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Ethiopia  
Ministry of Agriculture**

***Sustainable Land Management  
Program***

**Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project II  
(RLLP II)**

**Social Assessment Report  
(Final Version)**

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## Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
BOA	Bureau of Agriculture
BP	Bank Policy
CBPWDG	Community-Based Participatory Watershed Development Guideline
CDD	Community Demand Driven
CIG	Common Interest Groups
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
CSA	Climate smart agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Community Storage Receipts Program
CWT	Community Watershed Team
DA	Development Agent
DPs	Development Partners
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
ESIF	Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESF	Environment and social framework
ESS	Environment and Social standard
ESPAWM	Exit Strategy and Performance Assessment for Watershed Management
FTC	Farmers Training Center
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GCF	Green Climate fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGWI	Great Green Wall Initiative
GMG	Gender Mainstreaming Guideline
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGA	Income Generating Activities
KWT	Kebele Watershed Team
LMP	Labor management procedure
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS/IT	Management Information System/Information Technology
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
CEFCC	Commission of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MoWIE	Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity
NFE	Non-Farm Economic Enterprises
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSLMSC	National Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee
NSLMTC	National Sustainable Land Management Technical Committee
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PAP	Project Affected People

PDO	Project Development Objective
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
RED&FS Platform	Rural Economic Development and Food Security Platform
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SA	Social Assessment
SEP	Stakeholder engagement plan
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SLLC	Second Level Landholding Certification
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SLMP	Sustainable Land Management Project
SLWM	Sustainable Land and Water Management
SMP	Social management plan
SNPPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region
SU	Support Unit
SWC	Soil and water conservation
VLD	Voluntary Land Donation
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WLRC	Water and Land Resources Center
WOANR	Woreda Office of Agriculture and Natural Resource
WSC	Woreda Steering Committee
WTC	Woreda Technical Committee

## Executive Summary

**Background:** As a successor to the second phase of Sustainable Land Management Project and separate project of RLLP, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has finalized the preparation of the Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project II (RLLP II). The Project is planned to be implemented in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNPPR, Sidama, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional States. The Project covers 47 watersheds. Land degradation has been recognized as the leading cause hampering Ethiopia's agriculture led development strategies, and the country is fully committed to addressing the issue in a comprehensive manner as clearly elaborated in the Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework (ESIF) for Sustainable Land Management. In line with this, the main objectives of RLLP-II are to reduce land degradation and improve land productivity in selected watersheds of the project regions. The Project has three components: (i) Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihood; (ii) Investing in Institutions and information for resilience (iii) Project Management and Reporting

**Social Assessment:** Based on the framework of SLMP-II, and considering its principal features and aspects, it was found necessary to update the social assessment report to produce inputs for the preparation of RLLP-II. As a result, this social assessment has been carried out and updated with the following major objectives in focus: Assess key socio-economic factors that require consideration, Identify vulnerable and historically underserved groups that may be excluded from the project and be adversely affected as a result, and the necessary impact mitigating measures, Assess any potential adverse social impacts of RLLP II, and determine whether the project is likely to implement the relevant ESSs, Recommend in the early stage of project preparation the appropriate measures towards addressing World Bank Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) requirements (ESS2, ESS5, ESS7, ESS8, ESS10) and develop social development plan.

The social assessment (SA) was prepared using primary and secondary data, and qualitative data collection approach. Field data was collected from 35 sample woredas (17 new and 18 existing). Hence, this SA update is a macro social assessment based on a sample of woredas with a limited purpose for the RLLP-II and not a SA for the entire project. In the existing woredas, purposive sampling was used to include those where community infrastructures were constructed while accessibility was used as a criterion to select the sample woredas from the new ones. Focus group discussions were made using semi-structured checklist with male and female community members, Religious leaders and elders. Attempts were made to include vulnerable community members like female household heads, people with disabilities, the old, and the poor. Key informants such as Development Agents (DAs), woreda experts from different line offices, RLLP woreda focal persons, experts from Regional Bureau of Environment, Forest and Climate, and RLLP regional environment and social safeguard specialists were also consulted. Moreover, information exchange on latest development was made with regional project coordination unit by telephone. In line with the Ethiopian Government's decentralization policy, organizational structure and implementation arrangement and with due consideration to the implementation of project activities at the grassroots level, RLLP-II is designed to operate at federal, regional, zonal, woreda kebele levels and beneficiary community level. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and reporting system of the project is in-built in the implementation arrangement to be executed at all levels of the organizational structure.

