

List of Acronyms

- ❖ **C & P:** Consultation & Participation
- ❖ **CO₂:** Carbon dioxide
- ❖ **COP:** Conference of Parties
- ❖ **CRGE:** Climate Resilient Green Economy
- ❖ **CSO:** Civil Society Organizations
- ❖ **DA:** Development Agents
- ❖ **EACC:** Ethiopian Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
- ❖ **EHRC:** Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
- ❖ **ESMF:** Environmental & Social Management Framework
- ❖ **EWNRA:** Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association
- ❖ **FCPF:** Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
- ❖ **FDRE:** Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- ❖ **FMA:** Forest Management Associations
- ❖ **FPIC:** Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- ❖ **GCF:** Green Climate Fund
- ❖ **GHG:** Green House Gases
- ❖ **GRM:** Grievance Redressing Mechanisms
- ❖ **ICCPR:** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ❖ **ICESCR:** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- ❖ **FMGs:** Forest Management Groups
- ❖ **ILCA:** Initiative for Living Community Action
- ❖ **IPCC:** International Panel on Climate Change
- ❖ **KAs:** Kebele Administrations
- ❖ **NGO:** Non Governmental Organizations
- ❖ **NRM:** Natural Resource Management
- ❖ **OFLP:** Oromia Forested Landscape Programme
- ❖ **OFWE:** Oromia Forestry and Wildlife Enterprise
- ❖ **PF:** Process Framework
- ❖ **PFM:** Participatory Forest Management
- ❖ **REDD+:** Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
- ❖ **RPF:** Resettlement Policy Framework

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Initiative for Living Community Action (ILCA) Awareness Creation Curriculum

on

Climate Change and REDD+ Awareness Raising Project for Forest Dependent Local
Communities in Arba Minch Zuria Woreda

- ❖ **R-PP:** Readiness Preparation Proposal
- ❖ **RRA:** Rapid Rural Appraisal
- ❖ **SESA:** Social, Environmental & Strategic Assessment
- ❖ **SMS:** Short Message Service
- ❖ **SNNPRS:** South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State
- ❖ **TV:** Television
- ❖ **ToT:** Training of Trainers
- ❖ **UN:** United Nations
- ❖ **UNECA:** United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- ❖ **UNFCCC:** United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ❖ **USAID:** United State Assistance for International Development
- ❖ **WHO:** World Health Organization

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CHAPTER ONE

1 CLIMATE CHANGE & ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS

1.1. Definition of Climate Change

There is no universally adopted definition for the term 'climate change'. However, climate change is commonly referred as:

"a long-term change in the earth's climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature."

As one can note from the aforementioned definition, climate change is not a short term change in the earth's climate. This means that climate change cannot be noticed overnight. Rather it can be noticed after a long period of time even if its effects happen continuously. Due to these and related reasons today climate change is recognized as one of the major threats to human welfare, biodiversity and development.

How can we know the existence of climate change? What are the existing signs of climate change in our area? The following are the major manifestations of climate change in local context:

- Atmospheric temperature increment;
- Changes in agro ecological production;
 - Well known lowland crops & plants begin growing in the highlands;
 - Well known highland crops & plants begin to cease;
- Unpredictable raining seasons happening;
- Frequent draught;
- Decrease in river and spring water levels;
- Harsh flooding moments.

1.2. Impacts of Climate Change to Ethiopia

It is obvious that the current trend of climate change leads to significant **economic loss** in countries whose economy is mainly dependent on climate sensitive activities, particularly Agriculture. The people of Ethiopia are vulnerable to climate change as livelihoods are highly sensitive to changes in rainfall and temperature and depend on limited natural resources. A report by USAID (2012) evaluated recent trends in rainfall and temperature and identified significant reductions in rainfall (up to 20% in southern, south-western, and south-eastern parts of the country) and increases in temperature overtime in many areas of Ethiopia. According to Centre for Global Development (2010), Ethiopia is ranked 11th of 233 countries in terms of its vulnerability to physical climate impacts, and 9th in terms of overall vulnerability (physical impacts adjusted for coping ability). Ethiopia's economy has also been adversely affected for multiple years including 2016/17 fiscal year due to El Nino and sever draught due to climate change.

However, Ethiopia's contribution to GHG emissions is negligible on a global scale (less than 0.3%), which is around 150 Mt CO₂e in 2010 (of which about 87% of GHG emissions came from agricultural (crop - 12 and livestock - 65 Mt CO₂e a year), and forestry (55 Mt CO₂e a year) and the remaining 13% is from power, transport, industry and buildings) (CRGE, 2011). However, if current practices prevail, the GHG emissions will be 400 Mt CO₂e in 2030 and the per capita emission level will increase by more than 50% to 3 t CO₂e and will exceed the global target to keep it between 1 - 2 t per capita to limit its contribution to climate change (CRGE, 2011).

Drought has had significant impacts on food insecurity and affects the life of Ethiopian people and its trend is increasing in 21th century (IPCC, 2007b). Ethiopia experienced more than eight drought times over 1983-2016. Other African countries were also affected by drought several times.

Flooding leads to immediate deaths and injuries of people, infectious diseases like malaria and exposure of people to toxic substances. According the flood portal of European Commissions Joint Research Center, Institute for Environment and Sustainability (2010), more than 1 million people were affected in over 20 African countries and approximately about 500 lives were lost and over 1.2 million people were displaced from their homes. Least developed countries such as Ethiopia more suffer from climate change related disasters like floods. They lack institutional, economic, and financial capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change and to rebuild the

infrastructure damaged by natural disasters (Sokona and Danton, 2001). Flooding occurs everywhere in the world. However, the degree of its impacts depend on the adaptive capacity of a country, that is, the developed countries have high adaptive capacity while the poor countries such as Ethiopia, suffer more to the impacts of flooding.

Climate is a primary factor for **decrease of agriculture productivity**, such that any environmental change affects plant and animal production (Shongwe et al., 2014). With increasing frequency of droughts and floods associated with climate change, agricultural production will decline and the state of food insecurity and malnutrition will increase (Kumsa, and Jones, 2010). It is estimated that African farmers are losing about US\$28 per hectare per year for each 1°C rise in global temperature (Kumssa and Jones, 2010). The African Partnership Forum (APF, 2007), described that, climate change can no longer be considered as an environmental problem only, as it also becomes a major threat to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Climate change can hinder sustainable development of Ethiopia by minimizing yield production, which leads to food insecurity.

Climate change also causes **scarcity of water resources** and severe floods that leads to **outbreaks of waterborne diseases**. African countries including Ethiopia suffer serious health problems because of climate change United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA, 2011). UNECA justified that, Africa is the most susceptible continent to climate change related health problems due to the existing poverty and weak institutions to deal with health challenges posed by climate change. Change in rainfall will affect the presence and absence of vector and water borne pathogens (IPCC, 2001). Any changes in temperature and precipitation will boost the number of disease-carrying mosquitoes that leads to malaria epidemics (Lindsay and Martens, 1998). The problem of Malaria is associated to climate change. Most of malaria epidemics are closely linked to climate variability caused by El Nino. Climate change can affect the well-being of human beings either directly or indirectly. For instance, changing the quality of air, water and food can disturb human health indirectly. Climate change will likely discomfort the environmental and social conditions which might lead to social and economic disruptions.

