ECO-REGION

Newsletter No1,2016

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In this Issue

Editor's Note

Dear readers,

It gives me a pleasure to pass my message through this Eco-Region Newsletter on behalf of implementing consortium members (Farm Africa, SOS Sahel, Frankfurt Zoological Society, IWMI and PHE EC) of the Support for Horn of Africa Resilience (SHARE) European Union Program project in Bale Eco-region (SHARE BER). This project is peculiar in that it aims to piloting Eco-regional approach to ensure inclusive and integrated approach linking highland and lowland communities through ecosystem service flow; hence with the potential to greatly contribute to the SDGs, GTP, CRGE and INDC of the country.

This Newsletter is part of the project's activity to inform all stakeholders at Federal/regional governments' on progresses, achievements, lessons and best practices. Documenting and disseminating tangible facts on the results of such innovative intervention will be of immense value to create awareness to the wider stakeholders and partners at all levels thereby strengthen partnership and collaboration. It will also help to easily share results with evidences to the wider development actors and create common understanding for complementaries of interventions. In addition, it will help for success stories, achievements and challenges to be well understood by relevant development partners so that the poverty alleviation process and resilience building can be easily accelerated.

In this first Newsletter, we have presented important information that gives clear picture on our intervention areas, piloted approaches, processes and progresses.

Dear readers, with strong belief on the importance of this newsletter, I wish you to have nice reading. I expect you will provide us constructive feedback on the newsletter and hope it will be a means to open up doors for better partnership. ■

Negash Teklu

Editor-in-Chief and
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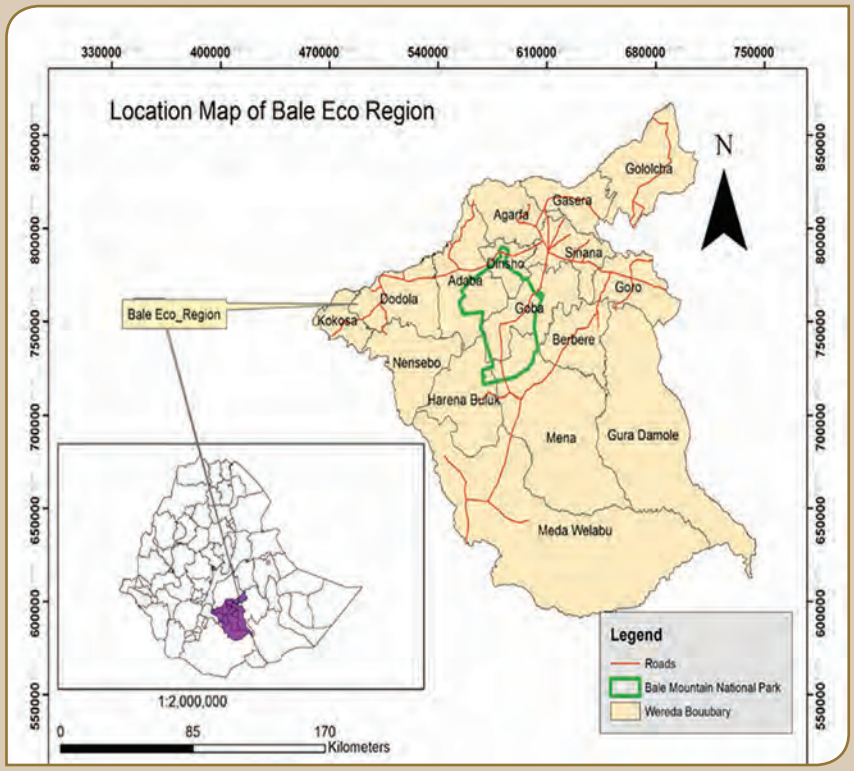
1 Overview of the Bale Eco-region

Values of Bale Eco-Region

Bale Eco-Region (BER) is part of the Afromontane biodiversity hotspot that belongs to the 34 global biodiversity hotspots. It harbors several endemic but threatened species of animals and plants. It is also an area that has natural features of high tourist attraction; hence strong tourism value.

BER has national, regional and global importance mainly in biodiversity conservation and as a source of diverse ecosystem services. Over 40 streams and springs originate from the mountains in the BER that drain into five major rivers namely: Wabe-Shebelle, Web, Welmel, Ganale, and Dumal, on which an estimated 12 million people in the downstream areas depend for livelihoods. These rivers drain into the Indian Ocean after crossing through the lowland areas. The rivers are the major sources of water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro power generation. The rivers are also key to link the highland-lowland systems through a flow of ecosystem services and support to biodiversity conservation. The mountainous highland part of the Eco-region is the water tower for the southeastern drainage system including the lowlands of Oromia, Ethiopian Somali, Republic of Somalia and Northern Kenya. This indicates that improving the management and restoration of degraded landscapes in the BER through harmonize and inclusive way is key to maintain ecosystem services and improve livelihoods of people living in the lowlands and highlands.



The location map of Bale Eco-region

The BER comprises three agro-ecological zones: highland, mid altitude and lowland. The livelihoods of communities in the highland area are predominantly based on a mixed crop-livestock subsistence agricultural system, while communities living in the mid altitude and the lowlands are mainly pastoral and agro-pastoral. ■

Partial View of Bale Eco-region Eco-systems

Challenges

Natural resources base of the BER is declining due to human actions (e.g., deforestation, expansion of agricultural land and overgrazing and forest fire) and natural factors (e.g., drought). For example, the conversion of grazing lands to agricultural lands in the highlands of BER is increasing livestock pressure on the remaining grazing lands and affecting the traditional transhumance practice. Degradation of grassland and forest resources as well as land conversion have resulted in soil erosion, flooding, drought, and depletion of ground water This in turn has led to chronic food insecurity and vulnerability to increased land degradation and recurring drought. The impacts of inappropriate land management practices on the livelihood of communities in the BER is aggravated by climate change/variability.

The major drivers of the natural resources problems in the co-region are population growth, poverty, lack of cross-sectoral integrated actions and policies, and capacity gaps at human and institutional levels for responsible natural resources management. Also, most of the programs and projects implemented and are being implemented in the BER fail to recognize the upstream-downstream linkages through ecosystem services flow and how these are intimately linked to community livelihoods and resilience at a broad landscape scale. Further, most of the projects were not comprehensive and fail to address the complex issues in natural resources management. For example, the fundamental drivers of landscape change such as human population growth, and how this affects present and future sustainable management of NRM (demography-environment nexus) in the entire Eco-region are not addressed yet. ■

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Livestocks grazing in the park (top) and forest fire(bottom)

Threat to the Ethiopian Wolf: Present Challenge

The Ethiopian wolf, a symbol of the country, which is found in Bale Mountain National Park, has suffered from the impacts of encroachment, development in the park and livestock grazing. Livestock are usually brought into the park temporarily or permanently. Livestock grazing is a threat to the Ethiopian wolf because people usually came into the park to graze their livestock with their dogs, and spread diseases such as "rabies" and "canine distemper." (CDV).

Based on the estimation made in 2014, the Bale Mountain National park contain more than 350 wolves, which is about 75% the total number of wolves found in Ethiopia. However, in 2014/2015, the wolves were affected by rabies outbreak and considerable number of wolves were died. In response to the outbreak of rabies, EWCP teams were able to vaccinate up to 106 wolves, almost 30% of them, and supported to increase the number of wolves back.