**National Policies and Legal Frameworks:** Relevant national policies, strategies and legislations applicable to RLLP II that can be considered during the project implementation were reviewed. Applicable policies in the constitution of FDRE with provisions under articles 39, 40, 41, 54 and 89 recognize the presence of different socio-cultural groups, including historically disadvantaged and underserved communities, pastoralists, and minorities, as well as their rights to socio-economic equity and justice.

**Institutional and implementation arrangements:** The institutional arrangement includes the World Bank for monitoring the implementation of ESSs, the Ministry of Agriculture and regional bureaus of agriculture for coordination and implementation of ESSs in all project components and watersheds, RLLP-II related conflict/grievance redress mechanism/GRM, consisting of community watershed teams, indigenous local institutions, kebele watershed teams, and people from woreda agriculture and natural resources offices.

**World Bank's Environment and Social Standards on Social Risks and Impacts:** The Project will be required to comply with not only the relevant national policy and legal frameworks but also with the World Bank's Environment and Social Standards (ESS). Relevant ESS applied by RLLP-II, especially for Component I of the project, are: ESS1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts), ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions), ESS4 (Community Health and Safety), ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement), ESS6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources), ESS7 (Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities), ESS8 (Cultural Heritage), ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure).

**Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups:** In the context of the sample woredas, community groups identified as vulnerable and underserved are the elderly, female-headed households, families with members living with HIV or other chronic illnesses, and historically disadvantaged ethnic groups. This finding agrees with the list of vulnerable groups indicated in the Ethiopian social protection policy developed in October 2013. This social protection policy identified pregnant and lactating women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, labor constrained individuals and households, the unemployed, those exposed to natural and manmade calamities, persons living with or directly affected by HIV and AIDS and other chronic debilitating diseases, victims of social problems such as drug users, beggars, victims of human trafficking and commercial sex workers and people with difficulties in accessing basic social services as vulnerable groups in the country. The findings of the assessment revealed that the implementation of SLMP II and RLLP has, to a large extent, been accommodative of the needs and circumstance of these population groups. Thus, it was ascertained that issues related to gender, age, social status, occupational factors and income levels were given proper consideration in respect to the inclusiveness of participation and fair access to benefits to project investments.

**Community Consultations:** The social assessment ensured that preliminary Free Prior and Informed Consultations (FPIC) for obtaining broader community support were carried out in RLLP II woredas at watershed level. During the consultations, the communities have reiterated their interest and readiness to actively participate in all phases of the project i.e. from planning, implementation and monitoring. In fact, the local population has already been involved in the containment and reversal of natural resource degradation as part of the government-led social mobilization initiative. The free and prior community



consultation and mobilization was found to be consistent and inclusive. Hence, community members were sufficiently informed concerning the benefits and their role in the implementation of the Project and efforts were made to include all social categories in consultation meetings regardless of their various backgrounds. It is evident that the local governments' structures (one to five local arrangement, community watershed teams, kebele watershed teams, woreda technical committees, and woreda steering committee) and communities in all regions have developed implementation capacity that helped them successfully execute activities of the projects. The coordination of this arrangement created an immense opportunity for the enhancement of project implementation capacity and effective execution of project activities. Although RLLP II and previous investment projects contributed a lot to the enhanced capacity enhancements in local government and community structures through the provision of office and field equipment's (computers, laptops, motor bicycles and so on) there are capacity constraints particularly related to field vehicles. There has been delay in budget disbursements and workload of local government officials (technical and steering committee members), unable to devote adequate time to supervise and monitor implementation of project activities.

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

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

institutions in communities of Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella and in the other four regions are part of RLLP Grievance Redress Mechanism and will continue to be instrumental during the implementation of RLLP-II. The assessment further pointed out the presence of formal and informal cooperative societies and Common Interest Group (CIG) in the visited Project communities which could be utilized for RLLP-II. These institutions include saving and credit, marketing and multi-purpose service cooperatives are the formal cooperative established and operated by relevant government sector offices, NGOs, women and youth associations. The informal societal institutions refer to the kind of long-established rotating credit associations (Equb), burial associations (Iddir), and socio-religious groups (Mahiber and Senbete). Although the latter social institutions are intended to serve respective establishment purposes, they still perform certain economic functions that the project may properly tap. Thus, cooperative establishments; formal and informal alike, can be instrumental in the efforts made at watershed and micro watershed levels to enable smallholder farmers cope with challenges related to marketing and finance in the context of the relevant RLLP-II activities.

