

In this Issue

Our Voice

Newsletter, 8th Edition, Jan. - Dec, 2013

Second International Conference on Population, Health and Environment held

The 2013 PSDA Members' Meeting and Post-2015 Strategic Workshop with Field Visit conducted

Basic Facts on Ethiopia's Protected Areas





Published by:

PHE ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM
P.O.Box - 22808,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: + 251-11-663 0833
Fax: + 251-11-663 8127
E-mail: info@phe-ethiopia.org
website: www.phe-ethiopia.org

Edited by:

Negash Teklu, Executive Director

Contributors:

Ahmed Mohamed
Alem Mekonen
Dagim Gezahegne
Hiwot Werkagegnehu
Molla Mengesha
Negash Teklu
Tadesse Hailu

Designed & Printed by:

PHILMON PRESS
(0911644678)

Director's Note

Dear PHE Ethiopia Consortium supporters and readers, Greetings, and welcome to a special edition of our Consortium's newsletter! While our newsletters in the past have detailed activities during a 6-month period, this newsletter recounts activities, news, and accomplishments in the last year, from January to December 2013.

The year 2013 marks an important milestone for the Consortium. Before this year, we tended to tackle smaller projects, and apply for small grants. Now we are at a turning point: we are promoting ourselves to join larger projects running for more than 3 years and that benefit from larger budgets. For example, we are now a co-partner on the Bale Eco-Region SHARE project, which has a budget of 5 million euro.

The Consortium is developing rapidly, with positive progress. The annual General Assembly held in March 2013 was successful in engaging our members and international partners. You can find a summary of that event in this newsletter, along with a link to the full report that was published in November 2013 and disseminated at international conferences in Addis Abeba.

This year has been a busy one, with the organization of a workshop and conference in Addis Ababa: the Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) global workshop, which included a field visit, and the highly successful International Population Health Environment Conference, which was organized with the Population Reference Bureau. We also had active participation in the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning, with PHE-related presentations by Consortium partners. The Consortium was awarded a certificate of appreciation for its outstanding contribution to the success of that conference as a member of the steering committee and other committees.

In April 2013 we initiated a project focusing on Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks under the Strategic Climate Change Institutions Program (SCIP). If you read the project progress update in this newsletter, you'll find that we are organizing different stakeholders in multi-sector taskforces from the park to the federal level, thus making progress in bringing "protected area" concerns to a national level.

Last year we made gains in conducting research related to PHE projects, through partnerships with Jimma University and GPSDO in a quantitative-qualitative study; Johns Hopkins University, Ethi-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA), and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) in qualitative process evaluations. This year, Hopkins researchers are conducting follow-up research to the EWNRA case study in partnership with Metu University. We expect that 2014 will be a strong year for partner engagement in research.

Finally, in August 2013, we said goodbye to our PHE Advisor, Kristen Stelljes, who served as a fellow in the USAID Global Health Fellows Program II in Ethiopia. Throughout her time with us, Ms. Stelljes gave us great support. You can learn more about her experience by reading the Q&A with her in this newsletter. We were so thankful to have Ms. Stelljes's input and we were sad to see her go, but we wish her the best in her future work!

Negash Teklu
Executive Director
PHE Ethiopia Consortium



Second International Conference on Population, Health and Environment



Second International PHE Conference participants

The second International Population, Health, and Environment Conference, organized by PHE Ethiopia Consortium and Population Reference Bureau (PRB), convened over two days (11-12 November 2013) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, around the theme “Healthy Family, Healthy Environment.” Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) initiatives use integrated approaches to improve access to health services, especially family planning and reproductive health, while helping communities to improve livelihoods, manage natural resources, and conserve the critical ecosystems on which they depend.

His Excellency, Belete Tafere, Minister of Environment and Forestry of Ethiopia, delivered the Opening Message, discussing the growing tradition of integrated PHE efforts in Ethiopia. He noted that greater empowerment for girls and women, and improved reproductive health, among other

accomplishments of PHE programs and projects, have contributed to progress towards Ethiopia’s Growth and Transformation Plan. The conference also aimed to raise the profile of the PHE approach among new audiences. PHE integration featured prominently in media throughout the week and reached new heights at the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP), which immediately followed the PHE conference.

The PHE conference brought together over 150 PHE implementers and advocates representing 20 different nations from sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, and North America, allowing the PHE community to share experiences, learn, network, coordinate efforts, and develop strategies to extend the integrated approach to new rural and remote communities. The Conference sought to bring implementers together to share in their successes and challenges.

About 32 abstracts were presented over two days as part of eight moderated presentation panels, including: Dispatches from the Field; Conservation and Health; Innovative Partnerships; Gender and PHE; Advocacy and PHE support; Family Planning and PHE Results; and Monitoring and Evaluation of PHE programs. Donors, policymakers, journalists, and new possible partners also had the chance to learn about recent accomplishments and some of the most pressing issues faced by the community during roundtable discussions, plenary sessions, and an evening reception. The energy amongst participants was palpable, and many participants voiced their gratitude for the conference as a platform to connect with other organizations and agencies, discuss activities and future plans, and harness momentum and energy to grow their country-level networks.

Participants took part in “world café” discussions, as an opportunity

to sit down less formally and discuss experiences, questions, and challenges facing implementers around the world. These themed roundtable discussions included: Best Practices in Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Expanding and Institutionalizing PHE Interventions, and Advocacy and Communications/Networks. These discussions proved to be constructive outlets for participants to learn from one another. Among the many needs and priorities identified were improvements in monitoring and evaluation and communicating results with data.



The PHE Conference, funded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and USAID’s Office of Population and Reproductive Health and East Africa Regional Office, also aimed to increase donor and policymaker support. Issues discussed included the need for coordinated and strengthened advocacy efforts and networks, identifying and institutionalizing best practices in delivering integrated components of projects and programs, better documentation of existing scale-up efforts, and targeting areas for future expansion of PHE approaches. ■



Second International PHE Conference participants partially

New Documentary Films



A 30 minutes film on good practice of multi-sectoral PHE integration focusing in three member organization sites (Gouraghe-GPSDO, Metu-EWNRA, Wonago-Lem Ethiopia).

A 30 minutes film on the importance of saving Ethiopian 12 river basins taking as an example the rift valley and Omo Gibe Basins.



The 2013 PSDA Members' Meeting and Post-2015 Strategic Workshop with Field Visit conducted



Participants at the meeting

The 2013 Population & Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) meeting and post-2015 strategic workshop was conducted on November 9, 2013 in Addis Ababa. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together alliance members and some new Southern partners, to strategize about how to achieve the goal of integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and population dynamics into the post-2015 framework.



Karen & Tania opening the meeting

The 22 participants of the meeting were members and partner organizations from around the world, including the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA), Population Action International (PAI), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Blue Ventures, Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Path Foundation Philippines, Eminence Associates for Social Development of Bangladesh, the Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC), Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Population and Sustainability Network (PSN), Population Reference Bureau (PRB), LEAD Southern and Eastern Africa, and Population

Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC).

Tania Dethlefsen (DFPA) and Karen Newman (PSN) opened the meeting with a joint welcome speech. After participants introduced themselves, the floor was opened for them to present briefly about their activities in their respective organizations programs/activities. The following is the summary of the experiences of each organization's report:

►PHE Ethiopia works closely with its government counterparts at regional and federal levels integrating RH issues in addition to environmental and livelihood activities.

►Woodrow Wilson Center organizes 35 events annually, and uses blogs and publications for advocacy, which can also be used to support other organizations.

►Blue Ventures has been working to raise the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) of coastal Madagascar from 10% to 50% during its intervention period in the country.

►PAI advocates for RH, FP and climate research. The organization focuses on population dynamics and its relation with climate change, and tries to build the evidence base for PHE interventions.

►Eminence Associates for Social Development of Bangladesh works with PRB to advocate for nutritional issues.

►DFPA is 16-year old association working with other SRH organizations and advocates on PHE issues

►Path Foundation Philippines started to implement PHE activities in 2000 and was working with the BALANCE project. It focuses on building the capacity of conservation organizations.

►LVBC was established by five East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi to promote a sustainable environment focusing on the lake. The commission deals with pollution, water shade, and navigation. There are also projects focusing on trans-boundary projects between countries.

Karen Newman of PSN presented the first paper about PSDA's history, stating that PSDA's mission is to raise awareness about the connections between population dynamics, reproductive health, the environment and sustainable development. PSDA believes that population dynamics are of critical importance for securing integrated global sustainable development, and that they can be positively influenced through accelerating progress towards universal access to SRHR. PSDA seeks to promote and increase political and financial support for universal access to SRHR, and for its integration into wider policy and programme development as a means of increasing resilience, advancing environmental sustainability and improving human health and well-being.

Sarah Fisher gave a second presentation titled "PSDA: From Rio+20 to post 2015". PSDA observed the following points at Rio+20:

►Concern about population and SRHR issues is missing from the Rio+20 agenda

►Rio+20 will play important role in shaping post-2015 development agenda (including development of SDGs)

►Few SRHR groups are following Rio+20 and other more environmental post-2015 discussions, and they are not linking to population dynamics

►Opportunities to advance SRHR and overall sustainability were overlooked PSDA with other advocates should work so that Post-2015 doesn't repeat mistakes of MDGs - insufficient focus on SRHR and population dynamics and failure to integrate environment and development. PSDA has provided a quick response to the January 2013 zero draft of outcome document, and as a result the 'Population and Reproductive Health Section' has been included in final outcome document. In addition PSDA provided on-going recommended text and revisions for a negotiation document, and represented at informal negotiations at the UN. PSDA articles in Outreach magazine were published at UN, and it is also mobilising networks and information sharing with SHRH community.

PSDA's post-2015 work program includes the development of key advocacy tools and resources; awareness-raising and advocacy to key stakeholders like OWG (open working group) member states and key strategic countries, development, environment and women's groups; acting as a key resource on links between SRHR; Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development (PSDA) Seminar and Members Meeting; and coordination and strengthening of the alliance.

Finally, it was agreed that PSDA should work to foster constructive and accurate dialogue among

policy makers and civil society about population dynamics, climate change and other sustainable development issues and counter misinformation about these complex but critical relationships. The participants expressed their gratitude for PHE EC for coordinating and hosting the workshop.

PSDA Dinner Evening

In the evening, a cultural dinner and informal networking event was conducted at Huletshi-Habesha hotel. The workshop participants enjoyed the cultural dance show, and the event created an important forum for informal discussion and networking.

On Sunday 10th November, PSDA and additional select participants took part in a field trip to the town and area of Wolkite in South West Ethiopia, to the GPSDO PHE integrated site which is found around 200 km from Addis Ababa and about 52km from Wolkite zonal capital. Cheza kebele is the project site of GPSDO located 12 km from Hawariat the capital town of Muhirna Aklil woreda. The field trip, was hosted by the Guraghe People's Self-Help Development Organization (GPSDO).

The trip provided a valuable opportunity not only to meet project staff, including volunteer health workers and beneficiaries, but also to see at first hand the integrated health, developmental and environmental aspects of the project, and their complementary impacts.

