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Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resource (MoALR)

Sustainable Land Management Program

Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP)

Updated Social Assessment

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Acronym

BoALR	Bureau of Agriculture and Livestock Resources
BP	Bank Policy
CBPWDG	Community-Based Participatory Watershed Development Guideline
CDD	Community Demand Driven
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
CSA	Climate smart agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSRP	Community Storage Receipts Program
CWT	Community Watershed Team
DA	Development Agent
DPs	Development Partners
DRS	Developing Regional States
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
ESIF	Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESPAWM	Exit Strategy and Performance Assessment for Watershed Management
FTC	Farmers Training Center
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGWI	Great Green Wall Initiative
GMG	Gender Mainstreaming Guideline
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
IGA	Income Generating Activities
KWT	Kebele Watershed Team
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS/IT	Management Information System/Information Technology
MoALR	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoFA	Ministry of Federal Affairs
MoFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation
MoWIE	Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity
NFE	Non-Farm Economic Enterprises
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSLMSC	National Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee
NSLMTC	National Sustainable Land Management Technical Committee
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PAP	Project Affected People
PDO	Project Development Objective
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
RED&FS Platform	Rural Economic Development and Food Security Platform
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SA	Social Assessment
SHG	Self-Help Groups

SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SLLC	Second Level Landholding Certification
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SLMP	Sustainable Land Management Project
SLWM	Sustainable Land and Water Management
SMP	Social management plan
SNPPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region
SU	Support Unit
SWC	Soil and water conservation
VLD	Voluntary Land Donation
WB	World Bank
WLRC	Water and Land Resources Center
WOANR	Woreda Office of Agriculture and Natural Resource
WSC	Woreda Steering Committee
WTC	Woreda Tecnical Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a successor to the second phase of Sustainable Land Management Project, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MoALR) is presently finalizing the preparation of the **Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP)**. The Project is planned to be implemented in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNPPR, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumz National Regional States. The Project covers 192 woredas/watersheds (57new and 135existing)

Land degradation has been recognized as the leading cause hampering Ethiopia's agricultural led development strategies, and the country is fully committed to addressing the issue in a comprehensive manner as clearly elaborated in the Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework (ESIF) for Sustainable Land Management. In line with this, the main objectives of RLLP are to reduce land degradation and improve land productivity in selected watersheds of the project regions. The Project has four components: (i) Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihood; (ii) Strengthening Institutions and information modernization, (iii) Land Administration, and Use; and (iv) Project Management and monitoring.

Based on the framework of SLMP-II, and considering its principal features and aspects, it was found necessary to update the social assessment report to produce inputs for the preparation of RLLP. As a result, this social assessment has been carried out and updated with the following major objectives in focus:

- Assess key socio-economic factors that require consideration;
- Identify vulnerable and historically underserved groups that may be excluded from the project and be adversely affected as a result, and the necessary impact mitigating measures.
- Assess any potential adverse social impacts of RLLP, and determine whether the project is likely to trigger the World Bank social safeguards policies;
- Recommend in the early stage of project preparation the appropriate measures towards addressing World Bank requirements on social safeguards triggered by the project (OP/BP 4.10 and OP/BP 4.12).

The RPF is prepared using primary and secondary data, and qualitative data collection approach. Field data was collected from 29 sample woredas (11 new and 18 existing). In the existing woredas, purposive sampling was used to include those where community infrastructures were constructed while accessibility was used as a criterion to select the sample woredas from the new ones. Focus group discussions were made using semi-structured checklist with male and female community members, Religious leaders and elders Attempts were made to include vulnerable community members like female household heads, people with disabilities, the old, and the poor. Key informants such as Development Agents (DAs), woreda experts from different line offices, SLMP-II woreda focal persons, experts from Regional Bureau of Environment, Forest and climate, and SLMP-II regional environment and social safeguard specialists were also consulted.

In line with the Ethiopian Government's decentralization policy, organizational structure and implementation arrangement and with due consideration to the implementation of project activities at the grassroots level, RLLP is designed to operate at federal, regional, zonal, *woreda kebele* levels and beneficiary communities level. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and reporting system of the project is in-built in the implementation arrangement to be executed at all levels of the organizational structure. The institutional arrangement includes RLLP related conflict/grievance redress mechanism/GRM, consisting of community watershed teams, indigenous local institutions, kebele watershed teams, and people from woreda agriculture and natural resources offices.

In the context of the sample *woredas,* community groups identified as vulnerable and underserved/disadvantaged are the elderly, female-headed households, families with members living with HIV or other chronic illnesses, and historically disadvantaged ethnic groups. This finding agrees with the list of vulnerable groups indicated in the Ethiopian social protection policy developed in October 2013. This social protection policy identified pregnant and lactating women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, labor constrained individuals and households, the unemployed, those exposed to natural and manmade calamities , persons living with or directly affected by HIV and AIDS and other chronic debilitating diseases, victims of social problems such as drug users, beggars, victims of human trafficking and commercial sex workers and people with difficulties in accessing basic social services as vulnerable groups in the country.

The findings of the assessment revealed that the implementation of SLMP has, to a large extent, been accommodative of the needs and circumstance of these population groups. Thus, it was ascertained that issues related to gender, age, social status, occupational factors and income levels were given proper consideration in respect to the inclusiveness of participation and fair access to benefits to project investments.

The social assessment ensured that preliminary free and prior community consultations were carried out in SLMP-II *woredas at* watershed level. During the consultations, the communities have properly reiterated their interest and readiness to actively participate in all phases of the project i.e from planning, implementation and monitoring. In fact, the local population has already been involved in the containment and reversal of natural resource degradation as part of the government-led social mobilization initiative. The free and prior community consultation and mobilization was found to be consistent and inclusive. Hence, community members were sufficiently informed concerning the benefits and their role in the implementation of the Project and efforts were made to include all social categories in consultation meetings regardless of their various backgrounds.

It is evident that the local governments' structures (one to five local arrangement, community watershed teams, kebele watershed teams, woreda technical committees, and woreda steering committee) and communities in all regions have developed implementation capacity that helped them successfully execute activities of the projects. The coordination of this arrangement created an immense opportunity for the enhancement of project implementation capacity and effective execution of project activities. Although SLMP-II contributed a lot to the enhanced capacity enhancements in

local government and community structures through the provision of office and field equipment's (computers, laptops, motor bicycles etc…) there are capacity constraints particularly related to field vehicles. There has been delay in budget disbursements and workload of local government officials (technical and steering committee members), unable to devote adequate time to supervise and monitor implementation of project activities.

The nature of land take in SLMP-II has been voluntary and small in scope. Based on regional reports and information from field visit, the type of projects requiring land include access road construction, afforestation, community pond, hand dug well, nursery establishment and small-scale irrigation activities. These lands were acquired for project implementation on voluntary bases and appropriate land for land and cash compensations from local government budget and other benefit arrangement, such as short-term employment, draw benefits from project activities have been provided to land owners. The voluntary land donation followed due process of consultation, appropriate documentation specifying the scope of land take. However, VLD should not occur if it requires physical relocation, loss of structures or fixed assets on affected portion of land. Likewise, RLLP activities/sub-projects will be identified by the communities based on their local needs and priorities through a participatory watershed planning process with the coordination of community watershed team (CWT) whereby all community members have the opportunity for sharing ideas and making decisions.

It is evident that there is a wealth of social capital in communities in the Project *woredas* that SLMP-II has leveraged for its successful planning, implementation and monitoring of the Project activities and the achievement of expected outcomes. The social capital exists in the form of self-help groups, mutual assistance mechanisms such as Idir (social and financial mutual institution), religious associations, and land-related dispute settlement institutions such as elders and religious leaders, and indigenous land use and conservation knowledge and practice. The institutions may vary in their names, functions, structures and modes of operation in different socio-cultural and linguistic contexts but serve as bonding relationships of members of communities towards the same goal. The indigenous institutions played significant role improperly implementing SLMP-II activities such as physical and biological soil and water conservation measures, livelihood and rural land certification. These indigenous institutions supported the implementation of the project through community mobilization, provision of advices, settlement of conflicts and grievances and passing information/messages to facilitate the speed up of project implementation. The respective indigenous institutions in communities in all the six regions are part of SLMP-II Grievance Redress Mechanism and will continue to be instrumental during the implementation of RLLP.

The assessment further pointed out that the presence of formal and informal cooperative societies and Self-Help Groups (SHG) in the visited Project communities which could be utilized for RLLP. These institutions include saving and credit, marketing and multi-purpose service cooperatives are the formal cooperative established and operated by relevant government sector offices, NGOs, women and youth associations. The informal societal institutions refer to the kind of long-established rotating credit associations (*equb*), burial associations (*iddir*), and socio-religious groups (*mahiber* and *senbete*). Although the latter social institutions are intended to serve respective establishment purposes, they still

perform certain economic functions that the project may properly tap. Thus, cooperative establishments; formal and informal alike, can be instrumental in the efforts made at watershed and micro watershed levels to enable smallholder farmers cope with challenges related to marketing and finance in the context of the relevant RLLP activities. There are about 1,948 (SHGs)established by SLMP-I and SLMP-II engaged in poultry, apiculture, vegetable production, shoat fattening, forage production, agro-forestry seedling multiplication, etc.

Besides, updating of the social assessment has demonstrated that a wide range of non/off-farm activities are being practiced in the Project areas engaging many vulnerable women and youths. Among the common non/off-farm activities are small scale tannery, weaving, basketry, blacksmithing, milling, petty trade, brewing and sale of local drinks, and agriculture based income generating activities (beekeeping, poultry, animal fattening, and fodder/forage development). These activities will remain relevant for RLLP activities under Component 1.3; Income Opportunities and Resilient Livelihood, these non/off-farm activities may be nurtured and expanded to contribute to employment opportunities and income growth for community members in the project watersheds. There is a need to focus on capacity building work and the creation of an enabling environment for community members engaged in non/off farm activities. RLLP implementation strategies include knowledge and skill enhancement trainings, expanded access to financial support in the form of credits, and institutional innovation by organizing them under various functional cooperative societies among others.

It was found to be one of the strengths of the SLMP that gender issues have been properly addressed. At the start of SLMP-II, gender analysis was conducted and gender mainstreaming guideline was prepared to facilitate the implementation of gender issues. Women informants acknowledged being consulted about the Project, as well as their active participation during project implementation and access to benefits. Women are also involved in leadership positions in grassroots community structures like CWT. For instance, women members in CWT are 10, 24,32, 36, 40, and 43 percent in Oromia, Amhara, Gambella, SNNPR, Benshangul Gumuz, and Tigray national regional states, respectively. Moreover, there are representatives of youth, religious leaders and elders/influential persons in the grassroots level established CWTs. The inclusive nature of SLMP-2 institutional arrangement enhanced planning, implementation and monitoring of activities. In addition, the implementation of soil and water conservation (SWC) on individual farm land often start from the upper part of a slope and is applied uniformly regardless of age, sex, occupation and race of the land user right holder household. Moreover, the highly vulnerable groups of societies such as households with small land holding or landless farmers and youth have been given priority for labor work with incentives depending on requirements. Regarding targeting for different income generating activities, due focus has been given to farmers with tiny landholding or landless, jobless youth, women, people with disabilities and elderly persons.

With a view of addressing gender issues to the desired level, RLLP has defined its gender approach based on analysis and an action plan is being developed taking into account the needs of different women groups

5Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
Component 1: Investment in green infrastructure for resilient watershed	• Focus on supporting smallholder farmers to scale up and adopt best-fit sustainable land and water management technologies and practices. Hence there is a possible risk/challenge of not properly addressing the circumstances of people such as hunters and gatherers, who peruse peculiar livelihood systems and natural resource management strategies	• Device a mechanism to include ''hunters and gatherers" livelihood strategies into the RLLP activities. For example, traditional beekeeping though largely takes the form of forest honey collection, can be integrated into the RLLP activities with an injection of modern knowledge and technology based on their demand such as beekeeping technology as the latter is more productive, sustainable and environmentally and appropriate for women to manage.	MoALR-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated in to component 1.3
	• The creation of benefit streams through markets and other market based instruments like results-based payments involve the risk /challenge of not properly considering the elderly, people with disability and poor members of the community	• It is recommended that the project through consultation with the beneficiary communities, devise possible mechanisms on how to make the old, the sick and people with disability benefit from the project even when they might not afford to contribute either labor or cash to the project implementation. For example, the elderly people can be used as advisors, people with disability as time keeper, etc.	MoALR-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated in to component 1.1
	• Watershed community saving is part of the project activities that helps Users' Groups who voluntarily organize themselves to engage in IGA suitable to their respective environment. In principle membership is open to all members, but the minimum cash contribution and active participation requirement to run the IGA leaves out some members of the community who could not afford. This involves the risk of further disadvantaging the vulnerable groups.	• The project should devise a mechanism (e.g., interest free loan, for those who cannot involve in the regular scheme) by which watershed community members who are likely to be left out due to the inability to meet the minimum membership requirement can also benefit from the scheme. • For vulnerable and historically underserved communities unable to join cooperatives due to inability to pay the registration fee should be supported through flexible local level solutions such as means-test-based	MoALR-PCU	

		exemption of registration fee; allowing them raise registration fee from project activities; keeping the registration fee as low as much lower as the poorest of the poor can afford; and by introducing installment based payment		
	• Female household heads may face the risk of not benefiting from the Project in equal measure with male counterparts because of not being able to balance their domestic responsibilities with their project-related role in the treatment of communal lands.	• Especial support needs to be provided to women playing the dual role of mothers and household heads, and active participation in the Project with male community members. Arrangements may be made in consultations with watershed committees in this respect. Suggested ways to help them balance their competing responsibilities may be allowing them to a certain number of hours or days off from the minimum required time of labor contribution to the Project.	MoALR-PCU	More measures are identified in the gender action plan.
Component 2: Strengthening institutions & information modernization	• Lessons learned from SLMP II show that inadequate attention to the use of locally available indigenous knowledge systems and time-tested adaptation strategies can undermine the potential positive roles	• It is highly recommended that locally available social capital such as traditional and indigenous knowledge of land use and natural resources conservation practices, conflict resolution for effective implementation of project activities to facilitate and speed up the implementation	MoALR-PCU	The required budget will be covered from Component 1 and 2
Component 3: Land administration and use	• The implementation of land administration and certification should not be based on wholesale or universal application in all project woredas. This is because population groups in the historically underserved project woredas exercise livelihood strategies that require peculiar landholding and land use arrangements from those of smallholder farming communities. However, implementing the component without due regard for these peculiarities may entail a risk that interferes with smooth project implementation.	• Care needs to be exercised to make sure that the land administration and use of the project is not implemented on wholesale basis in all project woreda, and instead considers the unique landholding and land use characteristics of the historically underserved population groups in the developing regional states	MoANR-PSU	The required budget will be covered from Component 3

	• As previous experience shows, there is also the risk of female household heads losing their land that they have leased to sharecroppers, who can register the plots in their name for certification against the terms of the sharecropping agreements.	• The Project should consider consolidating grassroots institutions such as rural land dispute adjudication and grievance redress structures. Strengthening such establishments plays an important role in making sure that women who lease their land in sharecropping arrangements will not unfairly lose their landholding rights because of the breach of agreements in the land registration and certification process.	MoALR-PSU	Component 3 and ESMF capacity building budget

1. Program Description

1.1 Background and Context

Pursuant to the agreements signed between the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the World Bank (WB) on August 30, 2013, a five-year Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP-II) has been under implementation in six regions (Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNPPR, Gambella, and Benishangul-Gumz). With the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) and regional bureaus as the responsible government bodies, the project has been implemented in 135 woredas at grassroots level.

The development objectives of the Project were to improve livelihood, climate resilience, carbon storage and land productivity in vulnerable rural major watersheds. The global environmental objective of the project is to protect and/or restore ecosystem functions and diversity in agricultural landscapes through the reduction of land degradation. Under SLMP-II, a wide variety of activities relevant to sustainable land management have been undertaken as part of four interrelated components, namely: integrated landscape and Watershed Management, rural Land Administration, certification and land use, Institutional strengthening capacity development and Knowledge Management, and Project Management. Project planning and implementation were guided by three major instruments: Project Appraisal Document (PAD), Community-Based Participatory Watershed Development Guideline (CBPWDG), and Project Implementation Manual (PIM).

The SLMP-I and SLMP-II has made remarkable progress in rehabilitating targeted degraded areas, soil stabilization works (by raising and planting vetiver and desho grasses), construction of cut-off drains and waterways to reduce run-off, animal manuring and production and application of compost on farmlands and homesteads, demarcating enclosures to allow natural regeneration to occur, rotational grazing, individual woodlots, etc. The introduction of various homestead improvements and income generating activities, including bee keeping and honey production using modern beehives, livestock fattening, supply of better breeds of small ruminants and poultry, mixed cropping on the same piece of land, small-scale irrigation, water harvesting structures and the supply of drinking water for both human and animal (e.g., hand-dug wells, springs) consumption have contributed towards improvement of income and assets building at household level.

Other measures that are being widely practiced include: (i) the introduction of agro-forestry practices and improved fodder management systems; (ii) adoption of conservation agriculture technologies such as low/no-tillage agricultural practices; (iii) adoption of soil fertility improvement techniques through incorporation of nitrogen-fixing leguminous plant species and use of organic manure into agricultural systems; (iv) Adoption of Bamboo development practices; and (V) introducing improved practices for grazing through rotational grazing, cut-and-carry and animal fattening systems (VI) livelihood activities such as improved poultry production, vegetable production, apiculture. In addition, the project has undertaken institutional strengthening for implementing sustainable land management at regional, woreda and community level and actively promoted homestead and cultivated land activities.

SLMP-II is nearing its completion, and the preparations for the launch of its successor RLLP is in the process of being finalized. With a view to expanding and consolidating the successes of SLMP-II, the national development and global environmental objectives of the RLLP are to improve climate resilience, land productivity and carbon storage and increase access to diversified livelihood activities in selected rural watersheds in six regions of Ethiopia. The objectives are planned to be achieved through the provision of capital investment, technical assistance, and capacity building for smallholder farmers and government institutions at national, regional, and grassroots levels. The Project covers 192*woredas*/watersheds in six regions. The Project has four components: (i) Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods, (ii) strengthening institutions and information for resilience (iii) Land Administration and Use; and (iv) Project Management and reporting.

RLLP is designed in such a way as to contribute to high priority national objectives as well as regional and sub-regional initiatives. In alignment with the national Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) which considers agriculture as one of the main drivers to promote sustained economic growth and job-creation, the proposed project contributes to the GTP's objective particularly of attaining an average real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 11% per annum within a stable macroeconomic framework. Furthermore, the proposed Project is also in harmony with the Government's Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy. The Project aims at contributing to all three key objectives of CRGE: Foster economic development and growth; Ensure abatement and avoidance of future emissions; and Improve resilience to climate change.

The Project would be implemented in 192 major watersheds/woredas (including the 135 watersheds that were supported by SLMP-I and II) in the National Regional States of Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya, SNNP, Gambela, and Benshangul Gumuz. The RLLP will directly benefit some of Ethiopia's poorest citizens in the watershed/woredas it covered. With more than 87 percent of Ethiopia's poor living in rural areas, the operation will benefit some of the poorest, as they are the most dependent on the degraded land resources targeted by the project, and the most vulnerable to the climate shocks that good natural resource management and improved tenure security can mitigate – as proven through interventions under SLMP-II. Accordingly, the total population expected to be benefited from the Project include 3,185,940 of which 1,430,440 are female. The Household size is 628,436 where 529,461 are Male Headed Households and 98,975 Female Headed Households. The project is considered innovative and transformative as it emphasizes on multi-sectoral landscape approach that supports GoE to coordinate efforts on land use, land management, and land administration. This approach will generate multiple benefits including contributions to, inter alia, productivity improvement, resilience to climate risks, enhancements to natural wealth and diverse livelihood opportunities, and water security – and ultimately poverty reduction and prosperity.

As part of the preparation for RLLP, it has been found necessary to conduct this social assessment based on the framework of SLMP-II, by considering the salient features and contents of SLMP-II.

1.2 Scope of the Social Assessment

This social assessment covers the following activities:

Review the project background and project appraisal document: As the follow-on project, full understanding is required of its various elements including its location, schedule of implementation arrangements, and life span. Review the socio-cultural, institutional, historical and political context and identifying gaps in previous documents**:** Describe the socio-cultural, institutional, historical and political contexts with respect to the RLLP based on available sources of information.

The focus of the description below is on the qualitative portrayal of the constraints and opportunities of the project by giving focus on.

- *Socio-cultural context:* Describe the most significant social and cultural features that differentiate social groups in the project area, portray their different interests in the project, and their levels of influence; Explain any effects the project may have on the poor and excluded; Examine any opportunities that the project offers to influence the behavior of such groups and the outcomes thereof; Understand any known conflicts among groups that may affect project implementation.

- *Institutional context:* Describe the institutional environment; consider both the presence and function of public, private and civil society institutions relevant to the operation; Find out possible constraints within existing institutions and opportunities to utilize the potential of these institutions

Assess legislative and regulatory frameworks: Review national legislations and regulations relevant to sustainable land management practices. In addition, the social assessment refers to the Ethiopian legislations to highlight the covenants supporting equitable opportunities to ethnic populations and link the results to the proposed project design.