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

**Social Inclusiveness:** It was found to be one of the strengths of the SLMP that gender issues have been properly addressed. Gender analysis was conducted, and gender mainstreaming guideline was updated to facilitate the implementation of gender related issues. Women informants acknowledged being consulted about the Project, as well as their active participation during project implementation and access to benefits. Women are also involved in leadership positions in grassroots community structures like CWT. For instance, women members in CWT are 39 and 40, percent in Gambella and Benshangul Gumuz national regional states, respectively. Moreover, there are representatives of youth, religious leaders and elders/influential persons in the grassroots level established CWTs. The inclusive nature of SLMP-2 institutional arrangements enhanced planning, implementation and monitoring of activities. In addition, the implementation of soil and water conservation (SWC) on individual farmland often starts from the upper part of a slope and is applied uniformly regardless of age, sex, occupation and race of the land user right holder household. Moreover, the highly vulnerable groups of societies such as households with small land holding or landless farmers and youth have been given priority for labor work with incentives depending on requirements. Regarding targeting for different income generating activities, due focus has been *given* to farmers with tiny landholding or landless, jobless youth, women, people with disabilities and elderly persons. With a view of addressing gender issues to the

desired level, RLLP-II has defined its gender approach based on analysis and an action plan is developed taking into account the needs of different women groups.

Executive summary Table: Potential risks, Challenges and Mitigation Measures related to RLLP-II by Project Components

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
<b>Component 1:</b> Investment in green infrastructure for resilient watershed	Focus on supporting smallholder farmers to scale up and adopt best-fit sustainable land and water management technologies and practices. Hence there is a possible risk/challenge of not properly addressing the circumstances of people, such as communities who entirely depend on natural resources, who pursue peculiar livelihood systems and natural resource management strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devise a mechanism to include livelihood strategies of communities who are entirely dependent on natural resources into the RLLP II activities. For example, traditional beekeeping though largely takes the form of forest honey collection, can be integrated into the RLLP II activities with an injection of modern knowledge and technology based on their demand such as beekeeping technology as the latter is more productive, sustainable and environmentally and appropriate for women to manage.</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated into component 1.3
	The creation of benefit streams through markets and other market based instruments like results-based payments involve the risk /challenge of not properly considering the elderly, people with disability and poor members of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recommended that the project through consultation with the beneficiary communities, devise possible mechanisms on how to make the old, the sick and people with disability benefit from the project even when they might not afford to contribute either labor or cash to the project implementation. For example, the elderly people can be used as advisors, people with disability as timekeeper, etc.</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated into component 1.1
	Watershed community saving is part of the project activities that helps Users' Groups who voluntarily organize themselves to engage in IGA suitable to their respective environment. In principle membership is open to all, but the minimum cash contribution and active participation requirement to run the IGA leaves out some members of the community who could not afford the contribution. This involves the risk of further disadvantaging the vulnerable groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project should devise a mechanism (e.g., interest free loan, for those who cannot involve in the regular scheme) by which watershed community members who are likely to be left out due to the inability to meet the minimum membership requirement can also benefit from the scheme.</li> <li>For vulnerable and historically underserved communities unable to join cooperatives due to inability to pay the registration fee should be supported through flexible local level solutions such as means-test-based exemption of registration fee; allowing them raise registration fee from project activities; keeping the registration fee as low as much lower as the poorest of the poor can afford; and by introducing installment based payment</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The required budget will be covered from component 1.3

