



REPORT

ON

**NATIONAL EXPOSURE VISIT UNDERTAKEN AT HUMBO CDM PROJECT, SODO
COMMUNITY ASSISTED NATURAL REGENERATION CARBON PROJECT
AND**

BALE ECO-REGION REDD+ PROJECT

(FROM 22 -28JUNE /2014)

JULY 2014

Contents

1. BACKGROUND	1
2. ITINERARY OF THE TEAM.....	1
3. OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPOSURE TRIP.....	2
4. APPROACHES FOLLOWED IN UNDERTAKING THE EXPOSURE VISIT	2
5. PRESENTATIONS ON THE PILOT PROJECTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF COOPERATIVES	2
5.1. Humbo CDM Project	3
5.2. Soddo Community Managed Agroforestry & Forestry Project	4
5.3. Bale ECO-region REDD+ project areas	5
5.4. Background on the three visited sites	6
6. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND IDEAS DURING DISCUSSIONS TIME AND SITES VISITS	7
6.1. Enhancement of Environmental resources.....	7
6.2. Socio-Economic Aspects	12
6.2.1. Institutional Framework.....	12
6.2.3. Community Safety Issue aspect	14
6.2.4. Alternative livelihoods.....	15
6.3. Initiation of projects.....	16
6.4. Initial cost of Humbo CDM project and effectiveness of Payment of carbon fund.....	17
6.4. Monitoring and evaluation.....	17
6.5. Beneficiary Mechanism	18
6.6. Regarding grievance mechanism and transfer of knowledge	20
7. Lessons Learnt	21
ANNEX 1 - Pictures showing discussions held with representatives of cooperatives and focal persons, group photo, etc.	23
ANNEX 2: EXPOSURE VISITPROGRAM	25
ANNEX 3: Participants who attended the Exposure Visit.....	27

1. BACKGROUND

One of the major activities that were planned by the National REDD+ Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Forest in the 2014 budget year is to realize National Exposure Visit for REDD+ Management body and Technical Working Groups.

Accordingly, this visit is undertaken at Humbo CDM Project, Sodo Community Assisted Natural Regeneration Carbon Project, and Bale ECO-region REDD+ project areas for 6 days as of 22 June 2014 (See the program in Annex 2).

This report is briefly discussing the objective of the visit, approaches followed in undertaking the visit, summary backgrounds and statuses of pilot projects, issues noted during consulting project offices and representatives of cooperatives, sites visits observations and lessons learnt from the study visit.

2. ITINERARY OF THE TEAM

The Team that was led by Dr. Solomon, Pilot Project Coordinator of REDD+ Project Office travelled by the two costter cars and arrived in Sodo city, Wolayta Zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS) on 22 June2014 at around 6 pm late in the afternoon. After two nights stay in Sodo town the Team traveled to Shashemene by the two same cars, where it stayed for three days visit, i.e. from24 to 27 of June 2014.

The Team's composition was drawn from Technical Working Groups (TWGs) which consists of regional focal persons and the three task force members (i.e. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (MRV);Strategic Environmental Social Assessment (SESA); Strategic Tax Force and Focal Members; and REDD+ Management body and Secretariat Staff (See Annex 3). As seen in Annex4 however, except few, most invited participants could not be able to participate in the exposure visit

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPOSURE TRIP

According to the invitation letter, the overall objective of the exposure visit is to:-

- learn how carbon projects initiatives are being implemented,
- how different actors working together for effective implementations of carbon projects
- increase awareness to the TWGs about community engagement, benefit sharing arrangement in forest carbon projects, grievance redress mechanism and
- help Monitor/supervise implementation of REDD+ pilots.

4. APPROACHES FOLLOWED IN UNDERTAKING THE EXPOSURE VISIT

The approaches that were followed for undertaking exposure visit in the three pilot project areas are based on:

- Background information of pilot projects obtained from power point presentations on the three projects
- Discussions held with the representatives of cooperatives at the sites of projects
- Field observations at selected sites of projects

5. PRESENTATIONS ON THE PILOT PROJECTS CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF COOPERATIVES

Power point presentations on Humbo CDM Project and Bale ECO-region REDD+ project areas were made by Ato Demese Lemma, Program Officer of World Vision Ethiopia Humbo Area Development Program and Ato Hussen Endris, Farm Africa / SOS Sahel Ethiopia Bale Interventions respectively. Further briefing on the second project, i.e. Bale ECO-region REDD+ project was also made by Ato Sentayehu Admasu, Oromia Forest & Wildlife Enterprise (Arsi Branch Adaba Dodola District Office).