1.3. Major Causes of Climate Change to Ethiopia

Natural Forces

The Earth's climate has changed many times during the planet's history, with events ranging from ice ages to long periods of warmth. During the last centuries natural factors such as volcanic eruptions or the amount of energy released from the sun have affected the Earth's climate on a smaller scale.

Human Activities

By the 1950s and early 1960s, it was becoming clear that human activities were releasing CO₂ fast enough to significantly increase its atmospheric abundance (Dessler & Parson, 2006). The external causes may be natural or induced by human activity. The primary cause of climate change is increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere because of human activities mainly fossil fuel burning and removal of forests (Lovejoy and Hannah,2005).

Established evidence links land degradation to the loss of biodiversity and climate change, both as cause and effect. CO₂ -induced climate change and land degradation remain inextricably linked because of feedbacks between land degradation and precipitation. Climate change might exacerbate land degradation through alteration of spatial and temporal patterns in temperature, rainfall, solar radiation, and winds (Sivakumar , 2011).

Deforestation is one of the major causes of climate change in Ethiopia. People clear forests for different purposes such as construction, fuel wood, urbanization and the likes. This has become the living truth in Ethiopia.

1.4. Historical Background of Climate Change as Global Agenda

Climate change is an increasingly urgent global environmental and humanitarian problem, threatening to disrupt ecological processes, alter land-based and aquatic food production systems, and ultimately increasing risks to human health, biodiversity and species survival. According to the IPCC report (2014), tropical deforestation and forest degradation are one key cause of the problem with 12% of the total Green House Gas (GHG) emissions - a major driver of climate

change in the period of 2000-2009 coming from forests and other land uses. On the other hand, climate change constitutes a direct threat to forest ecosystems, forest-dependent peoples and society as a whole through reduced delivery of products and forest ecosystem services. Indirect effects, driven by land use, economic and social changes, will also have impacts on forests and their ability to provide products and ecosystems services.

Over the past twelve years the debate on deforestation and degradation has progressed significantly. Because of their important role in climate change mitigation, forests feature prominently in the on-going negotiations on further commitments of countries. The UNFCCC negotiations on greenhouse gas accounting on land use, land use change and forestry in developed countries and on forestry mitigation measures in developing countries have raised the visibility of forests to the highest levels of governments.

Policy makers and researchers agree that efforts to reduce deforestation and degradation must be included as part of a credible attempt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the degree necessary to frame the process. It is also understood that reducing deforestation and forest degradation on the scale required to address climate change can only work through a series of ‘financial incentives’ designed to make standing forests more profitable and attractive to countries than the conversion of such areas for agriculture, timber or other uses. The Copenhagen accord and the Cancun agreement recognized the crucial role of forest and the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD+ to slow, halt and reverse forest loss in developing countries and to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries.

The Cancun agreement (2010) encouraged all countries to find effective ways to reduce the human pressures on forest that result in GHG emissions. It also established several new institutions and processes including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through which new multilateral funding for adaptation and mitigation will flow and designate as a new operating entity of the convention’s financial mechanism. The World Bank was selected to serve as the trustee of the GCF to deliver financing. One of the outcomes of COP17 were mainly the establishment of a second commitment period (2012-2020) under the Kyoto Protocol, a decision on long-term cooperative action under the convention, and agreement on the operationalization of the GCF.

At the international level, potential mechanisms were suggested to finance REDD+ such as market based (use of carbon markets), non-market based and voluntary-market approaches, but it is up to each country to determine its position to choose and proceed with applying one or blend

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of these mechanisms. The market-based proposal finally led the establishment of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank and UN-REDD funds. The non-market based approach looks to develop at least one international fund from which payments for REDD would be drawn as there would be insufficient public funds available to fully address deforestation and degradation from developed countries and from domestic emissions trading schemes. An alternative route is the voluntary carbon markets which allows consumers to buy carbon offsets from private firms or charities which utilise the money to implement projects that either reduce carbon emissions elsewhere or improve carbon sequestration.

For example, Humbo & Sodo REDD+ Projects are non-voluntary & voluntary carbon market projects, respectively. Humbo project, also called Africa's biggest REDD+ Project, is a compulsory project where the international community is obliged to contribute for the communities' contribution on natural resources management. On the other hand, Sodo project is one of the voluntary projects where the private companies are required to buy carbon from the local communities.

CHAPTER TWO

2 DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION & FOREST DEGRADATION AND REDD+ PROGRAMME IN ETHIOPIA

2.1. Drivers of Deforestation & Forest Degradation

As highlighted under the previous chapter, climate change has been adversely affecting Ethiopia. The industrial pollutions of developed countries takes lion's share for the prevalence of the effects of climate change worldwide.

As far as the contributing factors for the climate change in Ethiopia are concerned, Arbonaut Consulting Firm, Finish Consulting Company, conducted study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Ethiopia. The study includes Arba Minch Zuria Woreda as one of the piloted Woredas of the study. Accordingly, that finding shows that the following are the major factors that play prominent roles for the prevalence of climate change in Ethiopia.

- **Wood fuel and other organic fuels** – Fuel wood from forest and from trees on farms is one of the main underlying causes here. By far the largest driver of deforestation and degradation in Arba Minch Zuria Woreda include charcoal production and collection of fuel wood for household consumption and consumption of hotels and restaurants in Arba Minch City and its surroundings.
- **Construction wood** – Arba Minch Zuria Woreda is experiencing high rate of urbanization where construction has become part of a day-to-day culture of the communities. Almost all of the households of Arba Minch Zuria Woreda and industries as well as public institutions such as Kebele Administrations (KAs) use wood for construction. They cut forest woods to fulfill their construction needs.
- **Agricultural small-holder farmland expansion** – Arba Minch Zuria Woreda is one of the known Woredas in terms of its vegetable and fruits productions. The current farmland of these products was totally covered by forests. The total irrigable and rainfed land of fruits and vegetables of small-holder farmlands has been cleared and put in use.

This has played adverse role for deforestation even if it has positively contributed for livelihood enhancement.

- **Shifting cultivation** – This practice of agriculture is currently occur mainly in some lowland Kebelles of Arba Minch Zuria Woreda. There is no land planning for specific purpose. That is why communities practice shifting cultivation and clear forests for agriculture.
- **Land fires** – Hugely destructive when land fires become very large; – Currently occur mainly in some lowlands;
- **Livestock populations, free-grazing and emissions** – Particularly the cattle population of Abra Minch Zuria Woreda is sent to forested areas and graze in unwise manners. Therefore, free-gazing is impacting hugely against forest biomass accumulation in the surroundings of Arba Minch town and the Arba Minch Zuria Woreda as well. The land has limited carrying capacity of livestock population. Moreover, the livestock population emits huge amount of GHG in addition to its direct negative role in deforestation & degradation through free grazing.
- **Large-scale commercial or state agricultural farms** – These large-scale farms are almost all established on forest lands located around Arba Minch City and some lowland Kebelles of Arba Minch Zuria Woreda. All wood cleared from the new farmland is mainly wasted as it is just bulldozed to the side. Almost no environmental considerations are followed in either establishment or operation of these farms.