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female household heads may face the risk of not benefiting from the Project in equal measure with male counterparts because of not being able to balance their domestic responsibilities with their project-related role in the treatment of communal lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Especial support needs to be provided to women playing the dual role of mothers and household heads, and active participation in the Project with male community members. Arrangements may be made in consultations with watershed committees in this respect. Suggested ways to help them balance their competing responsibilities may be allowing them to a certain number of hours or days off from the minimum required time of labor contribution to the Project.</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	More measures are identified in the gender action plan.
	<p>Construction water harvesting structures, community pond may cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competing claims over water use and conflicts</li> <li>• Competing claims upper &amp; down streams over water and conflicts,</li> <li>• Ponds become breeding place for disease vectors (malaria) and malaria infestation increases,</li> <li>• Land acquisition, loss of assets, loss of land</li> <li>• Mismanagement of water may cause gully erosion</li> <li>• Loss of water due to mismanagement,</li> <li>• Impacts on physical cultural resources,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out assessment study on water demand and availability,</li> <li>• Community consultations and consensus with upper and downstream community,</li> <li>• Careful design and installation of canal structures so that excess flows will be directed to natural waterways,</li> <li>• Consult PAP, pay compensation /replace land for land, compensate for loss of land, livelihoods or economic benefits,</li> <li>• Conduct social assessment,</li> <li>• Plant mosquito repellent tree and shrub species around water ponds,</li> <li>• Construct fence/ in the activity cost include the budget,</li> <li>• Apply water efficient technologies and techniques,</li> </ul> <p>Provide alternative designs and locations or avoid if sub-</p>	All implementers  MOA, MOWE	The required budget will be covered from component 1.1

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
	<p>Construction and rehabilitation of community access roads and path might cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road side erosion and initiation of flooding and gully erosion in agricultural fields,</li> <li>• Quarry site opening causes pollution of surface and ground water,</li> <li>• Disturbance to cultural, religious and historical sites or resources</li> <li>• Land acquisition</li> <li>• loss of livelihood and economic benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chanel road spillways to natural waterways,</li> <li>• Rehabilitate quarry sites with natural vegetation, rip raping, shaping and refilling, and avoid creation of standing water,</li> <li>• Avoid disturbance to cultural or religious sites. Unavoidable incidences must be agreed with stake holders such as leaders of churches, mosques and community.</li> <li>• Avoid occupied land. Prepare procedures to ensure equitable resolution,</li> <li>• Avoid if project causes relocation of people.</li> </ul>	MOA,	The required budget will be covered from component 1.1
	<p>Degraded land treatment and rehabilitation on communal and private lands using physical and biological SWC measures might cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restriction of access to communal lands</li> <li>• Restriction of human and livestock mobility</li> <li>• Risk of involuntary land acquisition and causing relocation of households</li> <li>• Risk of conflict over diverse interests</li> <li>• Loss of economic or livelihood benefits</li> <li>• Wildlife attack on domestic animals and increase of crop pests (birds, primates, mammals)</li> <li>• Loss of farmland due to structures,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide alternative routes formed for mobility</li> <li>• Compensations for loss of access (if caused economic loss)</li> <li>• Provision of alternatives (options for cut and carry, awareness on alternative forage sources, forage species provision)</li> <li>• Consecutive community consultations and consensus on benefits and costs, responsibilities of management, benefit sharing arrangements</li> <li>• Carry out social assessment report and prepare social management plan if up to 40 HHs are affected or less than 20% economic loss by the activity</li> <li>• Prepare resettlement action plan if more than 40 HHS are affected or more than 20% economic loss by the activity</li> <li>• Avoid appropriation of land or eviction of households</li> </ul>	MOA	The required budget will be covered from component 1.1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition with annual or food crops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting sites should be different and with sufficient distance from crop fields</li> </ul>	MOA	

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of ecotourism around national parks may result in immigration of labor to the area and uncontrolled growth of small businesses with a possibility of conflict with the community, disturbance of local cultures, practices, and values, and risks of increased prostitution, sexual abuse and exploitation of minors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consecutive and inclusive community consultation at all stage (planning, implementation...</li> <li>Due attention should be given to maximizing the benefit share of local communities</li> <li>Consecutive consultation with clan leaders, religious fathers, elders, traditional institutions leaders</li> </ul>	MoA, SNNPR & Gambella Bureau of culture & tourism and other implementing organizations	The required budget will be covered from Component 1
<b>Component 2:</b> Strengthening institutions & information modernization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learned from SLMP II show that inadequate attention to the use of locally available indigenous knowledge systems and time-tested adaptation strategies can undermine the potential positive roles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is highly recommended that locally available social capital such as traditional and indigenous knowledge of land use and natural resources conservation practices, conflict resolution for effective implementation of project activities to facilitate and speed up the implementation</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The required budget will be covered from Component 1 and 2

