

Experience Sharing Visit by DFPA and its Partners From Kenya to PHE Ethiopia Site

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 in September, 2014. The participants included ViAgroforestry, Community Rehabilitation Project, Osienala, and Health Options Kenya from Kenya, and Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) from Denmark.

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

The group visited the EWNRA project in Ale Buya kebele and the Network Creation and Capacity Building Project in Yayu Biosphere Reserve coordinated by PHE EC, and were briefed by Mr. Feyisa Tefera, coordinator of the project in Metu area.

The group had a discussion with Ale Buya kebele 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 including grevillea tree plantations, terrace construction, and physical and biological soil and water conservation measures (vetivar system or vetivar grass plantation) on the slopes of the beautiful hills in the area.

Mrs. Elisabeth Riber Christensen from DFPA on behalf of the group said, “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. The project that is about to begin implementation later this year is funded by the DFPA. For further reading visit http://phe-ethiopia.org/pdf/DFPA_Experience_sharing.pdf

Visitors in Yayu Biosphere Reserve



Training of Trainer Workshop on Communicating Population, Health and Environmental Research to Policy Makers held in Addis Ababa



Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC), in collaboration with the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) from Washington (United States), organized a one and half day Training of Trainer (ToT) workshop from 2-3 September 2014 on “Communicating Population, Health and Environmental Research to Policy Makers” in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PRB started policy communication workshops to bridge the gap that often exists between the research and policy communities. Research results often have profound implications for policy, but without proper communication between the research community and policy audiences, the significance of research findings may be lost.

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. A total of ten participants attended the ToT workshop, which was a continuation of the policy communication training conducted in Debrezeyit, Ethiopia from June 2-6, 2014.

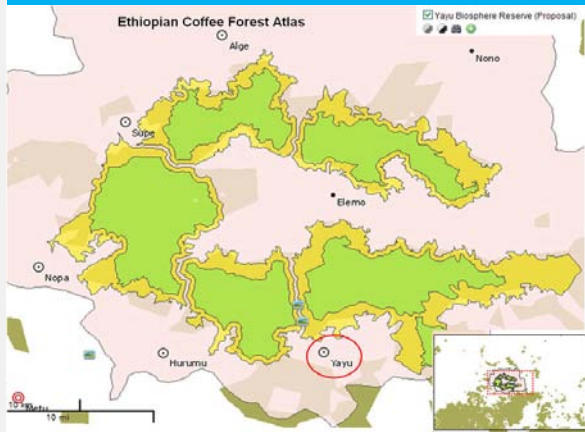
This ToT aimed at building the leadership capacity of program coordinators and implementers in communicating information and results to decision and policy makers as well as to provide the basic training for a wide range of institutions to address the gap in policy communication among the PHE implementers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

The ToT workshop was facilitated by Jason Bremner, (MPH, PhD), Associate Vice President, International Programs, Program Director, Population, Health, and Environment from PRB with the financial support of USAID through IDEA project.

The participants noted that the workshop had strengthened their knowledge on policy communication issues and also in facilitating policy communication training. They therefore pledged their commitment to utilize the skills and knowledge acquired in training others to become empowered on policy communication issues and PowerPoint presentation a well.

Network Creation and Capacity Building in Yayu Biosphere Reserve

Yayu Biosphere Reserve Registered by UNESCO



Ethiopia has three United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) registered Biosphere Reserves, namely Kefa, Shaka and Yayu Biosphere Reserves. The fact that they are registered under UNESCO is an opportunity for sustainable development.

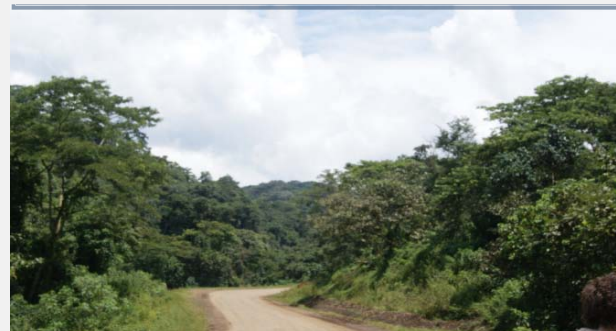
However, these Biosphere Reserves are facing the threat of destruction due to various human induced factors. It is due to this threat that Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC), with the financial support of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, has initiated a new conservation project called “**Network Creation and Capacity Building in Yayu Biosphere Reserve**”. The project aims to improve the management and conservation of Yayu Biosphere Reserve using a multisectoral integrated approach and to draw lessons for the conservation of other Biosphere Reserves

in the country. The multisectoral integrated approach is opted for this project so as to create cooperative responsibility among all involved stakeholders and bring them together to have collaborative effort towards the sustainable management and conservation of the Biosphere Reserve. To achieve its objectives PHE Ethiopia Consortium and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise have started to implement the project in Hurumu, Yayu, Chora, Doreni, Alge Sachi and Nopha woredas of Illu Abba Bora zone in South West Oromiya since July, 2014.

The project will run for 18 months (July 1, 2014 – Dec 31, 2015) <http://phe-ethiopia.org/aboutus/Projects.html>.



Partial View of the Biosphere



Consolidation Phase of SCIP Project Implementation Launched

The one year pilot phase Strategic Climate Institutions Programme (SCIP) project implemented in the Simien Mountains and Awash National Parks was a very successful project in strengthening stakeholders' partnership and collaboration and creating a conducive platform for future protected areas management activities http://phe-ethiopia.org/pdf/progress_evaluation_final.pdf. The second phase consolidated project activities have now been approved and implementation launched.

The consolidation phase activities mainly focus on strengthening the established Multi-sectoral Protected Areas Management Taskforces at all levels through capacity building training workshops, field exposures and consultative meetings, so as to enable them 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. This project was initiated only to enhance capacity of wider stakeholders on improved protected areas management and climate resilience building through various training workshops. However, it needs to be complemented by a additional investment that could address

community livelihood issues in order to exhibit a concrete transformation on protected areas management and climate resilience building, and also make the established multi-sectoral protected areas management system sustainable as well.

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium, as a lead implementing organization, is responsible to implement the project together with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and grassroots implementing partners: Frankfurt Zoological Society and Wildlife Sustainable Development. http://phe-ethiopia.org/pdf/PHE_newsletter_no_8.pdf

The consolidation phase project will last for twelve months (July 14, 2014 –July 15, 2015). <http://phe-ethiopia.org/aboutus/Projects.html>

This Project is financed by the SCIP Fund: The SCIP Fund is financed by the Governments of the United Kingdom (UK), Norway and Denmark.

Project Implementing Partners



The 16th Annual Review Meeting of Health Sector Development Plan was Held in Dire Dawa



The 16th annual review meeting of Health Sector Development Plan (HSDP) was held from October 15-17 2014 at Dire Dawa. The Ministry of health (MoH) 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 officers, health training institutions, funding organizations, and NGO's working on health including PHE EC.

PHE EC shared different publications. http://phe.ethiopia.org/pdf/PH_E_newsletter_no_8.pdf, http://phe.ethiopia.org/pdf/case_story_RH-FP.pdf, [\[Ethiopia_TFR_and_FP_DHS_Brief.final%20\\(1\\).pdf\]\(http://phe.ethiopia.org/admin/uploads/attachment-1882-Ethiopia_TFR_and_FP_DHS_Brief.final%20\(1\).pdf\). Generally, Dr. Kesete Birhane Admassu Minister of Health delivered the opening speech. In his speech he underlined the major achievements in the health sector development plan for the last one year. These achievements included:](http://phe.ethiopia.org/admin/uploads/attachment-1882-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

- ✚ By reducing the Infant Mortality Rate by two-thirds, Ethiopia has achieved MDG 4 three years ahead of the target period.
- ✚ Increased 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 pregnant 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 are selected to bring about big change during the Ethiopia Fiscal Year (EFY) 2007 are:

1. 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.
3. 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)
4. Improving the nutritional status of mothers and children through comprehensive and multi-faceted actions.
5. Strengthening the implementation of Health Extension Program (HEP) and conducting extensive work around personal and environmental hygiene on Open Defecation Free (ODF).
6. 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 (Lunch 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.

Strengthening & Scaling up RH/FP intervention through multi sectoral PHE integrated approach

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC) 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 strengthen 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 Hrumu woredas of Illu Ababora zone in South West Oromiya. The project lasts for three years (July 15, 2014-July 14, 2017) <http://phe-ethiopia.org/aboutus/Projects.html>.

the David &
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PHE EC Participation in Women's Leadership for Family Planning and Reproductive Health Workshop

PHE EC was represented by Alem Mekonen (Health Program Officer) at the Women's Leadership for Family Planning and Reproductive Health Workshop at Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop took place from July 14 to August 1, 2014 with the support of the Health Policy Project and focused on strengthening women's roles and voices in defining country priorities and promoting host-country support for Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH).

A total of 22 young women with diverse experiences and professional backgrounds working on family planning and reproductive health in both governmental and nongovernmental organizations of six African countries including Ethiopia attended this training.

The three week Workshop included three main sessions on the topics leadership and gender, advocacy and working with the media, and facilitation skills. A variety of learning methodologies such as case studies, role-plays, group discussions, and presentations were undertaken. Participants developed and applied critical thinking skills and appreciative approaches to enhance knowledge of FP/RH policy issues



global, regional and national advocacy efforts, tools and approaches, and strengthening skills in leadership, data analysis, message development and forming strategic partnerships.

Finally, each country team developed an action plan on specific family planning advocacy objectives and awarded \$5,000 with the aims of helping each team practice family planning advocacy. The Ethiopian country team developed an action plan with the following specific objectives

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.

To achieve these objectives the country team will expected carry out various advocacy meetings and workshops.

PHE ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM PARTICIPATION IN SCIP 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.

