Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



Mid-Term Progress Report from October 2012 to November 2015 Of Ethiopia's R-PP Implementation

Submitted to

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Readiness Fund

By

National REDD+ Secretariat

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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List of Acronyms

AF	Additional Funding
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and other Land-Use
BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
C&P	Consultation and Participation
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
EDRI	Ethiopian Development Research Institute
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GHG	Green House Gases
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
OFLP	Oromia Forested Landscape Program
OFWE	Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MRV	Measuring, Reporting and Verification
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFM	National Forest Monitoring
NRS	National REDD+ Secretariat
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty
PC	Participants Committee
PF	Process Framework
PGHO	Public Grievance Hearing Offices
RCUs	Regional REDD+ Coordination Units

REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Conservation
	of Forest Carbon Stocks, Sustainable Management of Forest and Enhancement
	of Stocks in Developing Countries
REL	Reference Emissions Levels
RL	Reference Levels
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
R-PIN	Readiness Preparation Idea Note
R-PP	Readiness preparation Proposal
RTWG	REDD+ Technical Working Group
SC	Steering Committee
SES	Social and Environmental Standard
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SNNP	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples
TFs	Task Forces
WGCFNR	Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resource

MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORTOF

ETHIOPIA'S R-PP IMPLEMENTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Recognizing the close links between environmental and development concerns, Ethiopia is working to integrate climate considerations into its broader development planning processes. The Ethiopian Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) initiative, which was launched in 2011, laid the foundation for integrated planning for climate-resilient green development. Ethiopia aims to achieve middle-income status by 2025 while developing a green economy. Following the conventional development path would, among other adverse effects, result in a sharp increase in GHG emissions and unsustainable use of natural resources. Climate change offers a lens through which Ethiopia can revisit some of its most intractable problems so that the challenge faced positions. Ethiopia at the forefront of the low carbon revolution promised by the climate agenda. Ethiopia has huge low carbon potential: it is rich in forests and has ample renewable resources of hydro, solar, wind and geothermal energy. To make the most of this potential, the country will need to ensure that its long-term planning is compatible with a low carbon future and make it as attractive as possible to carbon investors.

Forestry is one pillar of the Climate Resilient Green Economy(CRGE) strategy that aims at the main sectors of the economy to develop an environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economy through protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including as carbon stocks, which brings the country at middle income status with net zero emission by 2030. Forestry has an abatement potential of 130MtCO2e and contributing significantly towards achieving a carbon neutral economy. Embedded within the Green Growth strategy REDD+ is one of the four selected fast-track programs to support ambitions set in the forestry, energy and other land use sectors. Ethiopia considers REDD+ as an opportunity and viable source of sustainable finance for investment in sustainable forest management, forest conservation, and forest restoration to enhance multiple benefits of forests, including but not limited to biodiversity conservation, watershed management, increased resilience to climate change, improved livelihoods and reduced poverty. Ethiopia has recently submitted (June 2015) its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to UNFCCC to show its serious commitment to climate action, in which forestry and agriculture will contribute hugely to emissions reduction activities in the country. As indicated in Ethiopia's INDC, the emissions reduction, which constitutes a reduction of 255 MtCO2e or 64% compared to 'business-as-usual' (BAU) emissions in 2030, includes, among others, 90 Mt CO2e reduction in agriculture and 130

Mt CO2e reduction in forestry. REDD+ investment resources will be utilized to achieve emission reduction and removal in forestry, agriculture and energy sectors (particularly firewood efficiency and increased biomass production), and sale of verified credits generated in REDD+ will be a further source of finance for sustainable forestry development and improved livelihoods for local communities.

1.2 REDD+ Process in Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) submitted its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Idea Note (R-PIN) to the World Bank-FCPF in 2008 which was successively approved in 2009, creating the way for the development of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) from 2010 to 2012 (Fig1). The FCPF Participants Committee decided to allocate grant funding of US \$3.4 million in March 2011 through its Resolution PC/8/2011/4, based on Ethiopia's submission of its R-PP. As approved by the FCPF Participants Committee in February 2012 as per the Resolution PC/Electronic/2012/1, this amount has been increased with an additional US \$200,000 to finance the establishment or strengthening of a national REDD+ feedback and grievance redress mechanism. Out of the entire fund of \$ 14 million finance proposed in the R-PP, the country has obtained \$3.6 million from the FCPF source to implement the R-PP activities but it was necessary to leverage the remaining financial gap from other sources to achieve the readiness. Consequently the Government of Norway and DFID (UK) through the World Bank BioCarbon Fund Technical Assistance Fund (BioCF Plus) jointly provided additional finance of US \$10 million, which completed the financial requirements for implementing the Readiness phase. The grant agreement for the FCPF was signed for R-PP implementation in October 2012 and officially the REDD+ Readiness Phase was launched in January 2013. The grant agreement for the additional finance of BioCarbon Fund was signed in July 2014 will be used until June 2017.

The country created the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS)under the previous Environmental Protection Authority in 2012, which was then moved to Ministry of Agriculture in 2012. Finally it was broughtunder the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) in July 2013 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. According to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Readiness Phase, the R-Package will be prepared in August 2016 and the country becomes ready for global mechanism by then.

The R-PP of Ethiopia elaborates the phased approach to the road map of REDD+ mechanism (*Fig. 1*).

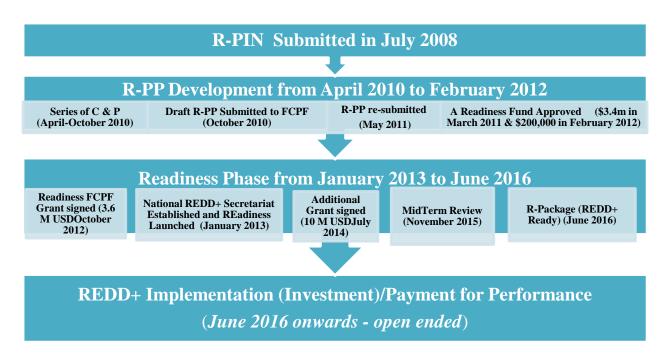


Figure 1: Timeframe for Ethiopia's REDD+ Program

The readiness phase paves the way for the implementation phase through the design of the National REDD+ Strategy and action plan with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, build capacity for REDD+ implementation, work on policies and measures for REDD+ implementation and design demonstration activities. The REDD+ implementation phase will implement and test the developed national strategy, policies and action plans. It will also test the results based demonstration activities in piloting in particular forest area or regions and gain lessons for next actions. Phase 3 of REDD+ process focuses on measurement, reporting and verification of results achieved in implementation at national or regional level as indicated in *Fig. 2*.

Readiness actions will prepare the country to become ready for the global REDD+ mechanism by achieving the major milestones as indicated in *Fig. 2*. It will include pilot investment design activities in the forest sector and subsequent performance based payment to the resultsachieve with appropriate installed methodologies for monitoring, reporting and verification.

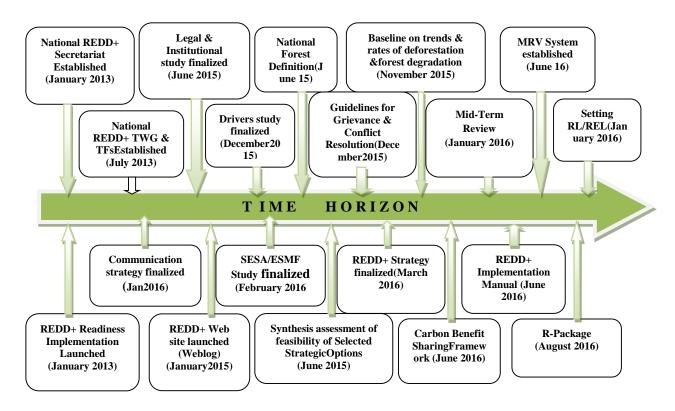


Figure 2: Major Milestones and Timeline for Ethiopia REDD+ Readiness Phase

The Results Chain and Logical Framework, which together provide a strategic overview of the R-PP process, illustrate the main results to be achieved, how they link to each other and their associated performance indicators. At the outset, four intermediate impacts or long-term results of the R-PP process have been defined for Ethiopia on the basis of the R-PP document:

- Improved forest governance
- Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation from Pilot schemes
- Ethiopia enters into an international REDD+ funding modality
- Equitable benefit sharing of REDD+ funding ensured

Those impacts are meant to be achieved when the REDD-readiness process is completed at the conclusion of the R-PP process and to last throughout the implementation of REDD+. They are distinct from global impacts expected from a REDD+ mechanism, such as emission reductions, the enhancement of livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, water resources conservation and enhancement, and biodiversity conservation.

Even if the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS), the Primary Coordination Unit, was created in January 2013, only the Coordinator was in placeat that time and that became bottleneck to process the finance and other activities. Thus, it took time to arrange other staff in place and be in full operation that happened lately from July 2013. Since then the REDD+ Readiness of Ethiopia has made significant progress as per the performancemeasurement framework as portrayed in Table 1

below. The traffic lighting progress status indicated below is the achievement as of this reviewing period as compared to the readiness target framework.

Table 1: Ethiopia's R-PP Implementation Progress Status (Self-Assessment)

COMPONENTS	SUB-COMPONENTS	PROGRESS STATUS ¹	
1. Readiness Organization	1a. National REDD+ Management	Significant Progress	
and Consultation	Arrangements	Significant Frogress	
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and	Progress well, further	
	Outreach	development required	
2. REDD+ Strategy	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land		
Preparation	Use Change Drivers, Forest Law,	Significant Progress	
	Policy and Governance		
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Significant Progress	
	2. In all an autotion Frances are	Progress well, further	
	2c. Implementation Framework	development required	
	2d. Social and Environmental	Progress well, further	
	Impacts	development required	
3. Reference Emissions	2° DEL /DL °	Progress well, further	
Levels/Reference Levels	3a.REL/RLs	development required	
4. Monitoring Systems for	4a. National Forest Monitoring	Progress well, further	
Forests, and Safeguards	System	development required	
	4b. Information System for Multiple	Drogress well further	
	Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance,	Progress well, further	
	and Safeguards	development required	
5. Program Monitoring	6a. Program M&E	Significant Progress	
and Evaluation		3	

Source: Annual Performance Report of NRS (Updated in November 2015)

The preparation of this review report largely relies on consecutive semi-annual and annual reports produced for the host institution and for the FCPF. It has done an extensive desk review and, as an internal review, it assessedviews of key staff at the REDD+ Secretariat to substantiate the results achieved in the duration of readiness thus far. The Performance Measurement Framework of the readiness has been used as the vital initial document secondhand to define the implementation status and help to measure the progress achievement.

Section 2 presents the progress made up to this reviewing period with quantitative description in brief. Under each subcomponent, the progress is discussed briefly and also the remaining activities are identified to indicate the gap to draw critical attention to the management for actions. The

¹Green: Significant Progress; Yellow: Progress well, further development required; Orange: Further development required; Red: Not yet demonstrating progress; NA: Not Applicable

challenges encountered would be explained in section 3 and also the lessons learnt during the readiness are included in this section as well as fund allocation and expenditures are discussedhere.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE R-PP

This section of the report presents information on the implementation status of R-PP progress so far with profound assessment of the 5 main components, the subsequent subcomponents and the activities that are exhaustively described under each subcomponent. Attempt is made to explain the achievements to date and to point out what remains to be done in order to complete the activities. In addition, it identifies gaps to be filled for further enhancement of R-PP to progress as per the defined schedule and plan.

2.1. Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

Under component 1, there are 2 subcomponents and the implementation is explained as follows. Sub-Component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements

Institutional Arrangement: The institutional arrangement of the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) has encountered host dynamism from the inception in the R-PP development to start of the readiness time. Finally, the setup of the Ministry of Environment and Forest clearly solved the dynamism that the NRS has been hosted under the Forest Sector State Minister of the ministry. As part of the entry point in the national level, the Ministry has taken the lead to host the coordination unit and play the oversight and spearhead role through the establishment of the National REDD+ Steering Committee (SC) which comprises relevant and key ministries and institutions (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity; Ministry of Children, Youth and Women's; Wildlife Conservation Authority, Regional Agriculture Bureaus from 7 Forested and High Forest Potential Regions, , Institute of Biodiversity Conservation; Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural resources, Ethiopian Environment and Forest research institute). In all pilot regional states, Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNP, Regional Steering Committees (RSC)s are under establishment except in Oromia in which it was functional with the representation from line institutions in the regional level a year ago (see members for RSCs in Annex 1. Table 5). The SC held timely meetings (see Annex 1. Table 1 for number of meetings held in the respective committees) so far for spearheading, deciding and guiding annual physical and financial plan, biannual and annual performance report every year as per the plan. The budget and logistical support both for federal and regional SCs and TWGs meetings are provided by the REDD+ Secretariat after approval by the Federal REDD+ Steering Committee. The committees have their own terms of references including mode of operation agreed on their first meetings to help them operate effectively. The Woreda level SC will be functional particularly during the implementation of the Oromia pilot program.

The national REDD+ Technical Working Groups (RTWG) and Oromia RTWG have been functional a few months after the launching of the programs; and although similar management arrangement (SC and TWG) in the other regional pilots are still under establishment. The other pilot regional states RTWGs are under establishment. Similarly three task forces (SESA, MRV and Strategy-see the list in Annex 4) at the national level have been functional and give technical support with the involvement of technical experts from relevant ministries, institutions, academia, NGOs and community based organizations. Task force members are subsets of the National TWG, each member assigned to each task force taking into consideration his/her professional background and potential technical contribution to each task force. Particularly the tasks forces have been extremely involved in the evaluation of inception reports, mid-term review and validation all technical studies and ensuring quality of the studies. Figure 4 below provides brief institutional hierarchy of REDD+ readiness phase implementation process of Ethiopia.

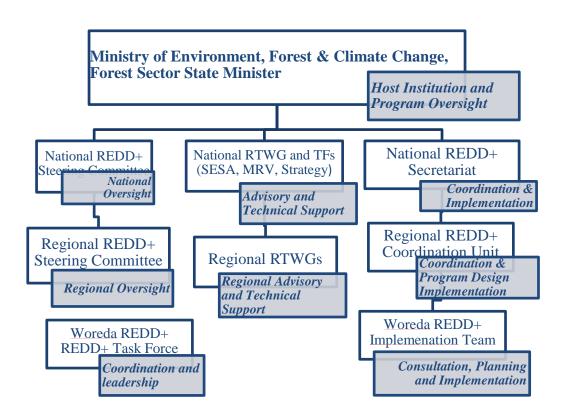


Figure 3: Institutional Arrangement of Readiness Phase of Ethiopia

All the above management arrangements (SC, RTWGs and TFs) have been undertaken timely meetings as per the plan with presence of on average 80 percent of the committee members and with participation well beyond the target 67 percent, which ensures participation of the relevant stakeholders in the readiness decision making and consultation process.

