



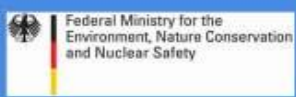
# Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

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

**Reports of NBP-Ethiopia and Stakeholder Workshop**



*December 2023*



**Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute**

**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) Phase II Project**

**“Implementation of Component I in Ethiopia of Post-National Ecosystem**

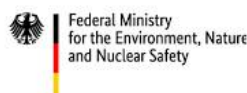
**Assessment Results Framework**

**Reports on NBP-Ethiopia and Stakeholder workshop**

**Prepared by: Project office**

**December 2023**

**Addis Ababa**



2



Contents	Page
1. Background of the Project-----	4
2. Main topics of the Workshop-----	5
3. Introduction of the workshop-----	5
4. Welcoming and Opening Remarks-----	5
5. Presentation Highlights by Experts-----	10
5.1. Recap of the national ecosystem assessment: setting the scene for the uptake of the findings---	10
5.2. National Ecosystem Assessment of Ethiopia Scenario Analysis-----	11
5.3 BES_Net Phase II Project Overview-----	15
5.4 Assessment of Matters Related to “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES)” -----	17
5.5. Assessment team on matters related to “the National Biodiversity Platform – Ethiopia-----	18
5.6 IPBES Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species: The East African perspective -----	19
6. Group work discussions/presentation -----	20
7. Synthesis from the group work report-----	21
8. General discussions-----	26
9. The way forwards-----	27
Closing remarks -----	28
Appendix -----	28

## 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 appropriate budget breakdown in quarterly basis. Thus EBI, in collaboration with UNDP has prepared the 2023-2024 Rolling/Annual Work Plan, and approved by BES-Net Team.

## 2. Main Topics of the Workshop

- I. **National Biodiversity Platform- Ethiopia plenary workshop:** Training and consultative workshops, dialogue meetings and trialogue sessions for trialogue of stakeholders of science-policy-practice to facilitate deliberations on BES-related frameworks, initiatives and report
- II. **Triologue (science-policy-practice) of the stakeholder awareness creation workshop:** An awareness creation workshop for trialogue (science-policy-practice) of stakeholders to acquaint them with the principles and roles of IPBES assessment reports and provide feedback on its output

## 3. Introduction of the workshop

The Stakeholders Workshop of NBP-Ethiopia and stakeholder was conducted from December 29-30 at Bishoftu Pyramid Hotel. A total of 193 participants from different federal and regional state institutions as well as representative from the local communities took part in the Workshop. This consists of Policy-Science and Practice members of key stakeholders. The workshop was commenced by the introduction of program by Dr. Demeke, project coordinator, and opening remarks followed by Dr. Melesse Maryo.

## 4. Welcoming and Opening Addressed (By Dr. Melese Maryo, Director General of EBI)

**Your Excellency Prof. Eyasu Elias, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of the FDRE,  
Distinguish government Heads of different Sectors from the Federal and Regional levels  
Honorable EBP members**

**Respected stakeholders**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to deliver this remark on behalf of the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute and myself, and welcome you all to the General Assembly (the Plenary) annual meeting, and thank you for sharing your busy schedule to this event.

The Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) is the primary governmental entity mandated to ensure the

conservation, sustainable utilization of biodiversity, access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. EBI serves as the Focal Institute to many conventions such as Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), International Treaty, CBD protocols, and others such as IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). It is also responsible for developing national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity as per Article 6 (a) of the CBD, and also presents its report to the CBD and other concerned bodies as per Article 26 of the Convention on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention.

In line with discharging its commitments, the Institute took the overall responsibility of coordinating the establishment of the National Biodiversity Platform- Ethiopia (EBP), its sub-committees and task forces in 2022. EBI also serves as the secretariat of the Platform and also coordinates its operation including organizing the meetings of the Platform as well as its committees. As we all realize, the EBP was designed with the objective of connecting the three spheres of actors (policymakers, the scientific community and operators) for better amalgamation of their actions concerning the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services.

The General Assembly (the Plenary) is the highest body of the Platform. As per the Operational Guideline of the EBP, the plenary meets twice a year, validates and endorses assessments and reports about biodiversity and ecosystem services; designs a scheme for better sharing of information between policymakers, scientists and practitioners, and promotes collaborative engagements among all actors.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Since its establishment in May 2022, the NBP has undertaken the following activities related to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: -

1. The Executive committee met twice, and approved plans for the year 2023 and 2024;
2. The NBP got updated on the outcomes of the CBD COP 15 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
3. The General Assembly considered the GBF-2020 Early Action Support Project, which aims at facilitating the Post 2020 NBSAP of Ethiopia,
4. The National Ecosystem Assessment Composite Book (that has 672 pages) was launched
5. The NBP (National Biodiversity Platform) webpage is underdevelopment;
6. Lessons on various issues were shared on different occasions. Accordingly,
  - the state minister made an opening remark during a virtual session organized by UNEP-WCMC

