



BES-NET PHASE II PROJECT

Annual National Biodiversity Platform(NBP)-Ethiopia Plenary workshop,



June 2024
Addis Ababa



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1. Background of the project and Introduction

1.2 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 this year with appropriate budget breakdown in quarterly basis. Thus EBI, in collaboration with UNDP has prepared the 2023-2024 Rolling/Annual Work Plan. Among the planned activities, activity 1.3.3. Hold



validation session (biannual/annual) at a plenary level to evaluate performance of the NBP to be implemented in the in this quarter as per AWP (Jan -June, 2024).

Therefore, this proposal of expenses is developed to facilitate a NBP-Ethiopia Annual Workshop at a Plenary Level of 2024 supported by *BES Net Phase II Project* implementation June 15 to 17 /2024 at Bishoftu town.

i. Objective of the workshop

The main objectives of the workshop was to hold validation session (biannual/annual) at a plenary level to evaluate performance of the NBP-Ethiopia, and

More specifically the workshop focuses on:

- Evaluating the annual performance work activities the NBP-Ethiopia
- Approving the refined member institutions of NBP-Ethiopia
- Sharing information on sustainability of NBP-Ethiopia
- Sharing knowledge and information as well as challenges and potential solutions for for future work of NBP Ethiopia
- Awareness on Post 2020 GBF targets and draft NBSAP-Ethiopia to support final document formulation and future implementation of NBSAP.

i.i. Expected Outputs /Results

- (i) Participants have a good understanding of the annual performance work activities the NBP-Ethiopia
- (ii) Final approved and refined member institutions of NBP-Ethiopia
- (iii) Consciences and direction on future sustainability of NBP-Ethiopia
- (iv) Understood the Post 2020, GBF targets and draft NBSAP-Ethiopia

1.2 Introduction of the workshop



The Annual Workshop of NBP-Ethiopia was conducted on the 16-17 June 2024 at Bishoftu Pyramid Hotel, where a total of 189 participants from different federal and regional state institutions and representative from the local communities took part in the.

After the completion of the registration of the participants, the workshop was commenced by the introduction of program by Dr. Demeke, project coordinator of BES-NET II Phase project, followed by self- introduction of the participants.

2. Welcoming remarks,

As per the scheduled time table, a welcoming speech and opening remarks was made by Dr. Melesse Maryo, Director General of Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI).

- Honorable Mr. Solomon Lale, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture in the House of People's Representatives of EFEDERI Chairmen/Standing Committee members honored by the House of Representatives
- Director Generals
- Federal and regional sector officials
- Heads/delegates of non-governmental institutions;
- Representatives of civil societies
- NBP member institutions
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of myself and Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, I welcome you all to participate in the Annual Plenary Session of the National Biodiversity Forum by sacrificing your precious time. It is with great pleasure and a sense of urgency that we have gathered here to discuss one of the most critical challenges of our time: how to protect and pass on biodiversity to future generations.

The Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) is the primary government body mandated to ensure access to and use of biodiversity for sustainable use, genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from them. It is also responsible for developing national strategies, plans or programs in accordance with Article 6 (a) of the CBD. In addition, the CBD will report to the CBD



about the measures it has taken regarding the protection of biodiversity under Article 26 of the Convention/Agreement and the implementation and effectiveness of the provisions of the Agreement.

Our country Ethiopia, known for its biodiversity, is also a center of genetic diversity/diversity. However, Ethiopia, like many countries in the world, faces many threats to biodiversity. From habitat destruction to climate change, from unsustainable land use to the illegal wildlife trade, the pressures on our natural ecosystems are immense. These threats not only threaten the survival of countless species, but also undermine the essential services that biodiversity provides to our society. Regarding the challenges mentioned above, Ethiopia is showing its commitment to biodiversity protection. The government's ambitious Green Footprint initiative, which aims to plant billions of trees across the country, demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment to building a climate-resilient green economy for future generations.

Biodiversity conservation is not just the responsibility of one institution. Biodiversity is a common resource used by all citizens, so the issue of protection/manufacturing should be the center of common attention at the national and international levels. Therefore, it would be appropriate to create a joint protection framework involving ministries, civil society organizations, private companies and other stakeholders.