Identify key social issues: The social assessment determines what the key social and institutional issues are in relation to project objectives; identifies the key stakeholder groups in this context and determine how relationships between stakeholder groups will affect or be affected by the project. It also identifies expected social development outcomes and actions proposed to achieve those outcomes. Social development outcomes are the socially relevant results the project is expected to achieve such as poverty reduction, equity and inclusion, strengthening of social capital and social cohesion, and promotion of accountable and transparent governance, as well as the mitigation of adverse impacts arising out of the project

1.3 Objectives

The overall objective of the social assessment is to identity key areas of social concern and significance, and appropriate implementation strategies/approaches for RLLP, based on the assessment

made for the predecessor projects (SLMP I, II and new woredas). In the light of this, the social assessment seeks to meet the following specific objectives stated hereunder:

i. Assess key socio-economic factors that require consideration;
ii. Identify vulnerable and historically underserved groups that may be excluded from the project and be adversely affected as a result, and the necessary impact mitigating measures.
iii. Assess any potential adverse social impacts of RLLP, and determine whether the project is likely to trigger the World Bank social safeguards policies.
iv. Recommend in the early stage of project preparation the appropriate measures towards addressing World Band requirements on social safeguards triggered by the project (OP/BP 4.10 and OP/BP 4.12).

1.4 Methodology

The SA is prepared at the same time with the Resettlement Policy framework (RPF) using primary and secondary data, and qualitative data collection approach. Field data collection was limited to 29 sample woredas (18 SLMP-2 and 11 new). In the SLMP-2 Woredas, purposive sampling was used to include those where community infrastructures were constructed to assess the lessons learned and experience shared from the predecessor project to capture fresh social developments to add in to the newly added; while vulnerability and accessibility was used as a criterion to select the sample Woredas from the new ones (from SNNP -three, Amhara -two, Benshangul Gumuz -three, Gambella -one and Tigray -two). This will enable RLLP to clearly portray the potential impacts of the project on the various impoverished and disadvantaged community groups and their respective environment in the sample woredas.

The identification and selection of the sample woredas was carried out in consultation with regional project coordination unit. Thus, the sample *woredas* depicted in the following table were purposively selected in line with the above-mentioned criteria.

Table 1: List of Sample Woredas visited for the Social Assessment

Region	Zone	Woreda	Kebele	Number of people consulted		
				Male	Female	Total
Tigray	South Eastern	Hintalo Wajerat	Bahri Tseba	28	14	42
	Eastern Zone	Saesie Tsaeda emb	Gula Abenia	21	12	33
Amhara	Awi	Dangila	Dube	32	4	36
	East Gojam	South Mecha	Abromenor	49	5	54
SNNPR	South Omo	Debub Ari	Kayisa	28	6	34
			Tembel	11	17	28
	Gurage	Endegagn	Tefeka	44	29	73
	Dawuro	Tocha	Okele dereba	21	7	28
Gambella	Nuer	Lare	Bilinnkun	15	0	15
			Palbuol	0	15	15
Benshangul Gumuz	Assossa	Assossa	TsenTsalo	12	0	12
			Parziet	7	1	8

	Metekel	Dibati	Gerez	13	2	15
			Kido	7	5	12
	Kamash	Yaso	Ayane	18	13	31
Total				306	130	436

Focus group discussions (FGD) were made using semi-structured checklist with male and female community members. Attempts were made to include vulnerable community members like female household heads, people with disabilities, the old, and the poor. Key informants such as Development Agents (DAs), woreda experts from different line offices and officials. SLMP-II woreda focal persons, Woreda TC members, experts from Regional Bureau of Environment, Forest and climate, and SLMP-II regional environment and social safeguard specialists were also consulted.

The study team thus summarized the profile of FGD participants and KII, and issues focused upon during those discussions and interview sessions. See Annex1: for the check list used in the discussion for the Social Assessment Study.

Table 2: List of Visited sample woredas, Profile of Informants and Key issues

Data Collection Methods for Social Assessment				
	Focus Group Discussions		Key Informant [KII]	
Woreda	**Profile of participants**	**Issues discussed**	**Profile Interviewees**	**Issues Interviewed**
Hintalo Wajirat, Saesie Tsaeda emb, Dangela, Debub Mecha, Debub Ari, Endegagn, Tocha, Lare, Assosa, Debati, Yaso,	Kebele Woreda officials, and community members	Sustainable land management, vulnerable group, community interest, willingness and support and threat if any community consultation, indigenous land management practices, grievance settlement mechanisms	Woreda officials, experts, kebele officials and development agents	Mobilization strategies; capacity constraints, formal and informal institutions, capacity of local institutions, indigenous land management knowledge, self-help and mutual support groups, vulnerable groups in the area, implementation and monitoring, grievance handling mechanism, etc.

Among the secondary data, the Ethiopian government laws and regulations related to land expropriation and compensation, equity and inclusion, World Bank social safeguard policies, project appraisal documents, SLMP-II social assessment report (SA) and RPF, periodic reports as well as other World Bank flagship programs' safeguard instruments were the major ones. Consultative Workshop was conducted from January 11-21, 2018 with regional environment and social safeguard specialists and representative from regional Environment, Forest and climate change Bureaus.

2. Overview of the Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP)

The SLMP II will be closed by the end of July 2018 and its follow-up project RLLP to support SLMP is being prepared. The RLLP aims to create resilience to the treated landscape and improve the productivity and livelihoods through the provision of capital investments, technical assistance and capacity building at national, regional, Woreda, kebele and community levels. The RLLP will build on the results of SLMP I & II, also introduce measures to address climate change/variability related risks and minimize Green House Gas (GHG) emission reductions to meet the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) goals of the country. The results of the project will be measured by the landscape to be put under sustainable and climate resilient land management practices and amount of total carbon sequestered per unit area and time. In line with the different investment experience on forest, climate-smart agriculture, household energy, land tenure, livelihood improvement, watershed management and landscape restoration, the new project would provide large-scale coordinated financial support to the MoANR and its acclaimed Sustainable Land Management Program to make a lasting impact at very large scale.

2.1 Project Development Objective (PDO)

With an essence to create resilience of livelihoods and building adaptive capacity to withstand climate change and extreme weather shocks, the Development Objective of the RLLP is "To improve climate resilience, land productivity and carbon storage and increase access to diversified livelihood activities in selected rural watersheds.

2.2 Project target groups and beneficiaries

The project is considered innovative and transformative as it emphasizes on multi-sectoral landscape approach that supports GoE to coordinate efforts on land use, land management, and land administration. This approach will generate multiple benefits including contributions to, inter alia, productivity improvement, resilience to climate risks, enhancements to natural wealth and diverse livelihood opportunities, and water security – and ultimately poverty reduction and prosperity.

2.3 Project Components

The Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP) comprises of four main components:

Component 1: Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods;

Component 2: Strengthening Institutions, Information and Monitoring for Resilience;

Component 3: Land Administration and Use; and

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Reporting.

Component 1: Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods

The objectives of this component are to support the restoration of degraded landscapes in selected micro-watersheds and to help build resilient livelihoods on these newly productive foundations in selected watersheds vulnerable to climate variability and change, recurrent drought and floods. This involves two specific types of activities: (i) those aimed at improving the implementation and impact of biophysical measures in degraded micro-watersheds (including improved livestock management and green corridors); and (ii) activities focused on addressing the livelihood dimension among project beneficiaries (CSA, community infrastructure, SSI, household energy, private sector development). This will be achieved through (i) the implementation of sustainable soil and water conservation practices in line with Multi-Year Development Plans (MYDPs) in SLMP-II and newly identified watersheds; (ii) support for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices in all project watersheds; and (iii) promotion of livelihood diversification and linkages to value chains in all project watersheds.

The objectives of this component will be achieved through the implementation of the following sub-components: (i) land restoration and watershed management; (ii) climate-smart agriculture; and (iii) livelihood diversification and connections to value chains.

Sub-Component 1.1: Land Restoration and Watershed Management

This sub-component will support restoration of degraded forest, pasture and woodlands that is communally owned, as well as privately-owned cultivated lands, through biophysical land and water conservation measures. The major activities in this sub-component (proven SLWM practices) include: soil and water conservation infrastructure such as terraces, water harvesting trenches, check dams, small reservoirs, and other civil works; soil fertility and moisture management; assisted natural regeneration, enclosures plus livestock land-use rationalization, intercropping, low tillage, gully reclamation, establishment of grazing corridors, watering points and wells, and sylvo-pastoral management strategies.

Sub-Component 1.2: Climate-smart Agriculture

Interventions under this sub-component will aim at enhancing the livelihood resilience of beneficiary households through Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) interventions in all eligible micro-watersheds assisted by the project. The improved adaptation of restored watersheds to variable rainfall patterns and adverse climatic events, combined with reduced degradation-related risks, will provide suitable conditions for beneficiaries to adopt improved, climate-smart farming practices and diversify and/or intensify their current production systems. The major activities in the sub-component are construction of water harvesting structures with water efficient irrigation methods, homestead development by promoting high value crops and multi- purpose fruit trees and forage tree planting, livestock improvement (e.g. small ruminant fattening, promotion of beekeeping and honey production etc.), promoting bio-fuel/biomass, biogas energy, promotion of fuel saving and efficient technologies, and feeder road construction. Thus, the project will invest in three of the five Climate

Smart Agriculture (CSA) technology packages defined by MoANR[1], in-situ and ex-situ soil moisture management; Soil fertility and soil health improvement measures; and Crop development and management (agro-biodiversity) measures.

Sub-Component 1.3: Livelihood Diversification, Energy Efficiency and Connection to Value Chains

This sub-component aimed at providing finance advisory services and investments to improve access to and implementation of income generating activities, strengthen value chains associated with SLM productive activities, and promote access to low carbon household energy. A range of potential interventions have been identified including support for women-led enterprise development and vocational training, processing equipment and Community Storage Receipts Programs (CSRPs), facilitation of access to markets, technology and trade and a suite of household and smallholder low carbon energy solutions, such as solar water pumping for irrigation (where appropriate), biogas cook stove installations and other high-performing cook stove technologies.

Component 2: Strengthening Institutions and Information for Resilience

The objective of this component is to enhance institutional capacity and improve information for better decision-making in supporting resilient landscapes and diversified rural livelihoods in the project area. This component will provide technical assistance at the local level (woreda and kebele) to build local government capacity for (i) planning and managing SLWM interventions, and (ii) managing the land certification process. This component will also provide resources to manage the knowledge generated through these and other assessments of SLWM, and to communicate the lessons learnt to a broad audience, including local governments and communities, relevant research institutions and Government agencies, as well as Development Partners. This component's objectives will be achieved through the implementation of the sub-components: (i) capacity building, information modernization and policy development; (ii) impact evaluation, knowledge management and communication, and (iii) provision of hydromet services.

Component 3: Land Administration and Use

The objective of this component is to strengthen land tenure and the land administration system in project areas, improving incentives for beneficiary communities to invest in sustainable landscape management. The component would support an on-going national program providing land certificates to all land holders, by enhancing rural land certification and administration as well as local level land use planning at watersheds or Kebeles assisted by the project. The component is subdivided into two sub-components targeted to achieve the overall objective of land administration and use. These are:

[1]Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Sustainable Land Management Program, "*Climate Smart Agriculture-A Field Manual for Practitioners*", December 2016, Addis Ababa.

Sub-Component 3.1: Second Level Landholding Certification (SLLC)

The objective of this Sub-component is to provide security of tenure to smallholder farmers through SLLC as an incentive to increase the adoption of sustainable land and water management technologies and practices. This component will continue ongoing efforts to address the barrier to SLM by (i) improving the legal land tenure security of rural households and groups through land certification and administration, and (ii) expanding and enhancing local level land use planning and innovations in landscape certification models. The activities include provision of gender disaggregated geo-referenced land certificates to individual land users and geo-referenced land certificates for communal lands to the communities.

Sub-Component 3.2: Land Use Planning and Land Development Control

The main objective this sub component is to expand the preparation of local level land use plans for decision making on the best uses of the land and its resources for improved, alternative, sustainable and productive development at the grass root level. The sub-component would support the preparation of local land use plans for decision making on the best uses of the land and its resources for improved, alternative, sustainable and productive development at the grass root level. Delineating land use types at the local level would help to ensure that the choice of a particular use represents the optimal alternative ensuring sustainable use of individual plots.

Sub-component 3.3 National Rural Land Administration Information System (NRLAIS) Roll Out

The objective of this sub-component is to provide security and usability of land information with enhanced data management functionality at Woreda level and opening opportunities to optimize land transaction processes that enhances the systematic storage and maintenance of the digital cadastral maps and registration information in an efficient, effective, spatially integrated and sustainable manner.

Component 4: Project Management and Reporting

The objective of this component is to effectively implement and report on project activities with due diligence and integrity. The component will finance the operational costs of the Project Coordination Units (PCUs) in MoALR and Regional State Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources. These PCUs will carry out all fiduciary aspects of project implementation including financial management, procurement, environmental and social safeguards, and M&E reporting.

3. National Legislation and Institutional Framework

3.1. The Constitution of Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Constitution recognizes the presence of different socio-cultural groups, including historically disadvantaged and underserved communities, pastoralists, and minorities, as well as their rights to socio-economic equity and justice.

Article 39 of the Ethiopian Constitution recognizes the rights of groups identified as "Nations, Nationalities and Peoples". They are defined as "a group of people who have or share a large measure of common culture or similar customs, mutual intelligibility of language, belief in a common or related identity, a common psychological make-up, and who inhabit an identifiable, predominantly contiguous territory." This represents some 75 out of the 80 groups who are members of the House of Federation, which is the second chamber of the Ethiopian legislature. The Constitution recognizes the rights of these Nations, Nationalities and Peoples to: self-determination, including the right to secession; speak, write and develop their own languages; express, develop and promote their cultures; preserve their history; and, self-government, which includes the right to establish institutions of government in the territory that they inhabit and equitable representation in state and Federal governments. Most of the Project target communities belong to this population group.

3.2. Ethiopian Laws on Pastoralists and Minority Groups

The Ethiopian Constitution also recognizes the rights of pastoral groups inhabiting the lowland of the country. The constitution under *article 40 (4)* stipulates "Ethiopian pastoralists have a right to free land for grazing and cultivation as well as a right not to be displaced from their own lands". The *Constitutions* under *Articles 41(8) also* affirms that "Ethiopian Pastoralists have the right to receive fair prices for their products, that would lead to improvement in their conditions of life and to enable them to obtain an equitable share of the national wealth commensurate with their contribution. This objective shall guide the State in the formulation of economic, social and development policies." Pastoralist regions/areas recognized by the government are: Afar; Somali; Borena Zone and Fentele *Woreda* (Oromia); South Omo Zone, Bench-Maji Zone, and parts of Decha Wereda in Keffa Zone (SNNPR); and, Nuer Zone (Gambella).

The pastoralists comprise approximately 12-15 million people that belong to 29 groups of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples[2]. Whilst government policies have strengthened and resource allocations increased over the last decade[3], pastoralist areas are still amongst the least served in terms of basic services. Education indicators for pastoralist areas are among the lowest in the country: lowest

[2]Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, http://www.pfe-ethiopia.org/about.html

[3]PASDEP (2005 -2010), the previous five-year poverty reduction plan to GTP promoted more targeted assistance to marginalized areas – the emerging national regions and pastoralist/agro-pastoralist areas (MOFED 2010)

literacy rates, highest dropout rates and greatest distance from schools (Jennings et al., 2011). Some pastoral households view formal education as a threat to the contributions that children make to the household and the pastoralist way of life. The access of girls in pastoral areas to education is also constrained by the perceptions of parents that schooling compromises girls' reputation makes them less compliant which, in turn, reduces their worth as marriage partners (Brocklesby et al. 2011).

The Constitution also recognizes another group called "national minorities". Article 54 (1) states that: "Members of the House [of Peoples Representatives], based on population and special representation of minority Nationalities and Peoples, shall not exceed 550; of these, minority Nationalities and Peoples shall have at least 20 seats." These groups have less than 100,000 members and most live in the "Developing Regional States".

Owing to their limited access to socio-economic development and underserved status over the decades, the Ethiopian government has designated four of the country's regions, namely: Afar, Somali, Benishangul-Gumz, and Gambella as Developing Regional States (DRS). In this respect, Article 89 (2) of the Ethiopian Constitution stipulates: "The Government has the obligation to ensure that all Ethiopians get equal opportunity to improve their economic situations and to promote equitable distribution of wealth among them". Article 89 (4) states: "Nations, Nationalities and Peoples least advantaged in economic and social development shall receive special assistance".

3.3. **Institutional Framework**

Relating to institutional framework designed to ensure equity between regions, the government has set up the Ministry of Federal and Pastoral Development Affairs (MoFPDA). The responsibilities of this Ministry include promoting equitable development, with emphasis on delivering special support to the developing national regional states. The main purpose of the special support is to address the inequalities that have existed between the regions over the decades, thereby hastening equitable growth and development. Federal Special Support Board, which consists of relevant sector ministries including the MoALR, was reorganized in March 2011. The MoFPDA acts as Vice Chair and secretariat of the board. A Technical Committee (TC) composed of sector ministries constituting the Board were also set up under the MoFPDA to monitor and report the implementation of special support plans. As its main aim, the Board coordinates the affirmative support provided to the developing regions by the different organs of the federal government, and ensures the effectiveness of the implementation process.

In addition, Equitable Development Directorate General has been set up within the MoFPDA, with directorates put in place to operate under it for the respective developing regions. Among many other activities, the Directorate General coordinates and directs case teams to collect, organize and analyze data in relation to the gaps in capacity building, social and economic development, good governance, gender and environmental development in the regions in need of special support.

4. Baseline Data on Environmental and Social Conditions of RLLP Regions

Ethiopia is a country hosting very diverse ecosystems and habitats ranging from desert to afro alpine ecosystems in its huge altitudinal gradient. Most of the country's landscape is fabulous; rich in water resources and fertile soil for agriculture. Even though, the country is rich in biodiversity resources, both its highlands and lowlands are among the thirty-five biodiversity hotspot regions of the world, implying its biodiversity resources (and its natural resources in general) are threatened by degradation or already degraded (WLRC, 2016). The country has a long history of coping with extreme weather events. Rainfall is highly erratic and typically falls in the form of intensive convective storms spawned by the country's varied topography. Over the past three decades it has experienced countless localized drought events and seven major droughts. Future climate variability and change are expected to accelerate already high levels of land degradation and soil erosion, increase vulnerability to droughts and floods, and negatively impact agricultural productivity. Over the past 15 years Ethiopia has achieved substantial development progress, with the poverty headcount falling from 44.2 percent to 23.5 percent from 2000-2015. However, these gains are vulnerable to climate change: more than 87% of the poor live in rural areas and are dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

Land degradation in the form of soil erosion, sedimentation, depletion of nutrients, deforestation, and overgrazing - is one of the basic problems facing farmers in the Ethiopian highlands, and this limits their ability to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty and food insecurity. Land degradation in Ethiopia has proceeded at an alarming rate, and will be increasingly aggravated by the impact of climate change. Conservative estimates suggest that climate change will reduce agricultural crop productivity in Ethiopia by 5 -10 percent by 2030. The highlands of' Ethiopia contain one of the largest areas of ecological degradation in Africa. From 1981 to 2003, 296,812 km2 (29.7 million ha) of land has been degraded, affecting a population of 20.65 million (Bai et al. 2008).

The RLLP will be implemented in different agro-ecological and administrative regions characterized by different patterns of rainfall, temperature, growing periods, socioeconomic and biophysical environments. The project will be implemented in 192 (135 SLMP-I and II) and 57 newly added watersheds in six of the national regional states, namely Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR, Gambela and Benishangul Gumuz. Majority of the areas in typically highland agro-climatic zones (in *Dega* or high altitude and *Dry Woina Dega* or mid-altitude) with cereal crop-based or mixed crop-livestock faming systems, high altitude and high rainfall, high potential productivity and moderate to severe land degradation, longer growing periods and high population density. There are also some woredas which are in the lowland agro-climatic zones where farming is crop-livestock mixed or annual/perennial crop-livestock mixed farming system is practiced. The environmental and socioeconomic milieu of the intervention areas are characterized by high production potential but with significant limitations due to severe land degradation, high agro-ecological variability and diverse farming systems, high population density and land fragmentation. Those areas with potential access to markets to maximize return from agricultural production, development potential for surface

and ground water resources to increase production; and areas with critical importance for the protection of vital economic infrastructures from on-going or potential erosion-sedimentation problems will be selected for intervention. The planning and implementation of the sub-project activities will be guided by the Project Appraisal Document (PAD); Project Implementation Manual (PIM); the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); Social Assessment (SA)/SMP; Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); Gender Mainstreaming Guideline (GMG); the Community Based Participatory Watershed Development Guideline (CBPWDG); and Exit Strategy and Performance Assessment for Watershed Management (ESPAWM): A Guideline for Sustainability.

