, forestry and water management. It will strengthen the capacities of public institutions and community-base organisations. About 25,000 unemployed youths including women will be trained to undertake off-farm income generating activities and linked to IFAD financed rural finance and agricultural market projects for access to finance and markets. Policies, and legal framework for natural resources management and environmental conservation will be reviewed and reforms enacted.

IMPACTS

Land rehabilitation, nurtured by the land users with greater security through land certification, is leading to a 'virtuous

cycle': as the land improves, more food is harvested, and more assets are reinvested. Better land, with greater organic matter content, better vegetative cover and improved hydrological function, is more resilient to climate change and shocks.

As of the mid-term point of the project in 2015, the most notable achievements are the following:

- 395 micro-watershed have plans developed;
- 6,514 land users trained in watershed management;
- 3,911 hectares of grazing land closed off for recovery;
- 70,833 hectares of farmland treated using soil and water conservation structures;
- 526,000 first-level land certificates granted;
- 535 biogas plants established;
- 5,809 hectares of off-farm land rehabilitation;
- 2,500 trained in off-farm livelihoods;
- 713 households training in alternative energy.

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