Technical Supervision and Fund Management: The National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS), dedicated to coordination and implementation of readiness activities (with a potential extension to implementation phase), has been fully staffed (14 staff) with caliber professionals that can deliver the required competency for the project (Annex 2). Among the Regional REDD+ Coordination Units (RCUs), Oromia RCU has been fully manned with the relevant number and professionals whereas the other RCUs are under establishment with Coordinators put in place and theremaining required professionals are under recruitment. It is beyond the target of establishing and functioning of regional units as per the R-PPplan. The Woreda REDD+ Coordinators will be hired after the approval of the OFLP in Oromia region.

The REDD+ institutional arrangements have been operating in an open, accountable and transparent way to the wider national and international communities. All planned meetings of RSCs, RTWGs and TFs have been undertaken timely with the presence all relevant stakeholders, officials and experts in which the minutes of all the meetings published in the temporary web-blog (https://reddplusethiopia.wordpress.com) of the Secretariat. The national and regional technical studies undertaken so far for the readiness part have been scrutinized and validated with the involvement of the RTWGs and TFs members thatensured the participation and openness to national stakeholders and are published in the blog for transparency and accessing the information. The Committees have also been involved in reviewing and commenting feedback and suggestions on the draft reports of the studies submitted by the consultants.

The National REDD+ Secretariat administers the FCPF and Additional Finance -AF grants support and oversight from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Secretariat applies entirely the World Bank's financial and procurement guidelines for managing the financial and procurement activities to guarantee financial management and transparency. The government procurement guidelines and the financial management procedures are applied in the internal fund flow and management unlessthese haveconflict with the World Bank's procedures, in which case the provision of the Bank's procedure prevails. The disbursement rate for the FCPF grant is so far 51.92%, but another 1 million USD is committed to cover taxes of the purchased vehicles and motorcycles. On the other hand, the disbursement rate of the AF is 32.27%. The finance is being utilized to date to consume the budget for the allotted activities before the completion dates of the two grants.

The annual financial budget projection emanates from the grant agreement allocation in line with the monitoring and evaluation framework activity schedule. The fund support from both sources (FCPF and AF) are being managed and administered by the Secretariat with the assigned financial specialist following the World Bank Financed projects financial regulation and procedures and in line with the government financial management system. The World Bank Country Office examines the financial management arrangement every year and so far no major financial flaws existed

during the past two budget years. At the same time, one external audit is undertaken yearly by a hired firm invited and no major financial correction remarks have been given, the report indicated that the financial transactions have been implemented judiciously and in accordance with the existing financial procedures agreed and regulations.

Less adequate planned institutional and staff capacity building activities have been implemented. ., Only about thirty percent of the planned training activities has been implemented. The ministry's Finance and Procurement Directorates received a briefing and basic orientations on the World Bank Financed contracts procurement procedures and requirements versus the government procurement guidelines. The said procurement clinics/orientation was organized and provided by the Bank Procurement specialist. The orientation has somewhat assisted the project to speed up procurement process of the Secretariat.

The studies completed have proposed policy recommendations to be integrated into each sector and accordingly action plans has been developed and inserted in the annual working plan of the Secretariat. The inclusive management arrangements, which include key REDD+ stakeholders, had discussion on the proposed action plans and got wider consensus to incorporate in the respective sectors.

In placing functional grievance redress mechanism to be responsive for the grievances and feedback raised from the communities has been critical during the readiness phase. The country GRM system is being managed by the Ethiopia Institute of Ombudsman and the Kebele, Woreda, Zonal and Regional Public Grievance Hearing Offices (PGHO). Any grievance can be handled by the country's system. In connection with the REDD+ activities, the safeguard instruments have also integrated the grievance redress mechanism in each document. To have standalone and holistic GRM which incorporate all REDD+ issues is under preparation by NRS with consultation to the SESA task force. A draft outline of the GRM has been finalized and it will be scrutinized seriously with task force members for feedback. It will be finalized in the current quarter after incorporating feedback to enrich the document.

Sub-Component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach

The Ethiopia's R-PP has described explicitly ways to address the rationale of the development of consultation and participation plan as to increase local responsibility for forest resources, to improve local rights, to increase bargaining power for local actors at the national level and to facilitate multi-stakeholder policy reform as more actors come to the negotiating table. The REDD+ readiness has been built upon the rationale and thus hasparticipation as a core crosscutting themespecifically ensuring that the perspectives ofthe most affected stakeholder's (e.g. forest dependent peoples) and other key stakes are given particular onsideration in the decision-making process. Thus effective communication systems with appropriate channels are required to communicate REDD+ related information to wider target audiences. In connection with this, a communication strategy is a critical foundation for an effective communication system. So far, the

full. effective on-going participationof kev stakeholders and has been demonstratedthroughstakeholders mapping during the R-PP process and later revised and expanded at the beginning of the R-PP implementation. The stakeholders are fully engaged in the different REDD+ institutional mechanisms including, but not limited to, steering committee, task forces, and technical working groups at federal and regional levels. The Ministry of Youth, Children and Women are represented in the national REDD+ Steering Committee and Oromia REDD+ Steering Committee. With regard to involving local communities, the Oromia Forested landscape Program has members representing the forest dependent community representatives in the technical working groups. This trend will be followed in other regional states in the future.

Consultation and Participation Plan (C&P Plan): The Ethiopia's R-PP emphasized the need for effective consultation of stakeholdersand effective C&P plan provides the advantage of incorporating the voices and views of the often voiceless disfavored forest-dependent people into the design of strategic options for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; thereby avoiding REDD+ implementation based solely on the assumptions of professionals. In other way the guiding principle behind the plan is to put in practice the free, prior informed consultation of stakeholders that could be affected due to REDD+ activities in any decision making. Therefore, in order to provide for the stakeholders framework and platform for exchanging information in two ways, the design of C&P plan has been essential. To this end, the Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit (ORCU) has prepared and applied a C&P plan to create two way dialogues among the regional government and stakeholders of the Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP). In doing so, ORCU has given so far ToT to 616 experts (66 women) drawn from relevant Zonal and Woreda REDD+ implementing institutions composed of relevant mangers, directors, process heads or senior experts from OFWE Branch and District Offices, Bureau of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Administration and Environmental protection (BLAEP) and Bureau of Water, Energy and Minerals (BoWEM). Thus, it is expected that the trainers will consult thousands of communities at the grassroots level based on the target of the plan in the current fiscal year. In addition, ORCU has undertaken pilot community consultations in 4 Kebeles in 2 Woredas for a total of 103 government staff (6 women) at Woreda level and 511 community members (12 women) at Kebele level.

By using the Oromia C&P plan as a benchmark, the NRS has exerted effort to develop a national level C&P plan by customizing and adapting the regional plan. The document is under preparation with full involvement of the SESA task force members in collaboration with the Secretariat. This National C&P Plan is prepared to ensure full and effective engagement and participation of all ranges of stakeholders from design and emission reduction phases of REDD+ Program in the country.The first draft document is published in the weblogwww.reddplusethiopia.wordpress.com- for providing access to a wider stakeholders. Relying on the target of the plan, massive consultation and participation activities will be implemented in the three pilot regions during the current fiscal year.

National Communication Strategy:Individual consultant has been hired last year to develop a REDD+ communications strategy. The consultant took longer time to complete the task, but currently the first draft of the strategy document is released and relevant stakeholders and professionals have provided views and comments. Recently, the document has been discussed in focus group discussion with key national experts to refine it, and the final strategy will be ready after incorporating the concerns and recommendations raised in the discussion.

The communication strategy aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance the public and stakeholders understanding of climate change/forest conservation issues, REDD+ concepts, and carbon financing;
- Raise public and stakeholders awareness on REDD+ and its activities;
- Ensure that all key internal and external audiences impacted by the REDD+ programare able to voice their concerns and complaints, their complaints and voices reached to concerned authorities of the government (communication loop), they are provided with full information and they are engaged in all decisions;
- ;
- Ensure that internal and external stakeholders understand the vision, milestones, key activities, challenges, opportunities, who is affected and what it means for them i.e. "making the unknown known";
- Exploit innovative and existing communications channels and techniques to maximize awareness of and promote understanding of the REDD+ program;
- Focus on continuous information sharing and reinforcement with a view to reducing resistance, fears, uncertainty, and rumors; and
- Monitor and measure feedback.

Furthermore, the strategy has outlined the key stakeholders or REDD+ audiences for engagement, consultation and outreach as rural and urban communities, media, local government authorities, political officials, civil society organizations, private sector organization, academia and government (ministries, department, authorities, and agencies) and also set aside suitable communication channels for each audience in the country's context.

Despite the delay in the preparation of the communications strategy, communications, outreach and awareness have been majo part of th readiness activities so far. As compared to the actions planned in the draft REDD+ communications, the NRS has implemented already about 30% of the actions recommended have been accomplished so far nd implementation of the actions will be fast tracked in the future. The NRS has utilized a number of communication media channels such as 4 types of electronic medias, 6 print media types, and 3 social media types to share information to the wider community.

Regarding the use of electronic media: SMS text message to about 12 million mobile phone clients; two radio talk shows together with spot of advertisement (transmitted in five local languages: Amharic, Oromifa, Tigrigna, Afar and Somali); short radio spot transmitted at peak time in Oromifa; TV Question & Answer program on REDD+ and related issues and interview to radio and TV about climate change, REDD+ and Forest have been utilized to reach about millions of people with the media channels that cover the entire country. Similarly using print medias: about 7,000 copies of brochures in Amharic, Afan Oromo and English, 1,000 booklets, 2,500 notebooks, 1,000 pens, 100 REDD+ logo stickers, 2,500 new year postcards, 2,500 wall calendars, 9,782 Tshirts, 9,550 caps and 230 key holders all with REDD+ logo and message have been prepared and distributed in various REDD+ events from national to local level awareness creation events and other incidences. Effort has been made to reach out to communities so far about the REDD+ issues at the grassroots level using the local languages which includes forest dependent communities, disadvantaged communities and others. Furthermore, an individual consultant has been assigned to develop new REDD+ website, (despite problem on the contract now), but until then temporary weblog was put in place to provide accesstoREDD+ information and activities and disclose all information (reports and documents) of readiness events. It is expected that the regular new website will be functional in the current fiscal year.

Capacity Building: Given that REDD+ is a new concept and process which evolves complex issues over time, continuous capacity building and update of the existing capacity is crucial task of the readiness phase. The Secretariat has exerted effort to develop standardized training for foresters and related professionals in collaboration with Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources (WGCFNR), in which four standardized modules have been prepared with qualified professionals of the college. Finally based on the designed training contents, the ministry (Secretariat) has signed an agreement with the college to deliver the training for 200 foresters (ToT) (training 15 days); 32 foresters in forest governance (5 training days); 100 public relation officers and journalists (7 training days) and 50 community representatives (FDP and PFM organizations)from pilot regions and sites in planning, public speaking, presentation and negotiation skills (5 training days) during a period of two years. Up to now 52 foresters (3 women) from regional and federal REDD+ implementing institutions have taken ToT training with two rounds. Trainers are expected to train around 2000 foresters at Woreda level in the current fiscal year. Other 27 traineeson forestry and 52 trainees on forest governance have been given in order to capacitate the sector.

In order to ensure sustainability and produce qualified professionals two universities, Hawassa University (Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resource) in postgraduate and Haramaya University in undergraduate level have been integrated REDD+ issues in their curricula with the involvement of other universities intellectuals in curriculum review workshop and are expected to apply the courses starting from this year. Moreover different REDD+ lectures have

been given in four universities about REDD+ concepts to create awareness and motivate for further reading in the subject matter.

In order to ensure representation and enhance contribution of forest dependent communities in the readiness process, representatives have been represented in all established regional RTWGs and also participated in all national and regional REDD+ conferences or consultative meetings. Out of the total participants in those conferences about 29 percent, which is beyond the annual target of 20 percent, participants are represented from Forest Dependent Peoples (FDPs), women's and youth's with regional, zonal and woreda level composition. So far about 2 national level conferences and 10 regional level conferences have been conducted which surpass the target set. The conferences have laid down foundation on the concept and practice of REDD+, CDM and related activities as the topic was focused on concrete early lessons of REDD+ and related projects in the country. Civil Society organizations such as Farm Africa, Ethio-wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA), World Vision-Ethiopia have played a key role in the conferences by presenting their field experiences whichwere discussed and supported with actual field visits in the best practice areas. A variety of participants, government officials from regional, zonal and woreda level, local NGOs, universities, PFM representatives, women's and youth's association representatives from regional, zonal and woreda level, researchers and academics have been engaged in the conference discussions and field visits. Participants wereimpressed with the achievements by the projects in the past and promised to initiate and duplicate these experiences in their localities.

In all consultation conferences and meetings held, the Secretariat captures the concerns and views of participants and committed to incorporate in respective documentation and disclose it on the weblog for information sharing to a wider audience.

REMAINING ACTIVITIES AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

So far the Secretariat has made remarkable progress towards the readiness targets in this component, but some activities require due emphasis to accomplish in time so that they are ready and in-use for the final preparation of the R-Package in August2016. As part of the readiness requirements and enhancement of the capacity of REDD+ implementing entities, the remaining activities and gaps have to be filled as per the M&E framework arrangement. Some of the remaining activities are listed as follows:

- ❖ Develop specific action plan for a period of 15 months for intensified communications and information dissemation;
- ❖ Expedite the design and development of regular website which facilitate and ease information disclosure and public debate;
- ❖ Keep the progress track in the ToT and other trainings with WGCFNR to avoid further delay;
- ❖ Facilitate REDD+ meetings at woreda level in Woredas with RCUs;

❖ Prepare stakeholder profiles for all woredas covered by RCUs;

2.2. Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

REDD+ Strategy is the forefront and core document in the readiness process. It is developed with contribution from the R-PP consultations, the CRGE process as driven by the Ethiopia Development Research Institute (EDRI), several national and regional analysis and study results as described below. The Ethiopia's national REDD+ strategy form its foundation on three national and two sub-national (regional) studies which includes: Analysis of legal and institutional framework for the Ethiopian REDD+ program; Analysis of legal and institutional framework for the Oromia Forested Landscape Program; Study of causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Ethiopia and the identification and prioritization of strategic options to address those; Study of causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Oromia and the identification and prioritization of strategic options to address those; and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the REDD+ Process in Ethiopia.

It provides strategic guidance for the implementation of an effective and efficient national REDD+ program. REDD+ program in Ethiopia broadly targets to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and bring significant part of the countries degraded areas under forest cover through forest restoration, afforestation and reforestation activities. REDD+ measures are broadly targeted to address forest emission from deforestation and forest degradation, while implementing forest restoration activities for carbon enhancement. The preparation of the strategy is almost approaching to the final stage through iterative process informed by all key study results and options.

