



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)

**Workshop report to design agenda for policy and decision makers take into account the NEA
findings and recommendations related to BES**

Project office

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Addis Ababa,



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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 this year with



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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 to be implemented in the 1st quarter of 2024 AWP (Jan -June, 2024). As a result, workshops to design for policy and decision makers take into account the NEA findings and recommendations related to BES were conducted with Parliament Standing Committees at various levels.

2. **The main objective** of the workshop is to design agenda for policy and decision makers take into account the NEA findings and recommendations related to BES

3. **Expected Outputs /Results**

- ☞ Awareness raised of Parliament Standing Committees on NEA outputs and recommendations
- ☞ Identified and design agenda for policy and decision makers take into account the NEA findings and recommendations related to BES
- ☞ Identified role of policy and decision makers to account the NEA findings and recommendations related to BES

4. **Discussions with policy makers (parliament bodies)**

Before, discussions on the issues, Dr. Feleke Woldyes, Deputy director general of EBI made presentation on NEA outputs and recommendations (by Dr. Feleke). His presentation was focused on rRecap of the National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA): Setting the scene for the uptake of the findings has attempted to address policy relevant questions

- nature's benefit to people
- status and trends of ecosystems and their services
- direct and indirect pressures on BD & ES
- the level of awareness on BD & ES as well as policy and governance,
- contribution of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK), the linkages to environmental

Recommendations (11) were made based on the assessment findings

1. Appropriate strategies
2. Compatible conservation approaches
3. Collate sound data
4. Biodiversity database



5. Attention to ages-old practices
6. Creating knowledge and awareness
7. BD friendly development
8. Designing suitable models of conservations and innovation
9. Appropriate policies and legal instruments
10. Effective regulation & Institutions
11. Enhanced Stakeholder Collaboration

Has resulted in outputs:

After presentation, discussions with all Parliament Standing Committees heads and their deputy were made twice this year. They are also a member of NBP-Ethiopia.

Table 1. Prime Minister Office and Parliament Standing Committees (ጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር ጽ/ቤት እና የፓርላማ ቋሚ ኮሚቴዎች)

1.	Office of the Prime Minister	ጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር ጽ/ቤት
2.	Agricultural Affairs Standing Committee	ግብርና ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
3.	Government Development Institutions Affairs Standing Committee	የመንግስት የልማት ድርጅቶች ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
4.	Health, Social Development, Culture and Sport Affairs Standing Committee	የጤና፣ ማህበራዊ ልማት፣ ባህል እና ስፖርት ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
5.	Industrial and Mining Development Affairs Standing Committee	የኢንዱስትሪና ማዕድን ልማት ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
6.	Legal and Justice Affairs Standing Committee	የህግና ፍትህ ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
7.	Plan, Budget & Finance Affairs Standing Committee	የፕላን፣ በጀት እና ፋይናንስ ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
8.	Trade and Tourism Affairs Standing Committee	የንግድና ቱሪዝም ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
9.	Urban Infrastructure and Transport Affairs Standing Committee	የከተማ መሠረተ ልማት እና ትራንስፖርት ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
10.	Water, Irrigation and Lowland Development Affairs Standing Committee	የውሃ፣ መስኖ፣ ቆላማ አካባቢ እና አካባቢ ልማት ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
11.	Human Resource and Technology Affairs Standing Committee	የሰው ሀብት ልማት፣ ሥራ ስምሪት እና ቴክኖሎጂ ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ



12.	Foreign Relation and Peace Affairs Standing Committee	የውጭ ግንኙነት እና የሠላም ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
13.	Democracy Affairs Standing Committee	የዲሞክራሲ ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ
14.	Government Expenditure Affairs Standing Committee	የመንግስት ወጪ አስተዳደር ጉዳዮች ቋሚ ኮሚቴ



Figure 2. Honorable Mr. Solomon (Agricultural Affairs Standing Committee, head) and Dr. Melesse Maryo (DG of EBI)





Figure. Participants from parliament members/policy makers and key stakeholders on to design agenda for policy and decision makers take into account the NEA findings and recommendations related to BES (at Bishoftu town and Addis Ababa City)

General discussion and the way forwarded

- ☞ Proper awareness creation at all higher-level bodies is critical for the policy makers on the NEA findings and recommendations related is very important, if possible, at the whole parliament levels
- ☞ The whole standing committees are accepted the relevancy of the BES issues as very important
- ☞ They are promised to consider the NEA findings and recommendations in the upcoming policy documents which are on the process of approval like Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES)
- ☞ Agreed as important the issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services are crucial for the benefit of people and sustainable development. So that at all community levels awareness raising programs are designed to reach local communities during parliament members visit their area of election (to people who elect them)

- ☞ Key policy issues are periodized like biodiversity conservation mainstreaming at all sectors, aquatic and wetland ecosystems, biodiversity related local community knowledge, land degradation issues etc
- ☞ Political leaders must get awareness and they should take first lead to
- ☞ New policies for pollinators conservation are needed for the future interventions/consideration
- ☞ At all minister levels/higher officials proper awareness creation mechanisms were designed, and implemented.
- ☞ Direction was given on conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem service issues to be seriously considered in school curriculum
- ☞ The implementation of outreach materials for school children and agricultural agents as well as for local farmers creation activities are considered as good start and to be reached to majority of schools in the country

