

Our Voice

Newsletter, 9th Edition, Jan. - Dec, 2014

47th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
LIMA COP20 CMP10



Also in this issue:

- Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum Strengthened
- Multi-sectoral Management Regimes Piloted in Ethiopia's Protected Areas
- Interview Dr Doreen Othero from the Lake Victoria Basin Commission



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Director's Note

Dear PHE Ethiopia Consortium members and partners,

I am very pleased to introduce the 2014 Newsletter of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium. This issue provides an overview of important activities, news and achievements by the Consortium from January to December 2014.

In March 2014 the Consortium held its 8th General Assembly with participants encompassing senior government officials, member organizations, partners, donors and other stakeholders. During the assembly the State Minister of Environment, H.E. Ato Kare Chaweche acknowledged the important role of PHE EC and its partners in bringing an integrated multi-sectoral approach in the country.

Our activities in 2014 included the continuation and initiation of a number of key projects. These included a project to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, and improve community well-being within the Bale Eco-Region, strengthening reproductive health and family planning interventions through PHE integration in Western Ormonia and a project to create networks and build capacity in the Yayu Biosphere Reserve. In addition, the Consortium led the consolidation of new multi-sectoral Protected Areas management regimes in the Simien and Awash National Park.

The Consortium also maintained its active involvement in international engagements including participation at the 47th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development in New York and the COP20 meeting in Lima, Peru.

Another important milestone in 2014 was the strengthening of the Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum, which will provide a collaborative platform for the charities and societies organizations of Ethiopia to engage with government.

As usual the Consortium orchestrated a number of training and capacity building events for its members and partners. A key focus in 2014 was on improving communications with policy-makers to ensure that PHE implementers are able to effectively engage with government. In addition, staff from the Consortium attended international training on maternal and child mortality at Flinders University in South Australia and women's leadership for family planning and reproductive health in Nairobi, Kenya.

Finally, the Consortium also commenced the development of a strategic plan to guide our work from 2015-2020. The new strategic plan will seek to build upon the successes and addresses the remaining challenges from the previous strategic plan, in order to realize our vision for an Ethiopia with healthy people, balanced population growth, sustainable livelihoods, and resilient ecosystems.

Negash Teklu
Excutive Director
PHE Ethiopia Consortium



47th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development



At the United Nations Headquarters in New York the 47th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development was held from 7 to 11 April 2014. PHE Ethiopia participated in this important session represented by its Executive Director, Negash Teklu.

The session was organized as part of the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action agreed upon at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994 (ICPD PoA).

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was a milestone in the history of population and development, as well as in the history of women's rights. At the conference the world agreed that population is not just about counting people, but about making sure that every person counts.

The session brought together more than 250 representatives of governmental authorities, academia, and civil society organizations, as well as members of national parliaments and other national and international stakeholders. The review aimed to assess progress and achievements made towards the goals set out in the landmark ICPD,

when 179 governments committed to a 20-year Programme of Action to deliver human rights-based development.

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Review was an opportunity to influence the future of global population and development policy at national, regional and global levels.

It provided a once in a generation chance to define what needs to be done to deliver a more equal, more sustainable world for the above 7 billion people - and more - who share it.

Evidence on successes and challenges was collected from governments, civil society organizations and partners using the ICPD Global Survey, civil society consultations and a series of thematic conferences.

The session also made recommendations on future policy actions, synergies with the post-2015 UN Development agenda, and on how to effectively place the rights, gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as of adolescents and youth, at the core of sustainable development.

**Outcome of the 47th CPD:
A struggle for Sexual Rights**

Throughout the week, many governments expressed strong support for advancing the human rights of all to control all aspects of their sexual rights. In addition, some governments explicitly called for action to end discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. These calls build on similar agreements made during regional reviews of ICPD in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific in 2013.

Despite the fact that African governments affirmed sexual rights in a regional Ministerial agreement on ICPD Beyond 2014 in October 2013, many African delegations refused to accept inclusion of the term in the global agreement. Nevertheless, the support for sexual rights expressed in the room was unprecedented, and marked an historical moment in the ongoing struggle for universal human rights.

While some delegates spent the night sleeping on their desk, others worked hard behind closed doors to keep strong language in the final outcome document. The end result was a clear trade-off whereby reference to sexual rights was removed from PP16, a sovereignty clause was included (OP2), and recognition of the regional reviews

was weakened (OP17). The document was finally accepted at about 6 am on Saturday morning.

The massive support from such an incredibly diverse group of countries

for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and all the topics that it includes (comprehensive sexuality education, safe and legal abortion, access to contraceptives, eliminating gender based violence, sexual

orientation and gender identity) is unprecedented. It's now time to fully focus on the new development framework that is to come after 2015. No time to rest on our laurels. ■

Lima COP20 Expectations and Results: What is needed heading to Paris?



Participants at the conference

From 1 to 14 December 2014 the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP10) was held in Lima, Peru. The primary objective of the Lima event was to prepare for the next annual conference to be held in Paris in December 2015, which is supposed to deliver a comprehensive climate agreement according to the Durban Platform formulated in 2011.

Background to the COP20

The UNFCCC includes 196 Parties, and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC Parties. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

As the result of a compromise

reached at the 2011 COP17 in Durban, two “workstreams” were established for climate change negotiations. Under the first workstream developing countries agreed to negotiate a new “comprehensive” climate agreement under the UNFCCC to take effect after 2020. This agreement differed from the Kyoto Protocol in that it would entail contributions by all countries not only industrialized countries, varying only in their content but not in their legal form. While under the second workstream, industrialized countries agreed to negotiations on how to increase the ambition of their own mitigation commitments for the time before 2020.

The Warsaw conference in 2013 (COP19) also decided that countries should submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), i.e. their emission reduction targets, to the Paris agreement early in 2015. In addition, the Lima conference was supposed to develop a first draft of a negotiating text for the new climate change agreement.

Successes of Lima

The Lima Call stipulates that there may be no regressing by countries and that their contributions to the Paris agreement need to go beyond their current commitments. As so often in the past, the decision finally adopted by the conference was pared down to a bare minimum to avoid issues of disagreement. The decision once again urges developed countries to provide and mobilise enhanced financial support. However, instead of urging other countries in a position to do so to provide support, as industrialized countries had demanded, the decision only “recognises complementary support by other Parties”.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) had originally called for countries to pledge up to US\$15 billion as funding for the GCF’s initial period (2015-2018), but lowered its call to \$10 billion in September 2014. During the second week in Lima, more countries came forward with finance pledges to the GCF, with about \$10.2 billion in total pledged by 27 countries thus exceeding the target the GCF had aimed for.

Another positive note was in regards

to the Adaptation Fund, which had struggled to collect US\$100 million to be able to continue its operation. However, Germany pledged to contribute three quarters of the \$80 million fundraising target during the Lima conference.

Elements for a draft negotiating text are annexed to the decision and run to 39 pages with many alternative options. The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action in February in Switzerland, will now have the task to turn this into a formal negotiating text, which will be communicated to all Parties before May 2015. This is the deadline for the adoption of a Protocol at the Paris conference six months later, if a protocol is the route Parties eventually decide to follow. The Durban Platform also leaves open the option to adopt “another legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force”.

A special event also took place on actions to reduce emissions with the help of so-called “nationally appropriate mitigation actions” (NAMAs). These NAMAs are plans devised by developing countries to reduce their emissions and to promote sustainable development, which can be supported by developed countries. The UNFCCC Secretariat has established a registry to match requests for and offers of support.

In addition, the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising called on governments to put climate change into school curricula and climate awareness into national development plans.

Main Areas of Contention and Differentiation at Lima

The biggest contentious issue was whether the INDCs should deal only with mitigation or also with adaptation and support (referring to finance, technology and capacity-building). In addition, the divide between the Like-Minded Developing Countries and most industrialized countries came to the fore in

regards to the information requirements for reporting INDCs. This included the types of accompanying information countries would need to submit alongside their intended contribution in order to allow other countries and the public in general to assess if individual INDCs would represent each country's fair share of the overall effort and whether they were collectively sufficient to achieve the agreed below 2°C target.

The other main issue of difference was that many industrialized countries wanted to break down the so-called “firewall”, referring to the distinction between Annex I (industrialised) and non-Annex I countries (“developing countries”) that was demarcated by the UNFCCC in 1992. Developing countries demanded that industrialised countries should adopt legally binding economy-wide emission reduction targets along the lines of Kyoto Protocol. While industrialised countries argued that all major economies should be required to adopt economy-wide targets, though in case of non-Annex I countries these might be emission intensity-based rather than absolute targets, and that over time all countries should aspire to adopting economy-wide absolute targets.

Further controversies revolved around the timeframe of emission reduction contributions. The European Union, China and others argued that contributions should have 2030 as the target date, highlighting the need to give long-term certainty to investors and the effort required to prepare contributions. In contrast, the Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean, Alliance of Small Island States, Africa, Least-Developed Countries, and the United States, along with civil society groups called for five-year cycles in order to prevent a lock-in of unambitious targets.

A further contentious issue was the scope of the 2015 agreement. Developing countries requested to treat adaptation and mitigation equally in the new agreement, with some of them suggesting language on equal legal standing of the two

topics. Industrialized countries were willing to accept language on the crucial importance of adaptation, but rejected language on equal legal standing with mitigation.

Industrialized countries were also afraid that addressing the issue of loss and damage associated with climate change might ultimately lead to them being legally required to pay compensation to developing countries for their past emissions, and have hence tried to keep the profile of this issue as low as possible. This turned “Loss and Damage” into a crunch issue in the final hours of the negotiations. It was resolved by way of a typical compromise whereby the issue is not mentioned in the operative paragraphs of the Lima Call for Climate Action nor in the “elements” paper attached to it, but instead found its way into the introductory paragraphs of the Call for Action.

The second workstream to negotiate new and increased mitigation commitments for Annex 1 countries was not particularly successful. Not one developed country increased its mitigation commitment as compared to what had been communicated in the Cancún Agreements in 2010. On the contrary, some countries such as Japan and Australia backtracked from earlier commitments.

Other Outcomes at Lima

Given that the Paris agreement will probably not be sufficient to drive down greenhouse gas emissions to levels compatible with the 2 °C limit, a significant mitigation gap will persist not only before 2020 but also thereafter. The necessity to continue the efforts for closing this gap was apparent to all parties and they therefore agreed to renew the mandate for the technical examination process.