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background of the Project

Pursuant to the agreements signed between the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the World Bank (WB) on August 2018, a five-year Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project has been under implementation in seven regions (Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNPPR, Sidama, Gambella, and Benishangul-Gumuz). With the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and regional bureaus as the responsible government bodies, the project has been under implementation in 152 woredas at grassroots level. The development objectives of the Project were to improve livelihood, climate resilience, carbon storage and land productivity in vulnerable rural major watersheds. The global environmental objective of the project is to protect and/or restore ecosystem functions and diversity in agricultural landscapes through the reduction of land degradation. Under RLLP II, a wide variety of activities relevant to sustainable land management have been undertaken as part of three interrelated components, namely: integrated landscape and Watershed Management, Institutional strengthening capacity development and Knowledge Management, and Project Management. Project planning and implementation were guided by three major instruments: Project Appraisal Document (PAD), Community-Based Participatory Watershed Development Guideline (CBPWDG), and Project Implementation Manual (PIM).

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

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

With a view to expanding and consolidating the successes of SLMP-II and startup of RLLP, the national



development and global environmental objectives of the RLLP-II are to further improve climate resilience, land productivity and carbon storage and increase access to diversified livelihood activities in selected rural watersheds in seven regions of Ethiopia. The objectives are planned to be achieved through the provision of capital investment, technical assistance, and capacity building for smallholder farmers and government institutions at national, regional, and grassroots levels. The Project covers 47 woredas/watersheds in seven regions. The Project has three components: (i) Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods, (ii) Investing in Institutions and Information for Resilience, and (iii) Project Management and Reporting.

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

The Project will be implemented in 47 major watersheds/woredas in the National Regional States of Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya, SNNP, Sidama, Gambela, Benshangul Gumuz and Sidama. The RLLP-II will directly benefit some of Ethiopia's poorest citizens in the watersheds/woredas it covered. With more than 87 percent of Ethiopia's poor living in rural areas, the operation will benefit some of the poorest, as they are the most dependent on the degraded land resources targeted by the project, and the most vulnerable to the climate shocks that good natural resource management and improved tenure security can mitigate – as proven through interventions under SLMP-II. Accordingly, including RLLP-II design, the total population expected to be benefited from the Project are 4.2 million of which 1,877,452 are female. The Household size is 834,000 where 700,560 are Male Headed Households and 133,440 Female Headed Households. The project is considered innovative and transformative as it emphasizes on multi-sectoral landscape approach that supports GoE to coordinate efforts on land use, land management, and land administration. This approach will generate multiple benefits including contributions to, inter alia, productivity improvement, resilience to climate risks, enhancements to natural wealth and diverse livelihood opportunities, and water security – and ultimately poverty reduction and prosperity. As part of the preparation for RLLP-II, it has been found necessary to build up on the social assessment conducted for RLLP preparation by considering the salient features and contents of assessed watersheds from SLMP-II and RLLP.

## **1.2. Scope of the Social Assessment**

Review the project background and project appraisal document: As the follow-on project, full understanding is required of its various elements including its location, schedule of implementation arrangements, and life span. Review the socio-cultural, institutional, historical and political context and identifying gaps in

previous documents: Describe the socio-cultural, institutional, historical and political contexts with respect to the RLLP-II based on available sources of information. The focus of the description below is on the qualitative portrayal of the constraints and opportunities of the project by giving focus on.

- *Socio-cultural context:* Describe the most significant social and cultural features that differentiate social groups in the project area, portray their different interests in the project, and their levels of influence; explain any effects the project may have on the poor and excluded; examine any opportunities that the project offers to influence the behavior of such groups and the outcomes thereof; Understand any known conflicts among groups that may affect project implementation.
- *Institutional context:* Describe the institutional environment; consider both the presence and function of public, private and civil society institutions relevant to the operation; find out possible constraints within existing institutions and opportunities to utilize the potential of these institutions
- *Assess legislative and regulatory frameworks:* Review national legislations and regulations relevant to sustainable land management practices. In addition, the social assessment refers to the Ethiopian legislations to highlight the covenants supporting equitable opportunities to ethnic populations and link the results to the proposed project design.
- *Identify key social issues:* The social assessment determines what the key social and institutional issues are in relation to project objectives; identifies the key stakeholder groups in this context and determine how relationships between stakeholder groups will affect or be affected by the project. It also identifies expected social development outcomes and actions proposed to achieve those outcomes. Social development outcomes are the socially relevant results the project is expected to achieve such as poverty reduction, equity and inclusion, strengthening of social capital and social cohesion, and promotion of accountable and transparent governance, as well as the mitigation of adverse impacts arising out of the project.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Social Assessment**

