

# MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

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NATIONAL REDD+ SECRETARIAT

REDD+ SEMI-ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT

[FINAL]

**COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA**

**PERIOD: August, 2014<sup>1</sup>– March, 2015**

**March, 2015**

**Addis Ababa**

**Ethiopia**

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<sup>1</sup> This report covers activities implemented since the launching of the R-PP implementation in January 2013. Activities implemented during the reporting period are clearly indicated and the new updates in the report are to be compared with earlier report communicated to FCPF in August 2014.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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**National Context for REDD+:** REDD+ is part of a national strategy, referred to as Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy that aims at the main sectors of the economy to develop an environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economy, which brings the country at middle income status with net zero emission by 2030. 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.

The government of Ethiopia has established the Ministry of Environment and Forest mandated to coordinate among other development programs, the implementation of the CRGE strategy, and overall environmental and forest management in the country. The Forest Sector as one of the two major technical wings of the ministry is responsible for the implementation of the REDD+ readiness project in conjunction with its responsibility of strengthening the economic and ecological benefits of the forest sector in the country.

REDD+ readiness is financially supported by the FCPF Readiness and BioCarbon Fund grants. The FCPF grant was signed in October 2012, although use the fund started late in June 2013. The balance of the funding required for implementation of the R-PP is provided by the Norwegian government and UK's DFID through BioCarbon Fund. The REDD+ at the Minister of Environment and Forest is the grant executor/implementer. Besides fiduciary support, the World Bank provides technical support for the implementation of REDD+ Readiness.

The REDD+ Secretariat at the Ministry of Environment and Forest is the prime unit for the coordination and implementation of the national REDD+ process, with main focus on the R-PP implementation since January 2013. The Federal REDD+ Steering Committee provides oversight for the R-PP implementation and the Federal Technical Working Group and three national Task Forces (MRV, SESA and REDD+ Strategy) provide technical guidance for REDD+ readiness. Currently, one Regional REDD+ Coordination Unit has been opened in Oromia Regional State to support regional capacity building and to coordinate the implementation of Oromia Forest Landscape Program. Three other Regional REDD+ Coordination Units are in the process of being established for similar purposes.

**Purpose of the Report:** Biannual and annual progress reports for Readiness are provided for the FCPF following a reporting format developed by the FCPF team. The report basically intends to provide information to track progress and changes made over the specified period so as to disclose the progress status to donors and other stakeholders. Thus, this semi-annual update is compiled to inform FCPF and other relevant stakeholders about the activities undertaken and progress made on REDD+ Readiness during the period of August 2014 to March 2015, while maintaining important achievements made since the official launching of the R-PP implementation back in January 2013. Although the report is made to the FCPF, the report includes all activities implemented by the additional readiness grant through BioCarbon Fund.

The layout of report includes: short summary, main achievements and results achieved during the reporting period, progress at the impact level; progress at the output and outcome levels; challenges and risks encountered; and the main lessons learnt so far.

## 2. SUMMARY OF REPORT

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Earlier the following major achievements were reported:

- With respect to creating the REDD+ institutions, the government has shown its commitments to REDD+ by the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MEF), mandated, among others, to realizing the goals of the CRGE strategy, and REDD+ being a key part of the strategy. The REDD+ Secretariat had moved from Ministry of Agriculture to MEF in October 2013 and is accountable to the State Minister for Forest Sector within the new ministry.
- Another key achievement has been the staffing of the REDD+ Secretariat with key staff in a reasonably adequate office space, furniture and office machines.
- The REDD+ Secretariat has completed the required REDD+ management arrangements at federal level. Regular meetings are being held with members of the REDD+ management bodies including the Steering Committee, Technical Working Group and 3 Task Forces as planned in the REDD+ Readiness M&E framework. This process has continued at Regional level by the recently established Oromia REDD+ Steering Committee. To date, 2 Steering Committee, 5 Technical Working Group and 17 Task Force meetings were conducted at the federal level; and 1 Regional Steering Committee and 2 Regional Technical Working Group meetings took place in Oromia region.
- REDD+ awareness and training showed good progress during the previous reporting period reaching over 1500 people (including the REDD+ management members, parliamentarians, Vice-Presidents of Regional States), who were introduced to the concept and application of REDD+ and about the purpose and status of the Readiness process in Ethiopia.
- All mobile subscribers in Ethiopia have been made aware of the REDD+ Secretariat during the tree planting season. An SMS was sent to 12 million customers of Ethio-telecom with key messages on forest conservation and afforestation.
- In collaboration with the Office of Government Communications, a seminar was conducted on CRGE strategy, REDD+, and Forest sector Development to 50 media experts and reporters in the country. Interestingly, the Government Communications Office took the initiative to visit and conduct REDD+ awareness to the media community with the conviction the REDD+ program crucial for changing the land degradation and deforestation situation in the country. The media community has been instructed to create further awareness on REDD+ to their respective audience, which has been demonstrated through writings on newspapers and radio transmissions after the seminar.
- The REDD+ Secretariat facilitated the preparation of a new REDD+ support program to the Government of Ethiopia from Norway. In August 2013, Norway and Ethiopia have signed a REDD+ Partnership Program for support based on performance. On the basis of this framework agreement, Norway is providing further financial support for the implementation of the REDD+ program in Ethiopia, which different from readiness grant provided by Norway through the World Bank.
- As a result of the country's performance in REDD+ Readiness in 2013 and 14, Norway provided additional USD 10 million for supporting REDD+ program in Ethiopia that assists the implementation of REDD+ pilots in regional states and allow to fully implementing the R-PP to make the country ready by mid 2016.

The key achievements in the Readiness process during this reporting period are the following:

- The REDD+ Readiness M&E Framework has been completed in consultation with a short term consultant hired by the World Bank, and agreed up on with the ministry. This has made planning and implementation of REDD+ Readiness quite easier. In this Readiness M&E framework detailed annual plans and milestones have been elaborated. With ambitious scenario of accomplishing the major outputs at satisfactory level, REDD+ Readiness is targeted to be completed in June 2016.
- Following the decision of the ministry to finalize readiness in June 2016, an ambitious Annual Working Program has been prepared and endorsed by the ministry on behalf of the Federal REDD+ Steering Committee with the consent of members.
- Recently, a revision of the Procurement Plan of FCPF grant has been made aiming to increase disbursement and speed up the implementation of the FCPF supported readiness activities as well as finalizing major readiness activities by June 2016. All the effort is being made to use all the FCPF grant by the end of September 2015.
- In terms of raising awareness and communications, the REDD+ Secretariat has covered six regional states so far with regard to REDD+ awareness. Additionally, two regional and one national level conferences have been conducted during the reporting period.
- TV and radio channels have been used extensively to raise awareness on REDD+, forest sector and CRGE strategy, besides printing and distributing New Year Postcards and Calendars to key stakeholders just before the Ethiopian New Year. A temporary web blog has been developed while continuing the process of hiring of a national consultant for developing a standard website, now a committee is working on selecting a suitable candidate.
- A draft national REDD+ strategy has been developed and presented to stakeholders including in Lima at the Peru (COP-20) in the presence of our development partners. The draft will benefit from the national level assessments/studies and those made for the Oromia Forest Landscape Program. Early action on REDD+ strategy development has been sought just to provide information that feeds into the national forest sector planning for the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-2), while promoting awareness on the ambition of the country regarding REDD+ program.
- Another major development during this reporting period is the signing of a big consultancy contract with FAO for technical assistance for the Implementation of the national Forest monitoring systems including REDD+ REL and MRV. The contract agreement was signed on August 7, 2014 and the MRV project has been officially launched in September 2014 in the presence of key stakeholders. Some delay has been made in the implementation of the MRV project activities due to the need for correcting the contract agreement document based on the recommendation by the World Bank's procurement specialist. By now the required contract revision has been completed and the necessary funding for FAO TA has been blocked, and advance money transfer for implementation of agreed work plan is being processed. FAO has been generously using its own resources to continue implementing some activities and purchase of vehicles and equipment for supporting the National Forest Inventory so far. The budget for this contract will be drawn from the additional finance, not from FCPF grant.
- Two other large consultancy contracts on national level assessments have been signed: one on the 'drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategic options for addressing those' and another on 'Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Formulation of ESMF'. The Secretariat has also been technically backing the Oromia studies for the design of the REDD+ program during the same period.