The post-2020 GBF (Global Biodiversity Framework) consists of 23 targets that aim to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and ensure sustainable resource use. Ethiopia has developed 19 targets aligned with the KMGBF, which are mainly focused on ecosystem protection, species conservation, climate change action, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, invasive species control and equitable use of biodiversity, among others. Collaboration between governments, international partners, local communities, youth and women, and other stakeholders is critical to achieving these ambitious goals and handing biodiversity resources on to future generations.

In short, the coordination of policy makers, the scientific and the executive communities will be essential. It is hoped that this plenary meeting of the National Biodiversity Platform will concern,



support and encourage the government about biodiversity issues through the following points. Especially in the following cases:

- Collecting funds for biodiversity protection and ensuring the sustainability of Ethiopia's ecosystems.
- Government funding: Increasing the government budget allocated for biodiversity conservation.
- Private sector participation Encouraging corporate investment in biodiversity friendly activities.
- Innovative financing mechanism Encouraging innovative financing mechanisms such as biodiversity bonds, payments for ecosystem services (PES) and green funds.
- Internal and international financial support through bilateral and multilateral channels, including development aid and climate finance.
- To promote the need for all citizens to take appropriate and swift action against biodiversity loss and ecosystem destruction;
- Encouraging the participation of the private sector and strengthening the commitment of individuals, groups, organizations (government and non-governmental organizations) and regional governments to stop the destruction of biodiversity, especially by expanding strict areas throughout the country, to achieve the post-2020 global biodiversity framework 30x30 goal /Target 3/ to do.
- Working to achieve 30% coverage of post-2020-GBF damaged and degraded ecosystems by coordinating the community.
- Encouraging/strengthening scientific, technical and technological collaborations between national and international sectors;
- Encouraging governments to provide appropriate financial support for biodiversity and halting or reducing the effects of climate change, pollution, invasive species and other man-made and non-man-made habitat destruction and biodiversity loss.

Our country is currently preparing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and the strategy will be effective in a way that embraces the entire society and all government levels of government. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to be



developed following the Cummings-Montreal GBF represents the commitment of member states under the CBD of the Convention on Biodiversity to develop and implement strategies and plans for biodiversity conservation at the national level.

May 22, 2024, the 23rd International Day for Biodiversity was observed throughout the month with the theme "Be part of the plan". We have renewed our commitment to actively participate in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts. Each of us, policy makers, scientists, educators, international or national partners, IPLC, youth, women or all citizens, has a vital role to play. Tackling the root causes of biodiversity loss and achieving sustainable outcomes will require transformative engagement, including fundamental changes in attitudes, policies, practices and governance structures. It includes various strategies designed to engage the community as a whole and adopt a community-wide approach, restoring and protecting ecosystems, encouraging policy reforms, reducing the impact of climate change, educating the community, using existing traditional knowledge for biodiversity conservation, using technology and creating collaborative partnerships: It would be appropriate to design and implement comprehensive strategies that give priority to the development and protection of biodiversity while promoting equitable and comprehensive development by working together. These are:

1. Political support and commitment: There should be strong political support at the national level to prioritize biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
2. Stakeholder Engagement: It is important to involve various stakeholders including government agencies, local communities, indigenous and local communities (IPLCs), NGOs, academia, private sector entities and civil society organizations. This ensures that diverse perspectives are considered and encourages ownership and support for the NBSAP.
3. Conducting Baseline Data and Surveys: Countries should conduct a comprehensive assessment of their biodiversity and ecosystems; This should identify species, habitats and ecosystems of national importance and assess threats and pressures (such as habitat loss, pollution, climate change).
4. Setting clear goals and targets: NBSAP should define clear goals and targets for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. These should be measurable, time-bound



and aligned with international biodiversity commitments (such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework).

5. Policy and Legal Framework: Countries should have supportive policy and legal frameworks that support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This may include key habitat/site and species incentives.
6. Financial Resources Adequate financial resources should be allocated for NBSAP implementation. This includes funding for conservation activities, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, and supporting local communities and IPLCs.
7. Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms should be in place to monitor progress towards achieving the goals set out in the NBSAP. Regular reporting on biodiversity status and trends helps monitor progress, identify gaps, and adjust strategies as needed.
8. Capacity building: Institutional and technical capacity building among public sector offices and stakeholders is critical for effective implementation of NBSAP. This includes training, knowledge sharing and the development of scientific and technical expertise. We will soon be providing training in this regard at the federal level and in all regions.
9. Integrating biodiversity issues with other policies, NBSAP should be integrated with national policies and plans such as policies and plans related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, climate change and sustainable development. This ensures unity and avoids conflicting priorities.