Participants had the opportunity to meet with volunteer community health workers and women and men from the communities they serve. As a result of these community-based methods of providing family planning information and services, significantly higher contraceptive prevalence has been recorded in communities where the project operates.

Alongside this work, the project is providing conservation training to communities and rehabilitating highly degraded land in the region. A visit was also paid to a local school in the community which was in danger of collapse as a nearby gorge was encroaching on the school due to land degradation. Thanks to the project, students at the school have been able to be actively involved in averting the school's collapse through the implementation of sound environmental conservation practices, including terracing and tree planting. This has taken place as part of a student club facilitated by the project, which also works to empower pupils at the school through information, education and services relating to sexual and reproductive health and discussions and activities to promote gender equality.

The trip proved an inspiring opportunity to see PHE approaches in action, leaving participants in eager anticipation of the International PHE conference beginning the following day.

The Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) is an international network of civil society organizations that work together on population, sexual and reproductive health and the rights and sustainable development issues. ■



Briefing at Wolkite GPSDO office



PSDA participants at GPSDO site discussing with community



PSDA members at environmental site visit



The participants at dinner reception

Bird's eye view of the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)



Dr Kesete Birhan Admassu, MoH Minister addressing the ICFP

The 2009 inaugural International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Kampala, Uganda called for effective programs, scaling up best practices and changes in policy while turning global attention to family planning. In Dakar, Senegal in 20011, the ICFP highlighted the need for improvement in family planning services in Francophone Africa. Momentum continued, in 2012 with the London Summit on Family Planning and the launch of “Family Planning 2020.” For ICFP 2013, participants from across the globe gathered in Addis Ababa at the African Union Conference Center, to recognize progress Ethiopia and other countries have made toward access to reproductive health and family planning services. Over 3,400 researchers, program implementers, policymakers, advocates, youth leaders, media, and representatives of local and international organizations from 110 countries came together to share family planning practices and research in over 950 presentations with the goal of providing all women “Full Access, Full Choice” to life-saving family planning information, supplies and services.

The 2013 ICFP program reflected the largest offering of conference sessions and side events. Major events of the conference included:

- The Opening Ceremony (November 12, 2013), with a motto **“MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH SUSTAINED POLITICAL COMMITMENT”**
- Wednesday (November 13, 2013) conference of plenary session with the theme **“ACHIEVING EQUITY THROUGH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP”**.
- Thursday (November 14, 2013) plenary session begun with the theme **“BUILDING THE FUTURE: THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS”**.
- Friday, November 15, 2013 plenary session begun with the theme **“FP 2020: ANALYZING PROGRESS, CATALYZING ACTION”**.

Following every plenary session, PowerPoint presentations, poster presentations, CEO Roundtables for Emerging leaders, Topical

Roundtables, and exhibitions of 58 organizations were conducted in different parts of the African Union Conference Center halls, rooms, floors, and compounds. Finally, Excellence in Leadership (EXCELL) awards were given to acknowledge individuals, organizations, and countries who are leading the way forward. After the award ceremony, the conference organizers and political leaders delivered a closing statement on the momentum created in revitalizing the global family planning agenda. The theme of the closing ceremony was **“SUSTAINING MOMENTUM, BUILDING THE FUTURE”**.

In line with this, Population Action International (PAI) identified 15 Integrated Population, Health, Environment (PHE) related events at ICFP, and disseminated a list of these events for different organizations with an interest in PHE. The objective of this leaflet was to create a space for sharing, learning, and networking among PHE implementers. Conference participants could identify needs and priorities for PHE advocates and implementers in order to 1) map

out areas for future support and technical assistance and 2) raise the profile of PHE efforts and results to increase interest among new donors and possible implementers. As a result the PHE events have attracted many participants.

In addition, PSDA has also organized side events.

Above all, Blue Venture, one of PHE's in Madagascar, was given one of the first ever Excellence in leadership for family planning Award.

In relation to media, there were nearly 200 reporters from Ethiopia and abroad and as of December 20, 2013, more than 225 original articles have been published in global outlets all over the world including Time Magazine, CNN, Newsweek, The Guardian, Voice of America, EFE and the Times of India, among others; 36% were published by media outlets in the Global South. On Social Media there were more than 2,500 contributors authoring over 15,000 tweets reaching nearly 5 million people.

For more information, visit: www.fpconference2013.org.



PSDA side event at ICFP



The award given to Blue Venture PHE Madagascar

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS, THEY'RE MORE LIKELY TO CHOOSE AND USE ONE EFFECTIVELY.

2012 COMMITMENT
GIVE 120 MILLION MORE WOMEN & GIRLS ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES BY 2020. FP2020 ESTABLISHED TO CARRY FORWARD THIS MOMENTUM.

IN THE YEAR SINCE

- 70+** NEW COMMITMENTS
- \$2.6 BILLION** IN NEW DONOR FUNDING
- 50%** PRICE REDUCTIONS TO MAKE LONG-TERM, REVERSIBLE METHODS MORE AFFORDABLE

IF WE ACHIEVE THE FP2020 GOAL

- OVER 100 MILLION** FEWER UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES
- 200,000** FEWER DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH
- 3 MILLION FEWER** BABIES DYING IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF LIFE

120 MILLION MORE PEOPLE WITH THE ABILITY TO PLAN THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR FUTURES

NOW IS THE TIME FOR FULL ACCESS AND FULL CHOICE.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, NOVEMBER 12-15 2013

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, NOVEMBER 12-15 2013

Illustrations of family planning methods: RING, IUD, PILLS, MALE CONDOMS, INJECTION, VASECTOMY & TUBAL LIGATION, IMPLANT, FEMALE CONDOMS.

TO ENSURE EVERYONE CAN GET THE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES THEY WANT, AFFORDABLE OPTIONS ARE KEY.

A Glimpse on the Seventh General Assembly Meeting of PHE EC

The seventh PHE EC General Assembly (GA) meeting was conducted from March 12-15, 2013 in Addis Ababa with 66 participants from Africa and the United States of America. Each day of the GA featured different meetings including the PHE EC Business Meeting, a Donors' Forum and field visit.

The first day of the General Assembly opened with a welcome speech, introductions and keynote address. These were followed by different presentations. These presentations are: by CCRDA on integrated PHE approach implementing with partners in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Next to this, presentation on recent research conducted on the effectiveness of the PHE approach for achieving family planning and fertility outcomes in Ethiopia by PHE EC was delivered. Finally yet importantly, was presentation on a process evaluation of integrated PHE sites in Mettu woreda (EWNRA) and Raya Azebo Woreda (REST).

Day two of the General Assembly included the Business Meeting and a capacity building session. The General Assembly Business Meeting was held in the morning and included discussions on the 2012 physical, financial, external audit and 2013 plan reports. The meeting was concluded with the signing of the General Assembly minutes. The afternoon session of this day involved a capacity building session on the newly developed monitoring and evaluation toolkit. Participants were able to apply the resources

provided in the tools using a case study. In addition to this, PHE EC revealed the type of in kind supports gained from different originations and the number of proposals that were submitted to international and local donor originations for funding.

On day three, as part of the 7th GA meeting, a Donors Forum was conducted on 14 March 2013 at the Radisson Blue Hotel. The objective of the forum was to sensitize and share the contribution of multi-sectoral approaches to meet the Ethiopian development goals with donors, embassies and invited guests from local and international audiences. A total of 25 people were gathered from organizations including the US State Department Regional Environmental Office, USAID Ethiopia and Washington, Packard Foundation, DSW and Johns Hopkins University as well as PHE implementing from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Finally, on March 15, participants traveled to the Guraghe People's Self-help Development organization's (GPSDO) PHE Mhur Akilil Woreda project site in the Guraghe Zone, SNNPR. Guests from USAID/Ethiopia, East African PHE partners and the US were able to discuss the GSPDO program with beneficiaries and see the conservation efforts put in place by the community through the project. For mor information please follow the link http://www.phe-ethiopia.org/pdf/PHE_7th_general_assembly_proceeding.pdf ■



Participants of the Seventh GA meeting partially

Media Reflections



The First Meeting of the Amhara Region Population Council

The Amhara region is the first region that has established a Regional Population Council under the proclamation No.203/2013 on July 11, 2013. The Regional Population Council held its first meeting on December 21, 2013 in Bahir Dar.

The meeting was opened officially by Ato Assefa Belay, representative of the regional president. Ato Assefa welcomed the participants by mentioning the objectives of the council: 1) to make an organized and coordinated effort on population and development issues, 2) to establish a system whereby reliable population data are generated at the regional level, and 3) to mobilize human and financial resources in order to conduct research on population and development issues.

After the opening speech, Mr. Victor Rakoto, Deputy Representative of UNFPA in Ethiopia, delivered a key note address under the title “Reaching the challenge of adolescent pregnancy: investing in girls is pivotal.” According to the deputy representative, every day about 20,000 girls aged 10-19 give birth globally. Every year about 7.3 million births occur, prompting the focus of this year’s UNFPA State of World Population Report on “Motherhood in childhood: facing challenge of adolescent pregnancy.”



Ato Asefa Belay charing and Ato Desalegne Akal presenting

Ato Desalegne Akal, head of the Population Core Process, presented about the population and development situation in Amhara. Amhara Regional State, with a population of 20.2 million in 2012 and a total fertility rate of 4.2, is the second most populous region in the country - comprising 25% of the Ethiopia’s total population. Though the growth rate of the region has declined, the TFR level is high, and regional population increase is inevitable in the coming decades.

In the afternoon session three study papers were presented. Ato Birhanue Legesse, Assistant Representative of UNFPA, presented the first paper, titled “Motherhood in childhood: facing the challenge of adolescent pregnancy,” based on the 2012 State of the World Population Report. Ato Negash Teklu, Executive Director of PHE Ethiopia Consortium, presented the second paper, titled “Linking population food security and climate change in Ethiopia.” According to Ato Negash, the population of this country is increasing rapidly, and if we continue with business as usual, we will be one of the ten most populous countries of the world after 2050. Food security is also a deep rooted problem in Ethiopia. This problem is further exacerbated by the recent phenomenon of climate change.

Climate change affects the life of millions in Ethiopia by decreasing the productivity of food products. To overcome these problems, the implementation of GTP with full scale and coordination of all stakeholders imperative. The country has already developed a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), strategy that focuses on adaptation and mitigation. One of the adaptation mechanisms should be availability of RH/FP services to women and adolescent girls.

Dr. Kurabachew Abera, Futures Group/HPP Ethiopia Country Director, introduced the FG/HPP initiatives in Amhara region. Dr. Kurabachew briefed the audience about why FG/HPP is interested to work in Amhara and specific intervention areas.

