

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR THE FOREST SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN**  
**ETHIOPIA**

**REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2018<sup>1</sup>**

**MAY 2019**

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<sup>1</sup> The reporting period will be aligned with Government budget year

## PROGRAMME SUMMERY

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Title: <b>Institutional Strengthening for the Forest Sector Development</b></li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number: <b>00094308</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><b>UNDAF Outcome 5:</b> By 2020 key Government institutions at federal and regional levels including cities are better able to plan, implement and monitor priority climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and sustain-able resource management.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Participating Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDP Ethiopia Office</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total approved budget as per document: <b>2,576,716USD</b> <b>(22,550,500NOK)</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall Duration: <b>60 months</b></li> <li>• Start Date : <b>2/06/2015</b></li> <li>• End Date: <b>2/06/2019</b></li> </ul>

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<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

## ACRONYMS

<b>AWP:</b>	Annual Work Plan
<b>CRGE:</b>	Climate Resilient Green Economy
<b>CSO:</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>GTP</b>	Growth and Transformation Plan
<b>LPAC:</b>	Local Project Appraisal Committee
<b>EFCCC:</b>	Environment Forest and Climate Change Commission
<b>MPTFO:</b>	Multi Partners Trust Fund Office
<b>MoU:</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NFSDP:</b>	National Forest Sector Development Program
<b>PSNP</b>	Productive Safety Net Program
<b>REDD+</b>	Reduction of Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>RFSDP:</b>	Regional Forest Sector Development Program
<b>SLU:</b>	Swedish University of Agriculture
<b>SLM:</b>	Sustainable Land Management
<b>UNDP:</b>	United Nations Development Programme

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Institutional Strengthening for the Forest Sector Development Project in Ethiopia has supported the development of a ten-year National Forest Sector Development Program (2018-2028) for the sector, which was officially launched at the end of 2018. The National Forest Sector Development Program prepared in three volumes, namely: Situation Analysis; Program Pillars, Action Areas and Targets and Synthesis Report. The NFSDP has got three volumes, will serve as a road map to lead all governmental and non-governmental private sector and Civil Society organizations with regard to forest conservation and development in the country.

The NFSDP will be realized at the sub national level through the development of Regions and City administrations specific forest sector development programs. Accordingly, work is currently underway to develop forest sector development plans customized for specific regions and cities.

The institutional set up at federal and regional levels has been strengthened. One national and nine woreda forest sector development offices have been set up and strengthened through the deployment of additional six personnel which bring the total number to 92 skilled personnel and establishment of forestry data bases infrastructure.

The project has also supported the planting of tree seedlings on 6697 hectares in the reporting period which brings the total tree planting activities on 8,697 hectares in the Norwegian supported plantation sites.. Moreover, -plantation activities that included demarcation and preparation of management plans for 161 targeted micro watersheds.

In the reporting period employment opportunities have been created through this project with 272,662 (126,438 female) gaining permanent jobs out of which 12,819 (5,342 female) have secured semi-permanent (seasonal) job opportunities.

## **I. Introduction**

The Institutional Strengthening for the Forest Development Project in Ethiopia is aiming to strengthen national capacity to help Ethiopia deliver on the forestry targets contained in the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy and Growth and Transformation Plan. The project also aims to contribute for the implementation of UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), specifically on the Resilience and Green Economy pillar.

The project has the following five expected outputs:

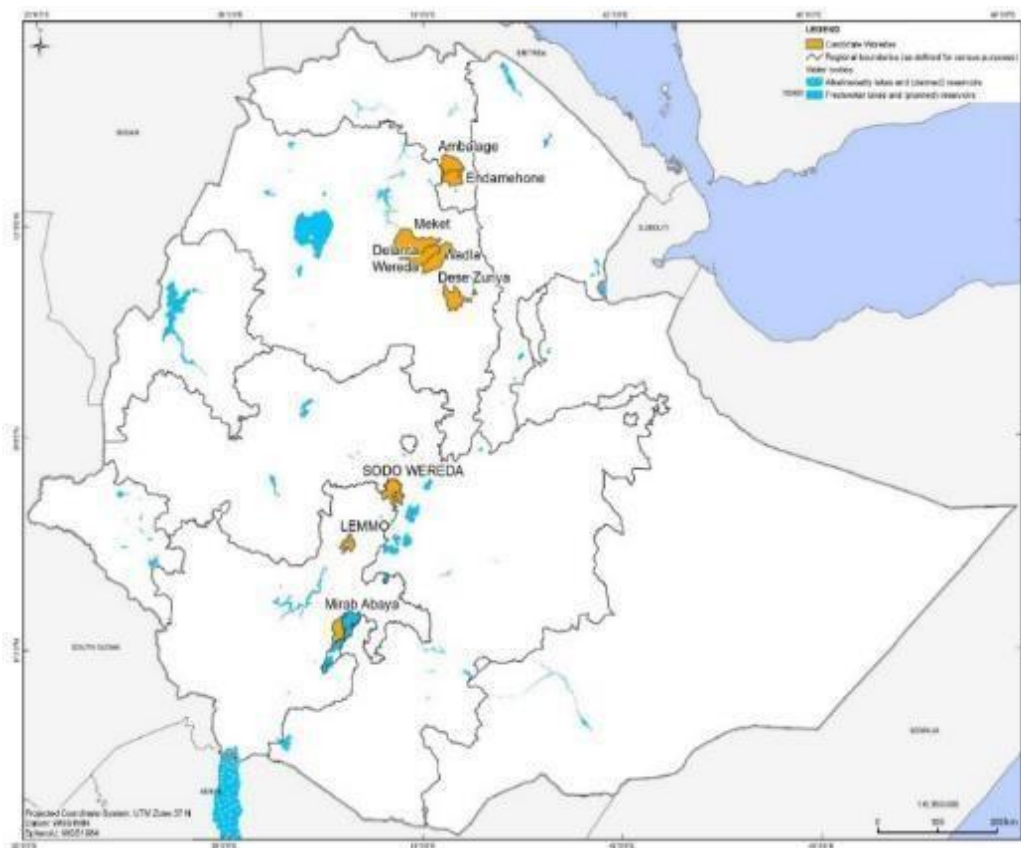
- i. Strengthened institutional capacity of the forest sector at all levels
- ii. Forest conservation and development for their multiple benefits in selected areas piloted
- iii. Broad-based stakeholder engagement in forest conservation and development enhanced
- iv. Private sector involvement in forest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

### **Priority Areas**

Capacity building is planned for the forest sector at all levels in all regions while piloting of forest conservation and management will be made in selected degraded areas of Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations and National Regional State (Figure 1). Further, sustainable forest management model and roadmap will be designed for Benshangul Gumuz regional state.

**Figure 1. Pilot sites (yellow) for Afforestation/Reforestation and Rehabilitation targets<sup>3</sup>**



## Implementation Arrangement

<sup>3</sup> 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

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC), with the technical support of UNDP leads the implementation of the Project. Monitoring of the programme is conducted jointly by MoF, UNDP, the Norwegian Embassy, the Swedish Embassy and EFCCC. The project is monitored based on the Monitoring and Evaluation guidelines of the CRGE Facility, UNDP and EFCCC. 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. Moreover, nine project offices have been set up in the selected project districts to coordinate project activities in the thirteen districts. These offices are linked with the National Project Coordination Office through the regional REDD+ coordination offices. The overall guidance of the project implementation is provided by a steering committee, while at district level there is additional technical committee, which provides technical guidance including quality assurance for each activities of the project.

## **II. Results**

UNDAF Outcome 5: By 2020 key Government institutions at federal and regional levels including cities are better able to plan, implement and monitor priority climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and sustainable resource management.

During this reporting period the project is contributing to the restoration of Ethiopia's forest through afforestation/reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

The project also helped to increase employment and income generation opportunities with 272,662 people living around the targeted areas from engagements in the forest sector. These include 272,662 beneficiaries (126,438 female) who have benefited with long term/permanent jobs while 12,819 (5,342 female) have secured seasonal jobs.

**The key progress areas during the reporting period under the planned-outputs are briefly described below:**

### **Output I: strengthening the institutional capacity of the forest sector**

Through the support of the project Ethiopia has established a national and regional forestry database infrastructure that will help the country to address the gap in data management. The forestry database will contain information that is relevant for the sustainable management of plantation and natural forest resources, including species types and distribution both in the natural forest and planation in the regions; status of management; as well as indigenous knowledge on the use of tree species by local communities. All regional states are now equipped

with key database facilities procured and distributed through the support of this project. Training on those facilities has been provided.