Representatives of cooperatives that were consulted from the three projects were Ato Beyene Agero and Ato Bekias Mehe from Abelalongena GamoSalwa Cooperative, CDM Project; Ato Admasu Gendew from Delebo Wegene Forest Cooperative Sodo Afforestation/Reforestation Management Project; and Kemal Umer from Faranchu Raya Forest Union, Bale ECO-region REDD+ project.

All discussions that have been held with the presenters as well as representatives of cooperatives of pilot projects are facilitated by Dr. Solomon Zewdie, Coordinator of Pilot Project of REDD+ Project Office.

5.1. Humbo CDM Project

In the morning on 23 June 2014, the first meeting was held at the premises of World Vision Ethiopia Humbo Area Development project Office. During this meeting brief presentation on the background, goals, objectives, status of the project among others was made by Ato Demis Lemma, Project Officer of the World Vision.

The Project as he explained is the first large-scale forestry management project in Africa that was designed and included within the Kyoto protocol's CDM. It is located in SNNPR, Wolayita zone, Humbo district 420 km southwest of the Ethiopian Capital Addis Ababa and 180km from Hawassa, the Region's capital.

In relation to the project the following issues were highlighted by him (For detail information see power point prepared for the project Annex 5).

- More than 2728 hectares of degraded land which was continually exploited for wood, charcoal and fodder extraction has been restored and protected from the implementation of the project.
- It has been formulated with the goal of sequestration of carbon in bio-diverse native forests & Contributes to alleviation of poverty through the flow of benefits in to the area

of health, education and food security from sale of Carbon credit, forest and non-forest benefits.

- Prioritization, planning, implementation of the project and its sub-activities would have being realized by the communities themselves
- Project has contributed a lot in mitigating the interlinked problems of poverty, vulnerability to both climate hazards and land degradation with the given short period of time.
- In its lifetime of 30 years crediting period about 880,295 tons of carbon dioxide (t CO₂) is expected to be sequestered
- Achievements that have so far been realized from implementation of the project are establishment of 7 forest protection & development cooperatives, establishment of Nurseries (So far 1,748,556 seedlings were produced), etc.
- Besides obtaining revenue from sale of carbon credit the project also do have importance in enhancing environmental resources (e.g. improving biodiversity), encouraging user rights of communities to manage the open access area among others (i.e. Social benefit) and in increasing economic benefit (i.e. For instance by obtaining better yield from the plot of land due to reduced erosion, silt load & improved microclimate)
- High turnover of go staff, delays in effecting carbon payments are some of the challenges that would constrain the implementation of the project

After his presentation on the project, exchange of views and ideas was made based on the raised questions and/or suggestions from the participant's side. Those issues area ddressed in sub-section 6 of this report.

5.2. Soddo Community Managed Agroforestry & Forestry Project

The project is located at 380km south of Addis Ababa in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS), Wolaita Zone, Soddo Zuria & Damot Gale Woredas. Almost all aspects (i.e. PFM, local community organizations' establishment and their roles, the applicability of bylaws of communities, etc.) that were presented on Humbo CDM project are similar to this project. And hence presentation on this project was not made.

According to Demis's explanation, in the future there is high opportunity of gaining and accessing further revenue to the community from sale of carbon credits to Voluntary Markets. Currently however, revenues also occurred from the sale of grass & tree seeds.

5.3. Bale ECO-region REDD+ project areas

In the morning on 26 June 2014 at the premises of Oromia Forest and Wild life Enterprise, Arsi Branch Adaba Dodola District Office, brief presentation on the background of the project was made to the participants by Ato Huesin, representative of Farm Africa / SOS Sahel about the Ethiopia Bale Interventions and update on Bale REDD+ PDD

Prior to briefing the participants about the background and status of REDD+ initiative in the project area, he has introduced the importance of partnership role of various stakeholders contributed in realizing the project. The Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ Project. As he said that this Eco-region has being developed by the Bale Eco-region Sustainable Management Programme (BERSMP), which is the joint programme of FARM-Africa / SOS Sahel Ethiopia, and the Oromia Forest & Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE).