- NBP-related experience sharing has occurred at different events like
- The CABES (**Capacity Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**) workshop held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
- The IPBES Dialogue meeting held in Bergen (Norway), etc
- The UNDP-BES\_NET II project took place in Hanoi (Vietnam)

Furthermore, projects that aim at enhancing the functioning of the NBP are being implemented. These include:

- the CABES project, the particular component being Objective 3. In line with this policy landscape assessment has been undertaken and the Assessment Report is under review
- The BES\_Net Project that aims at enhancing the functioning of the NBP. Through this project, three teams of experts have been engaged in conducting assessments on issues that relate to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as well as the NBP. Document produced by the task forces will be presented to this Plenary with the objective of sharing with the NBP members, and also reminding stakeholders about their commitments.

7. In order to strengthening the operation of the NBP, members who would serve in the three committees (i.e., the Multidisciplinary Expert Team, the Capacity Development and Resource Mobilization Team, and the Local Knowledge Promotion and Integration Team) were nominated by the Executive committee, and the direction was put with regard to the future operation of the NBP.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

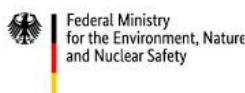
Despite the promising progress made, the NBP has encountered challenges in executing its activities. These are particularly related to failure to hold NBP/Executive committee meetings timely, structural & human resource related problems, lack of support and follow-up by EC/NBP members, etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is crystal clear that “biodiversity is the source and sustainer of the air we breathe, the food we eat, the energy we use, the jobs and economic activities we depend on, the species that enrich human life, and the landscapes and waterscapes we call home”

as stated by the UN Secretary-General. It is a foundation for the achievement of 80% of the SDGs, providing essential ecosystem services (NCP-natures contribution to people), whose loss jeopardizes their achievements. Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (nature’s contributions to people) are essential for a good quality of life on Earth.

Nonetheless, more recent studies on global risk assessment depicted that 60% of the total crises is due



to environmental problems, and the first four top ranks are related to environmental degradation/loss. Furthermore, the 2023 IPBES outcomes indicated that 60% of the global species loss is associated with IAS. The IPBES outcomes of 2020 indicated that over the last decades about 1 million species were endangered, 75% of the terrestrial ecosystems were converted into other forms, and 85% of the wetlands were completely lost, etc. The 2022 National Ecosystem Assessment of Ethiopia, similarly, showed that Ethiopian ecosystems are largely degraded, for instance, inaccessible slopy mountainous areas have been cultivated, causing biodiversity loss, ecosystem disservices, and heavy soil erosion that affects soil moisture and its fertility, which directly have an impact on crop production and productivity, and siltation of water bodies, including dams. These all affect people's livelihood and the economy of the country at large. Solving such biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation calls for transformational change, which involves: -

- a change in mindset, not just a change in procedure or policy;
- radical improvement in performance, not BAU;
- acceptance of and willingness to actively support and participate in the post- 2020 GBF, particularly the implementation of the post-2020 NBSAP;
- decisive local and global action from all countries and all sectors of the society;
- transformative action by governments and all of society to reverse biodiversity loss and aiming to facilitate the monitoring and review of progress in the most transparent manner.

It is hoped that this NBP plenary will suggest and encourage the government, particularly in areas of: -

- raising funds for biodiversity conservation and ensuring the sustainability of Ethiopian ecosystem functioning;
- promoting the urgency of taking appropriate and rapid actions by all citizens on the biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation,;
- encourage private sector engagement, and enhance the voluntary commitment of individuals, groups, organizations (government and NGOs), and Regional States in halting biodiversity loss, particularly by expanding protected areas across regions with the objective to achieve the 30x30 target (Target 3) of the post- 2020 GBF;
- encouraging and mobilizing the community towards implementation of Target 2 of post 2020- GBF on restoring 30% of the degraded ecosystems;
- Emphasizing and encouraging scientific, technical and technological cooperation among sectors at national and international levels;



- Encouraging the government to support in appropriate funding for biodiversity as well as halting the biodiversity loss, by acting against or minimizing the impacts of climate change, pollution, IAS, and habitat losses, caused by anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic factors

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As per the principles of IPBES, the BES-related problems encountered both at the national level and beyond can only be addressed through the cooperation of the three actors: the policy or decision makers, the scientific community and the practitioners. It is this understanding that led to the NBP-Ethiopia. We are very much honored that we managed to live our commitment to the achievement of the Inter-Governmental Forum by establishing such a Platform that facilitates the coming together of stakeholders from the three spheres, which, in turn, will be instrumental in sharing ideas, joint planning and coordinated implementation.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today a brief presentation on the National Ecosystem Assessment Report and other three presentations (one IPBES outcome and two study results on BD & Ecosystem Service, including the NBP interactions) will be presented. We believe that the outcomes on the discussion of presentations and the report will be evaluated, and the future direction will be forwarded by the plenary on the proper functioning of BD and ESs for human wellbeing.