Unfortunately, by the end of September 2015 a few dead carcasses of wolf were observed, and subsequently the tissue and serum samples were taken and send to the laboratory for analysis. Results of the analyses confirm that Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) was the cause for the death of wolves in the Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP). CDV has a strong impact on the population of wolves, as it affects young, adults and the new born Pups. Due to the outbreak of this virus, it was estimated that the BMNP lost about 60 to 75% of the wolves. This in turn indicates that not more than 100 wolves exist in the BMNP at the moment. The Ethiopian wolf is a wild animal

and in a natural environment where there is no human interference, they have a potential to withstand such disease outbreaks and maintain their population. However, in the BMNP, human intervention to control disease outbreak is key as the environment is not intact and there is huge human interference. After months of debate within EWCA and various experts both in Ethiopia and abroad, it was agreed to vaccinate up to 18 wolves living in unaffected areas of the park. This campaign began on the 12th of February and after 8 days the teams managed to vaccinate only two wolves due to low population of wolves. This urges the need to come up with a preventive schedule of vaccination against distemper to reduce the risk of total extinction of this rare, endemic carnivore together with other measures that can control the interference of dogs and livestock grazing in the park. Implementing such suggested measures could support to recover wolves population in short period of time provided that no further outbreaks of either of the two diseases occur. ■

Ethiopian Wolf

The Why and What of SHARE BER?

Following the recognition of the multi-faceted nature of NRM problems and the ineffectiveness of sector based approach, the SHARE BER project was initiated. The project is unique in many ways. First it takes into consideration an Eco-regional approach to address drivers of natural resources degradation at scale by considering the interdependence and interaction between highland and lowland resource users. Second, it adopted a multi-sector approach including integration of population and demographic aspects, which often is overlooked in many projects. Third; it is implemented by a consortium of five partners that were brought together based on their excellence in different development areas.

The five implementing partners are: Farm Africa (leading), SOS Sahel Ethiopia, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), and Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHEEC).

The project activities are implemented in partnership with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC), Ethiopian Wild Life and Conservation Authority (EWCA), Oromia Wild Life and Conservation Authority (OWFE) , Oromia Pastoralist Development Commission, and other governmental organizations of all levels. The project has a total budget of 5.5 million Euro.

The overall goal of the project is to enhance drought resilience, food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in southern and eastern Ethiopia, through achieving the project's specific objectives such as improving biodiversity conservation and ecosystems functions and services in BER, and increasing the resilience and well-being of communities living in the BER.

The project activities are carried out in seven Woredas located in the BER. The project activities are expected to benefit a total of 878,000 people living in 16 woredas. The activities of the project can be grouped into three categories: natural environment and ecosystems, markets and economic sustainability, and building responsive and strong institutions.

The project engaged all relevant stakeholders from the beginning to ensure achieving project goal and objectives. The project approach is further underpinned by a strong emphasis on proven participatory methods and shared governances that empower communities.

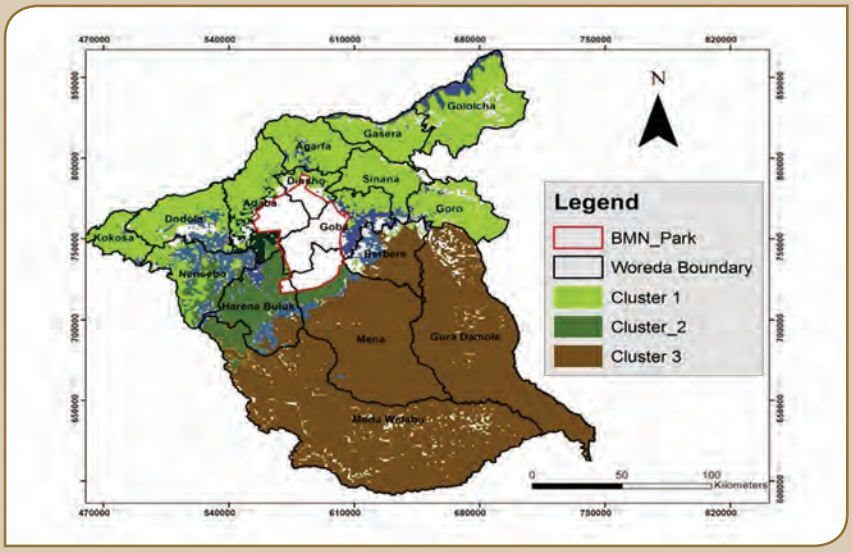
It uses key tools such as building an evidence based strategic engagement with decision-makers in a way that meets their needs and demands, a strong focus on population dynamics, health and gender issues, and piloting new practices and drawing on best existing practices to foster genuine innovation in NRM and livelihoods. ■

2 Project Approach and Tools

Linking Sub-Watershed Level Activities to an Eco-regional Scale

Participatory Watershed Management (PWM), which involves all relevant stakeholders from planning to implementation has been taken as a strategy for integrated livelihood intervention across BER. The project implemented its activities by subdividing the Bale Eco-region in to relatively homogeneous sub-regions. In this line, the project has developed five maps: altitude, land use/land cover, human and livestock population density, hydrology, and finally an overlay map criteria was produced. Based on the overlay map, the Eco-region is subdivided in to three representative sub-regions or clusters: highland, mid altitude and lowland clusters (Fig. 1). From these three sub-regions, seven representative weredas' were selected to pilot integrated livelihood interventions including family planning interventions. The selected werdas are Dinsho, Adaba and Goba from highland; Harena Buluk from mid altitude and Delomena, Berbere and Mada Wolabu from lowland. From each selected Wereda, one representative kebele was selected (i.e., a total of seven intervention kebeles were selected). From each selected kebele, a watershed was selected to implement and test selected livelihood technologies and practices as well as to integrate reproductive health and family planning initiatives.

Finally out-scaling of tested technologies and practices to sub Eco-regions and to Eco-region scale using participatory simulation modeling, happy strategy game and preparation of management tool kits as well as designing implementation strategy and plan with time frame will be undertaken. The process can be taken as learning for other Eco-regions and developmental sectors involved in integrated livelihood programs including integration of health, population and environment initiatives.



Location map of the three sub Eco-regions of BER

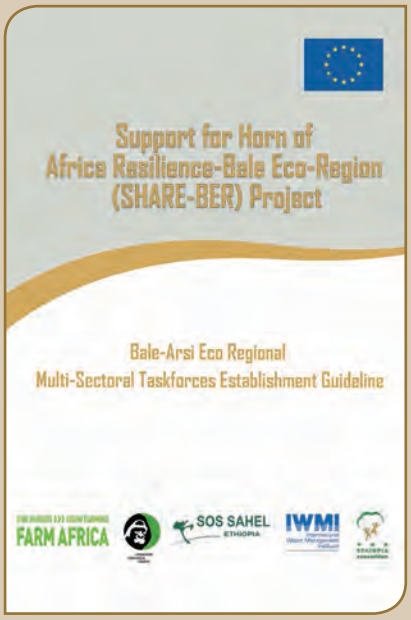
Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

The Bale Eco-region is rich in its natural resources that could support the livelihoods communities living in the Eco-region. In order to ensure proper utilization of existing resources and day-to-day management of the natural resources in BER, community based institutions like PFM are taken as the main entry point in strengthening existing and supporting newly established PFM CBO's is one of the strategies used in SHARE BER project to the attainment of sustainable management of natural resources. To support existing and newly established PFM, the project has evaluated the status and gaps of 48 PFM CBOs using Governance and Management Effective Tracking Tool (GMETT) with full participation of government sectors. The results demonstrated that most of PFM cooperatives lack integration and proper organizational management; have limited implementation capacity of sustainable NRM and use; lack business skills to develop viable natural resources and livestock based enterprises as well as leadership and managerial capacities for self-governance and to make their cooperative institutions play effective and sustainable role in NRM. Following such understanding, about 47 PFM CBOs were supported through providing various trainings,

mentoring, experience sharing visits, and through material support for office construction and furnishing. Moreover, the participation of women in decision making related to natural resources management was enhanced by increasing women's membership and including women as a member of executive committee. The project argue that strengthening PFM CBOs is crucial to build their capacity and ensure the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources in the core areas of BER. Ensuring the sustainable management and utilization of resources in the core areas of BER could support to maintain the provision of ecosystem services such as carbon storage, water flow and regulation and improve the livelihoods of upstream and downstream communities.