A discussion followed the paper presentations, wherein participants raised different questions and the presenters responded. Ato Aynew Belay, head of Amhara BoFED, closed the meeting by thanking all the council members and invited guests. The Population Affairs Core Process has prepared the Regional Population Action Plan, and will be incorporating comments and finalizing it. They expect to present it at the next Population Council meeting very soon. ■

Amhara: Demography

- Population size: 20.02million (2014)
- TFR: 4.2 (2011)
- Growth rate: Rural 1.3%
Urban 5.7%
Total 1.98%
- CPR-33%
- Unmet need-22.1%

Source: Amhara population RH Image 2012

Government Office & NGO Forum Consultative Meeting Held in SNNPR

From May 21-23, 2013 in Wolikite in the Guraghe Zone, the Population Affairs Coordination and Implementation Core Process (PACICP)—the population department of the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFED) of the Southern, Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) — conducted a seventh consultative meeting with government offices and NGOs working on population issues in the region. Among the 120 participants in attendance were government officials from regional sector bureaus, zonal sector officials, and cabinet members, as well as NGOs working in SNNPR. During the meeting, the sector bureaus of health, agriculture, education, and finance and economy presented their annual performance reports, and discussions about

the reports followed. NGOs and programs in the region, including the Integrated Family Health Program (a USAID program led by Pathfinder International), DKT Ethiopia, the Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations, and Engender Health also presented about reproductive health/family planning projects being implemented in the region. PHE Ethiopia Consortium participated in this meeting as a stakeholder of the BoFED by partially sponsoring the meeting and presenting the results of a research study by the Guraghe People Self Development Organization (GPSDO). The study, entitled, “The effectiveness of PHE approach in achieving FP and fertility outcome: A comparative study



in Guraghe Zone” was followed by a discussion of the research findings. The meeting concluded with the passing of a declaration that called for strengthening multi-sector collaboration to address reproductive health/family planning and other developmental issues in the region. ■

PHE EC supports the establishment of Consortium of Youth Development Organizations in Ethiopia(COYDOE)

On January 4, 2013, youth associations and organizations held a meeting in Debre Zeyit Bonita Youth Training Center to announce the establishment of a proactive youth network named Consortium of Youth Development Organizations in Ethiopia(COYDOE). The idea for the network came from four youth association leaders after they attended the first National Family Planning Symposium held from November 26-29, 2012 in Bahir Dar. Youth participation in the symposium was limited to few young people who had an opportunity to represent their organizations and present scientific papers. At the symposium, which focused on achievements, challenges, and ways forward related family planning, a few attendees were very concerned about the low number of young attendees. They asked a key question: “Where are the youths?”

After the symposium, by those committed leaders of youth development associations and organizations came together to establish a Network. They hoped the network could serve as a sustainable solution for ensuring youth participation in all development activities, and particularly in activities related to sexual and reproductive health.

The goal of the Network is to bring youth organizations working in development issues together to collaborate on common objectives and activities. In doing so, they aim to increase their organizations’ visibility, improve resource mobilization, and produce quality outputs.

Recognizing that young people constitute a significant proportion of Ethiopia’s population, the Population Health Environment

Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC) has been prioritizing youth issues. PHE EC believes that the participation and ownership of the youth and comprehensively addressing the social, economic, and environmental concerns faced by youth cannot be accomplished by one or two sectors. Rather, addressing youth issues demands the active involvement of the youth and coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders in an integrated manner.

Given this perspective, PHE EC supported the establishment of the Network, and participated in the formulation of its vision, mission, objective and values. In addition, PHE EC shared its own experience in establishing and managing a consortium, and looks forward to strengthening its partnership with COYDOE.

Continued on page ...15

PHE-EC celebrated World Population Day by giving special attention to female food producers

Most of the time when people think of agriculture or food production, they simply visualize male farmers. Women who are the backbone of the agriculture and who are struggling to ensure household food security are left behind the curtain, their voices unheard for many years. Acknowledging the effort of female food producers is an initial step to transform the agricultural system and essential for bringing sustainable developmental changes in the community. “Together for Food Secure Ethiopia” (TFSE) Coalition was initiated by ten nongovernmental organizations—Oxfam, PANE, PFE, CCF, PHE-EC, SEDA, SLUF,

FfE, Plan Ethiopia, and NEWA—to support the government in its effort to transform the agricultural system whilst identifying the bottlenecks for ensuring domestic food security. On July 18, 2013, in collaboration with TFSE (with leadership of SEDA) and Lem Ethiopia, PHE-EC celebrated World Population Day in Fiche town by giving special attention to female food producers and by raising the health issue of adolescent pregnancy. Young mothers face a high risk of maternal complications including obstetric fistula, death, and disability. According to a UNFPA report, about 16 million girls under age 18 give birth each year, 3.2 million undergo

unsafe abortions around the globe. Adolescent pregnancy is often a consequence of discrimination, rights violations (including child marriage), inadequate education, or sexual coercion.

More than 60 participants attending the event, including female food producers from the rural community, government officials from Woreda and Zonal health offices (Agriculture; Women, Youth, and Children’s Office, Finance and Economic Development), and development practitioners from partner and member organizations.

A representative from Gar

... from page 13

PHE EC supports the establishment...

Since its establishment, the consortium has been very active in promoting meaningful participation of young people in the 3rd International Conference on Family Planning in Addis Abeba from 12-15 November 2015. Working in collaboration with the Ethiopian Youth Network and other youth organizations participated actively in the national youth sub-committee constituted by the Ministry of Health with the main aim of meaningful participation of Ethiopian youth in the conference. The youth sub-committee managed to provide scholarship to 50 young people coming from different regions, organized 2 day pre conference for Ethiopian youth whereby they have invited over 150 participants across the country to deliberate on issues of sexual reproductive health and family planning which have ended by drawing a 10 point call to action. They have also mobilized over 6,000 young people in Addis Abeba and regions using mobile phone, radio and campaigns to promote the conference and as well to hear from young people on the challenges they are facing in accessing services to

SRH and FP.

COYDOE, has now been involved in the Packard Foundation Supported National youth conference which will be organized by Pathfinder International, in 2014. This particular conference is expected to come up with a long term road map towards youth development issues in the country.

The consortium has also embarked in developing its three year strategic plan with the generous support of the Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations(CORHA) in Ethiopia. The Packard Foundation has also helped in furnishing the Executive Director office which is hosted at the Eshet Children and Youth Development Organizations, one of the founding members of COYDOE. In addition the consortium is in discussion with its partner Ethiopian Youth Federation to establish a memorandum of understanding to translate the national youth pre conference call to action into a program, with the overall support of the Ministry of Health. ■

From August 2013 to March 2014, researchers from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health are working with PHE-EC and researchers from Metu University to develop tools for monitoring and evaluation specific to PHE interventions. The team is following up on qualitative research conducted by 2 master’s students in 2012-2013. Now the team is working with Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) to develop a survey tool that contains a set of questions for measuring PHE attitudes.

PHE programs introduce both visible and invisible innovations. Visible innovations include introduction of new agricultural techniques, and the distribution or sale of various products. Invisible innovations include new

jarso Woreda Health Office gave a presentation on adolescent pregnancy and family planning service provision in the woreda and a representative from Garjarso woreda Agriculture Office noted the role of women in the agriculture sector.

During this event, female food producers could share their thoughts and experiences about the role of women in food production, and addressing the reproductive health issues of young girls in an integrated manner. At the end of the workshop participants visited the house of Model farmers.

Let us join our hands to unleash the power of female food producers and to end adolescent pregnancy! ■



Participants of the World Population Day at Fiche Lem Ethiopia site

Scale Development to Measure Environmental Attitudes of PHE Beneficiaries in Ethiopia

ways of thinking about the environment, and the links between the environment and population, health and nutrition. ‘New ways of thinking’ can be quantified through measurement scales, where a person is asked a series of questions (called “items”), and assigned a score based on her/his pattern of responses.

One measurement scale for environment attitudes common in studies in North America is the New Ecological Paradigm (NEP) scale. Some studies have shown that respondents with high scores on the NEP scale are more likely to practice pro-environmental behaviors such as recycling. The researchers are developing an analogous scale to measure changes in environmental attitudes brought about by exposure to community-level PHE activities, which we are

calling the PHE Core Principles Scale (PCPS).

Once the scale is developed and validated, it can be integrated into questionnaires in household surveys, to examine whether respondents with a higher score are more likely to practice behaviors promoted in multisectoral PHE programs such as family planning and improved agricultural techniques. The steps we are following in developing this scale are:

- 1) Review of the literature on scales of environmental attitudes and exploratory qualitative interviews to develop survey content;
- 2) Developing and applying a questionnaire with a full list of candidate items;
- 3) Analysis of the performance

of the items, including reliability analysis, to reduce and refine the items to produce a final version of the scale;

- 4) Integration of the scale into household surveys to examine correlations with scale scores and behaviors promoted by PHE programs.

During six months the team is following the steps in this process at EWNRA’s site in Metu Woreda, Oromia. The research team completed a phase of qualitative research (interviews, focus group discussions), and the data from that phase is being used to edit the survey tool. In February, the research will continue with a household survey of randomly selected women aged 18-45 in kebeles outside Metu town. ■

Interview >>

with Kristen Stelljes

Our Voice: Can you please introduce yourself?

Kristen Stelljes : My name is Kristen Stelljes. I was the PHE Advisor at the Packard Foundation in Ethiopia from September 2011-September 2013. My husband's name is Mike. He was in Ethiopia with me and we adopted our dog, Lucy, while we were there. I am now a Program Officer at the Hewlett Foundation in their Global Development and Population program on the Evidence-informed Policymaking team. I have a master's degree in urban and environmental policy and planning from Tufts University and a bachelor's degree in philosophy and environmental studies from Brandeis University, both in the US. I have been working in international development for over 10 years. My areas of expertise are integrated development, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building and organizational development.

Our Voice: How were you first introduced to the PHE approach?

Kristen Stelljes : I actually had never heard of PHE until I saw the job positing for the PHE Advisor position! However, I have always been interested in integrated approaches that help people make their communities great places to live. I was really excited when I saw that there is an approach that treats people as whole beings with diverse needs and interests, and that empowers them to address the interconnected challenges people face in an integrated way.

Our Voice: What have some of your contributions been over the last two years in Ethiopia?

Kristen Stelljes : I worked closely with the staff of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of PHE projects in Ethiopia. We developed a shared M&E framework that includes indicators that PHE implementing members are reporting on. We also developed manuals to help members document their good practices and champion stories from individuals and communities. These good practices and champion stories will be highlighted at the 2014 General Assembly. We developed a web-based M&E system to help the Consortium and its members keep track of their data. I also worked with individual organizations that are both members of the Consortium and Packard grantees to improve their M&E system, including developing organizational M&E plans. I helped secure the funding and then conduct the MEASURE Evaluation-funded evaluation of the Guraghe People's Self-help Development



Kristen Stelljes

Organization (GPSDO) PHE project, which is the first evaluation of a PHE project in Ethiopia that yielded statistically significant results. I also worked with the PHE EC staff to start offering online discussion forums for members.

Our Voice: How do you assess and evaluate the progress of the PHE approach in Ethiopia?

Kristen Stelljes : The PHE approach in Ethiopia has made very impressive gains over the last six years, since the last PHE conference in 2007, with more and more people becoming familiar with the approach. At the grassroots level, it seems that government partners are very convinced about the benefits of the approach and want to see it scaled up. The next step is to do more work at the regional and federal level to determine how to encourage more multi-sector collaboration. I think people are interested but haven't yet figured out the best way to go about it. PHE organizations are making real changes on the ground where they are working. The next step will be to ensure that these programs are truly integrated and to develop more resources to help members do this. As a start, we are working on an implementation manual that has 70 different sections with authors from many of the member organizations. I think this is a very strategic time in Ethiopia because there is growing interest in multi-sector approaches and many of the current PHE projects are about to end, so PHE implementers and the Consortium will need to determine how to capitalize on the opportunities and secure funding to keep PHE projects going.

