

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA

June 2013

1. R-PP Implementation and FCPF Readiness grant

- The R-PP was approved at PC8 of March 25, 2011 in Da Lat, Vietnam through Resolution PC/8/2011/4 with conditions to undertaking adjustments on some of the components
- The R-PP was revised as per Resolution PC/8/2011/4 and was submitted to the FCPF FMT on May 25, 2011.
- The FCPF grant was signed in October 2012.
- DFID and Norway have committed to providing additional funding for the Readiness process in Ethiopia through the WB BioCarbon Fund. The identification of the activities to be financed through the BioCF is ongoing.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- A Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) was established in year 2010 by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to oversee the development and the realization of Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy
- The MSC is accountable to the Parliament and to the Environment Council (EC) that is chaired by the Prime Minister. It is responsible to review and approve all initiatives (including REDD+) in order to bring about zero net emission economic development of the country
- A multi-sectoral National CRGE Technical Committee (TC) was established at the beginning of 2011 with the main objective of supervising at higher level activities of emission reduction across seven sectors. This body is now also designated as REDD+ Steering Committee of the country
- Under the TC, multi-sectoral REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) exists with main function of reviewing REDD+ policies, programs and projects in order to inform decision at TC and REDD+ Secretariat level
- The REDD+ Secretariat was situated at the Federal Environmental Protection Authority (FEPA) during the R-PP development phase (2009-2011). It was moved to the Natural Resources Management Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in accordance with the agreement between the GoE and Development Partners at the November 2011 mission for the R-PP assessment
- The State Minister of Natural Resource Sector will oversee the development of REDD+ Readiness Process
- The REDD+ Secretariat within MoA is now operational, with a National Coordinator employed at full time. Other key staff members of the Secretariat will soon be hired, including the communication, safeguards, senior monitoring & evaluation, procurement and financial management specialists. Recruitment process has started for these positions. Senior MRV and Remote Sensing Specialists will also be hired during the next fiscal year.
- The federal/national REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC) was re-established and conducted its first meeting on March 29, 2013. The RSC members are composed of concerned government (both at federal and regional levels), non-government or civil society organizations, women and youth representative, mass media, academia and research institutions. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the RSC has been endorsed by the members
- The REDD+ Focal Points have been identified in all regions of the country and at present these focal points are also serving as the CRGE Focal points. The regional REDD+ Focal Points will be members of the REDD+ national Technical Working Group (TWG)
- The national REDD+ TWG member institutions have been identified and the establishment of the TWG will soon be undertaken. Moreover, the MoA/REDD+ Secretariat planning to establish three REDD+ Expert Groups (i.e REDD+ Strategy preparation, MRV / REL establishment, and Safeguards / SESA) at the upcoming Technical Working Group meeting/workshop. Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) has been prepared for the three REDD+ Expert Groups
- Local level REDD+ Readiness Focal Units and Technical Working Groups are to be strengthened (where these exist) or established during the readiness phase.

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3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- 1st National level Consultation and Participation Workshop was held from April 29-30, 2010 where relevant stakeholders were invited and able to discuss among others on global REDD+ initiative for the first time, on who should actively engage on REDD+ initiative (stakeholder analysis) and on the scale and drivers of D&D in Ethiopia
- 2nd National C&P workshop was called on June 17th& 18th, 2010 to discuss specific issues of the R-PP, including: the design and ToR for RSC, RTWG, RTFG, and RRTWG; D&D drivers; and preliminary REDD+ strategy options
- A total 26 sub-national, local and forest dependent community C&P workshops were conducted across 7 regions from July 2010 to February 2011.
- The CRGE development was also another important platform for furthering R-PP discussions. Through this program, key issues under the R-PP were presented and dialogues were held across all the regions of the country, among sectoral agencies and all concerned NGO groups.
- Several of these national and sub-national discussion forums were covered by national and local media outlets including radio, TV and newspaper. In addition, the REDD R-PP Secretariat contracted a national radio station to run a 20 minute weekly awareness raising program emphasizing on problem and possible solution of D&D
- Feedbacks collected from all C&P forums were incorporated in the R-PP