My people! Let us remember that our collective efforts for biodiversity today will shape the world of tomorrow. Let's seize this opportunity to turn commitments into action, aspirations into success, and ensure that future generations inherit a planet full of life and opportunity.

Today, various presentations will be made on biodiversity conservation and the sustainability of ecosystem services. This workshop was organized with the support of the BES-Net project jointly implemented by the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute and UNDP Ethiopia, and is funded by the German governments and SwedBio and. I am grateful for the continuous support of our partners as it has been invaluable in our efforts to address BES related challenges.



I would like to thank all the NBP-Ethiopia members and stakeholders who have been at the forefront of the movement to protect Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES). Finally, once again, I would like to thank all of you who attended today's NBP-Ethiopia Plenary meeting despite your busy schedules. Wishing you a successful presentation and discussion during your stay, I announce the official opening of today's plenary session.

Thank you



Dr. Melesse Maryo (Director General, EBI, Chairman of NBP-Ethiopia)

Following the welcome remarks by Dr. Melesse, a brief video show and exercise regarding the Nature's contribution to people was undertaken.

After having exercised the questions in regards to the video shown using a slido app., the NBP semi – annual report was presented, by Dr. Feleke Woldyes, Deputy Director general of the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI).

3. Presentations on various topics

i. A six-month NBP-Ethiopia performance report



Dr. Feleke Woldeyes

Following the six-month NBP -Ethiopia performance report, an overview of the BES-Net II project and key achievements was presented by the project coordinator, Dr. Demeke, Datiko, which was followed by the introduction of refined member Institution of the NBP-Ethiopia and the NBP-Ethiopia webpage by Dr. Feleke Woldyes.

ii. Key achievements of BES-Net Project

- Two policy briefs developed for policy makers
 - 1) Policy brief on “Ethiopian Aquatic and Wetland Ecosystems: Precious Biotic Systems under Threat”
 - 2) Policy brief on “Biodiversity related Local Community Knowledge: Neglected Category of Wisdom”
- Two Outreach Materials developed for School Children, Farmers, Agricultural Extension Agents and other Land Users
 - 1) Ensuring Land Degradation Neutrality in Ethiopia
 - 2) Ethiopian Pollinator Conservation

Various assessments were also carried out
- Assessment on the Need and Inputs Required for Making the NBP-Ethiopia effectively functional

- Assessment on the status of awareness of local communities on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Refining NBP- Ethiopia member Institutions (science-policy-practice) = 129 institutions (Federal & regional/local identified)
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance gaps of NBP-Ethiopia platform carried out
- NBP-Ethiopia enhancement through stakeholder engagement is going on

Key planned and ongoing activities

- Developing a five-year action plan of the NBP-Ethiopia for effective BES implementation activities
- Identification of relevant stakeholders with best practices and adopt the experiences on BES related activities
- Communication of outputs of NEA results and outreach materials
- Holding validation session (biannual/annual) at a plenary level
- Uptake of the NEA findings and recommendations
- Contribute to the IPBES process by participating in IPBES assessments & involving in review processes of IPBES assessment reports
- Supporting post 2020 NBSAP formulation (integrate NEA findings into NBSAP & support its formulation), based on 23 GBF targets
- Enhance partnership & networking with various stakeholders



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Dr. Demeke Datiko (Project coordinators)

iii. Implementation of KMGBF: the Role of Policy Makers



Dr. Melesse Maryo

4. Panel Discussion

After a lunch time a panel discussion was undertaken under the facilitating role of Dr. Abiyot Brehanu.

Dr. Feleke Woldyes led the panel discussion, on which three panelists, namely

- Dr. Biila from Addis Ababa University
- Dr. Fanuel from EWCA
- Mr. Solomon from MELCA-Ethiopia were participated



Panelists

In the panel discussion, questions were presented to each panelist by Dr. Feleke W/yes

The first question went to Dr. Bikila in regards to what Addis Ababa University has been doing to solve the gaps in awareness regarding the biodiversity and what the future plan of the university is in this regard?