Our Voice: What are the current strengths and limitations of PHE implementers in M&E in Ethiopia?

Kristen Stelljes : I think people have always realized that M&E is important, but not a lot of tangible efforts had been made in the past. This has created some limitations for PHE implementers as they don't have baselines from their pilot projects, so they aren't able to show what changes they have catalysed over time. The 70/30 directive has made doing M&E more challenging, because M&E is counted as an administrative cost. Despite these challenges, over the last two years, I've seen many organizations work hard to strengthen their internal M&E systems. Hiwot Ethiopia and GPSDO have developed organizational M&E plans and we were able to conduct an evaluation of the GPSDO project. The Consortium was not tracking its data in a systematic way. But, that's all about to change. Molla Mengesha, the new M&E Officer, is in the process of finalizing the first M&E plan for the Consortium and has been developing tools to keep track of the Consortium's data. We also have the new Shared M&E Toolkit for PHE implementers. So, I'm hopeful that in the future, PHE EC and its members will be able to say much more about the changes they are making in the communities where they are working on how their efforts are contributing to the national development goals and international goals like the MDGs.

Our Voice: What did you learn from the PHE approach in Ethiopia?

Kristen Stelljes : When I came to Ethiopia, I knew that having data is important in trying to convince people about the benefits of an approach and the importance of being able to tell your story well. However, seeing the challenges that PHE implementers are facing in showing the value of their work because they don't have baseline data and haven't been tracking outcome indicators, has made me a real believer in the importance of M&E and planning for M&E from the beginning of the project. Organizations need to be clear about what story they want to tell at the end of their project and make sure they are gathering the necessary data throughout their project to be able to tell that story. Another thing I learned is the importance of having good terms of reference for evaluations—with periodic checks and being clear about what you want—so that you can hold the consultants hired accountable, and make sure they are going to deliver the kind of evaluation the organization wants in the end. I've seen several organizations really struggling because they only checked in with the consultants when the first draft of the report was written. At that point, it's often too late to go back and gather more data if the right questions weren't asked in the first place.

Our Voice: How do you describe the relationship

between the Consortium and its international partners? How can be these relationships be strengthened?

Kristen Stelljes : The PHE Ethiopia Consortium and its international partners are actively engaged with each other. The PHE community is small, so people know each other well and are open to finding ways to collaborate. PHE EC and Population Reference Bureau successfully organized the 2013 International PHE Conference, which brought together the PHE community to learn from each other and discuss how to move their work forward. PHE EC is working with the Futures Group on the Health Policy Project. The Woodrow Wilson Center has been helping to document PHE work in Ethiopia and raise awareness about this work internationally. I think these relationships can be strengthened by ensuring that the international partners are aware of what's happening in PHE in Ethiopia—both in the Consortium and with the members—in a timely manner. Having good data to share will also help, because international partners are often looking for new data that they can share to demonstrate the benefits of the PHE approach internationally. Another way to strengthen the relationship with international partners is to ensure that the projects that the Consortium is implementing achieve their intended goals and are completed within the parameters of the agreement.

Our Voice: How do you assess the engagement of Packard in the PHE approach?

Kristen Stelljes : The Packard Foundation has been a real leader in the PHE community and has funded PHE projects in the Philippines, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Packard sees PHE as a good strategy for engaging new partners in family planning/reproductive health who have not typically been involved. It catalyzed the growth of PHE in Ethiopia through providing funds to the first implementers in Ethiopia and supporting the establishment and growth of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium over the years. It also worked to engage other donors and encourage them to support PHE. The Packard Foundation has launched its new strategy. Therefore, it will be important for PHE implementers to think about how they can contribute to this strategy and to share the results they are achieving with Packard so its staff can see what difference PHE projects are making on the ground. Because the Packard Foundation has funded PHE through its Population and Reproductive Health Program, it's important for PHE implementers to be able to demonstrate their results in family planning and reproductive health, even if they are an environmental organization.

Our Voice: What is your advice to Packard and other donors in relation in investing in multi-sectoral PHE approach?

Kristen Stelljes : I hope that more donors become interested in multi-sector approaches. This is often a challenge because even donor organizations are organized sectorally, so if a PHE project is funded out of a sectoral program, it's natural that the donor will want to focus on the results in their area of interest. To help address the sectoral nature of donor organizations, I think it's a good idea to find partners from other sectors, either within the donor organization or outside. It would be great to see more environmental donors interested in funding PHE. However, as all PHE implementers know, partnerships across sectors can be especially challenging. So, I think it's important that if donors are going to jointly fund a project they should be in regular communication with each other, in addition to the grantees, and come to a consensus on what is expected from the project, so they aren't trying to pull the project in different directions based on their own interests.

Our Voice: What areas of Ethiopia have you visited in the last two years? Can you speak Amharic?

Kristen Stelljes : I was very fortunate to be able to visit PHE implementers in four different regions of Ethiopia and learn about their work. Every time I go on a site visit, I'm impressed by the dedication of the members and the real difference they are making in the communities where they work. I have also been able to visit some areas of Ethiopia as a tourist, including Harar, Lalibela, Gondar, Axum, Dorze and Konso. One highlight for me was celebrating Timket in Gondar. I can speak tinish Amarinya-enough to get around on mini buses and in restaurants. I can also say "I am a Population, Health and Environment Advisor" in Amharic, which is a mouthful!

Our Voice: What is your message and recommendation to members, local and international partners?

Kristen Stelljes : I would like to tell everyone to keep up the good work and don't forget to document that work! So much progress has been made since 2007 and the 2013 conference was a great chance to reflect on that success and look forward to the future. I can't wait to see all the progress that will be made in the next six years. I hope that PHE implementers in Ethiopia will not be shy in sharing their results with the international community, because there is a lot that can be learned from their experiences. I also want to thank everyone for being such good friends and colleagues over the last two years. I look forward to keeping in touch and hope to be able to see everyone again soon. I think the coming PHE Fellow who will be based at PHE EC is very lucky to be able to work with such a dynamic and dedicated staff as the staff at the Consortium as well as within the member organizations. ■

From March 30-31, 2013, Jimma University (JU) hosted a launch ceremony for the second phase of its program with the Flemish Interuniversity Counsel University Development Cooperation (VLIR-OUS) at the JU campus in Oromia. A total of about 200 participants were invited from various federal ministries, regional bureaus, zonal and woreda offices. The "Institutional University Cooperation Jimma University" (IUC-JU) Program began in February 2007, with the novel aim of realizing a long-term partnership related to the multifaceted program development of the Gilgel Gibe Dam on the Omo River. This multidisciplinary research collaboration has both academic and developmental objectives with country-wide relevance. Dr. Fekere Lemessa, JU President, welcomed all participants. The launch ceremony was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Kaba Urgessa, State Minister of Education. In his speech, Dr. Kaba emphasized that collaborative programs are effective when they are long-term, address institutional and national priorities, and are both focused on and based upon mutual interests of both north and south partners. He called for VLIR to continue to play an important role in Ethiopian higher education by taking current IUCs as a base upon which further collaborations can be initiated.



**Dr. Kaba Urgessa ,
State Minister of Education**

After Dr. Kaba spoke, the Belgian Ambassador to Ethiopia

PHE EC Awarded During the Phase II Launch Ceremony of the Institutional University Cooperation Jimma University (IUC-JU)



Participants at the Phase II IUC-JU Launch Ceremony

delivered a speech underscoring the strong relationship between the governments of Ethiopia and Belgium with regards to various aspects of development.

Ato Mesfin Kassa, PHE EC Environmental Program Officer at the time, represented the Consortium at the event, delivering brief remarks during the opening session. He spoke of the collaboration between JU and PHE EC related to integrated watershed management, policy dialogues, and joint research activities. He also emphasized that, in the past few years, advocacy involving research results has alerted policy and decision makers, the general public, and the media to pay attention to the rest of the nation's dams and basin development.

Professor Luc Dechateau of VLIR and Ato Kora Tushune, local coordinator of the project, provided an overview of JU-IUC, including progress and challenges of the partnership. Additionally, five scientific research papers were presented, including:

- Food Security and Linear Growth of Adolescents by Prof. Tefera Belachew
- Growing Insecticide Resistance: A Potential Road Block to Growing

Efforts in Malaria Control in Ethiopia by Dr. Dilnesaw Yewahalaw

- The spatial and temporal variation of sediment yield of Gilgel Gibe catchment, South West Ethiopia by Ato Endalkachew Kissi
- The Effect of Coffee Cultivation and Fragmentation on Epiphytic Orchid Diversity in SWE Afromontane Forests by Ato Kitessa Hundara
- Dietary Tannins and their Multiple Effects on Livestock Production and Health by Dr. Yishak Kechero.

In addition the papers, the State Minister and the Belgium and Ambassador presided over the inauguration of the Drug Quality

Lab, Molecular Biology Lab, Mycobacterium Lab, and the Insectary and Graduate Program. At the end of this session, JU and University of Gent signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding for 2013-2017.

During the first day of the meeting, JU acknowledged the contribution of several partners, individuals and organizations. JU President Dr. Fekere Lemessa, presented the awards for involvement in the first JU-VLIR Institutional University Cooperation. PHE EC was the only civil society organization awarded for its contributions in policy dialogues, research and advocacy engagements. Ato Mesfin Kassa received the award on behalf of PHE EC. ■



PHE EC representative receiving the award from Dr. Fekere Lemessa

Basic Facts on Ethiopia's Protected Areas

Wildlife Potential of Ethiopia

Geographically, Ethiopia is stratified into a number of ecological zones. The associated diversity in climate and the varieties of ecosystems have rendered the country to have a diverse, rare, unique and endemic species of wildlife. In the near past, these wild animals (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish) were abundant in a bewildering variety, but currently in declining state due to anthropogenic pressures. If this resource is well protected, developed and wisely utilized, it has a paramount national and international importance, and this can only be achieved if the wildlife resource devastation and unsustainable utilizations that arise from different directions such as habitat encroachment, deforestation, fire and poaching are halted through multi-sectoral interventions and partnership.

Currently Ethiopia has about:

- 287 species of Mammals (31 endemic),
- 862 species of Birds (17 endemic),
- 201 species of Reptiles (14 endemic),
- 63 species of Amphibians (30 endemic),
- 150 species of Fish (40) endemic

Endemic Larger Mammals of Ethiopia

- Bale monkey
- Ethiopian wolf
- Gelada baboon
- Menelik's bushbuck
- Mountain nyala
- Starck's hare
- Swayne's hartebeest
- Walia ibex

Endemic Birds of Ethiopia

- Abyssinian bush crow
- Abyssinian catbird
- Abyssinian long claw
- Abyssinian woodpecker
- Ankober serin
- Black-headed forest oriole
- Degodi lark
- Harwood's francolin
- Liben lark
- Nechisar nightjar

- Prince ruspoli's turaco
- Savadori's seedeater
- Spot-breasted plover
- White-tailed swallow
- Yellow-fronted parrot
- Yellow-throated serin
- Black-headed siskin

Protected Areas

According to IUCN, protected areas are defined as "geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values." Therefore, protected areas are natural areas set aside to receive protection because of their recognized natural, ecological and/or cultural values. There are several kinds of protected areas (such as National parks, Wildlife reserves, Wildlife sanctuaries, Wildlife controlled hunting areas, Community conservation areas, Biosphere reserves etc....) which vary by their level of protection and management objectives.