2.2. REDD+ & its Genesis as Contemporary Global issue

REDD is an idea of creating an international framework to halt deforestation. In addition, the mechanism could help fight poverty while conserving biodiversity and sustaining vital ecosystem services.

In 2005, at COP 11 in Montreal, several developing countries requested that a new, separate item on deforestation be added to the UNFCCC agenda. The scope was initially limited to “reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries”. Subsequently, the concept has expanded to include not only deforestation, but also forest degradation, the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks – together known as REDD+.

REDD+ was included in the Bali Action Plan agreed at COP13 in Bali, in 2007, further consolidating its place in a future international climate agreement. At COP15 in 2009, in Copenhagen, forests were described as having a “crucial role” in global mitigation efforts. The

following year, at COP16 in Cancún, a more detailed REDD+ decision was agreed, which encouraged developing countries to contribute to mitigation through forest related activities and provided guidance and a framework for undertaking such actions – including development of national strategies, reference levels, monitoring systems, and the application of social and environmental safeguards.

Many countries expect discussions under the UNFCCC to result in a mechanism that will help to finance the collective and agreed goal to “slow, halt, and reverse forest cover and carbon loss”. There is agreement that REDD+ should occur in three phases (readiness, demonstration and performance-based payments), which will eventually culminate in results-based actions that should be fully Measured, Reported and Verified (MRV).

Where such payments will come from, however, remains a contentious issue with some supporting market-based mechanisms and others preferring non-market finance. Financing the integration of other issues into REDD+, such as adaptation and other non carbon benefits (for example, biodiversity, livelihoods, ecosystem services protection) also remains an open question.

Ethiopia has been in the REDD+ process since 2008 and is now a REDD+ participant country to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank. The country created the REDD+ Secretariat to implement REDD+ Readiness Phase (i.e., R-PP implementation) and coordinate all efforts related to REDD+ (forestry and climate change) and to deliver on the green economy vision. The Secretariat is technically supported by the Federal REDD+ Technical Working Group, and REDD+ Task Forces drawn from relevant stakeholders. Federal REDD+ Steering Committee is the highest decision making body on matters related to REDD+ in Ethiopia.

2.3. Justifications on Ethiopia's involvement as one of REDD+ Countries

In response to the adverse effects of climate change, Ethiopia formulated and launched Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy in 2011 to build a climate resilient green economy to address climate change with zero net increase in carbon emissions and achieve middle-income status by 2025. This initiative aims to reduce emissions from land use and forestry thereby shifting agriculture from high carbon to low carbon areas. The green economy plan is based on four pillars: improving agricultural production practices, forest protection and development, renewable energy expansion, and leap frogging to modern and energy-efficient technologies.

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Although Ethiopia is not a major emitter of GHG, it has a huge potential to contribute to the global efforts of climate change mitigation by managing its carbon stock. The forestry sector alone is estimated to account for 22.5% of greenhouse gas emissions levels under a business as usual scenario by 2030. It possesses more than 12 million hectares of forests and woodlands which have stored over 2.7 billion tons of CO₂e (CRGE, 2011). At the same time, deforestation and forest degradation account for one third of total emission currently. The average rate of deforestation was estimated to be about 1.11% based on forest cover change from 2005-2010 (FAO study 2010). The main drivers of deforestation are agricultural expansion and fuel wood use, and to a lesser extent, illegal logging and forest fires. However, with the recent opportunity, deforestation and forest degradation shall be reversed by protecting and re-establishing forests, not only for their economic and ecosystem services but also to serve as carbon stocks and benefit from financial resources such as REDD+. **In the CRGE strategy, REDD+ has been identified as one of the four initiatives to fast-track implementation, having the best chances of capturing large abatement potentials and attracting climate finance for their implementation.**

With the opportunity that climate change brought, REDD+ aims to strengthen and expand the role of forests as carbon pools by supporting the conservation and sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. **This mechanism can be a relatively cost-effective climate change mitigation strategy that will create additional benefits for communities and strengthen biodiversity conservation with the right attention to the social and environmental functions of forest countries.** REDD+ offers the opportunity to implement forestry abatement levers and monetise the respective abatement potential in a structured way.

The national REDD+ programme is funded through the World Bank FCPF Readiness Fund as Ethiopia being a participant country of the FCPF. Since June 2011, Ethiopia became an official observer of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, which makes it eligible to access additional capacity building support and funding from the UN-REDD programme. Ethiopia prepared Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in 2008, the first part in a three step process (R-PP, REDD Readiness Phase and REDD Implementation), which lays out the process, methods and milestones that it should follow to get ready for REDD+ implementation and later finalized and approved by FCPF in May 2011. In January 2013, Ethiopia entered the implementation of R-PP.

During the R-PP development, the Bale Mountains Eco-Region REDD+ Project in Oromia Regional State was identified as the first national REDD+ pilot project at sub-national level. In

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the second phase (REDD+ Readiness), the government recognized the Oromia Forested Landscape Programme as a national REDD+ pilot project as Oromia comprises 60% of Ethiopia's high forest and 15 million hectares of woodlands. This programme adopts **jurisdictional** and **landscape approach**, which is one of the major approaches implemented in REDD+ Countries, and is believed to promote **cross-sectoral** initiatives in the area of participatory forest management (PFM), climate smart agriculture, livestock improvement to contribute to reducing poverty and address issues of deforestation and forest degradation within the framework of the national REDD+ strategy, and ultimately contribute to CRGE's vision. Other sub-national initiatives of relevance for REDD+ include: Humbo Afforestation/Reforestation Projects in SNNPR, Soddo Afforestation/Reforestation CDM project, Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ Project; Nono Sele Participatory Forest Management REDD+ Project, and Yayu Coffee Forest REDD+ Project.

Together with establishing pilot projects during the Readiness Phase, the R-PP outlined other key activities that need to be implemented to develop REDD+ implementation nationally; among these consultation and participation got due attention and presented in detail on the R-PP document as Annex 1b. This part of the document explains about stakeholder consultation held so far on R-PP, importance of Consultation and Participation Plan, and supplementary information for consultation and participation methods (R-PP, 2011).

During the R-PP development, an extensive stakeholder consultation was conducted from national to woreda levels, which form the basis of the R-PP. The purpose of these consultations and participations is to ensure that key forest stakeholders are given an opportunity to be involved in REDD+ related activities decision making process that impacts them. Various methods/techniques of consultation and participation were used: workshops, community consultations with forest dependent peoples, questionnaire surveys and interviews in seven regional states: Amhara, Oromia, SNNPRS, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumz, Gambella and Somali. The wide-range of participatory and interaction techniques/methods were used to maximize the engagement of stakeholders as well as to test the various awareness raising and capacity building approaches and testing materials.