Multi-sectoral Taskforce Guideline

Over-exploitation and degradation of natural resources such as forests, biospheres, wetlands, and the expansion of illegal hunting is exerting huge pressure on environmental sustainability and economic development. To address these multifaceted problems in Bale Eco-region, comprehensive approach that engages all stakeholders is needed. To facilitate the engagement of all stakeholders and contribute to the overall goal of the Eco-region approach, the project developed a guideline for establishing multi-sectoral task forces at all levels (i.e., at kebele ,wereda and zonal levels The guideline is an important document that support to identify relevant stakeholders, engage the stakeholders and establish shared vision among stakeholders in addressing the common issues and challenges of the Eco-region in a transparent, consensus-oriented and participatory way. The guide also discusses how this will be materialized through establishing a common fact base, information and joint indicators with accepted governance structure by all stakeholders, with clear understanding among partners of each sector's unique contributions and the recognition of their differing expertise, resources and value, and where common good practices and champions are jointly identified and promoted from the interest of the Eco-region. The guide can be also used for other development intervention areas.



Community Based Monitoring Tool

To date close to 500,000 ha of high forest in Bale Eco-region is under joint community and government management. Participatory Forest Management (PFM) has introduced a decentralized forest governance approach that brings together local communities organized in to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) & relevant government agencies to establish a formal forest management agreement, with specified and agreed roles, rights and responsibilities. Joint forest management has resulted in real improvements in forest conditions by reducing frequency of forest fire, increased regeneration and health of seedlings, reduce incidence of illegal logging, farmland expansion and settlement encroachment. Despite these claimed achievements of PFM, there is limitation in having rigorous monitoring tool.

In order to address this gap, SHARE BER project has embarked on developing simple and informative Community Based Monitoring (CBM) tool that can easily be understood and used by local communities who are co-managing the forest resources with government. It is intended to help generate continuous information that will aid communities and government in making informed decisions about the natural resources under their management.

The tool was developed with involvement of Oromia Forest and Wild Life Enterprise (OFWE). Tool testing has started in BER after series of tool popularization and training events targeting with CBOs and OFWE staff in the Eco-region. CBOs have established community monitoring team varying in number based on their respective forest size. ■

Communication and Visibility Strategy

Developing a communication and visibility strategy of the project has become important due to two reasons. Firstly the strategy could support to provide guidance on how to convey the right messages about the project to the right people, while making use of the appropriate communication channels. Secondly it supports to increase the visibility of the project activities and donor. The strategy document discusses topics such as:

- Situation analysis
- Communication objectives
- Target audience and their interactions
- The messages
- Communication means/ channels
- Communication policy
- Evaluation and amendments ■

Illustrative Family Planning Promotion Flipbook

One of the activities designed to achieve improved livelihoods of communities and sustainable natural resources in the Bale Eco Region is to pilot the integration of population, health, and environment approaches. As part of this activity, the project has developed an illustrative family planning flip-book to be used as a job aid for Village Health Committee and Health Extension Workers. The flip-book is usually used to facilitate the bi-monthly women's group meetings and monthly men's conferences in the intervention kebeles. The flip-book is used as a teaching aid while explaining the link between family planning services and socio-economic and environmental benefits of using reproductive health and family planning services. The flip-book focuses on the following communication objectives:

Village health committe members with Flip-book

(1) Increased understanding among men and women of reproductive age about the benefits of spacing births, limiting births, and delaying child marriage.

(2) Increased understanding among men and women of reproductive age about the connection between family planning use and the health of women and children, children's education, natural resource conservation, and economic livelihoods. ■

Multi-sectoral Taskforces Established

Guided by the developed guideline, 10 (of the total expected 12) kebele level task forces were established in 10 kebeles: Naniga Dera, Melka Aamana, Hawo, Sirma, Awasha Kolati, Wesha, Itiusura, Horasoba, Melka Arba and Bekaye). Each task force has 15 members. Seven woreda level taskforces were also established at Dello Mena, Harena Buluk, Dinsho, Goba, Adaba, Medda Welabu and Berbere. Each wereda level task force has 20 members on average. The members of the woreda level task forces are mainly from key government offices and other relevant stakeholders. The task forces are expected to bring tangible differences, results and strong evidences through:

- Inter-sectoral partnership,
- Integration and collaboration of implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders,
- Ensuring real community engagement and establishing exit strategy, and
- Creating best networking among stakeholders through common understanding and shared vision at all level.

Kebele level taskforce meeting

The major roles of the task forces are to provide support and catalyze inter-sectoral integrated joint actions of development interventions by bringing key stakeholders and expertise together. This will help to develop the tradition and culture of cross-sectoral integrated NRM and improving resilience of the communities in the Bale Eco-region. Memorandum of understanding with the focus on working modalities of task forces has been developed and endorsed by the respective established task forces. The Bale –Arsi Eco-regional task force will be established in 2016. ■

Participatory Rangeland Management Cooperatives Established

Participatory rangeland management (PRM) system is a resource management system through which organized community members take the major managerial responsibility with the recognition and support from relevant Government offices.

To support this initiative, the SHARE-BER project has strengthened the existing four rangeland management cooperatives through providing trainings for members of the cooperatives, organizing experience exchange visits among the cooperatives, providing material support, and undertaking close follow up.

The project has also supported to expand participatory rangeland management system and implemented it in 10 pastoral kebeles located in 4 adjacent woredas. The rangeland management cooperatives are responsible for the management, use and protection of the rangelands. For example, the cooperatives conduct rangeland resource assessment, determine the status and potential of the resources and delineate

rangelands by blocks and manage it.

Further, rangeland management cooperative have prepared their bylaws and get it ratified. Currently, the older and the newly established rangeland management cooperatives are managing a total of 338,337.8 hectare (277,948 ha managed by 4 older cooperatives & 60,389.76 ha managed by 6 new cooperatives) with the support of woreda pastoralist development, woreda rural land and environmental protection and woreda cooperative promotion offices. The participatory rangeland management could support to maintain fodder availability, reduce the conversion of rangelands to other land uses such as agricultural lands, increase the production of non-timber forest products (e.g., gum, incense, honey), and maintain ecosystem services (e.g., soil carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge). It is also envisaged to contribute for the overall sustainable management of the Eco-region. ■

Water management platform for improved water management

One of the problem identified by the SHARE-BER project is that poor management of constructed water harvesting structures such as ponds. In this line, the project has rehabilitated 'Haro Chama' pond located in Naniga Dhera kebele, Dello Mena wereda.

"Haro Chama" pond is first constructed by Government supported Disaster Preparedness Strategic Investment Programme (DPSIP) in 2011. The pond has a capacity of containing 11,200 M3 water when first constructed (i.e., it has a size of 70m x 80 m x 2meter depth). However, after two years of construction, the depth of the pond reduced to 1.5 meter due to siltation. Following the recognition of the problem of siltation, the climate smart initiative (CSI) project of Farm Africa initiated in 2014 together with the woreda pastoralist development office developed two silt trap structures to reduce siltation, and two cattle troughs and one water point for human use to enhance the quality of water. Despite constructing the structures, there was no responsible body for the management of the pond and the pond was not fenced. As a result, the structures constructed by CSI project were damaged and stopped giving the intended function. People started entering the pond in different directions to fetch water. Similarly, animals (cattle, goats, equine) enter the pond by destructing the embankment structure to drink water, they pee in the water and children were taking shower inside the pond. Hence, the sanitation of the water was highly affected and the efficiency of the pond was declining from time to time.

'Haro Chama' community pond before exercising the Water Management Platform

In response to these problems, the SHARE-BER project together with government bodies established water management platform and assisted the development of bylaws used to manage the constructed pond. Following such interventions, the management of the pond was officially transferred to the rangeland management cooperative by signing agreement among the woreda water, mineral and energy office, Naniga dera kebele administrator and 'hurufa dero' rangeland management cooperative.