Under this component, there are four sub-components: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance; REDD+ Strategy Options; Implementation Framework and Social and Environmental Impacts. The statuses of these sub-components are presented as follows:

Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

The R-PP of Ethiopia assessed the land use, policy and governance situation relevant to deforestation and forest degradation. The key source of forest-related land use information in the R-PP wastaken from the World Bank-funded Woody Biomass Inventory and Strategic Planning Project (WBISPP, 2004), which mapped 14 classes of land use, including forests and also estimated woody biomass volumes through a national forest inventory. The R-PP examined forest ownership in Ethiopia as it is owned by the state on behalf of the people in which the forest policy permitted both private and state ownership with limited ownership to community. Furthermore the R-PP documented that the Environment Policy of Ethiopia, the Conservation Strategies of Ethiopia and Federal Forest Proclamation provided a framework which the regions can use to develop their

own no-lesser stringent regional regulatory systems, which can be adapted to better fit different regional contexts. The R-PP recognized the major deficiencies in governance of forestry that the then Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoA) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) as well as Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA)were the institution responsible for forestry in Ethiopia.

A number of spatial analyses have been part of the tasks of the national level and regional driver's studies and have produced several maps that help to understand the current situation. Forest cover, forest cover change and drivers of thse change have been addressed in the national MRV project that is supported technically by FAO.

Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation Study: The study of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation would be the major milestone of the REDD+ strategy and future actions rely on the strategic options recommended in the study. OY Arbonaut Ltd in the national level and UNIQUE Ltdin Oromia regional level have been contracted out for the assignment to conduct the studies and come up with detailed analysis with strategic options prioritized based on methodological approach and clear criteria. The outcome of the studies on the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation, which updated and informed us better than the cursory assessments made during the R-PP preparation, were discussed and validated with the involvement of wider stakeholders particularly REDD+ strategy task forces and RTWG members. These have also been involved from the development of the inception of terms of reference to the final validation of the studies actively. All the final validated draft study documents are published on the weblog to disclose to all stakeholders. The national-wide study reports identified the direct causes of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as construction and energy consumption (wood fuel and other organic fuels, construction wood andlegal and illegal timber harvesting) and agricultural expansion (agricultural small-holder farmland expansion, shifting cultivation, land fires, livestock populations, free-grazing, large-scale commercial or state agricultural farms). In addition, the underlying causes identified in the study include human population growth; primary production with low industrialization and off-farm activities; low agricultural productivity and land tenure issues. The analysis further pointed out possible key interventions for each driver, set criteria for prioritization such as alignment with government policy and programs and cost of implementation and also listed the on-going interventions in the country that can be compatible with the REDD+ interventions. The studies elaborated more about the business- as-usual scenario carbon stock assessment for each identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation with mitigations action for the sequestration and carbon enhancement of all forest types. The systematic link of the drivers for deforestation and forest degradation with the scope of REDD+ activities are thoroughly analyzed in the study that potential key interventions are outlined for REDD+ projects to be implemented. On top of it, the outcomesand recommendations of the study will inform the preparation of REDD+ strategy, inputs for review of the forest law (under review currently) and good insight for policy review in advance.

Policy, Legal and Institutional Study: The assessment of policy, legal and institutional gaps has been commissioned to consulting firms that aimed to identify policy and legal gaps and institutional shortfalls that would hinder effectiveness of REDD+ implementation and also identify suitable strategies to address those gaps. The two assessments/studies, in the Oromia regional state level and the national level, came up with the existing gaps in policy and legal issues and recommended suitable options for REDD+ implementations. And also alternative institutional set ups for REDD+ implementation are recommended for the government to consider during restructuring of executive bodies. Based on the findings of the studies, action plans are prepared to address policy and regulation reforms in forestry, agriculture and energy sectors and will work to accomplish in collaboration during current year.

Sub-Component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options

The formulation of REDD+ strategy is the driving wheel to the realization of the readiness process and play central role in coining the strategic options based on the analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in respect to impact, cost and feasibility of strategic options. The R-PP formulation of Ethiopia gathered information from consultation of regional and national workshops, focused group discussion with forest dependent communities, earlier analytical studies and discussion with practitioners about the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and tried to prioritize in consultative process with the stakeholders mentioned above. The R-PP presented the most extensive direct drivers as: conversion of forest lands for small and large scale agriculture and increased extraction of wood for energy and construction purposes; also the indirect or underlying drivers or causes as: the weak institutional and legal instruments, demographic pressure and economic factors. The REDD+ strategy options presented in the R-PP were developed based on the combined input of existing REDD+ related "on the field" efforts in Ethiopia as well as a preliminary "green growth" national economic analysis led by EDRI in 2010 which provided preliminary assessments of impact, cost and feasibility of most strategy options developed. Note that even if there is significant overlap between some of forest management strategies, the strategic options are critically reviewed through iterative consultation of literature and stakeholders which can be workable in the then legal and policy framework of the country. The strategic options for on the ground interventions are critically reviewed and categorized in to 11 options as follows: 1) Plantation forestry; (2) Agroforestry; (3) Area closures; (4) Protected areas; (5) CDM project areas related to plantations/reforestations; (6) participatory forest management (PFM); (7) Traditional/customary forest management practices; (8) REDD+ pilots; (9) National Biofuel development; (10) Food Security programand (11) Integration of REDD+ into budget, laws, policy, strategy, program, plan and projects. Besides, following the recommendations of the national study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, proper land use planning, policy harmonization among sectors (including agriculture investment policy), and regulation of population (family planning support) have been identified and considered for addressing deforestation in the country.

The REDD+ strategy is by far a holistic document which encompass the profound assessment results and recommendations from vital study works. The first draft Ethiopia's REDD+ strategy was presented last year in COP-20 conference-Lima. The draft strategy entirely relied on the R-PP documents and its iterative consultation resources and references to sketch the draft and got its shape after series of consultations among key stakeholders. Among the fundamental studies necessary to inform the REDD+ strategy, the study of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is crucial study which can have wider contribution to inform the strategy in delivering information about causes of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the potential key interventions and the suitable strategic options for the country context based on screening and prioritizing techniques and criteria. As a result, the study identified about sixteen strategic options targeted as interventions and prioritized in two phased procedures: the first phase screening is made using three criteria's including the GHG emission mitigation potential, abatement cost efficiency and government development priorities; and the second phase is considering the criteria of poverty alleviation impact; potential social impact at scale and institutional readiness. It is worthwhile to explicitly recognize the costs and its related benefits for the strategic options to select among the options with comparative benefits and minimum cost wise advantage. The study analyzed the costs and benefits of each strategic option and informed the REDD+ strategy which enrich the strategy in analytical wealthy document.

Accordingly, out of the prioritized strategic options using the criteria and SWOT analysis, the most top four highly prioritized options are: (i) Yield-increasing techniques for agriculture; (ii) Sustainable firewood and charcoal use (addressing the supply side by sustainable fuelwood production and use of efficient technologies for managing the demand side); (iii) Lower emitting techniques for agriculture and (iv)Participatory Forest Management, area closure, community afforestation and reforestation. Further suitable activities are proposed for each option appropriate to the sector.

To date, the Secretariat is working to complete the final REDD+ strategy document that team of technical expertise from the Ministry are doing the write-up by considering results of the analytical studies to feed in to the strategy as appropriate. It is expected to be finalized in this month in order to present it to Paris COP-21 international conference.

Sub-Component 2c: Implementation Framework

Adoption of Legislation and Regulation: The prime measure that has been taken by the GoE two years ago was the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (now renamed as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) to date empowering more mandates at federal level. Regional states are also taking similar measures to set up parallel institutions to the lower level in this fiscal year. So far, 4egional states (Amhara, SNNPR, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Somali Region have established the regional parallel forestry and environment institutions. In addition, Dire Dawa City administration has also created similar institution. These instructions

are used as host for Regional REDD+ Coordination Units and the heads of the institutions lead the Regional REDD+ Steering Committee and provide oversight for design of regional REDD+ programs. They also facilitate regional awareness, consultations and capacity building activities in region the respective regional states. To date among achievements in relation to reforms taken in the forestry sector are the adoption of forest definition critical for the national forest inventory and MRV works and relevant to identify the country' forest cover; the revision of forest policy considering climate change and REDD+, carbon issues into account, which is almost completed and its related revision of forest law which is informed by various REDD+ studies which includes among others carbon rights and ownership, forest tenures and titling, REDD+ strategic options, private sector involvement in forest development and thas given due considerations and provided legal ground for Participatory Forest Management (PFM), which is a major vehicle/strategic option for realizing REDD+ objectives. The ratification process of this forest proclamation is under progress in the country's legislation body (FDRE House of Representative) and is expected to be endorsed in the current budget year

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) recognizes the need for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) framework and is working to draft strategic environmental assessment proclamation to integrate concerns of environment and social issues into national budget; socio-economic development policies, strategies, plans and programs. The application of environmental impact assessment at a project level also enables to evaluate adverse impacts and integrate appropriate response measures into the life cycle of major public or private investment projects on forestry ecosystems prior to their implementation.

Other sectors which have connection with REDD+ activities also recognize the revision of their sectors policy and strategy like livestock development strategy, renewable energy strategy and others in which the country follow as an overarching climate resilient green economy strategy to achieve green growth development path. Dialogues with these ministries are being initiated to shape their policy and legal frameworks so that they suit the implementation of REDD+ program as envisaged in the national REDD+ strategy.

Implementation Framework: The REDD+ policy and institutional environment assessment is assessed and arrangement for implementing REDD+ activities is proposed. The National REDD+ Secretariat is fully responsible to coordinate and facilitate the REDD+ readiness implementation and answerable to the MEFCC Forest Sector State Minister. The national RSC is chaired by the Forest Sector State Minister which is responsible for spearheading and oversight the overall implementation of the Secretariat in endorsing and setting strategic direction, budget and plan approval and assessment of quarter and annual performance status for examining the effective and efficient use of the project finance to secure accountability. The RTWG is also playing advisory role and technical support to the coordination unit which includes think-tank groups and experts from respective institutions and also the TFs (SESA, MRV, Strategy) are also organized to give

advice, technical backup and validate the works because of their high level expertise in each specialization. Those advisory and technical backup committees are relevant to secure transparency and enhance collaboration and exchange ideas among key stakeholders of REDD+. All arrangements have their own terms of references that are followed during their technical support and advice. REDD+ Secretariat has recently been challenged with staff turnover, but swift measures are now being taken to capacitate the institution Further capacity building is requird for the fiduciary departments of MEFCC to enhance project implementation.

Following the readiness process, detailed project/program implementation manual will be prepared in this budget year which elaborates the overall management, coordination, responsibility and other functions specifically. The grievance and redressing mechanism that is in place by the government currently can be functional and responsive for any grievances or complaints raised but sector wise mechanism which encompass particularly the forest dependent communities concern and related portion of the community will be addressed with the grievance and redress mechanism manual of REDD+ which is under preparation.

Piloting of REDD+ activities for testing identified policies and interventions and drawn lessons to feed in to strategy is one of the readiness major activities. The regional level RCUs in four regional states are acting units in coordination and monitoring of REDD+ pilot activities regionally, which are hosted in regional forestry sectors and play spearheading and oversight role during operationalization of REDD+ pilot activities. The approach now is to apply practical lessons from testing in actual field to enrich policies and strategy by setting up pilot REDD+ projects in four forest potential regional states of Ethiopia.

The Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP), a jurisdictional REDD+ program in Oromia region, is more advanced landscape approach which is under its final stage of design, and it is set to sign ERPA with the World Bank during the coming fiscal year. The OFLP design process has provided lessons that have informed the REDD+ strategy, and also encourage policy dialogue among stakeholders from the practical experiences.

The current focus on piloting in other regions is implementing preparatory activities such as awareness creation, assessments, planning and design of bankable projects and regional capacity building activities. So far, an individual consultant was engaged in identifying pilot sites in three regional states (Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR) by setting selection criteria among the candidate sites proposed from all regions. The selection process was completed with the participation of each regions experts and respective bureaus under the direct supervision of the MEFCC, NRS and RCUs. By now in the selected sites, preparatory works are under progress such as actual boundary demarcation, geo-reference information and detailed socio-economic data compilation, landscape mapping and others.

In an effort to establish benefit sharing mechanism for REDD+ interventions financial benefits earned in carbon trading or emission reduction payments, the basic initial measure achieved so far is consideration of benefit sharing in the forest proclamation under process of ratification. It is the first pace of progress in recognizing financial benefit of forest carbon trading and can contribute significant share to the country's green growth development path. The first in its kind nationally and also globally, the OFLP has required benefit sharing mechanism as a pilot project for managing the benefit from ER agreement results. Accordingly, the Oromia RCU has commissioned a consultancy service to develop a benefit sharing mechanism in which the process of the preparation will follow a series of consultations of communities (with focus on forest dependent communities), civil societies, government, academia, research institutions and lessons learnt from on-going initiatives in CDM/community assisted regeneration REDD+ related projects. The NRS will plan to develop the country wide benefit sharing mechanism by adapting the Oromia document and upgrading to national level. The national BSM will require consultation at all regions as the interests, contexts and requirements of regions vary. The regional level aspiration, concerns and equity issues could vary across communities. The national mechanism could contextualize the extent of geographic area, traditional culture, socio-economic situation, livelihood pattern and other related factors to install guiding benefit sharing mechanism to all communities in the country. While developing the national BSM a number of issues will be considered beyond adapting and upgrading the OFLP BSM. Developing a national BSM will draw key principles, frameworks and agreed options in Oromia for the respective regions and communities consideration.

The engagement of all relevant stakeholders in consultative meetings during the development of the mechanism is an inevitable and crucial process to ensure transparent and all inclusive set up of the system. It will be done as per the plan based on the performance framework of the project.

Establishment of National REDD+ Registry: The intention to develop national REDD+ registry system has curial role for disclosure of all project related information publically and facilitate the exchange of carbon trading information nationally and internationally. It is an on-line and active web based system that makes easy access of REDD+ related information to the wider stakeholders. In an attempt to design and set up registry system nationally, NRS hasincorporated this activity in the annual working plan of the current fiscal year. Recently the terms of reference are drafted to invite potential information technology firms with key expert composition to commission the work. The registry will have all relevant tools and techniques to access every REDD+ activities and enables to monitor up date of project progress through the registry. It will have no restriction to every citizens and external users unless it violets the country's information security regulation.

Sub-Component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts

As part of the readiness work to establish safeguard instruments to mitigate and reduce impacts of REDD+ actions on communities and ecosystems during implementation, the NRS has commissioned to the task to consulting firms though an international bid for preparation of safeguard instruments based on international standards and requirements. The preparation of safeguard instruments by the consultant has anchored to analysis of the country's existing safeguard policies and regulations aligned to on the seven Cancun safeguard principles and Warsaw Framework along with requirements of the World Bank safeguard operational policies.