In his response, Dr. Bikila from Addis Ababa University (AAU) said that:

- AAU, in delivering its three main missions, embarked on education, plants exploration and identification, research-based information dissemination regarding the plant biodiversity,
- The University is working in close collaboration with EBI in different areas of research and education, executing project related undertakings and capacity building to the EBI staff at different levels. In doing these undertaking AAU has contributed a lot towards biodiversity conservation

The second question led to Dr. Fanuel Kebede (EWCA) regarding the status of Ethiopia's protected Areas, achievements gained so far and the ways forwards?

In response to the questions, Dr. Fanuel said that:

- Recently about 87 PAs have been legally protected under federal, regional and community level
- Generally, PA are currently under pressure mainly due to lack of law enforcement, and hence biodiversity has been exposed to threats thereof.

Regarding the achievements made so far:

- Biodiversity hotspot areas were assessed and documented,
- Policy and legal framework for PAs are in place,
- The involvement off stakeholder and community gets improved
- Awareness creation and training to the local communities, which is to be taken as a best practice, was given
- The engagement of private sector and NGOs in PA development came in to being
- Ranching development becoming grown
- Resettlement of the inhabitants from PA areas to other suitable areas became evidenced
- UNESCO registered PAs be increasing in number

Challenges: as there are multiple challenges facing the PAs, all stakeholders need to work in collaboration.

3. The third question to Mr. Solomon was “what have been done so far by NGOs regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use?”

In his response to the above question, Mr. Solomon, from MELKA -Ethiopia, said that NGOs have been undertaking the following activities:

- Awareness creation on biodiversity
- Curriculum related issue (to incorporate biodiversity issue in to curricula)
- Biodiversity focused knowledge transfer to children
- Capacity building
- Assessment undertaking and information generating
- Biosphere reserve related undertakings

- The nomination and registration of biosphere reserves
- Draft policy formulation for biosphere reserves of Ethiopia
- Financial support for MAB committee
- Nomination of new biosphere reserve
- Assist the establishment of biosphere reserve information network
- The establishment of sacred natural forest where local communities managed by their own by-laws
- Support the green legacy initiative
- Support the participatory forest management by the local communities

Challenges: capacity, policy will, resources, accountability and the growing need for investment, Finally, the three panelists forwarded their views on the issues regarding gaps in related to biodiversity.

- The gap in bringing the BD strategies in to the ground
- Gaps in mainstreaming BD in to sector/ institution
- Gaps in structural/Institutional arrangement and institutional instability
- Logistic inadequacy
- Weak collaboration efforts that require common vision, strategies. Plans, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms,

5. General Discussion

The general discussion was led by Dr. Melesse Maryo and H.E. Solomon Lalie, head, Agriculture Affairs permanent committee (House of representative/parliament)





H.E. Solomon Lalie and Dr. Melesse Maryo

In his delivery, H.E. Solomon Lalie, outlined that:

- The ways the workshop organized is well acceptable and appreciable that enable to address the issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services of Ethiopia
- The presentations and the panel discussion were also informative that enable participants to grasp important points and would increase our understanding of BD related issues,
- The objective of the workshop was well defined and met accordingly,
- From the event, the globe is under threat from climatic changes and environmental pollution where Ethiopia is part of, leading to loss in Biodiversity,
- The major challenges which currently facing BES where plants and animals including human beings are subjected to difficulties to live on earth, are attributed to anthropogenic and natural phenomena, which urge us to combat to alter the situations,
- Thus, to secure food insecurity, the need for BD conservation is of paramount important,
- The conservation of pollinators in particular become critical, if food security to be ensured.

- Thus, all stakeholders should play their roles in achieving the targets set in GBF and there by transforming Ethiopia,
- Each participant of this workshop needs to take in to account how the role of each actor contributes in solving the challenges facing BES and should take responsibilities as assignment for further action to undertake.