CHAPTER THREE

3 REDD+ SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS & SAFEGUARD POLICIES & CURRENT STATUS OF THEIR IMPLANTATION IN ETHIOPIA

3.1. The major REDD+ Instruments

REDD+ Social, Environmental & Strategic Assessment (SESA) Document, REDD+ C & P Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework(RPF), REDD+ Grievance Redressing Mechanisms(GRM) Guideline as well as Environmental & Social Management Framework(ESMF) are the major REDD+ instruments under application in Ethiopia's REDD+ Programme in particular and REDD+ Countries in general Each of these instruments has their own objectives.

SESA is aimed to address the social, environmental and strategic issues that include the issues of underserved communities such as women, children, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and all of those whose lives and livelihood systems are directly dependent on forest. In other words, SESA is a tool that seeks to integrate social & environmental considerations into REDD+ policy-making processes, leading to more sustainable REDD+ strategies. It supports the design of National REDD+ Strategy.

REDD+ C & P Plan is aimed to ensure engagement of all stakeholders and their inclusive participation throughout REDD+ processes. The Consultations and Participations include free, prior and informed consent of the communities so that all of the decisions will be made with full willingness of those who may be affected by REDD+ programmes/projects.

REDD+ programmes may displace forest dependent communities from their ancestral lands. In other words, **Resettlement Policy Framework(RPF)** addresses any potential land acquisition and/or physical relocation, as required by the World Bank Involuntary Resettlement policy (OP

4.12). Therefore, Resettlement Policy Framework governs the issues related to the land acquisition, displacement and related issues.

On the other hand, **Grievance Redressing Guideline** issue focuses on the ways how to solve disputes between and/or among different actors in the REDD+ programmes implementation processes. There are established procedures, structures and institutions recognized to solve grievances in pacific ways.

REDD+ **Environmental & Social Management Framework** is the REDD+ instrument that establishes the principles, guidelines, and procedures for reducing, mitigating, and/or offsetting potential adverse environmental and social impacts, enhancing positive impacts and opportunities.

Process Framework(PF) is used for situations of restriction of access to natural resources within legally designated parks and protected areas, as required by the World Bank Involuntary Resettlement policy (OP 4.12).

3.2. Current status of Implementation of REDD+ in Ethiopia

Currently, Ethiopia, as one of the REDD+ countries, has been implementing REDD+ Programmes. REDD+ Management structure is established and under implementation; National REDD+ Strategy is prepared and under implementation; all of the safeguard instruments are prepared; the establishment of a national reference scenario for REDD+ is shown in the REDD+ MRV road map in Ethiopia. All of the above mentioned REDD+ instruments are designed, drafted, reviewed and approved by the National Steering Committee, the highest decision making body of national REDD+ Programme, and are under application in Ethiopia.

Programme Based Intervention

Piloting based jurisdictional approach programm called **Oromia Forested Landscape Programme** in Oromia national regional state is part and parcel of the national REDD+ programmes under implementation. Oromia National Regional State is National Pilot region for

the national REDD+ programme. The National REDD+ Secretariat has been supporting the ongoing Oromia REDD+ Programme implemented by Oromia Forestry & Wildlife Enterprise.

The national REDD+ Secretariat so far has done diverse consultation and participation activities using REDD+ instruments as well as different communication tools and techniques. In line with this, REDD+ awareness and training had been given to all members of the REDD+ management bodies. Awareness has also been expanded to the regions (Southern People, Nations and Nationalities, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz and Amhara) involving higher officials, senior experts, research and civil society institutions in a series of workshops and seminars. Further, a series of meetings and workshops were also held to create awareness on REDD+ program at Hawassa (Wondo Genet College of Forestry), Addis Ababa and Jima Universities.

The REDD+ conferences have shared experiences and lessons drawn from NGO experiences in Humbo Community Assisted Natural Regeneration (Carbon Project), REDD+ NTFP, REDD+ PFM and other best practices supported with video, field visits and other learning materials. Women and youth associations and high level political figures such as zonal administrators have participated in these events. Many of the events: workshops, meetings, and seminars were covered by national and local media outlets including radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines.

It was able to reach millions of Ethiopians with two Television programs (questions and answers) and two live radio talk-shows on REDD+, CRGE Strategy and climate change thematic areas. Awareness creation materials using print media and other materials (booklets, flyers, brochures, stickers, note books, capes, T-shirts, key holders, pens, banners with REDD+ logo and motto, and business cards) were prepared and distributed on various events such as national tree planting campaigns. Other printed materials include publication and distribution of 2,500 new-year postcards, 2500 calendars and various quick publication brochures.

Lots of photo and video shots were taken and documented. Continuous radio, TV, and print interviews and advertisements were also made on various occasions. In addition, SMS text messages were sent to 12 million mobile telephone subscribers of Ethio-telecom to increase awareness on the need to plant more seedlings and care for trees and forests, while speeding up the development of a standard website with a national consultant, a temporary blog web account has been created (www.reddplusethiopia.wordpress.com) and information on REDD+ and related data is being organized and uploaded for the public. For large scale and efficient

communication and outreach, a national REDD+ communication strategy is being formulated by a consultant. With respect to capacity building at a bigger scale, a contract was given to Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources for training of trainers.

The result of the above efforts showed increase in degree of participation of different stakeholders, increase in number of REDD+ activities, high outreach, and positive feedback on REDD+ were gained. Many people have benefited from these concerted efforts. However, the move towards ensuring meaningful engagement of stakeholders and making REDD+ more inclusive requires developing well organized consultation and participation plan with appropriate communication tools and techniques.

Project based intervention

In addition to aforementioned approaches, Ethiopia has also been undertaking series of REDD+ related activities. With regard to this local and international civil society organizations are contributing their part through direct participation with technical, financial and other supports. So far these civil society organizations have been implementing REDD+ projects with the support of various development partners. Humbo and Soddo Community-Managed Natural Regeneration Projects, Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ Project, REDD+ Participatory Forest Management in South-West Ethiopia by Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) are a few of the major projects implemented by development partners.

Institutional Structural Re-adjustment and Policy & Legal reform

The Ethiopian REDD+ programme would require institutional structures that can effectively coordinate multi-sectoral implementation of REDD+ programmes and processes. These structures need to effectively manage decentralized programmes at all levels that involve multiple sectors and potentially large number of local participants. As such, institutional arrangements will need oversight from government and implementing institutions - decentralized at national, regional, zonal, woreda and kebele levels - with functions for multi-stakeholder and technical consultation.

Ethiopia has established Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and line Bureaux, institutes and centers, undertook series of legal (eg. forest definition) and policy revisions and amendments and conducted comprehensive policy reviews and reforms to align its approaches in line with the ongoing global REDD+ mechanism. National REDD+ Secretariat establishment, establishment of REDD+ Units and focal persons at regional level and also undertaking piloting programmes are part of the institutional structural re-adjustment activities well done so far.

3.3. Responses of Global Community to support Ethiopia's commitments in National REDD+ Programme implementation

The global community is positive to supporting Ethiopia's commitment in both the readiness phase and implementation phase. Its support has several dimensions that range from accepting Ethiopia as one of REDD+ countries up to directly providing the required supports.