On top of the consultancy work, the SESA task force members are involved from inception to validation of the safeguard instruments as well as the task force conducted field follow up while the consulting firm conducting consultation with local community to collect data for the preparation of the safeguard instruments. During the formulation of the safeguard instruments consultations were made in 26 Woreda and 52 Kebeles to 936 members of the community and government staff, and NGOs. The consultations with community members were made separately to the youth group, women and men (see sample attendance sheets at then of this document-Annex 3).

The consulting firm has delivered the desired instruments with the proper consultation process during inception, first draft and final validation workshops in which all relevant stakeholders were brought on board to contribute and voice their views and concerns about safeguarding tools. In such process, the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) study is completed and four standalone safeguard instruments are finalized: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Process Framework (PF). These instruments are very essential to make REDD+ implementation socially and environmentally friendly and make the REDD+ implementation sustainable. It is to be noted that the ESMF safeguard instrument has described in detail the capacity required to mitigate the identified risks and enhance the benefits.

In accordance with the Bank's requirement, all the above safeguard instruments are adapted to date to the safeguards requirements of the OFLP for appraisal of the program. It is expected to handle all risks and impacts in connection to REDD+ actions that occur during the implementation of the program. For transparency and accountability all the standalone instruments are ready and disclosed in the weblog for the wider community and at Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) website..

The REDD+ strategy is informed by the strategic environmental and social assessment study results and their associated standalone safeguard tools. In the identification and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options with phased approach screening of the strategies, potential social impacts of the options would be used as one critical criterion to identify the influential and relevant options among the candidates. The four safeguard instruments have identified the risks and benefits in detail and proposed mitigation measures associated with implementation of REDD+ strategic options. Table 3 and 4 of the annex 1 summarize risks and benefits of each strategic options and is annexed for further reference.

REMAINING ACTIVITIES AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

To date the NRS has made promising achievements in respect to the target set in the performance framework for this component. The effort towards achievement of readiness milestones is

progressing well but in some areas more attentions is required to speed up the process. Some of the remaining activities and gaps identified during the review are listed below:

- ❖ Facilitate in-depth assessment of past experience in PFM, afforestation and reforestation including mapping of potential sites;
- ❖ Open special window at CRGE facility for carbon performance based funding including payments for emission reduction from deforestation and forest degradation as well as afforestation and reforestation (Ethiopa's REDD+ s focused on conservation of remaining forests while restoring the degraded areas through afforestation and reforestation);
- Enhance consultations of SESA study results including women, youth, CSO and FDP;
- Consultation on selected strategic option; and
- ❖ Finalizing and disclosing the National REDD+ safeguard instruments.

2.3. Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/reference Levels

This component involves developing a reference scenario of carbon emissions or removaland makingprojections for the future. Its overall goal is to develop a scenario for the reference level that projects emissions and removals of carbon dioxide equivalent into the future without REDD+ incentives. The R-PP of Ethiopia clearly mentions two major objectives under the component of REL/RLs as:

- ➤ Quantify historic emissions from deforestation and forest degradation or removals from carbon enhancement activities toproduce estimates of historic CO2 emission levels for the proposed period post 2000 to 2010+ at national and sub-national scale, using the IPCC framework, and spatially represented to reflect differences; and
- ➤ Develop future trajectories of emissions/removals over different time periods and under different economic and development scenarios.

By now a preliminary Forest Reference Level has been developed and will be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat for technical assessment in 2016.

About ten activities were identified in the R-PP of Ethiopia to be implemented in the readiness process and basically those activities are categorized in to two major activities. These are:

- > Capacity Building & Awareness raising on reference/ baseline scenario and MRV system
 - 1. Develop capacity for REDD+ monitoring framework (IPCC guidelines, LULUCF, carbon stock accounting);
 - 2. Develop capacity on Remote sensing techniques (pre-processing, segmentation, land cover classification, etc.);
 - 3. Remote sensing and GIS facilities (software, plotter, navigation equipment, satellite images, etc.);
- > Reference Scenario development
 - 4. Develop capacity in estimating carbon release and sequestration;
 - 5. Define reference time period and tier/Approach level 1;
 - 6. Review available data sources:

- 7. Quantify activity data;
- 8. Quantify emission factors;
- 9. Quantify historical emission level;
- 10. Development of reference scenario;

Because of the need to bridge up the capacity of undertaking the MRV and reference scenario development tasks, the ministry has decided to involve external institutions to assist in undertaking the activities with active involvement of the country's professional to enhance capacity internally. In this respect, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has taken the assignment to provide technical assistance. The project agreement in technical assistance was signed in August2014 entitled as: "Implementation of a National Forest Monitoring and MRV System for REDD+ Readiness in Ethiopia".

According to the agreement, the objective of the technical assistance project is to support the MEFCC in the planning, development and implementation of its National ForestMonitoring (NFM) and Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system forReducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The NFM and MRV system will allow the MEFCC to assess its own progress in reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and in increasing forest carbon stocks. It will also allow the ministry to monitor the impacts of REDD+ policies and measures and help it collect and report information on REDD+ safeguards. The NFM and MRV system has been developed around three components:

- 1. A satellite land monitoring system to spatially track forest and land cover/land use change;
- 2. A National Forest Inventory (NFI) that is compliant with IPCC requirements for REDD+;
- 3. A greenhouse gas inventory for the Agriculture, Forestry and other Land-Use(AFOLU) sector, coherent with the Government's Climate Resilient GreenEconomy (CRGE) Strategy.

Five outputs were identified to be delivered in the technical assistance MRV Project and detailed activities are outlined for each output to be executed. The expected outputs are:

- 1. Output 1. Institutional arrangements and data management systems to support the national MRV system are in place and fully operational.
- 2. *Output* 2.A historical forest cover change assessment is produced and national MRV institutions have the capacities and systems to monitor REDD+ activity data.
- **3. Output 3.**Capacities to carry out NFI in the context of REDD+ are enhanced and new information is produced to improve carbon measurements and other relevant information on forest use and forest cover.
- **4. Output 4.** Capacities of governmental, research and civil society actors on MRV are enhanced at national and decentralized levels.
- 5. *Output* 5. National RL(s)/REL(s) and relevant policies are endorsed and linked to the national GHG inventory process and policy framework.

To date encouraging technical progresses have been achieved as per the agreement and accomplishments are discussed as follows:

At the country level, absence of governing forest definition had previouslyled to the release of debatable forest related information and controversial forest cover data were published due to lack of consistent definition applied nationally. In recognizing the benefit of consistent conceptual definition of forest and to apply for National Forest Inventory (NFI) work, the ministry has adopted forest definition(i.e. smallest area ≥ 0.5 ha, tree height $\ge 2m$ and smallest canopy cover ≥ 20) in consultative process with think-tank groups and professionals. The definition considers international situations and contextualize to country's best fit by taking in to account the forest types from low land area woodlands to high land forests to be covered in the REDD+ actions and benefit from these actions and also to tap the possible advantages from all forest types. The definition encourages small holder farmers to participate and benefit from afforestation/restoration, sustainable forest management and conservation forests in their surroundings.

The National Forest Inventory (NFI) is one of the biggest tasks undertaken by the ministry with technical assistance from FAO and budget from the readiness grant. About 451 (71.5 percent) of the samples are inventoried to date. The inventory work has been planned to collect forest related information from 631 sample sites or units nationally (each unit is 1 km²). Up to now seven regional states (Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, SNNP, Afar, Benshangul-Gumuz) are covered by the inventory work and the remaining two regional states (Somali in progress and Gambella) will be covered in the coming few months. The technical and topography challenges delayed the progress to complete as early as possible, but currently almost the work dramatically moves forwards to deliver the inventory result to estimation of other related data.

As part of capacity building, FAO has given training for 42 professionals from RTWG members, MRV task force members, MEFCC and NRS in two round sessions about forest REL/RL methods and techniques so far. A technical cooperation project by Blackbridge and Remote Sensing Solutions of Germany and our ministry resulted in intensive GIS and Remote Sensing training program conducted in four rounds over a period of 2 years. 7 Ethiopians (from MEFCC and various federal and regional institutions) and five trainees from East African Countries were the beneficiary from this project intervention, which has been closed in November 2015. This project intervention has contributed to the national capacity on GIS and RS.

The Oromia baseline data on carbon stocks is completed based on current NFI data of Oromia in estimating emission factor. The Oromia REL/RL is estimated based on IPCC (Tier 2 standards) and shared to other stakeholders. Relying on the Oromia NFI data for emission factor computation nationally and using the national landsat 7 data images of 2000 and 2013 for calculating activity

data, preliminary data on national forest reference level has been estimated recently. But this data will be updated up on the completion of national NFI to inform the emission factors more precisely. The preliminary FRL has been done for emissions and removals, but is still under discussion at the ministry. The estimate is likely to be further consolidated with further data collection and validation. Experts are nowenagaged to do the data refining and consolidation.

The RTWG and MRV task force members are actively involved in the training and also shaping the procedures and technical approaches for quality result of reference level setting and wider acceptance of the result. At the same time, the national forest cover estimate has been produced using the Landsat 7 data images which is about 15.5 percent in 2013 based on the adopted forest definition. The estimation of the cover map has been verified and cross checked by other methods and ground truthing techniques which confirm that other estimations are almost similar to this result.

The estimation process of REL/RL nationally and sub-nationally has relied on the FCPF assessment criteria and it is consistent with UNFCCC requirements and IPCC guidance and guidelines as it stipulated in the agreement of MEFCC with FAO technical assistant. The core elements followed in the estimation of REL/RL are:

- *i.* Use of clearly sound and documented methodology for setting the references;
- *ii.* Use of historical data and adjustment will be made based on the country's context with high level of participation of professionals and stakeholders to come up with credible and defendable adjustment if any;
- *iii.* Methodologically, the estimation sticks to the most recent UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines; and
- *iv.* All data are documented for cross checking with independent body and available for transparency.

REMAINING ACTIVITIES AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

The estimation of REL/RL process has required high level of skills and professionals with the dynamic situation of the world. At the outset, the Secretariat was aware of the technical deficit in this regard and has hired an international MRV Specialist. It has further required technical assistance from a competent international forestry institution. In connection with this, FAO has taken the role to engage in delivering the technical assistance in the construction of the REL/RL and design of the MRV System. So far the work is progressively moving forwards with some minor implementation challenges. According to the readiness performance framework, it is on the right track to attain the expected results at the end of the target year if things progressed in the current pace. But some activities need further attention to accomplish as expected. Those tasks are:

- Develop a refined classification system for forest and other biomass-rich areas;
- ❖ Prepare a basic land-cover/land-use map for REDD+ use and update the forest cover map with acceptable accuracy;

- Speed up the NFI to use the data for further estimation and MRV works;
- ❖ Make the capacity building training gender sensitive; and
- Develop guidelines/manual for REL/RL and MRV;
- ❖ Speed up the planned/ongoing work on degradation, determination of emission factors based on National data, and calculation and testing of different REL approaches.

2.4. Component 4: Development of Monitoring System for Forests and Safeguards

This component comprises two sub-components: National Forest Monitoring System and Information System for Multiple Benefits, other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards. The achievements so far are discussed as follows.

Sub-Component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System

Among the key tasks to be in place during the readiness process of REDD+ under theUNFCCC requirement, establishment of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system for deforestation and forest degradation is crucial. Next to the setting of reference scenario, designing and installing an appropriate monitoring system for verification of measured emissions and removals of greenhouse gases (MRV) would be inevitable and must be functional during the readiness period. It allows for clear cut monitoring of emissions and removals overtime with transparent and accountable system to verify the projected data. The establishment of capable MRV system enables to operationalize results based performance of REDD+ initiatives and can easily capture concert of REDD+ interventions.

The establishment of national forest monitoring system is part of FAO technical assistance project agreement. Thus far preparatory activities are under way to develop sound MRV system with combination of ground based actual forest inventory and remote sensing techniques.

In addition to the national MRV task force, specific to the assignment Joint Implementation Committee and Joint Project Steering Committee (JIC/JPSC) is formed among MEFCC and FAO to follow up and monitor this specific technical assistant project (i.e., the National MRV Project). The technical aspects relevant to REL/RL and MRV (such as scale, scope, forest definition, approaches for calculating AD and EF) havebeen thoroughly scrutinized and tried to keep consistent to the UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines. The technical committees have met regularly to confirm procedures and contents consistency; and ensure transparent system development.

Currently FAO is assessing the capacity needs of MRV institutions and identifying the suitable institutional arrangement to install the MRV Unit in the right place. FAO is also examining the existing data storage and management system relevant for MRV and will design and implement management solutions for key elements of the MRV system. Currently there is a basic MRV Unit that is working on NFI data processing and some mapping activities, but it needs to be upgraded

by supplying with more staff, hardware and software. The capacities will be also filled with the planned training schedule as per the agreement.

REMAINING ACTIVITIES AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Speed up the implementation of needs assessment and assessment of data storage capacity of MEFCC (MRV unit being established);
- ❖ Equip the MRV unit with adequate staffing and equipment;
- Speed up the implementation of the NFI;

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Sub-Component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits. Other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards

This sub-component deals with information system setup for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards information in order to provide and disseminate in transparent manner to all stakeholders. The system tries to follow consistent and relevant information sharing among stakeholders through standardized system. The system is expected to capture all relevant information on multiple benefits of REDD+, its social and environmental impacts and mitigation measures and also governance related information during implementation should be channeled to and managed transparently to the wider community with appropriate and accessible information sharing mechanism.

In this respect the NRS has prepared all safeguard instruments (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Process Framework (PF)) which identified explicitly social and environmental benefits and impacts of REDD+ and its mitigation measures and also recognized governance issues related to managing REDD+. By now, a draft national document on benefit sharing mechanism has been prepared that outlines the principles of BSM, distribution and investment of results based finances, allocation of funds (transaction costs and activities, criteria for prioritizing activities, vertical fund allocation (federal to local), local benefit sharing-who receives the benefits, level of incentives, type of incentives), institutional arrangement for financial management, and monitoring and evaluation of performance. This document will be consulted with stakeholders at various levels and finally endorsed by the government.

Taking into account the tailor-made safeguard tools, the NRS is going to develop country specific social and environmental standards (SES) document in order to measure REDD+ with pre-identified and agreed standards. Moreover, safeguard information system (SIS) will be prepared to setup clear way of communicating safeguard information produced during the REDD+ implementation to the wider community to ensure accountable and transparent information sharing. SIS will address how information will be made available in quantitative and qualitative ways during REDD+ implementation period including impacts on rural livelihoods, conservation

of biodiversity, ecosystem service, governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ and implementation of safeguards. These documents, SES and SIS, will be ready until June 2016 and it will be published in the Secretariat website.