In summary Ethiopia has the following protected areas with subsequently tabulated additional information below:

- 22 National Parks (NP)
- 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries (WS),
- 5 Wildlife Reserves (WR),
- 10 Community Conservation Areas (CCA),
- 21 Controlled Hunting Areas (CHA), and
- 4 Biosphere Reserves (BR).

I. Protected Areas administered and managed by the Federal Government (The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority)

A. National Parks - are conservation areas which may incorporate land or land covered by water body and area set aside for the purpose of conserving and protecting wildlife and objects of aesthetic, ecological and scientific interest. Inside the park, prohibited activities include hunting, cultivation, grazing cattle or livestock, settlement, burning vegetation, felling trees or exploiting natural resources in any manner unless these activities are for the development and management of the park.

No.	National Park	Region(s)	Year of Establishment	Area coverage, Km ²	Conservation Focus	Key Wildlife Species
1	Abijata-Shalla Lakes	Oromia	1973	887	Aquatic birds and the two lakes	Grant's gazelle, Greater and Lesser flamingos, White pelican, African fish eagle and variety of aquatic birds
2	Alatish	Amhara	2005	2666	Roan antelope, African elephant	Greater and Lesser kudu, Elephant, Lion, Leopard
3	Awash	Oromia & Afar	1966	756	Beisa oryx, Soemmering's gazelle and Swayne's hartebeest	Beisa oryx, Defassa waterbuck, Soemmering's gazelle, Greater and Lesser kudu
4	Bale Mountains	Oromia	1970	2200	Mountain nyala, Ethiopian wolf, Giant mole rat and protection of rare Afro-alpine habitat & moist highland forest.	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Ethiopian wolf, Leopard, Lion, Bohor reedbuck, Abyssinian hare, Lammergeyer
4	Gambella	Gambella	1974	4575	Nile lechwe, White-eared Kob, Shoe-billed stork & extensive swamp Ecosystem	White-eared kob, Nile lechwe, African buffalo, African elephant, Roan antelope Giraffe, Topi, Crocodile, Hippopotamus
5	Geralle	Somali	2006	3858	Beisa oryx, African elephant	Greater and Lesser kudu, African elephant, Beisa oryx, Gerenuk
6	Nechsar	SNNPR, Oromia	1974	502	Burchell's zebra, Swayne's hartebeest and portions of the 2 lakes	Bur chell's zebra, Greater and Lesser kudu, Crocodile, Swayne's hartebeest, African Wild dog, Klipspringer
7	Omo	SNNPR	1967	4065	Common eland, African buffalo, African elephant and extensive grassland wilderness	African buffalo, African elephant, Common Eland, Lion, Cheetah, Topi, Giraffe, African Wild dog, Hippopotamus
8	Qafta Shiraro	Tigray	2007	2117	African elephant	African elephant, Greater kudu, Roan antelope, Lion
9	Simien Mountains	Amhara	1967	412	Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and its landscape scenery	Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf, Gelada baboon, Klipspringer, Menelik's bushbuck
10	Yangudi Rassa	Afar	1977	4731	African wild ass, Soemmering's gazelle	Oryx, Soemmering's gazelle, Dorcas gazelle, Ostrich

Source: Tadesse Hailu (2006)

B. Wildlife Sanctuaries - are set up to primarily conserve threatened wildlife taxon or one particular species. Inside wildlife Sanctuary, prohibited activities include hunting, cultivation, livestock grazing, settlement, burning vegetation, felling trees or exploiting natural resources in any manner unless these activities are for the development and management of the Sanctuary.

No.	Sanctuaries	Region (s)	Year of Establishment	Area coverage, Km ²	Key Wildlife Species Available
1	Babile Elephant Sanctuary	Oromia & Somali	1970	6987	African elephant (sub-species), Lesser kudu, Lion, Leopard
2	Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary	Oromia & SNNPR	1974	54	Swayne's hartebeest, Oribi, Leopard,

Source: Tadesse Hailu (2006)

II. Protected Areas administered and managed by the Regional Governments

A. National Parks

No.	National Park	Region (s)	Year of Establishment	Area coverage, Km ²	Conservation Focus	Key Wildlife Species Available
1	*Alideghe	Afar	1973	900	Grevy's Zebra	Soemmering's gazelle, Beisa oryx, Grevy's zebra
2	Arsi Mountains	Oromia	2010	1200	Ethiopian wolf, Afro-alpine habitat	Mountain nyala, Melelik's bushbuck, Ethiopian wolf, Leopard, Wild dog, Serval cat
3	Bahir Dar Tikur Abay Millenium	Amhara	2008	43	Wet land ecosystem	Crocodile, Hippopotamus, Aquatic birds
4	Bakusa	Amhara	2012	447	Riparian plain land Ecosystem	Leopard, Lion, Oribi, Greater kudu
5	Borena	Oromia	2013	1000	Stresemann's Bush crow and White-tailed swallow	Burchell's zebra, Borena gazelle, Bush crow
6	Borena Saynt	Amhara	2009	44	Afro-alpine ecosystem with variety of high altitude species	Gelada baboon, Abyssinian hare, Menelik's bushbuck
7	Chebera Churchura	SNNPR	2005	1190	African elephant, Savannah grassland ecosystem,	African buffalo, African elephant, Lion, Hippopotamus, Leopard
8	Dati Wolel	Oromia	2006	431	Wetland ecosystem with a variety of aquatic bird and mammal species	African buffalo, Hippopotamus, Lion, Aquatic birds
9	Gibe Sheleko	SNNPR	2009	248	Gorgeous landscapes, Gibe basin	Lion, Common bushbuck, Anubis baboon

10	Loka Abaya	SNNPR	2009	248		Lion, Hunting dog
11	Mago	SNNPR	1979	1942	Savannah grassland and riparian forest ecosystem, African buffalo, African elephant	African buffalo, African elephant, lesser kudu, Dik dik, Lion, Hunting dog
12	Maze	SNNPR	2005	202	Savannah grassland Ecosystem, Swayne's hartebeest	Oribi, Swayne's hartebeest

Source: James Young (2012)

* It is a reserve to date, but on process to be promoted to a National Park status.

B. Wildlife Reserves - are areas set aside to conserve wildlife resources, and to act as a buffer zone for adjacent conservation areas, with an intention of upgrading to either national park or sanctuary. Human activities are also prohibited without written permission from the authority to allow settlement, to pasture and water domestic animals there in.

No.	Reserve	Region (s)	Year of Establishment	Area coverage, Km ²	Key Wildlife Species Available
1	Awash west	Afar	1973	1781	Lesser kudu, Oryx, Serval cat, Common jackal
2	Bale reserve	Oromia	1973	1766	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck
3	Chelbi	SNNPR	1973	4212	Grevy's zebra, Oryx, Ostrich
4	Gewane	Afar	1973	2439	Soemmering's gazelle, Lion, Gerenuk
5	Mile Sardo	Afar	1973	8766	African Wild Ass, Dorcas gazelle, Pelzen's gazelle

Source: Tadesse Hailu (2006); James Young (2012)

C. Community Conservation Areas - are areas conserved by the local communities through traditional practices to protect and restore natural resources and cultural values in the face of threats for sustainable use.

No.	CCA	Region (s)	Year of Establishment	Area coverage, Km ²	Key Wildlife Species Available
1	Abuna Yoseph	Amhara	2009	50	Ethiopian wolf, Gelada baboon, Serval cat, Spotted hyaena
2	Dorze	SNNPR	2010		Grey duiker, Annubis baboon, V.monkey, Bush pig
3	East Langano	Oromia	2010		Menelik's bushbuck, Mountain nyala, Hippopotamus
4	Garamba	SNNPR	2011	25	Ethiopian wolf, Grey duiker, Common jackal
5	Guassa Menz	Amhara	2011	110	Ethiopian wolf, Gelada baboon
6	Konso	SNNPR	2010		Colobus monkey, Grey duiker, Abyssinian hare
7	Lephis	Oromia	2010		Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Leopard,

8	Maze	SNNPR	2010		Swayne's hartebeest, Bohor reedbuck
9	**Tama	SNNPR	1973	1665	Giraffee, African buffalo, Burchell's zebra, Patas monkey
10	Zeway	Oromia	2010		Aquatic birds, Anubis baboon, Warthog

Source: Tadesse Hailu; James Young (2012)

** Formerly established as a reserve in 1973, but later changed to CCA.

D. Controlled Hunting Areas - are areas designated for sport/game hunting on the basis of license. The primary objective is to generate revenue which supports sustainable conservation activities and community development programs.

No.	Controlled Hunting Area	Region (s)	Year of Establishment	Area coverage, Km ²	Key Wildlife Species Available
1	Abashaba Demero	Oromia	1994	166	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Giant forest hog, Bush pig
2	Alluto	Oromia	1995	280	Greater kudu, Common bushbuck, Grey duiker
3	Arbagugu	Oromia	1995	338	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Leopard
4	Asbahire	Afar	2012	174	Lesser kudu, Oryx, Sommering's gazelle
5	Besmena-Odubulu	Oromia	1993	350	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Giant forest hog, Bush pig
6	Billen Hertelle	Afar	1996	1090	Soemmering's gazelle, Oryx, Gerenuk, Lesser kudu, Defassa waterbuck
7	Chifra	Afar	1998	510	Soemmering's gazelle, Oryx, Lesser kudu
8	Dembel-Ayisho-Adigala	Somali	2012	910	Soemmering's gazelle, Gerenuk, Lesser kudu, Bat-eared fox
9	Dindin	Oromia	1996	285	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Leopard, Colobus monkey
10	Hanto	Oromia	1991	206	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Leopard, Colobus monkey
11	Haro Abadiko	Oromia	2000	244	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Leopard, Colobus monkey
12	Hurufa Soma	Oromia	2000	231	Menelik's bushbuck, Mountain nyala, Bale monkey, Grey duiker, Giant forest hog, Guereza,
13	Melka sedi	Afar	2012	122	Lesser kudu, Common bushbuck, Hamadryas baboon
14	Munessa Kuke	Oromia	1993	111	Menelik's bushbuck, Mountain nyala, Guereza, Anubis baboon, Grey duiker
15	Murulle	SNNPR	1987	690	Topi, Greater kudu, Gerenuk, Grant's gazelle, Lesser kudu, Common bushbuck, Abyssinian hare, Bat-eared Fox, Blue monkey, Gunther's Dikdik, Bush baby, Caracal

16	Shedem Berbere	Oromia	1988	170	Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, Giant forest hog, Bush pig
17	Shinille Meto	Somali	2012	484	Gerenuk, Soemmering's gazelle, Dik dik
18	Telalak Dewe	Afar	2001	580	Lesser kudu, Beisa oryx, Sommering's gazelle, Warthog, Grivet monkey, Hamadryas baboon, Bat-eared fox
19	Urgan Bula	Oromia	2000	78	Menelik's bushbuck, Mountain nyala, Hamadryas baboon
20	Welshet Salla	SNNPR	2000	288	Lesser Kudu, Defassa Waterbuck, Buffalo, Common Bushbuck, Lelwel haretebeest, Mountain Reedbuck
21	Sorroro Torgom	Oromia	2008	78.2	Menelik's bushbuck, Mountain nyala, Hamadryas baboon, Grey duiker, Giant forest hog, Guereza

Source: Tadesse Hailu (2006); James Young (2012)

E. Biosphere Reserves - are areas where by nature and the environment are protected through sustainable use consisting of valuable ecosystems with diverse habitats for characteristic species of plants and animals.