Global community has been supporting Ethiopia's commitments in many ways. The World Bank Group, Norway & others have been supporting Ethiopia's National REDD+ Programme both financially and technically. Accordingly, the international community is providing huge financial and technical support for the implementation of the current ongoing REDD+ Programmes and planned ones.

Ethiopia is one of signatory countries of almost all of the major REDD+ related international legal documents. This makes Ethiopia beneficiary of the global REDD+ mechanism and also makes the country accountable as per the international legal documents it signed.

CHAPTER FOUR

4 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF REDD+ & REMEDIAL MECHANISMS

4.1. Potential Positive and Negative Impacts of REDD+

As far as the positive impacts are concerned, REDD+ has huge potential benefits from different perspectives. From the forest conservation point of view it has positive contribution for the maintenance of diverse gene pools and robust species populations, conservation of intact forest habitat, enhanced integrity of the landscape and enhanced resilience of ecosystems to climate change. From sustainable management of forests point of view REDD+ contributes for reduction of degradation of forests. In addition, from afforestation and reforestation point of view, REDD+ plays pivotal roles for habitat restoration of degraded landscape (if native species and diverse plantings are used), enhancement of landscape connectivity, protection of water resources and conservation of aquatic biodiversity. These are called the potential environmental positive impacts of REDD+.

REDD+ has also potential social benefits such as improved rights & access, improved livelihood & poverty reduction as well as social inclusion & gender empowerments. For instance, REDD+ programmes create enabling environment for non-forest livelihood options such as bee keeping, which is one of the best means of income generation and livelihood enhancement. It also creates enabling environment for benefit sharing rights from carbon selling, incomes generated from selling local species used for either breeding or research and other incomes generated from community tourism. These play pivotal roles in poverty reduction to the REDD+ beneficiary local communities without compromising the interests of the future generation.

The potential environmental negative impacts of REDD+ include leakage into other forests with high biodiversity areas, introduction of invasive and alien species, introduction of genetically modified trees as well as replacement of native grasslands, wetlands and other non-forest habitats by forest plantations.

On the other hand, social exclusion (i.e., exclusion of landless & exclusion of cultural/ spiritual values & traditional practices), leading to inequality (i.e. inequality in benefit sharing, elite capture (of resources, benefits, access, loss of access to the forest resources) as well as loss of livelihood are the major potential social negative impacts of REDD+.

Landless people such as blacksmith and pottery may be excluded from the benefits gained as a result of REDD+. REDD+ programmes/projects may also deny access to the places of spiritual/traditional/cultural practices if such places located inside the REDD+ area. These may contribute for deterioration of identity and cultures. REDD+ resources may be controlled by a few people such as leaders of a community. If such leaders unwisely manage the resources, this may lead to corruption and conflict. Moreover, REDD+ programmes deny access to forests for the main livelihood options of some communities for example hunting-gathering. These result in loss of their hunting-gathering ways of lives.

4.2. Remedial Mechanisms of REDD+

As we have seen in the previous sections, REDD+ Programmes/projects have both potential positive and negative impacts or positive and negative externalities. These are not the only salient feature of this programme. But also all of development programmes/projects have their own strengths and short comings. Based on these realities, this section presents the remedial mechanisms of the negative impacts of REDD+ in Ethiopia in general and Arba Minch Zuria Woreda in particular.

Environmental Remedies of REDD+: Establishing sustainable and strong PFM Groups and planting ecologically tasted and harmonious indigenous tree species are part of the good environmental remedies here. The ongoing REDD+ project ensured establishment and implementations of community-based forest management model and worked for incorporation of the model into the national REDD+ strategy in Ethiopia. The project run by Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Management Association established and legalized 145 Forest Management Groups (FMGs) who entered into PFM agreement with concerned local government authorities to take the forest (co-) management responsibilities. These approaches of Ethiowetlands have created strong sense of ownership and responsibilities among the beneficiary PFMGs and their members.

Social Remedies of REDD+: Designing the ways that do not exclude landless & underserved communities is very important to ensure fair benefit sharing arrangements in REDD+ programmes/projects. The experiences of the ongoing REDD+ projects shows that pottery, blacksmiths and fuel wood collectors are allowed to collect dry branches from REDD+ project areas. These practices are allowed to sustain their ways of lives, cultures and identity. Therefore, cutting trees has a legal consequences that range from fine up to rigorous imprisonment. All of these sections of societies were consulted and fully awarded of the necessary consequences of the actions for wrong doings. There are also mechanisms for fair benefit sharing arrangement for these sections of the society.

Livelihood Remedies of REDD+: The livelihood of some members of the community may be entirely dependent on the forests and forest products. For instance, fuel wood collectors, blacksmiths and pottery workers' lives are entirely dependent on the forests and forest products. Therefore, the area to be closed for REDD+ Programme/project require developing different livelihoods diversification programs. These programmes include on-farm and off-farm income generating activities so that those whose lives and livelihood may be adversely affected as a result of REDD+ activities will lead sustainable life. Bee keeping, community ecotourism, installing flour mills, establishing tour operations, relocating people from REDD+ areas (especially hilly areas prone for landslide and erosion due to agriculture induced land degradation) giving proper and fair size of farmland from and planting coffee forests are a few of the many livelihood options designed and put in place in ongoing REDD+ projects in the country. Based on the consultation and awareness created and consensus arrived with government and project supporters, the beneficiaries of REDD+ projects in Humbo, Sodo, Bale, Yayu and other places of the country are using these livelihood options as part of the remedial strategies.

4.3. Relevance of taking remedial mechanisms of REDD+ Programmes/projects as inputs for successful project implementation in Arba Minch Zuria Woreda

As earlier warned by Environmental Protection Agencies of Ethiopia in a document published in 1993, the Arba Minch forest has been under critical condition. Huge pressure has been put on the wood lands and dry evergreen montane and riverine forests from practices of agricultural land expansion, charcoal production and extraction of fuel and construction wood, free grazing of livestock, and forest fires. The pressure on the forests is presently exhibiting effects like water level decrease in both the rivers and the two rift valley lakes as well as at the huge springs under the forest, after which the town gets its name literally meaning ‘forty springs,’ which flow along and feed the forests on their course and serve as sources of the water supply to the town population.

Moreover, the depletion of the natural resources and the acceleration of the change of the environment into exposed landscape have resulted in seriously harmful outcomes to the forest dependent communities and others. The communities in the surrounding, who are the nation’s highest producers of fruits like bananas, mangoes, avocados and tomatoes have frequently experienced harsh flooding from the runoff that claimed huge personal properties, lives, cattle and destroyed crops and residential houses. Typical examples of such cases are the 2005 flood that claimed 31 peoples’ lives and destroyed a number of residential houses; the 2013 flood that inundated and filled up dwellers’ houses with silt and destroyed much of the banana and maize crops; the 2015 floods that swiped off 15 residential houses; and the seasonal floods blocking the main Addis Ababa-Arba Minch-Jinka road every rainy season by inundation, silt-piling or by swiping bridges off.