By giving the above introductory remark, he briefly described specific issues of the project as follows. For more information please see Annex 6

- The goal of Bale REDD+ Piloting Project is to contribute to realization of CRGE at grassroots level by establishing REDD+ scheme in the Bale Mountains through institutional support to community and regional level bodies
- One of the achievements that has being resulted as output is the establishment of REDD+ coordination unit at regional presidency level. And the composition of it consists of both the members and non-members of the local community groups as this would have also importance in keeping the interests of non-members
- Since the bylaws of cooperatives only reflecting the PFM aspect it is revisited so as to incorporate REDD+ aspect in them
- In order to translate the project on the ground there is a need of getting Free, Prior & Informed Consent of local stakeholders (i.e. for both members and non-members of cooperatives). To this end intensive training on FPIC and climate change as well as REDD+ are given for 108 (2F) government extension workers including OFWE

- So far through intensive capacity building intervention measures and through a process of FPIC finally positive consent has been obtained from the community. In the process engagement of Women's reached 30.6%
- The net REDD+ Project area is 260,000 out of the total forest area (500,000 ha)
- From the implementation of the project a benefit of 575 MUSD is expected from the sale of carbon stock. Project duration is 20 years from 2012 -2031

Some of the challenges that constrained the implementation of the project are weak law enforcement, illegal settlement, agricultural expansion, migration etc.

5.4. Background on the three visited sites

According to the programme, on 23,24 and 26 June, 2014 sites visits were made at the selected sites of Humbo CDM project, Soddo Community Managed Agroforestry & Forestry Project Dodola Woreda/District, Deneba Peasant Association respectively.

The visited site/area at Humbo CDM project is Abelalongena GamoSalwa Hill Forest Development and Protection Cooperative which is 45 km from Sodo town and about 9km from the World Vision project office. This cooperative is one of the 7 established forest protection & development cooperatives which covers 1043 ha of land out of the 2728 ha as said by Ato Beyene Agero, Chairman of the Board of 7 Cooperatives. He discussed about how the project is initiated, the importance of PFM and other intervention measures to rehabilitate the degraded area, enhancement of potential ground water resources and productivity of land as the result of implementation of the project, benefit sharing mechanism, etc.

Delebo Wegene Forest Cooperative site of Soddo Community Managed Agroforestry & Forestry Project is few Km from the World Vision Ethiopia Sodo ADP cooperative Nursery Site. According to Ato Admasu Gendew, World Vision Sodo ADP Kokate Maracha Forest Cooperative is the one amongst 5 cooperatives in the project area. The number of members in the cooperative is 147. The total coverage of the area that is held by the cooperative is 204 ha.

The site/area that has been visited is Dodola Woreda/District, Deneba Peasant Association which is 75 km from Shashemene town and about 7km from Dodola town. Though the road from

Hawassa to Dodola town is more or less paved road and the remaining 11 km from Dodola to the site is rough road. The participants are expected to go on foot for about 1 km to reach the site-community managed forest area and community based eco-lodge site. The site is found in Dodola Woreda/District, Deneba Peasant Association that has been selected for the Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ Project.

6. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND IDEAS DURING DISCUSSIONS TIME AND SITES VISITS

From the exchange of views and ideas that were made in various meeting places/venues, it is noted that Afforestation/Reforestation(A/R) management activities that have being realized in the three projects have contributed a lot to the enhancement of environmental resources and improvement of social and economic benefits from carbon credit & other co-benefits.

Issues that were raised and discussed with the presenters and representatives of cooperatives are addressed as follows.

6.1. Enhancement of Environmental resources

Participants have raised the following issues for further clarification.