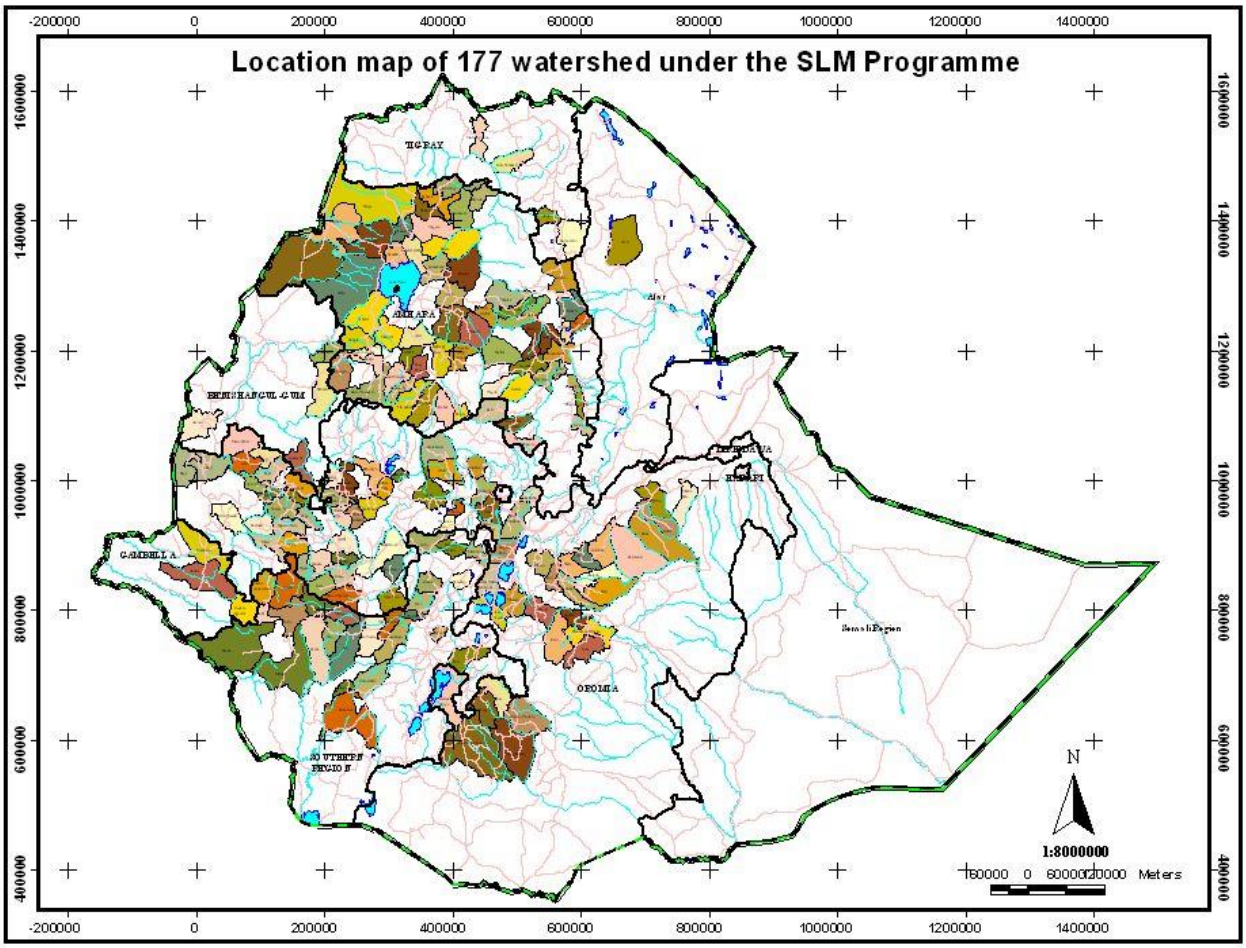


Figure 5. Location map of the RLLP watersheds

4.1.Physical Environment

Climate

The lowlands of RLLP regions are characterized by high temperature and low precipitation, whereas the highland parts enjoy suitable temperatures and ample rainfall. In general, mean annual temperature in the six regions varies from less than 10^0c in high altitudes to over 30^0c in tropical lowlands. The amount, duration and intensity of rainfall in RLLP regions also vary considerably. The annual rainfall in the regions ranges from 303-2,553 mm.

Soil and Geology

The major types of soil in RLLP region include Nitosols, Vertisols, Cambisols, Acrisols, Luvisols, Lithosols, Aluvisols, Arenosols and Regolsols, most of which carry high agricultural potentials. However, soils on the highlands of the regions have been subjected to serious erosion due to human activities (deforestation, over cultivation, and poor farming practices). The Precambrian, Palaeozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic rocks are the three main geologic formations found in the RLLP regions. Additionally, the Proterozoic rock formation is found in Tigray Region.

4.2.Socio-Demographic Characteristics of RLLP Regions

Southern Nations and Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS)

(a) Demographic and Economic Features

SNNPR covers an area of 111,000 km2, and accounts for 10% of the total area of the country. The region is home to more than 56 ethnic groups. SNNPR is in the southern and south-western parts of the country. It shares borders with the neighboring counties of Sudan in the west and Kenya in the south. In the northwest, the region borders with Gambella Regional State and with Oromia Regional State in the east and north.

According to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data of all regions from 2014-2017, SNNPR has a total population of 17,837,005 (8,843,499 males and 8,993,006 female). 15,130, 000 (84.8 %) of the population are rural inhabitants, and 2,707,000 (15.2%) urban dwellers. This region has an estimated average population density of 141 persons per square kilometer.

The region has undulating topography, and is dissected by the Omo river basin into western and eastern parts. The elevation ranges from 376 to 4207 m.a.s.l, the lowest part being Lake Rudolf in South Omo and the highest being Mount Goge in Gamo Gofa. About 56% of the total area of the region lies below 1500 m.a.s.l, and is largely categorized as hottest low land, *Kolla*. The rest 44% is found in the temperate climatic zone. The mean annual rainfall of the region ranges from 500 to 2200 mm, its intensity, duration and amount increases from south to northeast -northwest. The mean annual temperature ranges from 15^0c to 30^0c.

The larger portion of the Region is cultivated land (35%), followed by forest land (21%), and grazing land (14.9%). Agriculture is still the single most important economic activity of the Region. The land holding of peasants is generally very small and the average land holding is less than one hectare per household. Livestock production is the region's major economic activity, followed by

enset and coffee production, fisheries, irrigation, and eco-tourism. Teff, wheat, maize and barely are the main crops grown in most of the areas in the region. RLLP will be implemented in 44 (existing 31 and newly added 13 woredas) selected woredas/watersheds of SNNPRS and lists of the woredas are found in the table 1 below. SNNPR has five national parks (Mago, Nechsar, Omo, Chebera Churchura and Maze).

Table 3: SNNPRS existing and newly added RLLP targeted woredas

No.	**Existing woredas- (WB- I & II)**			**Newly added woredas- (WB – III)**	
1	Adyo	17	Geta	1	Bursa
2	Alicho Wuriro	18	Gesha	2	Endegagn
3	Angacha	19	Hawassa Zuriya	3	Shey Bench
4	Arbegona	20	Gumer	4	Debub Ari
5	Basketo	21	Ginbo	5	Ezha
6	Boloso Bombe	22	Semen Bench	6	Debub Bench
7	Bule	23	Gibe	7	Bita
8	Chena	24	Geze Goffa	8	Gombora
9	Hulbareg	25	Mirab Azerinet	9	Tocha
10	Kindo Didya	26	Muhurna Akilil	10	Melekoza
11	Konta	27	Oyda	11	Gena Bosa
12	Loma	28	Semen Ari	12	Kindo Koysha
13	Mareqa	29	Soro	13	Jewata
14	Masha	30	Tambaro		
15	Meinit Goldia	31	Wensho		
16	Yem Sp.				
	31			***13***	

(b) Ethno-Religious Features

SNNPR is inhabited by about 56 ethnic groups with their own distinct languages, cultures, beliefs, geographical locations and norms and value systems, the most diverse region of the country. These varied ethnic groups belong to the Omotic, Cushitic, Semitic, and Nilo-Sahara linguistic families. In order of population size, the ten largest ethnic groups in the region are Sidama, Wolayta, Gurage, Hadiya, Gamo, Kaffa, Gedeo, Kembata, Kullo, and Goffa. The major religious groups in the region are Protestants, Orthodox Christians, Muslims, traditional worshipers, and Catholics.

Oromia Regional State

(a) Demographic and Economic Features

With a total land area of approximately 353,000 km^2, Oromia is the largest region accounting for about 34.3% of the country. Oromia is surrounded by the country's all regional states except Tigray. Oromia also shares common borders with the neighboring countries of Sudan and Kenya. According to the 2007 national census, the region has an estimated population of 27. 2million, the largest of all the nation's regional states. More than 87% of the people of Oromia live in rural areas while 13% reside in urban areas.

The topography of Oromiya Region varies from high rugged mountain ranges, undulating plateaus, panoramic gorges and deep incised river valleys, and rolling plains, with altitudes ranging from less than 500 m.a.s.l. to over 4500 m (Mt. Batu being the highest peak at 4607 m). The prevailing climatic types in the region may be grouped into 3 major categories: the dry climate, tropical rainy climate and temperate rainy climate. The dry climate has mean annual temperatures of 27°C to 39°C, and mean annual rainfall of less than 450 mm. The hot semi-arid climate mean annual temperature varies between 18°C and 27°C, with a mean annual rainfall of 410-820 mm with noticeable variability from year to year (PASIDP, ESMF 2016).

The economy of Oromia Regional State depends on agriculture, which contributes about 66% of the regional GDP and provides an employment opportunity for more than 89% of the regional population. Mixed farming dominates the livelihood of the region. Oromiya accounts for 51.2% of the crop production, 45.1% of the area under temporary crops and 44% of the total livestock population of Ethiopia. Coffee is the main cash crop in the region. The major crops grown in the region are coffee, maize, wheat, barley, teff, sorghum, peas, bean and oil seeds. The average land holding size per household in the rural areas is 1.14 hectares, compared to the national average of 1.01 hectares. 24% of the population is engaged in non-farm activities (compared to the national average of 25%). RLLP will be implemented in 56 woredas/watersheds; 39 SLMP-I & SLMP-II and 17 newly added woredas of Oromia Regional State.

Table 4. Oromia region existing and newly added RLLP targeted woredas

No	**Exiting woredas (WB- I & II)**			**Newly added woreda (WB- III)**	
1	Abay Choman	20	Gimbi	1	Tiyo
2	Abote	21	Gimbichu	2	Hetosa
3	Adaa Berga	22	Gumay (Goma)	3	Munesa
4	Amuru	23	Haromaya	4	Ziway Dugda
5	Ana Sora	24	Hawa Wollel	5	Dugda
6	Boji Dirmaji	25	Horo	6	Girar Jarso
7	Degem	26	Jimma Arjo	7	Meta Robi
8	Dendi	27	Kersa	8	Tole
9	Ejere	28	Kersa Malima	9	Akaki
10	Gachi	29	Kondala	10	Boji Chokorsa
11	Kuyu	30	Seyo	11	Borecha
12	Lalo kille	31	Sibu Sire	12	Leka Dulecha
13	Mana	32	Sigmo	13	Jardega Jarte
14	Mettu	33	Tiro Afeta	14	Shebe Senbo
15	Nopa	34	Uraga	15	Dale Sadi
16	Omo Nada	35	Wanchi	16	Dale Wabera
17	Sasiga	36	Warajarso	17	Dama
18	Sebeta Awi	37	Welmera		
19	Sayo	38	Woliso		
	38			***17***	

(b) Ethno-Religious Features

The region hosts different non-Oromo ethnic groups (Amhara, Hadiya, Sidama, etc.) which account for 12 percent. The Western Oromo live mainly in the Wollega area and are settled agriculturists. The Northern Oromo live in Shoa and some areas of Wollo and are more integrated with the Amhara culture. These are generally bilingual, speaking both Amharic and Oromifa. The Southern Oromo consist of smaller sub-groups and most are pastoralists leading a semi-nomadic lifestyle. The Eastern Oromo live in East and West Harerge including in the towns of Harar and Dire Dawa. The Borana make up the fifth Oromo sub-group inhabiting the southern most parts of Ethiopia along the Ethio-Kenyan border. In the region 48% of the population are adherents of Islam, followed by 30% Orthodox Christians, 18% Protestants, 3% traditional believers, 0.5% Catholics, and 1% others.

Tigray Regional State

(a) Demographic Features

Tigray Regional State accounts for a total land area of 53,000 km^2, consisting of six administrative zones and 35 woredas. It shares borders with Eritrea in the north, Afar and Amhara national regional states in the east and the south, and Sudan in the west. According to CSA, 2013 national population projection data from 2014-2017 reported that the region has a total population of 4,960,003 (2,444,000 males and 2,516,003 female). The regional average land holding is estimated to be 0.5ha/household. 20 watersheds of Tigray are selected for the implementation of RLLP (14 SLMP-I and SLMP-II and 6 newly added woredas).

Table 3. Tigray region RLLP targeted woredas (SLMP-1, SLMP-2 and newly added)

No	**Existing woredas (WB I & II)**			**Newly added woredas (WB- III)**	
1	Adwa	8	Endemehoni	1	Tselemti
2	Ahferom	9	Kola Tembein	2	Mereb Leke
3	Atsbi Womberta	10	Medebay Zana	3	Hawzien
4	Degua Tembein	11	Naedier Adet	4	Kilteawlalo
5	Enderta	12	Raya Azebo	5	Saesie Tsaeda Emba
6	Ganta Afeshum	13	Seharti Samre	6	Hintalo Wajerat
7	Gulomekeda	14	Tanka Abergele		
			14		***6***

Altitudes range from 500 meters up to 3,900 meters above sea level. It is situated between 12^0 15' N and $14^0$57' N latitude and between $36^0$59' E and 40^0 E longitudes with an estimated area of 53,638 km2. The mean annual rainfall for the region ranges from 600 mm in the north-eastern part to 1,600 mm in the Woredas lying in the western part. Temperature ranges between 16^0C and 20^0 C in the eastern and central highland part while in the lowlands of the western zones it is 38^0C to 40^0C.

In Tigray, farm yields are generally lower in the middle highlands because of lower soil fertility and erratic rainfall. The staple crops in western lowlands of Tigray are sorghum, maize, teff, barley and wheat. Tigray is home to typical Ethiopia's grain species, notably different varieties of wheat and barley adapted to shorter or longer rainy seasons.

(b) Ethno-Religious Features

The density in Tigray Region in this time was 116 persons /square kilometers. Other ethnic groups in Tigray consist of Amhara (1.63%), Irob (0.71%), Afar (0.29%), Agaw (0.19%), Oromo (0.17%) and a Nilo-Saharan-speaking Kunama (0.07%). In the region, 95.6% of the population are Orthodox Christians, 4% Muslims, 0.4% Catholics and 0.10% Protestants.

Amhara Regional State

(a) Demographic and Economic Features

The Amhara Regional State covers a total land area of approximately 154,000 km^2. The regional average landholding is 0.3 ha/household. According to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data from 2014-2017, the region has a total population of 20,018,988, out of which 84% live in rural areas. Even if more than 15 soil types are found in the region, leptosols, followed by Vertisols and Cambisols exist predominantly. Under RLLP 48 watersheds in the region are targeted for the implementation of RLLP activities (34 SLMP-1&2 and 14 newly added woredas).

Table 4. Amhara region existing and newly added RLLP targeted woredas

No.	Existing woredas (WB- I & II)			Newly added woredas (WB- III)	
1	Alefa	19	Gubalafto	1	Enarjina Enawga
2	Antsokia Gemza	20	Janamora	2	Farta
3	Artuma Fursi	21	Jabitehnan, Dembecha, Dega Damot	3	Guna Begemidir
4	Bibugn	22	Kewet	4	Gonji Kollela
5	Baso Liben	23	Lay Gaynt	5	South Mecha
6	Borena	24	Machakel	6	Quarit
7	Bure Guagusa	25	Meqet	7	Dangila
8	Chilga	26	Misrak Este	8	Fedi
9	Debay Tilatgen	27	Menz Mama	9	Gonder Zuriya
10	Delanta	28	Mirab Belesa	10	Lay Armachiho
11	Dewe Harewa	29	Misrak Belesa	11	Mekdela
12	Ebinat	30	Sayint	12	Angolelana Tera
13	Enebsie Sarmidir	31	Sekota	13	Berehet
14	Ensaro	32	Tach Gaynt	14	Dawunt
15	Fagita Lakoma	33	Tenta		
16	Gazgibla	34	Wadla		
17	Gonji Kolela				
18	Gozamin				
			34		***14***

The climatic condition of the Region is divided into temperate (Dega), subtropical (Woina Dega) and arid (Kola) agro-climatic zones, constituting 25%, 44% and 31% of the total area of the region,

respectively. Mean annual rainfall of the Region varies from 700 mm to over 2,000 mm and the temperature range is between 10^0C and 26^0C.

Most of the region is on a highland plateau and characterized by rugged mountains, hills, valleys and gorges. Hence, the region has varied landscapes composed of steep escarpments and adjoining lowland plains in the east, nearly flat plateaus and mountains in the center, and eroded landforms in the north. Most of the western part is a flat plain extending to the Sudan lowlands. The high population growth rate of the region has led to severe land shortages and rapid natural resource degradation.

Cereals, pulses, and oilseeds are the major crops grown in the Amhara. Principal crops include teff, barley, wheat, maize, sorghum and millet. Pulses include horse beans, field peas, haricot beans, chickpeas and lentils. The region also has large livestock resources.

(b) Ethno-Religious Features

Other ethnic groups include the Agaw/Awi (3.46%), Oromo (2.62%), Kamant (1.39%), and Argoba (0.41%). Of the total population of the Region, 82.5% are Orthodox Christians, 17.2% Muslims, 0.2% Protestants and 0.1% others.

Gambella Regional State

(a) Demographic and Economic Features

Gambella Regional State has a total land area of 29,782.82 km^2, with a total population of 396,000 (207,000 males and 189,000 female) according to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data for 2014-2017. Of these, 68.7% inhabit in rural areas while 31. 3% live in urban areas. The region is in the south-western part of Ethiopia, bordering with Oromia Regional State in the north and east, SNNPR in the south and east, and Benishangul-Gumuz in the north. The Region also borders the Republic of South Sudan in the south and Sudan in the west. The altitude of Gambella region ranges between 300 and 2,500 m.a.s.l. Ago-ecologically, the region is predominantly lowland (kola), with a few midlands (Woina Dega).

The average annual rainfall of the region varies according to the different altitudes. While areas with 400 - 500 m.a.s.l of the western part receive 900 mm - 1500 mm/annum, areas over 2,000 m.a.s.l (eastern part) receive average rainfall ranging from 1,900 to 2,100 mm/annum. Accordingly, the average temperature is 17.5^0C – 27.5^0C and the mean annual rainfall is 900-2200mm. Most of the population of the region lives in rural areas where their livelihood is based on sedentary agriculture (crop based, livestock based and agro-forestry based) in which the region's economy is predominantly dependent. The region is endowed with abundant natural resources of expansive land and water which are the main source of livelihoods of the people. Gambela Region is endowed with vast natural resources.

The main habitats of Gambella Region are forests, woodlands, swamps and rivers. Out of the total area 25% of the land is covered with forest. The region is very rich in water sources especially availability of five major rivers, namely, Baro, Akobo, Itang, Gillo and Alwero Rivers that are also trans-boundary makes the region a water tower. The RLLP will be implemented in 9 woredas of the regions (including the existing 6 woredas of SLMP-I and II).

Table 5. Gambela region existing and newly added RLLP targeted woredas

No	**Existing woredas (SLMP- I & II)**			**Newly added woredas (RLLP)**
1	Abobo	4	Mengeshi	Lare
2	Gambela	5	Itang	Jikawo
3	Godere	6	Mekuey	Dima
	6			***3***

(b) Ethno-Religious Features

The region is a home of five indigenous ethnic groups. The major ethnic groups are the Nuer (46%), Agnuwa (21%), Majenger (7%), Komo (3%), and Opo (3%). Gambella is also a host region for people who migrated there at different times, locally called highlanders, accounting for 20% of the population. The dominant faiths in the region are Protestant, Orthodox Christian, traditional belief, Islam, Catholic, and others.

The Majang

The Majang inhabit in the thickly forested area of the south-western edge of the Ethiopian plateau. It is bordered on the west by Anywa on the south and east by the Southern Nations Nationalities and People's region and on north by Oromia Region. They belong to the Nilo-Saharan linguistic group. The Majang have a population of 12280 (6036 male and 6244 female) in Gambella Region. They reside mainly in the Majang Zone, in Mengshi and Godare *woredas*.

Leading a non-sedentary way of life, the livelihood of the Majang is mainly based on beekeeping**,** especially wild bee. Other livelihood activities include hunting, gathering and shifting cultivation, with lifestyle highly attached to the forest and forest products. Currently the Majang people are practicing maize and sorghum cultivation including fruit, coffee, spices and vegetables.