Ethiopia has REDD+ on-going initiatives managed by NGOs, civil societies and government institutions. These early level initiatives served as practical schools to scale up forestry related achievements to other areas of the country. As part of best practice and updated information exchange forum and feeding the national REDD+ strategy with relevant information, REDD+ Learning Network has been functional since the beginning of 2015 with voluntary membership of about seven institutions (NGOs, GOs, CBOs). The network has undertaken regular meetings quarterly facilitated by NRS. Memorandum of understanding will be signed, which is under preparation, with key stakeholders of REDD+ nationally for exchanging information during the implementation period. It will serve as smooth flow of information among REDD+ actors and enables to access information to outsiders with accountable and transparent system that will be in place.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework of the readiness phase was prepared in the first year of the project period which is the key guiding document in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the readiness process generally. As per the M&E framework, about 22 experts (3 females and 19 males) have taken training on "REDD+ Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation" topic with the participation of key stakeholders nationally and regionally. The training is expected to enhance the capacity of the experts in development of sound project document and capacitate the skills in monitoring and evaluation of project results at different level beyond the REDD+ concepts.

Timely reports are produced and delivered to respective accountable bodies quarterly, biannually and annually to communicate the achievements and inform the status of the readiness to date. The reports have been thoroughly discussed and reviewed with RSC and RTWG to ensure transparency process. Most of planned milestones in the M&E framework have been achieved but some minor milestones require further development and effort to attain the target. Generally, the overall progress has been promising to attain the targeted achievement within the time line.

Generally, all milestones of Ethiopia readiness M&E framework achievement report (traffic light reporting) has been attached in the annex Table 1 and anyone can get the remaining information from the table.

REMAINING ACTIVITIES AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

Under this component, great achievements have been recorded and some activities are paving the way for better attainment of other planned milestones in the coming months. But to point out some tasks that need due attention to consider in the remaining span of time is:

- > Serious attention should be given to speed up the elaboration and consultation of benefit sharing mechanism (BSM), SES and SIS documents in the coming months;
- The development of web portal registry for information exchange should be speeded up (which is now planned to be implemented in the coming few months); and
- ➤ Develop memorandum of understanding on multi-stakeholder mechanism for collection and dissemination of information among stakeholders (also being considered now).

3. ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE FCPF AND AF READINESS PREPARATION GRANTS (FCPF US\$3.60 million and AF US\$10.00 million)

In section 2 above, the overall achievements of key readiness activities and remaining gaps are discussed in detail with supportive evidence referenced from the M&E framework achievement report. It is attempted to show the accomplished tasks as per the plan and the way on how to deliver the remaining activities are briefly explained in the above section. This section will examine the critical challenges faced and the lesson learnt during the readiness process so far, and also assesses the financial utilization status of the readiness.

Ethiopia has received grant from two sources, FCPF Readiness Fund and BioCarbon Fund plus (Additional Funding-AF), to prepare the country for global REDD+ mechanism. In total US\$ 13.6 million finance has been allocated to support major readiness milestones within each component. The following table displays fund allocation for all components of REDD+ readiness.

Table 2: Activities Supported by FCPF and AF Grant Fund

Components	Source of Fund		
Components	FCPF (US\$)	AF (US\$)	Total (US\$)
Component 1: Support to the national readiness management arrangements	1,540,000.00		1,540,000.00
Component 2: Support to the design of a national REDD+ strategy	1,560,000.00		1,560,000.00
Component 3: Preparation of the national implementation framework for REDD+	500,000.00		500,000.00
Component 1: Support to the National Management Arrangements		979,052.00	979,052.00
Component 2: Establishment of MRV and REL for REDD+		4,628,148.00	4,628,148.00
Component 3: Preparation of REDD+ Pilot Projects		4,392,800.00	4,392,800.00
Total	3,600,000.00	10,000,000.00	13,600,000.00

3.1. Annual Working Plans and Expenditure Status

The launching of readiness was done in January 2013 and Ethiopia will be ready to the global REDD+ mechanism in June 2016 set as a target. Even if it is launched in January 2013, the full operational capacity for REDD+ secretariat was created in July 2013 with proper placement of key the staff. The implementation of readiness from 2013 to 2015 is therefore basically guided by the readiness M&E framework as source document to predict the future action plans. The target milestones set every year shape the annual working plan of each fiscal year. So every year the annual working plan is emanating from the annual target milestones indicated in the M&E framework and the respective financial resource would be allotted to each activity up on the weight of the task.

The FCPF fund has entered into operation since October 2012 which will expire in the coming June 2016 as the period has been extended to 9 moths considering the project delay at the beginning, and the AF fund has been effected since June 2014 with duration of three years until June 2017.

About 43.4% percent of the total FCPF fund had been expended with remaining51 percent of the grant amounthas been committed to different major works which are under progress and almost near to completion like procurements of 11 vehicles, 50 motor bicycles and other big consultancy works as of November 20, 2015.. Similarly, to date about 32.2 percent of additional finance from the allocated fund amount up to the current year had been disbursed whereas 39.15 percent of grant has already been committed to big tasks like FAO technical assistant project (MRV and REL/RL works), procurement of vehicles for Pilots and consultancy works in which 45 percent of the fund will be used in this fiscal year. The detailed expenditure report is attached in Table 2 and Table 3 in the annex 1.

3.2. Analysis of Key Challenges and Lessons

During implementation REDD+ readiness up to now, rewarding results are achieved with continuous effort of all actors including the Ministry's forefront leading and spearheading role. But significant challenges have also been encountered during the course of the implementation of the readiness including administrative, technical and procedural issues as discussed below. At the same time it is possible to draw lessons from results achieved to date to further encourage implementers and to scale up lessons for future use.

COMPONENT 1: READINESS ORGANIZATION AND CONSULTATION

Component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements Challenges:-

i. At the outset, institutional vacuum in forestry nationally urged to start from scratch in managing readiness, later on the GoE has taken big measure to institutionalize forestry in ministerial level.

- *ii.* Lengthy process in the procurement of goods and services (consultancy works) that influences the timely delivery of results as per the plan. This may be lack of capacity and also long bureaucratic chain to run the procurement on time, so that the MEFCC has to give due attention to make procurement process as easy as possible with compliance to the procedures and guidelines;
- iii. Lack of national capacity in MRV area justified to hire international MRV specialist and engagement of FAO for Technical assistance to Ethiopia on design and operationalization of the MRV systems. Our MRVSpecialist resigned in August 2015 and this resulted in a gap in capacity to follow up and guide MRV and REL/RL related activities nationally. Now an International Senior Forest Resource Assessment Expert hired by FAO is assisting to help fill the gap created. Further, MRV Expert, GIS and Remote sensing Expert and Socio-economist are being hired for the MRV unit to address the capacity gap in this area.
- *iv*. The delay in instituting MEFCC (extending its structure) across administrative scales hampered initiation of regional REDD+ coordination units.
- v. Lack of incentive mechanisms for Task Force members affected their consistent participation in REDD+ management activities.

Lessons Learnt:

- *i*. Inclusive and all round REDD+ management arrangement is highly relevant to create ownership among major actors and make easy to influence policy issues because of their presence in the major REDD+ events as decision making bodies; and
- *ii.* Timely financial assessment and auditing helps to take on spot adjustment and easy to catch early corrective measures;

Component 1b: Consultation, Organization and Outreach Challenges:-

i. Due to delay of website development access to REDD+ information is not easy now.

Lessons Learnt:

- *i*. There is a need to effectively communicate REDD+ concerns and issues to local level with their local languages context to ensure easily access of information and also utilize the community level communication channels like radio and other to enhance information outreach.
- ii. Consultation made during the preparation of different studies in REDD+ process particularly on SESA, and D & D studies contributed in participating the local community thus the documents included the interests, concern and recommendation of the stakeholders at different level including at grass root level. In the future while preparing different study documents engaging local community will help the documents to be contextualized and easily owned by the stakeholders.

COMPONENT 2: REDD+ STRATEGY PREPARATION

Component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use change, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

Challenges:-

i. Bringing in to picture all strategy options, policy and regulation recommendations forwarded in the technical studies and REDD+ strategy in to practice in the respective institutions are the forthcoming challenges. The ecological and social variation of the country would make it more complex in some area to follow similar strategic options requiring in-depth look at the situations.

Lessons Learnt:

- i. Agro-ecology specific interventions of REDD+ strategic options development and practice will have potential contribution to effectively address deforestation and degradation. Indepth assessments of the strategic options have given lessons to deal in agro-ecology context relying on existing causes of forest deforestation and degradation.
- *ii.* Continuous consultations of the studies from inception to final validation ensures the enrichment of the study results and make it more fine tune final result of the studies. It also advances to buy-in the ownership of the stakeholders.

Component 2a: Strategic Options Challenges:-

- *i*. The critical challenges encountered currently is lack of fund to support pilot investment activities to gain lessons through exercising proposed options in the different agroecology and socio-cultural set up to draw best lessons other than the on-going OFLP.
- *ii.* Bringing on board the various key stakeholders particularly line ministries like MoA was found to be a serious challenge. Weak cross-sectoral horizontal coordination would challenge the effectiveness of REDD+ implementation in the future.

Lessons Learnt:-

i. Extensive multi-stakeholder consultation should be conducted on issues particularly strategic options, so as to ensure buy-in across sectors and relevant implementing entities.

Component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts Challenges:-

i. Strategic environmental and social assessment is a tool used to make the programs environmentally and socially friendly but not exercised as such in the country. Moreover, Ethiopia does not have SEA proclamation and guideline thus it has implication on development and use the document in the future.

Lessons Learnt:-

i. SESA safeguard instrument is the first to be prepared for the forest sector.

Component 3: Reference Emission Level/Reference Level Challenges:-

i. Lack of adequate capacity to set and monitor RELs/RL nationally and regionally in the project or landscape level. Continuous capacity building work is essential to enhance the capacity in area of REL/RL.

Component 3: MONITORING SYSTEM FOR FORESTS AND SAFEGUARDS Component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System Challenges:

i. There is limited capacity in MRV system development and functional domestically. The resignation of the MRV specialist, who filled the technical gap in MRV, would pose a challenge in managing the FAO technical assistant MRV project particularly in assuring technical quality and methodological compliance of the deliverables as per the agreement.

4. SUMMARY

REDD+ is a flagship program in our ministry for addressing the critical challenges of forest resources. Deforestation due to agricultural expansion and forest degradation through unsustainable fuel wood production and extraction of timber and construction wood (often illegally and unsustainably) are the major challenges threatening the destruction of the forest resources. This has been boldly stated in the CRGE strategy, and REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus) is considered as one of the four fast-track initiatives for addressing these challenges by way of emissions reduction and carbon sequestration in the forest sector. As REDD+ is a performance based payment scheme, a robust forest monitoring and MRV systems should be put in place. This will gauge the performance of REDD+ activities following the implementation of the REDD+ strategy. To ensure sustainable and viable financial resources and realize the emission reduction targets in the Green Economy strategy (CRGE), Ethiopia has been implementing the REDD+ Readiness Phase since January 2013. Ethiopia's REDD+ Readiness is supported through the World Bank (FCPF and BioCarbon Fund) with a Readiness Grant of 13.6 million USD.

The National REDD+ Secretariat under the oversight of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is the prime coordination, planning and implementation unit for REDD+ readiness program in Ethiopia. The Secretariat is implementing the REDD+ readiness phase (R-PP Implementation) while also assisting the design of REDD+ Pilot programs in various regional states.

The readiness major activities include awareness raising, consultations, communications and capacity building on REDD+ across the country; building REDD+ institutions; designing the National REDD+ Strategy; and designing the National Forest Monitoring and MRV systems (including the National Forest Inventory); establishing the Forest (Emissions) Reference Level (FRL) and preparing the REDD+ safeguards instruments. Among the four major requirements of REDD+ Readiness (as per the Cancun Agreement and requirements from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF: the National REDD+ Strategy, Forest Reference Level and Safeguards

instruments are being finalized, while a robust National Forest Monitoring /MRV Systemis under development in cooperation with FAO. Within the National Forest Monitoring System (Forest Inventory), data collection and analysis has been completed for Oromya region, while 70% of the data collection for the whole country has been accomplished during last one- and-half years. The country has also developed preliminary estimates for Forest Emissions and Forest Carbon Removal/Sequestration. REDD+ institution building has been accomplished at federal and most regional states.

Significant capacity buildings, awareness, consultations activities as key aspects of readiness have been achieved so far, but as they are continuous process, they will continue to be implemented. Up until now the institutional arrangements at all levels have contributed to what is needed for the readiness process. All management arrangements are inclusive in which relevant stakeholders are part of the process in decision making, technical advice, consultation meeting and implementation of activities. All consultations are being communicated to the wider community through a temporary weblog for transparency and accountability.

Effective communication has played decisive role in channeling REDD+ information to our stakeholders and the communities for ensuring disclosure of information in suitable format of data access. The communication strategy, which is near completion, is vital in identifying appropriate communication media channels for REDD+ promotion considering the local context (language, culture, literacy, etc). All types of media channels, electronic, printing and social, have been utilized to address mass population and also for reaching particular population segment. Different promotional materials have also been used in major events of forestry and environment at national and regional levels.

With respect to fund utilization, the progress is very promising. From the 13.6 million USD amount of Readiness Grant, 1.869 million USD(51.92 percent) has been disbursed from FCPF, of which 1.84 million USD (51 percent) committed. Also from the Additional Funding, 3.226 million USD (32.27 percent)has been disbursed so far and 1.58 million USD (28.7 percent)has been committed. Given this status, it likely that fund utilization the REDD+ project will have hardly any problem at the end of fiscal period of the tow grants.

In conclusion, the Readiness implementation in Ethiopia has shown encouraging performance both in physical implementation and financial utilization.

5. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Annex 1.Table 1: Ethiopia's Progress Status of R-PP Based on Performance Measurement Framework Annual Targets

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	ievement ²	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
1	R-PP Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation									
1.1	Sub-Component 1a – National REDD+ Management Arrangements									
	Outcome 1 : Governance for REDD+ readiness process fully deployed									
	O1.1 Inclusive national REDD+ Steering committee (RSC) and RTWG fully functional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
	O1.2 At least4 inclusive regional Steering committees and 4 RRTWGs functional	n/a	1 Oromia RSC	At least 2 regional RSCs, 2 RRTWGs	1 regional RSC, 1 RRTWG					
	O1.3 MTR and R-Package discussed with all relevant Stakeholders including forest dependent peoples and local communities before submission	n/a	n/a	MTR discussed	Circulated MTR					
1.1.1	Output 1.a.1: All key REDD+ management structures are fully developed and functional									
i	Sufficient frequency of national and regional RSC, RTWG, and TF meetings to take timely decisions.	1 RSC	1 RSC, 2RTWG, 9 TF, 1 RRSC	2RSCs, 4 RTWG, 12 TF, 4 RRSC, 6 RRTWG	3RSC, 5 RTWG, 22 TF, 2 RRSC, 2RRTWG					
ii	At least 67% average of participation of members in meetings	60%	67%	67%	80%					
iii	Inclusiveness of national and regional SCs, RTWGs sustained	not fully inclusive	Inclusive	Inclusive	Inclusive					
1.1.2	Output 1.a.2: National technical supervision and fund management capacity fully developed									

²Green: Significant Progress; Yellow: Progress well, further development required; Orange: Further development required; Red: Not yet demonstrating progress; NA: Not Applicable

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achievement ² een Yellow Orange Red N			
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
i	100 % of REDD+ Secretariat staff positions occupied(7 technical, 4 fiduciary, 4 support staff)	10%	75%	100%	100%					
ii	100% of planned regional REDD+ coordination units established and functional	n/a	Oromia RCU created	2 RCU functional	4 RCU functional					
iii	90% of foreseen Training days according to Training plan for REDD Secretariat and RCU staff implemented	0	0	30%	30%					
iv	Allexternal audits submitted in due time and without major remarks	n/a	1 external Audit 2 WB Audits	1 external Audit	1 external Audit2 WB Audits					
V	100% of reports submitted in due time to REDD+ Governance structures such as RSC and FCPF	n/a	4 to MEF, 3 FCPF, 1 Norway, 1 DFID, in due time	4 to MEF, 2 FCPF, 1 Norway, 1 DFID, in due time	8 to MEF, 5 FCPF, 2 Norway, 2 DFID, in due time					
1.2	Sub-Component 1b – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach									
	Outcome 2: Relevant stake-holders at national, regional and local level capable and willing to engage in REDD implementation									
	O2.1 At least 4 governmental and 4 other REDD+ partner project proposals of REDD pilot sites submitting for REDD+ Funding	1 Oromia, 3 ongoing NGOproje cts	Site identification	3 governmental 1 additional NGO project	1 Oromia					
	O2.2 Increased degree of participation of different stakeholders in number, composition and levels in different events on REDD+	82	1000	Increase	Increase					
	O2.3 Increasing number of REDD+ activities organized by other stakeholders	n/a	TBD	Increase	Increase					
1.2.1	Output 1.b.1: Effective communication mechanisms on all aspects pertinent to REDD+ developed and implemented disseminating the necessary information to concerned stakeholders in appropriate formats									

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
i	1.b.1.i 100 % of communication strategy implemented	-	n/a	30% implementation	20% implementation					
ii	1.b.1.ii Media utilization	- - - -	3 2 3 0	4 4 3 2	4 6 3 0					
iii	1.b.1.iii High outreach according to planning in communication plan and positive Feedback on REDD+ media	-	n/a	Increase	Increase					
iv	1.b.1 iv Website regularly updated in English and Amharic with download possibility of all relevant REDD+ information and publications	-	Setup at MoA	Own Website established	On process to assign consultant					
V	1.b.1.v High Number of hits on the website and Active public debate on social media & on REDD+ and user question being answered	-	n/a	Increase in hits and comments	-					
vi	1.b.1.vi Guidelines for grievance and conflict resolution at different levels developed and introduced	n/a	n/a	n/a	Draft Document					
1.2.2	Output 1.b.2: Capacities for training and awareness raising (training of trainers) on REDD+ enhanced									
i	1.b.2.i 4 technical training modules on REDD+ developed	-	3 modules	3 modules upgraded 1 new module	4 modules prepared					
ii	1.b.2.ii 257 federal, regional and zonal technical trainers trained by gender (at least 30% females)	-	8 ToT, 27 others	257 technical trainers	52 ToT (3 women's), 27 others					
iii	1.b.2.iii 80% implementation of foreseen training days according to joint annual training program of key stakeholders on REDD+ by gender, topic, and region	n/a	n/a	50%	28%					
iv	1.b.2.iv 3 national and 3 regional training of in total 100 journalists/PR officers at least 30% females of pilot regions	-	-	1 national, 1 regional 50 journalists	On process to start the training					

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement ²	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
V	1.b.2.v 800 training days in forest governance for 10 foresters in 8 regions (10 training days per person) and at least 2000 foresters/ experts trained on woreda level (m/f)	1	35 regional foresters trained	32 regional foresters foresters/ experts on woreda level	35 trained & WGCFNR On process to start the training					
vi	1.b.2.vi 10 lectures on REDD+ at academia	-	3	3	4					
vii	1.b.2.vii REDD+ integrated into 1 Bachelor, 1 Master curricula including training material	-	-	0	1 B.Sc., 1 M.Sc.					
viii	1.b.2.viii 40 Ethiopian experts/decision makers who participated in any South-south learning activities (disaggregated by gender) (=FCPF C4.2.b)	-	6	15	6					
1.2.3	Output 1.b.3 Capacities of forest-related communities enhanced									
i	1.b.3.i At least 75% of community organizations and representatives in pilot sites trained in planning, public speaking, presentation and negotiation skills	-	-	25%	On process to start the training					
ii	1.b.3.ii Increase in representation of and contributions by FDP community members on REDD+ bodies and fora	low	low	At least 1 rep in each (R)RTWGs	At least 1 rep in each (R)RTWGs					
1.2.4	Output 1.b.4 Consultation of all stakeholders, forest dependent people and local communities at national, regional and local levels ensured									
i	1.b.4.i At least 4 meetings of National Consultative Forum (= FCPF 3.2.a)	-	1	1	2					
ii	1. b.4.ii At least 16 meetings of Regional Consultative/Awareness raising Fora	-	0	4	10					
iii	1. b.4.iii REDD+ meetings at woreda level in Woredas with RCUs	-	2	10	-					
iv	1.b.4.iv At least 30% of all participants in stakeholder consultation workshops are either women, young people or from FDP	-	-	20%	29%					
v	1.b.4.v Stakeholder profiles available for all woredas covered by RCUs available	-	0	1 region covered	-					

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement ²	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
1.2.5	Output 1.b.5 Results from local to national consultation processes are fed into REDD+ decision making and policy processes									
i	1.b.5.i Issues related to drivers, safeguards, stakeholder engagement, governance, MRV, non-carbon benefits and benefit sharing raised in consultation processes and issue based advocacy campaigns are reported to and discussed by RTWG or RSC	-	One discussion in RTWG	yes	yes					
2.1	Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance									
2.1.1	Output 2.a.1: Drivers of deforestation and degradation of forest are analyzed, nationwide discussed, prioritized and results are disseminated									
i	2.a.1.i Validated studies on Drivers of deforestation and degradation including REDD economics and disaggregated spatial analysis of drivers showing meaningful consultation of stakeholders available on REDD Secretariat website by 4/2015	n/a	ToR Tendering finished Oromiya Driver study ongoing	Study published on website by 4/15	Study validated					
ii	2.a.1.ii 1 national and at least 1 regional WS of consultation and information meetings held with relevant stakeholders with high consensus on findings	n/a	n/a	1 national and 1 reg. WS Oromiya 1 regional WS with participants from 3 Regions	1 national WS held					
iii	2.a.1.iii High positive media coverage on the assessment of drivers of D&D	n/a	n/a	High media coverage	Media coverage					
2.1.2	Output 2.a.2: Legal and institutional gaps for REDD+ implementation identified and necessary actions planned									
i	2.a.2.i Study report on institutional and legal issues (including tenure rights, carbon rights benefit-sharing mechanisms, coordination and fund management) for Oromiya and national REDD programs available 3/2015	n/a	n/a	Study published on website by 4/15	Study validated					

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement ²	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
ii	2.a.2.ii Action plan to address REDD+ in national regulations and policy reforms in forest, agriculture and energy sectors validated by RSC by 10/2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.1.3	Output 2.a.3: Experiences on PFM, afforestation and reforestation are assessed and shared									
i	2.a.3.i In-depth assessment of past experience in PFM, afforestation and reforestation including mapping of potential sites for up-scaling available by 6/2015	n/a	n/a	Study published on website by 6/15	On Planning to undertake the in- depth assessment					
ii	2.a.3.ii 1 national and at least 1 regional WS of experience sharing onPFM, afforestation and reforestation hold	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.2	Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options									
	Outcome 3: Comprehensive and coherent REDD+ implementation strategy developed and endorsed									
	O3.1 Final National REDD+ strategy report integrating experiences from Pilot projects on Technical and Governance issues endorsed by 6/2016	n/a	TF created and discussing	Preliminary strategy prepared by TF by 12 /2014	Final Draft Completed					
	O3.2 R-Package is in line with PC adopted assessment framework (=FCPF O1.A) by 6/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.2.1	Output 2.b.1: Strategic options are analyzed, consulted and prioritized									
i	2.b.1.i At least 7 published evidence based studies on REDD+ issues at different levels including results of national, regional and local stakeholder consultations available (5 new ones including 1 national, 1 regional, 3 small scale pilot studies)	2 reports (Farm Africa, CRGE)	studies identified	1 national, 1 regional, 3 small scale pilot studies available	1 national, 1 regional, 1 small scale pilot studies					
ii	2.b.1.ii Synthesis assessment of feasibility of selected strategic options (including social and environmental impact, costbenefits, legal aspects) available by 7/2015	n/a	n/a	Draft synthesis assessment available	Draft synthesis assessment available					

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achievement ² Green Yellow Orange Red N			
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
iii	2.b.1.iii Draft REDD+ implementation strategy available by 9/2015	n/a	TF created and discussing	Preliminary document available	Draft document available					
iv	2.b.1.iv Reports of 2 national consultative WS for endorsement of priority of options available showing high degree of stakeholder consensus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
V	2.b.1.v Synthesis leaflet on drivers and strategic options of REDD+ available by 01/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.2.2	Output 2.b.2: Strategic options tested and validated in pilot sites									
i	2.b.2.i At least 4 evaluation reports of pilot sites on technical REDD+ issues including concerns of key stakeholders consulted at community level published on website	n/a	n/a	Pilots started in 9/2015	Pilots started					
ii	2.b.2.ii All relevant technical aspect of REDD+ covered by good practices (PFM, climate smart agriculture, energy options, afforestation-reforestation, etc.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.2.3	Output 2.b.3: Thorough understanding of poor and best practices in REDD+ Governance									
i	2.b.3.i At least 4 REDD+ governance action research or pilot projects published on website	n/a	n/a	Pilots started by 9/2015	Pilots started					
ii	2.b.3.ii At least 10 best practices testing governance issues documented: i.e. cash flow, accounting, benefit sharing, democratic decision making, GRM and conflict resolution	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.3	Subcomponent 2c: Implementation Framework									
	Outcome 4: Governance framework for REDD+ implementation fully operational									
	O4.1 All identified necessary changes of policy and legislation in key REDD+ sectors made	n/a	Forest law revision on tenure, forest carbon and on	Forest law revision on tenure, forest carbon and on	Under revision (Forest law revision on tenure,					

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achievement ² reen Yellow Orange Red I			
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
			green economy initiated	green economy initiated	forest carbon and on green economy)					
	O4.2 Full architecture of institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation at national, regional and woreda level in place	R-PP concept	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.3.1	Output 2.c.1: Enabling institutional and legal environment for REDD+ implementation established									
i	2.c.1.i Number (according to gap analysis) of policy and legislation changes initiated in at least 3 key REDD+ sectors	n/a	n/a	Implementation of action plan on policy and legal changes started	Initiated to implement the action plan					
ii	2.c.1.ii Audit of current structure and amendments for institutional architecture of REDD+ implementation in national system at national and regional levels endorsed by 6/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
iii	2.c.1.iii REDD+ implementation manual published on website	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.3.2	Output 2.c.2: Transparent and efficient financing mechanism to channel carbon funds to the local beneficiaries established									
i	2.c.2.i Concept, budget, legal provision and inclusive institutional arrangement for Carbon performance based funding via special window at CRGE facility available	n/a	n/a	Carbon window operational	-					
ii	2.c.2.ii Time needed to channel international REDD+ funds from arrival at national level to local beneficiaries is less than 3 months	n/a	n/a	window operational 6/2015	-					
2.3.3	Output 2.c.3: Carbon benefit sharing arrangements established									
i	2.c.3.i Existence of a consulted Framework for Carbon benefit sharing arrangements assessed and validated by all Stakeholders	n/a	n/a	Draft by 4/2015 And testing stared	-					

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
2.3.4	Output 2.c.4: REDD+ Carbon registration established									
i	2.c.4.i Carbon registry for registration of carbon projects and carbon credits on web based registry started by 8/2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
2.4	Subcomponent 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts									
	Outcome 5: Measures to avoid or mitigate negative environmental or social impacts are in place and tested									
	O5.1 All foreseen measures in SESA implemented according to planning	n/a	Strategic workshop held	SESA implementation started	Implementation started					
2.4.1	Output 2.d.1: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) completed and findings integrated into REDD strategy									
i	2.d.1.i SESA validated by all Stakeholders by 8/2015	n/a	Shortlist established	SESA study completed by 1/2015	Completed					
ii	2.d.1.ii 1085 participants at 1 national, 1 regional, 10 local level consultations, with at least 525 men/ 275 women/ 275 youth from CSO and FDP(=FCPF 3.1.b)	n/a	n/a	Consultation+traini ng finished by 2/2015	On Progress					
2.4.2	Output 2.d.2: ESMF completed and findings integrated into REDD+ strategy									
i	2.d.2.i ESMF developed, consulted and validated by RSC by 8/2015	n/a	n/a	ESMF developed and consultation started	On progress					
ii	2.d.2.ii REDD+ strategy, monitoring and ER-Programs incorporate indicators related to biodiversity conservation, water resources and livelihood of local communities in addition to other co-benefits and safeguards(=FCPF 3.B.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
3	R-PP Component 3 - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels									

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
	Outcome 6: Methodologically sound Reference levels and REL(s) are endorsed and linked to the national GHG inventory process & policy framework									
	O6.1 National level for emissions and removals available by 6/2017 Oromiya regional REL/ reference levels endorsed by 6/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
	O6.2. Report on verification of carbon stocks of Oromiya available 6/2016, national verification report available by 6/2017	n/a	n/a	Work on Oromia regional REL/RL started	Setting REL/RL in Oromia is completed					
3.1.1	Output 3.a.1: Forest resources are inventoried and historical forest cover changes are assessed and mapped									
i	3.a.1i National forest definition consulted and adopted by 8/2014	n/a	National forest definition proposed	National forest definition adopted	National forest definition adopted					
ii	3.a.1ii Actual baseline data on rates and trends of deforestation and degradation of forests Oromiya region report including a basic land-cover/land-use map for REDD+ use available by 9/2015	n/a	Oromiya study contracted	Oromia analysis conducted	Oromia analysis conducted					
iii	3.a.1.iii Updated forest cover map from national forest inventory Actual national baseline data on rates and trends of deforestation and degradation of forests available 11/2015	n/a	FAO implementation plan elaborated	National Remote sensing carried out	On progress					
iv	3.a.1.iv Baseline data on carbon stocks in Oromiya based on current NFI available by 10/2015	n/a	n/a	carbon stocks under assessment	Completed					
V	3.a.1.v Baseline data on carbon stocks at national and other regional levels based on current NFI available by 6/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
3.1.2	Output 3.a.2: Reference scenarios and emission estimates developed									
3.1.2	Output 3.a.2: Reference scenarios and emission estimates developed									