The rangeland management cooperative first constructed fence around the pond by involving members and adopted the water tariff system to the water users. Accordingly, water users are fetching water from the public water point by paying One Birr for four jerry cans. The money collected from the service fee was agreed to be used to pay monthly salary for the guard hired and for the maintenance

of the pond structures.

The establishment of water management platform and the construction and protection structure such as the silt trap has contributed to the rehabilitation of the pond and improving the sanitation. For example, the potential damage from direct entrance of livestock and human in to the pond is totally avoided. People are paying service fee for the service they are getting from the pond-which is one of the potential for payment for eco-system services in the pastoral areas. ■

'Haro Chama' community pond after the Water Management Platform in Place

Higher Level SHARE BER Project Partners' Forum Established

One of the main formal mechanisms for engagement of key policy makers and dissemination of evidence is through establishment of higher level SHARE BER project partners' forum. After frequent discussion with different line ministries and bureaus, the forum is established and conducted its first meeting in August, 2015.

On the first establishment meeting, members of the forum discussed about the project and its progress to date and approved the ToR. The members of the forum include relevant line ministries namely: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE), Oromia Pastoralist Commission, Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and SHARE BER implementing partners represented by their Directors. The forum is chaired by MEFCC, vice chaired by MoA and secretariat by OFWE. The forum meets every six month and evaluates the progress, challenges and gives direction for betterment of the future achievements. It also acts as higher level Ambassador for promoting evidence-based advocacy for multi-sectoral approach that incorporates environmental, social and economic consideration and promote systems-wide thinking. ■

Coordination Platform Established

Establishing potential coordination with the EU/ ECHO and USAID supported projects is very crucial to ensure possible synergies, complementaries of the project actions, sharing of learning and experiences across the resilience initiatives in BER. With the coordination of European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) and EU (DEVCO), coordination strategy is designed between different partners in Bale resilience cluster namely: DCA, FAO, PCI/USAID and SHARE BER projects working in the zone. Currently the coordination started both at head office and field level. Terms of Reference (ToR) for coordination among partners were developed.

The Bale resilience partners are responsible in identifying areas of coordination mechanism in the way that avoid duplication of efforts and resources and see future opportunities for harmonization and synergy. The SHARE BER project task forces being established at Bale Eco- Region are taken as the core focal point of coordination of the different cluster initiatives. ■

Gumi Tedacha Pastoralist Forum Established

Gumi Tedacha Pastoralist Forum Members on Discussion

In the pastoral community, the practice of customary use rights and conflicts on resource use are common. Therefore, parallel to promoting participatory rangeland management, it is crucial to explore and create mechanism of resolving the

Community Animal Health Workers and Experts Trained

Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) are integral component of primary animal health service delivery in remote and inaccessible pastoralist areas of Ethiopia. The then Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) has developed a National Minimum Standards and Guidelines for Design and Establishment of a Sustainable Community-Based Animal Health Services as well as Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). When SHARE BER Project plans to support a sustainable animal health system, the emphasis was on establishing and capacitating CAHWs as a key strategy to ensure long term sustainable animal health delivery as indicated in the ministries guide. Therefore, to ensure this, SHARE BER project organized and facilitated 15 days initial training for 25 Community Animal Health Workers selected from 12 pastoralist community kebeles. Following the initial training, 15 days refresher training was provided and certificate was given. At the end of the initial training, trainees have been provided with basic veterinary equipments (CAHWs kit) worth of about 9,000 ETB/trainee.

The trained CAHWs have been engaged in providing community-based primary animal health services by diagnosing and treating simple common diseases with the main focus on the extension service related to prophylactic measures to rural livestock owners and also involved in the vaccination campaign in their respective kebeles together with woreda animal health experts. For instance, at Horakore kebele, more than 4000 cattle have been vaccinated by community animal health workers. On the other hand, attention has been given for the improvement of livestock productivity in the pastoral areas through improving livestock breeds. For this, artificial insemination is taken as one strategy beside other breed improvement techniques. However, there is shortage of skilled manpower in the pastoral areas to undertake artificial insemination. Taking this in to consideration, SHARE-BER project in collaboration with Bale zone pastoralist

potential conflicts that might arise from the change in the management of the resource through creating a joint forum. Hence, with the facilitation of SHARE BER project, Eco-regional level Pastoralist Forum have been formed in June, 2015. The forum was established considering recommendations of field analysis with stakeholders and to put in place mechanisms of managing potential conflicts over the resource and scaling up participatory rangeland management (PRM) approach across the Eco-region.

The forum is named as "Gumi Tedecha Horsise Bultoota" this is to mean 'Tedecha' Pastoralist Forum. "Tedecha" is a name for acacia tree in 'afan Oromo' where pastoralists gathered together under the shade to discuss over their issues.

The forum is composed of 81 members drawn from 40 kebeles of five woredas. The Woredas are Dello Mena (14 kebeles), Meda wolabu (12 kebeles), Harena Bulluk (5 kebeles), Berbere woreda (8 kebeles) and Guradamole woreda (1 kebele). Members of the forum are composed of elders selected by the community and kebele administrators.

The 'Gumi Tedecha' Pastoralist Forum agreed to meet twice a year at Dello Mena town and gather under 'Tedecha' tree. In the first Gumi Tedecha Pastoralist Forum meeting, 69 participants from 34 kebeles of 4 woredas have participated.

They have selected 5 committee members (sheneno tedecha) who lead the 'gumi'. The role of the Gumi is:

- Discuss on their issues,
- Look for solutions for their common problems and challenges,
- Examine and resolve any dispute that may arise among pastoralists,
- Share experiences and information among each other to adopt best practices in to their area.

The 'Gumi' members present and discuss with the remaining community members of their respective kebeles when they get back to home on the issues what they have discussed in each forum and report any developments to the forum and Multi-sectoral taskforces through the 'sheneno' committees. ■

development office have facilitated trainings to build the technical capacity of government staff especially in low land part of BER.

With this regard, six technical staff from two pastoral and one mid altitude woredas have been identified and sent to Arsi Rural Development Unit and took 45 days training on Artificial Insemination (AI). This is a pioneer for the pastoral woredas of Bale Zone to get skilled technical staff in Artificial Insemination, as reported by Bale Zone Pastoralist Development office. The trained staff are expected to take the responsibility of conducting artificial insemination in the project woredas for the improvement of cattle breeds that will gear towards the achievement of project outcomes of improving the productivity of livestock.

In addition to the above efforts in improving the productivity of livestock, introduction of improved (Borena) bull breeds is another encouraging intervention. To this effect, Nine Bulls were introduced from Dirre Tuyura Ranch and breeding center in Borena Zone of Oromia. The Bulls were distributed to Melka Amana and Horakore kebele Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) cooperatives at Dello Mena and Medda wolabu woredas respectively and Bekaye, and Hawo kebeles of Harena Buluk woreda. ■

Trained health workers on Animal health service provision

International and On-the-job training to Scouts

As part of ongoing efforts to build capacity of BMNP's for improved resources protection, SHARE BER project sponsored scouts to attend international training. The training was given to two head scouts for six weeks (Sep 15 to Oct 24, 2014) in South Africa at Kruger National Park's Limpopo Wildlife College with other head scouts participants from EWCA.

A wide range of topics were covered including nature conservation, conservation ethics in practice, human rights, personal hygiene, teamwork, map work and navigation in conservation areas, resolving conflict, undertaking conservation guardianship, conducting patrols and identifying and monitoring wildlife.

The scouts reported that the most valuable part of their learning was on creating clear understanding in resolving conflicts.