The overall objective of the social assessment is to identify key areas of social concern and significance, and appropriate implementation strategies/approaches for RLLP-II, based on the assessment made for the predecessor projects (SLMP I, II and RLLP woredas). In the light of this, the social assessment seeks to meet the following specific objectives stated hereunder:

- i. Assess key socio-economic factors that require consideration;
- ii. Identify vulnerable and historically underserved groups that may be excluded from the project and be adversely affected as a result, and the necessary impact mitigating measures.
- iii. Assess any potential adverse social impacts of RLLP-II, and determine whether the project is likely to implement relevant Environment and Social Standards
- iv. Recommend in the early stage of project preparation the appropriate measures towards addressing World Bank ESSs (ESS2, ESS5, ESS7, ESS8, ESS10)
- v. Develop social development plan.

## 1.4. Methodology

The SA during parent RLLP (P163383) design was prepared at the same time with the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) using primary and secondary data, and qualitative data collection approach. Field data collection was limited to 35 sample woredas (17 SLMP-II, 7 RLLP and 11 RLLP-II watersheds) during January to April 2018 and November, 2020. Hence, this SA update is a macro social assessment based on a sample of woredas. In the SLMP-II supported Woredas, purposive sampling was used to include those where community infrastructures were constructed to assess the lessons learned and experience shared from the predecessor project to capture fresh social developments to include; while vulnerability and accessibility were used as criteria to select the sample Woredas from the newly added watersheds (from Benshangul Gumuz - three, Gambella –two, SNNP -three, Amhara -two and Tigray -two<sup>1</sup>). Moreover, information exchange was made on the latest development by telephone with regional project coordination unit. This will enable RLLP-II to clearly depict the potential impacts of the project on the various impoverished and disadvantaged community groups and their respective environment in the sample woredas. The identification and selection of the sample woredas was carried out in consultation with regional project coordination unit. Thus, the sample woredas depicted in the following table were purposively selected in line with the above-mentioned criteria.

Table 1: List of RLLP and RLLP-II sample Woredas visited for the Social Assessment (January to April 2018 and November 2020)

Region	Zone	Woreda	Kebele	Number of people consulted		
				Male	Female	Total
Tigray	South Eastern	Hintalo Wajerat**	Bahri Tseba	28	14	42
	Eastern Zone	Saesie Tsaeda emb	Gula Abenia	21	12	33
Amhara	Awi	Dangila	Dube	32	4	36
	East Gojam	South Mecha**	Abromenor	49	5	54
SNNPR	South Omo	Debub Ari	Kayisa	28	6	34
			Tembel	11	17	28
	Gurage	Endegagn	Tefeka	44	29	73
	Dawuro	Tocha	Okele dereba	21	7	28
		Esara*	Chawuda	31	5	36
	Gofa	Zala*	Waggesho	14	9	23
	Gamo	Kucha*	Morka	22	6	28
	Kefa	Cheta*	Boba	26	8	34
Gambella	Nuer	Lare**	Bilinnkun	15	0	15
			Palbuol	0	15	15
		Jikawo**	Nibnib	30	8	38
			Wanke	12	10	22
	Anywa	Gog*	Puchala	21	3	24
		Jor*		6	0	6
Benshangul Gumuz	Assossa	Assossa**	TsenTsalo	12	0	12
			Parziet	7	1	8
	Metekel	Dibati	Gerez	13	2	15
			Kido	7	5	12
	Kamash	Yaso	Ayane	18	13	31
Total				468	179	647

\*\* GCF (RLLP-II) watersheds and \*PROGREEN (RLLP-II) watersheds

<sup>1</sup> The assessment was not conducted in Oromia regional state due to security problem at that time and due to the COVID-19 pandemic after the security issue was resolved. However, telephonic communications confirmed that the new watersheds are similar in socio-cultural and socio-economic set up of the watershed community with SLMP –II watersheds in the region, and hence the assessment could apply for the RLLP-II watersheds in Oromia as well. Moreover, when the project kicks off as part of project preparation quick verification will be conducted.