No.	Biosphere Reserve	Region (s)	Year of Establishment	Area coverage, Km ²	Key Wildlife Species Available
1	Kafa	SNNPR	2010	760	Giant forest hog, Gureza, De Brazza's monkey, Blue monkey, Lion
2	***Lake Tana	Amhara	Proposed	~3,500	Wetland ecosystem that supports several endemic and migratory aquatic bird species. It is one of the important bird areas (IBAs) of Ethiopia.
3	Sheka	SNNPR	2012	2,387.5	African buffalo, De Brazza's monkey, Lion, Leopard, Blue monkey
4	Yayu	Oromia	2010	1,670	Eastern Afro-montane Biodiversity hotspot and Important Bird Areas of International significance.

Source: James Young (2012) *** On process to be designated as a Biosphere reserve

Conclusions

Protected areas provide ecosystem goods and services. They have recognized natural, ecological, economical, cultural and scientific values. Apparently, they are water sources on which communities and our country depend for domestic consumption, agricultural development, energy, tourism and other developmental requirements. Apart from this, they fall under emissions reduction from Deforestation and Forest Degradation of the CRGE strategy as they have carbon sequestration capacity, thus generating the highly needed revenue to support the projected carbon neutral growth through climate finance. Hence, managing PAs through multi-sectoral management approach is an integral part of CRGE that aims at creating climate resilient green economy. Hence multi-sectoral protected areas management approach that encompasses different stakeholders will in this regard contribute towards meeting the role of PAs in zero deforestation and watershed management as carbon sinks. ■

Overview of a Strategic Climate Institutions Program (SCIP) Project in Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks

The “Strategic Climate Institutions Program,” or SCIP, is a program funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Norway and Denmark aiming to “build organisational and institutional capacity within Ethiopian Government, civil society, and the private sector to:

- 1) increase resilience to current climate variability,
- 2) adapt to future climate change and
- 3) benefit from the opportunities of low carbon growth. Under this program, multiple partners are implementing a project entitled “Building Institutional Capacity and Participatory Leadership in Awash and Simien Mountains National Parks for Resilience, Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (BICAS-RMACC).” BICAS-RMACC is implemented in two protected areas, the Simien Mountains National Park and Awash National Park.

Project Objective and Components

The ultimate goal of the BICAS-RMACC project is to render the ecosystems of protected areas resilient to climate change. The overall objective for project implementers is to build the institutional capacity of stakeholders who will play considerable roles in climate change impact mitigation and who will ensure climate adaptation and resilience in the two protected park areas.

Pursuant to this overall objective, there are four specific, inter-related project components. The BICAS-RMACC project will:

- 1) Create partnerships and foster collaboration among pertinent stakeholders and project beneficiaries for improved decision-making.
- 2) Support in build park management and leadership capacity of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), Awash and Simien Mountains National Parks, and respective adjacent woredas (districts) within Oromia, Amhara and Afar regional states.
- 3) Build the capacity of communities to engage in alternative livelihood activities—specifically, to enable women, youth groups, and local institutions to engage in biodiversity entrepreneurship.
- 4) Promote best practices in park ecosystem rehabilitation, ultimately serving as a model for

environmental resilience and climate change–related adaptation.

Rehabilitation of protected areas is one element of adaptation strategies that addresses the impacts of climate change. Moreover, the conservation of biodiversity in protected areas falls within the Climate Change Adaptation Plan issued by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. This plan has clearly indicated that protected areas (parks) provide opportunities for learning more about carbon sequestration.

Implementing Partners

Playing the lead role as a key project stakeholder, the **Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA)**:

- ▶ Serves as secretariat for the federal taskforce meetings as all protected areas are within the federal-level mandate,
- ▶ Chairs the intra-regional taskforce meetings, and
- ▶ Participates in exchange and review meetings and project evaluations.

As a lead organization, the **Population Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC)**:

- ▶ Coordinates overall activities of the project;
- ▶ Conducts workshops, trainings & experience-sharing visits with beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders;
- ▶ Conducts research in collaboration with stakeholders;
- ▶ Facilitates taskforce meetings and conducts review meetings; and
- ▶ Conducts evaluative research.

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) is a project implementing partner responsible for the execution of project activities in Simien Mountains National Park, while **Wildlife for Sustainable Development (WSD)** is executing project activities in Awash National Park. These partners are responsible for:

- ▶ Implementing project activities in ANP and SMNP;
- ▶ Organizing workshops, trainings, field visits,

taskforce meetings;

- ▶ Facilitating experience sharing programs; and
- ▶ Facilitating audio-video documentary productions.

Expected Outputs

Achievements expected from project implementation include:

- ▶ Enhanced participatory park management leadership capacity
- ▶ Local community ownership and participation in park management
- ▶ Establishment of strong partnerships and collaborations, and gaining of wildlife-based experiences from an integrated park management system
- ▶ Generation of evidence for better environmental practices addressing social, economic, environmental, and ecological concerns
- ▶ Development of “best strategies” for climate change adaptation and mitigation to rehabilitate fragile ecosystems and vulnerable livelihoods
- ▶ Enhancement of institutional capacity and participatory leadership through:
 - Establishment of taskforces at different levels,
 - Strengthening of the EWCA to play a leadership role in integrated park management,
 - Conducting various capacity building trainings and experience sharing visits for different actors on different thematic issues,
 - Undertaking collaborative projects
- ▶ Promotion of best practices in park rehabilitation, environmental resilience and adaptation to impacts of climate change.

Project Progress

The project was launched in May 2013, and thus far:

- ▶ Assessment and identification of primary stakeholders and beneficiary communities was conducted and documented;
- ▶ Woreda-level sensitization and awareness raising workshops were conducted,
- ▶ Woreda-park level protected areas multisectoral management taskforce was established,
- ▶ Regional (Afar, Oromia, Amhara) and intra-regional levels (Afar and Oromia) protected areas management taskforces were established for both Awash and Simien Mountains National Parks,

▶ Experience-sharing visits among multi-stakeholders taskforces were conducted for both Awash and Simien Mountains National Parks,

▶ Climate-related training needs assessment was conducted and documented,

▶ Climate-related training was conducted for woreda and zonal level key stakeholders and taskforce members in Simien Mountains National Park,

▶ Messages for the production of various IEC materials were developed, designed, printed and are currently in distribution,

- o Two brochures in English, Amharic, and Oromifa versions

- o One SCIP Project in English

- o Two posters in English, Amharic, and Oromifa versions

- o One toolkit (guideline) on environmental education for school clubs in English, Amharic, and Oromifa

▶ Schools’ environmental/Wildlife clubs were established in some of the schools around Simien Mountains and Awash National parks,

▶ Feasibility studies on climate smart biodiversity income generating activities were conducted,

▶ Demand driven research topics on climate change adaptation, mitigation and CRGE identified and research proposals were developed, and

▶ Documentary film production on existing situations of Awash and Simien Mountains National Park is in progress.

Moreover, implementation of the remaining project activities in both parks is progressing well based on the planned work schedule.

Project Significance

The project is particularly important for communities adjacent to the protected areas because it aims to improve both peoples’ lives and the natural environment. The project’s approach involves offering assistance to the community while simultaneously decreasing human-wildlife conflict and ensuring resilience of the park ecosystem. Furthermore, protected areas management and rehabilitation is part of a Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy that considers protected areas an opportunity for carbon-neutral development.

For more information, visit: http://phe-ethiopia.org/admin/uploads/attachment-1741-awash_national%20park_final_ready_for_print.pdf



The negative effects of climate change are widespread. In developing countries like Ethiopia, where agriculture is largely dependent upon seasonal rainfall, climate change aggravates drought and food insecurity. Meanwhile, global warming results in melting icecaps, rising sea levels, and recurrent floods and storms that affect many countries across the planet. Changing trends in seasonal disease prevalence may make it difficult to predict the emergence of epidemics and develop a timely response.

The Ethiopian 2013 National Earth Day celebration was for the fifth year, which has raised the issue of climate change. A half-day panel discussion took place at the Ghion Hotel, where higher government officials and ministers presented reports and achievements and challenges. The interrelated causes

and solutions of climate change were discussed in depth. mainly, Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), was a focal discussion point for the large, multi-sector group that had gathered for the event.

In September 2011, through the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office, the Environmental Protection Authority, and the Ethiopian Development Research Institute, the CRGE initiative was developed as a strategy to build a green economy. Ethiopia aims to achieve carbon-free, middle-income status before the year 2025. As set forth in the National Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), this will require increasing agricultural productivity, strengthening industries, and fostering export growth.

At the National Earth Day event, attendees discussed the four

pillars of CRGE (agriculture, forestry, industry and energy). Respective ministries had sent their representatives to present about achievements attained thus far, as well as plans for the future. The Environmental Protection Authority, which is responsible overall for Ethiopia's CRGE activities, was a key presenter.

Attendees also discussed the role of women in mitigating and adapting to climate change effects. The minister of the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth stated that the participation of women in the design and implementation of CRGE strategies was very important, as women are responsible for most household chores and are directly involved in household food security. At the end of panel discussion, two female model farmers from multi sectoral PHE implementation site Girare Jarso Woreda in Fiche Zone, were invited to speak about the effect of climate change on their lives, and the burdens they shoulder as both farmers and women. They explained that their coping strategies involved home gardening, animal fattening, and irrigation.

The Population Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC), Climate Change Forum, Horn of Africa Environmental Centre, Forum for Environment, Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance, and Panos Ethiopia organized this special event. ■



Presenters from EPA, MoA, MoWE, MoI, HOAREC, PHEEC and Dr Abera Deressa, chair of the workshop

Highlights from the 19th UN Climate Change Conference (Warsaw, Poland)

From November 11-23, 2013, government and non-government officials, United Nations (UN) representatives, media, and civil society organizations met for the Conference of the Parties (COP-19) to the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 9th meeting of parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Key progress for highly vulnerable developing countries included:

- An agreement to establish the Warsaw Framework for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), which will give structure for countries to develop national-level REDD+ programs and use funds pledged at \$700 annually to prepare programs and pilot payments that are results-based.
- An agreement to establish the “Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage,” intended to offer protection to vulnerable populations after damage from extreme, sudden weather events and slow onset events.
- An agreement by governments to begin preparing for a 2015 Paris meeting focused on a universal climate agreement (draft plan to be presented at COP 20 in Peru).