While the conditions in the watershed areas have become hostile to the livelihoods and wellbeing of the local communities; to the infrastructural development of the area; to the economic growth of the region; and to the ecological balance of the ecosystems; the same trends continued also contributing to Climate Change through carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation with little efforts to curb the situation. On the other hand, global and national efforts on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation lines have brought up an opportunity to sustainably solve the problems. The project area has been targeted for a REDD+ project implementation by the National REDD+ program. It was one of the country’s districts included in the **Study of causes of deforestation and forest degradation for identification and prioritization of strategic addressing options.**

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Hence, it is high time to ensure readiness of all stakeholders for the imminent REDD+ program, and to create a harmonious problem solving work environment with full engagement of stakeholders and their contributions to this good cause. This project ensures meaningful awareness and capacity building to local communities in the project area as key stakeholders and to local actors for them all to fully engage in the process and make use of associated benefits also with full respect to their rights and observance of their duties.

The existing REDD+ Programmes, as described above, are applying all of REDD+ instruments to achieve climate resilient economy and the green development agenda of the country. Generally, the benefit sharing practices mentioned in the previous sections are part of the success stories of REDD+ in the existing REDD+ Programmes/project. The degraded land is now covered by forests; reforestation, afforestation and closure activities are done in the existing REDD+ Programmes/projects. Now a day indigenous plant species are recovering; dried water sources are developing in these areas. Wildlife population is growing so as to balance the nature in addition to boosting community tourism. Jobs are created to local youth in many fields including forestry protection, tourism, flour mills centers and bee keeping. These are a few of the major success stories of the existing REDD+ Programmes in Ethiopia.

This project of ILCA will use the best practices of the ongoing REDD+ projects in Ethiopia as inputs as Arba Minch Zuria Woreda has similar agro ecological location with some of REDD+ project areas such as Humbo Woreda of Wolaita Zone. Here one has to note that ILCA's project will focus on awareness raising and supporting the ongoing government-led watershed, natural resources management, reforestation and afforestation programmes. Participatory Video experience of ILCA will be used to document the awareness raising and capacity building activities planned under this projects. In addition to these technical supports, financial assistance is planned to be given to selected beneficiaries of PFM for bee keeping so that they will generate income and serve as models for others. Therefore, these interventions of ILCA would play a pivotal role for the effective and efficient implementation of this project.

CHAPTER FIVE

5 BENEFIT SHARING ARRANGEMENTS AND GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISMS OF REDD+

5.1. Benefit Sharing Arrangements of REDD+

Incentives to protect tropical forests are presumed to have the additional benefit of leading to protection of ecosystems and species. Furthermore, the compensation of people, groups, or countries for their efforts to reduce deforestation and forest conversion is a potential stimulus for economic development at local and national levels (Hirsch et al., 2010:3).

It is predicted that financial flows for greenhouse gas emission reductions from REDD+ could reach up to US\$30 billion a year. This significant North-South flow of funds could reward a meaningful reduction of carbon emissions and could also support new, pro-poor development, help conserve biodiversity and secure vital ecosystem services (UN-REDD, 2009b).

There are multiple benefit sharing arrangements to the affected communities due to REDD+ Programmes/projects. Generating money from non-forest related activities such as bee keeping and related activities, carbon selling through either voluntary or compulsory carbon market and community ecotourism are a few of the major benefits under REDD+ processes. These benefits are shared among community members in different ways. The benefit sharing mechanisms of the existing REDD+ projects of Humbo and Sodo, Bale and others are model examples. For instance, the existing REDD+ projects in aforementioned areas provide the following benefits to the local communities:

- Social institutions' constructions such as construction of schools and health centers for communities in the form of incentives to encourage their efforts to curbing climate change.
- Flour mills with the money from carbon selling and other non-forest activities;
- Saving money and creating job opportunities such as car rental and tour operation;
- Income from entrance fee paid by tourist and experience sharing visitors;
- Income from selling of grass from forested area;

- Bee keeping in the forest and around homestead of each beneficiary;
- Spice production and development and other non-forest livelihood enhancement; and
- Income generation activities for jobless sections of the communities.

The aforementioned and other benefits of REDD+ can be shared among the beneficiary communities in light with the prescribed provision of their bylaws as well as the benefit sharing guidelines and laws of the country.

5.2. Grievance Redress Mechanisms of REDD+

5.2.1. Globally Known Grievance Redressing Mechanisms

Grievance mechanisms provide a formal way for affected groups or stakeholders to engage with the project implementers on issues of concern or unaddressed impacts. Conflicts and Grievances Mechanism is essentially a process of receiving, registering, evaluating and addressing project related grievances from affected communities or stakeholders at a project, regional, country or international level. It involves a set of standards & administrative systems that determine whether those standards are being met in the implementation of specific activities. REDD+ Conflicts and Grievance Mechanism Strategy therefore, provides the overall purpose, objectives and actions that will be taken to ensure that implementation of REDD+ minimizes human and environmental harm and addresses conflicts before they escalate. Such mechanism is not intended to replace stakeholders' recourse to courts of law or other existing mechanisms but a REDD+ specifically designed mechanism can be less expensive and a more expedient way of resolving conflicts. By providing a procedure for communities to raise their complaints and resolve them through a stakeholder friendly mechanism, minor complaints may not create larger risks for R-PP implementation and REDD+ activities and projects.

Therefore, REDD+ projects involve a wide range of stakeholders both forest and non-forest sectors, government, community, private sector actors, NGOs and CSO and many more. REDD+ involves multiple arrays of stakeholders with differing interests and perceptions, it is likely that a number of complaints, grievances, disagreements or conflicts may arise from any of the project stakeholders in the process of implementation of REDD+ activities. Complaints and conflicts may also arise related to such issues like benefit sharing ,access to the forest resource, land/forest tenure issues, carbon right, institutional level conflict for land, project activity design (what to do where), assumed or actual unfair distribution and share of project resources, corruption and many more.

As far as grievance redressing mechanisms are concerned, Negotiation, mediation and arbitration are the major win-win methods of dispute resolution at international level.

The government and development partners such as United Nations Specialized Agencies (The World Bank Group and others), Regional and International Financial Institutions, different Governments and other development partners sign bilateral and multilateral agreements on several issues that may be directly/indirectly related to REDD+. The communities and carbon buyers also sign bilateral agreements of international nature. The obligation and rights of each contracting party is specifically stipulated under the agreement to which the party is signatory. So, each party shall be responsible in light of the bilateral/multilateral agreement that defines their rights and duties.

Therefore, each of the contracting parties should define and establish their means of dispute resolution as well as pertinent venue/or tribunal to settle their grievances and conflicts if such disagreement is not settled through negotiation and mediation. The relevant tribunals of Ethiopia shall be binding decision maker in cases where the contracting parties have not mentioned appropriate tribunal to entertain their cases.