Developed countries held their ground to prevent any mention of a roadmap for increasing climate finance to the envisioned US\$100 billion out of the decision on long-term finance. This was a major disappointment for developing countries hoping for reassurance that the

promised finance would actually be forthcoming.

In contrast to the Kyoto Protocol with its internationally negotiated and legally binding targets, the negotiations centered around voluntary pledges of whatever kind, time-frame and period, which will or will not be reviewed by who is not clear.

Similarly, even though the role of women is key to the response to climate change, gender and health were only mentioned in the preamble area and the Forest and REDD+ were also in disagreement mainly in relation to safeguards, as the developed countries criteria are considered out of touch with the interests of the local communities in developing countries.

Conclusion

The Lima Decision reaffirmed that governments are now on track to put the individual climate pledges on table in the first half of 2015, which will form the foundations of the global climate agreement due to be finalized in Paris in December. However, some of the controversial issues that have been stalling negotiations for many years were not addressed and could cause problems in the future.

All eyes will now turn to governments who are required to put forward national climate action commitments when they return to their respective countries. Those commitments will signal the world's first collective step towards a clean development pathway, forming the foundations of the Paris agreement. Lima also provided some useful guidance to countries for formulating their commitments. They'll be asked to provide information to help the world judge whether the pledges are adequate and equitable. And there was an important agreement that no country can retract from their prior commitment. However governments reneged on plans for a thorough review of commitments prior to the Paris conference, which means that there will be limited scrutiny of their emission reduction targets. ■

Ethiopia's Involvement at Lima

Ethiopia was actively involved in the Lima conference with the highest number of negotiators including representatives from line ministries, regions, and NGOs, led by the Minister of Environment and Forest, H.E. Mr. Belete Tafere Desta.

At Lima H.E. Mr. Belete presented Ethiopian government's strong initiatives on climate change mitigation and adaptation and its strategy to decouple industrialization

and environmental degradation. He also highlighted Ethiopia's potential for achieving green growth through renewable energy development, and called for more technical and financial support through the UN system and partners to support the realization of its ambitious strategy. Following from this Ethiopia reached agreement with six countries to support its climate resilient green economy strategy, which were Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, and France.

At a side event hosted by Green Climate Fund Secretariat, H.E. Mr. Belete also highlighted the Ethiopian government's climate resilient green economy strategy and growth and transformation plans, which are expected to lead the country to a middle-income status by 2025 under a low carbon pathway. He estimated US\$7.5 billion was required for the country to meet these targets, explaining that these funds would be generated from internal and external sources. He also called for the GCF to move quickly to the disbursement phase, noting Ethiopia's need for investments in green transport infrastructure and green power, among others. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Belete stressed that gender and other social considerations have been included in the development of Ethiopia's national plans and strategies.

PHE Ethiopia Consortium participation at Lima

PHE Ethiopia Consortium was represented in Lima by its Executive Director, Negash Teklu. In addition to its national representation, PHE EC was also representing the global Population for Sustainable Development Alliance. PHE Ethiopia Consortium also presented in side events and participated in the negotiations. Negash Teklu was also interviewed by the

UNFCCC Climate Studio where he discussed Ethiopia's environmental challenges and its plans for a climate resilient green economy. ■

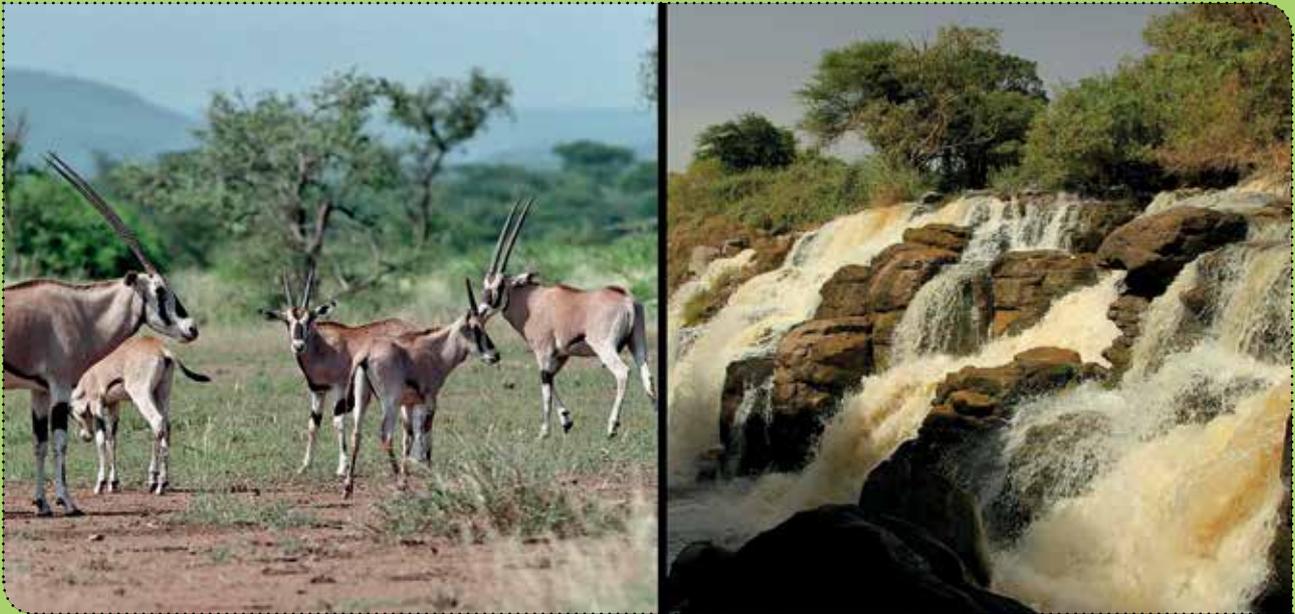


H.E Mr. Belete Tefera Desta



Ato Negash Teklu

Experience Sharing Visit to Awash National Park



Awash park

One of the main activities of PHE Ethiopia Consortium is popularizing the integration activities performed by its member and partner to wider audiences. Since its establishment PHEEC has been organizing field visits to PHE integration pilot sites for national and international partners and stakeholders. This has included journalists, development practitioners, researchers, senior government officials as well as representatives from international partners who have visited PHE sites in different parts of the country and observed the integration activities at the grassroots level.

Currently PHE Ethiopia Consortium with its member organization, Wildlife for Sustainable Development (WSD), and in collaboration with Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) is implementing a project funded by the Strategic Climate Institutions Program (SCIP) that aims to improve the management and rehabilitation of the Awash National Park.

In April 2014 PHE EC and WSD organized a field visit to Awash National Park in order to share the experiences from this project to date and to introduce how the integration works at grass root level. The participants were drawn from different Federal ministries, PHEEC member organizations, and PHEEC staff.

The Awash National Park (ANP) was the first national park established in the country. However, the park has for many years faced challenges in relation to population pressure and livestock encroachment, which is contributing to deforestation, degradation, and poor park management. Since the commencement of the SCIP project several activities that could harmonize the relationship of the community with the park situation has been accomplished.

After the intervention through SCIP project collaborative park management taskforces were established by identifying relevant stakeholders at woreda, regional and federal level. The establishment of the taskforces

has greatly improved the management of the park and reduced the encroachment of the locals to park territories, as well as changing the attitudes of the locals towards the park. Women in the park have also been trained on handicraft production from palm trees to provide alternative livelihood opportunities and to increase the sense of ownership of the park and its resources by local communities.

During the experience sharing visit participants expressed their feeling that within the short period of intervention by the SCIP project they have witnessed several changes in the management and conservation of the park. They also noted the importance of the projects focus on creating alternative livelihood strategies that could minimize the pressure on the park. Finally the participants urged all stakeholders to continue their collaborative efforts in order to maintain the results so far obtained and ensure sustainability following the termination of the project. ■

Danish and Kenyan Organisations visit PHE Site in Ethiopia

In September 2014 PHE EC, in collaboration with the member organization Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resource Association (EWNRA), facilitated and organized an experience-sharing visit for a group of health and environmental NGOs. The participants included four Kenyan organizations ViAgroforestry, Community Rehabilitation Project, Osienala, and Health Options Kenya, as well as the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA).

The visit was sponsored by DFPA and hosted by PHE EC, which has been a partner in the international Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) since 2009.

The group visited the EWNRA project in Ale Buyakebele Metu woreda and the Network Creation and Capacity Building Project in Yayu Biosphere Reserve, where they were briefed by FeyisaTefera, coordinator of the Yayu Biosphere project.

The group had a discussion with Ale Buyakebele PHE club members, who testified that the reproductive health of women has improved significantly due

to increased awareness of family planning. They also explained how the revolving fund and income diversification had raised the standard of living in the community.

The visitors group was also shown concrete evidence of environmental protection activities, including vetiver grass, grevillea tree plantations, terrace construction, and soil and water conservation measures on the slopes of the beautiful hills in the area.

Elisabeth Riber Christensen from DFPA said on behalf of the group, “We are impressed with the social, environmental and economic impact of the PHE projects and we will transfer your best practices to Kenya”. In their feedback to EWNRA the group noted the strong community commitment and the close cooperation between EWNRA and the line offices from zonal to kebele level.

The group took a lot of inspiration from Ethiopia to start a new PHE project near Lake Victoria and Kisumu town in Kenya, to be funded by DFPA. ■



Participants to the field visit

Annual Review Meeting of Health Sector Development Plan

The 16th annual review meeting of Health Sector Development Plan was held from October 15-17 2014 at Dire Dawa. The Ministry of health conducted this year's meeting under the theme "Crossing the finishing line and envisioning beyond: Towards equitable and better quality of health services in Ethiopia". The meeting was attended by 867 people who were selected from health posts, referral hospitals, Federal, woreda, zonal, and regional level health offices, health training institutions, funding organizations, and NGO's working on health including PHE EC.

Dr. Kesete BirhaneAdmassu Minister of Health delivered the opening speech. In his speech he underlined the major achievements in the health sector development plan in the last year which included:

- Reducing the Infant Mortality Rate by two-thirds, by which Ethiopia has achieved MDG 4 three years ahead of the target period.
- Increasing the percentage of skilled birth attendance from 23% to 41%.
- 450 ambulances were distributed to the Regions during the 2006 budget year, which brings the total number of ambulances currently giving service to 1,262.
- Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) grew from 29% in 2011 to 42% in 2014.
- Out of the 2.9 million preg-



H.E Dr. Kesete Birhane Admassu

nant mothers who had received Anti natal care (ANC) service, 65% (1.9 million) have received counseling and testing services. Out of 32,000 pregnant HIV suspected mothers, 61% (20,000) have started (Option B+) treatment.

➤ Pentavalent 3 Vaccine was given to 2.5 million children, Measles vaccine for 2.4 million children.

➤ The number of people getting HIV treatment is increasing. Currently, 300,000 patients are receiving treatment in the health institutions providing the service.

➤ Four million houses located in malaria-prone areas have been sprayed with insecticides. For the prevention of malaria 11.7 million Long-lasting Insecticide Treated Nets have been distributed. This will bring the total number of nets distributed to 58 million.

The focus areas that were

selected to bring about big changes during the Ethiopia Fiscal Year 2007 were:

➤ The work of upgrading Health Extension Workers (HEWs) to Level Four will be affected by training 6000 HEWs annually. In addition, conduct the training of Level Three HEWs to maintain and continue the deployment policy of at least 2 HEWs per health post.

➤ Carry out intensive work to expand the Community based neonatal care (CBNC) and facility based Neonatal Care Neonatal Corner, Units and Intensive Care Units (ICUs)

➤ Improving the nutritional status of mothers and children through comprehensive and multi-faceted actions.

➤ Strengthening the implementation of Health Extension Program (HEP) and conducting extensive work around personal and environmental hygiene on

Open Defecation Free (ODF).

►The lack of cleanliness and safety being observed in health institutions especially in most of the hospitals shall be addressed to make them clean, safe and patient-friendly institutions.

Side Meeting

On Thursday October 16, 2014 side meeting was conducted at Blossom Hotel. The objective of the side meeting was to discuss how to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system for NGOs and project implementation, and improvements of integrated work processes with respective stakeholders. Regional health bureaus,

consortium delegates (CORHA & PHE EC) and staff from the federal Ministry of Health participated in the discussion.

A presentation was provided by Ato Abduljeli Reshad, Director of Resource mobilization and Partnership Directorate. After the presentation, discussions were conducted among participants. Important ideas and concepts were raised and discussed by participants in accordance with the existing situation of each region.

Based on these discussions the following ways forward were proposed

►Strengthen the integrated monitoring and evaluation system (distribute project evaluation checklist to review project proposals and prepare project implementation reporting format).

►Strengthen the structure of NGO work processes and discuss the issue of NGO as an agenda during JSC meeting.

►Conduct regular stakeholder and NGO coordination forums and assign a focal person to organize the forums regularly.

►Develop standard project implementation guidelines and Terms of Reference. ■

Stakeholders Forum for Sustainable Biosphere Management

A stakeholders planning meeting for Sustainable Biosphere Management was held on the 15-16 August 2014, which was organized by Melca Ethiopia. The forum was hosted by Jimma University and sponsored by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). A group of 60 participants attended the two-day meeting including representatives from respective woreda and zonal offices, Federal and Regional Government agencies, higher learning and research institutions, and PHE EC participants.

At the beginning of the meeting Dr Berhanu Belay, vice president of Jimma University, welcomed participants and then invited Mr Solomon Getachew, chairman of the National Biosphere Reserves Management Committee, to officially open the meeting.

After the opening remarks Dr Million Belay, Director of Melca Ethio-

pia, noted that there are three UNESCO registered Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia. These are the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve (located in Oromia Region), Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve, and Kafa Forest Biosphere Reserve (both located in SNNPR). Dr Million added that Ethiopia is also in the process of registering the Tana Lake Region of Amhara Region and Mejeng Forest of Gambela Region as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. Dr Million explained that the Biosphere Reserve concept was launched globally in 1971 and has three major objectives: environmental conservation, knowledge source services, and ensuring sustainable development.

During the discussion forum that followed, representatives from Melca Ethiopia, Environment and Coffee Forest Forum, and the Kafa Natural Resource Office presented their experiences from the Sheka, Yayu and Kafa Biosphere Reserves respectively. Then participants were

divided into smaller groups where they discussed the opportunities, benefits and challenges experienced since these areas were registered as Biosphere Reserves.

Some of the opportunities and benefits identified were:

►Improved understanding about Biosphere Reserves and the types and benefits of different natural resources located within them.

►Development of Biosphere Reserve management plans and policies and the promotion of indigenous forest management practices.

►Strong sense of ownership of local resources developed among local communities and reduced threat of displacement.

►Improved economic benefits including coffee value addition, beekeeping, seed and seedlings preparation, new job opportunities, private

Second National Conference on Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Development

On the eve of its 60th birthday celebration the University of Gondar hosted the Second National Conference on Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Development on 7-8 June 2014. The conference, which attracted hundreds of experts, was aimed at communicating research findings and sharing experiences from the field on how population dynamics and reproductive health affect socio-economic development and environment outcomes.

The conference focused on the theme “Ethiopia’s Population Policy Implementation and the

Development Goals”. Presentations on population and development, population and environment, reproductive health, gender, harmful traditional practices, and policies and legal issues were given by scholars. Policy and legal issues on reproductive health and gender, effect of rapid population growth on environment and natural resources, and population dynamics and socio economic development were the main discussion points.

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC), apart from supporting the conference, had a key role

in facilitating some of the panel sessions of the conference.

A presentation of a PHE EC sponsored study on climate change and population was also given as well as a presentation of a Futures Group supported analysis of the Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey 2011 for the Amhara region. In addition, the conference was successful enough to bring policy and decision makers, academics and development partners together to discuss future policy and program directions. ■

investment, and ecotourism.

► Recognition of cultural conservation systems like ‘Kobo’ and marginalized community groups like ‘Menja’.

► Reduced deforestation and forest encroachment and increased wild-life numbers and species.

Some of shared challenges identified were:

► Absence of appropriate institutional structures for effective management of the Biospheres and their conservation from the federal to kebele level.

► Absence of stakeholder cooperation and collaboration in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation activities related to the Biosphere Reserves.

► Poverty and lack of alternative livelihoods for local communities.

► Rapid population growth and illegal encroachment and settlement.

► Low attention by higher learning

and research institutions, and weak knowledge sharing and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

► Lack of Environmental Impact Assessments for development projects in the area, as well as absence of Economic Valuation studies of biosphere resources.

► Incomplete demarcation of Biosphere Reserve boundaries (the case of Yayu Biosphere).

On the second day of the forum the participants were divided into a ‘Higher Learning and Research Institutions group’ and an ‘other stakeholders’ group’ to discuss the major objectives and areas of research for the Biosphere Reserves and how stakeholders should best work together. The research group identified three overarching research objectives for the biosphere reserves: conservation, sustainable utilization, and sustainable development. They also identified priority research topics from different academic disciplines including inventory of habitat and organisms, climate monitoring, human-wildlife conflict management, value chain and mar-

keting, agricultural technologies, and eco-tourism.

The stakeholder group identified the need for more effective collaboration and cooperation in order to reduce the duplication of effort and generate new knowledge and resources. The group also identified some key focus areas for improvement, which included information and experience sharing, resource mobilization, research, the establishment of formal legal agreements and frameworks, the preparation of biosphere management plans, and joint planning, monitoring and evaluation of activities.

Both groups also recommended the establishment of a suitable mechanism for researchers and practitioners to undertake experience sharing and collaborative work for the sustainable management of the Biosphere Reserves. Accordingly, Jimma University took the initiative to organize a workshop for the ‘Research Group’ and Melca Ethiopia took the initiative to organize the first ‘Practitioner Group’ experience sharing in Sheka forest Biosphere. ■

Strategic Climate Institutions Program Share Fair

On the 4th and 5th of September the Strategic Climate Institutions Program (SCIP) Fund held a lesson learning share fair event at the Ararat Hotel in Addis Ababa. The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for grantees to share experiences from their projects and to discuss lessons learned and ideas for future projects. The Strategic Climate Institutions Program (SCIP) is a five-year initiative funded by Department for International Development (DFID) that aims to build the capacity of the Ethiopia Government to implement its Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy (CRGE).

PHE EC was represented at the event by Negash Teklu, Executive Director of PHE EC, Tadesse Hailu, SCIP Project Coordinator, and

Adrian Young, Environmental Research and Program Officer.

The Share Fair included presentations and dramas from selected projects, discussion group sessions, and exhibition stalls from grant recipients and CRGE stakeholders. PHE EC was one of the grantees invited to host a stall where different project activities and outputs were schematically displayed. This included a number of climate-related publications and documentary films that were produced through the PHE EC project, which were distributed to visitors and stakeholders during the two-day event.

The event was attended by a large number of stakeholders including government officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic

Development and the Ministry of Environment and Forest, representatives from project grantees, CRGE stakeholders, development partners, as well as journalists and members of the public.

Some of the insights and lessons that came out of the SCIP Share Fair included:

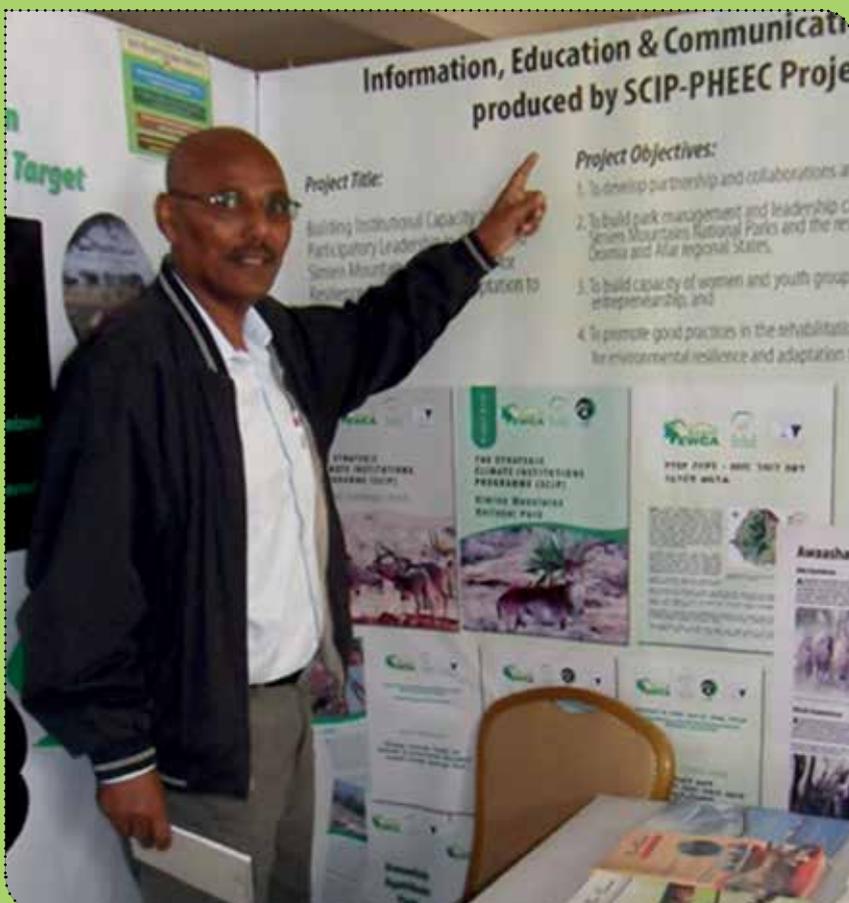
► All the projects funded to date have made an important contribution towards establishing the building blocks for the successful implementation of the CRGE in Ethiopia, however further capacity building and support is required.

► A diverse range of projects have been funded through this initiative, ranging from urban rail projects to designing energy efficient cook stoves and improving the management of national parks, which provides opportunities for learning across different sectors that traditionally would have been funded through separate programs.

► Many Ethiopian government agencies and local organizations currently lack the capacity to develop high quality proposals and to articulate complex climate-based development problems, and thus there is a need to build capacity of these organizations to enable them to secure climate funds in the future.

► Climate change and land-use change are the biggest constraints on the productivity and sustainability of coffee production in Ethiopia, and the areas that are most vulnerable to climate change include Bale, Sidama, Arsi and Illu Abba Bora.

► There has only been limited focus on the forestry and agriculture sectors within the SCIP-funded projects to date and yet most emission reduction potential is expected to



Ato Tadesse Hailu, SCIP Project Coordinator at the fair

come from these two sectors.

► There is a need to develop criteria for identifying projects that offer the most potential for scaling-up and that are aligned with existing government priorities.

► Strong frameworks and mechanisms are required to mainstream climate change resilience and green economy objectives within government planning processes from the federal down to the woreda level and to support decision-making and managing trade-offs.

The feedback on PHE EC's SCIP project was generally highly positive and was considered to be well-aligned with the aims of the SCIP fund with its strong focus on building the capacity of existing local institutions to improve the management of the Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks and to contribute to the CRGE. ■



Some of the participants



PHE IEC materials

Establishment of National Multi-sectoral Protected Areas Management Taskforce



At a national conference held on 22 May 2014 at Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa, a multi-sectoral national taskforce on protected areas and wildlife management was established. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ethiopian Wildlife and

Conservation Authority (EWCA) in collaboration with Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHEEC). It was attended by 118 participants from various Regional and Federal institutions, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, donor organizations and community members.

The aim of the conference was to form the highest level taskforce for the management of Ethiopia's protected areas and wildlife.

In his opening speech H.E. Ato Amin Abdulkadir, Minister for Ministry of Culture and Tourism, stated that the over-exploitation

of natural resources and the expansion of wildlife crime and illegal activities in Protected Areas (PAs) have placed huge pressure on environmental sustainability and economic development in Ethiopia. He emphasized the importance of a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral national taskforce for better achievement of Protected Areas and Wildlife Management objectives in general, and combating climate change in particular.

Protected areas are principally established to maintain areas of biological and cultural significance. These areas provide important ecosystem services including food, energy and water in addition to their inherent existence value.

However, protected areas in Ethiopia are currently under threat from population pressure that has resulted in degradation and loss of biodiversity. Climate change has also aggravated the situation affecting ecological processes. For the last four decades, PAs in Ethiopia have been under a sectoral management system that has been ineffective in ensuring the sound management and sustainable utilization of these areas. There has also been lack of involvement and collaboration among stakeholders, lack of coordinated planning across government sectors, and lack of community participation, resulting in increasing devastation and loss of biodiversity.

To turn this situation around PHEEC, in partnership with EWCA, Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and Wildlife for Sustainable development (WSD), has been implementing a project that has established a new participatory, multi-stakeholder park management regime in both the Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks. The approach seeks to promote multi-sectoral engagement from the grassroots to the national level in order to ef-



H.E. Ato Amin Abdukadir

fectively manage social, economic and environmental issues. This active participation of wider stakeholders it is expected to realise improved park management and climate resilience, as well as sustainable development in the parks and surrounding areas.

It is with this background that the formation of the national protected areas management taskforce came into being. The conference was a daylong event and five presentations were made to provide an overview of the current situation of PAs and climate change in Ethiopia.

The presentations indicated that Ethiopia is endowed with spectacular landscapes, incredible altitudinal ranges, different ecological zones, and species diversity, making Ethiopia an important source of biological diversity. However, currently most protected areas are in poor condition and not being managed effectively due to lack of coordination and collaboration, and limited capacity. This has resulted in ecosystem deterioration and damage to the natural attrac-

tions of the protected areas, which has negatively influenced the economic gain from tourism.

Following the presentations participants discussed the formation of the national multi-sectoral taskforce based on the proposal forwarded by Ato Dawud Mumie, EWCA's Director General. The proposal was endorsed following amendments suggested by participants and the significance of the formation of the taskforce was fully seconded by the audience. The composition of the en-

dorsed national taskforce includes over 35 entities from national and regional government and the private sector including the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as Chair and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority as Secretary. The taskforce is primarily responsible for consolidating at the national level and giving overall policy guidance to lower level taskforces so they can work effectively to improve the management and rehabilitation of protected areas for achieving economic benefits and combating the impacts of climate change.

The major impacts of humans on ecosystems integrity and biodiversity conservation in protected areas are well known. However, the question is how best to manage the PAs to allow recovery of the ecosystem and ecosystem services. Establishing multi-stakeholder management taskforces for PAs and provision of various alternative livelihoods to park adjacent communities are, therefore, thought to be the best solution to conserve PA in Ethiopia and combat climate change impacts. ■

UN Women Advisory Group

A consultative meeting was held on 9 September 2014 in Addis Ababa with a broad group of non-government stakeholders to discuss the development of an advisory group on gender equality and women's empowerment to support, guide and complement this area of work in Ethiopia. More than 35 representatives of Charity and Society Organizations (CSOs) working on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as academia and private sector attended the workshop.

The participants expressed their enthusiasm towards the idea and also underlined the necessity of such a platform to enable entities working on gender equality and women's empowerment to make effective and meaningful contributions to the work that UN Women does in Ethiopia and vice versa. It was at that consultative meeting that the participants agreed on calling this group "UN Women Advisory Group" in order to expand the membership beyond civil society organizations and include the private sector, academia, research and individual gender experts.

After the workshop, a call for expressions of interest was shared to all participants resulting in an overwhelming response, from which 12 members were selected to form the advisory group.

The 12 member group comprises a diverse and highly experienced membership of 4 men and 8 women selected through a consultative and transparent process with the support of the UN Women East and Horn of Africa Regional Office.

Tsigie Haile, Executive Director of Women in Self Employment, Negash Teklu, Executive Director

of Population Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium and Zenaye Tadesse, Director of Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association were selected as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of Women of Ethiopia Advisory Group respectively.

The Advisory Group members will have a two-year tenure and will meet twice per year, with UN Women providing secretariat support.

The objectives of the UN Women Advisory Group are:

- ▶ Creating opportunities for civil society to engage with the United Nations system in relevant policy discussions on gender equality, women's rights and development.

- ▶ Fostering dialogue and engagement, with a view to advance goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.

- ▶ Enabling UN Women to consult with civil society and draw upon the rich and diverse expertise, experience, outreach, networks, perspectives, and knowledge it offers.

- ▶ Serving as an informal consultative forum of ideas and strategies for the UN women's programme.

- ▶ Supporting strategic alliances within civil society in order to amplify action on key result areas of UN Women in Ethiopia.

- ▶ Contributing to better coordination of initiatives at country level aimed at enhancing women's empowerment and gender equality

- ▶ Establishing linkages with the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group within the African region and beyond to foster local and global dialogues and collaboration

- ▶ Helping strengthen the linkages between the Economic Commission for Africa and African Union policies on gender equality and women's empowerment

In order to accomplish these objectives, on 30 October, UN Women's Ethiopia office officially launched its Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG), which will use its expertise to advise UN Women on its work in the country. ■



UN Women Advisory group members

Interview >>

with Dr Doreen Othero from the Lake Victoria Basin Commission

Our Voice: Dr Doreen, please introduce yourself to our readers.

My name is Dr. Doreen Othero. I am a Doctor of Public Health with a specialty in Maternal and Child Health. I work for the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) as the Regional Program Coordinator for the Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Program.

Our Voice: How and when did you first learn about the PHE approach? How is the approach taken within your organization?

Dr. Doreen Othero: I first learnt of the PHE approach through my interaction with USAID East Africa regional office based in Nairobi, Kenya. LVBC had reached out to USAID East Africa to fund an integrated HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health project in the basin. Along the conversations that followed, USAID East Africa introduced the PHE approach to LVBC and then went a step further to introduce the PHE Project known as Health of the People and Environment in Lake Victoria Basin.

USAID East Africa also connected LVBC to the PHE Ethiopia Consortium, specifically to Mr. Negash Teklu the Executive Director. Following on from this LVBC in collaboration with Ethiopia PHE Consortium and a number of other organizations including Pathfinder, the Eastern Southern and Central Africa Health Community, African Institute for Policy Development, the Regional Center for Quality Health Care, and Conservation Through Public Health, organized a PHE Symposium at the 3rd East African Community Annual Health and Scientific Conference Health in Kigali, Rwanda in March 2013. The symposium was the main platform that solidified LVBC's understanding and adoption of the PHE approach as a driver to sustainable development. In addition, LVBC was mandated to be the regional PHE coordinating office for the East African Countries.

Our Voice: Can you brief us on how you were attached to LVBC and how the organization works in relation to PHE projects?

Dr. Doreen Othero: PHE is one of the programs coordinated by the LVBC. The Com-



Dr. Doreen Othero

mission also coordinates several environmental conservation projects with funding from diverse sources. These include the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project funded by the World Bank, the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project funded by the African Development Bank, the Mt. Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Program funded by the Government of Norway, and the Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development Program funded by USAID East Africa. PHE is a cross-cutting program that was designed to add value to LVBC's environmental conservation programs. This is in realization of the fact that majority of the environmental challenges faced in the basin, such as deforestation, land degradation, pollution of water sources and overexploitation of the fisheries resources, are as a result of human activity. The PHE Program at LVBC adds value to the environmental conservation programs by addressing population and health challenges alongside the environmental conservation efforts. The PHE Program promotes family planning, maternal newborn and child health, reproductive health, livelihoods, gender empowerment and environmental conservation in an integrated manner.

Our Voice: What is the role of LVBC within the Victoria Lakes? What are the challenges and successes?

Dr. Doreen Othero: LVBC is one of the institutions of the East African Community, which is a regional economic community that promotes the economic development of five countries, namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. LVBC was established by the governments of the five countries through a Protocol that man-

dates the institution to promote, facilitate and coordinate activities of state and non-state actors with the ultimate goal of promoting sustainable development in Lake Victoria and its Basin.

Some of key functions of LVBC include coordination of actors, advocacy, resource mobilization, capacity building, policy harmonization, evidence generation and knowledge management, documentation and dissemination of good practices, establishing partnerships and collaborations and piloting of best practice models.

The environmental, water, sanitation, health and PHE programs of the LVBC have produced a number of achievements to date. Some examples include contributing to improved land use practices, building the capacity of communities to conserve forests and wildlife, improving community livelihoods, establishing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, improved water and sanitation infrastructure in several towns in the basin, improving access to family planning, HIV/AIDs, and maternal and child health services among hard to reach populations, developing policies on water release and abstraction in Lake Victoria to regulate use of the water source, and improving the safety of navigation on Lake Victoria.

Some of the challenges faced by LVBC to date include the lack of policies and institutional frameworks that support multi-sectoral approaches like PHE, rapid population growth that overstretches the available resources and sometimes even reverses gains made, climate change shocks, heavy disease burden compared to the capacity of health systems, high poverty levels among rural populations, and limited funding opportunities for implementation of innovative programs.

Our Voice: How effective do you think the PHE integration approach is in supporting the progress toward the Lake Victoria development goals and rehabilitation? Can you mention successful PHE projects outside your organization?

Dr. Doreen Othero: The PHE integration approach has been tested in the Mt. Elgon regional ecosystem in Kenya and Uganda. The Mt. Elgon trans-boundary ecosystem is within the Lake Victoria Basin. It is inhabited primarily by indigenous communities who live around protected areas such as game parks and forest reserves. These communities have high population growth rates and place pressure on the resources of the protected area resources, often putting them in conflict with the management authorities of these protected areas. The PHE approach has empowered the communities in Mt. Elgon to appreciate the conservation value of forests and wildlife

and the linkages between these natural resources, community health, and sustainable development. These communities are now involved in income generating activities that provide alternative livelihoods to animal poaching and unauthorized logging. In addition, the communities' uptake of family planning and maternal and child health services has increased.

The Lake Victoria Basin also benefits from a project by Pathfinder known as Health of the People and Environment. This project is implemented among fishing communities and aims at improving the health and livelihoods of the target communities through increased access to and utilization of family planning, maternal and child health services alongside environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture. The project works with community health workers to improve health service delivery to communities and also works with individual homesteads to establish model homesteads that serve as PHE learning centers. The model homesteads embrace all components of the PHE integrated approach including agroforestry, livestock keeping, safe water and sanitation practices, and improved nutrition. The project also empowers fisher-folk to embrace sustainable fishing practices which include demarcation of fish breeding sites in Lake Victoria and adherence to the government-recommended fishing equipment.

Our Voice: How do you assess and evaluate the progress of the Lake Victorian Basin Commission since its establishment? What have been its challenges and successes?

Dr. Doreen Othero: The LVBC was established in Kisumu, Kenya in 2007. It has faced several challenges as mentioned above. However, most of the challenges have been turned into opportunities through the development of projects to address them. Although some of the challenges still persist, such as high poverty levels, the LVBC has registered commendable success during its short period of existence. The successes are evident in the way communities have owned the projects of the LVBC and in some instances provided their own resources to sustain the projects. Goodwill and financial support from the five governments has also contributed immensely to the successes of the projects of the LVBC.

Our Voice: How is the Lake Victorian Basin Commission working with the East African Community countries and PHE Working Groups and Networks?

Dr. Doreen Othero: The Commission is an institution of the East Africa Community that was

established with a specific mandate by the five countries as stipulated above. As such, these five countries are involved in a number of ways that include participating in the design of LVBC projects and programs and contributing financial, human and material resources to support the LVBC.

The five countries have also established statutory bodies that oversee the implementation of LVBC activities. These bodies include the Summit of the Heads of State, Sectoral Councils of Ministers, Regional meetings of Permanent Secretaries and meetings of the Technical Working Groups. These statutory bodies are responsible for approving the Commission's work plans and budgets, overseeing the implementation of activities, and provide policy and technical guidance.

The Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin directed LVBC to establish, operationalize and strengthen PHE networks in all the five EAC Countries. The networks were established and are operational. Currently, LVBC mobilizes resources to support network activities and also provides technical guidance in the operations of the networks. Specifically, the networks are responsible for undertaking PHE advocacy, knowledge management, capacity building, documentation, monitoring and evaluation among other activities in their respective countries.

Our Voice: What is your relationship with PHE Ethiopia consortium? How do you support each other?

Dr. Doreen Othero: PHE Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC) is the main mentor of the LVBC PHE Program. PHE EC contributed immensely to the acceptance of the PHE approach by the policy and decision makers of the East African Community and the LVBC. The Executive Director of PHE EC attended all the PHE induction workshops of the LVBC where different stakeholders were inducted on PHE including members of parliament, ministers, permanent secretaries and experts. Presentations on how PHE EC was established were the main influence for the establishment of national PHE networks in the East African Community countries. LVBC borrowed from the experiences and lessons of PHE EC and developed a model for the national networks. In addition, PHE EC facilitated the inclusion of LVBC as a member of the Population and Sustainable Development Alliance that leads the reproductive health agenda in the sustainable development discourse.

Through PHE EC, LVBC was informed of the PHE International Conference held in Addis Ababa in November 2013. LVBC was represent-

ed at the conference by its Executive Secretary who was honored to give the closing remarks, courtesy of PHE EC. Participation at the conference enabled LVBC to forge partnerships and collaborations with PHE actors and donors globally. LVBC will forever be indebted to PHE EC for significantly raising its profile. Likewise, through the LVBC statutory meetings, PHE EC found a platform to speak to policy and decision makers in East Africa and publicize its work.

Our Voice: What strategic considerations should PHE Eastern Africa/Africa and its members and partners make in order to generate more acceptance and funding to scale up PHE efforts?

Dr. Doreen Othero: First and foremost, the PHE actors, organizations and institutions must demonstrate conviction for and commitment to the implementation of the PHE approach. This will be the driving force for PHE advocacy that will eventually lead to goodwill and buy-in by the donors and decision makers.

Secondly, PHE institutions, organizations and projects must generate evidence to show that PHE makes sense and that it is a driver towards sustainable development. There should be visible positive change in the lives of beneficiary communities, who should be able to make their own confessions that PHE has indeed changed their lives for the better. This evidence will appeal to the ears and pockets of the donors.

Last but not least, PHE Eastern Africa/Africa must make a deliberate attempt to speak to the world about their PHE dream, experiences, successes and lessons learnt. This should be done through organized platforms, such as conferences that target donors, policy and decision makers as well as other key stakeholders. For such gatherings to make sense, the organizations and institutions charged with the responsibility of coordinating PHE activities must document the PHE success stories and impacts. The documentation must clearly demonstrate to the policy makers how PHE is contributing to the realization of the respective governments' development agenda and frameworks. Government's will only support and adopt the PHE approach if they can see the value addition.

Our Voice: What are your expectations for the PHE Conference which will be held in September 2015 ?

Dr. Doreen Othero: LVBC in collaboration with PHE Partners in Eastern and Southern African intend to hold a PHE Conference in September 2015. The conference theme is 'Population, Health and Environment: Lessons for Sustain-

able Development'. The aim of the conference is to harness the momentum of PHE platforms and agree on strategies for prioritizing and institutionalizing PHE into national and regional policies, planning and programming, with a view to enhancing efforts to address challenges faced by rural communities and special population groups.

The conference will specifically focus on the role and contribution of the PHE approach in the realization of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, it will showcase the power of multi-sectoral PHE approaches in improving the family planning and reproductive health indicators and the subsequent contribution to development. Ultimately, the conference will aspire to prove to donors and policy makers that the PHE approach is the most viable approach for addressing the multifaceted challenges of special population groups and those living in remote areas.

Our Voice: Your expectation of the PHE approach in the coming five to ten years?

Dr. Doreen Othero: It is my honest anticipation that in the coming five to ten years, the PHE approach will be understood, internalized, and in-

stitutionalized by governments and stakeholders. Consequently, we will begin to see PHE in the plans and budgets of governments at different levels. In the donor community, there will be realization that funding horizontal as opposed to vertical programs produces sustainable results.

Our Voice: What other messages would you like to share with PHE EC's local and international partners and members?

Dr. Doreen Othero: To the PHE EC's members as well as local and international partners, I wish to thank you for sustaining PHE programming with a clear focus that sustainable development can be better realized when we approach our challenges in an integrated manner and with integration of sectors. It may take a while before the world buys into the PHE approach fully but when this will happen, there will be no turning back. PHE EC's efforts are not in vain because they have been an inspiration to the East African Community and to others who have adopted your models. It is therefore my sincere prayer that PHE EC will continue to be more innovative, will test out new PHE models and disseminate them to the world, and that PHE actors will find a center of excellence in the PHE EC. ■

Institutional Cook Stove Project

PHE EC, in partnership with the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Institute, Jimma University, and Ethio-resource Group, has been working on a research project to assess the performance of an imported biomass Institutional Cook Stove technology in a university setting, with the Jimma University Institute of Technology campus as a pilot site.

The objective of the research was to assess the fuel saving efficiency and reduction in air particulate matters of the Institutional Cook stove design in comparison with existing stoves. Additionally, the market need for the new institutional stove technology was assessed in Addis Ababa and Jimma to determine the potential for lo-

cal manufacturing of the stove.

The study revealed that the new cook stove technology has improved characteristics for both fuel consumption and air pollution. The fuel wood consumption of the new stove was found to be 36% less than the baseline three stone fire cooking system. In addition, there was an 85% reduction in carbon monoxide emission and 72% reduction in particulate matter concentration. The results for the carbon monoxide emissions are below the WHO standards for indoor air pollution, which is very much encouraging. However, the air particulate matter concentration levels are still a bit higher than the WHO standard.

As part of this research project a

market needs assessment was also conducted in the cities of Addis Ababa and Jimma to determine the attitude of local institutions towards accepting the new technology. This assessment revealed that there is a potential market for the new stove in the two cities.

Following the completion of this assessment, PHE EC plans to develop a second phase of this project that will seek to establish local manufacturing of the Institutional Cook Stove technology by small and micro enterprises. This will require a capacity building component to equip small and micro enterprises with the necessary skills and equipment to produce the Institutional Cook Stove for the local market in Ethiopia. ■

Multi-sectoral Protected Areas Management Approach as a better Practice

Protected Areas (PAs) are essential areas that have national and international significance to make safe local, national and global biodiversity. If well managed, PAs can sustainably provide ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of nature and humans alike. Most notably, they play an important role in preventing threatened or endangered species from becoming extinct. PAs also function as a natural safety net in the face of threats from climate change. For example, they can absorb carbon and mitigate climate change as well as provide quality habitats with high biodiversity that are less vulnerable to climate extremes. However, if these PAs are degraded or destroyed due to poor management they can contribute to or exacerbate climate change and environmental degradation.

Ethiopia has a number of designated PAs across the country. However, many of these PAs are currently under threat from anthropogenic pressure that has resulted in resource degradation and loss of biodiversity. The potential and size of these protected areas has been deteriorating overtime and the existing sector-based management regimes have been ineffective in ensuring sound ecosystem management and sustainable utilization of these natural resources. The factors causing poor management in Ethiopia's PAs include lack of involvement and collaboration among stakeholders, lack of integration of activities, and lack of community participation, which has cumulatively resulted in increased devastation and loss of biodiversity.

To address this issue a project entitled "Building Institutional Capacity and Participatory Leadership in Awash and Simien Mountains National Parks for Resilience, Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (BICAS-RMACC)" was developed and implemented under the framework of Strategic Climate Institutions Program (SCIP). It was developed and implemented by PHEEC and its partner organizations, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, Frankfurt Zoological Society, and Wildlife for Sustainable Development.

The project aimed at improving park management and leadership capacity and developing appropriate climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience strategies in the Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks. It was developed in accordance with government strategies, communities' needs, and the international climate change agenda. An integrated participatory, multi-sectoral approach that involved all relevant stakeholders at different levels was used for the implementation of the project.

This project involved a number of activities designed to raise awareness of environmental and climate change among all relevant stakeholders including the creation of partnerships and collaborative platforms, improving institutional leadership capacity, building entrepreneurship capacity of women and youth, and documenting and disseminating updated information regarding the conservation status of the two parks.

Project Rationale

There is a huge capacity gap in park management and leadership in Ethiopia, and almost all PAs are experiencing heavy anthropogenic pressure from adjacent communities and climate change impacts. Acknowledging the ill-consequences of climate change and human impacts, the national government of Ethiopia has developed a Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy that aims to avert the business-as-usual scenario and embark on a new era of concerted approaches to managing national parks and other categories of protected areas as well as ensuring climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience in the long-term. However, despite issuing these development directions and strategies, the Ethiopian government currently has limited capacity to implement these strategies, and hence the participation of non-governmental organizations in PAs management is an indispensable opportunity.

The Approach

As mentioned earlier, PHEEC and its partner organizations implemented a pilot project that established a new participatory park management regime in both Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks. The approach utilised of multi-sectoral involvement from the grassroots to the national level in order to address and manage the social, economic and environmental issues through active and sound participation of wider stakeholders. This approach provided a new insight into sustainable conservation practices through

an integrated approach to reduce the pressure currently exerted on PAs and contribute to the country's sustainable development.

The pilot project brought together relevant stakeholders from local communities, government institutions, the private sector, and higher educational institutions in the form of taskforces to provide strategic direction and promote participatory leadership for PAs.

Some of the achievements made as a result of the project included:

- ▶ Improved leadership of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority in integrated park management
- ▶ Improved relationship between the park adjacent communities and park management regimes to ensure the integration of community benefits and conservation in a harmonized way.
- ▶ Increased awareness in the wider community of conservation, environmental management and conflict management in the PAs.
- ▶ Establishment of strong partnership and collaboration among stakeholders.
- ▶ Greater sense of ownership of PAs and participation of the local communities.

Lessons Learnt from the Project

This project attempted to introduce a new approach to protected areas management in Ethiopia. As such, the following lessons have been learnt from this project:

1. Conducting a detailed stakeholder analysis provided an important entry point and foundation for the establishment of multi-stakeholder taskforces.

2. Formation of multi-sectoral taskforces at various levels as an effective mechanism for the management of PAs and harmonization of sectoral and community interests.

3. Formation of Park-woreda level taskforces has been a success serving as a platform for addressing issues related to the parks and park adjacent communities in a participatory way.

4. Conducting a climate change knowledge gap assessment and offering training based on the identified gaps have created awareness across the different stakeholders regarding environment and climate change from which a common understanding and consensus have been developed.

5. The community-based conflict resolution mechanisms developed are crucial in reducing park-community conflicts, and communities are now playing the leading role of protecting parks from intruders, illegal settlers, illegal grazing and charcoal production activities.

6. Entrepreneurship capacity building activities for women and youth groups have been important for providing alternative livelihood options for park-adjacent communities.

Conclusion and Launch of Consolidation Phase

The project was successful in laying a basic foundation for stakeholders' partnership and collaboration and created a conducive platform for future protected areas management activities. The project activities aimed at building park management and leadership capacity have been effective and have started demonstrating changes, although still there remains more work to build the capacity of park level practitioners and higher level leaders.

Overall the project has been successful and the formation of protected areas management taskforces provides a new model for effective management of PAs in Ethiopia that should be replicated within other PAs of the country where similar problems persist. In order to build upon and consolidate these achievements a second phase of this project was approved and funded by SCIP in July 2014.

The second phase project is focusing on strengthening the established Multi-sectoral Protected Areas Management Taskforces at all levels through capacity building training workshops, field exposures and consultative meetings. This will enable them to fully discharge their responsibilities and exhibit tangible improvements with regard to protected areas management and the resulting resilience of the ecosystems in the two parks to climate change. However, it needs to be complemented with additional investment that could address community livelihood issues in order to achieve sustainable transformation of the protected areas management regime and climate change resilience.

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium, as a lead organization, is responsible for implementing the second phase of the project together with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Frankfurt Zoological Society, and Wildlife Sustainable Development.

The consolidation phase project will last for twelve months (July 14, 2014 – July 15, 2015) and is financed by the SCIP Fund through contributions from the Governments of the United Kingdom, Norway and Denmark.

Further information can be found at www.phe-ethiopia.org/aboutus/Projects.html ■

Project Launched to Conserve the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functions and Improve Community Well-being within Bale Eco Region

Traditional highland grazing areas for livestock in Ethiopia are being rapidly converted to agricultural use, putting pressure on traditional grazing practices and transhumance. In the Bale Eco Region (BER) the unregulated use of grassland and forest resources in combination with land conversion have contributed to soil erosion, flooding, and drought, as well as negative

impacts on the water table and ecosystem services. As a result, some lowland communities of the BER and other downstream users nationally and internationally continue to experience chronic food insecurity and vulnerability to increased land degradation and recurring drought.

It is due to these challenges that Farm Africa in partnership with

SOS Sahel Ethiopia, Frankfurt Zoological Society, International Water Management Institute, and Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium, and with the financial support of European Union (EU), has initiated a new project called Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Functions and improved well-being of Highland and Lowland Communities within Bale

Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum Strengthened

In May 2013 the various consortiums, networks, and representatives of Charities and Societies Organizations (ChSOs) working in Ethiopia together established the Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum (EFCSF). The Forum was developed in recognition of the need to reinvigorate the collaborative engagement, coordination, partnerships, and networking between ChSOs, as well as strengthening their solidarity, collective voice and actions in their engagement with the country's development.

The EFCSF is a non-partisan, independent, inclusive and voluntary forum and its scope is at the federal and regional level, incorporating around 5,000 local, resident and international ChSOs. Its key focus is on legal, institutional, and operational issues that commonly concern the Charities and Societies sector in Ethiopia. It is governed by an Executive Committee comprising seven elected members who are accountable to the General Assembly, and its day-to-day activities and functions are supported by a Secretariat Office. The Executive Committee and Secretariat aim to provide important information and updates to its members and stake-

holders through various communication channels.

The structure of the Federal Forum also includes three Sub Committees namely Promotion and Accountability, Partnership and Collaborative Engagement, and Research and Dialogue. Each Sub-Committee comprises five members elected by the General Assembly.

Main Activities and Achievements

The first newsletter of the Federal Forum was published in August 2014 and widely disseminated. The newsletter included the Statute and Annual Action Plan of the Federal Forum as well as deliberations from the establishment and first General Assembly meeting among other components. A website was also developed for the Forum to provide a platform for communications, which can be accessed at www.fcsf.net.

A one year project proposal was developed by the Executive Committee and received funding of €75,000 from the Civil Society Support Program, a multi-donor initiative led by Irish Aid and supported by the Canadian Embassy, United Kingdom,

Royal Norwegian Embassy, The Kingdom of Netherlands, Swedish Embassy, and the European Union. In addition, the European Union has also pledged additional financial support of €10,000 to the Federal Forum. The financial support provided by the Civil Society Support Program and the European Commission will significantly strengthen the capacity of the Federal Forum to implement its priority initiatives and activities.

The Executive Committee of the Federal Forum has also had meetings with various donor partners, government bodies, and ChSO networks in order to create a shared understanding of the objectives, purposes and relevance of the Forum. This had included meetings with the Embassy of Canada, USAID, European Union, Civil Society Support Program, British International NGOs Network in Ethiopia (BINGO), Canadian Network of NGOs in Ethiopia (CANGO), and the International NGO Humanitarian Community in Ethiopia (HINGO).

The Forum was also invited to participate in the Pan African Parliament regional meeting on African governance and the promotion of African Union legal instruments for

Eco Region.

The project aims to enhance drought resilience and the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in Southern and Eastern Ethiopia. The implementing consortium members held their internal project launching and planning workshop on 13 October 2014 in Addis Ababa, and in late November 2014 the external launching workshop was held in Robe, Southern Ethiopia with all project partners. Further information on this project can be found on our website at www.phe-ethiopia.org/aboutus/Projects. ■



Workshop participants



Forum Executive Committee members representing CSO in PAP meeting



Second General Assembly(GA) meeting 14 November 2014

the East Africa region. More than twenty ChSO leaders participated and discussed on African ChSO issues and the way forward, such as establishing aChSOcommittee under Pan African Parliament and creating strong cooperation between African governments and ChSOsector.

In October 2014 the Executive Committee of the Federal Forum met with the Director General, Ato Meseret Gebremariam, and the new Deputy Director General, Wro. Fentaye Gezahegn, from the Federal Charities and Societies Agency. One of the main issues discussed at the meeting was follow-up on progress regarding amendments to the Capacity Building and Transport sections of the 30/70 directives, which

were previously recommended by the Civil Society Sector Working Group. The importance of the active participation of the ChSO sector in the process of developing the next Growth and Transformation Plan was also discussed. The Executive Committee of the Federal Forum requested and the Agency expressed its willingness to facilitate this with the relevant government bodies.

A very successful second General Assembly meeting of the Federal Forum was held on 14 November 2014 in Addis Ababa. During the meeting the eight months report, next six months work plan, vision, mission and objectives of the Forum were presented, and the Forum's website was also launched. In addition,

an amendment to the 70/30 directive was presented by Charities and Societies Agency.

From 21 to 25 November 2014 leaders of various ChSOs consortiums and networks, and the Federal Charities and Societies Agency management team visited the Grand Renaissance Dam. During the trip they also discussed with ChSOs in Benshangul Gumuz their successes and challenges.

Dialogue forums in different regions are also being organised by the Federal Forum. In December 2014 forums were held in Addis Ababa and Oromia and the remaining regional meetings will be organised in January and February 2015. ■

Maternal and Child Mortality Training for Eastern Africa at Flinders University

A capacity building training on maternal and child health for Eastern African countries was conducted from 10 January to 23 February 2014 at Flinders University in South Australia through funding from the Australian Government. The training participants were selected from the Eastern African countries of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Tanzania. Thirty-one people participated in the training and PHE Ethiopia Consortium was represented by Program officer Ahmed Mohammed.

The objectives of the training included sharing experiences in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets in maternal and child health in East African countries, building capacity through exposure to the advanced healthcare system of Australia, and assisting participants to develop solid practical plans that could help them in achieving MDG 4 and 5 in their respective countries.

The capacity building trainings were mainly focused on health and related issues. The performance of the three Eastern African Countries regarding maternal and child health were reviewed. Accordingly, the experience of Ethiopia in health extension program was given important recognition. In particular, the way in which Ethiopia has set about achieving the maternal and child health targets was assessed and commended.

In the training the participants also identified the social determinants of maternal and child health in East Africa. For example, poverty and its consequences

that lead to malnutrition, as well as the absence of adequate health infrastructure and the traditional cultural attitudes of communities to women and children. The participants also prepared individual plans that could help them in contributing to improving maternal and child health in their areas of intervention of their respective countries. To further strengthen their interventions and share experiences participants established Google group to enable ongoing communications and feedback on progresses made.

Another focus of the capacity building training was on the workings of the South Australian healthcare system. This system is based on A Health in All Policies (HiAP) framework, an emerging concept that promotes multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral approaches in addressing health outcomes. The HiAP framework is based on the premise that health is not merely a product of health care provision, but that it is also influenced by socioeconomic, political, cultural, and environmental factors, many of which are outside the scope of health sector. As such the HiAP approach strives to foster a coordinated, cross-government policy response to address health issues by incorporating health considerations across a range of policy domains.

The participants also had the opportunity to visit the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations. This included the South Australian Department of Health and Ageing and the Women's Health Service.

The visit to the Department of

Health and Ageing provided insights into the structure and functions of the Australian healthcare system, which operates at a Federal, State and local government level. Participants were given brief presentations on the types of services provided by the Department, which include communicable disease surveillance, pregnancy outcomes, child immunization, and HIV treatment and prevention in South Australia.

The Women's Health Service is a government-funded program implemented by the Women's and Children's Health Network. The program is focused on supporting immigrant communities coming from different countries including African communities. The participants attended the "international day of zero tolerance of female genital mutilation". The main reason for commemoration of the day was due to the fact that there are communities that could exercise this traditional activity after they migrate to Australia. Group discussion and experience sharing were held about the situation among the African participants and the communities.

The participants were also invited to attend the annual conference of the South Australian Council of Social Service, a non-government representative body for the health and community services sector in South Australia. The theme of the conference was "Taxing Times, Sustaining Vital Services". The participants were fascinated to hear Australian non-governmental organizations discussing the use of taxes to sustain the social services they

have started. They have learned that non-governmental organizations in Australia are contracted by governments to provide community services using public tax money.

Finally, the participants also took a field visit to an Aboriginal health clinic. The Aborigines are the indigenous people of Australia and one of the oldest cultures in the world. However, the Aborigines have very low life expectancy and poor health outcomes compared to non-indigenous Australians. They are also vulnerable to alcoholic and substance abuse. The health clinic was located in Cobby, around 400 km from the South Australian capital city of Adelaide. The clinic provides a number of services for the community including vaccinations and regular follow-up for patients requiring ongoing medication. After visiting the clinic the participants had discussions with Aboriginal elders from the community. The elders informed the visitors that they have reclaimed the land that belongs to their ancestors after they lost ownership following British colonisation. ■



Participants of the training at Flinders University campus



Ethiopian participants with their tutors

PHE Ethiopia Consortium Strategic Plan 2015-2020

The PHE Ethiopia Consortium is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan to guide its work for the period 2015-2020. The new strategic plan will seek to build on the achievements of the the previous Strategic Plan in order to realise the vision of the PHEEC for an Ethiopia with healthy people, balanced population growth, sustainable livelihoods, and resilient ecosystems.

The strategic planning process

has included a review of the Strategic Plan 2011-2013 and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of PHEEC, and the threats, opportunities, and strategic issues that will influence the achievement of the goals of PHEEC over the next five years. In addition, member organizations, partners and other key stakeholders have been invited to provide feedback and input into the development of the goals and objectives of the next strategic plan. This will ensure the new

strategic plan is aligned with the core values of our member organizations and that it will enable PHEEC to respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities that arise in the national and international environment.

The Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is expected to be finalized and ready for endorsement by the PHEEC General Assembly in March 2015. ■

Communicating Population, Health, and Environmental Research to Policymakers

Communication is one of our day to day activities, however it is not an easy task. Effective communication goes beyond merely transferring information or messages but involves creating understanding. Unfortunately most of the time research outputs and evidence produced by researchers and experts are not well communicated with policy and decision makers. The problem can be even more difficult when it comes to new or emerging ideas and approaches such as PHE that policy and decision-makers are not familiar with. This demands even more effort to effectively communicate evidence and practical examples in order to demonstrate its advantages.

In June 2014 PHEEC in collaboration with the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) provided a five day training workshop on communicating Population, Health, and Environmental research to policy-makers and de-

velopment practitioners at the Pyramid Hotelin Debrezeit. The seventeen participants included representatives from PHE implementing member organizations, government offices, and the PHEEC secretariat.

The training aimed to increase the skill of participants in the use of evidence and information from effective interventions for the improvement of policies and programs. PHEEC in collaboration with PRB has a plan to organize additional training sessions on policy communication in the future.

Following the success of this training PHE EC and PRB organized an additional one and half day Training of Trainer workshop from 2-3 September 2014 on “Communicating Population, Health and Environmental Research to Policy Makers” in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The training participants were drawn from five organizations

namely: PHE EC, Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association, Guraghe People Self help Development Organization, German Foundation for World Population, Ethiopia Federal Charity and Society Forum, and Amhara region Bureau of Finance and Economic Development.

The Training of Trainer workshop aimed at building the leadership capacity of program coordinators and implementers in communicating information and results to decision and policy makers, as well as to provide the basic training for a wide range of institutions to address the gap in policy communication among the PHE implementers in the country.

The workshop was facilitated by Jason Bremner, Associate Vice President, International Programs, and Program Director, Population, Health, and Environment from PRB, with the financial support of US-AID through IDEA project.

Feedback from participants indicated that the workshop had strengthened their knowledge of policy communication issues and their skills in facilitating policy communication training. The participants also pledged to utilize the skills and knowledge acquired in the workshop to train others to become empowered on policy communication issues. ■



Training Participants

Women's Leadership for Family Planning and Reproductive Health Workshop

A Women's Leadership for Family Planning and Reproductive Health Workshop was held from 14 July to 1 August 2014 at Nairobi, Kenya with the support of the Health Policy Project. The workshop focused on strengthening women's roles and voices in defining country priorities and promoting support for Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH) initiatives.

The workshop was attended by twenty-two young women with diverse experiences and professional backgrounds who are working on family planning and reproductive health in both governmental and nongovernmental organizations in six African countries, including Ethiopia. PHE EC was represented at the workshop by its Health Program Officer, AlemMekonen.

The three-week workshop included three main sessions on the topics of leadership and gender, advocacy and working with the media, and facilitation skills. A variety of learning methods, such as case studies, role-plays, group discussions, and presentations, were undertaken during the sessions. Participants developed and applied critical thinking skills and appreciative approaches to enhance their knowledge of FP/RH policy and advocacy efforts, tools and approaches, as well as strengthening skills in leadership, data analysis, message development and forming strategic partnerships.

Participants from each country also worked together to develop an action plan on specific family



Training participants



Training participants during the role play

planning advocacy objectives for their respective countries. The advocacy objectives formulated by the Ethiopian participants were:

1. Ministry of Defense to approve military health Science College to provide technical assistance for family planning in Goffa and Signal military camps by the end of 2015.

2. Department of Defense to allocate funds for Ministry of Defense to strengthen the capacity and increase the involvement of military personnel on FP/RH by 2016.

Each country team was awarded \$5,000 to support them to carry out various advocacy meetings and workshops to achieve their advocacy objectives. ■

PHE Ethiopia Consortium holds 8th General Assembly

The eighth PHE EC General Assembly (GA) meeting was conducted from 13-14 March 2014 at the Harmony Hotel, Addis Ababa, with 75 participants encompassing senior government officials, member organizations, partners, donors and other stakeholders.

The first day of the General Assembly meeting opened with a welcome speech and keynote address from Ato Negash Teklu, Executive Director of PHE EC. In his speech, Ato Negash provided an overview of the national and international present and future conditions including the Growth and Transformation Plan of Ethiopia (GTP), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and other relevant development issues. He also mentioned the role of PHE EC in contributing nationally and internationally to these important agendas.

Following the introductory speech, Ato Dawud Mume, Director General of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority

(EWCA) delivered a keynote address. In his speech, Ato Dawud praised PHE EC, its members and partner organizations for their role in addressing the multi-faceted challenges of rural communities through the multi-sectoral PHE approach to improve the social, environmental and economic conditions of the country.

H.E. Ato Kare Chawecha, State Minister for Ministry of Environment and Forest was then invited to officially open the general assembly. He acknowledged the important role of PHE EC and its partners in bringing an integrated multi-sectoral approach in the country.

The opening remarks were proceeded by a number of presentations. Firstly, the findings of three research projects were presented which included a review of smallholder farmers' vulnerability to climate variability and their adaptation practices, an assessment of carbon capture potential of the Yerer mountain forest, and the development of a survey tool for PHE interventions. Secondly, two presenta-

tions were made on PHE experiences in the Sustainable Climate Institution Program in Simien Mountains National Park and Awash National Park Project. Finally, the experiences of the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations and Relief Society of Tigray on their implementation of PHE initiatives were presented.

The second day of the general assembly meeting focused on business matters, which included discussions on the 2013 physical, financial, audit, and board members reports, planning for the 2014 annual plan, the endorsement of 14 new PHE EC member organizations, and the election of new board members. As it was ratified with an independent auditor report, the transparency and accountability in PHE EC financial transaction were deemed to be on the right track, including 70/30 directives.

The general assembly meeting was concluded with the signing of the official meeting minutes. For more information please visit www.phe-ethiopia.org ■

Strengthening and Scaling up Reproductive Health and Family Planning Intervention through PHE

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium is initiating a project entitled "Strengthening and scaling up RH/FP intervention through multi sectoral PHE integrated approach" with the support of David Lucile Packard Foundation.

The project intends to strength-

en capacity, generate evidence, and improve partnership among PHE implementing member and partner organizations in order to achieve and contribute to the population and reproductive health goals of the country and attain sustainable development.

As part of the agreement, PHE

EC and Ethio wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) have started to establish PHE learning sites at Metu and Hrumuworedas of Illu Ababora zone in South West Oromiya. The project lasts for three years (July 15, 2014-July 14, 2017) ■

Enhancing the use of evidence by decision makers

Although it has a strong influence on the quality of life they lead, many people appear to have little or no understanding of government policy making processes. For better or worse, policy effects almost every single sector of society and every community within it. This is why formulating policy is a challenging task. It demands interpreting and applying data and evidence, assessing different policy options, and measuring results and outcomes. In the 21st Century, policy makers require support from scholars and implementers to help address the complex issues facing today's society. Providing information that is easy

to interpret including relevant policy implications can support policy makers to design relevant and timely policies and associated implementation mechanisms. Timely and well-communicated feedback from development practitioners can also provide decision makers with ideas for possible new policy directions.

To enhance the capacity of decision makers in the use of data for formulating policy, the Health Policy Project through Futures Group and Population Reference Bureau has been working with PHE Ethiopia for the last couple of years. The project has involved conducting

trainings for implementers on how to communicate evidence to policy makers, producing briefs on different developmental and population issues, organizing conferences, participating in international and national conferences, and providing trainings for media leaders and journalists on how to report research findings. The project has been helping to bridge the gap between implementers, academics, and policy makers. It is planned to continue this project in the coming year and to strengthen the ability of decision-makers to make evidence-based policies in order to improve outcomes for all Ethiopians. ■

Australian Embassy supports the strengthening of self-help groups and PHE activities in the Guraghe Zone

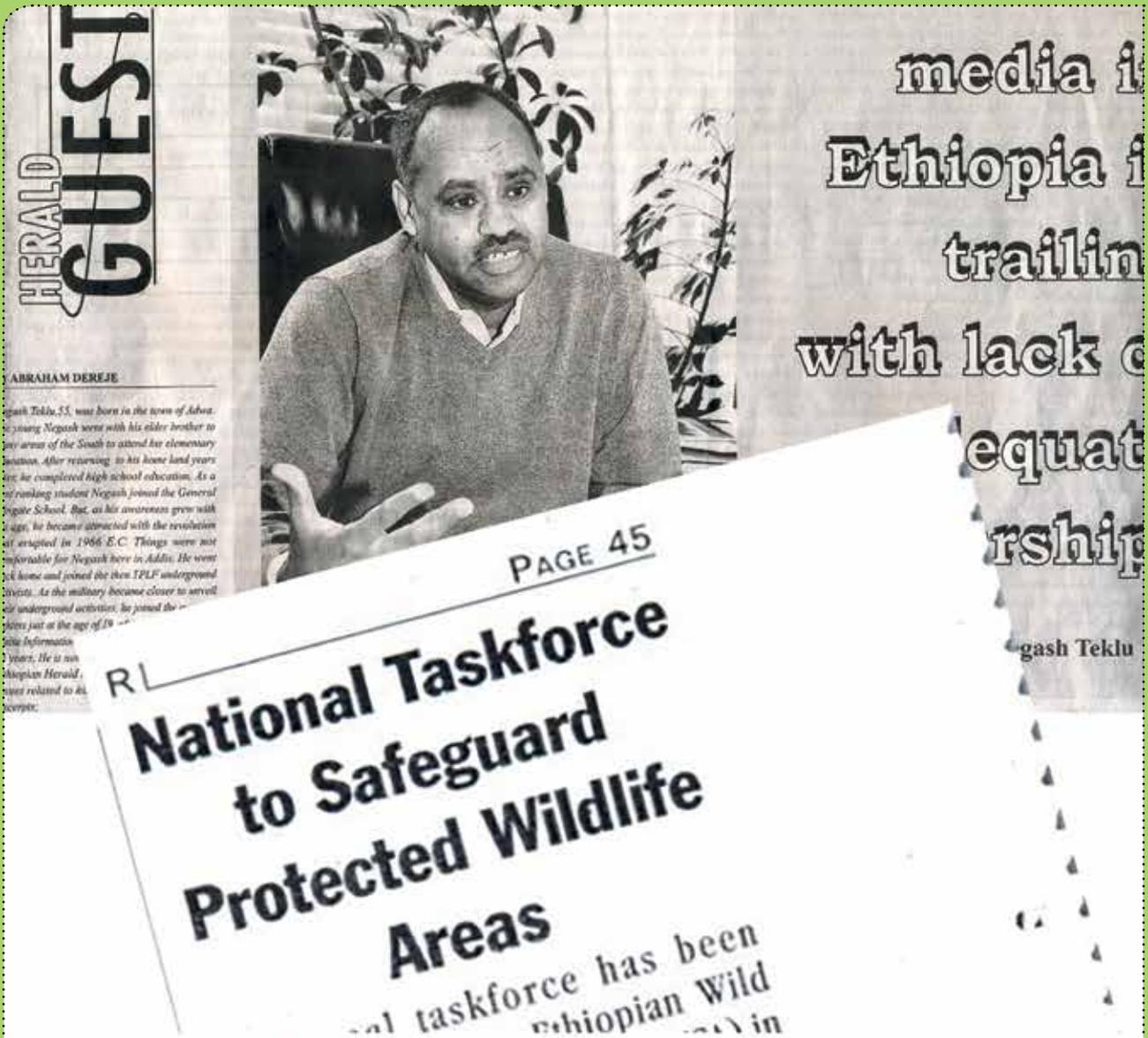
The Australian Embassy has partnered with PHEEC and the Guraghe People's Self-help Development Organization on a project that will support the strengthening of self-help groups and the enhancement of PHE outcomes in the Muhir-Ak-lilworeda of the Guraghe Zone.

Since 2008 the Guraghe People's Self-help Development Organization (GPSDO), as a member organization of PHEEC, has been implementing a PHE project in the Guraghe Zone that integrates environmental conservation and livelihood activities

into its reproductive health and community-based family planning program. This program connects GPSDO voluntary community health workers with government health and agricultural extension officers to deliver integrated messages and services. GPSDO has also supported the establishment of self-help organizations, including women's groups, youth groups, and farmers' cooperatives, as well as PHE school clubs, to raise awareness of PHE issues and undertake livelihood and conservation activities in the community.

This new project aims to consolidate and sustain these achievements by enhancing the capacity of the community self-help groups to undertake economic development activities so they can become self-sustaining.

These actions will also be complemented by additional PHE-related communication and capacity building activities, including support to PHE school clubs and the development of multi-sectoral taskforces to coordinate PHE-related actions at a woreda and zonal level and scale-up good practices and lessons learned. ■



COP20: Negash Teklu, PHE Ethiopia Consortium



Negash Teklu , PHE Ethiopia Consortium

From Lima: COP20 UN Climate Change Conference 2014 in December 2014

COP20 (08/12/14) – Negash Teklu of PHE Ethiopia Consortium talks about Ethiopia's plans for a climate-resilient

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What is PHE?

Population, health and environment (PHE) interventions in Ethiopia are a holistic, participatory and proactive development approach whereby issues of environment, health and population are addressed in an integrated manner for improved livelihoods and sustainable well-being of people and ecosystems.

The PHE integrated approach acknowledges that people do not live their lives in single sectors. Instead, every day they make decisions and face challenges across health, livelihoods, education and the environment. PHE integrates different sectoral approaches in order to address these challenges at the same time through developing partnerships and relationships with government offices, organizations from other sectors and the community. The multisectoral PHE approach recognizes that community concerns are interlinked. Food security is tied to the amount of land one has to farm and the quality of the soil on that land. As population increases, parents must divide their plots among many children, leading to smaller and smaller land holdings. As there are more people to feed, traditional practices such as fallowing are stopped, preventing the land from regenerating and reducing soil fertility and agricultural productivity. To fully address any component of this scenario sustainably requires utilizing family planning, alternative income generation opportunities, soil conservation and improved agricultural practices. Leaving one component out reduces the effectiveness of the interventions in the other areas. PHE approach has been shown to be effective at meeting the diverse needs of communities while creating opportunities for cost savings as partners and communities address multiple issues at the same time, saving transportation and meeting expenses while respecting the time of communities.

PHE Ethiopia Consortium was formed legally in 2008 to promote the PHE approach in Ethiopia and support PHE implementing organizations. The mission of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium is: PHE Ethiopia Consortium exists to enhance and promote the integration of population health and environment at various levels for sustainable development. The vision of the PHE Ethiopia Consortium is: Ethiopia with healthy population, sustainable resource use, improved livelihood and resilient ecosystem. ■



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PHE Ethiopia Consortium's official website where you can find articles, manuals, policies, national data related to PHE, as well as links to websites of governmental organizations, research centers, partners/member organizations and much more....!!

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