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	ievement ²	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
i	3.a.2.i Number of persons trained in RL/RELs at different layers by gender (at least 30% women) and category of stakeholder	n/a	n/a	Training carried out at least in Oromiya	42 professionals trained in two round sessions					
ii	3.a.2.ii Reference scenarios and emissions modeling based on IPCC (at least Tier 1 standards) published by 12/2015 for Oromiya and 6/2017 for national level.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
iii	3.a.2.iii High acceptance of proposed RLs/RELs by 90% stakeholders in RSC/RTWG	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
4	Component 4: Monitoring system for Forests and Safeguards									
	Outcome 7:Reliable and verifiable data on carbon emissions and removal, REDD+ co-benefits, governance and safeguards available									
	O7.1 MRV System complies to international standards	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
	O7.2 Data verification reveals no major discrepancies in range of +/- 20% from original data	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
4.1	Subcomponent 4a: National Forest Monitoring System									
4.1.1	Output 4.a.1: Capacities of governmental, research and civil society actors on MRV are enhanced at national and decentralized levels									
i	4.a.1.i Number of Guidebooks published by 6/2016	n/a	1 carbon stock, 1 forest inventory, 1 GIS, 1 NTFP manual	n/a	n/a n/a					
	20 Trainers on MRV, Forest and Carbon monitoring available	n/a	n/a							
	Communication material for at least 3 themes available	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
ii	4.a.1.ii At least 4 pilot sites where MRV approaches for REDD+ have been tested	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement ²	2	
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
iii	4.a.1.iii National Carbon forest/land- usemonitoring unit fully staffed, trained and Data management system 100% operational by 06/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
iv	4.a.1.ivParticipation of CBO members in international trainings on MRV (20 male/20 female) (FCPF 3.1.b)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
V	4.a.1.v Forest and land use monitoring web- portal to display REDD+ information operational by 6/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
4.2	Subcomponent 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards									
4.2.1	Output 4.b.1: Joint Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance, and safeguards functional									
i	4.b.1.i Ethiopia comes up with its own REDD+ incremental multiple benefit standards by 11/2015	n/a	n/a	Draft available	Under Preparation					
ii	4.b.1.ii Ethiopia specific SES standards, and monitoring template agreed by 12/2o15	n/a	n/a	MoU available	Under Preparation					
iii	4.b.1.iii Ethiopia specific REDD+ implementation M&E Manual including guidelines for REDD+ multiple benefits agreed among stakeholders available	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
iv	4.b.1.iv MoU on Multi-Stakeholder mechanism for collection and dissemination of information among stakeholders available	n/a	n/a	MoUavailable	Under Preparation					
V	4.b.1.v Number by category of stakeholders and gender of REDD+ M&E trained staff in all participating stakeholders at least 30 % females	n/a	n/a	20 REDD+ M&E trainees	22 REDD+ M&E trained (19 males & 3 females)					
6	Component 6: Program M&E									
6.1.1	Output 6.a.1 Consulted Program Monitoring and evaluation framework functional									

		Baseline	Expected	Expected	Cumulative		Achi	evement ²		
No.	Components and Results	06/2013	Annual Target 06/2014	Annual Target 06/2015	Achievement as of 11/2015	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	NA
i	6.a.1.i PMF available by 7/2014	n/a	Draft PMF	M&E Framework by 7/2014	M&E Framework Prepared					
ii	6.a.1.ii 20 National quarterly reports submitted on reporting deadlines	4	4	4	4					
iii	6.a.1.iii 3 Annual reports and 4 biannual update submitted on reporting deadlines	4/14 1 biannual	1/1	1/1	2 annual report & 3 biannual update					
iv	6.a.1.iv 100% of draft annual reports reviewed and commented by relevant stakeholder groups	No	100% RTWG	100% RTWG	100% RTWG					
V	6.a.1.v. 100% achievement of planned project milestones (yellow or green traffic lights)according to approved Readiness Preparation grant (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.b.)	n/a	n/a	increase	increase					
6.1.2	Output 6.a.2: REDD+ readiness assessed									
i	6.a.2.i Consulted Mid-term progress review (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.a.) available 1/2015	n/a	n/a	MTR 1/2015	Ready in 11/2015					_
ii	6.a.2.ii Independent final review of R-Package (FCPF M&E Framework 1.A.2.) by 8/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					

Annex 1. Table 2: Expenditure Status of REDD+ Readiness Fund as at end of Quarter 2

Commonanta	Total Engl (USC)	Fun	ds Used (US\$)
Components	Total Fund (US\$)	Disbursed	Expenditure
FCPF Grant TF 13450	3,600,000	1,869,266	1,607,941
AF TF 17284	10,000,000	3,226,992	2,239,320
Total	13,600,000	5,096,258	3,847,261

Annex 1. Table 3: Environmental and Social risks under each Strategic Options

Environmental Risks	Social Risks
• SO1: Enhance cross-sectorial synergies and stakeho	
 Increased deforestation and forest degradation due to absence of full collaboration of sectoral institutes with MEFCC(e.g. law enforcement weakness) Less likely collaboration of sectoral institutes for joint planning on forest issues 	Increased forest products and NTFP prices Inefficient social service from the sectoral office due to absence or little synergy
SO2: Forest governance and law enforcement-	
May bring increased forest degradation from organized illegal cuttings May call for total environmental destruction from mass mobilized cuttings and setting of forest fire	Restriction over livestock pasture resource and expansion of farmlands Restriction over fuel, construction and farm implement forest resources Conflict between local communities and protecting agents Restriction over member of communities that traditionally use the forest for religious rituals Obstruction of routes that connect communities living on either sides of the forest Hosts wild animals that may frequently attack livestock of surrounding communities Strong institutions may override community based institutes that protected forest for centuries
• SO3: Forest tenure and property right	
 Attractive forest tenure and property right may increase land grabbing opportunity May increase the value of forest land over agriculture land Disrupts traditional tenure and forest management systems Change in land use type may be induced (e.g. from agriculture to forest or vice versa) 	Small holder farmers may be evicted from their holdings for forest investment Loss in land ownership may be induced (e.g. from private to government or vice versa) Coffee forest farmers may be affected by the change of the forested coffee to pure stand of forest
SO4: Land use planning	
Change in land use type may be induced (e.g. from agriculture to forest or vice versa)	Loss of land ownership may be induced (e.g. from private to government or vice versa) Coffee forest farmers may be affected by the change of the forested coffee to pure stand of forest
SO5: Ensure Sustainable Forest Management	
 Create economically driven forest mismanagement that may lead to forest degradation May instigate deforestation from marginalized local communities and/or little benefiting PFM members Low economic value forests in lowland areas may not attract PFM organization Coffee farming in the forest has already degraded biodiversity and further permit of coffee farming in the forest may worsen the condition 	Interventions of PFM are prone to any physical damage since it does not have legal support under Ethiopian law PFM experiences in Ethiopia is mainly in a high forests this may have negative impact to adapt in low land woodland areas where there is different socio-economic and ecological conditions Creates dependency syndrome on local communities because of long term incentivization by implementing projects to protect the resource

- Stakeholder and community may not be mobilized as required
- Tragedy of the commons

- Conflict over benefit sharing and marginalization of certain segments of local community
- Conflict over skewed power relationship
- PFM may involve the exclusion of previous forest users from accessing forest resources

• SO6: Enhancement of forest carbon stock

- Quarantined agroforestry species may become invasive and damage the natural environment
- May be less effective in cases where mono culture practice more benefits the environment (e.g. in dissected landscapes)
- Where the tree and crop or livestock components overlap in their use of resources, competition may lead to reduced productivity(e.g. Competition for water between tree and crop components is likely to limit productivity)
- Aggravate environmental degradation from setting of fires
- Aggravate illegal cuttings and destruction of regenerating biodiversity
- Increase conflict between wildlife & humans &increase crop pests (birds, mammals)
- Risk of monoculture plantation
- Compromise to local biodiversity
- Risk of harbor of crop pests in reforested area
- Some soil impacts can be expected as a result of plantation forests operations, including erosion, decreasing surface runoff and the development of a protective forest floor
- Poorly designed and mass mobilized conservation measures aggravate soil erosion

- Highly fragment land use types of an individual household and may end up in highly reduced products
- Difficult to introduce due to long gestation period of the trees
- Traditional monoculture farming system
- Intensive care for the various agroforestry practices consumes the time and energy of household members
- Physical relocation of local communities
- Restriction over livestock pasture resource & expansion of farmlands
- Conflict between local communities and protecting agents
- Obstruction of routes that use to connect communities living on either sides of area closure
- High costs of seedling production to carry out plantation relative to enrichment plantings
- Brings loss of economic benefits and Create access restriction for resource utilizations
- Create land computation with local community and can prevent human and livestock mobility
- From previous experience of large scale plantation people feel fear of loss of land ownership
- Fire is a concerns that fire will increase and could affect neighboring properties
- Some soil impacts can be expected as a result of plantation forests operations, including erosion, decreasing surface runoff and the development of a protective forest floor.

SO7: Agriculturalintensification

- Siltation of reservoirs
- Fertilizer runoff and leaching; eutrophication and effect on human health
- Runoff of pesticides and similar agricultural chemicals
- Eroded agricultural genetic resources essential for food security in the future.
- Increased pesticides harms animal and human health by accumulating in soils and leaching into water bodies
- Stalinization and regimes of underground water
- Inadequate drainage and over-irrigation causes water logging & Lowering of water tables
- Water diversions for agriculture are a major problem for many aquatic species.

- Create farmers to depend on agricultural inputs like fertilizer
- Reduces farmers' ability to use natural pest cycles, leading to increased need for pesticides
- affects human health due to agricultural chemicals
- Lack of awareness about appropriate use of chemical fertilizers/pesticides due to lack of education and knowledge of community, especially women
- Limited purchasing capacity of inputs(improved seeds, fertilizers seedlings) can limit potential gains
- CSA sometimes need adopting new farming system and technology which may not be both accepted earlier and afforded financially respectively
- Only rich farmers may benefit from CSA
- Prevalence of water-borne diseases (giardia, schistosomiasis, etc.) may increase
- Increased exposure to malaria
- · Shortage or lack of water resource to downstream users
- Conflicts between neighboring communities over water resource utilization

• SO8: Reduce demand for fuel wood and charcoal-

- Increased use of energy efficient stove may indirectly lead to high biomass energy demand and consumption which in turn cause deforestation
- Incur cost to poor local communities
- Difficult to adopt the technology due to cultural barriers (e.g. Preference of open over closed stoves for fumigation reasons)
- Difficult to adopt the technology in abundant forest resource areas
- May be difficult to supply energy efficient cooking stoves, biogas and electricity over short period of time
- May be difficult to supply the stoves in high demand areas due to long production-marketing chain

	Stoves in high demand areas due to long production-marketing
	chain
	• Exploitation by middle men in the market chain
	Time taking: long awareness creation and technology adoption process
SO9: Increase wood and charcoal supply	process
Exotic species may dominate as these are fast	High transport, operation and maintenance costs and the length of
growing than the indigenous	time it takes to reach commercial centers
Environmental degradation during harvesting and	May brings food insecurity as farm lands devoted to plantation
transporting time	• Labor may be a problem for the family to harvest the forest
Adverse micro-climate modification after harvesting	products
The act induce more numbers of charcoal users	Transporting to the market center may be a problem due to
which means more carbon emission	farmers financial capacity
Environmental pollution by particulate matters from the use of charcoal	Loss of livestock due to communal land (such as grazing lands) allocation for tree planting
High calorific value wood plantation leads to	Animal protein malnutrition (meat & milk) due to loss of
monoculture that brings about loss in biodiversity	livestock s grazing lands go for tree plantings
• Fire risks from the tree species planted for charcoal	Charcoal market problem may be encountered
production as they are susceptible to ignition	Indoor air pollution that may cause acute and chronic respiratory
	diseases, malignancies of the aero-digestive tract and lungs, burns,
	eye diseases
SO10: Improved livestock management	T
Solid wastes expected from poultry farm	Market problem of the products of livestock may be a challenge
Nuisance odor expected from poultry farm	Milk malnutrition especially to the kids
Mechanization leads to intensive use of agricultural inputs that results in pollution	Bird diseases that is communicable to human may be a problem Loss of assets (livestock) to be used for emergency case by selling
SO11: Promote supplementary income generation	Loss of assets (fivestock) to be used for emergency case by senting
Large number and frequent entry into the forest for	Conflict arise if unfair access or use right on NTFP prevail within
NTFP collection affects soil seed bank, regeneration	the community
and biodiversity	·
Fuel wood collection as NTFP affects the carbon stock of the forest	
• Some NTFP expand at the clearance of forest (e.g.	
coffee forest of the country)	
More number of forest enterprises put the forest	
under pressure	
May aggravate deforestation and forest degradation	
with the increase of the prices of forest products and	
NTFP parallel to increase in value chain	
• SO12: Capacity building	
Capacity building may only focus on entities that	Participation of women and wider stakeholder groups may be
have direct linkage to REDD+	neglected
Soft capacity may not reduce deforestation unless	Support may be shared by those who already have the needed
financial and material support is provided	capacity
• O13: Inter-sectoral coordination on planning and in	mplementation-
Lingering decision making process may result in	Stakeholders may not collaborate as desired
further destruction of forest resources	
• Inaction may weaken law enforcement and cause	
loose control over uncontrolled extraction	
• SO14: Demand-driven Research and extension link	aage
High priority environmental issues may be neglected	Community needs may not be properly addressed
Research results may not lead to action on the ground	Underserved communities may not benefit from the research and
100 read to detion on the ground	extension
SO15: Ensure full participation and equitable benefit to	
Loss of cultural, medicinal, etc. value species may	Weak collaboration of sectoral institutes in mainstreaming gender
occur while disregarding others than women	Disregard/ marginalize knowledge and expertise of others (other)
	area skill & knowledge will be eroded overtime)

- REDD+ implementation may results in more deforestation and forest degradation if it carries cost to the community
- Late recognizer of the benefit of the REDD+ project may adversely affected the REDD+ project forest
- Community may refuse to accept costs that REDD+ project brings to them
- Lack clear mechanisms for sharing benefits may result in grievances
- Overridden stakeholders adversely affect the implementation of REDD+ project
- Income difference may be created between the REDD+ project members and non-members
- Unequal participation in the development of bylaw may bring disparities in implementing the bylaw