Domestic groups tend to farm plots adjacent to those of friends or kin, but the settlements remain small and constantly changing in composition (as well as in location). In resource management and land use, the Majang have indigenous institution called *Jung*. They have an indigenous forestland-related dispute settlement mechanism, called *Guten* and comprises elders and religious leaders playing important role in this regard.

The Anywa

The Anywa are Nilotic people who inhabit the Gambella region and the land across the Ethio-South Sudanese border. In Gambella regional state they live in Gambella zuria, Abobo, Gog, Jor, Dima and part of Itang special woreda. From the above mentioned woredas three of them (Gambella zuria, Abobo and Itang special woredas) are SLMP 2 and RLLP woredas as well.

The Anywaare mainly crop dependent people with fishing, hunting and gathering as their supplementary income sources. For the Anywa, while crop production (sorghum and maize) is an important activity of the rainy season, fishing in the Baro Gilo, Alwero and Akobo rivers, lakes and ponds becomes a vital means of subsistence in the dry season. Recession riverside agriculture is common and practiced by Anywa people along the Baro, Gilo and Akobo rivers. Wild food consumption is part of the daily dietary intake as hunter gatherers from the natural forest resources.

The Anywa are polygamous society and favor living in extended family groups in settlements established in isolated pockets on the banks of the Gilo and Baro Rivers, in front of their agricultural fields. A grass-roofed main hut for sleeping, a smaller version for grain storage, and chicken coops comprise typical Anywa family holdings. The Anywa worship Ochudho. For them, Ochudho or god of the river is responsible for the origin of their kings and chiefs. Like many other Nilotic people. The Anywa have a complicated age-system in which different generation groups bear names that signify major happenings in their past. The population of Anywa is estimated to be 158,875 of which 77,822 are female (CSA, 2013-2017 Population Projection, 2013)

The Nuer

The Nuer people, who live on the plains around the Baro River in the Gambella region of Ethiopia, are traditional cattle herders. They depend on farming, hunting, and fishing. Farmers exercise two cropping seasons in a year: the first one is during the rainy season May to August and the second in October to February when the flood recedes.

Their language belongs to the Nilo-Saharan African language family like their neighbors, the Anuak. The Nuer people are largely livestock dependent and are mostly found in Akobo, Jikawo Lare, Makuey and parts of Itang special *woredas*. During rainy seasons, these areas become flooded and the people migrate to where there is no flood with their cattle until the riverbanks recede. The population of Nuer ethnic group is estimated to be 149,410 of which 68,907 are females (CSA, 2013, projection of 2017 population)

The Nuer are agro-pastoralists practice mixed farming system (both animal rearing and crop production), they grow more millet and maize. They not only depend on cattle for many of life's necessities but have mentality to consider land as an important asset for different use options. Cattle are their dearest possession and they gladly risk their lives to defend their herds. The attitude of Nuer towards and their relations with neighboring peoples are influenced by their love of cattle and farmlands.

The Nuer's living pattern changes according to the seasons of the year. As the rivers flood, the people should move farther back onto higher ground, where they cultivate millet and maize. In the dry season, the younger men take the cattle herds closer to the receding rivers. Cooperative extended family groups live around communal cattle camps. Parallel to territorial divisions are clan lineages descended through the male line from a single ancestor. These lineages are significant in the control and distribution of resources, and tend to coalesce with the territorial sections. Marriages must be outside one's own clan and are made legal by the payment of cattle by the man's family to the woman's family, shared among various persons in the clan.

The Opou

The Opou people are one of the five ethnic groups living in Gambella Regional State. They live in Itang special woreda (at Wnke and Mera kebeles). The total population of Opou ethnic group is 1161 (CSA, 2013). The Opou are mainly crop dependent people (Maize, Millets and Sorghum) with hunting and gathering as their supplementary income sources. They also practice beekeeping.

Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional State

(a) Demographic and Economic Features

According to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data from 2014-2017 accounts for a total of 50,380 km2, with a total population of 975,998 (495,000 males and 480,998 female). Of these, 80.63% live in rural areas. The region is in the western part of Ethiopia, sharing borders with Gambella, Amhara, and Oromia regional states, and the Republic of South Sudan. Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional State has an altitude ranging from 600 up to 2,000 m.a.s.l and has topography dominated by river valleys which join the Abay River before it enters the Sudan.

The climate of the region is generally favorable for crop and livestock production, but agriculture remains at subsistence level mainly due to lack of experience, low technology, and underdeveloped infrastructure. The region has climatic condition of Kola (lowland climate), Woina Dega (midland) and 8% Dega (highland) climatic conditions. It is endowed with rich natural resources, including fertile land, water, forest, minerals, and fish. Abundant water resources are available in the region. Abay River and most of its major tributaries flow across the region that can be used for irrigation. Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional State is endowed with a variety of natural resources. Over 50% of the land is covered with natural forest, which also has commercial value. RLLP targets 15 watersheds of the region (including the 11 existing SLMP-I and SLMP-II woredas).

Table 6. Benishangul Gumuz region existing and newly added woredas

No	**Existing woredas (WB I & II)**			**Newly added woredas (WB-III)**
1	Bambasi	7	Homosha	Debati
2	Agalometi	8	Kemashi	Oda
3	Assosa	9	Mao and Komo	Assosa
4	Belogiganfoy	10	Pawii	Yaso

No	Existing woredas (WB I & II)			Newly added woredas (WB-III)
5	Bullen,	11	Wombera	
6	Dangur			
	11			***4***

(b) Ethno-Religious Features

The major ethnic groups in Benishangul-Gumuz are Berta (25.9%), Gumuz (21.1%), Shinasha (7.5%), Mao (1.8%) and Komo (0.96%). Other groups include Amhara (21.3%), Oromo (13.3%), and Agaw-Awi (4.2%). In the region, 45.4% of the populations are Muslim, 33.3% Orthodox Christians, 13.53% Protestant, 0.6% Catholic and 7.09% practicing traditional beliefs.

The Gumz

Metekel is one of the three administrative Zones of Benisahngul-Gumz Regional State which is in Western Ethiopia. The other two administrative Zones are Kamashi and Assosa. Metekel Zone comprises seven *woredas*: Bulen, Dangur, Wombera, Dibate, Guba, Pawe and Mandura. Five of the seven watersheds of the administrative Zones are RLLP *woredas.*

Originally, most of Metekelzone was occupied by the Gumz and Shinasha people, also Kamashi was occupied by the Gumuz, a cultural group that belongs to the Nilo-Saharan language family. Shifting cultivation (also called slash-and-burn agriculture or horticulture) is a system of production common in tropical forest environments and savannas, where clearing the land requires extensive labor. In order to clear a plot of land for planting, the Gumz cut down or slash bamboo trees and bushes beginning in November and then burn them immediately before the rainy season begins in April. The Gumz grow a variety of crops such as cereals, oil seeds, legumes, and root crops. The most commonly grown cereals include finger millet, sorghum and maize. Finger millet and sorghum are staple crops. Sesame and Niger seed are oil seeds often used as cash crops. Depending on the type of soil, plots are cultivated for a few years (often 3-4) and then allowed to lie fallow for several years (often 5-7 years) for the restoration of soil fertility. During this period, the Gumz move to other places to practice shifting cultivation there.

In times of food shortage, the Gumz resort to the more ancient practices of hunting, fishing, and gathering. They also engage in honey collection (apiculture) and gold mining. For resource management and land related conflict resolution the Gumuz have indigenous institution called Tomba.

The land tenure system of the Gumz has been a “controlled access” system, combining individual possession with communal ownership. Members of the society enjoy equal access to communally owned land, such as cultivable virgin lands, forested areas, grazing and/or browsing land, and riverbanks as a matter of right. Thus, according to tradition, these resources are owned by the Gumz society in general. Gumz settlements are comprised of dwellings clustered together, with pastureland outlying the clustered villages and farmland situated away from residences. In most cases,

settlements are compact and the number of households may range from 20 to 100. The nuclear family, consisting of married couples and their children, constitutes the basic unit of Gumz society.

The Shinasha

The Shinasha people practice subsistence cultivation with use of Oxen and hoes; in few areas seems like other developed region farmers farming practices. The Shinasha grow a variety of crops such as teff, cereals, oil seeds, legumes and root crops. The most commonly grown cereals include finger millet, sorghum and maize.

The land tenure system of the Shinasha has been a "household access"system, individual possession of individual owned land and using communal land in common. Members of the society enjoy equal access to communally owned land, such as forested areas, grazing and/or browsing land and riverbanks as a matter of right. Shinasha settlements in some places are comprised of dwellings clustered together, and in scatter ways around Dega and Weynadega areas of the Metekel zone.

The Berta

The Assosa zone is mostly occupied by the Berta people. The Berta people are a cultural group that belongs to the Nilo-saharan language family. The Berta people's living styles are similar with the Gumuz people.

The Mao and Komo

At present, the Mao and Komo live in Benishangul-Gumz Region, Mao and Komo special woreda, Mao and Komo are two minority groups speaking Nilo-Saharan language. Some Mao live in Mao and Komo *woreda*, while others reside in Begi of Oromia region, Belojiganfoy of Kamashi zone and Bambasi *woreda* of Assosa zone. The populations of Mao and Komo is estimated at 51,330 (43,535 Mao and 7,795 Komo) and 19,208 of these live in Benishangul-Gumz and 24,626 in Oromia. Historically, the Mao and Komo are the most underserved group inhabiting the marginal areas in western Ethiopia. Because of their small population size, the Mao and Komo are represented by 2 seats out of 99 in the regional state council.

The major livelihood activity of the Mao and Komo communities is agriculture, and the crops produced include teff, maize, millet and dagusa. Goats, sheep and cattle are the major livestock in the area. Coffee and *Chat* are the main cash crops the Mao and Komo produce. Gold is present in the region, and the Mao and Komo Special *Woreda* are involved in traditional gold mining. The Mao and Komo have customary conflict management institutions, referred to as *Shumbi* and gives orders for the settlement of conflicts in line with which the council of elders gather to deliberate and adjudicate.

SLMP II has been community demand-driven and accommodated the livelihood, resource management and land use system of the local communities. Free, prior and informed community consultations were carried out. As need identification, planning and implementation was based on community consultation and all social and economic benefits of the project were culturally appropriate. The rural land registration and certification was also carried out in a manner appropriate recognizing the varied land use patterns, land holding right, productivity of local circumstances. Traditional and self-help institutions (formal and informal) were involved in SLMP-2 development activities by mobilizing labor, awareness creation and passing messages and settling complaints.

4.3.RLLP in the Developing Regional States

The developing national regional states of Gambella and Benihangul-Gumz will be supported through the RLLP activities. In Gambella national regional state, nine (six existing and three new) watersheds located in three zones and one special woreda have been identified and selected for RLLP. These are Mengeshi in Majang Zone; Itang, Itang Special woreda, Makuey, Lare and Jikawo in Nuer Zoneand Dima in Anywa Zone. Among the potential project beneficiaries in these watersheds are the population groups of Majang, Anywa, Opou, Komo and Nuer. Similarly, fifteen (eleven existing and four newly added) watersheds located in three zones and one special wereda in Benishangul-Gmuz Region have been selected for RLLP. The selected SLMP-2 weredas in Benishangul-Gumuz include: Wombera, Bullen, Dangur and Debati, in Metekel Zon; Homosha, Assosa and Odain Assosa Zone, Belogiganfoy, Agalometi and Yao in Kamashi Zone and Mao and Komo Special woredas. The would-be project beneficiary communities in these watersheds are the Gumz, Berta, Shinasha, Mao, and Komo population groups.

These population groups in Gambella and Benihangul-Gumz national regional states are different from the mainstream smallholder agricultural communities targeted by the RLLP in their livelihood system/strategy, land and resource use, management, patterns of settlement, and farm technology. The effective and successful implementation experiences in achieving the SLMP-II objectives, will be replicated mainly on providing due consideration to the special characteristics of these population groups in its design, planning and implementation phases.

Assessment of Key Social Issues

The awareness and understanding that land is an asset to be conserved for present and future generations is increasingly gaining momentum and attention at global and national levels. Thus, land degradation and the ensuing social and environmental problems have become serious concerns that are forcing policy and decision makers to introduce program interventions designed to promote improved land management practices. on which basis, the government of Ethiopia has made SLM a core component of the national agricultural policy. Hence, SLMP-I, SLMP-II and its successor, RLLP are flagship government initiatives driven by this policy imperative.

However, there are social dimensions to such initiatives that can have positive or negative implications for the target communities, which need to be taken into consideration in the design,

planning and implementation stages. Accordingly, a number of social issues requiring consideration in the preparation and implementation of RLLP have been identified in the course of the social assessment preparation in the sample project *woredas* and due consideration have been given in integrating the views, concerns and recommendations in to the RLLP design.

4.4.Potential Implications of RLLP on the Vulnerable Groups

As discussed above, the 1995 FDRE Constitution recognizes that Ethiopia is a country of nations, nationalities and peoples with diverse cultures, languages and different socio-economic development experiences. The FDRE, through its constitution and many other subsequent policies and programs has committed itself to redress the injustice experienced in the Developing Regional States.SLMP-1, SLMP-2 and RLLP are such development programs which the government initiated to address the development challenges of the communities in the DRS.

Development programs aim to have lasting positive impact on the life of the intended beneficiaries through specific projects that set out to accomplish measurable outcomes. Such development programs/projects might have adverse impacts on the target communities, at times having differential impacts on different categories (e.g., women, poor, ethnic minorities, migrants, youth, etc.) of the intended beneficiary communities. That is why thinking of appropriate mitigation measures in the event of any adverse impact of the development project becomes one of the major principles guiding development programs.

In light of this, it is important to closely examine the potential adverse impacts of RLLP on different categories of beneficiaries with particular focus on vulnerable group and the historically underserved communities in the project *woreda*s of Benishangul Gumz and Gambella, both DRS. To accomplish this task, we will focus on following issues:

Livelihood strategies –RLLP is a project that focuses on rural small holders and aims to scale up and adopt best-fit and proven sustainable land and water management technologies and practices. The investment in Green Infrastructure for resilient landscape component of the project primarily focuses on rural smallholder farmers. The historically underserved communities in RLLP targeted watersheds pursue different livelihood systems, natural resource management and use strategies which including foragers who engage in hunting and gathering, traditional beekeeping and shifting cultivation. RLLP being community demand driven project, free, prior and informed consultation with local communities was conducted. The project was designed to accommodate the livelihood, land use and resource management system of the local communities in the developing regional states through participatory approach to community watershed management and livelihood activities used in SLMP-II.

It was also learned that watershed community members who due to age and/health (sickness and impairment) do not have the full physical ability to participate in the *Investment in green infrastructure for resilient landscape* component activities are likely to be left out during the planning and implementation of the project.

Land acquisition: as SLMP II objectives are focused on reducing land degradation and improving productivity of small holder farms; environmental and social impacts are largely positive. However, investments on integrated watershed and landscape management component (irrigation, water harvesting structures, hand dug well, spring development, afforestation, access road construction, and nursery development) necessitated acquisition of land. According to reports from regions, observations from field visits and consultations with regional and woreda implementers, households voluntarily donated their piece of plot for development work with some agreement. The agreement included land for land replacement, cash compensation from government budget and benefit arrangement from implemented project activities. Overall the nature of land acquisition in SLMP-II was voluntary according to the consultation held with affected persons. However, incomplete documentation of agreements, meetings and signed VLD templates are identified in few visited areas.

The RLLP investment specifically on green infrastructure for resilient watershed will support individual and communal lands infrastructures such as Soil and Water Conservation, community access roads, area closures, etc. Although environmental and social impacts of these infrastructures are largely positive it might cause voluntary/involuntary land acquisition unless area specific and appropriate screening is not conducted. Therefore, in such events RLLP proposes to avoid through other alternatives, including changing design or location; however, if avoidance is not feasible rely on voluntary land donation (VLD) if the proportion of the land that may be voluntarily donated not exceed 10% of the total land holding of the donor and must not be the donor's main source of income. Moreover, VLD should not occur if it requires physical relocation, loss of structures or fixed assets on affected portion of land. For that reason, proper screening should be carried out following the safeguard instruments, relevant Ethiopian laws and World Bank policies. A formal statement or minutes for all consultation and discussion with the land holders, their interest and agreed actions including schedule should be signed and documented at kebele and woreda MoALR and rural land offices and should be reported for enhanced transparency.

Land certification: the implementation of the "*Rural Land Administration and Certification* "sub-component of the SLMP II was expected to give consideration, where individual land possessions by households is not the norm, to the peculiar landholding and land use systems of the historically underserved communities in the watersheds selected for the project. Though this component is designed to ensure the land tenure security of small holder farmers and thereby motivate them to adopt sustainable land management it may not be applicable in the context of hunting and gathering and shifting cultivating groups on wholesale basis. Based on this, the Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz regional states developed and launched their respective region rural land administration and use proclamation which could be appropriate to their circumstances. Therefore, RLLP will build up on the SLMP-2 practices.

Gender: RLLP targets female and male, young and old, and poor and better-off community members as beneficiaries. No community members in the selected watersheds will be intended to be excluded from the Project. Findings from monitoring, technical support visits and discussions indicated that in

SLMP 2 implementation women and men were actively participating in physical and biological soil and water conservation (SWC) activities on communal and individual lands and other project interventions and got benefits. Priority beneficiaries of soil and water conservation (SWC) activities& other labor based works with incentives were the poor (male and female), farmers with tiny landholdings or landless farmers, and youth. If the work requires many people, all the households who live in the micro-watershed are involved in the work. In most cases SWC activities are allocated to groups of male and female farmers. Normally the group members are from the same or neighboring villages. Light works such as digging out the soil, compacting soil bund, and transporting seedlings are performed by females. Despite such group arrangements, in some woredas, women are expected to work as much as men despite their additional household responsibilities and biological limitations for physically demanding activities. There were also cases in which women found it difficult to balance their triple roles competing for their equal attention: bearing and rearing children, maintenance of household members and domestic work, community managing role and productive role such as treatment of communal lands as part of SLMP-2 implementation. The difficulty of balancing these equally important responsibilities resulted in the risk of losing project benefits in varying degrees. Therefore, it is necessary to implement affirmative action such as light works, flexible working environment and demand-driven activities which reduce/save women's time and energy. In many rural parts of Ethiopia, women, particularly female household-heads, child headed households, and elders are compelled to lease their landholdings to men in sharecropping arrangements. They are forced to do so mostly due to lack of farm capital and farm oxen.

A study conducted by the Ethiopia - Land Tenure and Administration Program (ELTAP) in 2010 found that the breach of land transactions and exchange agreements constituted one of the major causes of land-related disputes between farm households. The findings revealed that women were among the less advantaged community groups who were compelled to temporarily transfer their landholdings through different forms of sharecropping arrangements for lack of capacity and resource to work their plots on their own. The sharecroppers, however, tended to renege on the agreements after a certain period. Indeed, they sometimes breached the arrangements and claimed to be the rightful holders to the extent of registering the land in their own name.

SLMP-II addressed this concern by providing training and raising awareness, close follow-ups, and technical support to ensure that labor-constrained female-headed households, poor people, and parentless households who lease their land in sharecropping arrangements do not unfairly lose their landholding. Such cases deserve mention to alert the Project to the risks that women in the selected watersheds may face, and adopt the necessary precautionary measures to make sure that the “Land Administration and Use” component will meet its stated development objectives.

Youth: Over the last decade, the issue of youth has received greater attention in Ethiopia and the government has started to implement policies to support young people. The National Youth Policy of Ethiopia marks a major step in recognizing and promoting the rights of young people in the country. Approved in 2004, the policy aims “to bring about the active participation of youth in the

building of a democratic system and good governance as well as in the economic, social and cultural activities and to enable them to fairly benefit from the results." It envisions youth as "a young generation with democratic outlook and ideals, equipped with knowledge and professional skills". Ethiopia's youth has the potential to play a significant role in the country's socio-economic and political development. Participation of youth is increasingly recognized by the public authorities, following the government's strategy to involve youth in decision-making processes[4]. Currently the youth are facing various challenges to be involved in economic activities. One of the challenges the youth are facing to engage in the agriculture sector is acquiring productive farm land. According to a study conducted by EDRI and IFPRI, 14 percent of youth-headed households living in rural and small-town areas are landless compared to 7 percent of mature-headed households. Similarly, the share of landlessness among the youngest households (15-24 years old) reaches 21 percent while 13 percent of experienced youth headed households between 25 and 34 years of age are landless (Schmidt and Bekele, 2016).

In SLMP-II targeted watersheds, youth as members of watershed communities have been participating and benefiting from the interventions of the project. According to periodic reports, reviewed for this assessment, field observations and consultative meetings, youth are represented in the CWT, participating in SWC activities and other labor based works and have received more than thousand hectares of rehabilitated land. Moreover, they have benefited from the project by involving in different income generating activities as a member of SHGs. However, the consultations held with communities and woreda technical committee members revealed that, youth groups are more interested in activities that yield fast returns. Therefore, through enhanced consultation with relevant stakeholders, continuous awareness raising efforts should be made to attract and mobilize the youth for work and while the design of RLLP, activities which are palatable/acceptable to the youth should be identified.