- In terms of capacity building and sensitization of higher officials, REDD+ Secretariat supported and led the implementation of REDD+ exposure visit to Indonesia for higher officials from regional states and the ministry including president of Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, advisor to President of the Amhara Regional State and State minister for Forest Sector. Support has also been provided to seven people from key stakeholders to participate in Lima at the Climate Conference (COP-20). REDD+ project has also supported a short term training on financial management for the Director of Finance Directorate of MEF in Tanzania.
- A REDD+ training and capacity building contract is being processed with Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, an established forestry education institution, for providing training on REDD+ and Climate Change and related topics for 200 regional trainers (ToTs), 100 journalists and public relations officers from various institutions and to 40 local community leaderships. First round of training of trainers (ToT) will join the college during the month of March if the contract is signed soon.
- Ethiopia wishes to aggressively work on REDD+ demonstration and piloting and this has been reflected in the R-PP and in the REDD+ readiness M&E framework. Along this line, the establishment of Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit hosted at the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) has been completed during this reporting period. The Coordination Unit is now fully staffed and operational with responsibilities of coordinating the design and implementation of the Oromia Forest Landscape Program and of supporting the regional capacity building activities. Besides, three other REDD+ Coordination Units are being established in Amhara, Tigray and South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples regional states for planning and implementation of regional REDD+ pilots and regional capacity building activities. A national consultant has been hired to facilitate the design of regional REDD+ pilots programs in the three regional states. The highlands forests in the four regional states will be brought under REDD+ programs, in doing so almost all highland forests of the country will be covered with REDD+ program during the coming few years.
- A national forest definition has been adopted by the Forest Sector Management at the Ministry of Environment and Forest. It will be endorsed by the minister soon.
- Following the revision of the Procurement Plan for the 2015 fiscal year in consultation with the World Bank, bids have been floated for procurement of vehicles, office furniture and computers (for MEF and Regional REDD+ Coordination Units) that will be used to speed up the federal and regional level REDD+ readiness activities. It is envisaged that goods will be delivered before the FCPF grant period expires. So far, procurement of office furniture and office machines for the REDD+ Secretariat and Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit have been completed.
- Overall, all components of REDD+ readiness in Ethiopia are by now up in the running, and we anticipate that Ethiopia will adequately satisfy most readiness criteria and get ready by June 2016.

The major challenges included the following:

- The major challenge has continued to be delays in procurement of vehicles and consultancy services and associated low disbursement. Delays in payments to consultants already hired has been due to limited experience of the fiduciary units of the Ministry on the World Bank finance and procurement procedures. This has contributed to low financial utilization of the REDD+ project. The World Bank has attempted to address the experience gap and effort is being made to raise capacity of these units by providing short term training. Importantly, the Minister has

given strict direction for the procurement and finance units of the ministry to pay special attention to the REDD+ Secretariat, which are now showing improvements.

- Another major action made to compensate for the low disbursement of FCPF grant and to utilize the entire budget of FCPF until the coming September 2015 is the revision of procurement plan, and the ministry is working towards the implementation of the revised plan by keeping the current momentum.
- Generally, the REDD+ readiness implementation has shown good progress during the reporting period.

### 3. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS DURING THE PERIOD

*The section below should provide qualitative and quantitative data on the progress towards expected results along the following subsections. Information is to be provided cumulatively. If the information requested is not available or not relevant at the time of the reporting, mention “does not apply – n/a”.*

#### 3.1 PROGRESS AT THE IMPACT LEVEL (if any data available)

*Please provide here any quantitative and qualitative information, if available on the following criteria/indicators.*

<p>Number of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from deforestation and forest degradation reduced in the country during the reporting period as compared to the measured REL/RL, if any (FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator I.2.B; Ethiopia PMF Indicators O6.1 and I2):</p>	
<p>National Forest Reference Emission Level (REL)/Reference Level (RL) defined:</p>	n/a
<p>Number of tons reduced during the reporting period as compared to REL/RL: Government and non-government initiatives and actions exist widely on the ground, but no system has been put in place for monitoring the impacts. The MRV project will address problems related with monitoring and registry. Otherwise, the major initiative is the Oromia Forest Landscape Program, which is in its design phase. This program is expected to generate up to 40 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e until 2020 and up to 120 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e until 2035 (with minor changes in the ERs generated with the current revision of the program focusing on two large forested landscapes in West and South East Oromia). A consultant is hired to facilitate the construction of REL for Oromia program. The Oromia regional level project design is showing good progress and all technical studies needed for the design of the project have been finalized and discussions are going on the refinement of the design activities. The Bale Eco-region REDD+ project and other initiatives by NGOs also exist in Oromia region. Effort is made now on integrating these initiatives by various actors with the Oromia Jurisdictional REDD+ program as an umbrella. The Bale REDD+ project alone will generate over 20 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions reduction in 20 years. The recent initiative by our ministry is developing REDD+ pilots in three other regional states, and a national consultant is hired to facilitate the development of program concept. Briefly, with respect to REDD+ Piloting in other regions the following have been achieved: Guideline for screening and selecting REDD+ Pilot sites has been produced by a national consultant; recruitment of Regional REDD+ Coordinators for</p>	

Tigray and Ahmara region is being finalized; evaluation of proposal by suppliers for the procurement of office equipment for Regional Coordination Units (RCU) is being undertaken. Bid has been floated for the procurement of vehicles and motor cycles for Regional REDD+ Coordination Units, including for Oromia REDD+ Coordination unit. The regional REDD+ piloting initiative is expected to cover at least all highland forests in the three regions with significant amounts of ERs anticipated to be generated. Other project level actions also exist in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples by NGOs - another region with high forest cover after Oromia region. Information on ERs from these needs to be gathered as yet in connection with the development of national REDD+ registry.

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.4.A; Ethiopia PMF indicator 5.a.1.ii):	
Source: Norway for Readiness	Amount provided: USD 5 million
Source: DFID (UK) for Readiness	Amount provided: USD 5 million
Source:	Amount provided:
Source:	Amount provided:
Source:	Amount provided:

Amount of non-FCPF investments received for implementation of ER Programs (e.g. FIP, bilateral donors, private sector), if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.4.A; Ethiopia PMF indicator I3.4):	
Source: Norway for Oromia REDD+ program design	Amount provided: USD 3 million
Source: Norway (Performance Payment from ERs from Oromia Forest Landscape Program)	Amount provided: USD 50 million
Source: Norway (Payment for Readiness performance as per the bilateral REDD+ Partnership Agreement )	Amount provided: USD 10 million

Level of multi-stakeholder participation and engagement in decision making processes related to emission reductions and forest resource management (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.5.A; Ethiopia PMF indicator II.1): Please describe the process of engagement and consultation implemented, including describing the level of participation and engagement for the following stakeholder categories: Government Agencies, Indigenous Peoples, Other forest-dependent peoples, Women, Youth, Civil Society Organizations, Private Entities, Donors, and Others
<p>The leadership of REDD+ Readiness now resides in the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MEF). The REDD+ management arrangements involve the REDD+ Secretariat implementing the Readiness process on behalf of the ministry. The role of the Secretariat is to facilitate, coordinate and spearhead REDD+ process by bringing together relevant stakeholders to engage in decision-making and action. At the federal level REDD Steering Committee (RSC) and REDD Technical Working Group (RTWG) and three specialized Task Forces have been established. The State Minister for Forest Sector is chairing the National REDD+ Steering committee, a decision making body providing oversight for REDD+ Readiness. Members of the REDD+ Steering Committee are drawn from key REDD+ government institutions such as MEF, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ministry of Children,</p>



Women and Youth, Deputy Director Generals of Regional Forest Enterprises, Representatives of Forest Cooperatives and Academic Institutions, and the Media. The Technical Working Group is providing technical guidance and quality assurance. It is chaired by the Director of Forest Policy and Strategy of MEF. The RTWG draws members from government institutions, civil societies and donors. Three task forces focused on REDD+ Strategy, MRV system and Safeguards regularly meet and actively engage in providing technical support to REDD+ readiness.

