

# Forests4Future country package Ethiopia

<b>Project name</b>	Global project on Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Implemented by</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Project region</b>	Lake Chamo and Lake Abaya catchment, Southern Ethiopia Region
<b>Duration</b>	01.2020 – 06.2026

## The Challenge

Ethiopia's natural forest coverage has drastically decreased from 40% in 1900 to just 4.0%. This is largely due to the extensive use of firewood, which fulfils 96% of household energy needs and leads to deforestation as well as forest degradation. The nation's population amounts to nearly 110 million, growing by 3.02% annually, with 80% living in rural areas and reliant on subsistence farming that constitutes nearly half of the GDP. This rapid population growth intensifies pressure on agricultural and forest lands, which are increasingly degraded by unsustainable practices such as overgrazing or unsuitable farming techniques as well as forest exploitation and unregulated cuttings in tree rich landscapes. The Ethiopian highlands, crucial for food security, face severe challenges from deforestation, soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and climate change effects, exacerbating land degradation. This ongoing degradation results in approximately 30,000 hectares of fertile land lost annually, threatening the country's long-term food security. The sub-catchments of Elgo River at

Lake Chamo and the Lake Abaya, which include the target region of the project, are typical of the state of natural resources in Ethiopia in general. The middle and upper slopes suffer from severe to extremely severe soil erosion, with the resulting sedimentation threatening to permanently destroy the ecological balance in Lake Chamo and Lake Abaya, and hence also negatively impact fish production, which is important for the economy. The process of selecting the project area considers nationwide studies on which areas should be prioritized for forest landscape restoration (FLR), and the explicit wishes of the Ethiopian Government.

## Project Objectives and Approach

The Ethiopia country package is part of the global programme Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the Forest Sector (Forests4Future) funded by BMZ and implemented by GIZ. The project employs scalable forest landscape restoration (FLR) measures and promotes forest-related value chains to enhance the economic benefits of tree use. These efforts aim to improve local land conditions, develop financing strategies, and secure land use rights, fostering further investment in restoration measures. The Ethiopia country package pilots local FLR measures and thus contributes to achieving the objectives of the national restoration targets as part of the Bonn Challenge. The country package supports Ethiopia's objectives by enhancing forest restoration and management,



*Green Jobs and capacity building trainings in the Southern Ethiopia Region:*

*Left picture: Woman working in bamboo processing unit to produce furniture*

*Right picture: Apple fruit management training in an agroforestry system*

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preventing soil erosion, boosting employment opportunities, and conserving biodiversity. This supports Ethiopia's ambition of meeting its voluntary commitment to restore 15 million hectares of the country's forests within the context of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

The country package Ethiopia aims to achieve the following impacts:

- Integrate forest landscape restoration and sustainable forest management into village-based land use plans drawn up by local and regional actors.
- Reduce soil erosion on forest landscape restoration sites.
- Increase of average income for households benefiting from forest landscape restoration.

## Preliminary Results

### Institutional:

- Eight village-based land-use plans cover over 5000 hectares in the Lake Chamo and Lake Abaya watershed, enhancing sustainable forest and land use.
- Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) has been upscaled further beyond piloting with our partner WorldVision.
- Communal land certification, in partnership with the GIZ Global Land Policy project, set a good example for communal land management for sustainable FLR.
- The result base incentive forest development approach induced voluntary land use implementation by individual farmers resulting in a considerable forest cover in the specific landscape.

- The project's success in using bamboo for gully restoration with the eco-hydrological concept has set a precedent for broader adoption by partners and other institutions.

### Ecological:

- Since 2020, around 2800 hectares have been put under restoration through agroforestry, area closures including FMNR, reforestation, Soil Water Conservation structures (including gully restoration with the ecohydrological concept), and woodlot and bamboo plantations.
- A Remote Sensing assessment in Geresse shows positive forest cover change due to restoration efforts.
- A study by an academic partner institution revealed that the implemented FLR measures have reduced erosion and increased water retention.

### Socio-economic:

- The project established SMEs in tree-based value chains, creating employment for over 100 people in bamboo processing, seedling production, and beekeeping.
- 2317 participants, including 1926 men, 391 women, and 1118 youth, have benefited from training in sustainable practices and economic management. Capacity building and technical training have boosted farmers' interest in fruit tree planting within agroforestry systems.

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In cooperation with Ethiopian Forest Development (EFD)



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Ethiopian Forest Development