4.5.Strengthening Institutions and Information for Resilience

This component was vitally important to the successful implementation of the SLMP-II Project and the achievement of its development objectives. Regarding this, traditional self-help institutions of the diverse communities in the project *woreda*s also contributed immensely to effective Project implementation and sustainability. In all SLMP -2 implementing regions and woredas, there are ages-old social capitals. These social capitals include indigenous institutions which have been established by the community for different purposes and are also working for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Land Management Program during planning, implementation and monitoring periods. These institutions include "Idir", "Yehager Shimaglewoch", (Elders), religious fathers, "Maheber", etc. The indigenous institutions played significant role during SLMP implementation by mobilizing the community for physical and biological soil and water conservation measures, livelihood, rural land measurement and other SLMP activities. They were involved in community mobilization, advising, conflict settlement, and passing

[4](http://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/youth-issues-in-ethiopia.htm).

information/messages to facilitate the speed up of program implementation. Indigenous institutions are part of SMP-II grievance redress mechanism.

Although these indigenous institutions which have been established by the community for different social purposes are part of SLMP-II and contributing immensely for the successful implementation of the project, the experience of SLMP-II shows that the time tested local adaptation strategies and indigenous knowledge systems available in local communities have not been used fully to enhance project implementation. Hence, efforts should be made to introduce appropriate technology and knowledge systems in a manner that is compatible with the time-tested local adaptation strategies and indigenous knowledge systems.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguard Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The implementation of the RLLP activities and particularly the environmental and social safeguard will take place through the existing government institutional structures from the federal to the local or community level. RLLP would build upon this implementation structure and the built capacity, which include environmental and social safeguard implementation of the safeguard instruments (ESMF, SA, RPF and GMG). RLLP implementation would be centered in the MOALR which would be responsible for project implementation at all levels of the government's existing implementation structure for its Sustainable Land Management Program: Federal, Regional State, Zone, Woreda (District), and Kebele (Sub-district). These entities and their staff are generally capacitated and ready to implement in the existing 135 SLMP-2 woredas in Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella regional states.

At Federal/National level: the overall coordination and implementation of the project will be facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoALR) in collaboration with other relevant Ministries (e.g. MoFEC, MoWIE, MoEFCC, etc). The MoALR will use the organization structure and institutional arrangements established to coordinate all Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project financed by the Government and development partners. The RLLP has its own National Steering Committee (NSC) and will use an independent and full responsible National Technical Committee (NTC) which existed for SLMP II. The RLLP Support Unit (RLLPSU) within the MoALR is the core unit that coordinates the project activities. The MoALR is responsible for the day-to-day program management, preparation of annual work plan and progress reports, monitoring/supervision of overall implementation progress; evaluation of program impacts, environmental and social safeguard, financial administration, procurement of goods and services.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) has high level representations from the MoALR, MoFED, MoWIE, MoEFCC, EIAR and BoANRs of the RLLP regions. The Committee is chaired by the State Minister for Natural Resources in the MoALR and will be responsible for (a) establishing policy guidelines and providing overall supervision for project implementation; (b) approving the annual

federal and regional work plan, budget and the annual procurement plan; and (c) reviewing the annual implementation performance report to be prepared by the RLLP Support Unit, including environmental and social safeguard; and overseeing the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary.

The National Technical Committee (NTC) is composed of senior technical staff from MoALR, MoFEC, MoWIE, MoEFCC and EIAR. Representatives from the development partners who are supporting RLLP are members of the committee. The NTC is responsible for providing technical advice to the MoALR on coordination and synergies, technical issues of the RLLP and other similar projects, including environmental and social safeguard on the quality of project implementation reports, special study documents on policy, guidelines, documentation of best practices, and M&E reports.

The RLLP-PSU will be led by an appointed senior technical staff as National Project Coordinator at MoALR. The unit will be responsible for the day-to-day management of RLLP and will be responsible for (a) preparation of consolidated annual work plan and progress reports; (b) monitoring and supervision of overall implementation progress and evaluation of project impacts; (c) financial administration; including environmental and social safeguard; and, (d) procuring goods and services.

Regional: implementation will be led by the Bureau of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (BoALR). BoALR will use regional coordinator recruited for RLLP and responsible for approving annual work plan and progress reports from the Woredas. The reports would then be submitted to the National RLLP-PSU. A Regional Steering Committee (RSC) will be formed from heads of relevant sectors to provide guidance and leadership at the regional level. The RSC will meet quarterly to review performance, endorse the quarterly progress reports and provide necessary guidance on project implementation, and endorse the annual plan at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Woreda and Kebele level: the implementation of the project will be undertaken jointly by Woreda office of Agriculture and Livestock Resources through the Woreda Technical Committee (WTC), the Kebele Watershed Team (KWT), and communities. The WoALR will assign an independent Focal Person who will take the lead responsibility in the overall implementation of the program. The WTC and KWT will assist communities in: (i) developing annual work plan and budgets for submission to the Region for endorsement and integration into the Regions' work plan and budgets; (ii) facilitating community participation in watershed planning and rehabilitation; (iii) training; (iv)monitoring and evaluation; (v) dissemination of innovations in RLLP.

5.1.Arrangements for environmental and social safeguards

The Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) is one of the program support section of the Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP) with the aim to ensure that subproject activities to be implemented are not only technically, economically and financially viable, but are also environmentally friendly and socially acceptable for the sustainability of the RLLP investments. For the attainment of the RLLP development objective and ensuring environmental and social

sustainability the following institutional arrangement will be used in existing and new target watersheds.

National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU) – The NPCU shall recruit/hire one Environmental and one Social Development Specialist (Safeguards and Gender) who will work closely with regional safeguard specialists, zonal and woreda focal persons assigned in each of the RLLP implementing regions. The environmental and social safeguard specialists (each one) shall consolidate all compliance and performance monitoring reports collected from the six regions. They will assist in monitoring and closely following up of the effective implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Social Assessment (SA), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Gender Mainstreaming Guideline (GMG). Besides, they provide the required technical backstopping; review subproject and activity plan, design, cost, and baseline documents to ensure environmental and social factors and mitigation measures are incorporated; prepare monthly and annual work plan; organize annual and monthly review programs; collect and consolidate progress report and send the consolidated report to development partners on a quarter bases.

Regional Project Coordination Unit (RPCU): The RPCU will designate/recruit one environmental and social development specialist (safeguard and gender) who will follow the overall implementation of the ESMF, SA, RPF and GMG at woreda, kebele and community level. The regional safeguards team shall undergo training in environmental and social safeguards aspects of subproject preparation, review and approval. They will closely work with the regional infrastructure and watershed specialists of the region during the planning and construction time to avoid the late occurrence (proactive engagement) of impacts on the environment and the community. They will collect the performance of safeguard activities from the woreda; undergo a detail analysis on the quality of reports, and the implementation of mitigation measures on a specified period. They will review the subprojects referred to the region for ESIA together with the regulatory institution or delegated regulatory authority. A consolidated plan will be sent to the national project coordination unit through the M&E unit and a separate standalone report to the NPCU safeguards specialists.

Zonal Focal Person of the Project: The RLLP at zonal level is led by a steering committee. The Focal person at the zonal level is responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of the environmental and social safeguard activities at woreda level. He/she will compile and consolidate quarter and annual implementation progress reports submitted by the woredas and will send to the RPCU. He/she will facilitate the implementation of the review process for those subprojects sent to zonal environmental regulatory body for ESIA purpose. Zonal focal persons will support woredas in properly directing the steps while conducting the ESIA by own human resources at woreda level and/or by a consulting firm licensed by the MoEFCC or other international entities entrusted for the purpose.

Woreda Focal Person of the Project: The woreda focal person is responsible for coordinating the different stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the RLLP activities at grass root level,

kebele and community level. He/she supports kebele Development Agents in the identification and screening of subprojects. However, for high and medium risk subprojects he/she should request support from safeguards experts either at Zonal or regional levels after screening results. He/she will follow the implementation of mitigation measures that are planned in the ESMP, Social Management Plan (SMP) and RPF. Besides, he/she will play a significant role in facilitating the WTC members to play their respective roles in designing the anticipated potential environmental and social impacts and the mitigation measures subjected to their concerned sector offices. He/she prepare and submit a consolidated report on the performance of the environmental and social safeguard activities along with the M&E.

Kebele level implementation: identification and initial environmental and social screening of subproject/activity of the RLLP starts from community and kebele level which are eligible for support. Kebele Watershed Team (KWT) and Community Watershed Team (CWT) at kebele and community level, respectively, are responsible to follow up and timely monitor the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework, Social Assessment (including the Social Management Plan), RPF and gender mainstreaming guideline and site-specific plans, such as ESMP and SMP as applicable. Development Agents at kebele level (Natural Resource Management, Crop Development, Livestock Development, Irrigation and/or others) have the responsibility to ensure the overall implementation of the ESMF, SA, RPF and GMG.

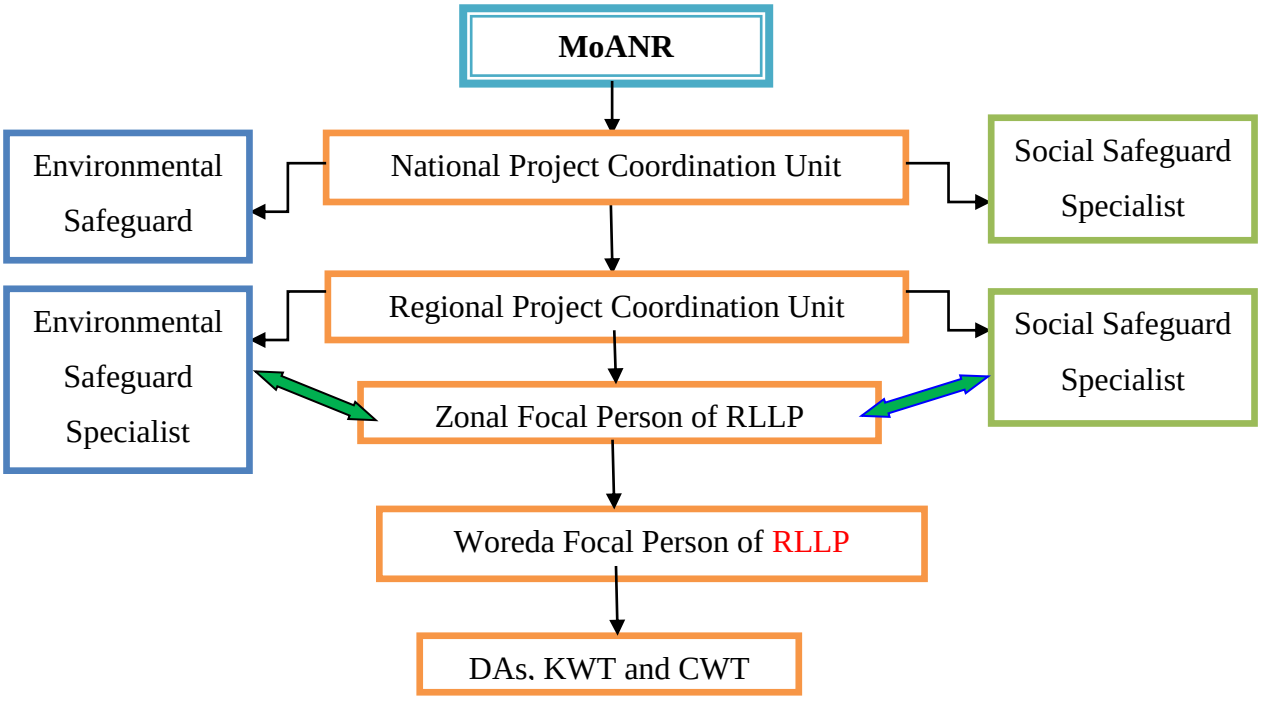


Figure 1Institutional arrangement of environmental and social safeguard

5.2.Sub-Project Identification and Watershed Planning Process

Sub-projects are identified by the communities based on their local needs and priorities through a participatory watershed planning process whereby all community members have the opportunity for sharing ideas and making decisions during the planning and implementation of RLLP activities. The DAs at the Kebeles and the Kebele Watershed Team members will provide the necessary technical support to the Community Watershed Team during the identification, planning and implementation of the activities. The planning process is guided by the MONAR Community Based Participatory Watershed Development Guidelines. The list of identified sub-projects will then be referred to the KWT with the support of Development Agent.

6. Grievance Redress Mechanism in RLLP

RLLP Grievance Redress Mechanism

Communities are the primary beneficiaries of the project, they have been encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of the project including problem/need identification, preparation, work plan, implementation, monitoring, operation and maintenance. Therefore, the planning process followed a bottom-up approach to lay foundation for all the interventions and to ensure sustainability. In addition to avoid/minimize and mitigate potential adverse risks/impacts of the implementation; activities are screened and checked for potential negative impacts using checklists prepared for the same purpose and compliance of safeguard instrument and corrective measures are taken. Since the whole process has been participatory and transparent, the occurrence of complaint is very rare. Even though the existence of complaints was minimal, a functional GRM system which serves as a guideline was prepared after consultation with participants from regional, zonal and woreda natural resources, land administration, and regional PSU experts and a mechanism has been put in place by the project to address unforeseen events. Therefore, a transparent Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) with credible process has been established in all SLMP-2 watersheds.

The GRM guideline includes the procedures, focal persons and time frame at each level of the administrative hierarchy. Awareness creation training was given to responsible woreda experts of relevant stakeholder offices, development agents (DA). Communities are aware of the mechanism (their rights, where to apply) and any person within targeted watershed who had complaints regarding the activities of the project during preparation/designing, implementation and operation phases will have access to the mechanism and get responses. According to SLMP-2 functional GRM experience; common cases of complaints were targeting for IGA, targeting for SWC activities on communal land and payment is not according to my work. Therefore, as the mechanism already operational in SLMP-2 watersheds will continue to serve the same purpose in newly added woredas during the implementation of RLLP. Yet documented appealing and redress needs to be strengthened by RLLP. See annex 4: for detail RLLP grievance redress mechanism guideline.

6.1.Scope of the GRM

The scope of the issues to be addressed in RLLP Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be all complaints arising from RLLP activity implementations. Any person within RLLP targeted watershed who has complaints regarding the activities of the RLLP subprojects during preparation/designing, implementation and operation phases shall have access to the Mechanism.

6.2.Access to GRM

The MoALR/RLLP National PSU in collaboration with concerned regional and woreda (Bureau of Agriculture and Livestock Resources, and Woreda Agricultural and Livestock Resource Office) will make the public aware of the GRM through awareness creation forums, training and capacity building. Any person who has complaints regarding the activities of the RLLP subprojects during

preparation/designing, implementation and operation phases shall have access to the Mechanism. Contact details in support of the Mechanism will be publicly disclosed and posted in the offices of concerned woreda offices, Kebele administration, kebele development centers/agriculture office and Farmers Training Centers (FTC). These will also be incorporated in the RLLP environment and social safeguard information materials (e.g. reports, magazines, brochures, flyers and posters).

6.3.Grievance Investigation and Resolution Process (GIRP)

The MoANR/RLLP NPSU in collaboration with its regional and woreda counter parts will strengthen the established GRM that allows any person, who has complaints regarding the activities of the RLLP, to raise issues, feedback and complaints about the effects of RLLP activities implementation/performance. Complaints can be communicated in written form using the standard complaint form to community watershed team. All received complaints and responses given should be documented and copies sent to kebele watershed team.

At community watershed team level unresolved complaints (if the complainant is not satisfied) will be brought to traditional grievance redress institution (depending on specific locality) and investigated and resolved. All received complaints and responses should be documented and copies sent to kebele watershed team, kebele administration and woreda Agriculture and Livestock Resource office. Complaints unresolved at traditional grievance redress institution level (if the complainant is not satisfied) will be brought to kebele watershed team and investigated and resolved. All received complaints and responses should be documented and copies sent to community watershed team and woreda Agriculture and Livestock Resource office. Complaints unresolved at kebele watershed team level (if the complainant is not satisfied) will be brought to woreda Agriculture and Livestock Resource office.

At woreda level, all received complaints which were unresolved at kebele watershed team level will be reviewed by the woreda Agriculture and Livestock Resource office and sent to woreda steering committee for investigation and final decision. To this effect, a GRM with clear timeline and responsibility is required at different levels to be transparent, accountable and responsive. Accordingly, the steps of the GIRP at each level are outlined as follows.

6.4.Structure, Steps and Timeframe

Grievance Investigation and Resolution Process (GIRP) at community watershed team level

Step 1. Complaint Form will be completed by any interested person or complainant and submitted to the community watershed team,

Step 2: The community watershed team will review, investigate and discuss on the issue and resolve the matter within three days from the date of application is received. The decision will be provided in written form to the complainant. All meetings/discussions will be recorded, documented and copies of the minutes will be sent to kebele watershed team.

Step 3: Based on the decision made, the community watershed team will act accordingly.

Step 4: If the complainant is not satisfied by the response given by community watershed team or if no response is received from the community watershed team within three days after the registration of complaint, the complainant can appeal to the traditional grievance redress institution.

Grievance Investigation and Resolution Process (GIRP) at the Traditional grievance redress institution Level

Traditional grievance redress institution could be initially formed for other/different purpose but they also deal with addressing different grievances arising within the community; such self-help and mutual support institutions could be Idir, Sirit, Ofosha, Yeakababi Shemagele… depending on the locality.

Step 1: Appeal form will be completed by any interested person or complainant and submitted to traditional grievance redress institution (chairperson or facilitator depending in specific locality).

Step 2: The facilitator or chairperson of traditional grievance redress institution will organize a meeting for the committee members and will review and resolve the complaint within seven days of receiving the appeal or compliant. All meetings will be recorded and filed. (Copies of the minutes of meetings will be provided to kebele Agriculture office (Development Agent), kebele administration and other concerned stakeholders.

Step 3: If the complainant is not satisfied by the response given by traditional grievance redress institution or if no response is received within ten days, the affected persons can appeal to the kebele watershed committee.

Grievance Investigation and Resolution Process (GIRP) at the kebele watershed team Level

Step 1: Appeal form will be completed by any interested person or complainant and submitted to watershed team,

Step 2: The kebele watershed team based on the appeal or complaint received from complainant and document which is transferred from traditional grievance redress institution will review and further investigate. If the decision given at traditional grievance redress institution level is appropriate, the KWT will approve it; otherwise if the appeal is valid, the team will resolve the issue within seven days from the date the application was received. The decision will be provided in written form to the applicants and copies will be sent to CWT and to woreda agriculture office. All meetings will be recorded and filed;

Step 3: If the complainant is not satisfied by the response given by kebele watershed team or if no response is received from the kebele watershed team within seven days after the registration of complaint, the complainant can appeal to the woreda Agriculture office.

Grievance Investigation and Resolution Process (GIRP) at the woreda level

Step 1: Appeal form will be completed by any interested persons or complainant and submitted to Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP) focal person at Woreda Agricultural Office.

Step 2: Based on the appeal or complaint received from complainant, the (RLLP) focal person at Woreda Office Agriculture and Livestock (WoAL) records the issues in the registry, assess the appeal or the grievance and will organize meeting(s) for a woreda steering committee. The woreda steering committee will review the decision given at kebele watershed committee level and endorse it if it is appropriate otherwise if the appeal is valid, the woreda steering committee will resolve the issue and give final decision within two weeks (14 days) of receiving the appeal or compliant. The decision should be provided to the applicant in written form. All meetings will be recorded and copies of the minutes will be provided to all concerned stakeholders. The application form is attached in Annex 5:

6.5.World Bank Grievance Redress Services

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by the World Bank (WB) supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit http://www.worldbank.org/GRS. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit www.inspectionpanel.org.

7. Community Consultation: Views, Concerns and Recommendations

7.1.Views of the Community

RLLP's Development and Global Environment Objective is to improve livelihoods, climate resilience, carbon storage, and land productivity in targeted vulnerable rural watersheds in six regions of Ethiopia and its objectives will be achieved through the provision of capital investments, technical assistance and capacity building for smallholder farmers and government institutions at all levels. RLLP is implemented by the community, primarily at the grassroots level. The project will be implemented on both common and individual/household landholdings and will be executed by the community. Since some of the project activities; such as, investment on green infrastructure for resilient landscape component are expected to include small infrastructural projects that require some land acquisition (temporary or permanent) and could also potentially reduce/restrict access to natural resources (in the case of afforestation/reforestation and rangeland management etc.) involve land acquisition or restriction of access to common resources such as afforestation or pasture lands, there is a need for closer community consultation and participation.

Public consultation and participation are essential because they afford potentially affected persons the opportunity to contribute to both the design and implementation of the sub-project activities. The sub-projects would be initiated, planned, designed, implemented and operated (i.e., demand-driven) by communities and/or farmer groups, who by their very nature, are members of the rural community and therefore, are an integral part of and play a crucial role. Furthermore, it is the local communities who are to claim ownership of this project for it to be successful, and their wealth of knowledge of local conditions are invaluable assets to the project.