The new development during the reporting period is that the federal level management bodies had held their regular meetings in the desired frequency with the participation of 80 percent of members present in the meetings. The REDD+ management arrangement is gradually moving to embrace the regional states level REDD units. Regional Steering Committee and Regional Technical Working Group have been functional in Oromia Region, with representatives from the forest-dependent peoples and civil society organizations. These management bodies (SC and TWGs) in Oromia region had meetings with the desired level of participation. Similar arrangements are being followed in other regional States, such as REDD+ Coordination Units, playing the role of the REDD+ Secretariat at Regional Level, are being organized in SNNPR, Tigray and Amhara regional states. With respect to engagement of stakeholders, all workshops and conferences at national and regional levels deliberately involved women, the youth and local community representatives.

Nb. and type of policy reforms initiated, completed or underway complying to REDD+ standards, if any (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.5.B; Ethiopia PMF indicator II.2*):

Number of policy reforms during the reporting period that are:

**Ongoing: 2 and Completed: 1**

Description of these policy reforms:

(1) The Ministry of Environment and Forest has revised the existing Forest Policy and Proclamations. This revised document has been discussed widely with national and regional stakeholders. Currently it is submitted to the minister for submission by the House of People's Representatives for endorsement. The revision took account of the new developments in the forest sector including REDD+, carbon rights, etc.

(2) The Forest Regulation that details the Proclamations has been prepared and discussion with key regional stakeholders has improved the content of the regulation significantly.

(3) Proclamation No.803/2013, the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Forest that amended the previous Proc. No.295/2002 for the establishment of the Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia. This legislative reform brought the Environment and Forest sectors under a single institutional arrangement.

## 3.2 PROGRESS AT THE OUTCOME AND OUTPUT LEVEL

### 3.2.1. REDD Readiness Progress

- Outcome level



As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly describe here the progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.A; Ethiopia PMF indicator 11.3.2):

Briefly describe progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package:

A recent decision has been passed by the ministry to speed up the implementation of REDD+ Readiness of the country which is envisaged to be satisfactorily achieved in June 2016. R-Package will be developed just after this target date. Currently, a process for hiring a national consultant for undertaking Readiness Mid-term review has been initiated. The assignment has been advertised and potential candidates have applied for carrying out the this task.

• Output level

Please indicate which of your country R-PP components and sub-components have received support from FCPF through the Readiness Preparation Grant (>3.6 million USD)		
Components	Sub-components	Planned Support from FCPF (Yes/No)
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements 1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach, feedback and grievance redress	Yes (1,540 = 42.8%)
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options 2c. Implementation Framework 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Yes (2,060 = 57.2%)
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		No (0 %)
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System 4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	No (0 %)
6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework		No (0 %)

Level of implementation of R-PP<sup>2</sup> as a whole:

Please describe the current R-PP implementation stage:

**National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements:**

Earlier we reported the following achievements: During the R-PP development in Ethiopia national stakeholders pointed out that lack of a dedicated forest institution as a serious gap for REDD+ program in the country. In response to this, the government of Ethiopia has made a keystone action for realizing the goals of the CRGE strategy (REDD+ included) by establishing the new Ministry of Environment and Forest. Another key achievement in this

<sup>2</sup>Please note that you will be able to assess progress on the implementation of R-PP-P components and sub-components in table included in the following pages.

component has been the staffing of the REDD+ Secretariat and procurement of the major goods with the FCPF grant. All staff needed at the Secretariat have been already recruited. The establishment of the federal REDD+ management arrangement (Steering Committee, Technical Working Group and three Task forces supporting the development of the national REDD+ Strategy, Safeguards, and MRV).

During this reporting period, the Steering Committee, TWG and TF meetings were held as per the plan. The main agendas for the meetings were reviewing the Annual Work Plan for the FY 2014/15, technical support in the REDD+ strategy design, technical support on SESA, MRV, ESMF, REL/EL and other milestones of the R-PP. All expressed their appreciation on the progress made so far despite existing challenges in the procurement capacity of the new ministry.

**Stakeholder Consultations and Communication:** Earlier it was reported that REDD+ awareness and training had been given to all members of the REDD+ management bodies. Awareness have also been expanded to the regional higher officials, senior experts, parliamentarians, research academic institutions and civil society in a series of workshops and seminars.

In this period, following the approved AWP, three Regional REDD+ awareness Workshops, two Regional REDD+ Conferences and one National REDD+ Conference [in the national conference 88 women and 297 men have attended] have been held so far, which is 75% of the required stakeholders engagement workshops planned during the fiscal year. The REDD+ conferences have shared experiences and lessons drawn from NGO experiences in Humbo Community Assisted Natural Regeneration (Carbon Project), REDD+ NTFP, REDD+ PFM and other best practices supported with video, field visits and other learning materials. The participation of women in these important REDD+ events was 11%, but youth associations and high level political figures such as zonal administration have also participated in these events. The Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit has also undertaken community consultations at the community level based on the developed Consultation and Communication Plan to 145 community members (10 women and 135 men) and local leaders. Besides the regular regional Steering and TWG meetings have been held and regional workshops were held with participants from various sectors including high level and local government officials Oromia REDD+ awareness.

With respect to communications and outreach, via TV and radio (we have reached millions of Ethiopians with several programs on REDD+, CRGE strategy and forest sector. Among these are 2 TV programs (questions and answers) and 2 live radio talk shows on REDD+ and Climate Change thematic areas are notable ones. Awareness creation also involved use of use print media and other materials (brochures, caps, pens key holders with REDD+ logo) by distributing on various events such as national tree planting campaigns. Other printed materials include the publication and distribution of 2500 new-year postcards, 2500 calendars and various quick publications brochures. SMS text message has been used to inform about forestry and REDD+ Secretariat to 12 million mobile telephone clients, While speeding up the development of a standard website with a national consultant, we have created a temporary blog web account ([www.reddplusethiopia.wordpress.com](http://www.reddplusethiopia.wordpress.com)) and information on REDD+ and related data is being organized and uploaded. For large scale and efficient communication and outreach, we have a national consultant working on

developing REDD+ communications strategy. This assignment is progressing well despite some delays at the beginning.

With respect to capacity building at a bigger scale, contract for training of stakeholders is being finalized with Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources. Training sessions are set to start during the third quarter.

### **REDD Strategy Preparation:**

Ethiopia has finalized the draft REDD+ strategy and presented at the COP 20 - the Lima Climate Change Conference, in December 2014. The REDD+ Strategy Task Force has taken the lead technically in the development of national REDD+ strategy. The national REDD+ Strategy development will continue to improve with inputs from the three technical studies for the design of the Oromia program, which are by now finalized, among which the most important is the study on the identification of drivers of deforestation in Oromia by UNIQUE, which was almost completed and the strategic options are identified. The national driver assessment has been launched January, 2015. The SESA and ESMF formulation assignment has also been launched in February, 2015. These national level assessments together with the national legal and institutional assessments by CLIMATE FOCUS should help guide the development of the REDD+ strategy.

### **Implementation Framework:**

Earlier, we reported the key action in this component as the establishment of a dedicated national forestry institution that has been put in place now at the federal level: Ministry of Environment and Forest (MEF). The CRGE forms the national framework strategy for the implementation of REDD+ program in the country. Forest sector (REDD+ envisaged as a major monetizing/financial mechanism for forestry and related activities) is one of the four pillars of the green economy component of the CRGE strategy.

During this reporting period, several activities have been implemented on REDD+ implementation enablers. The study on the national level assessments on the legal and institutional assessments by CLIMATE FOCUS has provided a foundation on critical enabling conditions for REDD+ implementation, despite the need for more refinements on the recommendations. The studies provided recommendations on REDD+ implementation institutional arrangements, identified policy and legal gaps and touched up on the possible REDD+ Fund management institutional arrangement and proposed benefit sharing mechanism. The results will certainly help creating the necessary of enablers for REDD+ implementation with further discussions and amendments with national stakeholders.