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- Through the formulation process of CRGE Strategy, it became evident that the two main drivers of D&D are agricultural land (crop land) expansion and unsustainable fuel wood consumption.
- Based on these two main D&D drivers, Ethiopia has identified 9 candidate REDD+ strategic options (emission reduction levers)
- A preliminary baseline, BAU and REDD+ based emission quantification have been already established. But, these processes (results) are still crude; need further refinement through action research on the ground.
- A preliminary study on the cost benefit as well as environmental social impacts on the identified strategic options has also been included at this stage.
- At the Readiness phase, those prioritized strategic options will be tested through action research using pilot projects;
- The Government of Ethiopia (i.e. the MoA) selected the Oromia region to undertake a jurisdictional pilot REDD+ project in afro-montane forests of southwest and southeast portions (mainly in the Bale mountains) of the region as part of the national REDD+ readiness process to ensure that concrete activities on the ground generate knowledge for the establishment of the REDD+ Strategy and the REDD+ structures in the country. The pilot project is expected to be led by the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) with the involvement of federal and regional level offices of the MoA and EPA
- The MoA/REDD+ Secretariat in collaboration with OFWE, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Farm Africa organized a national workshop on “The development of the Oromia State Jurisdictional Emissions Reduction Program (ER-P)” which was held in Hawassa, Ethiopia from May2-3, 2013.
- The FCPF with the MoA and other development partners organized an international workshop on “Linking Local REDD+ Projects to National REDD+ Strategies” was held in Hawassa, Ethiopia from April 29-May 1, 2013. The objective of the workshop was to foster a dialogue across policy makers, practitioners, civil society organizations and private sector from 12 countries in Africa and beyond on the design of a national REDD+ strategy and the role of ongoing initiatives targeted at reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

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5. Implementation Framework

- Review, adjustment and where relevant, formulation of conducive-new policies, legislations and other regulatory measures are to be carried out in order for Ethiopia to be ready for REDD+
- Mechanism for effective enforcement and redressing illegality shall be put in place during the readiness phase
- A REDD+ Secretariat has been established within the CRGE unit of Ministry of Agriculture; considerable capacity building activities are planned to strengthen the REDD+ Unit as well as the RTWG/RRTWG
- A dedicated national forestry institution has been in place both at the federal and regional levels before long time, which are forestry case team in the Natural Resources Management Directorate of MoA and forestry (natural resources management) process at regional, zonal and woreda levels. In addition CRGE coordination unit, which has direct and indirect contributions for REDD+ implementation, has already been setup with 6 key expertise positions and a National Coordinator
- Small scale candidate/potential REDD+ project forest sites have so far been identified from different regions of the country, beside the jurisdictional level REDD+ pilot in Oromia Regional State

6. SESA

- The Ethiopia's R-PP mainstreamed requirements of SESA into its components/sub-components. It includes the terms of reference for the development of Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
- A SESA Expert Group will be established within the REDD+ Secretariat at in the upcoming REDD+ Technical Working Group meeting. The draft ToR for SESA study and ESMF development has already been prepared
- Extensive SESA/ESMF capacity building activities are to be carried out at the REDD+ Secretariat and RTWG levels.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- A preliminary assessment of baseline and 20-year projection of emission and potential emission reduction levels were undertaken while preparing the National CRGE Strategy. The result of this assessment will be further investigated in the R-PP implementation stage.
- Both national and sub-national approach will be employed to establish RL/REL
- Woody Biomass Inventory and Strategic Planning Project (WBISPP) data and classification approach is to be adopted again in order to do inventory and quantification.
- A MRV / REL Expert Group will be established within the REDD+ Secretariat at the upcoming REDD+ TWG meeting.

8. MRV

- A national workshop entitled "Developing a Roadmap for an Ethiopian National REDD+MRV Framework" was conducted at the end of October 2012 in Addis Ababa. Based on the workshop materials and discussions the MRV road map draft ToR document has been developed.
- The ToR document has been prepared by the MoA and EPA with the financial and technical support obtained from the Norwegian embassy and Wageningen University
- Woody Biomass Inventory and Strategic Planning Project (WBISPP) data and classification approach is to be adopted again in order to do inventory and quantification

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- **A MRV / REL Expert Group will be established within the REDD+ Secretariat at the upcoming REDD+ TWG meeting**
- **Financial support has been provided by the governments of UK (DFID) and Norway for implementing the REL/MRV and other activities in the R-PP through the WB BioCarbon Fund.**

9. Other