Broad Community Support: The consultation for updating the social assessment reached out 436 people (306 men and 130 female) in six regions, twelve woredas and sixteen kebeles. In light of this, public consultations have taken place in the existing SLMP-2 and watersheds selected for RLLP and the data generated from those exercises, revealed that the project has broad community support. Among the many results of the community consultations; community interest in the project was ascertained. For instance, in Lare and Jikaw woredas of Gambella national regional state community members stressed that the changes brought about by the Project in the adjacent Project *woredas* under SLMP-II and the benefits 12delivered in terms of land rehabilitation and involving in different income generating activities(IGA) caused them to feel that they missed the opportunity. They indicated that they gained lessons about the practical value of the Project from the successes achieved. Some of the successes the new project communities are impressed in and appreciated while consultation was held include Lare and Jikawo of Gambella, Endegagn of SNNP, South Mecha and Dangela of Amhara.

The public consultations revealed that the communities were interested in the project due to the successes observed in adjacent SLMP-II woredas. They said that, SLMP II targeted areas have nursery sites in nearby and got seedlings for planting but we walked long distance searching for

seedlings. Communities involved in IGA like beehive, poultry, and sheep fattening got income and could send their children to school, able to buy heifer etc. during the consultation, we learned about opportunities to benefit from a project called RLLP and we are happy; our community will be changed like the adjacent woredas. Similarly, in Endegagn wereda of SNNP regional state the community expressed their views by saying that though we did not get the chance to be targeted for SLMP-2; we observed changes brought in the adjacent project Woreda (Merab Azerenet). Therefore, if our Woreda targeted for RLLP we hope that all the changes in the landscape and benefits from income earning will be brought to us too. Moreover, our wereda have a good experience and results in mass mobilization so if the project includes our woreda it will build up on the results achieved so far and we are happy if we are targeted.

Discussion with community members in Teffeka Kebele Endegagn woreda (SNNPR)

Community consultation in Gambella regional state; Lare wereda Palbuol kebele

Community consultation in Gambella regional state; Lare wereda Palbuol kebele

In the same manner during community consultation in South Mecha and Dangela woredas of Amhara national regional state communities expressed that this area was not like this, there was forest and bushes but now it became degraded. Therefore, if RLLP come to our woreda we hope the

area will be rehabilitate and change will come and we are ready to support the project in what we can; like contributing local materials and labour. In addition, they expressed their fear by saying before now some projects came and promised to work in the area and they didn't come again so this (RLLP) project should not repeat the same.

Generally, during the discussion with community members in newly selected woredas community members were not only unanimous in their interest and support for the project, but also are aware of the potential impact of some activities of the project components in terms of possible land acquisition or restriction of access to communal use natural resources. When compared to the kind of environmental degradation they are facing now, acquisition of small portion of their lands for construction of access roads or temporary restriction of access to communal grazing lands is the little price they are more than willing to pay. However, they said the approach should be with thorough discussion with community, elders, religious leaders/fathers, clan leaders and indigenous institutions before starting implementation of such activities. In contrary when community members asked if they have any concern about the project implementation they expressed by saying we fear that during implementation, people who are near to kebele administration and active might benefit from the project by neglecting the majority. In addition, they expressed that we might face loss of access to communal land which we were using for grazing, firewood collection or other benefits. Therefore, they suggested that when the project begins implementation there should be participatory community consultation.

Community consultation in BenshangulGumuz regional state; Debati wereda Kido kebele

Land Acquisition: In SLMP-2 the subproject/activities need arise from the community and, during planning, the community discusses thoroughly about the location of the activity and land acquisition issues, if needed. When there is a need for land the procedure includes trying to avoid it by looking for other alternatives like changing design or location or otherwise if the landholders are willing to donate the land the activity will implemented as planned.

Accordingly, in few of the SLMP-2 watersheds, communities agreed to voluntarily provide a small piece of land in exchange for desired community benefits. Land acquisition will not take place unless it is on voluntarily bases. "Involuntary" means actions that may be taken without the displaced person's informed consent or power of choice. Based on this in most cases the donation of the land is with compensation or with some benefit arrangements and in rare cases (e.g. access road construction) while widening the existing foot path free donation occurred because the size of the land will be very small.

Voluntary land donation documentation confirmed that, in SLMP-II the nature of land take is voluntary (land for land, cash from woreda budget, benefit from the activity, hired in nursery site) as desired community benefits with acceptable benefit arrangements. The SLMP-II activities voluntarily acquired 12.88 ha land from 322 HHs mainly losing less than ten percent of their land holding. The access road construction and widening the existing foot path has resulted in voluntary donation and the amount of land acquired from households is very small compared to the other subprojects.

The data from new woredas about land acquisition for development work also show that communities have experiences in government initiated/financed development works such as irrigation schemes, farmer training centers (FTCs) construction of health posts, clinics, and access road construction which involved some form of land acquisition and restriction of access to natural resources. They mentioned cases where people donated land for construction of access roads for the common good. Also depending on the size of land to be acquired for road construction or the extent of restriction of access resulting from irrigation scheme, through rigorous consultations, mediated by council of elders and kebele administration, replacement lands (e.g., common landholdings or *mote-kedameret* – land left behind by the dead person with no inheritance) were given for the project affected households. But in one of the consulted woreda community expressed their fear by saying if land acquisition for development work happen as we don't have common land for replacement for affected persons the woreda should allocate budget in advance to pay for compensation.

7.2. Summary of Public Participation and Consultations with Stakeholders in Implementing Regions

Public Consultation was conducted as part of the participatory approach aimed at gaining good knowledge of the social issues/risks associated with the program as perceived by the RLLP targeted communities. It was also aimed at exploring and soliciting feedback on the operational steps; land acquisition related issues, compensation, grievance redress mechanism and broader context of

implementation arrangements. The consultation was believed to promote community ownership of the RLLP, enhance sustainability and seek their board support for the program implementation. Moreover, it provided opportunity for communities to make contributions aimed at strengthening the development program while avoiding negative impacts as well as reducing possible conflicts.

Pillars of community consultation and participation

1) Ensure participation and meaningful consultation of the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia to enhance the capacity of citizens for development and to meet their basic needs,
2) Ensure equal opportunities and participation for women with historical disadvantages such as property use, ownership and inheritance, employment, payment,
3) The constitution provides the right to hold opinions without interference to seek, receive and impart information and ideas and freedom of association for any cause or purpose.

Community Consultation and Participation focused on four key RLLP agendas,

General discussion and information on concepts, causes, potential impacts/risks and mitigation options.

1. **Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods**: The objectives of this component are to support the restoration of degraded landscapes in selected micro-watersheds and to help build resilient livelihoods on this newly productive foundation. This will be achieved through:(i) the implementation of sustainable soil and water conservation practices in line with Multi-Year Development Plans (MYDPs) in SLMP-II and newly identified watersheds; (ii) support for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices in all project watersheds; and (iii) promotion of livelihood diversification and linkages to value chains in all project watersheds.
2. **Strengthening Institutions and Information for Resilience**: The objective of this component is to enhance institutional capacity and improve information for better decision-making in supporting resilient landscapes and diversified rural livelihoods in the project area
3. **Land Administration and Use:** The objective of this component is to strengthen land tenure and the land administration systemin project areas, improving incentives for beneficiary communities to invest in sustainable landscape management
4. Project Management and Reporting: The objective of this component is to effectively implement and report on project activities with due diligence and integrity.

General level of awareness and understanding on RLLP

- ✓ The consultation evaluated the level of understanding and the adverse impact of environmental degradation in their area and the positive impacts of soil and water conservation activities. The consultation participants identified, annual mean temperature increment, rainfall variability, increasing intensity of droughts, clearly witnessing agro-ecological changes, increasing frequency of flooding and soil erosion.

- ✓ During the interactive consultation and discussions, the participants identified the causes for environmental degradation as deforestation as agricultural expansion, population density, and overgrazing.
- ✓ Whereas, the impacts covered, diminishing water supply, declining agricultural productivity, flooding and higher risk of drought, health problem, and increasing social tension and conflicts.
- ✓ Communities and participants suggested mitigation options of the grave environmental degradation through the RLLP such as watershed management, continued consultation and awareness creation, introducing alternative energy sources, improving livelihoods.

General Agreements

- ✓ There is a clear understanding by the local communities in regions that maintaining or recovering natural resources improves rainfall pattern and water availability, provides clean air, and contains wild animals, birds and source of biodiversity, while boosting productivity in honey and traditional medicine.
- ✓ There is a general understanding that RLLP intervention in their respective regions will help sustain natural resources management and biodiversity (flora and fauna) of protected areas as well as increase the forest cover of the regions.
- ✓ Participants of the consultation provided their broad community support through willingness to participate and commitment to protect their natural environment and address environmental problems and facilitate the implementation of RLLP.

7.3.Concerns raised during consultation

- ✓ Ever increasing scarcity of land resources for agricultural practices in the region has escalated the problem of encroachment for cultivation, grazing and settlement in and around area closures and rehabilitated watersheds in their respective regions.
- ✓ Intensive and frequent consultation with local community should be carried out prior to commencing the implementation of RLLP activities considering the prevailing context and challenges (e.g., over grazing).
- ✓ Watersheds and protected areas management plans preparation need to involve local communities on demarcation, restriction of access, use and alternative benefits to ensure sustainability and get broad community support.
- ✓ Strengthening and proper utilization of local institutions of natural resource access, use and conflict resolution would increase the viability of RLLP. This could include customary grazing land management system associated with well groups for drinking and livestock; political, governance and conflict resolution institution, traditional resource access and management system; seasonal pasture, water and shelter access and use management system; condemn illegal and non-acceptable community members' practices which helps in conserving RLLP investments.

- ✓ Community members stressed that lack of sufficient consultation and awareness creation on the basics of environment and natural resource management with the broader community during the implementation of RLLP could cause conflicts with communities and land owners on use and access right.
- ✓ Underserved, vulnerable groups and the landless having impoverished families and small land have little livelihood alternative to support their families.
- ✓ The RLLP intervention might further restrict access and supply of traditional energy sources, (i.e., fuel wood)
- ✓ Community members have concerns that RLLP related activities may take land, and/or property and reduce their access to natural resource without proper consultation, engagement and compensation.

7.4.Recommendations

- ✓ The success of RLLP implementation lies on giving due attention for consultation, participation and engagement of all stakeholders including local communities. Participants recommended continuous awareness raising programs on RLLP program objectives, watershed management and land use management.
- ✓ Devising alternative approaches (using income from RLLP to introduce diversified income generation schemes) to accommodate the emerging challenges of benefit sharing.
- ✓ Establishment of watershed user associations should be established and strengthened through continuous community consultation involving the whole communities, village leaders and community elders and other key persons to increase ownership, inclusiveness, avoid disappointment and ensure sustainability while garnering broad community support.
- ✓ Improve the supply and distribution network of improved stoves to the community.
- ✓ Improve marketing and value addition of the products in the RLLP intervention areas,
- ✓ RLLP successes in the enabling investment activities depend on establishing equitable benefit sharing mechanisms learning from already existing SLMP-2 activities. The process should be participatory, respect for the community ideas such as priorities before engaging in actual implementation
- ✓ The RLLP will use Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for any land acquisition to pay adequate compensation if displacement happens and will provide sustainable livelihood or income generating activities for Project Affected Persons (PAPs). The updated RPF has included a section on the management of access to and use of natural resources.

Consultation with community and woreda stakeholders Kayise and Tembel Kebele, South Ari woreda; SNNPR

Consultation with community members in, Tsen Tsalo Kebele, Assossa woreda, Benshangul Gumuz

8. Lessons Learned

The preparation of RLLP is informed by the lessons drawn from SLMP-I and SLMP-II and other similar initiatives implemented by the Ethiopian Government.

8.1. General

1. The demand-driven bottom-up approach adopted under SLMP-I and SLMP-II has proved relevant to natural resources management and local development in the rural context in Ethiopia. This development approach which enables communities to have a say in their affairs, determine priorities, actively participate in need identification, project planning, development and implementation is greatly valued by both beneficiary communities and local authorities. However, there still seems to be a great need for enhanced support in the areas of business development and planning, off-farm income generation, market information, and providing alternatives for the management of identified development problems.
2. The need to build sustainable institutions at grassroots level can never be overemphasized, since they are crucial for the delivery of service and the attainment of project objectives. Lessons from SLMP-I and SLMP-II show that the quality of project implementation and outcomes were highest where local implementation structures were established, nurtured, and sustained through targeted capacity building work, proper reward and incentive schemes. Moreover, the active engagement of *woreda* leadership in project management was found to be vital to the success of the project in many of SLMP-I & II *woredas*. However, frequent change of *woreda* leaders is a main challenge experienced. Hence, there is a serious need to create a system and institutional memory for effective knowledge generation and management by *woreda* leaders and sectoral office heads. It is also important to organize regular experience sharing visits between *woredas* to enable smooth transfer of knowledge and skills across project communities.
3. Sustainable land management should be considered an integral part of rural development, and a more holistic approach is needed to support livelihood development in rural communities. Rural households face various constraints to grow their income and make their livelihoods sustainable. The constraints include: lack of new ideas and knowledge on income generation; lack of access to new technologies; absence of value addition to increase the shelf life of products for better marketing; and limited access to production inputs and markets. Under SLMP-I, sufficient attention and financial resource were not devoted to promoting livelihood options and enhancing household income. Moreover, savings and credit schemes were not included in SLMP-I. There was improvement in SLMP-II and in RLLP more emphasis given to livelihood promotion, household income growth, and the investment of savings on productive activities.

8.2.Capacity development

The desire for implementing RLLP poses a number of challenges. If project activities intended to result in a positive impact on RLLP, it would be appropriate to consider not only technological options, but also actions that promote awareness, improve knowledge, land management skills and local planning procedures, support training and education, and enhance grassroots institutional development. The sum of this is to strengthen the human capabilities of the communities to make use of their own resources, skills, knowledge, and ability to work; their social capabilities about the relationships of organizations and groups within the community and political structure. Such capacity assessment, however, is important to carry out both at the time of needs assessment initially when RLLP is designed with the participation of the communities and during performance evaluation later at the time of project completion.

Based on this in most of the project sites, the issues of capacity development, opportunities and constraints should be analyzed at all levels of the project implementation structures, namely the grassroots, *woreda* and regional levels. For instance, in the case of Kola-tenben woreda at the grassroots level, the presence of DAs and other development teams, government arrangements like Watershed Teams and Watershed Committees, and other government structures enhanced the capacity of the project and thus contributed their part to the success of the project. In a similar manner, in Gambella Regional State, at grassroots level, the existing institutions that have been established for this purpose are the *Kebele* Watershed Team and Community's Watershed team. Similarly, in Benshangul-Gumuz National Regional state Bambasi Woreda grassroots institutions (CWT and KWT) actively coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the SLMP-2.

At *woreda* level, the Steering Committee (assembly of stakeholders) and the technical team experts from different stakeholder offices were the main sources of building capacity and opportunities to the success of the project.

In general, the coordination between the three level structures provided immense opportunities and created capacity for the project in the last five years. Despite the above efforts and contributions provided for the successful implementation with varying degree of seriousness, there is a challenge regarding experienced staff turnover of woreda technical committee members from their position, and workload of officials who are steering committee members. Moreover, although SLMP-II provided training, awareness raising, experience sharing visits, office and field equipment (computers, laptops, motor bicycles, etc.) to build the capacity of implementing woredas, there are still capacity constraints regarding office equipment and particularly related to field vehicles and motor bicycles, and limited authorization for budget reallocation.

8.3.Proper Utilization of the Social Capital in the Watersheds

In all RLLP implementing regions and woredas there are age old social capitals. Exploiting the long-established and in-built traditional institutions and practices is deemed important to enhance the implementation of the project. This social capital may take various forms such as: institutions of

self-help and mutual assistance, institutions of land and water resource use and management, land-related dispute settlement mechanisms and indigenous land use and conservation knowledge and practice. Capitalizing on these social resources is essential to bring about and maintain community involvement, which is the crucial element needed to institute RLLP firmly on the ground for broader and long-term strategic goals.

Traditional Mutual/Self-Help Institutions

Ethiopians have a strong tradition of helping one another and getting organized in mutual and self-help association of similar nature which are known by different names in various languages spoken in the country. These include, among others, *Iddir/Kire, Equb, Debo, Jiggie, Wofera, Wonfel Mahiber, dehe* and *Sera* (equivalent of *debo* and *Iddir*, respectively, among the Sidama), etc… which are the commonly used grassroots level indigenous mutual and self-help institutions. In many instances, an individual may be a member of two or more *Iddirs, mahibers,* or *Equbs,* depending on what means he/she has at his/her disposal to meet the minimum membership requirement and it, of course, widens one's social support network and greater chances of risk aversion or insurance against sickness and death of a family member. Self-help groups such as *iddir* and *kire* are institutions which their members fall back in times of distress for assistance in kind or cash. Thus, these institutions come to rescue those in need like the bereaved, the sick, the elderly, and the disabled, and may also be called on to assist in reconciling conflicts and differences. As for mutual assistance groups (*debo, jiggie, wofera, wonfel*), they are meant to serve as work parties to mobilize labor exchange and reciprocation during peak agricultural seasons and occasions of labor intensive work such as house and fence construction.

These indigenous institutions may be capitalized on to strengthen and expand RLLP activities. They play big role during SLMP-2 intervention such as in physical and biological soil and water conservation measures, livelihood activities, and rural land measurement and in other SLMP-2activities. They work on community mobilization, advising, settle grievances and passing information/messages to their constituencies to facilitate program implementation. There are also government introduced grassroots level organizations such as one to five, '*Yelimat buden' (*development group/unit), which is a group of 20 to 30 people depending on the settlement pattern and environmental condition of a given area.

Customary Land-related and other Dispute Settlement Institutions/Mechanisms

Land Administration and Use is one of the four components of RLLP. Customary institutions have traditionally played an important role in the settlement of disputes involving rural land in the catchment areas. The designation and composition of these customary/informal conflict mediation institutions may slightly vary between regions/catchments. Community trust and respect are crucial requirements that mediators must meet to be effective in land dispute settlement process. As the result, elders, family councils/trusted relatives, religious leaders, *idirs etc. have* won increased community acceptance and recognition in the settlement of land-related disputes. In fact, courts -

regular as well as quasi-formal refer disputants to these institutions to seek resolution for their disagreements in the first instance.

As shown by the results of the key informant interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) held with community members in the watersheds, vast proportions of land-related disputes find resolution in these institutions. This is attributed to the following perceived advantages of the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms:

i. Because of their trust and confidence in the indigenous dispute settlement institutions, disputants are by and large the ones who take the initiative to reach a settlement through these alternative mediation mechanisms. For this reason, they tend to consider themselves bound to respect the decisions of the mediators, whatever the outcome may be.
ii. Customary dispute resolution procedures minimize cost as well as time. In such cases, financial and other costs incurred as result of appeals forcing disputes to pass through all legal channels up to the highest level in the judicial system are avoided.
iii. These institutions contribute to the lessening of the burden on the judicial system by handling a vast portion of legal disputes which otherwise would have been seen in the regular courts.

Regarding this, there are customary land-related dispute settlement mechanisms throughout the country such as the council of elders of Angacha and Dega Damot *Woreda*, the *Gutern (composed of* community leaders, elders and religious leaders and handles all types of conflict*) of the Godareand Mengeshi woredas,* the *Jaarsumma* and *Guma* of Gubo Sayo and Dandi *weredas*, and the council of religious leaders in Qola Tenben *Woreda*, to mention a few. By considering the above-mentioned contribution of indigenous institutions in the targeted watersheds to smooth implementation of the project, SLMP-II made them part of grievance redress mechanism. These customary institutions and indigenous self-help institutions handle not only land related disputes but they handle any disagreement arising from the project implementation in targeted watersheds, on which RLLP will relay.

Indigenous Land Use and Conservation Knowledge and Practice

This study uncovered that the communities in and around the RLLP sites possess indigenous knowledge and practices that have contributed a lot to the businesses of their daily lives in general and to the success of the project in their respective areas. Accordingly, informants in Qola Tenben *Woreda* pointed out that they practiced indigenous knowledge of using land and conservation techniques. For instance, the community in this site discovered the importance of a plant locally known as 'Momona' (*Fihderbia albeda*) that they use for enhancing the fertility of the soil. Moreover, in the same community during the rainy season peasants used to dig small canals crossing their plots of farm called 'M*egedi wuhig'* (to protect their farms and soil from being eroded.

Similarly, in Assosa *Woreda* the community maintains local knowledge on how to conserve natural resources and multiple ways of using land for different purposes. Some of these indigenous

knowledge practices are terracing, gully rehabilitation, shifting cultivation, crop rotation, farm manuring and fallowing. For instance, in Assosa *Woreda,* the community employed indigenous land conservation method called *Gidad* which can be used to prevent water runoff and soil erosion.

Furthermore, in Godare and Mengashi *woredas* of Gambella Region indigenous land use and conservation knowledge and practices are widely used in SLMP-2 project. For instance, the Majang people have indigenous knowledge and institution in forestland management and forest protection. They have a local institution called the "*Jung*", for governing forestland distribution and ownership assurance among the community.