Back home, the head scouts have been passing on their learning to their colleagues through formal training and regular mentoring. They ran similar training courses for 64(8f) BMNP scouts as well as direct on-the-job mentorship. Ato Hordofa, one among the trainees stated that "as a result of the training we are now doing our jobs differently. Our patrolling has become more effective and team performance improved". Mudesif also added that "More importantly our conflict resolving capacity has matured". ■

National Park Shared Management Practices Initiated

SHARE BER has provided technical and financial supports to Bale Mountain National Park (BMNP) to strengthen resource protection. The project's logistical and financial support has increased patrolling by scouts, which is instrumental in controlling illegal activities in the park such as illegal settlement, grazing and coffee planting. This needs to be streangthned through considerable follow up with local administrators, police and courts through actively engaging kebele and woreda multi-sectoral taskforces within the national park to have shared management. In addition, the two outposts under construction in BMNP will also contribute in increasing the patrolling intensity, enforcement of laws and coverage in BMNP.

Horse traing to Scouts

In an effort to strengthen and expand BMNP's community outreach programme, SHARE BER has facilitated awareness raising events which were conducted for communities surrounding the park in 21 kebeles. The awareness raising activities mainly focused on the significance

Scouts on training

of the park and challenges facing. In addition, the project facilitated and supported the establishment of five school nature clubs in Adaba Woreda with a total of 294 (85 female) members.

The project has started working on engaging communities in eco-tourism activities with a double purpose of creating alternative livelihood mechanism and enhancing values of conserving the resources. In this regard, identification of interested individuals for the development of the hiking trail, traditional coffee ceremony house, traditional beekeeping/honey production, and handcraft activities have been done followed by training and experience sharing visits.

As part of strengthening the park shared management, SHARE BER project has provided technical and financial supports to fight fire on ericaceous belt. A fire-fighting expert was hired from South Africa who had provided training on fire fighting technique to BMNP staff, mainly scouts. In addition to the purchase of twenty knap sack sprayers, helicopter was rented to help correctly assess the damage done and the potential risk if the weather remains hot and dry, especially in the bamboo belt and that of Harenna forest. ■

Educational Sponsorship Support Provided

Enhancing human capacity of key government partner organizations in the areas of natural resources management is one of the activities of the project. Towards this, a contract agreement has been signed with Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Medda Welabu University so as to upgrade academic qualifications of partner government staff. So far, the project has provided support to eight government staffs (six BSc and two MSc) attended their education in summer school program. Out of the eight supported staffs, one is female. All of the supported staffs enrolled in the department of Soil and Natural Resources Management at Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hawassa University.

Among two MSc students, currently one has completed the course work and started field work for his thesis. He is conducting a research on "Impacts of fuel wood consumption on forest resources and its contribution to carbon-emission". The capacity building activities in the areas of health and socio-economic aspects (gender, populations, etc) are expected to be conducted in the subsequent project period. ■

ToT on Integrated Watershed Management

Seven days Training of Trainers (ToT) on Participatory Integrated Watershed Management (PIWM) was given to project and government staff in Bahir Dar. The training was supported by five days experience sharing visit with the objective of developing capacity of stakeholders and project implementing partners on Participatory Watershed Management Planning, Implementation and protected area shared management Practices. The visit were done to Awaramba Community, Dabat Woreda and Semien mountains National Park to get practical lessons on gender equality, natural resource management, and protected areas shared management.

The participants of the training and experience sharing visits were 26 individuals drawn from Bale and Arsi zones and woredas Agriculture Offices (AOs), Pastoralist Development Office (PDO), Rural Land Administration and Environmental Protection Offices (RLAEO), Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) project, Population Concern International (PCI) and SHARE BER project staff. The training was organized in partnership with Water and Land Resource centre (WLRC).

The major topics addressed during the training were:

- Overview of watershed degradation and land management,
- Concept and principles of PIWM,
- Planning processes and procedures for PIWM,
- Biophysical survey tools/GPS use and mapping of watershed,
- Soil and water management interventions in a watershed,
- Agro-forestry interventions practices/ principles for watershed Management,
- Gulley control & management, and
- Social issues like gender and population and health were addressed as a cross cutting.

The participants of the training have finally agreed to:

- Provide PIWM training at Bale eco-region level for government technical staff,
- Revise and finalize the drafted watershed management plan in all clusters, and
- Create one learning watershed site as a show case per project intervention woredas

As a result, immediately after the ToT training and experience sharing visits, the team organized similar Eco-region level training on PIWM in BER. The training was provided to 66 (10 female) participants drawn from seven project intervention woredas government sector offices and zonal level experts from different disciplines, such as agronomy, livestock, natural resources management, cooperative, horticulture, irrigation, and land use planning. This multi-disciplinary composition of the trainees was deliberately facilitated to contribute towards integrated approach of the watershed management to be implemented eco-region level.

On the other hand three staff from SHARE BER project participated on Policy Communication Training held in Adama for five days in the month of June, 2015. The five-day intensive and participatory training were provided by PHE-EC. Fundamentals of policy process, research and results to policy gaps, developing communication strategies, writing for policy audiences, media engagement in communication, and organizing and delivering effective presentations were some of the topics covered during the training. SHARE BER project has a plan to organize additional training sessions on communicating project outputs to decision makers and implementing agencies. ■

Training participants on field visit

Village Health Committees for Behavior Change in Family planning

High fertility rate (average of 6 children per woman) which is attributed to early and universal marriage, the high social and economic value attached to children, the depressed status of women, the low use of contraceptives, low women's educational attainment, and polygamous marriage among men are the feature of the community in Bale Eco Region. The presence of socio-cultural obstacles to receiving Reproductive Health and Family Planning services and care in the community perpetuates the rapid population growth in the area. People living in remote areas and who are pastoralists have to travel long distances to reach health facilities and many have heard little or nothing about family planning, and women do not know that there are safe and effective ways of preventing and spacing pregnancies. Against this backdrop an integrated Population, Health and Environment (PHE) approach is being piloted as a sub component of the SHARE BER project. The project is piloting mechanism of creating demand for family planning activities using a multi-sectoral approach in selected kebeles in the way it can contribute to Sustainable Natural Resource management (NRM) in Bale Eco Region.

An active village level platform or Village Health Committee (VHC) is established and used for managing the implementation of the integrated PHE Behavioral Change Communication (PHE-BCC) activities in each of the intervention kebele. The established VHCs have members of 13-15 people per kebele (neighborhood). The committee includes the kebele administration, religious leaders, selected model women who are Family Planning users, Health Extension Worker (HEWs), Women affairs representative, school director, development agent, and representative from the Primary Health Care Units. The activities of VHCs are linked with and well represented in the kebele level multi-sectoral taskforces.

The established VHC members were provided with basic trainings on reproductive health and family planning methods and communication skills using health extension package Integrated Refreshment Training (IRT) manuals.

The project is using regular community discussions through involving large community in reflective dialogues about the interaction of PHE and the importance of reproductive health including family planning. The interventions will help to increase the target community's perception and understanding on the linkage of population, health and environment as well as promote and support pro-environment and pro-health attitudes and behaviors that will have a positive effect on families' lives through improving reproductive health/ Family planning (RH/FP), public health, natural resources and livelihoods outcomes of the communities living in areas of rich biodiversity (Bruce, Linda. 2013), like the BER.

Regular community discussion sessions are scheduled in each village separately for women and men to be undertaken until every household member is participating in the discussion of the selected topic. For each discussion, 50-70 people are called to attend session sequentially envisioning addressing the total number of beneficiaries targeted by project (878,000 peoples). VHCs interventions in PHE activities reached a total of 3788 married women, 1558 married men and 886 youth. The awareness education in RH and FP brought an immense attitudinal changes in the community by breaking rooted cultural and religious barriers. This has brought tangible results in that 131 women received short acting and 120 received long acting family panning methods. ■

Orientation of Village health committe on the use of Flipbook

Livestock Market Center Established

One of the key interventions of SHARE BER project is improving the livestock market system in the pastoral area through establishing market center. Establishing convenient market places and creating market linkage are pivotal for the improvement of the livestock marketing system. This strategy is designed as part of enhancing the livelihood of the pastoral community living in the Eco-region.