The ministry is now actively engaged in the careful revision of the Forest Proclamation (No. 542/2007) and recently agreed on a national forest definition to be endorsed by the ministry. The ministry has also taken measures such as holding regular meetings with heads of regional environment and agriculture bureaus for establishing the appropriate regional institutions for forest and environment sectors. Now there is a consensus that most Regional States will create Forestry Institutions at Regional levels parallel to the federal Ministry of Environment and Forest for the implementation of GTP-2; REDD+ being among the planned activities. To strengthen the involvement of regions in REDD+ implementation, Regional REDD+ Coordination Units are either established or are being established in four

strategically selected regional states including Oromia, Tigray, Amhara and South Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regional states.

#### **SESA/ESMF:**

A Safeguards Task Force has been established a year ago which has been functional since then. The SESA process is lead by the two Safeguards Specialists at the REDD+ Secretariat: one Environmental Safeguards Specialist and one Social Development Specialist. In collaboration with Safeguards TF, the experts lead the development of national C&P plan and the capacity building activities on safeguards. The national SESA/ESMF assignment is coordinated primarily through the two specialists. REDD+ awareness workshops and regional conferences that were conducted during the reporting period have deliberately targeted the participation of women, the youth and local community representatives. The launching workshop for the SESA/ESMF formulation was conducted on February 27, 2015 with the involvement of national SESATF members, World Bank safeguards experts and other relevant national stakeholders. The results of SESA/ESMF studies will inform the development of sound REDD+ strategy sensitive to managing social and environmental risks..

#### **Development of a Reference Scenario and MRV Design:**

A REDD+ MRV implementation project has been developed with the support of MEF and the MRV task force earlier. For the implementation of the National Forest Monitoring System and REDD+ MRV, the GoE and FAO signed a Technical Assistance (TA) agreement on August 7, 2014 that would run for a period of 2.5 years. with a total cost of USD 3, 915,348. The major tasks of this TA are establishing the RELs/RLs, undertaking the National Forest Inventory and designing the MRV system. Details of the TA include undertaking the National Forest Inventory, institutional arrangements for REDD+ MRV, analysis of existing data and developing data management and storage facility, developing generating and analyzing new forest datasets, establishing reference levels, developing benchmark forest map, designing monitoring systems for deforestation, forest degradation, and carbon enhancements, developing web-portal for REDD+ actions monitoring, and national capacity building through training on MRV and installing national RS/GIS unit. FAO TA will be financially supported by the Readiness Fund from the BioCarbon Fund. by the decision passed by the forest sector of our ministry, the national REDD+ Coordinator is the coordinator of the MRV project while the International MRV Specialist at the REDD+ Secretariat leads the national MRV process. Joint Steering Committee drawn from members of national MRV Task Force and FAO, and Project Implementation Team (PIT) composed of key staff from the ministry and FAO are being formulated. The national task force will provide oversight overall national MRV process. The blanket withdrawal for the FAO TA has been made by the government, and now FAO is processing an advance payment request to the World Bank for implementing MRV tasks planned for 2 semesters. During the reporting period, FAO and MEF have been implementing the MRV project following an agreed up on 6 moths work plan as of September 2014, largely drawing financial resources from FAO itself. A REDD+ Compliant National Forest Inventory which has been launched in March 2014 has as of now covered one-third of the country. As part






of the NFI and MRV process, a national Land Use Land Cover map has been completed; only ground truthing remains to be done in the coming months.

As part of the preparation for the MRV system design and NFI, an ad-hoc expert team was established to propose a national forest definition, which has produced a draft definition on which first round of consultation was done and now agreed up on at the Forest Sector management level at the ministry, later to be endorsed by the ministerial management. Overall, all components/subcomponents of the readiness are up in the running at this point in time.

Level of achievement of planned milestones according to approved FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.6 million USD) (*FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.b.*)<sup>3</sup>:

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<sup>3</sup>Please note that the FCPF grant agreement contains no defined milestones. The Banks Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) for Ethiopia Report monitors three outcomes, which are listed here together with activities from the Grant agreement (article II) reformulated into outputs.

<u>Planned Milestones :</u> <i>Outcomes according to REDD+ Readiness M&amp;E Framework</i> The National REDD+ Secretariat within MEF fully operational A national REDD+ Strategy including its legal and institutional framework, fully prepared and validated by a broad spectrum of national stakeholders An ESMF fully prepared and validated  <i>Additional outputs expected by grant:</i> REDD+ Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups (RTWG) at the national and regional levels operational Consultation and Participation Plan of the R-PP implemented and targeted communication material prepared  In-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Ethiopia conducted, identifying potential pilot REDD+ projects and ensuring knowledge exchange on the strengths and weaknesses of PFM in Ethiopia  SESA of REDD+ in Ethiopia including multi-stakeholder consultations conducted  Feedback and grievance redress mechanism assessed	<u>Level of Achievement<sup>4</sup>:</u> The National REDD+ Secretariat within MEF fully operational Draft national REDD+ strategy has been developed. SESA/ESMF assesemnt has been launched in February and thus going on by now  SC and TWG, and TF holding regular meetings as per plan Consultation and participation engagements are going on according to plan. Communications using print and electronic media (TV and Radio, Internet) materials, and social media used to raise awareness  ,The national study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation has been going on sine January 2015. Drivers of deforestation study for Oromia was completed and strategic options are identified that helps to feed in to the design phase of the Oromia project.  The SESA/ESMF study launching workshop was conducted on 27 February, 2015 on which relevant stakeholders were consulted on methodology and plan.  Grievance redress mechanism, benefit sharing, REDD+ fund management and legality of ERs are assessed by firm which conducted the	<u>Tracking<sup>5</sup>:</u> <i>Please select your light rating:</i>  <input checked="" type="radio"/> Significant progress  <input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required  <input type="radio"/> Further development required  <input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress  <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable  <i>Please explain why: The planned activities have been implemented as per the schedule in keeping the desired quality so far; and the milestones will be realized in the current pace of progress (Rating: GREEN).</i>
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




<p>Studies and analysis carried out to identify options for: i) development of an efficient, effective and fair mechanism for sharing benefits related to the implementation of REDD+;</p> <p>ii) mechanisms for managing funds at the national level and for distributing them to the local level; and</p> <p>iii) legal status of emission reductions (carbon credits) in Ethiopia</p> <p>A national registry system to monitor, report and verify REDD+ activities and track financial flows to REDD+ activities designed</p>	<p>National Institutional and Legal framework assessment</p> <p>Planned during the 2016 FY</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>	
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<sup>4</sup>Countries are expected to provide data on the overall level of achievement of planned milestones as defined in their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, and, if applicable, additional grant of up to \$5 million. For instance, under their Preparation Readiness Grant Agreement (>3.2 million USD), Countries should provide data on (i) the support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations; (ii) the contribution to the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy; and (iii) the preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+

<sup>5</sup>The level of achievement of planned milestones according to approved RF grant is to be summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of an overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale (based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework) and then explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale "Non Applicable" can be selected.