This event was organized by the support of BES-Net Project, which is being implemented jointly by the Ethiopian Biodiversity Instituted and UNDP-Ethiopia, and funded by government of German and SwediBio. I am grateful to our partners for their consistent interest and support they have demonstrated as this is highly valuable in our effort to curb the BES-related challenge.

My thanks also go to you, members of the NBP and stakeholders in the forefront of the movement in protecting/conserving Biodiversity and ecosystem services /BES. We take your presence here to take part in this valuable gathering and confident that such commitments will last long. I am also thankful to the project's coordination team members and the EBI staff for they managed to organize such a successful event. Finally, once again I would like to express my gratitude for you all who attended today on the NBP plenary regardless of your busy schedule. With these remarks, **I wish you** a very successful meeting and **fruitful deliberations**, and I declare that today's plenary is opened officially.

**Thank you for the attention**



**Dr. Melese Maryo, Director General of EBI**

## **5. Presentation Highlights by Experts**

### **5.1. Recap of the National Ecosystem Assessment: Setting the scene for the uptake of the findings**

#### **Five main Ecosystems mapped/identified**

- 1) Mountains
- 2) Forest and Woodland
- 3) Aquatic and wetlands
- 4) Rangeland
- 5) Agriculture

#### **It 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 Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services
- The level of awareness on biodiversity & Ecosystem Systems as well as policy and governance,
- Contribution of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK), the linkages to environmental

#### **Key recommendations (11) were made based on the assessment findings**

- 1) Appropriate strategies
- 2) Compatible conservation approaches
- 3) Collate sound data

10

- 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

**Main outputs of the findings:**

- Composite Book
- SPM
- NBP Guideline
- National BD Platform
- Communication Strategy
- Brochure