The step forward actions so far include construction of one secondary livestock market centre (it is established at woreda level where there are more than five hundred livestock) which has already been commenced at Dello Mena town. This has been done by allocating nearly two million Birr budget and efforts put to create standardized market place for the pastoral community and as part of fulfilling the precondition for the market linkage system.

The market center currently under construction will have the following compartments when fully completed:-

- Livestock barn having three partitions for different livestock types (100 m x 100 m). One partition for cattle, one for goat & ship and the third partition for Camel & donkey.
- Detention pen (used as quarantine centre to isolate diseased animals)

Interview

with Mr. John Morris, Farm Africa Country Director

Mr. John Morris

Eco-region: Mr. John, would you please introduce yourself to our readers

Mr. John: I am John Morris. I have been the Country Director for Farm Africa in Ethiopia for just over a year now. Previously I have worked over 30 years in various countries in Africa, as well as spells in South Asia and Central America, for various international NGOs most in rural development but also in disasters.

Eco-region: Can you tell us briefly about SHARE BER project and its approach?

Mr. John: This is a very exciting and innovative project which is looking to pilot and model an integrated approach to natural resource management in Bale, across the various eco systems of the Wabi Shebele and Ganale Dawa river watersheds and includes major research and livelihood components. Particularly for poor people – small holder farmers, pastoralists and forest communities – it aims to increase the sustainability of the natural resources they rely on and to increase their household incomes. This includes encouraging people to take responsibility for their local environments and to manage and using these and their assets, such as their livestock, for lasting and better productivity.

Eco-region: What, in your opinion, are SHARE BER project major achievements or successes?

Mr. John: For me, the major success is not just in the results of the various activities which we, the partners in the project consortium, are supporting communities to do but in the interest which the project is rousing in other organizations, and the potential for using the way the project has been done in many more places. This relies on excellent project management and co-ordination which includes many other agencies – government, NGO and private – which are not directly involved in the project but are important stakeholders of its results.

Eco-region: How effective do you think the multi-sectoral integrated approach is in supporting the progress toward saving Bale Eco-region?

Mr. John: I don't see how it could be otherwise. There are quite a lot of factors which affect

- Veterinary clinic/office building
- Tax office
- Dry latrine
- Cattle trough (for watering)
- Cattle crush for vaccination & treatment
- Loading ramp (cattle loading structure constructed from concrete)

The market centre will directly benefit pastoralist communities living in 24 kebeles located in four adjacent woredas with expected 12,000 HHs. As implementation strategy, what has been planned is, members of rangeland management cooperatives will sell live animals to the private sectors through their cooperative (Rangeland Management Cooperative) with better price and will be benefited from the share of the dividend from their cooperatives. ■

Livestock market center

and threaten, and if well managed can protect and strengthen, the environment and how people live in it. Their impact is because of the way they combine with each other. Trying to address them individually will not achieve much, if anything. For instance, improving the access to water for livestock depends on supply and evaporation and wastage rates; on demand, i.e. amount and type of animals; on traditional and changing control over ownership and the use of the water; on other users now and in the future such as urban centres and large plantations, so development planning and land use, etc.

Eco-region: Describe your relationship/ partnership with SHARE BER implementing partners and other stakeholders at all levels such as university and government sector offices in BER?

Mr. John: Excellent, I hope they feel the same way. I think all the partners contribute very powerfully to making a true partnership where we can challenge each other as well as agree, where we co-operate in all areas; and we – the group – tries to maximize creativity and collaboration through equal involvement in the various technical and managerial bodies inbuilt in the project. From the very beginning, project plans and approach has been to emphasize learning from the project and using these lessons effectively, not just letting them become bits of paper in cupboards. This has meant that there is a lot of attention to including others, the government and academia most importantly, as integral stakeholders.

Eco-region: What is your expectation of the SHARE BER project at the end of 40th months?

Mr. John: I hope that well before then we will have shown and persuaded others – donors policy makers and implementers – what we have done, and how we have done it. The project is just three years long, which is a very short time for this type of initiative, so I hope that we can use the current phase as a base to build on and develop further; how would in work in other parts of the country for instance?

Eco-region: What challenges have you faced (as a lead organization) in implementing SHARE BER Project approach?

Mr. John: There have been some challenges but I know that our partners have also experienced some challenges in working with Farm. However, these challenges have never been major and have always been quickly discussed and addressed. We are a strong partnership, but within that we are different organizations with different visions, mandates and cultures. This brings a lot of value to the project but also means we have to keep working on maintaining our excellent relationship.

Eco-region: Do you have any suggestions to improve the approach in the future? Areas need improvement?

Mr. John: Too early to say really. I prefer to stress learning and adapting rather than improving; even things which don't work so well are valuable lessons which can be positively applied in the future. I do think the project is very tightly resourced – with the funding we have we are being very ambitious – and this has meant some shortages on occasion, in transport and office support for instance. But we have managed that.

Eco-region: What other messages would you like to share with SHARE BER Project implementing partners and stakeholders?

Mr. John: It is a great pleasure to work with such professional and supportive people. ■

4 Livelihood Improvement with Climate Smart Agriculture

Climate Smart Agriculture Interventions Initiated

Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) techniques are being introduced in focal intervention areas at farmers' fields in all of the three agro-ecological sites. CSA has introduced to provide options for farmers to enhance agricultural productivity per area, reduce degradation of forests and rangelands, provide livelihood diversification options, and increase the resilience of local communities to climate change/variability. The project has started piloting CSA such as bee keeping with modern technologies, introducing improved crop and vegetable varieties, fruit trees, and agro-forestry technologies. So as to effectively pilot CSA in the eco-region, consultative meetings and subsequent action plan development was held with the community, relevant government sector and local research institute namely: Sinana and Melkasa, Debrebirehan, Kulumsa agricultural research centre and Holeta seed producer cooperatives. Accordingly, participatory assessment with the community and concerned government sectors on potential CSA was undertaken and potential areas of interventions identified for three focal areas which represents highland, mid altitude and lowland areas. With this regard a total of 169 farmers have been selected for the introduction of CSA.

During the last one and half year, on farm trials of improved varieties of garlic, potato and barley have been done in the highland with 25 (8 female) beneficiary farmers at Dinsho woreda. In the same manner representing mid altitude at Harena Buluk woreda 71 households have been supported with four different research-tested and productive agricultural crops (teff, maize, haricot bean and sesame). Representing the lowland cluster of the eco-region a total of 73 households (72 M & 1 F) at four kebeles saw drought tolerant varieties of maize, haricot bean, teff, and sesame seeds at Dello mena, Medda welabu and Berbere woredas. The farmers have got an experience of intercropping haricot bean with maize, which is a new technique to economically utilize their scarce farmlands.

A joint participatory evaluation was conducted with key stakeholders and communities regarding the yield and overall performance of introduced crop and vegetable varieties. Accordingly, the introduced varieties of teff, sesame, maize, potato, and garlic showed a higher yield performance compared to the local varieties (i.e., 2 to 3 times more than the local varieties). The project has also promoted farmer to farmer extension and scaling up is already started. ■

From top to bottom: Improved variety of Sesame, Maize and bee keeping activity

Vegetable Production for Women Economic Empowerment

Ms. Alia Abdellah is one of the destitute who were displaced from West Harerghe in the year 2005 and settled in the Harenna Forest, specifically Hawo kebele of Harenna Bulluk District. The main reason for Alia's and her family's displacement from their original habitat and resettlement in Harenna forest is extreme poverty. Currently, she is a wife of Ahmed Sebro with 5 (five) children.