In addition, in the Dega Damot project site peasants use indigenous knowledge on communal grazing lands they use for a longer time and grazed by large number of livestock. They mentioned that from the beginning of June up to the first half of September they do not allow their livestock to openly graze on the whole area of such a land. Instead, they divide the grazing area into different sections and allow grazing on shift basis.

Similarly, the Gobu Sayo *Woreda* community has effective and time-tested knowledge and practices of replenishing soil fertility, erosion protection, and forest and tree management. However, the practice of using indigenous knowledge is gradually declining due to shortage of arable land and the subsequent effects of deforestation, land degradation, low fertility, and poor productivity.

By way of commenting on the potential contribution of the traditional land use and conservation practices to the SLMP project, one can argue that although the project does not contradict with these knowledge and practices, has not used during the last phases of the project life primarily because the project implementation relies on the written guidelines for implementation and evaluation. Therefore, RLLP should give due attention to strengthening and use of these types of indigenous knowledge practices for effective implementation of the project activities.

8.4.Cooperative Societies as a Vehicle for Enhanced Access to Marketing and Credit

Vibrant cooperative organizations are considered a vehicle for sustainable agricultural development which, in turn, closely correlates with sustainable land management. Higher productivity of smallholder farmers is an important goal of agricultural development which leads to the achievement of food security through increased food production and distribution. In the Ethiopian context where narrowing down the gap between food supply and demand is a high priority, increased agricultural production depends largely on raising the productivity of both the land and the farmers. In this process, farmers need to be supported to make small-scale investment on agriculture and improve the levels of their consumption.

Promoting cooperatives and organizing farmers under multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives is essential to mobilize resources scattered across individual households. Establishing marketing cooperatives is of paramount importance to farmers in facilitating market access for their products and maximizing their profits by avoiding their dependence on exploitative intermediaries. Marketing

cooperatives may be established at micro watershed level and serve the membership as conduits for the buying and selling of inputs and outputs. For instance, in Menz Mama woreda of Amhara region, the communities involved in barley production market linkage was established with Dashen brewery, and members expressed their satisfaction as they are selling their produce with better price than local market.

Saving and credit cooperatives can be instrumental in enabling smallholder farmers in the watersheds to cope with seasonal financial constraints that are common in the rural areas. The objective of these cooperatives is to pool idle and sterile money held by potential cooperative members and invest it on improving production and productivity. However, the aim of such cooperatives goes beyond the removal of financial constraints that smallholder farmers may experience. The provision of credit facilitates conditions for the adoption of new farm technologies. Along with saving and credit cooperatives, micro finance institutions meant to cater for agricultural service cooperatives in the watersheds can contribute to the success of RLLP initiatives. Hence, although banks are known to play a big role in providing loans, it is important to increase the availability of credit through the expansion of micro finance institutions, because of their flexibility and responsiveness to the needs and circumstances of the local population. In Amhara region, watershed user association plays a vital role on watershed management and administering revolving fund by transferring from SLMP-II to community and collecting repayment from community and passing to the next targeted beneficiary.

The Amhara Credit and Saving Institutions try to address economic needs of women by providing loan to female-headed households. Nonetheless, due to the subsistence nature of agricultural production, borrowers often fail to pay their debts. The existing economic and community organizations such as Watershed Users Association, Oromia Saving and Credit Association, and Farmers' cooperatives (providing fertilizer and pesticides) that were put in place by the government are meant to address both men's and women's economic problems and needs equally. In practice, however, men are making use of the lion's share of the services and the prevailing stiff competition over loan has reduced women's chance to address their economic concerns.

Thus, informal credit establishments have a large part to play in promoting sustained production through sustainable land management. As a result, these establishments offer practical benefits to smallholder farmers, as well as to women, youths, and artisans (potters, weavers, tanners) in the catchments. In many of the previously launched project sites, there are different economic organizations that are intended to alleviate economic problems of women. For instance, in Enbese Sarmidir and Dega Damot *woredas, 'Equb'* (rotating credit association) is the main indigenous economic institution through which women in the area support each other. Other institutions such as the '*Mahiber'*, '*Iddirs' and 'Senbete'* are essentially intended to address social matters, they also have some economic functions by helping members who face certain economic difficulties.

In Dandi and Gobu Sayo *woredas,* the efforts made by the Women Affairs Offices to organize women in self-help groups through personal savings and linkage to saving and credit associations

were not successful. However, in Dandi *Woreda* a local NGO called *HUNDEE: Oromo Grassroots Development Initiatives* organizes women into small and micro-groups, initiates own savings and finally provides seed money depending on accumulated capital from their own savings and strength of the groups and their leadership. In addition, it provides heifer for the poorest of the poor women through traditional '*dabaree' (*literally, taking turns*)* system. When this heifer gives birth to a female, it is transferred to another poor woman in their locality.

In Hawassa Zuria *Woreda,* there is a *Bulchitu* Women's Association, which engages in the production and marketing of basketry works to address the concerns of its members. This association produces handicrafts made of silk-thread and sell them in the *woreda* capital, Dore Bafana. In SNNP Omo microfinance institution provides saving and credit services including agricultural inputs for female and male farmers and, youth at coop, self-help group and individual level too with group collateral approach.

Benshangul-Gumuz region similarly in all woredas, Benshangul-Gumuz microfinance institution serves by providing saving and credit to address financial/economic constraints for rural and urban women and other community groups.

Moreover, SLMP-2 project provided input for IGA both in SHG and on individual bases as seed money. According to the finding of stakeholder discussion held in January 2018 at Beshofitu this has facilitated the saving habit of the community.

8.5.Women's involvement in the project

While the paragraphs below summarize the implementation experience of SLMP-2 on benefiting women, an independent gender assessment is being undertaken to define RLLP gender approach, inform the design of RLLP and develop an action plan to address the issues and concerns identified in the study.

The rationale behind considering of gender issues in this project is that men and women not only play different roles in society with distinct levels of control over resources, but they often have different needs too. It is, therefore, important to treat gender issues as an integrated development strategy to reverse natural resource depletion in general, and combat land degradation. Thus, to address gender inequalities, it is of crucial to consider the particular needs of women in the framework of sustained land management promotion.

In response to this situation, it is intended to mainstream gender into the Sustainable Land Management project. In SLMP-2 women and men were actively participating in physical and biological soil and water conservation (SWC) activities on communal and individual lands and other project interventions.

The field data collected was consistent in showing active role of women in the SLMP-2 activities, both in the planning and implementation processes. In Angacha *Woreda* of SNNPR, the focal person

of the *woreda* asserted that the main target of the project was to empower the people of the district in general and the most vulnerable women. As a result, the project incorporated 30 percent of women of the target *kebeles*. Married, widowed and divorced women were involved in the SLMP-2 project of the *Woreda* and have become active participants from the beginning through implementation. Other interviewed women informants not only concurred with the view of the focal person, but emphasized that they have been benefitting from the project on equal basis with men participants of the project.

Similarly, women in the Qola Tenben SLMP-2 project areas are also encouraged to play an active role in the scheme's endeavors in their locality at the *tabia*, and sub- *tabia* (*qushet*) levels. In this project area, women have a say via their representatives in the steering committees of the SLMP-2. Similarly, in the project site of Assosa, like men, women were consulted both prior to the introduction of the project and during the implementation process. For instance, in Assosa SLMP-2 the project lends money for women who use it to fatten sheep, goats and produce crop and vegetables. Moreover, women, like their men counterparts, actively take part in conserving lands that are brought under communal use for which they are paid as incentive. In relation to this, women's decision-making power is said to have been enhanced at the household because they become economically independent. Male and female community members in Bambasi woreda said that women's decision making at household level improved immensely; they said, "we are exercising joint decision making". Male farmers responded that deciding by male alone became a long history. Women are involved in leadership positions in grassroots community structures like CWT and women members in CWT are 40 percent in the region.

From households who have received second level land holding certificates in targeted watersheds,68% of them are women who have received certificates individually or jointly with their husbands.

From people participating in income generating activities supported by the program, 38% of them are female. Moreover, out of total households who had been using at least three technology packages supported by the project on individual lands, 30% of them are female headed households.

8.6.Non/off farm employment

The dominant agricultural enterprises in Ethiopia in all agro-ecological zones are small-scale farms in the highlands and livestock rearing in the lowlands. Although agriculture remains the primary occupation for most of the working population in rural Ethiopia, the non/off-farm employment sector also makes considerable contributions to the income base of rural households in the country. Accordingly, non/off-farm participation rates in overall non-farm enterprises (NFEs) are on the rise.

An enabling policy environment is also a very important factor for non/off-farm development. The Government of Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan incorporates NFE development in its strategy: "In addition, those who have very small plots and landless youth and women will be encouraged to engage in non-farm income generating activities with adequate support in terms of

preparing packages, provision of skill and business management trainings, provision of credit and facilitating markets, so that they can ensure their food security".

The predominance of agriculture as a livelihood system for the rural population in Ethiopia has continued to exacerbate land degradation and the depletion of the natural resources, including forest reserves. In addition, high population growth rates in the rural areas are beyond the level where agriculture can any longer absorb the expanding workforce. Livelihood opportunities related to or outside of the agricultural sector are so limited that they can at best employ only a small fraction of the excess workforce. The implication of this phenomenon is that limited availability of livelihood options other than farming and the consequent reliance on natural resources results in further degradation. It is also worth noting that, even with intensification, agriculture cannot be expected to absorb the growing number of the rural unemployed and underemployed women and youths. In this context, non/off-farm employment enterprise development presents itself as an indispensable alternative for the alleviation of the situation. Besides absorbing part, the growing rural workforce, non/off-farm employment contributes to household income growth, thereby reducing the pressure on land and enhancing SLM.

Relevant research suggests that the non/off-farm component in the livelihood portfolio of the rural poor needs to be developed and expanded as a strategy to diversify income sources other than agriculture. This has a direct implication for SLM. One of the main way to ease pressure on land is by reducing action/dependence on it. In this respect, non/off-farm employment development not only contributes to the diversification of income streams, but it provides farmers with the resources they need to improve farm productivity and ensure livelihood sustainability.

In view of this, non-farm activities that produce agricultural inputs (micro and small-scale rural enterprises putting out farm tools and accessories), that process agricultural outputs for domestic consumption and export, and that manufacture handicrafts produced for urban and foreign markets can contribute significantly to rural income diversification and investment potential towards realizing RLLP objective.

Social assessment in the sample watersheds shows that people in the catchments are engaged in non/off-farm activities such as grain milling, tannery, weaving, basketry, blacksmithing, petty trade, cart transport, supply of construction materials like sand and stone, sale of local drinks like '*Tella'* and '*Arake'* (home-made beer and liquor, respectively), and agriculture-based income generating activities (beekeeping, animal fattening, poultry, fodder/forage development). Being labor intensive, these non/off-farm activities can be supported and nurtured to generate employment, income, skill transfers, goods and services, as well as reducing income disparities among the rural population.

Concerted effort must, therefore, be made to foster the development of off/non-farm enterprises through rural employment programs. In this regard, RLLP encompasses a program sub-component on "Income Opportunities and Resilient Livelihoods". The main objective of this sub-component is to expand livelihood opportunities in the selected watersheds through income generation and value

addition, value chain development and product marketing, livestock improvement, fodder/forage development, food and income diversification,

With the view to fostering non/off-farm enterprise development, it is vital to undertake capacity building work aimed at developing the skills and awareness of the rural population in RLLP relevant areas. In this regard, the provision of applied skill trainings to people in the watersheds, especially women and youths, will expand their marketable skill sets and job opportunities. The trainings will increase their awareness of private sector opportunities, enhance their business management know-how and operational competence and encourage them to take calculated risks to embark on non-farm activities as self-employed entrepreneurs, thereby improving their income earnings and quality of life.

Successful involvement in non/off-farm activities can further be fostered through expanded access to financial support in the form of credit to community members in the catchments. There is a need to make sure that the credit supply is dynamic, flexible and responsive to the needs and circumstances of individual and group borrowers. This helps to encourage small-scale entrepreneurs to invest time and money in new non/off-farm opportunities.

Institutional innovation is another important way to boost non/off-farm enterprise development by creating access to benefits for those engaged in such activities. The establishment of producers and marketing cooperatives is one of the ways to make this happen. Included among the advantages of cooperatives are lower transaction cost of inputs and outputs, improved product grades and standards, and higher bargaining power of producers over prices. Moreover, efforts should be in placed as strategy to make a market linkage to foster implementation of on/off /nonfarm activity.

Encouraging value addition is an important aspect of non/off-farm enterprise development. This involves enabling entrepreneurs to add value to raw products by transforming them into semi-processed or fully processed goods. There are ample opportunities for entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture-related non-farm activities to add such value to produces of agricultural origin. Value adding activities offer multiple advantages in the form of better quality products and services, longer shelf life of products, stronger bargaining power of producers, and increased market demand among quality conscious prospective consumers. Not least, value addition is also crucial to the creation and expansion of employment and income opportunities.

9. Potential Risks and Mitigating Measures

9.1.Anticipated Risks

The government has embarked on the adoption of a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, launched in Durban in December 2011. The CRGE strategy proposes the attainment of a carbon neutral economy by 2025. However, there could be a backlash if the country fails to successfully promote the agenda in the medium-term.

The capacity to coordinate, facilitate, and implement SLMP-2 related activities may be reasonably adequate at federal and regional levels. This is, however, thought to be lacking at *woreda* and grassroots levels. The deficiencies are related to monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge generation and management, among others. The risk is aggravated by frequent staff turnovers because of structural change. For example, institutional arrangement assessment of SLMP-II was conducted for the preparation of RLLP and the team observed that there is readiness, willingness and commitment from WTC members. The major challenge faced by the project is turnover of Technical Committee members as they shifted to other work processes due to structural change: the visiting team also observed the problem that except the woreda focal person, all other members of the woreda technical committee are new. Moreover, most of Woreda and regional steering committee members are new.

9.2. Mitigating Measures

RLLP is planned to finance community infrastructure development and income generating activities as one part of the Investment in green infrastructure for resilient watershed component of the Project, which is expected to result in the reduction of land degradation at the community level. The project design involves community mobilization and consultation as strategies to sensitize affected communities on how to collaborate closely with engineers and other technical personnel who play the main role in the execution of specific RLLP activities. It is anticipated that community mobilizations and consultations contributes to promoting community trust and reducing skepticism particularly during the initial stage of the project, which is a key factor in ensuring community participation.

The project also incorporates capacity development and institutional strengthening activities for relevant stakeholders: public sector organization, academia and research institutions, rural communities and smallholder farmers in the areas of sustainable watershed management and protection, land and water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate smart agricultural activities. These stakeholders are thus expected to become well-informed about participatory approach and take an active part in project implementation. Moreover, they will be able to play a role in making sure that beneficiaries of the project as well as those affected by are aware of the impacts and implications of the project. Participatory methods are known to facilitate community mobilization and involvement in contributing toward effective project management all the way through the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases. RLLP will create a

system and institutional memory for effective knowledge generation and management by woreda leaders, sectoral office heads and experts. It is also important to organize regular experience sharing visits between woredas to enable smooth transfer of knowledge and skills across project communities.

Lessons learned from SLMP-I and SLMP-II suggest that livelihood improvement activities are crucially important to sustainable land management for the benefit of target communities. Accordingly, RLLP will be designed to incorporate livelihood activities in a manner that is adapted to local condition of project communities, to assist them practice income generating activities in environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. This social assessment is conducted to use the output in making the project responsive to social development concerns and will contribute toward directing project benefits to poor and vulnerable groups while mitigating risks and adverse impacts. While efforts were exerted to assess the implementation experience of SLMP-2 in benefiting women, an independent gender assessment is being undertaken to define RLLP gender approach, inform the design of RLLP and develop an action plan to address the issues and concerns identified in the study.

10. Possible Risks, Challenges and Mitigation Measures

This section aims to achieve two things. First, to briefly summarize the potential implementation risks and challenges, and second, propose the way forward to mitigate those risks and address the identified challenges. The table below presents a summary of possible risks, challenges and mitigation measures related to RLLP by Project component.

. Table 7: Possible risks, challenges and mitigation measures related to RLLP by Project component

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
Component 1: Investment in green infrastructure for resilient watershed	• Focus on supporting smallholder farmers to scale up and adopt best-fit sustainable land and water management technologies and practices. Hence there is a possible risk/challenge of not properly addressing the circumstances of people such as hunters and gatherers, who peruse peculiar livelihood systems and natural resource management strategies	• Device a mechanism to include ''hunters and gatherers" livelihood strategies into the RLLP activities. For example, traditional beekeeping though largely takes the form of forest honey collection, can be integrated into the RLLP activities with an injection of modern knowledge and technology based on their demand such as beekeeping technology as the latter is more productive, sustainable and environmentally and appropriate for women to manage.	MoALR-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated in to component 1.3
	• The creation of benefit streams through markets and other market based instruments like results-based payments involve the risk /challenge of not properly considering the elderly, people with disability and poor members of the community	• It is recommended that the project through consultation with the beneficiary communities, devise possible mechanisms on how to make the old, the sick and people with disability benefit from the project even when they might not afford to contribute either labor or cash to the project implementation. For example, the elderly people can be used as advisors, people with disability as time keeper, etc.	MoALR-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated in to component 1.1
	• Watershed community saving is part of the project activities that helps Users' Groups who voluntarily organize themselves to engage in IGA suitable to	• The project should devise a mechanism (e.g., interest free loan, for those who cannot involve in the regular scheme) by which watershed	MoALR-PCU	

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
	their respective environment. In principle membership is open to all members, but the minimum cash contribution and active participation requirement to run the IGA leaves out some members of the community who could not afford. This involves the risk of further disadvantaging the vulnerable groups.	community members who are likely to be left out due to the inability to meet the minimum membership requirement can also benefit from the scheme. • For vulnerable and historically underserved communities unable to join cooperatives due to inability to pay the registration fee should be supported through flexible local level solutions such as means-test-based exemption of registration fee; allowing them raise registration fee from project activities; keeping the registration fee as low as much lower as the poorest of the poor can afford; and by introducing installment based payment		
	• Female household heads may face the risk of not benefiting from the Project in equal measure with male counterparts because of not being able to balance their domestic responsibilities with their project-related role in the treatment of communal lands.	• Especial support needs to be provided to women playing the dual role of mothers and household heads, and active participation in the Project with male community members. Arrangements may be made in consultations with watershed committees in this respect. Suggested ways to help them balance their competing responsibilities may be allowing them to a certain number of hours or days off from the minimum required time of labor contribution to the Project.	MoALR-PCU	More measures are identified in the gender action plan.

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
Component 2: Strengthening institutions & information modernization	• Lessons learned from SLMP II show that inadequate attention to the use of locally available indigenous knowledge systems and time-tested adaptation strategies can undermine the potential positive roles	• It is highly recommended that locally available social capital such as traditional and indigenous knowledge of land use and natural resources conservation practices, conflict resolution for effective implementation of project activities to facilitate and speed up the implementation	MoALR-PCU	The required budget will be covered from Component 1 and 2
Component 3: Land administration and use	• The implementation of land administration and certification should not be based on wholesale or universal application in all project woredas. This is because population groups in the historically underserved project woredas exercise livelihood strategies that require peculiar landholding and land use arrangements from those of smallholder farming communities. However, implementing the component without due regard for these peculiarities may entail a risk that interferes with smooth project implementation.	• Care needs to be exercised to make sure that the land administration and use of the project is not implemented on wholesale basis in all project woreda, and instead considers the unique landholding and land use characteristics of the historically underserved population groups in the developing regional states	MoANR-PSU	The required budget will be covered from Component 3
	• As previous experience shows, there is also the risk of female household heads losing their land that they have leased to sharecroppers, who can register the plots in their name for certification against the terms of the sharecropping agreements.	• The Project should consider consolidating grassroots institutions such as rural land dispute adjudication and grievance redress structures. Strengthening such establishments plays an important role in making sure that women who lease their land in sharecropping arrangements will not	MoALR-PSU	Component 3 and ESMF capacity building budget

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
		unfairly lose their landholding rights because of the breach of agreements in the land registration and certification process.		

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Checklist for community consultation Social Assessment

Checklist for discussion with Woreda Experts and kebele DAs

1. What are the social and cultural features that differentiate social groups in the project area? What are their effects on the different social groups?

2. What capacity constraints/limitations are evident on the part of the target communities that may result in minimal participation in the project and not benefiting from it?

3. Who are the key stakeholders of this project? How may these groups and the project affect each other in the course of project implementation?

4. What social mobilization strategies were adopted to galvanize community support and involvement?

5. What grievance procedures exist for individuals/groups to express their complaints? Are these procedures/mechanisms effective? If yes, in what way? What are the strengths and constraints of the grievance procedures?

6. Grass root local institutions in the catchment:

   6.1 What farmer organizations exist in the catchment? Do they exercise collective power to negotiate or influence the project towards their needs and interests? If yes, in what ways?

   6.2 What traditional institutions of land/resource/water management exist in the catchment?
   - How do these contribute to the project?
   - How does the project make use of such structures?