- How many plant species used for plantation purpose?
- Has risk assessment undertaken on exotic plant species before making use of them for plantation?
- No mentioning has been made about the use of alternative fuel efficient technologies in relation to the projects. Would you give us some briefings on this issue of concern?
- have the enhancements of surface and ground waters contributed to the re- appearance of spring waters in the two ADP cooperatives – i.e. at Humbo and Sodo Projects
- The implementation strategy that has been followed Dodola Woreda/District, Deneba Peasant Association is only for protecting forest or not?

Regarding indigenous & exotic plant species as well as risk assessment:

According to Ato Demis Lemma, so far, a wide range of vegetation species have been planted in the two pilot projects (i.e. Humbo & Sodo). The **species selected for plantation were 27 indigenous and 4 exotic types**. Exotic Plant species that were used for afforestation purpose are the ones which are already established in and around the project area. And they don't have negative impacts on the environment as he said. As far as his knowledge is concerned he didn't have any information as to whether risk assessment has been undertaken on the exotic plant species or not.

Regarding Enhancement of environmental/natural resources:

The technique that has being employed to restore the degraded natural forest and generate carbon credits in Humbo CDM Project, Sodo Community Assisted Natural Regeneration Carbon Project is farmer-managed natural regeneration as said by Ato Demis Lema, Projects officer to World Vision in Sodo and Humbo areas. In this respect he specifically addresses how the Humbo Community-based Natural Regeneration Project has so far gone through some significant achievements since its implementation. This idea also shared by the representatives of cooperatives of the two projects as well as Bale ECO-region REDD+ project

From the sites visits in both projects, the team noted that such good managements of forest developments have enabled projects to achieve concrete results, which would have importance in protecting as well as enhancing the environmental resources. As eye witness confirmed that the rehabilitated area has rendered multiple benefits such as enhancing the local environment through helping to bring a suitable microclimate, preventing /avoiding the problem of soil erosion as has been underlined by the representatives of cooperatives in the three projects.



Picture 1: Good example of naturally regenerated site located at Abelalongena GamoSalwa Hill of Humbo Project

Regarding enhancement of ground water and reappearance of Spring water:

According to the response of the representatives of cooperatives, the disappeared spring waters are found to be reappeared at the DeleboWegene Forest Cooperative site of Soddo Community Managed Agroforestry & Forestry Project area. Due to implementations of projects the communities also able to get ground water by digging 7 or 8 meters below the surface land at Abelalongena GamoSalwa Hill area.



Picture 2: Reappearance of Spring Water at the Apex of the Mountain of the DeleboWegene Forest Cooperative site of Soddo Community Managed Agroforestry & Forestry Project area

Regarding fuel wood efficient technologies:

One of the intervention measures which would have importance to attain the objectives of the projects is to make use of fuel efficient technologies so as to minimize cutting forests for fuel purpose. To this end, as Ato Beyene said the project office has introduced and distributed fuel efficient technologies to the local communities. Furthermore a wide range of training and awareness have also being given to the local farmers in order to enable them apply technologies efficiently.

Regarding implementation strategy followed for forest management activities:

According to the Faranchu Raya Forest Union's response, though the project has been set in place on the already existing established forestry for more than 300, 000 years, the intervention measures that have being conducted are not only focusing on protecting forests. They have also importance in re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including as carbon stocks. The team has witnessed how the uses of a technique, Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) which is a system of farm tree and forest regeneration has contributed significant positive impacts on the project area as seen in the picture 3



Picture 3: Reestablishment of forests at Dodola Woreda/District, Deneba Peasant Association

As the representative of the cooperative described through the use of this technique Forest management activities has being carried out by selecting and pruning the best stalks from the root material and removing unwanted stems, the remaining stems increase in size and value each year. The representative of the cooperative has underlined that rural communities own their forests and forest products and see significant forest restoration over a relatively short period.

6.2. Socio-Economic Aspects

6.2.1. Institutional Framework

Issues that were raised in regard to the institutional aspect are the following.

- **How is the linkage of Forest Management Cooperatives and Unions** with government institutions? Who is playing leading role in the management of activities? What activities have so far been made in promoting ecotourism in the project areas?
- What about the sustainability of the project if in case World Vision resigns from the project?
- What major intervention measures have being taken in introducing and implementing fuel efficiency technologies in relation to the projects?
- What measures have been taken to establish and strengthen partnership with relevant stakeholders in this respect?