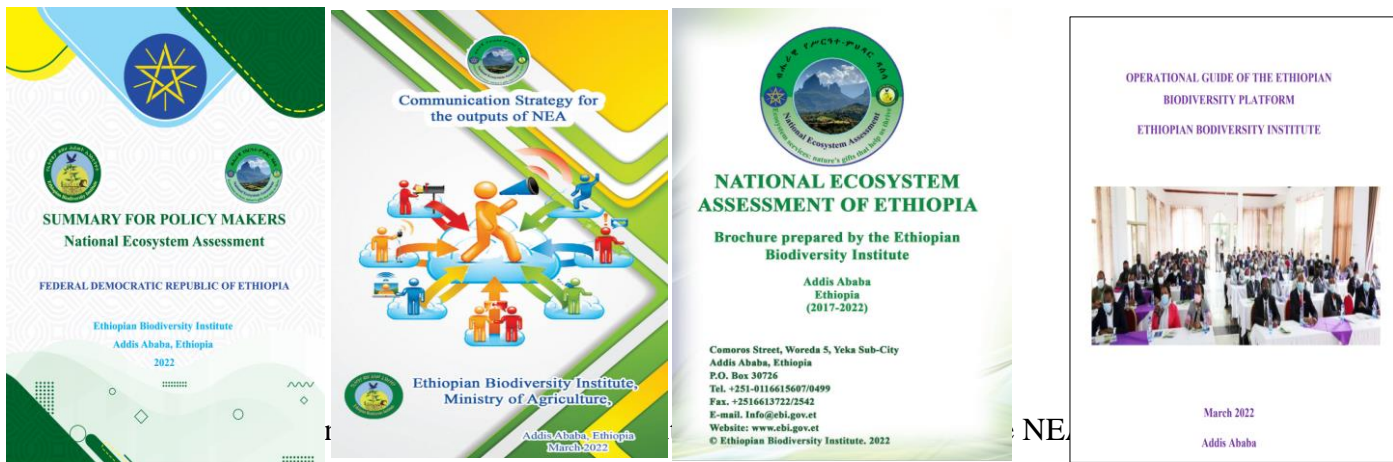
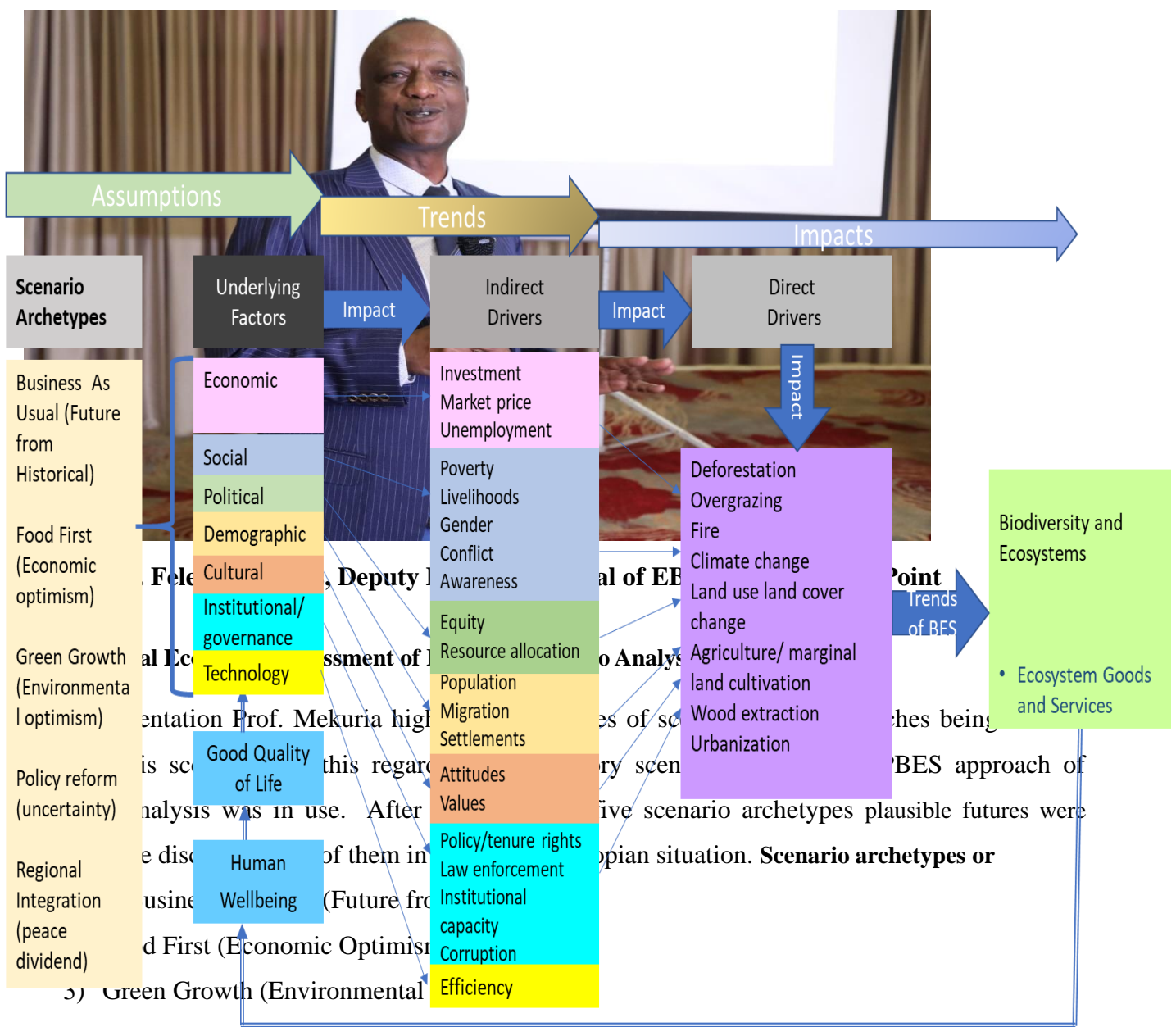


Figure 1. Some Outputs of BES-Net Phase I



- 4) Policy reform (Uncertainty)
- 5) Regional integration (Peace Dividend)

Figure 2. Scenario Archetypes



Ecosystems	Scenario Archetypes								
	Business As Usual	Food First		Green Growth		Policy Reform		Regional Integration	
	Ecosystem services	Biodiversity	Ecosystem services	Biodiversity	Ecosystem services	Biodiversity	Ecosystem services	Biodiversity	Ecosystem services
Mountain	↘	↘	↘	↗	↗	↘	↘		
Forest & Woodland	↘	↘	↘	↗	↗	↘	↘	↕	↕
Aquatic and wetland	↘	↘	↘	→	↗	↘	↘		
Rangeland	↘	↘	↘	→	↗	↘	↘	→	→
Agro-ecosystem	↘	↕	↕	↗	↗	↘	↘	↕	↕

= Increase  
 = Decrease  
 = Stable  
 = Variable  
 = lack of evidence

### Impacts on Biodiversity and ecosystem services under the different scenarios

Ecosystem goods and service (material, regulating and non-material services)		Scenario archetypes				
		Business as usual	Food First	Green Growth	Policy Reform	Regional Integration
<b>Provisioning services</b>	Food/feed/fiber	↘	↗	↗	↘	↘
	Fresh Water	↘	↘	↗	↘	↘
	Energy/fuel/timber	↘	↘	↗	↘	↘
	Medicine/Ornamental	↘	↘	↗	↘	
	Genetic/ variety	↘	↘	→	↘	↔
<b>Regulating Services</b>	Climate	↘	→	↗	↘	↗
	Air quality	↘	→	↗	↘	→
	Erosion control	↘	↘	↗	↘	
	Water flow	↘	↕	↗	↘	↘
	Natural hazard control	↔	↔	↗		
<b>Supporting services</b>	Material cycle (nutrient, water)	↘	↘	↗	→	
	Soil formation and retention	↘	→	↗	↘	↗
	Biomass production (NPP)	↘	↕	↗		↗
	Habitat for flora and fauna	↘		↗	↘	
	Production of oxygen	↘		↕		
<b>Cultural services</b>	Spiritual/ religious	→	→	↕	→	→
	Aesthetic/ scenic	↘		↗	↘	↗
	Educational/ ILK			↘	↘	
	Heritage/ Historical/ diversity			↘	→	↗
	Recreational/ Eco- Tourism		→		↘	↗

= Increase   
 = Decrease   
 = Stable   
 = Variable   
 = lack of evidence

**Impacts on Ecosystem Services: provisioning, regulating, supporting and culture**



Prof. Prof. Mekuria Aregaw (Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network, Director)

### 5.3 BES\_Net Phase II Project Overview

Dr. Demeke presented on Overview of BES-Net and its components, Countries currently supported by BES-Net, its role in supporting various countries across the world to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services and BES-Net Context in Ethiopia. Thus, he highlighted the results/outputs of BES-Net Phase I and activities carried out and going on under BES Net Phase II. He also noted the potential of the country as reach and diverse in harboring globally important/diverse biodiversity. Thus Ethiopia (both wild & domestic/endemic and unique species because of its diverse ecosystems, topographic & climatic features): Center of origin & mega diversity country. For instance:



Figure 3. Diversity of species in the country overview

### Key Pressures on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Ethiopia

- ✓ Land use changes/land degradation (deforestation=soil erosion)
- ✓ Habitat destruction and fragmentation
- ✓ Overexploitation of resources/fishing/killing etc.
- ✓ Invasive alien species
- ✓ Climate change (drought)



- ✓ Pollution (pesticides & herbicides) on pollinators & aquatic life



Figure 4. human and natural challenges

### Key out puts of BES Net Phase I

BES Net Phase II focuses uptake of the NEA results/recommendations and Operationalizing/Strengthening National Biodiversity Platform in Ethiopia – Planned actions

- ❖ Support uptake of NEA recommendations in policy and decision-making
- ❖ Integrate NEA findings into NBSAP & support its formulation
- ❖ Assess and document best practices of indigenous for better BES,
- ❖ Developing educational materials/ handbooks/manuals on land restoration and pollinator conservation
- ❖ Enhance awareness of local community
- ❖ Communication of NEA results trough face to face/meetings, social media, mass media and websites
- ❖ Enhance partnership & networking with various stakeholders.

### Challenges and Opportunities in Ethiopia

#### Challenges

- Limited awareness among communities at large
- Effects of climate change and frequent drought
- Demand for resources increasing together with population growth

- Indigenous knowledge not well recognized, documented and utilized as well as available for public consumption

## Opportunities

- Climate Resilience Green Economy strategic plan, which supports BES conservation in the country
- Strong willingness of local communities to engage and collaborate
- Completed NEA results/ findings and its scenario analysis for future action
- There is diverse indigenous and local knowledge for conservation



Dr. Demeke Datiko (Project Coordinator, BES-Net Phase II)

### 5.4. Assessment of Matters Related to “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES)”

He presented on “Assessment of Matters Related to “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES)” His presentation was focused on key issues as per activities planned in the AWP:

- Refine main actors of each category (science-policy-practice communities) related to BES and assess their types and level of interaction with each other
- Assess main outputs related to BES by each of science-policy-practice communities,
- Define elements of coordination with each other, and define gaps and needs for interaction and partnership; and

- Review the operation by each actor with respect to BES and the state of interaction among science-policy-practice communities.



Dr. Abiyot Molla (ABS, Director EBI)

### **5.5 Assessment team on matters related to “the National Biodiversity Platform - Ethiopia”**

His presentations focused on the bellow three topics/issues:

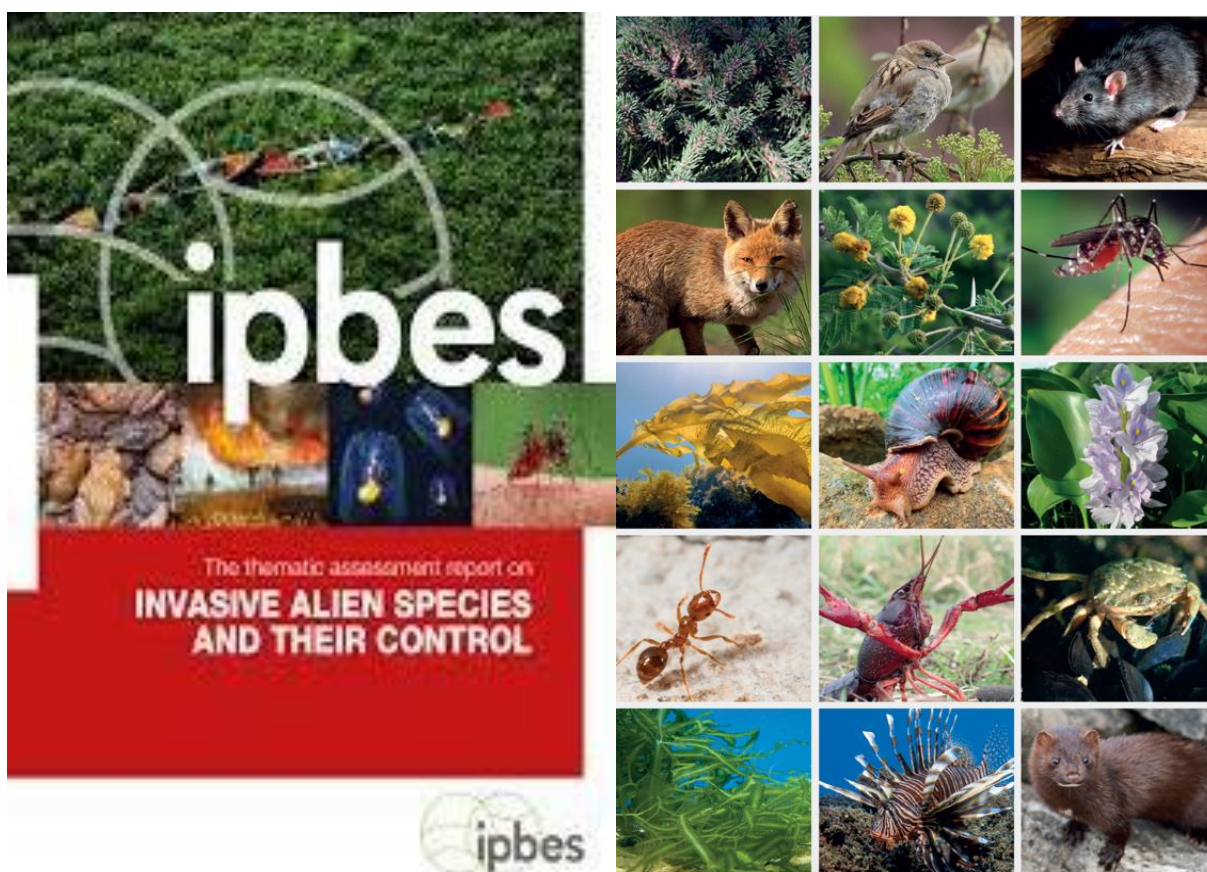
- 1) Assessment on the Need and Inputs Required for Making the National Biodiversity Platform Effectively Functional in Delivering Tasks related to Biodiversity
- 2) Assessment on the status of awareness of key stakeholders on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Ethiopia. Final
- 3) Monitor and Evaluate the Performance Gaps of National Biodiversity Platform and Exploit Opportunities to Enable the Platform to Meet its Mission and Facil



- Dr. Samson Shimelis (Research, Dissemination & Project Implementation Director, EBI)

### **5.6 Invasive Alien Species and threats to biodiversity: knowledge, perspectives and solutions in the East African sub-region**

He made presentation on “Invasive Alien Species and threats to biodiversity: knowledge, perspectives and solutions in the East African sub-region” Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control (IBPES)



His presentation was focused on Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control (IBPES). It was helpful for awareness creation to key stakeholders gathered across the world. Particularly, it was focused on: -

- People and nature are threatened by invasive alien species in all regions of Earth
- Invasive alien species cause dramatic and irreversible changes to nature across all regions of Earth
- East African perspective
- How do IAS impacts nature?
- Threat to Biodiversity
- How do invasive alien species impact people?
- Extent of invasive alien species impacts
- People at the heart of the problem...
- Invasive alien species and other drivers of change have complex interactions
- ... People at the heart of the solution
- Current policies have been insufficient in managing, preventing and controlling biological invasions and invasive alien species
- Management Options



Dr. Feleke Woldyes, IPBES Focal point

## 6. Group work and discussions and presentation on specific issues/key questions

The following questions were designed for discussion for NBP members and stakeholders

- 1) Discuss the importance/relevance of the National Biodiversity Platform (NBP-Ethiopia) for the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services?
- 2) What roles should key stakeholder institutions (federal government, regional governments, NGOs, professional societies) play in with respect to the conservation of conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services?
- 3) Would you please describe coordination and collaboration related gaps among stakeholders (policy makers, the scientific community and practitioners) regarding to the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services? Information generation and exchange? Resource mobilization?
- 4) How do you understand challenges posed by Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Ethiopian context? And what are the recommended solutions to address the challenges?
- 5) What do you think are the major takeaways from this plenary meeting that should be considered by the members?



Figure 5. Various group discussion teams

## 7. Synthesis from the Group Work Reports

Each working group made a discussion on the given points and presented their respective reports. The following points were synthesized from the group report

After having made discussion, each working group presented their respective report as following.

## **Q1. Discuss the importance/relevance of the NBP for the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services**

- Filling of gaps on biodiversity conservation and maintenance of ecosystem services
- Enhance integration and collaboration among policy-since and practice
- Documented and scale up of the ILK
- Improve Synergy between federal and regional institutions
- Improve information sharing processes at different levels
- Enhancing joint planning and experience sharing
- Identify key stakeholder for future BES conservation
- Collect information from different stakeholders and used as base lines
- Sharing data used to development strategies and policy process at local level
- Helps to create awareness as multiple actors are engaged in the platform
- It is an opportunity to create synergy among the different actors
- Gives an opportunity to understand the international level engagement
- It is linked with the international actors
- Describes the way to involve in the conservation of natural resources we have
- The way we involve and where we should involve
- Common understanding about BD and ES
- Creates easy information exchange between stakeholders
- To raise the awareness of all stakeholders up to the grassroots level
- Serves as knowledge center, information sharing and resource mobilization
- Improving and developing sense of ownership
- To influence policy makers to formulate appropriate policy with Biodiversity issues
- For effective biodiversity conservation and management
- To integrate the three actors/policy science and practice
- Facilitate stake holder communication and collaboration
- Generate policy issues knowledge information sharing
- Help in developing guidelines and tools
- Share experience



**Q2. What roles should key stakeholder institution (federal government, regional, NGOS and professional societies) play on conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services**

- They must collaborate for the appropriate Biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation
- To provide holistic support, resource mobilization human
- Jointly planning financial, and technical
- Develop a link and partnership with international and national funding agencies
- Ensuring sustainable of the platform
- Support mainstreaming of BES in each sector institutions
- Allocate adequate budget and resource
- All legal frameworks should take the BD and ES issues into account
- Ensure proper enforcement and accountability
- Proper monitoring and evaluation of policies and legal frameworks
- Generate evidences for policy makers
- Identify policy gap and proposing solutions
- Develop policy draft and inform to the decision makers
- Assign responsible bodies/ focal persons at different level
- Building sense of ownership, responsibility on conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Implementors Disseminate information
- Documentation of trends

**3 Would you please describe coordination and collaboration related gaps among stakeholders (policy makers, the scientific community and practitioners) regarding to the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services? Information generation and exchange? Resource mobilization?**

- No information sharing protocol
- lack Database management system

- Sometimes duplication effort among institutions
  - Limited of coordination and communication among stakeholders
  - Unstable restructuring of institutions
- 
- Lack of sustainable and functional structure
  - Get less attention government agenda
  - Low level of awareness related to biodiversity issues
  - Persistent knowledge gap
  - Research direction should be shifted to problem-oriented research that convincing policy makers
  - Lack of commitment
  - Absence of appropriate institutions to coordinate actors
  - Policy gaps
  - Gaps of ILK utilization and documentaion
  - There is no coordination mechanism
  - Resource gap/limitation
  - Institutional mandate overlap
  - There is no central data base (to share information)
  - Communication gap among the stakeholders

**Q4. How do you understand challenges posed by Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Ethiopian context? And what are the recommended solutions to address the challenges?**

**Challenges**

- Reduction in ecosystem productivity (in range land, farm land and aquatic ecosystem)
- Extinction of native species in some areas
- Affecting food security
- Affecting ecosystems (rangeland and agricultural, water bodies)
- Affecting human and animal health
- Affecting Native biological species
- Affecting countries economy directly or indirectly

- Research gap (regarding ILK) on assessment and extent of its impact (ecologically, economically and culturaly)

### *Solutions*

- Integrated/ Holistic management approach
  - Develop appropriate policy and strategies as per specific to species
  - Conversion to value added products
- 
- Minimizing the way of introduction and dissemination
  - Reducing agricultural productivity as our community is dependent on natural resources. The communities become vulnerable
  - Affects rangelands-reduce pasture resources
  - Reduce fish products
  - Preventing free movement
  - The devastation on biodiversity is a great challenge to the global biodiversity in decreasing soil fertility, spp. extinction and land degradation...etc
  - Newly introduced ones are not well not well identified by researchers
  - Lack of awareness in at all levels
  - Some invasive spp. are still controversial among the society
  - Needs national and holistic plan up to the grass-root level
  - Species specific control system has to be implemented
  - Need for raising the awareness and community engagement and Community ecological government has to be implemented
  - Strengthen quarantine service
  - Media and advocacy role has to be empowered