5.2.2. Ethiopian Local Grievance Redress Mechanisms

Ethiopia signed & ratified numerous international legal instruments. As it is prescribed under article 13(2) of The Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, those international legal instruments adopted by Ethiopia are integral part of the law of the land. It underscores that interpretation & application of the fundamental rights specified under The Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall be in consistence with the principles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenants on Human Rights & International Instruments Adopted by Ethiopia. The international legal instruments such as International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR), UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Cancun Agreement, etc. to which Ethiopia is contracting party provide the standards & procedures for conflict & grievance redress mechanisms. It is worth noticing that all of these instruments require exhaustion of local remedies at local tribunals before seeking solutions by international tribunals

with jurisdictional power to hear & decide on issues in light of the international legal instrument that mandated them. Accordingly, all of the concerned bodies & citizens shall ensure compliance of application of the existing national legal instruments to the international legal instruments, institute legal claims against perpetrators at local, regional and international level for violation of rights including violation of REDD+ related rights.

Grievance handling mechanisms are in place at all level of governments as per the requirement of the National Proclamations. These proclamations clearly define the procedures to follow under corruption offences as well as for administrative complaints. There are a number of ways for participation and engagement of citizens in grievance and complaint handling, transparency and social accountability. At the grass root level, citizens have shown experiences in forming community groups, committee or representatives to liaison with constituency and seek solutions. All government administrative structures up to the grass root level (Woreda or Kebele) have forum for receiving requests and information and responsiveness by local authorities. Such mechanisms include receiving complaints from aggrieved person, facilitating face-to-face meetings and joint discussion between citizens and service providers (government). A Grievance and Complaint Management committee or board is required in all areas at community level where forest dependent community resides in the case of disputes and complaints involving denial of accesses to forest and forest products, losses of livelihood, benefit sharing, carbon rights, forest/land tenure issues, institutional level of conflict for land/ resources, corruption and etc.

The existing laws & regulations have legal remedies how to manage grievances & avoid and/or minimize conflicts through peaceful ways. Federal Ethics & Anti-Corruption Commission, The Institution of Ombudsman & Human Rights Commission have mandate to pertinent cases that may include REDD+ related corruption, human rights violation and related cases as well. The established bylaws of forest users' groups are used as their primary instruments to solve grievances and related issue. In addition, the formal courts of law (from first instance up to appellate jurisdictional level) have mandate to pass binding decisions in light of the pertinent laws. Moreover, all options are open for aggrieved party to institute appeal from the administrative tribunals with mandate to hear& decide on REDD+ cases to formal courts of law.

Ethiopia is home of multi-ethnic groups with diverse cultural, informal socio-political structures & rules on customary laws on social issues, societal governance & governance of natural resources including forests & land, environmental protection, etc. There are field tasted & hands-

on traditional grievance redressing mechanisms in each of these communities. These are very important for REDD+ related grievances & complaints to be effectively & efficiently addressed.

Therefore, the communities need to be clearly & officially informed to prioritize the win-win alternative dispute resolution mechanisms that are entrenched & effectively implemented for ages through implementation of traditional practices & enforcement of customary laws of the respective communities. The relevant institutions shall be responsible to observe whether the communities and/or individuals have exhausted the case in the relevant informal structures. However, this shall not bar the grave violation of the rights of the complainants to present their case to the competent court of law or Human Rights Commission or The Institution of Ombudsman.

Traditional Grievance Redressing Mechanisms

Traditional grievance redressing mechanisms and processes exist throughout Ethiopia. There are stronger Grievance Redressing Mechanism Institutions in Oromia, SNNPRS, Afar, Somali and Gambella Regional States. In these regions, there is strong tradition of informal resolution and acceptance of the mode of grievance redressing mechanisms by all parties involved in the conflict. In Oromia, the practice of traditional grievance redressing mechanism seems even stronger than the other regions (ESMF, 2015).

The existing practices and procedures of REDD+ related grievance redress mechanisms at community level has to be recognized, harmonized with the formal grievance redressing mechanisms and used side by side. The Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia recognizes traditional dispute resolution methods such at family and community level. Accordingly, the formal courts of law respect the decisions made by the traditional institutions on similar issues so that the disputants follow win-win approaches as if their cases were being settled through formal arbitration mechanisms and procedures of formal courts. Hence, the formal courts close the cases as soon as they receive reports of dispute agreement signed by both disputants and their respective traditional elderly group. These enable the individuals, families and communities maintain the principles of their pacific co-existence and strengthening their positive social values practiced since time immemorial and transferred from generation to generation through oral traditions. The same analogy can be applicable to putting the existing approaches of Traditional Grievance Redressing Mechanisms in REDD+ related issues.

On the other hand, some of the traditional grievance redressing mechanisms have gaps in involving women. Women are represented by men in some important public decision-making

events. As a result, their issues are not well addressed. In different parts of the country, women involve directly or indirectly in conflicts such as war or competing for resource (e.g. grass for livestock). They sometimes instigate men to go to conflict that includes praise of men that join in conflicts or nag and abuse those who are reluctant to join in conflict.

Thus, it is of a paramount importance to follow inclusive approaches that understand, recognize and integrate the traditional approaches of grievance redress (redressing – consistency) mechanisms with the formal grievance redress mechanisms in conflict management and redressing (ESMF, 2015). It is apparent that there is clear skill and awareness gap on how to integrate and make inclusive decisions, how to involve all of the required actors and how to finance the traditional institutions for REDD+ related disputes and grievances. Most of the time the traditional institutions are led by elderly groups that render voluntary services based in the principles of social responsibility to ensuring lasting peace among the communities. It is possible to follow similar approaches for settling grievances in front of the traditional leaders even if it is a must to empowering and training the traditional institutions how to manage conflicts and grievances in conformity both the principles of the traditional and restorative justice and the provisions of the national and regional laws. The existing practices show that the traditional institutions need recognition by government and autonomy to make their own decisions in light of the culture and moral and ethical principles of their respective communities than financial support even if doing both has the positive impacts to follow cost-benefit approaches and ensure the required results, outcomes and impacts with minimum cost.

Religious & Faith Based Grievance Redress mechanism

Ethiopia is home of multiple ethnic groups. Accordingly, the nations, nationalities & peoples of Ethiopia have rich traditions of use and settlement of grievances derived from the traditional institutions such as Gamo Woga System, Oromoo Gadaa System, Shaka Gepitato System, Gambella Wilok and Carlok Systems.

The indigenous mechanisms have been found out to be the best in redressing grievances both inter (within the community) and intra (with the government and/or neighborhood communities).

Institutional Grievance Redress Mechanisms

Social Courts

The Ethiopian Government has established Kebele Administrations (KAs) as the smallest unit of administration throughout the country. Within the Kebele Administration are set up social courts which are powerful instrument for formal redressing of grievances at grassroots level.

Social courts represent a fundamental and irreplaceable tool for quick and affordable dispute settlement in Ethiopia, although they are not mentioned in the FDRE Constitution. These social courts, which are created and recognized under state law, are part of the official judicial system. Many cases, especially smaller ones, such as petty offences with criminal nature and civil cases up to ETB 1,000.00 (one thousand Birr) in most of the regions start at Kebele level before social courts. Here one has to note that the material jurisdiction of social courts varies across regions whereas the local jurisdiction is the same throughout the country. Hence, appeals can be made to the first instance or Woreda courts. The Kebele Social Courts are staffed with non-professional judges.