The responses given to the above issue of concerns are as follows.

Regarding linkages of cooperatives with government institutions& the key role player:

As Ato Demis said the success of the two projects (i.e.Humbo andSodo) has being attributed to a number of factors including collaboration and team work between various stakeholders including sector government institutions. To this end the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders including government institutions have already set in place in the project documents of projects. This is also true for Dodola project.

From the discussions that were held with all representatives of cooperatives of projects, it is noted that though the cooperatives are working with relevant government and non-government organizations, selection of activities that have being undertaken under the projects have being driven by the local planning processes, so as to identify community needs and prioritize activities based on those needs.

In regard to realizing tourism activities in the project areas, World Vision in collaboration with the Zone Tourism Bureau have done their effort in coming up with certain intervention measures such as establishment of Ecotourism Guide among others.

In view of translating the project on the ground, strengthening the partnership with other sector institutions such as Extension Agents of the region's Bureau of agriculture, Region's Ecotourism Bureau and others are obviously needed. To this effect, as said above an effective institutional operational structure has already set in place in the projects documents. Furthermore the established steering committees drawn from wide range of stakeholders have being played key roles in this respect.

Regarding Partnership

In response to this raised issue of concern Ato Demis explained that under the overall supervision of the World vision, woredas and kebeles administrations, agencies and other partners are also accountable in contributing to the implementation of the Humbo and Sodo projects. The roles and responsibilities envisaged for the key institutions at each level are set out in the project documents. Right from the beginning of the project simple mentation was intended to be carried out in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. To this effect hence as stated by him Community cooperatives have built strong partnerships with public agencies and local institutions that work on the project

6.2.3. Community Safety Issue aspect

Issues raised in this respect were the following.

- Are there any coping mechanisms to prevent projects areas from natural and anthropogenic hazards such as from fire incidence, danger of wild animals? What preconditions are set up in tackling community safety issues?

Regarding this issue of concern an extensive exchange of views and ideas were made between participants and focal person of the project office as well as representatives of cooperatives at various meeting places. In response to the questions representatives of cooperatives said that appropriate strategies/intervention measures not yet established to tackle the problem of unexpected hazards in full-fledged manner. In this respect the only intervention measure that has being set in place is fire break to protect fire hazards and help for inspection.

In view of enabling the projects to overcome the problem of such hazards, the following suggestions/recommendations are forwarded from the participants' side.

- Get reach of agreement (consensus) with the third parties (e.g. with Agricultural and Wild life Protection Organization) so as to enable community groups obtain appropriate compensation for the loss of their properties (e.g. loss of domestic animals by overpopulated wild animals, destruction of communities properties by fire incidences)
- Improve/revisit the communities' Bylaws so as to incorporate appropriate articles which ensure communities insurances from third parties
- Allocating some amount of money for enabling cooperatives enter insurances

6.2.4. Alternative livelihoods

- What alternative livelihoods have being due consideration community groups as they would have benefit for achieving the objective of the project?

From the discussions that have been held with representatives of cooperatives of all projects, recognition is made as to how the peoples' livelihood has being improved much due to an increased production of wood and tree products, such as honey and fruit. The stimulated grass growth resulting from improved land management has also used as an additional source of income for local people (i.e. for both members and non-members of the communities). Tourism is also another income generating source for the communities.

In view of enhancing the livelihood improvement for instance the fund which has been obtained from the sale of seeds such as apple at Soddo Community Managed Agroforestry & Forestry Project would be worth noting. According to Ato Demis however, the money that has so far been obtained from the sale of apple is 319, 000 Birr which is not that much. In order to overcome this constraint the project office is on the process of popularizing and promoting items of seeds for marketing.



