ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR MEASURING AND MONITORING CHANGES IN ETHIOPIA'S FORESTS

In response to the challenge of climate change, Ethiopia decided to develop its green economy through the protection and re-establishment of forests, and their economic and ecosystem services. In order to mitigate climate change through the forestry sector, the country embarked on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and fostering the conservation, the sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). However, the lack of a knowledge and information base on forests hindered decision-making in the sector. The objective of the project was to support the Government in the planning, development and implementation of its national forest monitoring and measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The project also monitored the impact of REDD+ policies and measures and help to collect and report information on REDD+ safeguards.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project satisfactorily achieved its objectives. The key achievements can be summarized in three main categories. The first involved the building of institutional capacity through the development of an operational national MRV data management system and of four MRV laboratories in four pilot regions, and the delivery of both training and field equipment to the Government and the regions. The second achievement regarded the building of human capacity in MRV at federal and regional levels through the provision of training to 170 forest technicians in forest inventory and analysis, and to 74 Geographic Information System (GIS) technicians from MEFCC and the pilot regions in forest change assessment and the construction of a forest reference level (FRL). Finally, the project established baselines. A National Forest Inventory (NFI) was completed and a national baseline on forest information established, along with a national FRL and an FRL document endorsed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A regional FRL was also established for Oromia region.

IMPACT

All capacity-building activities were based on expressed needs and the Government is deeply committed to sustaining the results obtained. The establishment of the MRV Unit within the ministry structure and the training of technicians at federal and regional levels are major actions designed to ensure this. With the completion of the first NFI, and the significant contribution of the Government to this, the foundation has been laid for institutionalizing forest inventory activities and ensuring their sustainability. In addition, the MRV laboratories set up under the project will not require significant resources for some years to come and can be handled by government resources.

KEY FACTS

Contribution
USD 3 915 348

Duration
August 2014 – March 2018

Resource Partners
Government of Ethiopia, World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Partner
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC)

Beneficiaries
Policy and decision-makers, forest industries, international communities, non-governmental and civil society organizations, academia, participatory forest management groups and international organizations

ACTIVITIES

- 10 foresters trained in data computing and analysis.
- 10 remote-sensing (RS)/GIS specialists trained in forest/land monitoring for REDD+.
- 40 foresters trained in NFI techniques.
- At least 50 members of decentralized government offices, academia and civil society trained in basics of REDD+.
- 150 government staff, civil society and university trained in basics of REDD+.
- One NFI completed with data collected from 539 sampling units.
- MRV information system in place at national level and in four REDD+ pilot regions.
- One national MRV system and four regional MRV systems with relevant forest and GIS software packages in place.
- 15 government staff trained in data management, and operation and maintenance of MRV systems.
- 40 RS/GIS technicians trained in forest/land monitoring for REDD+.
- Historical forest cover change assessed for 2000-2013.
- Vehicles and other field equipment purchased and delivered to MEFCC for NFI.
- Eight experts assigned for management of NFM and MRV system.
- 133 experts trained in MRV concepts, REDD+ and UNFCCC requirements.
- NFI, RS/GIS, soil and litter carbon assessment, shrub and tree species identification manuals and participatory forest management guidelines produced and disseminated.
- Reference emission level and reference level (REL/RL) options presented and national FRL document endorsed by UNFCCC.
- 37 government staff trained in REL/RLs and greenhouse gas inventories.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS


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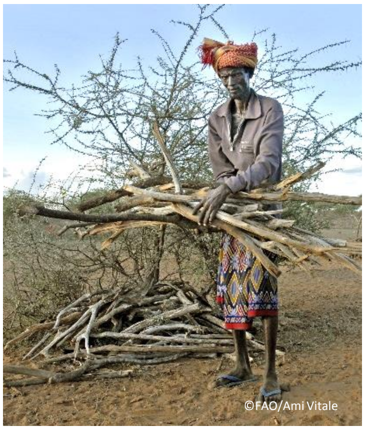
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Project Title
Implementation of a National Forest Monitoring (NFM) and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation-plus (REDD+) Readiness

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