Therefore, it is apparent that social courts are the source of legal redress for the vast majority of Ethiopians in general and the communities of Arba Minch Zuria Woreda in particular.

Social courts are established to ensure peace and stability among Kebele community and thereby create conducive atmosphere for development and to make best efforts to raise the legal consciousness of the Kebele community.

Ordinary Courts

This is a formal state judiciary system that may be viewed as external to the parties involved in the grievance. The modern court established at Woreda level accomplishes the issues of grievances that arise in the community. This court handles both civil and criminal cases. The decision made at Woreda court abides to the parties involved in grieves with their rights reserved to take the case to the next higher level court by appeal. The Woreda court mostly settles grievance cases related to natural resource management and use. Besides, the Woreda, the formal court is as well established at zone, region and federal levels.

The Office of the Ombudsman

According to Article 5 of the Institution of Ombudsman Establishment Proclamation No. 211/2000, the objective of the Institution is to bring about good governance that is of high quality, efficient and transparent, and are based on the rule of law, by way of ensuring that citizens' rights and benefits provided for by law are respected by organs of the executive. The Institution has a jurisdiction over executive organs of the federal as well as regional

governments. It is an organ that protects citizens from maladministration. It has powers to: supervise administrative directives issued and decisions given by executive organs and the practices thereof so that they do not contravene the constitutional rights of citizens; receive and investigate complaints in respect of maladministration. It conducts supervision, with a view to ensuring that the executive carries out its functions in accordance with the law and to preventing maladministration; seek remedies in case where it believes that maladministration has occurred; and make recommendations for the revision of existing laws, practices or directives and for the enactment of new laws and formulation of policies, with a view to bringing about better governance.

Ethiopian Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)

The EACC has no jurisdiction to entertain citizen complaints involving maladministration. The enforcement jurisdiction of the EACC is limited to prosecuting or causing the prosecution of serious ethical breaches and corruption that constitute violations of the penal code.

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

The EHRC offers advisory services and has a decision making power. It only investigates issues relating to violations of fundamental human rights which will exclude the great majority of complaints of administrative mal-administration. For instance, there may have human rights violations during involuntary resettlement and relocation of local communities from REDD+ Programme areas to another area. So, complaints present to EHRC in such cases.

5.3. Grievance Redress Strategies for the Potential Impacts of the future REDD+ Programmes in Arba Minch Zuria Woreda

The benefit sharing mechanisms designed at national level will be in place in all of REDD+ catchment areas. Proper Consultations and Participation will also be done before implementation of REDD+ Programme/project in all areas.

As one can note from the above mentioned grievance mechanisms, Ethiopia has strong, field-tasted and sustainable grievance mechanisms in place. These mechanisms include both the traditional (informal) and modern (formal) mechanisms. The project area Arba Minch Zuria Woreda has also experience on similar systems of grievance redressing. National REDD+

Grievance Redressing Guideline provides the proper mechanisms and procedures of grievance redressing. Therefore, the grievance redressing strategies should be all of those that were put in National REDD+ Grievance Redressing Guideline.

Therefore, the grievance redress strategies for the potential impacts of REDD+ Programmes in the project area have to the existing complaints and conflicts management systems designed and approved for implementation.

However, there are the existing grievance redressing structures in place do not necessarily mean that we need not establish unique committee/body that is authorized to entertain REDD+ related issues. The experience of REDD+ projects and programmes implemented so far shows that there are separate Committees established to amicably solve all of the grievances. National REDD+ Grievance Redressing Guideline has established the necessary structures and the ways how to entertain grievances at various levels. Hence, the grievance redressing strategies adopted by National REDD+ Grievance Redressing Guideline are worth applying in the project area. The National Grievance Redress Guideline states that Kebele Chairperson, Militia Office Commander, Elderly representatives, religious leaders, DAs and appropriate members nominated by the Kebele community are the members of Kebele Committee Grievance Redressing Committee. According to the guideline the Kebele Administrator is Chairperson of the committee; Militia Office Commander of Kebele is co-chair and Secretary and the rest are members of the committee. It is also worth noting that the National REDD+ Grievance Redressing Guideline recognizes the establishment of PFM Associations at all levels and utilization of their own bylaws to solving complaints and conflicts between and/or among their members. Therefore, it is sound to establish similar committees in pilot Kebeles in addition to establishment of Committee members for PFMGs so that such Committee will govern its members as per its bylaws. Here one has to note that PFMGs bylaws govern only the members of the Group but decisions of Kebele level committee regulates both the Kebele residents and PFMGs.

CHAPTER SIX

6. CONCLUSION

REDD+ is defined as “an umbrella term for local, national and global actions that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance forest carbon stocks in developing countries” such as Ethiopia. These actions are principally based on the valuing and trading of the carbon stored in the forests. By enabling forest owners in developing countries to trade forest-carbon, REDD+ proposes to make trees worth more standing than cut-down and therefore halts their destruction. While REDD+ is focused on the carbon stored in trees, proponents argue that it has the potential to deliver co-benefits related to livelihoods and biodiversity. Therefore, one can say that REDD+ is a global process to quickly and cheaply reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Accordingly, Politicians, policy makers and researchers around the world put the socio-environmental crisis happening due to climate change on the top of the global agenda.

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is one of REDD+ countries. Participation of Ethiopia in REDD+ will generate huge environmental, social and economic benefits. Targeting protection of existing forests and increasing forest cover, REDD+ program will contribute to breaking the land degradation & poverty nexus, improve land management and contribute to green development in Ethiopia as stipulated in the CRGE Strategy. Accordingly, the country has been undertaking series of actions as part of its global commitment to solve the problems of climate change.

Currently, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is on the final stage of the readiness phase and about to begin the implementation phase, which is the final phase in REDD+ process. All of the necessary documents on REDD+ instruments are prepared and under implementation; pilot programmes and projects are underway; the government is undertaking series of consultations and participations with all of the stakeholders from federal up to grass root levels; development partners and global community is providing huge financial and technical support to Ethiopia.

Arba Minch Zuria Woreda is one of the pilot Woredas where national REDD+ "Study of causes of deforestation and forest degradation for identification and prioritization of strategic addressing options" has been conducted as part of Social, Environmental and Strategic Assessment. Further awareness creation and capacity building interventions are needed to complement government's efforts for effective implementation of national REDD+ Programmes.

Therefore, this curriculum is prepared to support government efforts in REDD+ processes and ensure successful implementation of ILCA's Climate Change and REDD+ Awareness Raising and Capacity Building Project in Arba Minch Zuria Woreda.

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8. ANNEX: STANDARD GRIEVANCE APPLICATION FORMAT

Date: _____

Woreda _____ Kebele _____ Forest block/zone _____

Name of applicant/s: _____, _____, _____

Issue _____

Evidences

Person: _____, _____, _____

Material or other evidence

Applicant Name _____

I, the undersigned applicant, confirm that my application and evidences are true and understand that inclusion of fraudulent issues and evidence result in automatic rejection of my application.

Signature_____

Date_____