   6.3 What traditional land-related dispute settlement institutions/mechanisms exist in the catchment?
   - How do you see their role in addressing complaints that might arise in relation to the project (in the event of land acquisition, border disputes)?

   6.4 What traditional social dispute settlement institutions/mechanisms exist in the catchment?

- How do you see their role in addressing complaints that might arise in relation to the project (in the event of involvement/targeting/ benefit share)?

6.5 What traditional land use and conservation knowledge and practice exist in the catchment?

- How does the project utilize such resources?

6.6 What traditional institutions/self-help groups/mutual aid associations/and work parties exist and function in the catchment with direct or indirect role/involvement in the project?

- In what ways do they influence the project (Probe for possible positive and negative impact)?

7. Are there any known conflicts among different groups that may affect project implementation?

- If yes, what possible mechanisms can be used to address the problem?

Checklist for discussion with Woreda and Kebele structures Officials

1.Who are the most vulnerable and underserved groups in the SLMP *Woreda*? (Probe for the poor; the poorest of the poor; women and children; the elderly; the disabled; female-headed households; youth; underserved ethnic groups)

2.Do you think the project is inclusive and equitably supportive of vulnerable and underserved populations?

- If yes, how so?
- If no, why so?
- What special measures will be taken to promote equitable access to project benefits?

3.What level of capacity and facilities exist in grassroots government structures to support project implementation?

- In what ways can low capacity and poor facilities contribute to further marginalize and exacerbate dependency of vulnerable groups?

4.What mechanisms/methods were employed to enhance community participation?

5.What relevant grassroots (catchment/watershed) structures are in place whereby the community articulates its needs and concerns regarding the project?

6.What types of non-farm activities (agriculture-related/non-agricultural) carried out in the catchment? Who are engaged in such activities?

7.What will be the socially relevant results of the project (Probe for poverty reduction, equity and inclusion, strengthening of social capital and social cohesion)?

8.What will the possible risks and adverse impacts of the project? How are especially the vulnerable and underserved groups affected by these risks?

9.What risk mitigation/minimization measures will devised to deal with such anticipated adverse impacts?

10. What project-induced consequences are anticipated to affect the local population (Probe for displacement, loss of land and other assets)?

11. What compensation/resettlement measures are designed in case of these consequences?

12. What mechanisms exist for obtaining feedback from the grassroots communities on the benefits and drawbacks of the program?

13. What type of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system is in place? What are the strengths and constraints of the M&E system?

14. What are the challenges and lessons learned from the implementation of Phase I?

Checklist for discussion with community Groups (elders, women, youth, poor, and other underserved people)

1. Are there community groups who will be adversely affected by the project activities?
- If yes, who are these community groups?
- In what ways are they adversely affected?
- In your opinion, what are the best ways to address the adverse impacts?

2. Are there community groups who will be particularly benefiting from project activities?
- If yes, who are these community groups?
- In what ways are they particularly benefiting /positively affected?

3. Were communities consulted about the project?
- What was the process followed?
- Was their consent secured? If yes, in what way?
- How did the vulnerable and underserved groups participate in the project?

4. In what way will women involve in the project?

- Do they benefit from program activities?
- If yes, how?
- If No, are they at a disadvantage as a result of the project?
- If yes, how?
- In your opinion, what are the best ways to address the issues?

5. In what way will jobless youth and landless HHHs involved in the project?
- Do they benefit from program activities?
- If yes, how?
- If No, are they at a disadvantage as a result of the project?
- If yes, how?
- In your opinion, what are the best ways to address the issues?

6. What types of economic organizations are available in the catchment? (Saving and credit cooperatives, service cooperatives, microfinance institutions), especially for women, youth and the poor?
- How do these organizations link up with the project?

7. What will be the socially relevant results of the project (Probe for poverty reduction, equity and inclusion, strengthening of social capital and social cohesion)?

8. What will be the possible risks and adverse impacts of the project?
How are especially the vulnerable and underserved groups affected by these risks?

9. What risk mitigation/minimization measures will be devised to deal with such anticipated adverse impacts?

10. What project-induced consequences are anticipated to affect the local population (Probe for displacement, loss of land and other assets)?

11. What compensation/resettlement measures are designed in case of these consequences?

Annex 2. ATTENDANCE DURING CONSULTATION,

Farmer participants

Woreda: Hintalo Wajerat

Kebelle: Bahri Tseba

Moderator- Kiros G/Hiwot. sig. date: 08/04/2010

S-N	Name	sex	Age	Social status	Signature
1	Birhane Kiros	F	35		
2	Tenbere Beche	F	55	FHH	
3	Hadas Abreha	F	40	"	
4	Abera Mesele	M	28	Youth HH	
5	Abreha Hagos	M	28	Youth HH	
6	Redae W/Giorgis	M	55	MHH	
7	Silas Afeki	F	58	FHH	
8	H/Zewdi Abreha	M	58	MHH	
9	Hailu Gebrehet	M	52	MHH	
10	Gebre Kidan G/Yesus	M	40	"	
11	Girmay Hadas	M	42	"	
12	Haftom Kiros	M	33	Youth HH	
13	H/Gebr Amdu	M	50	MHH	
14	Kahsay Redae	M	25	Youth MHH	
15	Tekle Abreha	M	40		
16	Abadi Gebrema	F	44	FHH	
17	Ebay Asene	F	51	-	
18	Hagos Engda	M	64	MHH	
19	Gezae Mugusie	M	52	MHH	
20	Hagos Abreha	M	53	MHH	
21	Tsegay Haile	M	24	Youth	

No	Name	Sex	Age	Social status	Signature
22	Mek bebu Kiros	F	22	-	[signature]
23	A Senit Goyteom	F	30	FHH	[signature]
24	H/Abrha Beche	M	62	MHH.	[signature]

Kebelle Administration participants
Woreda: Hintalo Wajerat
Kebelle: Bahri Tseba
Moderator Kiros G/Liwet, sig [signature] date: 05/03/2010

S.N	Name	Sex	Age	Position	Signature
1	Birhanu Nigus	M	30	Manager	[signature]
2	Mehari Hidru	M	44	Farmer Coop	[signature]
3	Keshi Megus Haftom	M	29	Youth affairs	[signature]
4	Abeba W/gergis	F	46	Women assoc affairs	[signature]
5	Lemlem Tesfu	F	48	[illegible]	[signature]
6	Nigisti Asgedom	F	41	Women affairs	[signature]
7	Haleka Mekonen Gebredan	M	40	Youth Assoc	[signature]
8	Keshi Abrha G/Liwet	M	35	Kebelle Administrator	[signature]

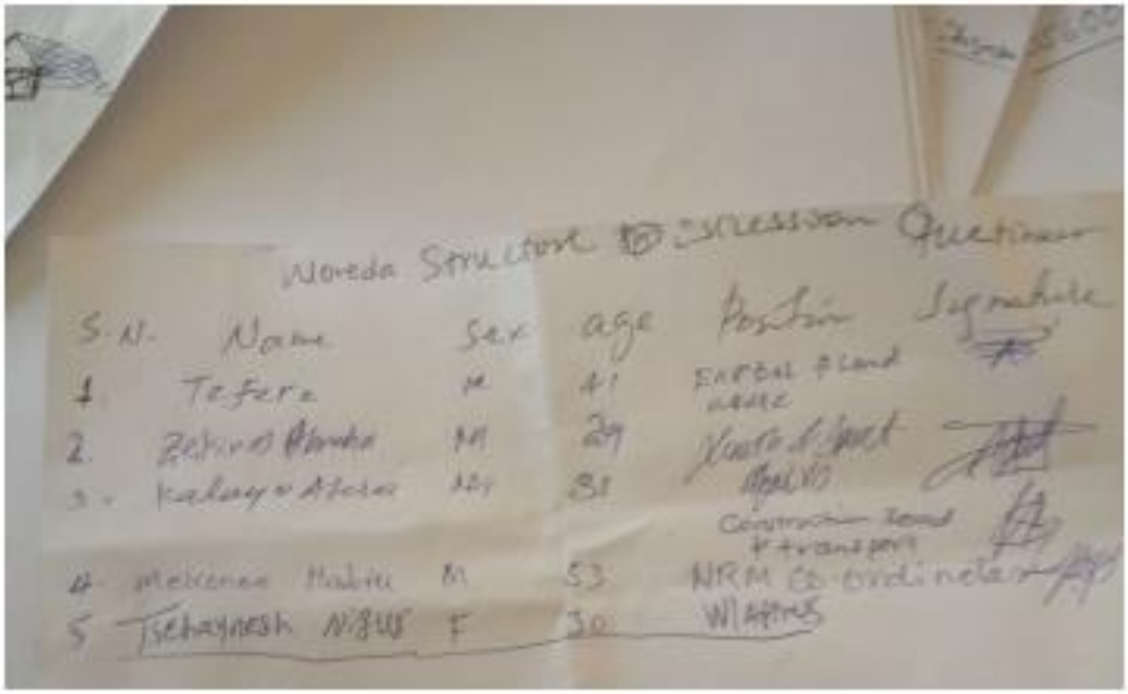
Experts and DA Participants

Woreda: Hintalo Wajerat

Kebelle: Bahri tseba

Moderator: Kiros Gthwaf Sig: [illegible] Date: 03/07/2010

S.N	Name	Sex	age	Position	Signature
1	Binzam Temlem	M	25	DA - NR	[illegible]
2	Stalem Kalayu	F	22	DA - H/K	[illegible]
3	Bokru Meresa	M	32	Woreda Sub expert	[illegible]
4	Daniel Girmal	M	33	Woreda Sub-Woreda [illegible]	[illegible]
5	Tesfay Beche	M	33	[illegible]	[illegible]
6					
7					



Woreda Structure Discussion Questioner

S.N.	Name	Sex	age	Position	Signature
1	Tefere	M	41	Earbal & land [illegible]	[illegible]
2	Zekiros [illegible]	M	29	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	Kalayu Atsiro	M	31	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Mekonen Habtu	M	53	Construction Road & transport NRM Co-ordinator	[illegible]
5	Tsehaynesh Nigus	F	30	W/Affairs	[illegible]

Farmer participants

Woreda: Saesie Tsaeda emba

Kebelle: Gula Abenia

Moderator: Kiros G/hiwot Sig. [signature] Date 15/07/2020

S.N	Name	Sex	Age	Social status	Signature
1.	Berhane G/mestel	M	35	Youth	[signature]
2.	Berhane Debalkan	M	38		[signature]
3.	Tesfay G/yohans	M	40		[signature]
4.	Haitay Abraha	M	37		[signature]
5.	Nigsti Kaila	F	35		[signature]
6.	Alemnesh Teka	F	70		[signature]
7.	Amele G[illegible]	F	50		[signature]
8.	Mulu Tekle	F	45		[signature]
9.	Tadelech Barak	F	30		[signature]
10	H/merian Arkeba	M	62		[signature]
11	Keshi Atsbha Araya	M	37		[signature]
12.	Keshi G/hiwot Desta	M	63		[signature]
13	Shwaynesh G/slasie	F	40		[signature]

Kebelle Administration participants
Woreda: Saesie tsaeda emba
Kebelle: Gula Abenia
Moderator: Kiros G/hiwot Sig. [illegible] Date: 15/07/2010

S.N	Name	Sex	Age	Position	Signature
1.	G/Mesie Abrha ( )	M	48	Vice kebelle chairman	[illegible]
2.	G/medhin K/maria	M	39	Youth affairs kebelle	[illegible]
3.	Kiflom Yirgaw	M	47	Kebelle chairperson	[illegible]
4.	G/michael lemlem	M	40	Youth affairs	[illegible]
5	Gidey Berhe	M	47	Chairman	[illegible]
6.	Elsa G/medhin	F	22	women assoc	[illegible]
7	Tsegaberhan W/gabriel	F	30	kebelle women affairs	[illegible]

Woreda Experts and DAs

Woreda: Saesie-Tsaeda Emba

Kebelle: Gula Abenea

Moderator: Kiros G/hiwot Sig: Date 14/04/2016

S.N	Name	Sex	age	Position	Signature
1.	Kibrom Desta	M	42	Woreda Crop prod. expert	
2.	H/selassie G/medhin	M	32	Woreda Secretary	
3.	H/selassie Berhane	M	23	Kebelle SSS	
4.	Hailay Hagos	M	21	Water supply	
5.	Tirhas Teofany	F	23	Kebelle Crop prod.	
6	Tiwonte G/michael	F	21	Kebelle livestock prod.	
7.					

Annex 3. ATTENDANCE DURING CONSULTATION, Amhara Region

Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

Region- Amhara Woreda West Gojam zone (Finote Selam)

Date of consultation 14/6/2010 E.C

Place of consultation Department of Agriculture (F/Selam

Time 4:00 – 6:30

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
1	Desie Sitotaw	F	31	Zone	Agroforestry	[signature]
2	Adella Adamu	M	41	Zone	Biological S&W.Co.Agro	[signature]
3	Minmuyelet Gobeyehu	M	37	Zone	NRM hand	[signature]
4	Yismaw Nurelegn	M	31	West Gojjam Zone	Soil & water Const	[signature]
5	Mothairor Addis	M	30	West Gojjam Zone	Gender Expert	[signature]
6	Animut Melaku	M	32	W/G/Zone	ESBA expert	[signature]
7	Yikeber Siraw	M	32	W/G/Zone	Agronomist	[signature]
8	Haile Admasie	M	32	W/G/Zone	Agronomist	[signature]
9	Sewalem Almaw	M	30	W/G/Zone	Soil & water Const expert	[signature]

Moderator: Name Ayana yehuala signature [signature] date 14/6/2010 E C

Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

Region- Amhara Woreda...Dangila.....

Date of consultation ....12/6/2010 E.C.....

Place of consultation ...Dube kebele.....

Time ...4:00 – 7:00.....

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
1	Dessalegn Tilahun	M	48	Dube kebele	leadership	[signature]
2	Achenefe Ayehew	M	36	Dube kebele	water shed committee	[signature]
3	mengeta mehamed menait	M	44	Dube kebele	yehayemanat abat	[signature]
4	Abunie Gefahum	F	40	Dube kebele	female	[signature]
5	Negistie wolie	F	30	Dube "	poor female	[signature]
6	Tadefotech Chanie	F	35	Dube "	female	[signature]
7	mamaye metik	F	25	Dube "	Arate guadalegna	[signature]
8	Desse Asferes	M	35	" "	Poor & poor	[signature]
9	Tesefa Dagnaw	M	45	" "	~~Arate~~ wotat ~~guadalegna~~	[signature]
10	Girma mekuriaw	M	57	" "	water shed committie	[signature]
11	Akenaw gashie	M	52	" "	yehager shemagrie	[signature]
12	Yemanes Atalaye	M	42	" "	W.S. Committie	[signature]
13	Abeie Dereso	M	68	" "	yehager shemagrie	[signature]
14	~~[illegible]~~ TAGELE GENET	M	38	" "	wotat	[signature]
15	Kese Agegnehu mengesha	M	27	" "	yehayemanat abat	[signature]

Moderator: Name Ayana yehuala signature [signature] date ...12/6/2010 E.C

Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

Region- Amhara Woreda...Anti zone.....

Date of consultation ..13/6/2010 E.C.....

Place of consultation ..Injibara Department of Agriculture

Time ....8:00 — 11:00.....

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
1	Yeshaneh Tarekegn	M	48	Injibara 02	Expert	[signature]
2	Addisu Shitu	M	26	" " 01	Expert	[signature]
3	Addisu Simachew	M	33	zone	focal	[signature]
4	Zelalem Abebe	M	51	zone	expert	[signature]
5	Yenesew Fekadu	M	48	zone	Expert	[signature]
6	Anlualem Ayichew	M	27	Injibara 02	Expert	[signature]

Moderator: Name Ayana yehuala.....signature.....[signature].....date ...13/6/2010 E.C

Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

Region- Amhara Woreda....Mecha (south mecha)

Date of consultation ...7/6/2010 E.C.....

Place of consultation ....Akromenor kebele.....

Time ...1:00 - 7:00.....

s/n	Name		sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	32	Almenor	[illegible]	[illegible]
2.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	35	>>	>>	[illegible]
3.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	36	>>	>>	[illegible]
4.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	28	>>	>>	[illegible]
5.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	35	>>	>>	[illegible]
6.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	35	>>	>>	[illegible]
7.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	40	>>	>>	[illegible]
8.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	47	>>	[illegible]	[illegible]
9.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	48	>>	>>	[illegible]
10.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	50	>>	>>	[illegible]
11.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	21	>>	[illegible]	[illegible]
12.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	30	>>	>>	[illegible]
13.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	34	>>	>>	[illegible]
14.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	33	>>	[illegible]	[illegible]
15.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	36	>>	>>	[illegible]
16.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	32	>>	>>	[illegible]
17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	36	>>	[illegible]	[illegible]
18.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	43	>>	[illegible]	[illegible]

Moderator: Name Ayana yehuala.....signature.....date ...7/6/2010 E.C

Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

Region- Amhara Woreda...South mecha.....

Date of consultation ...7/6/2010 E.C.....

Place of consultation ...Abo menor kebele.....

Time ...5:00 - 7:00.....

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
19.	[illegible]	♂	28	Almenor	[illegible]	
20.	[illegible]	♂	35	>>	>>	
21.	[illegible]	♂	37	>>	>>	
22.	[illegible]	♂	40	>>	>>	
23.	[illegible]	♂	52	>>	>>	
24.	[illegible]	♂	45	>>	>>	
25.	[illegible]	♂	53	>>	[illegible]	
26.	[illegible]	♂	45	>>	[illegible]	
27.	[illegible]	♂	49	>>	[illegible]	
28.	[illegible]	♂	25	>>	[illegible]	
29.	[illegible]	♂	25	>>	[illegible]	
30.	[illegible]	♂	24	>>	[illegible]	
31.	[illegible]	♂	41	>>	[illegible]	
32.	[illegible]	♂	45	>>	[illegible]	
33.	[illegible]	♂	50	>>	[illegible]	
34.	[illegible]	♂	55	>>	>>	
35.	[illegible]	♂	52	>>	>>	
36.	[illegible]	♂	48	>>	[illegible]	

Moderator: Name [illegible]...signature.....date ...7/6/2010 E.C

Annex 4. ATTENDANCE DURING CONSULTATION, Benishangul gumuz Region

Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet

Region – Benishangul
Woreda – [illegible]
Kebele – [illegible]
Micro watershed – [illegible]
Consulted HH – [illegible]

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1	[illegible]	M	57	[illegible]	
2	[illegible]	M	26	[illegible]	
3	[illegible]	M	20	[illegible]	
4	[illegible]	M	45	[illegible]	
5	[illegible]	M	34	[illegible]	
6	[illegible]	M	29	[illegible]	
7	[illegible]	M	38	[illegible]	
8	[illegible]	F	32	[illegible]	

Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet

Region ---[illegible]---
Woreda ---[illegible]---
Kebele ---[illegible]---
Micro watershed ---------
Name of consulted groups ---[illegible] [illegible]

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	42	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
3	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
5	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
6	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
7	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
9	[illegible]	[illegible]	37	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]

Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet

Region [illegible]
Woreda [illegible]
Kebele [illegible]
Micro watershed ----------
Name of consulted groups [illegible]

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1	[illegible]	ወንድ	35		
2	〃 [illegible]	〃	55		
3	[illegible]	ሴት	30		
4	[illegible]	ወንድ	28		
5	〃 [illegible]	〃	32		

Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet

Region B.G
Woreda Dibati
Kebele [illegible]
Micro watershed ----------
Name of consulted groups [illegible]

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1	[illegible]	M	38	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	[illegible]	M	34	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	[illegible]
5	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	[illegible]
6	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	[illegible]
7	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	F		[illegible]	[illegible]
9	[illegible]	F		[illegible]	[illegible]
10	[illegible]	F		"	[illegible]
11	[illegible]	F		"	[illegible]
12	[illegible]	F		"	[illegible]

Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet

Region ---
Woreda ---
Kebele ---
Micro watershed ---
Name of consulted groups ---

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1		M	58		
2		M	20		
3		M	70		
4		M	18		
5		M	30		
6		M	23		
7		M	60		
8		M	30		
9		M	44		
10		M	40		
11		M	32		
12		M	35		

Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet

Region BG
Woreda Yaso
Kebele Ayano
Micro watershed ---------- (Gumuza Ethinic Group)

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
2	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
3	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
4	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
5	[illegible]	M			
6	[illegible]	M			
7	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
8	[illegible]	M			
9	[illegible]	M			
10	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
11	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
12	[illegible]	M			
13	[illegible]	M			
14	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
15	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
16	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
17	[illegible]	M		"	
18	[illegible]	M		"	
19	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
20	[illegible]	M		[illegible]	
21	[illegible]	M		"	
22	[illegible]	M		"	
23	[illegible]	M		"	
24	[illegible]	M		"	
25	[illegible]	M		"	
26	[illegible]	M		"	
27	[illegible]	M		"	
28	[illegible]	M		"	
29	[illegible]	M			
30	[illegible]	M			
31	[illegible]	M			

Sample pictures

Community consultation/Benshangul Gumuz Region

Community consultation/Benshangul Gumuz Region