The time SHARE BER comes to Lulluki area of Hawo kebele to introduce vegetable development as an option to livelihood improvement for the local community in August 2015, Alia was nominated to be one of the ten candidates to be a beneficiary of the same with the opportunity of using traditional irrigation in that locality. Alia is selected as a hardworking woman who can successfully adopt SHARE BER's technology, and even can transfer or promote it to others. As a result, qualifying the selection criteria, Alia Abdellah is selected and benefited 0.2kg of onion and 0.05kg of pepper seeds together with a watering can after she is offered one-day training on how to carry out this development opportunity. Alia sowed the seeds on seedbeds, and prepared her farmland of 294.72m2 for onion and 320.23m2 for pepper according to the technical assistance given to her from the District expert (horticulturist). At the outset of introduction of this technology, Alia asserted that she was suspicious of her success in these previously un-introduced and un-exploited crop varieties. However, due to close follow up and unreserved technical assistance, she was convinced and attentively manage the seedlings. Consequently and gradually, her production is found to be highly impressive and exemplary for her counterparts. The following picture shows Alia's vegetable farmlands being visited on the field day (December 26, 2015) conducted in Hawo kebele. It is really so impressive that Alia has not only adopted for herself but also promoted both the benefit (vegetable seedlings) and the skill of development to her three neighbors. She exercised this scaling up by herself without any body's assistance.

Ms Allia at her Vegetable garden

Outcomes Attained So Far

Even though there are other successful producers as well, after six months of proper management of her vegetables, Alia has been a pioneer in harvesting 160 kg of onion and 230 kg of pepper from the above-mentioned plot of land respectively. This production does not include the amount she utilized for her household consumption. This shows that more than 5,400 kg (or about 54 quintals) of onion, and nearly 7,200 kg (or about 72 quintals) of pepper can be produced from a hectare of land in Lulluki area of Hawo kebele. As far as the intervention, esp. onion development, is new for that locality, it is impossible to compare the level change in productivity between local and improved seed varieties of the two vegetables introduced by SHARE BER.

It is imperative to describe what outcome and related impact is coming in the livelihood of Alia's family as a result of vegetable production intervention. Living aside what she has consumed for her family, Alia has sold certain amount of her production of both kinds, and bought a cow for 2,000.00 ETB from the revenue she earned (pic. 2). Had she sold all of her products, she could have accumulated additional asset which might be three- to four-folds higher than the one she has got to date. Asked about the future prospects of this intervention, Alia has confidently explained that she will promote it and improve the life of her family better than earlier. ■

Allia and her husband producing pepper

Umer's Family: Beyond satisfying their Household Food Requirements

Umer Aliyi Berarti is 34 years old man living at Melke Amana kebele of Dello Mena woreda. He is married and father of four sons and two daughters. His major livelihood occupation is farming and livestock rearing. The kebele he is living in is characterized by moisture stress area, hence Umer had been experiencing repeated crop failure and yield loss problem that forced the family to lead a subsistence life.

In the year 2015 'Belg' production season, SHARE BER project in collaboration with Dello Mena woreda pastoralist development office has initiated climate smart agriculture activities at Melke Amana kebele. Drought tolerant maize, Sesame and Haricot bean seeds were introduced with improved agronomic techniques. Umer has got the opportunity to engage in climate smart agriculture through growing maize crop by intercropping with haricot bean. Umer used to grow maize crop on his large proportion of land. Alike to other farmers of his kebele, he has switched from maize crop to other types of crops like sorghum and sesame since 5 years due to failure of maize productivity in the area as a result of erratic rainfall pattern.

With the support from SHARE-BER project, Umer cultivated improved maize and haricot bean seeds on 0.25 ha of land by intercropping and using row planting technique. He had also cultivated maize on 0.2 ha of land using local variety and traditional practices. Although the planting time of improved varieties were delayed by 20 days, considerable difference between improved and local varities in crop yield was observed. He obtained 12.5 quintal of maize and one quintal of haricot bean from 0.25 ha of land from improved varieties, while he obtained only one quintal of maize from using local variety.

Umer Aliyie With His Families

Umer further mentioned that 'Previously I have been investing up to an additional ETB 8,000 per year to purchase of grain to feed my family. This in turn has led to reduced number of goats and oxen. However, following the support from the project and engaging with CSA, he mentioned that he is producing enough food for his family and avoided selling of livestock". Farmers living in the kebele are requesting maize seed produced by Umer and he provided 50 kg of maize seed for 8 farmers so far to grow improved seed on their field which is additional income to Umer.

At last, Umer tried to explain what he noticed as a reason for his success in producing maize crop:

- Use of drought tolerant/ early maturing improved maize and haricot bean seed
- Use of appropriate Agronomic practices like row planting and intercropping and use of fertilizer ■

Melkasa-2 Maize Variety Grown at Umer Farm Land

5 Research for Evidence Generation and Development

Hydrological Study Initiated and Equipments Installed

SHARE BER project is engaging itself in hydrological study through establishing monitoring stations with the necessary hydrological equipments that will help to measure daily stream flow of rivers from cross-sections, data on groundwater behavior and daily weather data from the automatic weather stations.

To achieve this objective SHARE BER project has partnered with Water and Land Resource Center (WLRC) since October 2015, in the areas of hydrological assessments, provision of technical support in participatory integrated watershed management, generation of hydrological primary data from the established monitoring stations in the three representative sub-catchments in the high-altitude, mid-altitude and low-altitude clusters in the Bale Eco-Region. Currently installation of two weather stations has been completed and the remaining one will be finalized in the coming couple of months. ■

Hydrological study station

A Tragic Loss of Conservation Hero

Biniyam Admassu was a dedicated and passionate individual who strove to help conserve the natural heritage of Ethiopia. He worked as a Tourism Technical Advisor for SHARE BER project and on other positions in the Frankfurt Zoological Society for 7 years. Working closely with local communities he played a pivotal role in the development of websites for Yabune- Joseph Conservation Area, Menz-Guassa Conservation Area, Bale and Simien Mountains National Park, the development of guidebooks for both Bale and Simien Mountains National Parks, the establishment of several tourism based associations and the promotion of Ethiopia in various trade shows and event fairs throughout the world. No matter how far he traveled however, the Ethiopian Wolf and Bale Mountains National Park held a special place in his heart and he dedicated the majority of his time in working for their conservation.

He was the embodiment of a true conservation hero who, in March 2015, paid the ultimate price for his passion when he tragically gave his life while fighting fires and trying to protect the place he loved most. His loss was a tragedy that has had a lasting effect on FZS, SHARE BER, BMNP staff and others. But one that has not been forgotten as we strive to finish many of the projects that Biniyam started including new park signage and the Sankate Association of the village of Manyate in an effort to make his dream a reality and to better ensure the protection and successful conservation of BMNP. In his name, we strive to develop tourism in Bale as a focal point for the conservation of the park's resources and we will continue to struggle in the creation of his image of what BMNP can and will become. ■

Implementers Brief Profile

Farm Africa

Farm Africa is a nonprofit making charity organization working to end hunger and bring prosperity to rural Africa. Farm Africa has been working in eastern Africa and now has programs in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It works at the intersection of building incomes and managing agricultural natural resources. Farm Africa's interventions focuses on crops, livestock and forestry Farm Africa has worked in Ethiopia since 1988.

Vision: A prosperous rural Africa.

Mission: Reduce poverty permanently by unleashing African farmers' abilities to grow their incomes and manage their natural resources sustainably.

Web site: www.farmafrica.org

International Water Management Institute

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is a non-profit, scientific research organization focusing on the sustainable use of water and land resources in developing countries. It is headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with regional offices across Asia and Africa. IWMI works in partnership with governments, civil society and the private sector to develop scalable agricultural water management solutions that have a real impact on poverty reduction, food security and ecosystem health. IWMI is a member of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food secure future.

Vision, as reflected in the Strategy 2014- 2018, is 'a water-secure world'

Mission is to provide evidence-based solutions to sustainably manage water and land resources for food security, people's livelihoods and the environment.