- One national and nine woreda coordination offices have been set up and are now active with 92 ( additional 6 personnel in the reporting period) project staff hired at various levels.
- Environmental and social management framework preparation process finalized for fast rotation plantation and rehabilitation of degraded lands for nine districts;
- The National Forest Sector Development Program prepared in three volumes, namely: Situation Analysis; Program Pillars, Action Areas and Targets and Synthesis Report. The NFSDP has got three volumes ,will serve as a road map to lead all governmental and non-governmental private sector and Civil Society organizations with regard to forest conservation and development in the countryThe procurement of three tractors with trailers and ploughs, two field cars and one dump-truck is already done.

## **Output 2: Forest conservation and development enhanced**

This project emphasizes supporting land use plan-based rehabilitation efforts in targeted micro-watersheds. The project has helped initiate short rotation forestry activities as community forestry scheme. This include primarily the careful selection of species, raising seedlings and establishment of plantation of fast-growing species to fill the pressing need on wood products while reducing pressure on the remaining natural forests and woodlands. During the reporting period, the following progress was made:

In nine pilot districts selected from Amhara, SNNP and Tigray regions clearly defined land use plans prepared for conducting forest conservation and development and the detail is depicted here under:

- 161 & 214 targeted micro-watersheds for A/R & ANR, respectively were demarcated with management and use plan;
- 1,549.6 km of terraces have been built; 35,982 trenches have been dug; 133,150 basins and 9,473.9 m3 check dams have been constructed;
- 1,229.16 km bunds have been constructed;
- 1,047.7 kg of tree seeds used to raise 25,397,210 seedlings in 47 nurseries;



- Plantation has been conducted on 8,697 ha of Norwegian project supported sites and on 754 ha on sites supported through financing from Sweden. The plantation costs of this year has been covered from the Swedish contribution to the project.
- In the reporting period eEmployment opportunities have been created through this project with 272,662 (126,438 female) gaining permanent jobs out of which 12,819 (5,342 female) have secured semi-permanent (seasonal) job opportunities. As the project follows community owned forest conservation and development approach at the end of the project the organized communities will be entrepreneurs/ tree growerers entities to feed the near by forest industries. By doing so the sustainability of the employment opportunity will be maintained.

### **Output 3: Private sector involvement in forest development facilitated**

A national guideline is being prepared to encourage the private sector. This includes various incentives mechanisms to be proposed by the government. The incentives includes among others: tax exemption for importing equipment and materials for commercial forestry; availing land for tree planting, etc. By so doing the private sector involvement in forest conservation and development will be promoted.

### **Output 4: Forest science and innovation promoted**

In collaboration with research and higher learning institutions demand driven and forest conservation and development relevant research thematic areas have been identified and call for proposals made. Work is on progress in the reporting period

## **III. Monitoring and Evaluation**

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 further improved through joint monitoring and evaluation by the Donors, UNDP and Government to ensure consistency and satisfactory reporting of the project achievement.

As part of improving the monitoring and evaluation of the project and in consultation with the donor we have initiated Ground Truthing activities on the Afforestation and Reforestation and Assisted Natural regeneration sites, supported by Norway. The work is on progress this year by recruiting qualified GIS Experts and this will lay ground for future monitoring and evaluation activities, especially on the ground activities.

Furthermore, documentation of best practices through documentaries and brochures to reach out the public and wider stakeholders is already undergone. Quarterly discussions with regional and woreda level stakeholders on the progress of the project is well underway as per the plan which benefitted the scaling-up and expansion of the intervention to additional 54 project woredas through RIP-A/R program.

#### **IV. Challenges and Lessons Learned**

The Project both at strategic level (e.g. by designing a ten-year National Forest Sector Development Programme (NFSDP) and piloting model approaches, has gained the trust of stakeholders and is starting to be showcased to other similar government interventions. Recently, government and donor showed strong 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 232,481 USD respectively during the reporting period.

However, there were some key challenges faced during the implementation of the projects.

1. Some of the sites selected for afforestation have environmental constraints and demanded extra investments in site amelioration efforts. This called for extensive consultations and costs on the ground in order to reduce the risk of compromised results and quality.
2. Delay in fund transfer from the donor end has caused some activities to be postponed for the coming seasons
3. Security situation in some areas has affected the fast rotation plantation and rehabilitation of degraded lands in the districts. Moreover, technical support, monitoring and evaluation

activities in the districts by the National Project Coordination Office have been negatively affected by the security situation.