However, despite a recent IPCC report highlighting the need for

substantial action to keep global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius, and despite the tragic results of super typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (viewed by some as an illustration of extreme weather events tied to climate change), COP-19 failed to:

- Set clear terms for the content and timing of country announcements of emissions reductions targets.
 - Move forward with climate finance issues.
- A key reason for the lack of progress is that Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction commitments conflict with countries’ national economic interests. Some have called for nations to recognize their “ethical and justice obligations” on a global scale requiring a reduction of national emissions that amount to a “fair share” of global emissions. Suggestions for improving the negotiations framework of future COPS—to encompass issues of equity and justice—include:
- Considering countries’ future per capita emissions
 - Considering countries’ past responsibility, starting from a specified date, and examining economic ability to respond rapidly and differences between necessity versus luxury emissions
 - Using a “naming and shaming” approach that highlights’ nations’

failure to protect human rights related to climate change

- Changing national-level debates to allow citizens’ to understand the global-scale ethical implications of their nation’s policies and commitments
- Having the UNFCCC require that nations answer specific questions about GHG emissions commitments and budgets to keep warming below a target of 1.5-2 degrees Celsius
- Establishing an international database to track nations’ past considerations of equity and justice at the national level, and reasons given for not supporting an international climate regime that includes ethical justifications
- Have a panel of experts review each national commitment to reduce GHG emissions

In this case Ethiopia’s Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, of which one target is to have zero aggregate emissions and reach middle income country status in 2025, is a solid strategy that needs to be implemented aggressively, so that it can be taken as an example.

For more information please visit the following link http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/session/7767.php ■



National Consultative Meeting on “Reconciling Conservation and Other Developments in the Lower Omo Valley”

Omo National Park (ONP), designated as a protected area in the lower Omo Valley of Ethiopia in 1966, is located approximately 900 kilometers south of Addis Ababa and covers 3,566 square kilometers. Recent anthropogenic pressures and encroachment have rapidly exposed the Park to desertification. As a result, wildlife populations have substantially declined and vegetation cover has diminished. In response to these growing threats to the park’s diverse mega fauna and ecosystems, a national consultative meeting on “Reconciling Conservation and other Developments in the Lower Omo Valley” was held in the town of Mizan-Teferi on May 16, 2013. The workshop was organized by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), with financial support from the Population, Health and Environment Consortium (PHE EC) and German Development cooperation (GIZ).

To tackle these environmental problems, a team drawn from EWCA, Water Works Design and Supervision Enterprise (WWDSE), the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Cultural Heritage Authority (MCTCHA), and the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Culture and Tourism Bureau (SNNPRSCITB) was sent to the Omo Valley in December 2012. The main objectives of their fieldwork were to:

- 1) Identify areas with the most potential wildlife resources, migratory routes, and World Heritage Sites within the proposed Kuraz Sugar Development Project command area; and
- 2) Propose measures that can



Omo Park workshop participants at Mizan Teferi

minimize possible impacts of the Kuraz Sugar Development Plan on natural resources and local livelihoods in the Valley.

Based on the findings, the national consultative meeting in Mizan Teferi brought together 35 participants drawn from the House of Representatives, concerned federal institutions, regional administration bodies of SNNPR, journalists, conservation-oriented NGOs and experts from different disciplines. The presentations dealt with how to reconcile wildlife conservation and other development endeavors in the Lower Omo Valley, with a focus on Omo National Park and surrounding areas.

Mr. Asegid Gebre, warden of Omo National Park, delivered a presentation entitled “An Overview of the Natural Resource Use System of Local Communities In and Around the Omo National Park.” He discussed the status of the park’s variety of flora and fauna, the activities of local community members, and the community’s impact on the national park.

People living in the Omo Valley and around Omo National Park include both agro-pastoralists and others who depend on agriculture and fishing. Mr. Asegid noted that key conservation challenges and root causes for resource-use conflicts involve poaching, habitat conversion and urbanization, an influx of firearms, over-exploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation, a lack of awareness at all levels of the community, and a lack of participatory and integrated approaches for land use and associated systems. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing the need to use a multi- sector, integrated development approach in the area.

In the second presentation, “Overview of Kuraz Sugar Development Project, Environmental Impacts on Ecologically Sensitive areas of the Lower Omo, and Proposed Mitigation Measures,” Mr. Benti Shimina from WWDSE described the background and general objectives of Kuraz Sugar Development Project. He



Some of the wild life found in the park

then elaborated the objectives of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which included assessing both positive and negative environmental project impacts, and finding feasible remedial measures. During his presentation, he described potential impacts, suggesting remedial actions to minimize and/or eliminate negative impacts.

In a presentation about “Socioeconomic and environmental concerns of the Omo National Park,” Mr. Wondiumu Chifra from PHEEC emphasized that a multi-sector taskforce has to be established from the kebele to the national level. He said that the taskforce should address and manage social, economic, environmental, and security issues so that sustainable development can be realized through active stakeholder participation, via an integrated, multi-sectoral partnership approach.

Mr. Cherie Enawgaw delivered a presentation entitled “Towards, Reconciling Conservation and

Development in the Lower Omo Landscape, Ethiopia,” during which he described general features of the Lower Omo Valley. This area includes the Omo National Park on the western bank of the Omo River, as well as Mago National Park, Tama Wildlife Reserves and Murulle Controlled Hunting Area (MCHA), found on the Omo River’s eastern side. These areas are important for biodiversity conservation, and for their value related to tourism and recreation, scientific research and education, and livelihoods.

Following the presentations, chairpersons Mr. Ewunetu Bilata and Her Excellency Ms. Fetiya Yesuf thanked all presenters and participants and opened the floor for discussion. Participants then shared ideas about the challenges faced by the national park, and offered corresponding solutions. Recommendations included:

- Protecting the buffer zone and upper stream to maintain the entire ecosystem and the water level of the dam,

- Establishing a taskforce to address challenges,
- Sharing benefits with local communities,
- Re-demarcating the park area as soon as possible, and
- Local community resolution of the issue of firearms.

Finally, Her Excellency Ms. Sofia Yesuf (Chairwoman, House of Representatives, Culture and Tourism and Public Relation Standing Committee) reflected on the government’s stand to protect natural resources. She underscored that all must work to ensure both the Park’s and our own future survival. Mr. Ewunetu (EWCA Director General) stated his appreciation for the consensus reached on the challenges facing Omo National Park (ONP), and the focus on how to reconcile interwoven issues. He called on participants to continue to examine best options for sound conservation of the Park and improvement of livelihoods in surrounding communities. ■



Some of the wild life found in the park

A Workshop on “Rangeland Resilience in a Changing Climate”

“Rangelands” in Ethiopia are large expanses of land often used for livestock grazing or marked as protected areas, and they constitute about 60% of the total land coverage area in the country. On June 21, 2013, Climate Change Forum- Ethiopia (CCF-E) together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center (HoA-REC) hosted a one-day national workshop in Adama on “Rangeland Resilience in a Changing Climate.” Ato Tefera Tadesse, Director for the Natural Resources Management Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, gave the official introduction, and Dr. Alemneh Dejene from FAO headquarters then gave the opening address.

More than 80 participants from different federal and regional government offices and civil society organizations attended the workshop. Providing an entry point for discussion were four paper presentations:

- 1)“Overview of Ethiopian Rangelands,” by Dr. Solomon Desta, consultant.
- 2)“Contribution and Vulnerability of Ethiopian Rangelands,” by Professor Adugna Tolera, Awassa University, lecturer.
- 3)“Emissions from the Rangelands and Carbon Sequestration,” by Dr. Getachew Gebru, consultant.
- 4)“Climate Change: Smart Rangeland Possibilities in Ethiopia,” by Dr. Amha Kassahun, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research.

Following the presentations, participants discussed key challenges and opportunities related to building rangelands’ resilience in a changing climate. This article summarizes key messages from the workshop presentations and

discussions related to three areas: Ethiopian rangelands and their roles, livestock and climate change, and the controversial issue of livestock as gas emitters.

Rangelands of Ethiopia and their roles

According to the presenters, rangelands in Ethiopia are more commonly located in arid (64%), semi-arid (21%) and sub-humid (15%) agro-ecological zones.

These rangelands play a considerable role in the lives of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities whose livelihoods are entirely dependent on livestock keeping. The majority of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are found in the arid and semi-arid lowlands of Afar, Somali, Oromia, and SNNP Regional States. Lowland arid areas in Ethiopia are home to 12% of the human population and about 26% of the livestock population.

Pastoral and agro-pastoral communities’ livestock largely depend upon rangelands consisting of grasses, bushes, and shrubs. They also depend upon tree leaves and pods for food, which may be augmented by farmers’ crop residue in seasons with high rainfall.

Rangelands contribute significantly to the national economy by generating foreign currency through the export of live animals, meat, hides, and leather products. FAO revealed that livestock resources of Ethiopia sustain and support the livelihoods of an estimated 80% of the rural population, contribute 15-17% of overall GDP, 35-49% of agricultural GDP, and 37-87% of household income (FAO, 2004). According to the presentations, live animals and livestock products (meat, hides, and skins) are the third largest export item in Ethiopia, accounting for 11% of export revenue. Over 90%

of live animal and meat exports is sourced from rangeland-based livestock production in pastoral areas. Pastoral areas in the south and south eastern parts of the country in particular are the prime holding place for live animals, before the subsequent export of live animals and/or meat.

Furthermore, biodiverse rangelands harbor a wide range of different plant species that are useful for their medicinal value, gum and incense production, and other uses. Apart from livestock, the rangelands support a diversity of wildlife populations, and most of Ethiopia’s protected areas are located in the rangeland ecosystems of pastoral areas.

Presenters further reported that rangelands also serve as a carbon sink. About 30% of the world’s soil carbon is estimated to be sequestered in the rangelands, apart from carbon stored in the above-ground vegetation. Carbon sequestered in the soil as organic matter enhances rainfall effectiveness through increased water holding capacity and water source replenishment, which helps to better withstand prolonged drought periods. Grasslands store more carbon in the soil than in the vegetation they are supporting. Though grasslands store relatively less carbon per unit area compared to forests, grasslands have the potential for storing a significant amount of carbon because of their coverage of extensive land areas.

The potential function of rangelands can be improved through range management practices. Quoting a 2007 FAO report, one of the presenters said that well-managed grasslands can store up to 260 tons of carbon per hectare and can provide important benefits for climate change adaptation. Sequestering soil carbon in well-managed rangelands provides both mitigation and adaptation

benefits. It reduces water loss from evaporation and run-off, thus taking advantage of the rain that does fall, and also can enhance biological diversity. Risks that are associated with prolonged drought periods and unreliable rains can be offset by water infiltration and retention associated with soil organic matter.

Livestock and Climate Change

Presenters also reported that livestock can play an important role in carbon sequestration when communities practice improved pasture and rangeland management. Livestock grazing periods, paired with periods of adequate rest from grazing, can stimulate vigorous grass growth and healthy root systems. However, land use changes (such as conversion of rangelands to croplands) could be a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) due to the loss of above-ground and below-ground carbon stock. Changes in rangeland soil carbon can occur in response to a wide range of management and environmental factors such as grazing, fire, fertilization practices, and conversion of grasslands to croplands. Rangeland management thus serves as a key adaptation and mitigation strategy for addressing climate change and variability.