Annex 1. Table 4: Environmental and Social benefits under each Strategic Options

Environmental Benefits	Social Benefits
SO1: Enhance cross-sectorial synergies a	
Help for sustainable reduction of deforestation and forest degradation reduce fragile ecosystem degradation due to large scale agricultural investment, mining, and infrastructure development	 create coherent vision that outlines a path towards sustainable forest management policy will be harmonized and key stakeholders will participate on implementation of the harmonized sectoral policy, create legal framework among key stakeholder to reduce deforestation
SO2: Forest governance and law enforcer	
 ensure the continuous recruitment of potential crop trees by protecting browsing & grazing in the existing forest put restriction on expansion of farm land into forest Enhance carbon sequestration/ maintain carbon stock Improve forest fire management Increase contributions of forests to watershed management, soil and water conservation and forest products utilized in other economic sectors such as health, food, and manufacturing and construction activities 	 Enhance forest ecosystem service to the local community, regional and global increase the contribution of forestry to the total GDP enable the local community to have detailed knowledge of the forest resource in their vicinity Increase Forestry's contribution to employment generation in Ethiopia help hydro power and irrigation dams not to be silted and make them sustainable
• Encourage biodiversity Conservation SO3: Forest tenure and property right	
Enhance natural resource conservation and local community involvement on reduction of deforestation and forest degradation	 Improve incentives or abilities to invest in forest sector help community to use their labour, wealth, and creativity in forest management help underserved community to access forest resource benefits
SO4: Land use planning	
 Help reduction of deforestation due to conversion of forest land into other land use. make sustainable and long-term land improvement and management practices 	 increase productivity of agricultural land reduce conflict between different key actors on land resource
SO5: Ensure Sustainable Forest Manage	
 Enhance sustainable forest development, Create sustainable forest use Help to create healthy regeneration, Forest boundary respected, Enrichment plantings, Open access regulated, Re- appearance of wildlife, Forest fire incidence minimized Help establishment of forest monitoring system all silvicultural treatments could take place with low financial input Improve biodiversity and forest quality, 	 Create partnership between government and community create access and benefit from forest resource for local community help respect rights, Change attitudes/ changing roles, help to address resource use conflicts, Democratic functioning Enhance participation of local community in forest management Create partnership between state forestry service and organized villagers Strengthen the existing traditional community based natural resource management institutions such as the Gada system of Oromo pastoralist Help to engage the forest dependent community to participate in Forest Resource Assessment,

- Enhancement of ecosystems services (water availability and other erosion control) in a sustainable manner
- Reduce deforestation and forest degradation,
- enable the local community to have detailed knowledge of the forest resource in their vicinity
- Help to sustain the flow of benefits which are to be fairly shared primarily between the communities and the state forest agency
- sustain and/or increase income opportunities from improved natural resource management and diversified livelihood
- Make sure the interventions are socially inclusive (gender and inter generationally) of use to underserved peoples and vulnerable groups

• SO6: Enhancement of forest carbon stock

- Improved soil fertility and yields, soil conservation, erosion control and water conservation
- Reduce pressure on forest resource for fuel wood, Contribute reduced deforestation, forest degradation and carbon emissions
- trees planted in agricultural land will help as wind breaks
- It help to hold soil in place during and after harvest of farm crops. This allows for ground moisture levels to remain regular, reduces soil degradation and erosion.
- ensure the continuous recruitment of potential crop trees by protecting browsing & grazing in the existing forest
- Encourage regeneration of flora diversity, and enhance biodiversity Conservation
- Enhance carbon stock in the forest area
- Help maintenance of landscapes and scenic views
- Natural and ecological forest will be protected from destroying availably, and the ecological environment will be improve and protect indirectly.
- Increase the capacity of water conservation,
- Increase habitat of wildlife, form the biological corridor, be in favour of biodiversity protection, Improvement in ecosystem services & forest resource coverage

- Increased income and savings
- Increased knowledge and experience related to agroforestry
- Improved food security and nutritional status
- Help diversification of income
- Increased firewood supply
- enhance ecosystem service for local community
- forest product provision for local community enhanced
- communities access a number of non-timber forest products for household needs like grass
- Increasing local economic opportunities including where possible jobs for people from local communities and deliberate use of local services.
- The fall in prices of forest products such as firewood and charcoal
- Supply for forestry products of lignum and fodder will increase
- reduce time and energy required to access forest product
- improve human settlements and quality of life

SO7: Agricultural intensification-

- enhanced land & crop management and conservation of agro-biodiversity
- reduce expansion of agriculture into forest land
- improve agricultural practices & Productivity of small scale agriculture will be enhanced
- Reduce Expansion of small scale agriculture in to forest area

- reduce poverty which led forest extraction for sale
- Enhance income of the community & Create job opportunity
- Improved household food security and diet
- Livelihood of the local community will be enhanced
- reduce expansion of agriculture & improve agricultural practice
- diversify crop production and nutrition

- Agricultural practices will be improved & Increase crop diversification
- Reduce forest degradation pressure on forest

SO8:Reduce demand for fuel wood and charcoal

- Provide alternative energy
- Reducing emissions of carbon monoxide by more efficient burning
- Reduce loss of forests and thus increased potential for biodiversity conservation and maintenance of ecosystems services
- Reduce in environmental pollution Conserve the forest
- saves time when collecting wood, saves money,
- Create additional income for small and micro enterprise stove producers
- reduce health impact of smoke from three stone open fire stoves
- Reduction of child labour for fuel collection & Reduce fuel expenditure
- reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants (IAP) such as carbon monoxide and particulate matters which affect women and children

SO9: Increase wood and charcoal supply

- More carbon sequestration and Microclimate improve
- Recurrent drought experienced by the country halt
- Reduce non-sustainable and high rates of wood fuel extraction that destroy forests and woodlands and the environmental services these provide including soil and water conservation
- decreases deforestation and forest degradation on other forests (such as high forest)
- increase on farm species diversity and enhance soil fertility and help to conserve resources
- avoid deforestation by overharvesting of charcoal production
- Reduce fuel wood consumption and then reduction of CO2 emissions from biomass
- reduce impact on endangered species since it will be done on invasive species like *Prospois Juliflora*

- Drive of economic development & Encourages the creation of wood industries
- create multiplier effects on the local economy through creation of employment opportunities at each value chain levels
- improve household income and socio-economic well-being of farmers
- Encourages the creation of wood product and Improves wood self sufficiency
- source of supplementary income or as women's work
- reduce migration from rural or forested areas and improve people's incomes
- charcoal makers would produce charcoal as their main activity
- Increase foreign income and create job opportunity for youth and landless people
- reduce impact of invasive species on range land and farm land

SO10: Improved livestock management

change impact of large crowd of livestock on regeneration or recruitment of seedlings by reduce number of livestock

- reduce pressure on the available resources and reduce poor range management involving overgrazing practices that increase soil erosion and increase amount of poor pasture and invasive plant species on the natural pasture
- reduce loss of livestock genetic resources
- Significantly reduce emissions from domestic animals.
- reducing the pressure on fragile ecosystems
- reduce pressure on natural resource by keeping animal draft for ploughing

- Effective, market-oriented livestock production increase output quantity, quality and prices
- Identify opportunities for the poor, especially women, to participate in value added production of livestock and livestock products, thereby capturing a greater share of additional value within the livestock production and marketing chain
- Improve livestock sector infrastructure and provide greater incentives for market participation and productivity
- increase income of the local community, create job opportunity for landless community members ,reduce farmers economic loss, secure sustainable household income
- Increase productivity of livestock
- increase animal protein supplies to match human needs
- Since it is initial investment cost is small it involve young, women and other community in poultry production, Mechanization leads to food self sufficiency,

• improve livelihoods of smallholder farming communities

SO11: Promote supplementary income generation

- improve the value of source of NTFP, thus reducing the risk of deforestation while still obtaining sustainable benefits from these forest for the local communities
- Enhance sustainable management and use of NTFP source of trees,
- substantial amounts of carbon will be stored both in the above ground and below ground biomass
- Increase substantial amount of carbon stock sequestration,
- forest resources will be sustainably managed
- Soil erosions will be substantially reduced
- reduce pressure on natural forest
- plantation forests will serve as a buffer zone of natural high forests and woodlands
- Regular forest resource monitoring system will be established
- reduce pressure on natural forest, and reduce illegal logging on natural forest
- help for sustainable management of the forest

- substantial contributions to the security of food and nutrition in drought periods, and main foods and supplementary diets in normal times
- contribute towards food security, improving health and nutrition, medicinal treatment, income generation, cultural heritage
- safeguard non-timber Forest resources and user rights
- communities will be able to sustain and improve their livelihoods without the destruction of the NTFP resources, water, Sources or ecosystems.
- Improve product supply, value chain dynamics and marketing. Communities will experience increased food security and household income, enabling them to invest in diversification, education, healthcare and better living conditions.
- When crops and livestock are insufficient, NTFP become essential for food and income.
- The national foreign expenditure for importing wood products will substantially decrease, and this will increase the national income
- The existing huge gap between demand and supply of forest products will be minimized
- poor people would have increased adaptive capacity to climate shocks by increasing their house hold income from direct selling of forest products
- create job opportunity for underserved community,
- Enhance household income and diversify nutrition of the community
- increase contribution of the forest resource for the national GDP,
- increase involvement of different stakeholders in the value chain process

So12: Capacity building

- strengthen conservation and rehabilitation of forest resources in a sustainable manner
- help to establish strong forest administration system capable of arresting the rapidly increasing rate of deforestation as well as controlling and preventing the disruption of the various ecosystems
- forest management knowledge will be created
- incentivize stakeholders to forest resource management and involvement of different stakeholders
- Strengthen government and community in management and introducing forest and other related livelihood alternatives
- increase capacity to tackle technical issues related to forest resource
- share experience and help to scale up best experience of forest management

SO13: Inter-sectoral coordination on planning and implementation

- strengthen sustainable forest rehabilitation
- reduce conflict among stakeholders working on land resources
- harmonize policy conflict
- create linkages with different stakeholders

SO14: Demand-driven Research and extension linkage

- enhance forest cover and conservation of the existing forest resources
- help to enhance government budget for forest governance and establishment of better intuitional set up for the sector
- help promoting technologies of forest management, renewable energy and
- encourage private sector to involve and invest in the sector
- policy makers give proper attention for forest sector
- create knowledge to be shared scale up for the sustainable benefits of the community
- establish data base system on forest resources
- analyze gaps and provide solution for social problems

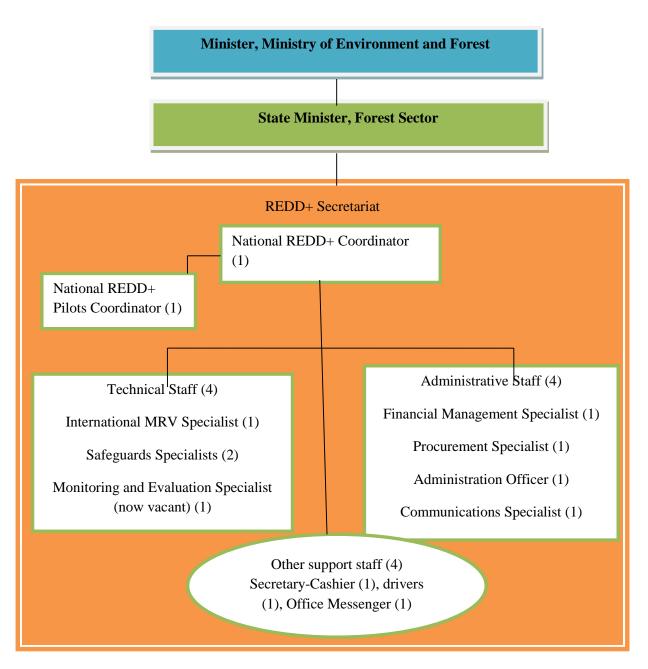
agroforestry to meet the needs and	
sustainable implementation of REDD+	
 help sustainable afforestation and 	
restoration of forest resources	
SO 15: Ensure full participation and equ	itable benefit for women
help sustainable conservation of forest resources	women participation in forest use and management will be enhanced
 help sustainable conservation of forest 	Women's concerns of tree planting will be addressed
resources	Improve security of tenure for women by planting boundary
	trees
	• it has the potential to positively affect women's roles and status
	in relation to land ownership and management
	Women's knowledge of landscapes and ecosystems can help REDD+ projects succeed
	women's inclusion exhibits the likelihood to improve forest conditions
	Women's inclusion in REDD+ is itself a crucial safeguard issue that warrants immediate attention
	Help to compensate women equitably for their engagement in
	forest protection and carbon monitoring activities.
	Women organizations may get information in all phases of
	REDD+ Implementation
	Women can play an essential role in forest monitoring
	• enhance women involvement in and influence over decision-
	making processes that define their access to forest rights and
	resources, and rights to assets, including land and other property
SO 16: Benefit sharing	
• enhance conservation and rehabilitation of	Help to organize community groups and regional
forest resources	government/forest services share the benefits,
• enhance participatory conservation of	ensure poor and underserved/disadvantaged groups have equal
forest resources	chance to participate
• ensure the participation of communities in	Create relevant stakeholder and local community ownership to
forest protection and conservation	the forest
• help conservation of the forest resources	• Increase off-farm income generating activities for communities
by the forest local community	living adjacent to protected areas
	Membership developed by-law clearly specifies duties and
	responsibilities of the CBO members. This enable to resolve their
	problem themselves

Annex 1. Table 5: Member Institutions in Oromia REDD+ Steering Committee and Oromia REDD+ TWG

Members of Oromia Region REDD+ Steering Committee	Members of Oromia REDD+ Technical Working Group: Senior experts from:
H.E Vice President of Oromia Regional State	Oromia Bureau of Agriculture
Head of Bureau of Agriculture	Oromia Enterprises' Supervising Agency

Head of Oromia Enterprises' Supervising Agency	Bureau of Land and Environmental protection
Head of Bureau of Land and Environmental Protection	Bureau Water, Minerals and Energy
Head of Bureau Water, Minerals and Energy	Oromia Research Institute
Head of Oromia Reaserch Institute	University of Jimma, Adama and Haromaya
President of University of Jimma, Adama and	Wondo Genet college of Forestry and Natural
Haromaya	Resources
Dean of Wondo Genet college of Forestry and	Representative of Forest Union
Natural Resources	
Representative of Forest Union	Bureau of Women and Children
Head of Bureau of Children and Women Affairs	Oromia forest and Widlife Enterprise
Head of Oromia forest and Widlife Enterprise	Oromia Cooperative Promotion Agency
Head of Oromia Cooperative Promotion Agency	Oromia Livestock Agency
Other institution representatives when deemed necessary	Oromiya Investment Commission

ANNEX 2. Current Organizational Structureand Staffing REDD+ Secretariat



ANNEX3: Sample of attendance sheets si authorities	signed by participants and sealed by local
	60

Annex 8: Sample Attendance sheet for Dodola Woreda Men FGD, Oromia Region

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	me of Woreda <u>Oodola</u>			
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Annex 9: Sample Attendance sheet from Decha Woreda Youth FGD, SNNP

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Annex 10: Sample Attendance sheet from Arba-Minch Zuria Woreda Consultation, SNNP Region

Porm 1.4: Attendance Sheet for SESA-ESMF Date 10-06-015 Name of Woreda Ahm Zuna Woreda	
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Name of Woreda	
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Annex 4: List of REDD+ Task Force Members

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