Degree of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component and sub-component (*FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c.*).  
 Countries are expected to rate progress toward the implementation of R-PP sub-component only once a year, as part of the reporting submitted by August 30<sup>th</sup> each year

Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation					
Sub-Component 1a – National REDD+ Management Arrangements <i>Purpose: setting-up national readiness management arrangements to manage and coordinate the REDD-plus readiness activities whilst mainstreaming REDD-plus into broader strategies</i> <i>Assessment Criteria:(i) accountability and transparency; (ii) operating mandate and budget; (iii) multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration; (iv) technical supervision capacity; (v) funds management capacity;</i>	O1.1 Inclusive national REDD+ Steering committee (RSC) and RTWG fully functional O1.2 At least 4 inclusive regional Steering committees and 4 RRTWGs functional O1.3 MTR and R-Package discussed with all relevant Stakeholders including forest dependent peoples and local communities before submission  1.a.1.i Sufficient frequency of national and regional RSC, RTWG, and TF meetings to take timely decisions. 1.a.1.ii At least 67% average of participation of members in meetings 1.a.1.iii Inclusiveness of national and regional SCs, RTWGs sustained 1.a.2.i 100 % of REDD+ Secretariat staff positions occupied(6 technical, 4 fiduciary, 4 support staff) 1.a.2.ii 100% of planned regional REDD+ coordination units established and functional	Yes  1Oromia RSC 1 Oromia TWG  Postponed to September 2015  2RSC, 2RTWG, 9TF, 1RRSC 80% Inclusive 100% 1RCU operational	Yes  1Oromia RSC 2 TWGs  MTR discussed  2RSC,2RTWG, 12TF, 4RRSC, 6RRTWG 67% Inclusive 100% 2 RCU operational	Yes  1Oromia RSC 1 Oromia TWG  Postponed to September 2015  1RSC, 1RTWG, 6TF, 1RRSC, 1RRTWG 80% Inclusive 100% 1 RCU operational	 Significant progress     Progressing well, further development required     Further development required   Not yet demonstrating progress

<sup>6</sup>The level of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component should be self-assessed and reported, as well as summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of this overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then briefly explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale 'Non Applicable' can be selected. This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework. The R-Package assessment criteria are included to assist countries identify, plan and track their readiness preparations progress with the core aspects and desired outcomes of readiness preparation activities as contained in R-Package Assessment Framework.

Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
(vi) <i>feedback and grievance redress mechanism</i> <sup>7</sup>	<p>1.a.2.iii 90% of foreseen Training days according to Training plan for REDD Secretariat and RCU staff implemented</p> <p>1.a.2.iv All external audits submitted in due time and without major remarks</p> <p>1.a.2.v 100% of reports submitted in due time to REDD+ Governance structures such as RSC and FCPF</p>	<p>0</p> <p>1 external audit 2 WB audits</p> <p>2 MEF, 2FCPF, 1NORWAY, 1DFID</p>	<p>30%</p> <p>1 external audit</p> <p>4 MEF, 3FCPF, 1NORWAY, 1DFID</p>	<p>14%</p> <p>1 external audit</p> <p>2 MEF, 2FCPF, 1NORWAY, 1DFID</p>	<p> N/A</p> <p> Non Applicable</p> <p><b>Please explain why: The activities have been implemented towards the milestones that enable to achieve the expected results in the timeframe (Rating: GREEN).</b></p>
<p>Sub-Component 1b – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach</p> <p><i>Purpose: broad consultation with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs, to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency and accountability of decision-making</i></p> <p><i>Assessment Criteria: (i) participation and engagement of key stakeholders; (ii) consultation processes; (iii) information sharing and</i></p>	<p>O2.1 At least 4 governmental and 4 other REDD+ partner project proposals of REDD pilot sites submitting for REDD+ Funding</p> <p>O2.2 Increased degree of participation of different stakeholders in number, composition and levels in different events on REDD+</p> <p>O2.3 Increasing number of REDD+ activities organized by other stakeholders</p> <p>1.b.1.i 100 % of communication strategy implemented</p> <p>1.b.1.ii (will be refined according to communication strategy)</p>	<p>1 Oromia, 3 Ongoing NGO projects 3 regional projects by gov.</p> <p>More than 1000 (increased)</p> <p>3</p> <p>--</p>	<p>3 governmental 1 NGO projects</p> <p>Increased</p> <p>2</p> <p>30%</p>	<p>1 oromia , 3 NGO porjects ongoing 3 sit identification and concept development for REDD+ piloting going on in 3 regional states</p> <p>More than 1000 (increased)</p> <p>3</p> <p>--</p>	<p> Significant progress</p> <p> Progressing well, further development required</p> <p> Further development required</p>

<sup>7</sup>Grievance redress mechanism is treated under subcomponent 1B indicator 1B.1.vi.

Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
<i>accessibility of information; (iv) implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No of Electronic (audio-visual) media</li> <li>- No of Print media</li> <li>- No of Social media</li> <li>- No of REDD+ newsletter</li> </ul>	4 4 3 -	4 4 3 2	4 4 3 -	 Not yet demonstrating progress   Non Applicable  <b>Please explain why: The intended activities in this component show remarkable progress but in training delivery, a little delay has been foreseen. Therefore, due attention will given to these activities in the remaining quarters (Rating: YELLOW)</b>
	by Target group, language and region	-	2	-	
	1.b.1.iii High outreach according to planning in communication plan and positive Feedback on REDD+ media	Increased as compare to last fiscal year	Increased	Increased as compare to last fiscal year	
	1.b.1 iv Website regularly updated in English and Amharic with download possibility of all relevant REDD+ information and publications	Blog account website established Blog account website established	Own website established	Blog account website established and uploaded	
	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	n/a	n/a	
	1.b.1.vi Guidelines for grievance and conflict resolution at different levels developed and introduced	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	1.b.2i 4 technical training modules on REDD+ developed	4 modules	4 modules	4 modules	
	1.b.2.ii 235 federal, regional and zonal technical trainers trained by gender (at least 20% females)	25 technical trainers	257 technical trainers	25 technical trainers	
	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	More than 50%	50%	More than 50%	
	1.b.2iv 3 national and 3 regional training of in total 100 journalists/PR officers at least 30% females of pilot regions	0	50 Journalists	Training manual prepared	
	1.b.2.v 800 training days in forest governance for 8 regions (10 training days per person) and at least 20% females		32 regional foresters	Training manual prepared	









Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
	1.b.2.vi 10 lectures on REDD+ at academia	35 trainers (4 females) (350 days)	3	3	
	1.b.2.vii REDD+ integrated into 1 Bachelor, 1 Master curricula including training material	3	0	0	
	1.b.2.viii 40 Ethiopian experts/decision makers who participated in any South-south learning activities (disaggregated by gender) (=FCPF C4.2.b)	0	6	6	
	1.b.3.i At least 75% of community organizations and representatives in pilot sites trained in planning, public speaking, presentation and negotiation skills	6	25%	Training manual prepared	
	1.b.3.ii Increase in representation of and contributions by FDP community members on REDD+ bodies and for a	0	At least 1 representative in each RRTWGs and 5 at stakeholder fora	Involve at least 1 in Oromia RRTWG and more than 5 in stakeholders fora	
	1.b.4.i At least 4 meetings of National Consultative Forum (= FCPF 3.2.a)			1	
	1. b.4.ii At least 12 meetings of Regional Consultative/Awareness raising Fora		1	2	
	1. b.4.iii REDD+ meetings at woreda level in Woredas with RCUs	1	4	2	
	1.b.4.iv At least 30% of all participants in stakeholder consultation workshops are either women, young people or from FDP	2	2	2	
	1.b.4.v Stakeholder profiles available for all woredas covered by RCUs available	2	20%	35%	
	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	35%	1 region covered	On progress	
		On progress	yes	yes	






Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
	campaigns are reported to and discussed by RTWG or RSC	yes			












Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> <i>(Please select your light rating)</i>
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
R-PP Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation					


















Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	

Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
<b>Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance</b> <i><u>Purpose:</u> identification of key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, as well as activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks</i> <i><u>Assessment Criteria:</u>(i) assessment and analysis; (ii) prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement; (iii) links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities; (iv) actions plans to address natural resource right, land tenure, governance; (v) implications for forest law and policy</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	ToR Tendering finished Oromia Driver study finalized and National on progress	Study published on website	On progress to disclose on blog account website Oromia Driver study finalized and National on progress	 Significant progress  Progressing well, further development required
	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	1 national and 1 regional	1 national and 1 regional	1 national and 1 regional	
	2.a.1.iii High positive media coverage on the assessment of drivers of D&D	High positive media coverage	High positive media coverage	High positive media coverage	
	2.a.2.i Study report on institutional and legal issues (including tenure rights, carbon rights benefit-sharing mechanisms, coordination and fund management) for Oromia and national REDD programmes available 3/2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	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 5/2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	 Further development required  Not yet demonstrating progress
	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	n/a	 Non Applicable
	2.a.3.ii 1 national and at least 1 regional WS of experience sharing on PFM, afforestation and reforestation hold	n/a	n/a	n/a	
					<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> Almost the activities are in the right track as per the indicative plan. (Rating: GREEN)

