Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) Phase II Project "Implementation of Component I in Ethiopia of Post-National Ecosystem Assessment Results Framework"

(Report)

Report on stakeholders' workshops to contribute to the IPBES process by participating in IPBES assessments and involving in review processes of IPBES assessment reports

Project office

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Addis Ababa,

1. Background of the Project

Ethiopia was among the four countries that received support to carry out National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) under the first phase of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net I), together with Vietnam, Cameroon, and Colombia. Under the leadership of the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute(EBI), with active participation of local key stakeholders and global backstopping support of United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC), a group of leading scientists and experts from across Ethiopia have worked together since 2017 to undertake an in-depth assessment of the country's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES) in line with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) guideline on the production of assessments.

The NEA was successfully implemented. Given the NEA related achievements in Ethiopia to date, the country was selected as a priority target country for catalytic financial support (BES Solution Fund) under the second phase of BES-Net (BES-Net II) Component 1, which seeks to create a shared vision and mode of collaboration among science, policy and practice communities for sustainable BES conservation and management in target countries. The BES Solution Fund support is allocated strategically to fully operationalize the National BES Platform (NBP-Ethiopia) with balanced cross-cutting representation from science-policy-practice communities and accelerate harmonized uptake of the key NEA recommendations into policy and on-the -ground activities.

The project objective is to strengthen the interface and partnership among policy, science and practice; and promote the harmonized uptake of NEA recommendations by these three groups of actors, contributing to achievement of BES-Net II's overall outputs for Component 1 "Create a shared vision and mode of collaboration among science, policy and practice communities for sustainable BES conservation and management in target countries"

Various activities are part and parcel of the project which was planned in 2024 with appropriate budget breakdown in quarterly basis. Thus EBI, in collaboration with UNDP has prepared the 2023-2024 Rolling/Annual Work Plan, there are planned activities to be

implemented in the 1st quarter of 2024 AWP (Jan -June, 2024). As a result, contribute to the IPBES process by participating in IPBES assessments and involving in review processes of IPBES assessment reports is the one which was conducted from May 13-17 /2024 at Bishoftu town.

2. **The main objective** of the workshop was to facilitate and contribute to the IPBES process by participating in IPBES assessments and involving in review processes of IPBES assessment reports participants from federal and regions.

3. Expected Outputs /Results

(i) Understand the work of IPBES process and how its relevant for conservation biodiversity and ecosystem services

(ii) Participants have a good understanding the IPBES process by participating in IPBES assessments and involving in review processes of IPBES assessment reports

(iii) Participants are able to aware on how to access and utilize IPBES assessments and outputs

Figure 1. Various presentations on IPBES assessment on assessment report on pollinators, pollination and food production **(**by Dr. Tesfu Fekensa). It was made for various stakeholder experts and all NBP-Ethiopia members through more than two meetings to enhance the participation/involvement of stakeholders and experts on IPBES assessment as well as familiarize the regional and global contribution of IPBES works.

The assessment focused on:

- the role of wild and managed pollinators,
- the status and trends of pollinators,
- pollinator-plant networks and pollination,
- drivers of change,
- Impacts on human well-being,
- food production in response to pollination




Figure 2. Participants attendance during various workshop events

4. General Discutions on IPBES Issues with various stakeholders at different occation/time

Figure 3. various general discussions with stakeholders (Dr. Tesfu, Dr. Melesse GD of EBI and Honorable Mr. Solomon, who led the discussions, at different time)

The general discussions were led by the presenter Dr. Tesfu, Dr. Melesse GD of EBI as well as Honorable Mr. Solomon from Standing committee head for Agriculture and Natural resources. Various issues on the significance as well as contribution of assessment and the need of involvement of experts mentioned. Moreover, the situation of Ethiopia was also

discussed as well as future considerations also set.

During the general discussion the role and significant of pollinators were mentioned. Pollinations are an essential ecosystem service that enables plant reproduction. More than 75% of leading food crops depends on animal pollinators. In Ethiopia pollination research in is at infant stage, few studies have been conducted on some of the agricultural crops such as: Niger, onion, apple, and faba bean etc. Todays, presentation on the IPBES assessment report on pollinators, pollination and food production is very important which makes all stakeholders to raise awareness for our future concern noted by Mr. Solomon head of Standing committee for Agriculture and Natural resources (parliament). He also noted as there is huge gap of understanding among policy makers and local communities on the issue. This gap should be fulfilled. Moreover, the low participation and involvement of scientific communities on the IPBES assessment and review process was also mentioned as a gap. Therefore, this presentation made all of us to understand and work on the issue in the future.

Significant contribution and challenges of pollinators conservation in Ethiopia was also mentioned by various participants. Particularly, scientific communities mentioned that honeybees' pollination maximizes agricultural crop production and increases the honey yield harvested from the hive because honeybees collect more nectar and pollen while they pollinate the flowering. About 53 significant crops are cultivated in Ethiopia, of these 33 are dependent on biological pollinators while honeybees are contributing 80% of the total pollination services. The economic value of pollination service was estimated to be $ 814.6 million dollars (17.1 billion ETB) in the 2015/16 production season.

Now a day, pollination service loses due to human-induced impacts such as habitat destruction/loss, land-use change, use of chemicals (pesticides and herbicides), climate change and invasive species. Particularly, due to misapplication of these chemicals, honeybee mortality and causing reduction of honeybee colonies, which eventually results in a reduction of bee products and crop yield. On the other hand, lack of awareness creation about the value of crop pollination is another key factor to do more on this area. However, an outreach material on Ethiopian pollinators conservation is helpful and good material to create school children's, agricultural agents and local communities. This is mentioned as good start.

The role of pollinators is a critical link in the functioning of ecosystems, and it improves the yield of crops and human wellbeing. Therefore, from the overall discussion of stakeholders during various meetings the way forwarded issues for future actions are the following: -

- ☞ Awareness shall be created to crop producers and other stakeholders on the role of pollinators for crop production, and ecosystem services
- ☞ The socioeconomic and environmental relevance of pollinators and pollination service should be assessed and documented.
- ☞ Apiculture experts, plant experts, beekeepers and plant growers shall work in collaboration to protect pollinators from chemical poisoning by implementing wise use of agrochemicals application.
- ☞ The idea of crop pollination should be included in national crop production strategic plan for all pollinators dependent crops
- ☞ Attention should be given for the legal protection of honeybees and other insect pollinators; especially, protecting the honeybees from pesticide poisoning,
- ☞ Encouraging farmers to use eco-friendly pesticides or organic pesticide derived from plant extract and integrated pest management practice should be promoted for control of pests in their agriculture field to minimize pesticide effects on pollinators
- ☞ Developing pollinators' conservation policy, and legislation and monitoring for pesticide application is very important.
- ☞ The idea of crop pollination should be included in national crop production strategic plan and awareness creation should be given to the society about the value of crop pollination.
- ☞ Experts should involve and participate in IPBES assessment and review process, so that they will learn and that knowledge will be helpful for future action/consideration in the country.
- ☞ The started awareness creation on land restoration neutrality and pollination conservation which was designed for school children's, agricultural agents, farmers was good start and it should be expanded in the future to reach majority of schools and local communities.