PHE EC was represented at the event by Negash Teklu, Executive Director of PHE EC, Tadesse Hailu, SCIP Project Coordinator, as well as 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 Climate Resilience Green Economy (CRGE) stakeholders. PHE EC was one of the grantees invited to host a stall whereby 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. ([Saving our National Parks: Awash National Park \(Part 1\)](#) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3bPzRBnqF8>

[Saving our National Parks: Simien Mountains National](#)

[Park \(part two\)](#)- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTz1O9uobgc>



**Tadesse Hailu, SCIP Project
Coordinator**



**Group discussion on challenges,
lessons learned & ways forward**

[Saving River Basins in an Integrated Manner-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37PAn-2YcVI) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37PAn-2YcVI>
[Integration of the three \(Population, Health and Environment\)-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WZ6kv6dqmg)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WZ6kv6dqmg>

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 were:

- All the projects funded to date have made an important contribution towards establishing the building blocks for the successful implementation of the CRGE, however further capacity building and support will be 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.
- 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 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 at each level and to support decision-making and managing trade-offs.

The feedback on PHE EC's SCIP project was generally highly positive and it is 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 contribute to the CRGE.

Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Functions and Improved well-being of Highland and Lowland Communities within Bale Eco Region

Traditional highland grazing areas are being rapidly converted to agricultural use, putting pressure on traditional grazing practices and transhumance. Unregulated use of grassland and forest resources and land conversion have resulted in soil erosion, flooding, drought and a negative impact on the Bale Eco Region (BER) water table as well as other 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 (lead organization), SOS Sahel Ethiopia, Frankfurt

Zoological Society (FZS), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC), 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 Eco Region”**. The project aims to enhance drought resilience, food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in Southern and Eastern Ethiopia. The implementing consortium made its internal project launching and planning workshop on October 13, 2014 in Addis Ababa, and in late November, 2014 the external launching workshop will be held in Robe with all project partners. <http://phe-ethiopia.org/aboutus/Projects.html>.



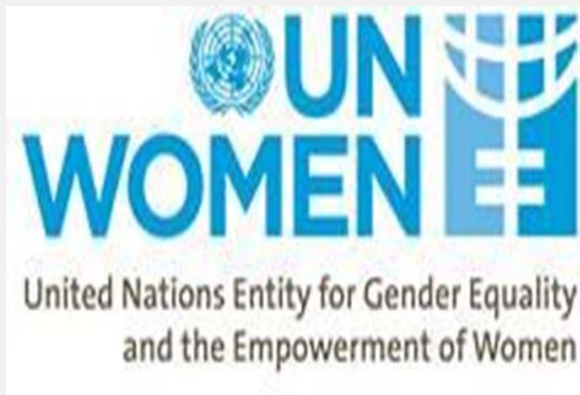
END HUNGER >>> GROW FARMING
FARM AFRICA

SOS SAHEL
ETHIOPIA



IWMI
International
Water Management
Institute

UN WOMEN ETHIOPIAN ADVISORY GROUP ESTABLISHED



A consultative meeting was held on the 9th of September 2014 in Addis Ababa with a broad group of non state stakeholders including Charity and Society Organizations (CSOs), academia and private sector organizations to share ideas of having an advisory group on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in Ethiopia to support, guide and complement this area of work in the country. More than 35 representatives of CSOs working on GEWE, the academia and the private sector attended the consultative workshop.

The participants expressed their enthusiasm towards the idea and also underlined the necessity of such a working modality to enable entities working on GEWE 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 of from which 12 members for the Group were selected.

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 East and Horn of Africa Regional Office (ESARO).

Tsigie Haile, Executive Director of Women in Self Employment (WISE) and **Negash Teklu**, Executive Director of Population Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE EC) was selected as Chair and Vice Chair of Women of Ethiopia Advisory Group respectively.

The Advisory Group will be holding the position for two years, and will hold two face to face meetings per year with UN Women providing secretariat support.

The expected roles of the UN Women Advisory Group are:

- * Create opportunities for civil society to engage with the United Nations system in necessary policy discussions on gender equality, women's rights and development.
- * Foster dialogue and engagement, with a view to advance goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- * Enable UN Women to consult with civil society and draw upon the rich and diverse expertise, experience, outreach and networks, perspective and knowledge that civil society can offer.
- * Serve as an informal consultative forum of ideas and strategies for the UN women's programme.
- * Support strategic alliances within civil society in order to amplify action on key result areas of UN Women in Ethiopia.

- * Contribute to better coordination of initiatives at country level aimed at enhancing women's empowerment and gender equality
- * Establish linkages with UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group within the African region and beyond to foster local and global dialogues and collaboration
- * Provide inputs into strengthening linkages between the Economic Commission for Africa and African Union policies on gender equality and women's empowerment

Finally, in order to accomplish the above mentioned expected roles, 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. See more at

http://article.wn.com/view/2014/11/06/05_11_2014_UN_Women_launches_Ethiopia_Civil_Society_Advisory/.