After having said so much, EH.E. Solomon gave the chance to participants for reflection, and question and discussion

Accordingly,

1. Parliamentary committee forwarded the following issues,

- We need to look seriously at:
 - threats that will affect our natural resources (BES),
 - The role expected from each institution and individuals in contributing towards achieving the targets of GBF,
- The plantation of seedlings needs to be cultural practices and should go to the ground level where children become part of the undertaking,s
- Cultural transformation in youth outlook and social mobilization is becoming crucial with regards,
- Consultation with expertise and empowering them

2. Dr. Liul Kidane from Mekele University

- The conservation and restoration of BES is a key to sustainable development which EBI has been undertakings,
- Periodic assessments of the status of BES is expected
- More focus needs to be given to rangelands,
- The issue of policy and law enforcement is quite crucial,
- The issues of BES should come first across sectors,

3. Ambassador (Parliamentary committee

- Integration among all stakeholders is crucial,

- Awarenesses creation regarding the BES and related challenges thereof to all segments of the higher bodies and the communities at large is important in addressing the cause root of BES loss,
- The NBP should legally binding institution and work collaboratively,

4. Dr. Anteneh from Haramaya University

- The engagement of the three organs (policy makers, scientific communities and the practitioners) in this workshop is highly appreciable,
- Though, the fast growth of population requires increase in food production, it should not be compromised with the BES, rather it needs to balance between food production and conservation of biodiversity as well. Further, the growth of agricultural production should not be at the expense of BES, which arise the need to revise some policies and strategic issues.
- Institutions that have similar mandates and undertakings have been under different Ministries, which requires restructuring for better alignment and understanding of each other,
- The Babile sanctuary is now under threat due to lack of institutional integrity
- Thus, lack of integrity among Institutions is recently becoming the cause for the loss in BD,
- Thus, integrity and mainstreaming BD issues in to sectors is important to reverse these threatening factors and there by maintain the sustainability of our BD

5. Participant from Metu University

- The most floristic region is the south west area that need special attention of conservation
- The challenges recently facing these areas include, but not limited to;
 - Conflict of interest
 - Lack of livelihood diversification
 - Lack of accountability
 - Fragmentation among actors working on Yayu biosphere reserve

6. Participant from Sidama Region



- There is a need for institutional arrangement to deliver reports regarding BES undertakings
 - There should be common plan and reporting and monitoring system among Institution acting on BES related activities
 - Political commitment and policy related amendment.
7. Participant from Oromia Region
- Green legacy should be focused on indigenous species
 - There should be BES data base for information exchange
 - Legal framework needs to be in place for wetland
8. Participant from Tigray
- Invasive alien species (IAS), which is a challenging issue in Tigray, got little attention on this workshop.
 - The payment for ecosystem services is discouraging
 - Kafta shiraro PA need to be assessed for its current status and get emphasis as it was distracted by the conflict in Northern parts,
 - The problem related to BNES is not the only issue of policy, but also the issue of structuring institution and instability of institutions
9. Mr. Gizaw from NGO
- The composition of participants on this workshop is heterogenous so that we can discuss the issue of BES and share experiences

After having exhaustively taken questions and comments from the participants, H.E. Solomon Lalie and Dr. Melesse Maryo reflected to the question and comments raised by the participants

Accordingly, Dr. Melesse said that, most of the comments are input, while “The whole of government -the whole of society “approach will address the issue of BES to the student at school level.

Finally, H.E Solomon Lalie forwarded the following directions

- Awareness creation to the political leaders where EBI and the Agricultural affairs permanent committee will be responsible for, need to be undertaken,

- We will consider the issue of BES seriously as parliaments, enforcing mostly media to address the issue of BD to society
- Experts and leaders need to convince the presidents of the respective Regional Governments and leaders need to act on BD related challenges and solution thereof.
- Universities and researchers should make awareness to students and undertake further researches on this regard,
- NGO should also consider the issue of awareness creation in their day -to day activities
- EBI should arrange awareness creation to regional leaders
- The parliaments, should bring these issues to the local /regional communities from where they have been represented
- EBI should prepare and made ready a short summary of awareness creation materials on what BD mean, its use and the challenges facing BD and the solutions that need to be in place.
- Each ministry should mainstream the issues of BES in to its annual plan
- EBI need to arrange an awareness creation workshop for parliamentary committee heads
- The government need to draft a framework regarding the fund for green legacy and restoring degraded areas, considering BD
- The proclamation of BD needs to be redefined and ratified
- Detail report of each target of GBF need to be presented at the next NBP meeting, where each region will report assigned targets
- The parliaments need to follow and supervise whether each Institution mainstream BD in their plan or not,
- The next meeting will be focused on evaluating each actor performance as per the targets and assignment given to.

The meeting was officially closed by Honorable Mr. Solomon Lale, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture



