



## National Biodiversity Platform (NBP-Ethiopia) Annual meeting



Photo. Participants of NBP Annual Meeting

December, 25 2024

Pyramid Hotel, Bishoftu, Ethiopia

The workshop was commenced with the introduction of participants via *Slido* which was followed by program introduction, by Dr. Demeke Datiko, BES-NET project coordinator



Photo: Program Introduction

Following the program introduction, a welcome remark was delivered by Dr. Melesse Mariyo, Director General, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI).



Photo: Dr. Melesse Mariyo

Dr. Melesse Mariyo, thanked and acknowledge all participants for their coming to attend this workshop and the organizers of the workshop.

An opening speech was made by H.E. Solomon Late, Head of the Agricultural Affairs standing Committee of House of peoples Representative. In his speech, his excellency Solomon Dale emphasized the issues of biodiversity that Ethiopian is endowed with and the current scenarios that biological diversity and ecosystem have facing worldwide. Even though, Ethiopian is known to have huge biodiversity resources, climate change, unwise utilization of the natural resources leading to the destruction of the natural habitat have resulted in decline in a number of biological diversity, and ecosystem services.



*Photo: H.E. Solomon Dale.*

Further, he pointed out that the Government of Ethiopia, as its strong commitment, has put in place different initiatives to mitigate the impact of climate change and safeguard biodiversity. Green Legacy Initiative, among others, is a typical exemplary undertaking, as part of the Climate Resilience Green Growth (CRGE) where billions of seedlings have been planted each year across the country.

H.E. Solomon acknowledge the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute for the role it has played so far in taking the leading role, as its mandate, in implementing the CBD targets and safeguarding the country's biological diversity as well as organizing this workshop. He further delivered his strong message emphasizing on the need to bring and strengthen the cooperation and synergy among stakeholders in safeguarding the biodiversity and associated knowledge in this climate changing scenarios which the globe has been facing.

He highlighted the major outputs that the National Biodiversity Platform has undertaken since its establishment in 2022, in particular strategic issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Ethiopia.

Finally, having addressed the objective of the workshop, and acknowledging all participants and the organizers, H.E Solomon Dale officially opened the day- workshop.

Following the opening speech, different outreach materials and policy brief were presented consecutively,

1. Biodiversity Related Local Community Knowledge: A Neglected Category of Wisdom, A policy brief by Mr Ermias Yeshitila
2. Ethiopian Pollinators Conservation, an outreach material by Dr. Tesfu
3. Working towards Land Degradation Neutrality – an outreach material by Dr. Zerihun Tsegaye
4. Ethiopian Aquatic and Wetland Ecosystems under Threat- A policy brief by 0

After the presentation of the outreach and policy brief materials, consecutive presentations were held by Dr Melesse Maryo and Dr Feleke Woldeyes

The first presentation was given by Dr Melesee, regarding the NBSAP, while Dr. Feleke held a presentation entitled. EPBES Assessments Uptake, the Nexus Assessment, was briefly presented by Dr. Feleke Woldeyes. In his presentation, Dr. Feleke addressed the issue of EPBES concept and historical establishment, achievements of the EPBES, and the three objectives of IPBES. As to Dr. Feleke presentation

, There is a gap in among the three actors...

The motives behind to establish the IBPES vi,s,a. vis, were discussed

- As an output /achievement of IBPES undertakings.
- Different assessments were conducted and outreached to beneficiaries, Land degradation, pollination, a summary for policy makers etc ()
- The Nexus assessment was also conducted
- The assessment finds were also described,

The NBP=Ethiopia annual report was also presented by Dr. Feleke,

In this presentation,

- The rational for NBP entablement
- The structure and its function

- The achievement of the NBP
- The challenges currently facing the NBP like lack of policy, resources mobilization, lack of synergy
- The way ahead, = expectation from the stakeholders



Photo: Dr.Feleke Woldeyes

## Discussion Session

After the presentations, a discussion session was conducted, being headed by H/E Solomon Dale and Dr. Melesse Mariyo, where different questions, comments and reflection were given from the audience.

In summarizing the session held so far, HE remained the past commitment and expect to present the status of the assignment taken thereof.

Having said so, HE gave the chance for the participants to raise their reflection on the

Accordingly:

### 1. Seifudin from Oromia EPA

- The issue related to wet land is an important issue raised here, protecting the buffer zone of the wet land should attain due consideration and worked on critically,
- Carbon sink issues is not well addressed in the presentation,
- Working on honey bee and honey production related undertaking attract attention on which we are working vigorously,

- We need to safeguard our biodiversity before it went out,
- Structural alignment, which said to be a gap in addressing report of the biodiversity related undertaking.

## 2. From South Region-representative

- Collaboration and commitment from all sides is important,
- The earth is recently getting degraded at an alarming rate, which calls for urgent action,
- To restore the degraded area we need to have a commitment,
- We are working vigorously eg. Restoration of mountain areas with the initiative from the regional government president,
- Wet lands are being converted due to agricultural practices
- Reporting gap is becoming an urgent issue to be resolved

## 3. From Parliamentary

### Ayisha (Trade standing committee)

- The commitment that EBI has played should be acknowledged in addressing the issue of biodiversity,
- We have started considering policy issue in relation to BD before it gets approved,
- The undertakings by the Industries have also been under our supervision whether or not their activities pollute the environment,

### From planning and finance standing committee- Desalegn

- While we evaluating the performance of Institutions/organization, we strictly considering their achievements against the issue of Bd,
- We managed to approved a green legacy fund in line with safeguarding BD and mitigating the impacts of climate change
- International agreements shall be countries legal frame, so we need to bring these agreements into practices

## From Research Institutions

Dr Girma from Policy study Institute

- Our institute has been working to contribute towards the issues of Bd to bring the issues of BD into front line in each sector
- We have participated in other policy -related studies of the Institute.

Aben yimer from Fishery

- We have conducted a lot of research related to aquatic and wet land ecosystem
- We do not have institution alignment with EBI, which need further consideration.

### **From Universities**

Dr. Anteneh---- from Haronaya University

- The issues of considering the Bd and ecosystem issues as an audit finding get recognition from the Standing committee is appreciable,
- We have been working on lake Haromaya and Adelle Lake and bring these lake ecosystems to its restored status, being forced by the committee, but lack of land use policy is becoming a challenge

Demamo Mesfin from Bahir Dar University

- Even if we are thriving to reduce the loss of BD, still we could not manage to halt the same, so we need to work a lot,
- The existing policies are not well practiced due to mainly inability to reach the ground root for practice,
- Institutional arrangements are instability and not well staffed, not well organized at lower level
- Horizontal and vertical alignment of institutions need to be revised,
- Lake Tana need attention in the current scenario of expanding agricultural practices,
- Church forestry, which can be a seed sources, can be registered as UNESCO resources



- Permanent Focal person for BD need to be in place for BD-related issues

Dr. Debissa from AU

- We are building capacity in areas of natural resources and BD related disciplines
- Information dispatch via Media regarding BD
- Central national data need to be in place on BD related information
- The issue of PES and biosphere reserve as policy frameworks are not yet approved, lagging, why should these frame work are not yet approved?

## Federal GO

Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority

- We are working with EBI in collaboration
- The Issues of BD is not a one=sector undertaking, need to synergies our efforts
- Monitoring and evaluation, well established and aligned to the down root
- Resources mobilization need to be gain due attention
- Experience sharing important

NGOs

Ato Solomon from MELCA

EBI has gained experience in working corroborate with NGOs as an e.g.

- Sheka BR registration
- Nomination of anyway BR
- BR draft policy frame works
- Sacred, Community seed bank etc
- Establishing BR Network
- The EBI political empower need to be given due attention, given that the mandate given to EBI is huge
- NGOs need to be empowered to prepare draft policies to assist the Government

Dr. Alemayehu-ILRI

Representative from different segments of the society need to be take part in such occasion

## **Conclusion**

Dr. Melesse

We have been using farmers as active participants in such events for the last consecutive similar events

We have been working with NGOs and others in areas of biodiversity and ecosystem services

The biosphere periodic review draft policy has been amended at MAB committee and been sent to MOA but pending owning to the current ratified Agricultural policy

We will consider the issue of church forest as a UNESCO registered resources in collaboration with regional as well as NGO

Additionally, Dr. Feleke Woldeyes, reacted to the questions and comments given noting that:

- The meeting is not just to evaluate the EBI achievements, rather it's the achievements of NBP which is b to be evaluated,
- We need to take the issue to our institution in addressing the achievements of the NBP

Finally, HE Solomon Dale concluded the meeting by his remarks and ways forward:

- We as a stakeholder, and members of the NBP should take activities to be implemented at our respective institutions
- Focal person for biodiversity-related issues needs to be assigned by each member institutes
- Awareness creation- Universities, media, standing committee and research Institutes need to engage in awareness creation undertakings
- Green legacy initiatives - we need to foster on and strengthen the green legacy initiative
- Protect our forests
- Restore degraded areas
- Protect environmental pollution

- Support biodiversity related issues
- We need to come up with achievement reports for the up-coming meeting focusing on the aforementioned activities

With this the meeting was end up!