<p><b>Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options</b></p> <p><i><u>Purpose:</u> Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation</i></p> <p><i><u>Assessment Criteria:</u> (i) selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options; (ii) feasibility assessment; (iii) implications for strategy options on existing sectoral policies</i></p>	<p>O3.1 Final National REDD+ strategy report integrating experiences from Pilot projects on Technical and Governance issues endorsed by 6/2016</p> <p><b>O3.2 R-Package is in line with PC adopted assessment framework (=FCPF O1.A) by 6/2016</b></p> <p>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)</p> <p>2.b.1.ii Synthesis assessment of feasibility of selected strategic options (including social and environmental impact, cost-benefits, legal aspects) available by 7/2015</p> <p>2.b.1.iii Draft REDD+ implementation strategy available by 9/2015</p> <p>2.b.1.iv Reports of 2 national consultative WS for endorsement of priority of options available showing high degree of stakeholder consensus</p> <p>2.b.1.v Synthesis leaflet on drivers and strategic options of REDD+ available by 01/2016</p> <p>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</p> <p>2.b.2.ii All relevant technical aspect of REDD+ covered by good practices (PFM, climate smart agriculture, energy options, afforestation-reforestation, etc.)</p> <p>2.b.3.i At least 4 REDD+ governance action research or pilot projects published on website</p> <p>2.b.3.ii At least 10 best practices testing governance issues i.e. cash flow, accounting, benefit sharing, democratic decision making, GRM and conflict resolution documented</p>	<p>Preliminary strategy prepared</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>Ongoing in national, regional and pilot level studies</p> <p>-</p> <p>Preliminary documents available</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>Preliminary strategy prepared by TF by 12/2014</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>1 national, 1 regional, 3 small scale pilot studies</p> <p>Draft synthesis assessment available</p> <p>Preliminary documents available</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>Preliminary strategy prepared</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>Ongoing in national, regional and pilot level studies</p> <p>-</p> <p>Preliminary documents available</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p> Significant progress</p> <p> Progressing well, further development required</p> <p> Further development required</p> <p> Not yet demonstrating progress</p> <p> Non Applicable</p> <p><b><i>Explanation:</i></b> The evidence based studies and the synthesis assessment shows delay due to the delay of the consultancy procurement process. But currently there is intense focus to compensate the backlog in the remaining quarters. <u>(Rating: YELLOW)</u></p>
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Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
<b>Subcomponent 2c: Implementation Framework</b> <i><b>Purpose:</b> Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options</i> <i><b>Assessment Criteria:</b> (i) adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations; (ii) guidelines for implementation; (iii) benefit sharing mechanism; (iv) national REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities</i>	O4.1 All identified necessary changes of policy and legislation in key REDD+ sectors made	Forest law revision initiated	Forest law revision initiate	Forest law revision initiated	
	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	 Significant progress 
	2.c.1.i No tbd(according to gap analysis) of policy and legislation changes initiated in at least 3 key REDD+ sectors	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	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	 Progressing well, further development required
	2.c.1.iii REDD+ implementation manual published on website	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	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	n/a	 Further development required
	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	n/a	
	2.c.3.i Existence of a consulted Framework for Carbon benefit sharing arrangements assessed and validated by all Stakeholders	n/a	n/a	n/a	 Not yet demonstrating progress
	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	
					 Non Applicable
<b>Explanation:</b> The planned activities are moving as expected.(Rating: GREEN)					












<p>Subcomponent 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts</p> <p><i>Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</i></p> <p><i>Assessment Criteria: (i) analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues; (ii) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts; (iii) Environmental and Social Management Framework</i></p>	<p>O5.1 All foreseen measures in SESA implemented according to planning</p> <p>2.d.1.i SESA validated by all Stakeholders by 4/2015</p> <p>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)</p> <p>2.d.2.i ESMF developed, consulted and validated by RSC by 4/2015</p> <p>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.)</p>	<p>The study is on progress</p> <p>Launching WS held on the inception report</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>SESA implementation started</p> <p>Study completed by 1/2015</p> <p>Consultation and training finished by 2/2015</p> <p>ESMF developed &amp; Consultation started</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>The study is on progress</p> <p>Launching WS held on the inception report</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Significant progress</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Progressing well, further development required</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Further development required</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Not yet demonstrating progress</p> <p></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Non Applicable</p> <p><i>And explain why: The SESA/ESMF study has not been delivered in the timeframe because of the delay in assignment (procurement of the service) to the potential consultant, but currently the firm has been assigned (Rating: YELLOW)</i></p>
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Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
R-PP Component 3 - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels					
<p><i><u>Purpose:</u> Development of the general approach to establish a REL/RL Assessment</i></p> <p><i><u>Criteria:</u> (i) demonstration of methodology; (ii) use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances; (iii) technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines</i></p>	O6.1 National level for emissions and removals available by 6/2017;	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Oromiya regional REL/ reference levels endorsed by 6/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	 Significant progress
	O6.2 Report on verification of carbon stocks of Oromiya available 6/2016, national verification report available by 6/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	 (■)
	3.a.1.i National forest definition consulted and adopted by 8/2014	National forest definition proposed	National forest definition propose	National forest definition proposed	 Progressing well, further development required
	3.a.1.ii Actual baseline data on rates and trends of deforestation and degradation of forests Oromia region report including a basic land-cover/land-use map for REDD+ use available	Oromia study conducted	Oromia study conducted	Oromiya study conducted	 Further development required
	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	Carbon stocks under assessment	Carbon stocks under assessment	Carbon stocks under assessment	
	3.a.1.iv Baseline data on carbon stocks in Oromiya based on current NFI available by 10/2015.	n/a	n/a	n/a	 Not yet demonstrating progress
	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.a.2.i No of persons trained in RL/REs at different layers by gender (at least 30% women) and category of stakeholder	n/a	n/a	n/a	 Non Applicable
	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	<p><b>And explain why: The planned activities are in the right progress towards the milestones (Rating GREEN)</b></p>
	3.a.2.iii High acceptance of proposed RLs/REs by 90% stakeholders in RSC/RTWG	n/a	n/a	n/a	












Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> <i>(Please select your light rating)</i>
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
R-PP Component 4 – Design a Monitoring System					



<b>Subcomponent 4a: National Forest Monitoring System</b> <i><b>Purpose:</b> Design and develop an operational forest monitoring system and describe the approach to enhance the system over time</i> <i><b>Assessment Criteria:</b> (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities- Forests</i>	O7.1 MRV System complies to international standards	n/a	n/a	n/a	  Significant progress   Progressing well, further development required   Not yet demonstrating progress  Non Applicable <i>And explain why:</i> This work is contracted out to FAO, Project document prepared, work plan developed ahead of time.
	O7.2 Data verification reveals no major discrepancies in range of +/- 20% from original data	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	4.a.1.i No of Guidebooks published by 6/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	20 Trainers on MRV, Forest and Carbon monitoring available	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	At least 3 communication material available	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	4.a.1.ii At least 4 pilot sites where MRV approaches for REDD+ have been tested	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	4.a.1.iii National Carbon forest/land-use monitoring unit fully staffed, trained and Data management system 100% operational by 06/2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	4.a.1.iv Participation of CBO members in international trainings on MRV (20 male/20 female) (FCPF 3.1.b)	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	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	

Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
<b>Subcomponent 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards</b> <i><u>Purpose:</u> Specify the non-carbon aspects prioritized for monitoring by the country</i> <i><u>Assessment Criteria:</u> (i) identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues; (ii) monitoring, reporting and information sharing; (iii) Institutional arrangements and capacities – Safeguards</i>	4.b.1.i Ethiopia comes up with its own REDD+ incremental multiple benefit standards by 11/2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	4.b.1.ii Ethiopia specific SES standards, and monitoring template agreed by 12/2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	 Significant progress
	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	  Progressing well, further development required
	4.b.1.iv MoU on Multi-Stakeholder mechanism for collection and dissemination of information among stakeholders available	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	4.b.1.v No by category of stakeholders and gender of REDD+ M&E trained staff in all participating stakeholders at least 30% females.	n/a	n/a	n/a	 Further development required
					  Not yet demonstrating progress
					  Non Applicable  <i>And explain why: No planned activities, but just beginning this Fiscal Year</i>

Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
R-PP Component 6 – Design a Program Monitoring and evaluation framework					
















	<p>6.a.1.i PMF available by 7/2014</p> <p>6.a.1.ii 20 National quarterly reports submitted on reporting deadlines</p> <p>6.a.1.iii 3 Annual reports and 4 biannual update submitted on reporting deadlines</p> <p>6.a.1.iv 100% of draft annual reports reviewed and commented by relevant stakeholder groups</p> <p>6.a.1.v. 100% achievement of planned project milestones (yellow or green traffic lights) according to approved Readiness Preparation grant (FCPF M&amp;E Framework 1.3.b.)</p> <p>6.a.2.i Consulted Mid-term progress review (FCPF M&amp;E Framework 1.3.a.) available 1/2015</p> <p>6.a.2.ii Independent final review of R-Package (FCPF M&amp;E Framework 1.A.2.) by 8/2016</p>	<p>M&amp;E Framework</p> <p>2</p> <p>1 biannual</p> <p>100% RTWG</p> <p>Progressive increase</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>M&amp;E Framework</p> <p>4</p> <p>2 biannual</p> <p>100% RTWG</p> <p>Increase</p> <p>MTR</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>M&amp;E Framework</p> <p>2</p> <p>1 biannual</p> <p>100% RTWG</p> <p>Progressive increase</p> <p>Postpone to 9/2015</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p></p> <p> Significant progress</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p> Progressing well, further development required</p> <p></p> <p> Further development required</p> <p></p> <p> Not yet demonstrating progress</p> <p></p> <p> Non Applicable</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> M&amp;E, PMF and other tools developed for the R-PP implementation help other milestones to measure/ track changes ( esp. using the PMF) and also the reporting taking place within the timeframe for decision making and checking the performance of the project.</p>
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Sub-component	Overall progress		Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>6</sup> (Please select your light rating)
	Planned Milestones	Cumulative Progress towards Milestones	Expected Annual Target	Achievements of the Annual Target	
					(Rating GREEN)

Disbursement rate of FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.2 million USD), in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d; Ethiopia PMF Indicator 5.a.1.iii):		
	Rate	Tracking
RF Grant - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements (30.89%) <b>NB: this is calculated using the disbursement made divided by total FCPF grant.</b>		Please select your light rating: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Up to 10% variance with plans <input checked="" type="radio"/> Between 10 and 25% variance <input type="radio"/> Between 25 and 40 % variance <input type="radio"/> More than 40 % variance <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable
Disbursement rate of Total R-PP Budget in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d; Ethiopia PMF Indicator 5.a.1.iv):		
	Rate	Tracking
R-PP Budget - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements (33%) <b>NB: this is calculated using the disbursement made divided by total Readiness grant (FCPF+ additional Fund).</b>		Please select your light rating: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Up to 10% variance with plans <input checked="" type="radio"/> Between 10 and 25% variance <input type="radio"/> Between 25 and 40 % variance <input type="radio"/> More than 40 % variance <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable
Implementation rate of M&E activities (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c, 1.3.a, 1.A.2; Ethiopia PMF Indicators 6.a.1.iii, 6.a.2.i, 6.a.2.ii)		
	Rate	Tracking
Semi-annual reporting  Mid-term progress report  Final Assessment report	<b>Twice (green)</b>	Please select your light rating: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Up to 10% variance with plans <input type="radio"/> Between 10 and 25% variance <input type="radio"/> Between 25 and 40 % variance <input type="radio"/> More than 40 % variance <input type="radio"/> Non Applicable

### 3.2.2. Key elements of performance-based payment systems for emission reductions generated from REDD+ activities

- Outcome level

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly specify:	
<p>Are carbon accounting, programmatic elements and pricing operating as planned in your pilot, if relevant (<i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator 2.A.; Ethiopia PFM indicators O6.1/2, 2.c.2.i/ii</i>)</p> <p><b><u>Please describe progress made:</u></b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/>  Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/>  Overall yes, but with some discrepancies</p> <p><input type="radio"/>  Overall no, but with some positive signs</p> <p><input type="radio"/>  No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/>  Non Applicable</p>
<p>Is the benefit sharing scheme being implemented according to plans within your pilot, if relevant (<i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator 2.B., Ethiopia PFM indicator 2.c.3.i</i>)</p> <p><b><u>Please describe progress made:</u></b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/>  Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/>  Overall yes, but with some discrepancies</p> <p><input type="radio"/>  Overall no, but with some positive signs</p> <p><input type="radio"/>  No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/>  Non Applicable</p>
<p>Percentage and/or amount of monetary benefits shared with beneficiaries in approved pilot, if relevant (<i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework Indicator 2.C.; Ethiopia PFM indicator I4</i>)</p> <p><b><u>Please describe progress made:</u></b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/>  Percentage and/or amount targets to be defined</p> <p><input type="radio"/> </p> <p><input type="radio"/> </p> <p><input type="radio"/> </p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/>  Non Applicable</p>



- Output level

Has your country submitted early ideas or ER-Program to the CF and/or others (FCPF M&E Framework 2.3.a; Ethiopia PFM indicator I3.1):	
Yes/No	<p><u>Please briefly describe the content of these early ideas or ER-Program:</u></p> <p>The Government of Ethiopia has determined that the Regional State of Oromia should develop an REDD+ Program focused on reducing the deforestation of its high forests, focusing on two large landscapes in the SW and SE Oromia. Under this initiative the sites for investment will focus on about 60 districts covering a large area of high forest (area to be decided) within the Concessions of Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE). The ER program is targeted to reduce global carbon emissions and attract revenues to foster sustainable growth and improved livelihoods of diverse rural communities. In the earlier thought, indicative calculations suggest that the Jurisdictional ER program will generate up to 40 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e until 2020; and up to 260 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e until 2035. In the new approach, it is anticipated that the ERs that will be generated will not be significantly reduced, as the major forest areas in Oromia are still targeted for interventions with minor forest patches left out of the current Oromia Forested Landscape Project.</p> <p>The justification for selecting Oromia region as first choice for REDD+ piloting has been due to the following reasons: (1) The Oromia Regional State comprises 60% of Ethiopia's high forests and the vast majority of its woodlands; (2) The State has been engaged with REDD+ activities since 2007 when the Bale REDD+ Project was started; (3) The Bale project has completed its PDD in 2013 and is now under validation. This process has generated many lessons significant local capacity which will support this program. As such the GoE has determined that Oromia is the most appropriate jurisdiction to host this REDD+ Program.</p> <p>The Oromia Forest Landscape Program is now in its design phase that is set to be completed in December 2015. Three technical studies: a) on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategic options for addressing those; b) Analysis of the institutional and legal framework for REDD+; c) and a consultation and participation plan have been completed. Establishing the REL/MRV systems design is still going on.</p>

Has your country signed an ERPA (FCPF M&E Framework 2.4.b; Ethiopia PFM indicator I3.3):	
Yes/No	<p><u>Please briefly describe the content of this ERPA:</u></p> <p>n/a</p>

Amount and date of disbursements for ER Program according to plans, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework 2.4.a; Ethiopia PFM indicator 5.a.1.v):	
<u>Date:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u> n/a

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u> n/a
<u>Date:</u>	<u>Amount provided:</u> n/a

### 3.2.3. Engagement of stakeholders to sustain or enhance livelihoods of local communities and to conserve biodiversity within the approach to REDD +

- Outcome level

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please describe indicators related to biodiversity conservation and forest community livelihood development included in the ER Program, if relevant (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.A; Ethiopia PFM Indicators 4.b.1.ii and iii*):

<u>Amount:</u>	<p><u>Please describe how these funds target biodiversity and forest community livelihood development:</u></p> <p>As described in the Results Chain, the implementation of REDD+ program in Ethiopia has four long term impacts and monitoring will assess these eventually: biodiversity conservation, water resources conserved, livelihoods improvement, and GHG emission reduction.</p>
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Please provide relevant examples on the inherent social and biodiversity benefits of REDD+, if relevant (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.B; Ethiopia PFM Indicators 4.b.1.i and 2.d.2.ii*):