### **5) What do you think are the major takeaways from this plenary meeting that should be considered by the members?**

- Discharging respective roles and responsibilities on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services
- Synergy and community mobilization integration of activities
- IAS management is considered as urgent issues

- Inclusion of the importance stakeholders
  - Enhanced the awareness on biodiversity conservation
  - Sharing of research agendas
  - Such platforms are helpful to create
  - Better coordination and partnership
  - Align the different actions and avoid duplications
  - Improves understanding about BD Conversation and ES
  - Biodiversity and ecosystem service are critically endangered
- 
- Commitment on collaboration efforts must bring stakeholders in to one agenda
  - Key stake holders should participate jointly to avert the problems
  - Going against the status quo
  - Mainstreaming of the issue of Biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Creating strong collaboration among the stakeholders

## 8. General discussions

After all presentation, a general discussion was made which was led by Dr. Melese and Dr. Feleke. All participants are actively participated on the agenda presented. The key messages are: As biodiversity and ecosystem service conservations are valuable for our people survival, we should give attention. Problems on biodiversity is challenging and it is increasing from time to time. Therefore, as NBP-Ethiopia members noted as on what they should focus; on what are the key role and responsibilities of each member. However, coordination and integration are still lacking among sectors. Therefore, using the platform the members should also give due attention to the integration on the issues. The other key issues discussed were issues of resource mobilization. The also noted as it is a key for the sustainability of the NBP-Ethiopia. They also noted/indicated as member institutions should participate as coast sharing. Moreover, for the functionality of the platform EBI may represent/allocate one expert/focal person who focuses on the issue for institutionalizing and critically to see its function as institution and for its sustainability. The platform should have its own office it may be under EBI. Therefore, this focal person at federal level will support the platform and follow each and every function and achievements of the members by organizing meetings,

coordinating overall tasks of committee and members. Moreover, NBP-Ethiopia should have a focal point at each member instructions to share information and engage as well as participate on the issues. It was also very important to work with regions and enhance coordination and integration among sectors.



Figure 6. Participants of NBP-Ethiopia and stakeholders

## 9. The way forwards as noted by participants

It was very appreciated the support of BES-Net Phase II which helps gathering the three actors that helps conservation of BES. Because BES conservation is issues of survival and sustainable development. Therefore, they agreed that all stakeholders should integrated, coordinated and collaborated to conserve and

utilize the resources. Moreover, the following issues were frequently mentioned need attention in the future.

- 1) Issues of BES is not of the specific institution it is of the whole society for survival. Thus, all should work together
  - 2) Information sharing among stakeholders and NBP members should be key in the future,
  - 3) Continuous workshop and contact among members and stakeholders are very important
  - 4) Problems of IAS is becoming savors and affecting the biodiversity and ecosystem services, and it needs urgent measures from the government and stakeholders
  - 5) In the future experiences of the regions should be presented in the future
  - 6) Outreach materials should be developed for IAS and translated to local language and reached to schools and local communities'
- 
- 7) At each NBP member institutions a focal person who follow up should be assigned
  - 8) At least one expert who continuously follow should be assigned at federal/EBI level
  - 9) To ensure its sustainability resource mobilization is critical in the future
  - 10) The out puts of the NEA results/recommendations must practice at ground level

### **Closing remarks**

Both Dr. Melesse Maryo Director General and the Chairman of the NBP-Ethiopia and Dr. Feleke Woldyes Deputy Director General of EBI and Secretary of the platform appreciated the participation of the members, and reflected on the issues raised as most were a feedback and helpful for future platform functioning. Particularly they emphasized on the future integration and collaboration among NBP member institutions as well as on its sustainability issues. And also, they appreciated the support of BES-Net Phase II in supporting the county in these burning issues, and finally Dr. Melesse Maryo called the members of NBP-Ethiopia as they are an ambassador for biodiversity and ecosystems conservation of the country and closed officially.

## Appendix

### **Participants**

30

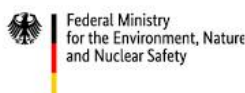


Table 1. Totally, **193** participants from all Regions of Ethiopia, and Addis Ababa were participated

No.	Participants	Regions	Number of participants
1	Concerned House of Representatives	Addis Ababa	36
2	Federal institutions, NGOs, Media	Addis Ababa	80
3	Regional concerned Offices	Regions of Ethiopia	22
4	Higher institutions/universities	Different regions	15
5	EBI management and experts	Addis Ababa	40
	<b>Total</b>		<b>193</b>