Picture 4: **Honey production site (bee-hives)** at Kokate Maracha Forest Cooperative

In regard to the improvement of livelihood of the local people, Ato DeleboWegene, representative of Forest Cooperative Sodo Afforestation/Reforestation Management Project; and Ato Kemal Umer, representative of Faranchu Raya Forest Union, Bale ECO-region REDD+ project have described some salient issues to the team. In this respect they pointed out how the farmers' improvement of livelihood achieved from agro-forestry activities as well as off-farm activities such as getting benefits from the sale of firewood, tourist fees, and legal poaching without harming the forest



Picture 5: Cultural houses at KokateMaracha Forest Cooperative at Sodo Afforestation/Reforestation Management Project

6.3. Initiation of projects

World vision started these projects (Humbo CDM Project, Sodo Community Assisted Natural Regeneration Carbon Project) some 20 years back so as to enable the communities to self-sustain themselves by improving the surrounding environment through afforestation and agro-forestry measures. As explained by At Demis, these projects areas were highly degraded and subjected to soil erosion, climate calamities, and floods among others. Prior to realization of projects, World Vision started its imitative of assisting the communities in rendering food aid to the people since food insecurity has become one of the defining features of those areas.

According to his description in the recent past, World Vision has changed its strategy so as to address the basic food needs of food insecure households via introducing this CDM projects rather than through a system dominated by relief and food aid.

6.4. Initial cost of Humbo CDM project and effectiveness of Payment of carbon fund

Issues that were raised by the team:

How much is the initial cost of Humbo CDM project?

Is there any possibility of raising the sale of carbon credit that has been agreed between the users and World Bank? And what about the effectiveness of payment carbon fund from the World Bank?

The initial cost of the project is around 920,000 USD as Ato Demis from the project office said. The price for the sale of carbon credit is 4 Dollar per one ton of carbon. And this sale price has been agreed by the cooperatives and World Bank from 2002 till 2017, i.e. for over a fifteen year period. According to his briefing, the agreed payment (which is 4 dollars per ton of carbon) between World Bank and Cooperatives have taken long time (about 4 years) for the reason of inclusion of many obligatory requirements and preconditions from the sponsor side..

Based on Ato Demis's response the participants have barely made exchange of views about some criticisms of CDM projects such as by objectively raised cost effectiveness of this project, challenges of dalliance of payment the price of carbon fund.

6.4. Monitoring and evaluation

Some of the issues/questions that were raised for further clarifications/responses are the following:

- What approaches were being followed in monitoring and evaluating carbon stock as well as environmental and social issues?
- Is it not too expensive to undertake monitoring annually?

In response to the raised issues of concerns/questions, Ato Demisse said that the achievement of revenue from carbon credit would only be available as far as the project demonstrated GHG emission reductions or removals through undertaking regular monitoring of carbon stock and other related issues. To this end monitoring activity on carbon stock and environmental and social issues is undertaken yearly based on operational plans and Environmental Plans contained in the registered PDD of projects.

Undertaking monitoring of the projects' annually however is not expensive as it has been carried out by the staff of the projects' offices as well as trained local community members. Currently the project office is in the process of preparing monitoring report as Ato Demisse said. Before submitting this report to the World Bank, it will be verified by the Quality Assurance Team of the Project Office. Mentioning has also been made that the World Bank Mission is here for verifying emissions reductions from deforestation based on Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)

Nonetheless from the exchange of views and ideas note has been made that **appropriate measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system is not yet developed.**

6.5. Beneficiary Mechanism

- Is there any proposal for solving benefit sharing from carbon revenue and forestry product uses? How are the communities benefited from the funds?
- How are the non-members of cooperative supported in their day to day life?

For the above issues of concerns/questions, the following responses are given by project offices and representatives of cooperatives of both projects.

Humbo CDM project is the only one which has obtained carbon fund from the sale of carbon store purchased by the World Bank. While the two other projects, i.e. Sodo and Dodola have

not yet got carbon fund from the sale of carbon credit. All three projects however, have been getting funds from the sale of timber products, agroforestry products among others.

In the Humbo project as such there is no specific beneficiary mechanism developed. In this respect as pointed out by the focal person of the project office as well as by Ato Beyene Agero, representative of Abelaalongena GamoSalwa Hill Forest Development and Protection Cooperative, the finances occurred from the sale of carbon credit in all three rounds have used for communities developments such as for accessing two Kebeles with two grinding mills, potable drinking water supplies, providing one grain store room, constructing roads. During the discussion time it is noted that carbon fund which has being obtained on voluntary basis serve as input for realizing prioritized projects that would have being derived by the cooperatives planning process.

As in the case of Sodo project, the payments of revenue derived from sustainable forest harvesting are made as dividends to be shared by individuals and community development projects. As described by At Admasu Gendew, representative of Delebo Wegene Forest Cooperative, the final decision regarding the use of village earnings from REDD+ or sustainable forest harvesting has being made by the cooperatives assembly annually. Similar as that of Humbo COM project, beneficiary mechanism has not yet developed.

Benefits gained from the implementation of the project as said by the representatives of Dodola Woreda/District, Deneba Peasant Association include the **introduction of agroforestry practices and improved fodder management systems through cut-and-carry and animal fattening systems**. Though there has not yet specific mechanism in place at eco region level, typical proposal of benefit-sharing mechanism at local level agreed between communities and the regional governments with regards to the proceeds from forest resources. According to the agreement of the stakeholders 40% share goes to government while the remaining 60% goes to the community groups as said by Ato Kamal, representative of cooperatives of Adaba Dodola. This established benefit sharing mechanism may serve as input for development of REDD+ related benefit-sharing mechanisms at national level.

According to the representatives of Cooperatives the numbers of people who are not a member of the cooperatives are small. Nevertheless as they said those people are also supported in getting benefit from forestry products such as Grass by cut & carry system etc.

6.6. Regarding grievance mechanism and transfer of knowledge

Issues raised from participants

- Is there any grievance mechanism to settle disputes?
- What strategies would you think have to be followed to transfer the local knowledge/experience of the projects to the national level?
- What is the approach followed in increasing the membership of cooperatives?

Regarding Grievance Mechanism

As all pilot projects' representatives of cooperatives said that the disputes that may arise from communities settled through discussions and the bylaw of communities. According to their responses, grievance and conflict resolution mechanisms is one part of the consultations that have being held amongst local people. The bylaws of communities govern members and non-members on how to protect the forest and how they utilize the resources. Besides this the bylaws do have also importance in addressing issues of grievance and conflict. As ideas captured during discussions times however, the team took note that unless the existing bylaws of communities supported by legislation their effectiveness would not be that much.

Regarding Transfer of knowledge to the national level:

In response to this issue, Ato Hussen Endris, representative of Farm Africa / SOS Sahel Ethiopia Bale short statement by saying that transfer of knowledge/skills transfer from the pilot project to the national level is only possible through practice, i.e. learning by doing

Approaches followed for making local people to be members of cooperatives:

In all visited projects and consultations that have been undertaken with all cooperatives of projects, note has been made by the team that at the beginning there was high resistance from the communities' side not to join the established cooperatives. As time went on however, this challenged has been resolved through various capacity building measures (e.g. training, study

tours) and presence of bylaw at which the communities have set in place. As they have said that currently there are dramatic increases in number of memberships to cooperatives due to the growth of awareness of people.

7. Lessons Learnt

From the Power Point Presentations of pilot projects and plenary discussions that have been held with representatives of cooperatives as well as sites visits, the following lessons among others learnt

- As in the case of Humbo CDM project though the community have being benefited from the 4 round sale of carbon, the real benefit has come from increasing land productivity through enhancement of environmental resources and restoration of biodiversity.
- The defiance of gaining revenue from carbon sale is the major challenge which require due attention
- From all pilot projects note has been made that their main purpose was not only focusing on protecting and/or regenerating forests for obtaining carbon fund from the sale of carbon stock. But from exposure visit the projects it is learnt that the implementation of project have also benefiting the local communities to improve their livelihoods from a wide number of intervention measures such as from sale of honey, seeds, agroforestry products among others.
- Observation is made by the team that since prioritization, planning and implementation as well as management of projects and their sub-activities would have being realized by the communities themselves, this phenomenon created it has mitigated the interlinked problems of poverty, vulnerability to both climate hazards and land degradation with the given short period of time.
- The key role that has being played by the communities in translating the projects on the ground through their established cooperatives is encouraging. To this end their

contributions to managing forests in the projects areas are significant for attaining the major overriding objectives of projects such as reversal of environmental degradation, promotion of economic growth and improvement of social.

- Within this short period of time it is appreciable too see trust and sense of ownership of communities
- he contribution of community's partnership with governments and other stakeholders in managing resources has being worth noting for the success of projects

ANNEX 1 - Pictures showing discussions held with representatives of cooperatives and focal persons, group photo, etc.





ANNEX 2: EXPOSURE VISIT PROGRAM

Ministry of Environment & Forest, REDD+ Secretariat

Exposure Tour for REDD+ TF and TWG members

N0	Date	Route/Destination	Activity for the day	Spend the night
1	Sunday, 22 June 2014	Addis - Shashemene - Sodo	-	Sodo (Welaita)
2	Monday, 23 June 2014	Sodo to Humbo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♣ Briefing on Humbo AR-CDM Project♣ Field visits♣ Discussion with communities	Sodo
3	Tuesday, 24 June 2014	Sodo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♣ Briefing on Sodo Community Assisted Regeneration Project♣ Field visits♣ Discussion with communities	Sodo
4	Wednesday, 25 June 2014	Sodo to Dodola	-	Dodola
5	Thursday, 26 June 2014	Dodola to Hawassa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♣ Briefing on Bale REDD+ Project♣ Field visits♣ Discussion with communities	Hawassa

6	Friday, 27 June 2014	Hawassa	♣ National REDD+ TWG Meeting	Hawassa
7	Saturday, 28 June 2014	Hawassa to Addis	-	

ANNEX 3: Participants of the Exposure Visit

No	Name of Participants	Address	E-mail
1	Ato Beruk Alemayehu	Amhara Regional State REDD+ Focal Person & Technical Working Member	zeraberuk@yahoo.com
2	Ato Siraj Duna	SNNPR Regional State REDD+ Focal Person	sirmuktar@yahoo.com
3	Ato Mikre Adane	Gambella Focal Person & Technical Working Member	Mikere25@gmail.com
4	Ato Belay Mekonene	Afar Focal Person Technical Working Member	Belaymekonnen050@gmail.com
5	<u>Ato Chanyalew Gelan</u>	BGRS Focal Person & Technical Working Member	Chanyalewgelan@yahoo.com
6	Ato Yidenekachew Habte	EWNRA- REDD+ Strategy task force member	
7	Ato Degelo Sendabo	EMA- REDD+ MRV Task force	degelos@yahoo.com
8	Dr. Abdella Gure	WGCF- REDD+ MRV	Abdellaag66@yahoo.com
	Ato Desalegn Kebede	ILCA- REDD+ SESA/ESMF C & P Task force	Dk.kaza@gmail.com
	1. Ato Yonas Tekel Michael	MEF - SESA/ESMF C & P Task force	atyonas@yahoo.com
9	Ato Temesgen Yohannes	FRC - SESA/ESMF C & P Task force	temegeny@gmail.com
10	Ato Yonas Abiye	EJA - SESA/ESMF C & P Task force	
11	Ato Yonas Tekel Michael	MEF - SESA/ESMF C & P Task force	atyonas@yahoo.com

12	Dr. Yitebitu Moges-	MEF -REDD+ Secretariat	yitebitumoges@yahoo.com
13	Dr. Solomon Zewdi	MEF - REDD+ Secretariat	Zew172@yahoo.com
14	Ato Getachew Shiferaw	MEF - REDD+ Secretariat	getachewshiferaw@yahoo.com
15	Ato Walelign Fetahi -	MEF - REDD+ Secretariat	Walelign2005@gmail.com
16	Ato Wondwoson Adefres	MEF - REDD+ Secretariat	wondwosonsadefris@yahoo.com
17	Ato Mekete Derbush	MEF - REDD+ Secretariat	klkdnnkt@gmail.com
18	W/O Konjit Bayessa	MEF - REDD+ Secretariat	
19	Ato Robel Tesfaye	MEF - Forest Sector	tesfayerobel@yahoo.com
20	Ato Kurabachew Tenaw		tkurabachew@yahoo.com
21	Ato Birhanu Hayelom	MEF - Environment Sector	Brema.me@gmail.com
22	Ato Simon Berehanu	MEF - Forest Sector	simonberhanu@gmail.com
23	Ato Tamene	MEF -Support staff (Camera Man)	
24	Ato Taye Dugassa	Oromiya REDD+	taye_dug@yahoo.com