The IWMI East Africa office is hosted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Addis Campus, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Web site: www.iwmi.org

SOS

SOS Sahel initially established as an international non-governmental charity organization, (SOS Sahel International UK) in 1984 and worked to support herders and farmers in the sahelean Africa's dry lands including Sudan, Niger, Mali, Chad, etc. In Ethiopia, it began rural development projects focusing on food security and participatory resource management in 1989. In 2005, SOS Sahel Ethiopia was registered as an independent national NGO by Ministry of Justice and also recently renewed its license by Charities and Societies Agency as an Ethiopian Resident Charity.

SOS Sahel Ethiopia is dedicated to improve the living standards of small holder farmers and marginalized pastoralists through better management of their environment and improved access to fair and sustainable agricultural markets. The core Business of the organization is summarized as follows;

Web site: www.sossahel.org.et

Frankfurt Zoological Society Ethiopia

The Frankfurt Zoological Society (Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt) was founded in 1858 Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) is an international conservation organization (NGO) based in Frankfurt in Germany. It is committed to preserving wild lands and biological diversity in the last remaining wilderness areas on the planet. Therefore the conservation focus of all FZS projects is on protecting wilderness areas and preserving biodiversity.

Currently FZS is implementing project in Guassa Community Conservation Area aiming at improving Community and Ecological resilience .In Bale Mountains it is investing financial and technical expertise to reverse the decline of outstanding biodiversity and natural resource of the Bale Mountains and ultimately safeguarding the eco-system services for residence.

Web site: www.fzs.org

PHE Ethiopia Consortium

Population Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC) is a non- governmental non-for-profit organization established in 2008. The consortium was established with a vision "to see Ethiopia with a sustainable use of resources, resilient ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods, and a healthy population". The organization has also a mission "to contribute to sustainable development in Ethiopia by promoting and enhancing the integration of population, health and environment through multi-sectoral approaches".

The consortium currently has 58 member organizations that are working in all regions of Ethiopia. It is also a member of Global Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA), and the PHE Eastern Africa and African PHE Network.

Population, health and environment (PHE) approaches acknowledge and address the complex connections between humans, their health, and their environment.

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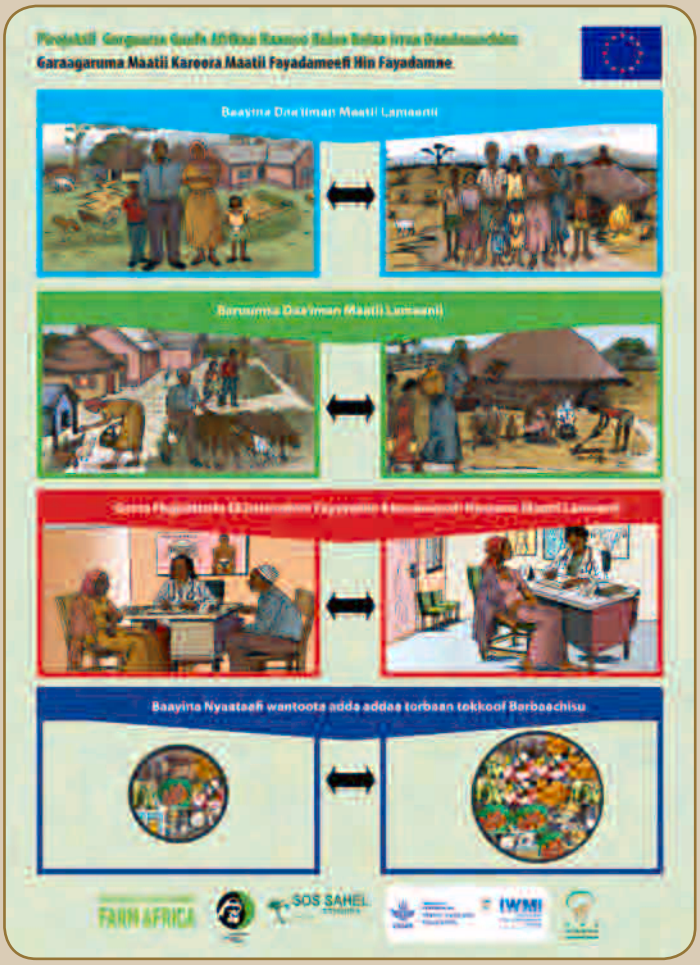
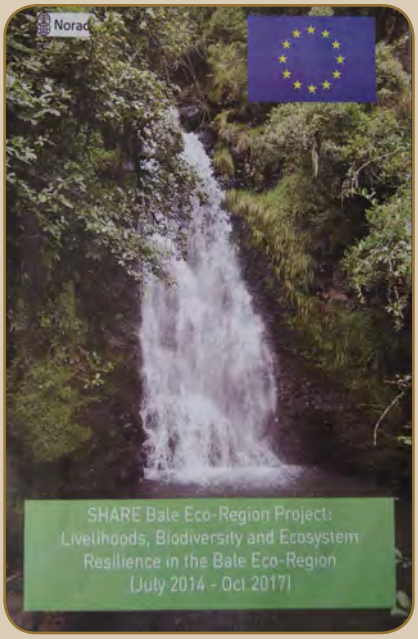
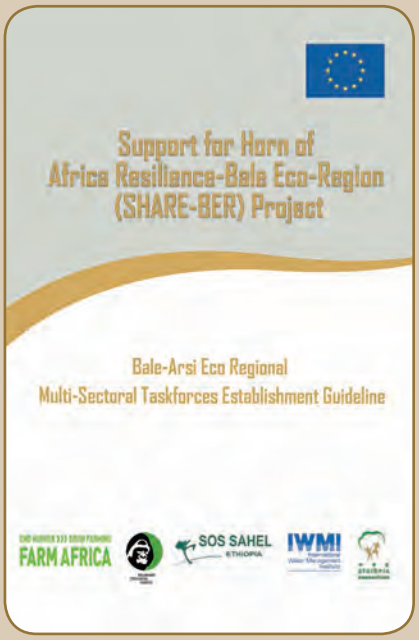
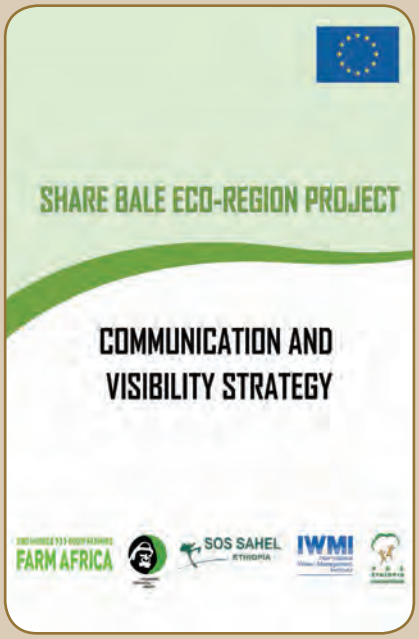
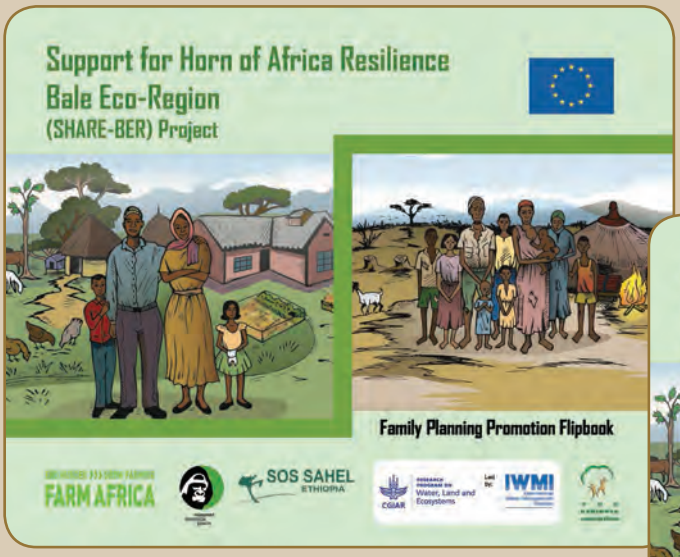
Published IEC/BCC Materials











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