#### Key Highlights to be achieved in 2019

- ❖ The research thematic areas identification will be finalized and the research activities will be conducted
- ❖ The development of 11 regions/ City Administrations Forest Sector Development Programs preparations completed, endorsed by the regions and city administrations authorities and launched;

## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

In line with 2018 AWP please see an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below..

Outputs:	Baseline	Target	Achievement
<p><b>Output 1.1 The Institutional Capacity of the forest sector is strengthened at all levels.</b></p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of offices equipped with office facilities and skilled human resources;</li> <li>○ Presence of National Forest Sector Development Program;</li> <li>○ Presence of Regional Forest Sector Development Programs;</li> <li>○ Existence of coordination mechanisms at federal and regional levels</li> <li>○ Presence of ESMF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Existence of Ministry of Environment and Forest with limited capacity;</li> <li>○ Ethiopian Forestry Action Plan prepared in 1994</li> <li>○ Woody Biomass Inventory and Strategic Plan Project findings in 2004</li> <li>○ Absence of strong regional/sub national structure</li> <li>○ Emerging Forest Based enterprises</li> <li>○</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NFSDP developed</li> <li>○ 9 regional and 2 city administrations Forest Sector Development Plans developed</li> <li>○ Office facilities procured for MoEFCC and regional replica;</li> <li>○ ESMF prepared;</li> <li>○ Coordination mechanism in place at regional and federal levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One national and nine woreda forest sector development offices established and operationalized through the deployment of 92 skilled personnel and fulfilling office facilities</li> <li>○ forestry data bases infrastructure established and the required facilities at national and regional levels fulfilled</li> <li>○ The 10 years NFSDP developed and ready to be launched</li> <li>○ Regional RFSDP under preparation</li> <li>○ ESMF for fast rotation plantation and rehabilitation of degraded lands for nine districts prepared;</li> <li>○ Coordination Mechanism to lead the forest conservation and development exists and regions and city administrations have also established offices with different naming;</li> <li>○ 92 project staffs deployed and are currently working at federal and regional levels</li> </ul>

<b>Output 2</b> <b>Indicators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presence of clearly defined and integrated rural land use plans that support forest conservation and development of forest resources in pilot regional states;</li> <li>○ Proportion of degraded lands demarcated and mapped;</li> <li>○ Proportion of degraded lands rehabilitated;</li> <li>○ Presence of Project Design Document to access carbon finance;</li> <li>○ Existence of road map for implementation of agroforestry system in Ethiopia;</li> <li>○ Number of pilot sites per region effectively implemented Payment for Ecosystem Services;</li> <li>○ Number of areas covered per region and city administration through short rotation plantation program</li> </ul>	<b>Baselines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Absence of clearly defined rural land use plan that supports the conservation and development of forest resources;</li> <li>○ Degraded lands Rehabilitation program exists in some parts of Ethiopia;</li> <li>○ Absence of harmonized agroforestry systems and practices by agro ecological zones</li> <li>○ Lack of comprehensive evaluation system for ecological, social and economic benefits of forest resources and their contribution to GDP</li> </ul>	<b>Planned Targets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clearly defined and integrated rural land use plans that support conservation and development of forest resources in pilot regional states;</li> <li>○ 150,000hectars lands demarcated and mapped;</li> <li>○ 150,000 hectares degraded lands rehabilitated;</li> <li>○ Presence of Project Design Document to access carbon finance;</li> <li>○ 10,000 hectares mapped and covered by short rotation plantation program;</li> <li>○ One Project Design Document to access carbon finance prepared</li> <li>○ Criteria for the implementation of agroforestry system in Ethiopia developed;</li> </ul>	<b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In nine pilot districts selected from Amhara, SNNP and Tigray clearly defined land use plans prepared for conducting forest conservation and development;</li> <li>○ 161 targeted micro-watersheds were demarcated with management and use plan;</li> <li>○ 1,549 km of terraces have been built; 35,982m<sup>3</sup> trenches have been dug; 133,150 basins and 9,473 m3 check dams have been constructed;</li> <li>○ 1,229 km bunds have been constructed;</li> <li>○ 1,047.7 kg of tree seeds used to raise 25,397,210 seedlings in 47 nurseries;</li> <li>○ 1,229.16 km bunds have been constructed;</li> <li>○ 1,047.7 kg of tree seeds used to raise 25,397,210 seedlings in 47 nurseries;</li> <li>○ Plantation has been conducted on 8,697 ha of Norwegian project supported sites and on 754 ha on sites supported through financing from Sweden. The plantation costs of this year has been covered from the Swedish contribution to the project.</li> </ul>