By affecting water variability, climate change exerts major impacts on the rangeland ecosystem and associated livestock production. These impacts include changes in the amount of livestock forage available in rangelands (grass, leaves, pods), reduced water availability or water shortages, and changing severity and distribution of human and livestock diseases.

A controversial issue: Livestock as gas emitters

The issue of livestock as gas emitters was a central discussion topic during the plenary. In the past, livestock were said to be vital in stimulating the vigorous growth of grasses and healthy root systems, thereby improving the condition of the rangeland ecosystem and playing a considerable role in carbon sequestration. Livestock waste also plays a vital role in nutrient recycling, and in doing so promotes adaptation and resilience capacity of rangelands ecosystem to climate change. By trampling rangeland vegetation, livestock also speed up the decomposition and conversion rate of dead plants into soil organic matter, which increases water infiltration as well as the productive capacity of the rangelands. However, there is recent concern about methane released by ruminant animals (a mammal

that chews cud regurgitated from the first of its multiple stomachs). Moreover, unlike wild animals, domestic animals are said to be non-selective, voracious feeders that uproot and remove the plant cover of rangeland, exposing it to erosion and eventual land degradation.

In response to this, and considering that pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods largely depend on herding huge numbers of livestock, some experts recommend that measures like destocking livestock to a minimum size (stock reduction), and/or reliance on small ruminants rather than large ruminants, should be used to halt or minimize rangeland degradation. Others say that increased productivity should be attained by introducing more productive breeds and modern livestock practices (such as ranch systems) to mitigate the impact of climate change, make rangelands productive, maintain their carbon storage capacity, and eventually benefit from carbon financing.

In sum, to maintain sustainable use and productivity of rangelands and help mitigate the impacts of climate change for both pastoral and agro-pastoral communities and the nation as a whole, further demand-driven research related to rangelands is imperative. ■

Participatory Forest Management in Southwest Ethiopia

A workshop on the research and development of Non-Timber Forest Product- Participatory Forest Management (NTFP-PFM) in forests of southwest Ethiopia was conducted from June 3-4, 2013 in the Addis Ababa Ghion Hotel.

PFM is a forest management approach in which the local community, with the technical assistance of a forest department, takes the responsibility of managing the forest in a sustainable way. Usually PFM is most strongly associated with the collection and use of materials obtained from the forest, excluding timber. This

is due to the fact that non-timber collection and use is considered less destructive, and non-timber resource replenishment take less time compared to timber.

The workshop was organized by PHE-EC member organization Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA), in collaboration with South West Landscaping Group (SWLG) and Huddersfield University. In the workshop, participants presented about PFM research conducted by both the SWLG in southwest Ethiopia, as well as about other local and international PFM-related

experiences. Participants also discussed integration that could occur to achieve better success with PFM. During the discussion, as some presentations had shown that migration of people to PFM sites was one challenge for successful PFM, PHE-EC raised the issue of population and multisector integration, suggesting that family planning be considered in PFM development activities. Finally, the participants reflected about ways to complement PFM via a group discussion related to possible policy interventions, institutional settings, and the importance of filling gaps identified during the workshop. ■

PHEEC Participated at the ICPD Human Rights Conference in the Netherlands

From July 7-10, 2013 an “ICPD Beyond 2014 International Human Rights” Conference took place in the Netherlands. The conference brought together more than 300 representatives from government, civil society and UN agencies, as well as experts and human rights defenders to identify key achievements, barriers and emerging challenges to delivering the goals of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The motto for the conference was “All different, all human, all equal.” The conference focused on the nexus between human rights, equality, accountability and population and development, with a focus on gender, discrimination, empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The final core recommendations of the conference as presented by Marijke Wijnroks, the conference chair and Dutch Ambassador for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, were:

- Gender equality is a prerequisite for advancing women’s and girls’ human rights.
- Rights linked to sexuality and reproduction are universal human rights, meaning:
 - They are the right of every human being, irrespective of race, sex, ethnicity, religion, political or other opinion or any other status;
 - All States have obligations to ensure these rights;
 - All duty-bearers must respect individuals’ inherent dignity and rights – putting this into practice is not just about money, but about political will.

In addition, conferees overwhelmingly affirmed that ensuring ‘sexual and reproductive rights’ requires an enabling environment where people can exercise autonomy and choice. This means:

- All individuals, particularly women, adolescents and youth, must be

empowered to claim their rights.

- All individuals have the right to information, education and participation, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.

- Men and boys must be champions and meet their responsibility to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls.

- Human rights violations cannot be justified in the name of culture, religion or tradition. Systems of beliefs and values should uphold the dignity of people. Moreover, religious and community leaders have positive roles to play in promoting rights.

- On equality, mainly women and girls living in poverty lack access to sexual and reproductive services, information and education. Moreover, many of these women and girls, including those with higher incomes, face multiple forms of discrimination.

Summarizing conferees had agreed that the right to health required that education, information and services must be available, accessible, affordable, acceptable and of good quality, without discrimination, coercion or violence.

Finally, participants recommended these could be attained by:

- Removing legal and other barriers to sexual and reproductive health services;
- Providing comprehensive sexuality education for all adolescents and young people;
- Enabling choices among the widest possible range of contraceptives, including emergency contraception, and other sexual and reproductive health services;
- Ensuring the availability of quality and integrated sexual and reproductive health facilities, services and goods. This includes services such as counseling, emergency obstetric care, safe abortion services and HIV prevention and treatment, as well as services addressing gender-based violence.

Regarding accountability, the conference attendees felt it required national leadership and an enabling environment for civil society. They had also said that States must enact policies and programmes with clear goals and budget allocations that can be monitored. States must also prevent human rights violations and ensure all victims’ right to effective remedy and reparations.

Looking to the future and beyond 2014, Ambassador Wijnroks concluded: “The unfulfilled ICPD commitments to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health, and to protect and fulfill the human rights of all, with special attention to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, must be at the heart of global agendas. This should result in enhancing the autonomy and dignity of individuals.”

In the closing remarks, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, said that the best practices identified at the forum for a world in which everyone counts equally and in which every individual life was valued equally “define a renewed agenda for change, of which we can all be proud.”

The ICPD human rights conference was hosted and co-convened by the Government of the Netherlands, UNFPA and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Findings of the discussions by the more than 300 participants from around the world will inform the UN Secretary-General’s report to the 47th Commission on Population and Development in April 2014 and a General Assembly special session later that year.

PHE-EC was represented in this important conference by its Executive Director Ato Negash Teklu, through the invitation of the Netherlands Foreign Ministry.

For further information, <http://humanrights.icpdbeyond2014.org> ■

Establishment of the Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum (EFCSF)

In Ethiopia, there are around 3,000 charities and societies organizations organized at the federal level, of which 54 are consortiums. Some are local NGOs that are generating 90% of their income from local resources and 10 % from external sources; some are resident Ethiopian Charities and Societies, of which 90% of their income comes from external support; and others are international organizations. Until this year, these three types of charities and societies, have not had a forum in which they can raise common concerns in relation to their nature, and through which they can deal with issues related to charity and society law directives and with government institutions.

At the beginning of 2013, an ad-hoc task force was established that prepared for the establishment of a forum that could bring all these three types of charities and societies together. They developed Terms of Reference (TOR) and based on the TOR, the Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum was established in May 2013.

The Forum's objectives include:

1. To establish a formal non-statutory institutional arrangement whereby charities and societies participate in coordinating, cooperating, collaborating, facilitating and supervising a range of initiatives aimed at strengthening and creating a more enabling environment for their effective engagement in the national development endeavours;
2. To ensure effective administration, management and representation of the affairs of charities and societies operating in Ethiopia at all levels of engagement; and
3. To put in place a foundation for the establishment of the necessary arrangements guiding the interactions between members of charities and societies and the

relevant bodies of the government in a sustainable manner.

The Forum has seven executive members and its general assembly is made up of representatives elected from both consortiums and non-consortium-linked organizations. The seven Executive Committee members include:

1. Yetnebersh Nigussie, Executive Director, Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD)
2. Eshetu Bekele, Executive Director, Poverty Alleviation Network (PANE)
3. Azeb Kelemework, Executive Director, Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA)
4. Holie Folie, Executive Director, Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations (CORHA)
5. Saba Gebremedhin, Executive Director, Network of Women Associations (NEWA)
6. Wubeshete Woldemariam,

Executive Director, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

7. Negash Teklu, Executive Director, Population Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC)

In addition to the Executive Committee, the Forum has three sub-committees and a secretariat. Currently the Forum is developing a one-year activity plan, a five-year strategic plan, and it is planning to organize a general assembly for February 25, 2014 to endorse the updated TOR, the year activity plan, and the logo of the forum.

The Forum is chaired by PHE-EC (represented by Ato Negash Teklu), with W/ro Yetnebersh Negussie of (ECCD) serving as Vice-Chair and Ato Webushet Woldemariam (VSO) serving as Secretary. The Forum has a recognized mandatory role (it will have its own secretariat office, logo, bank account, and website), and it will develop a biography booklet for its member organizations. The Forum has started to generate funding from the Civil Society Support Program (CSSP). ■



Recognition letter given to EFCSF from Ethiopian Charities and Societies Agency

What is PHE?

Population, health and environment (PHE) interventions in Ethiopia are a holistic, participatory and proactive development approach whereby issues of environment, health and population are addressed in an integrated manner for improved livelihoods and sustainable well-being of people and ecosystems.

The PHE integrated approach acknowledges that people do not live their lives in single sectors. Instead, every day they make decisions and face challenges across health, livelihoods, education and the environment. PHE integrates different sectoral approaches in order to address these challenges at the same time through developing partnerships and relationships with government offices, organizations from other sectors and the community. The multisectoral PHE approach recognizes that community concerns are interlinked. Food security is tied to the amount of land one has to farm and the quality of the soil on that land. As population increases, parents must divide their plots among many children, leading to smaller and smaller land holdings. As there are more people to feed, traditional practices such as fallowing are stopped, preventing the land from regenerating and reducing soil fertility and agricultural productivity. To fully address any component of this scenario sustainably requires utilizing family planning, alternative income generation opportunities, soil conservation and improved agricultural practices. Leaving one component out reduces the effectiveness of the interventions in the other areas. PHE approach has been shown to be effective at meeting the diverse needs of communities while creating opportunities for cost savings as partners and communities address multiple issues at the same time, saving transportation and meeting expenses while respecting the time of communities.

PHE Ethiopia Consortium was formed legally in 2008 to promote the PHE approach in Ethiopia and support PHE implementing organizations. The mission of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium is: PHE Ethiopia Consortium exists to enhance and promote the integration of population health and environment at various levels for sustainable development. The vision of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium is: Ethiopia with healthy population, sustainable resource use, improved livelihood and resilient ecosystem. ■



www.phe-ethiopia.org

PHE Ethiopia Consortium's official website where you can find articles, manuals, policies, national data related to PHE, as well as links to websites of governmental organizations, research centers, partners/member organizations and much more....!!

Please pay a visit!!