Examples of inherent social and biodiversity benefits of REDD+:

- Output level

Number of examples of actions where IPs, CSOs, and local communities participate actively, if relevant (*FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.a; Ethiopia indicator O2.2*):

<u>#:</u> Around 1082 participants involved in various levels.	<p><u>Please describe these actions on enhanced livelihoods and BD conservation , and restoration where, IPs and CSOs and local communities participate actively:</u></p> <p>The Bale PFM project has been engaging local communities with clear obligations and rights of the communities and the government since early 1990s. Benefits sharing mechanism has been defined for sharing the benefits from forest management including revenues from wildlife. In the PFM program in Bale Eco-region, a good proportion of income/benefit often goes to the local communities (e.g., about 40% from sale of timber and wildlife trophies). REDD+ will build up on this positive experience and ensuring the support of local livelihoods will be among the desired outcomes of REDD+ implementation.</p>
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Number of FDP and REDD country CSO representatives (men/women) having been successfully trained by FCPF training programs (*FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.b; Ethiopia PFM indicator 4.a.1.iv*):

<u>Please list the training conducted:</u>	<u>Duration (# of days)</u>	<u># of participants # of men / # of women</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> targets in terms of number of men and women to be trained by country to be defined <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable
			<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>

Frequency of meetings of stakeholder engagement platforms (*FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.a; Ethiopia indicator 1.b.4.i/ii*):


<u>Frequency:</u> One national level conference and two regional conference has been organized with the involvement of FDP, women's, youth's, CSO, governmental participants, local NGOs	<input checked="" type="radio"/> targets in terms of frequency to be defined <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non Applicable
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Does your country R-Package (within the national REDD+ strategies and the monitoring systems) and/or ER Program include activities aiming at maintaining or enhancing livelihoods of local communities (*FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.b.i*):

<b><u>YES</u></b>	<u>Please describe these activities aiming at maintaining or enhancing livelihoods of local communities:</u> The national draft REDD+ strategy and ER program initiative have been designed such that REDD+ programs, project and activities will enhance the livelihoods of the local communities particularly forest dependent communities. In Ethiopia, the main vehicle for implementation of REDD+ for forest conservation is Participatory Forest Management (under a joint forest management collaboration model between government and local communities in and around the forest) in which local communities and government work together to save forest from various drivers of loss and degradation. From REDD+ supports such as agricultural input supply for productivity improvement, energy efficient
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	technology, forest products utilization and local capacity building, alternative livelihood diversifications all involve local communities and could enhance local livelihoods. In the PFM, local communities will have roles, obligations and rights as to resource management and uses. Traditional use rights such as medicine, firewood, forage and other traditional uses of the forest will also be allowed under REDD+ programs and these will be considered in the safeguards instruments.
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Does your country R-Package (within the national REDD+ strategies and the monitoring systems) and/or ER Program include activities aiming at conserving biodiversity ( <i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework 3.2.b.ii; Ethiopia PMF indicator 2.d.2.ii</i> ):	
<u>Yes/No:</u>	<u>Please describe these activities aiming at conserving biodiversity:</u>
	To be defined yet.

Does your country R-Package and/or ER Program include SESA, an operational Grievance Mechanisms, and an ESMF that captures SESA results( <i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework 3.2.d; Ethiopia PMF indicators 2.d.1.i + 1.b.1.vi + 2.d.2.i</i> )	
<u>Yes/No:</u>	 <p><i>If yes, please select your light rating:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Degree of advancement or implementation targets to be defined</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Non Applicable</p>
<b>Yes</b>	<p><u>Please describe the measures implemented:</u></p> <p>SESA/ESMF will be in the process of preparation.</p>

### 3.2.4. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support FCPF: ( <i>FCPF M&amp;E Framework 4.1.b; Ethiopia PMF indicators 1.b.1.i/ii</i> )	
<u>Yes/No:</u>	<u>Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period :</u>
<b>Yes</b>	A brochure on the REDD+ readiness has been published in collaboration with GGGI (Global Green Growth Institute). It has been distributed to national and international stakeholders (some copies in Lima, Peru COP-20). A draft for a book has been prepared: REDD+ for multiple benefits and will be published soon. Brochures in various languages are also being prepared to be published and distributed during this fiscal year. Various

	forms of communication and outreach have been used to share knowledge with stakeholders (e.g., TV, radio, post cards and different forms of meetings (e.g., workshops, conferences, regular meetings) as described earlier in this report.
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How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any (*FCPF M&E Framework 4.1.c; Ethiopia PMF 1.b.1.iii + count of participants in different workshops/events*):

Overall number by product:

TV and radio : millions of Ethiopians (exact number difficult to know)

Mobile Phones: 12 million people

Workshops and conferences: 573 participants; (# of Men: 464 and # of Women: 109)

Print media (brochure): 200

Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)? (*FCPF M&E Framework 4.2.a + b; Ethiopia PMF indicator 1.b.2.ix*)

<u>Yes/No:</u>	<u>List the South-South learning activities:</u>	<u># of men:</u> 3
Yes	Ethiopia Coffee forest exchange visit (3)	<u># of women:</u> -

## 4. ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RISKS

Delays in procurement of vehicles and consultancy services and low disbursement are main issues in the REDD+ project. The issue has been appreciated at higher level of the ministry's management and the minister has given strict direction for the procurement and finance units of the ministry to pay special attention to the REDD+ Secretariat's procurement activities, which is now showing improvements. A major action made to improve the low disbursement of FCPF grant and to utilize the entire budget of FCPF until the coming September 2015 is the revision of procurement plan, and the ministry is working towards the implementation of the revised plan by keeping the current momentum. Overall, the ministry is attempting to expedite the implementation of the R-PP and complete it in June 2016, and high priority is given to improving the current low level of disbursement.

## 5. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

It is now well understood that REDD+ readiness is a complex and voluminous set of project activities (parts of the readiness components such as MRV are projects themselves). There is no such thing as a readiness project as often perceived. This requires continuous effort and commitment to coordinating several projects and stakeholders from various levels, from local to global. In retrospect, we learned that flexibility in planning and implementation is essential in realizing such a complex process as REDD+ readiness. Revising plans has been absolutely important, particularly when we consider the implementation of activities supported by the FCPF grant with several months of backlogs at the beginning due to mainly the institutional dynamics.

The ministry and the World Bank have discussed and agreed on the possible interventions/revisions to improve the performance of the FCPF supported readiness project performance in terms of activity implementation and financial utilization. Now we have prepared a revised procurement plan, and are attempting to implement the revised plan.

Another observation is that REDD+ readiness activities are focused on establishing systems, making reforms and capacity building, with little attention to implementation of concrete programs and projects (focused a lot on the software). While it is recognized that REDD+ readiness activities provide an opportunity for thorough planning of forestry and related activities and help to modernize the working of forest sector institutions, on the balance readiness pays less attention on the physical implementation of activities. To keep the motivation of the decision makers, it has been necessary to expand the activities of REDD+ pilots at a meaningful level. Thus, REDD+ readiness is providing significant support to regions such as establishing coordination units (procurement of staff, office furniture, and vehicles is going on) to start up REDD+ piloting activities at landscape levels. Indeed, piloting has been part of the agreed activities for REDD+ readiness in Ethiopia, but the scale of interventions thought earlier during the R-PP preparation and now are significantly different. This has been very crucial to win the support of major stakeholders at federal and regional levels. All regional states are interested to start implementing REDD+ right away.

We also learned that REDD+ is a very appealing scheme with positive impacts on the environment, people, biodiversity and natural resources such as water. This bright scheme has won the conviction and commitment of various stakeholders demonstrated in many ways. For example, our stakeholders are highly interested to support REDD+ program as expressed in high level of participation in REDD+ meetings and workshops, very frequent visits made by stakeholders (including donors) at the REDD+ Secretariat and informal communications and interest of colleagues and other stakeholders to leaning from our staff and our partners.

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/END/

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