**Table: 2018 plantation achievements in Norway & Swedish government Supported woredas**

No.	Region	Project woredas	Swedish Supported Woredas*		Annual Plan (in ha)	Norway Supported Woredas		Remark
			No. of seedlings Planted	Area Covered (ha)*1		No. of seedlings Planted	Area Covered (ha)	
1.	Tigray	Alaje	-	-	983.0	1,181,590.0	898.0	
2.		Hintalo Wujirat	262,500.0	191.0	-	-	-	
3.		Endamehoni	-	-	1000.0	1,450,870.0	943.0	
4.		Offla	300,000.0	237.0	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>562,500.0</b>	<b>428.0</b>	<b>1,983.0</b>	<b>2,632,460.0</b>	<b>1841.0</b>	
5.	Amhara	Meket	325,295.0	316.0	1076.0	3,226,783.0	1110.0	
6.		Wadla	181,400.0	144.0	1205.0	2,003,803.0	1040.0	
7.		Delanta	283,800.0	320.0	1111.6	2,038,759.0	1014.0	
8.		Dessie Zuria	-	-	1425.0	2,237,083.0	980.0	
9.		Dessie Ketema	60,000.0	162.0	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>850,495.0</b>	<b>942.0</b>	<b>4,817.6</b>	<b>9,506,428.0</b>	<b>4,144.0</b>	
10.	SNNP	Sodo G.	174,000.0	506.0	1298.0	2,111,858.0	1088.0	
11.		Lemo	-	-	1231.0	1,064,633.0	1017.0	
12.		Shashego	230,000.0	448.0	-	-	-	
13.		M/Abaya	61,925.0	179.0	1418.2	998,052.0	607.0	
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>465,925.0</b>	<b>1133.0</b>	<b>3947.2</b>	<b>4,174,543.0</b>	<b>2712.0</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>1,878,920.0</b>	<b>2503.0</b>	<b>10,747.8</b>	<b>16,313,431.0</b>	<b>8697.0**</b>	

\* Note that the annual plan (in ha) for all Swedish government supported woredas is uniform and it is 400 hectares.

\*\* The plantation activity conducted on the Norway site with the financial support of Sweden





## **V. Assessment of efficiency of the project**

This project is designed in the result-based scheme and resources are especially targeted towards supporting delivery of outputs. Most of the resource was planned for field level Afforestation/Reforestation and rehabilitation works including livelihood activities and hence significant focus and resource support is provided accordingly.

This project has ample evidence already to show that different stakeholders were quickly mobilized for the actual implementation of the project. This indicated that afforestation in Ethiopian landscapes (even on degraded ones) can be achieved if the quickly if the assumed conditions are in place, i.e. good site rehabilitation conditions, guaranteed quality of plant material, proper management, reasonable investment and access to markets for products.

In practice, the entire exercise was translated into important outcomes of increased employment and income generation while arresting land degradation, which is one of the main targets in the GTPII. The project is also likely to contribute to biodiversity conservation, and the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The project implementation manual set a certain level of free labor participation from the community for various field activities to promote the participation of the wider public and other stakeholders, while at the same time maintaining a reasonable level of efficiency in financial disbursement. The top leadership in the three regions have directly dedicated personnel and institutions to monitor this project and provided guidance on the selection of sites for its implementation and its implementation approaches. Previous experiences in other similar projects like (e.g. SLM, PSNP etc.) have helped to quickly start the implementation of this project. In many cases, the steering committee for the other projects similarly led the implementation of this project.

## **VI. 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.

The commitment of the project and 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 MoF is encouraging. —————

Considering the time since 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.

Annex 1. Public participation and some of the plantation site preparation activities  
Annex 2: Final Report on ESMF  
Annex 3: NFSDP