Focus group discussions (FGD) were made using semi-structured checklist with male and female community members. Attempts were made to include vulnerable community members like female household heads, people with disabilities, the old, and the poor. Key informants such as Development Agents (DAs), woreda experts and woreda officials from different line offices, SLMP-II woreda focal persons, Woreda TC members, experts from Regional Bureau of Environment, Forest and climate, and regional environment and social safeguard specialists were also consulted. The study team thus summarized the profile of FGD participants and KII, and issues focused upon during those discussions and interview sessions. See Annex 1: for the check list used in the discussion for the Social Assessment.

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

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

Among the secondary data, the Ethiopian government laws and regulations related to land expropriation and compensation, equity and inclusion, World Bank Environment and Social Framework/ ESSs, project appraisal documents, RLLP Environmental and Social Framework Management (ESMF), Social Assessment (SA) Report and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), periodic reports as well as other World Bank flagship programs' safeguard instruments were the major ones. Consultative Workshop was conducted from January 11-21, 2018 and November, 2020 with regional environment and social safeguard specialists and representative from regional Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bureaus.

## **2. Overview of the Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project-II**

The SLMP II was closed by the end of July 2018 and its follow-up project RLLP (P163383) was designed and following by RLLP-II to support SLMP is being prepared. The RLLP-II aims to create resilience to the treated landscape and improve the productivity and livelihoods through the provision of capital investments, technical assistance and capacity building at national, regional, Woreda, kebele and community levels. The RLLP-II will build on the design of RLLP and results of SLMP I & II, also introduce measures to address climate change/variability related risks and minimize Green House Gas (GHG) emission reductions to meet the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) goals of the country. The results of the project will be measured by the landscape to be put under sustainable and climate resilient land management practices and amount of total carbon sequestered per unit area and time. In line with the different investment experience on forest, climate-smart agriculture, household energy, land tenure, livelihood improvement, watershed management and landscape restoration, the new project would provide large-scale coordinated financial support to the MoA and its acclaimed Sustainable Land Management Program to make a lasting impact at very large scale.

### **2.1. Project Development Objective (PDO)**

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

### **2.2. Project target groups and beneficiaries**

During RLLPII, the total population within the project area is 1.27 million people or 254,151 households (with an average of 5 persons per household). In general, the primary beneficiaries to be benefited from the Projects (RLLP and RLLP-II) will be 834,000 rural households where 700,560 are Male Headed and 133,440 are Female Headed Households (4.2million individuals of which 1,877,452 are female) on degraded land facing land tenure and water insecurity in targeted watersheds. Indirect beneficiaries include: (i) communities adjacent to project intervention areas adopting SLM and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices through demonstration effects, as observed under SLMP-II; (ii) private sector participants and end-consumers in value chains targeted by the project; (iii) households outside project areas benefiting from the creation of land certification capacity at woreda and regional level; (iv) recipients of capacity building at all levels of government, as well as in national partner organizations; and (v) communities outside project areas benefiting from groundwater recharge, reduced flooding, and lower sediment loads, as a result of SLM interventions

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

### **2.3. Project Components**

The Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project II comprises of three main components:

*Component 1:* Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods;

*Component 2:* Investing in Institutions & Information for Resilience;

*Component 3:* Project Management and Reporting.

#### **Component 1: Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods**

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

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

##### *Sub-Component 1.1: Land Restoration and Watershed Management*

The objective of the sub-component will be achieved through biological and physical conservation measures that ensure reduced surface run-off and soil erosion, as well as improved land productivity, resulting in enhanced crop and livestock production. This sub-component will support restoration of degraded forest, pasture and woodlands that is communally owned, as well as privately-owned cultivated lands, through biophysical land and water conservation measures. The major activities in this sub-component (proven SLWM practices) include: soil and water conservation infrastructure such as terraces, water harvesting trenches, check dams, small reservoirs, and other civil works; soil

fertility and moisture management; assisted natural regeneration, enclosures plus livestock land-use rationalization, intercropping, low tillage, gully reclamation, establishment of grazing corridors, watering points and wells, and sylvo-pastoral management strategies.

### *Sub-Component 1.2: Climate-smart Agriculture*

Interventions under this sub-component will aim at enhancing the livelihood resilience of beneficiary households through Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) interventions in all eligible micro-watersheds assisted by the project. The improved adaptation of restored watersheds to variable rainfall patterns and adverse climatic events, combined with reduced degradation-related risks, will provide suitable conditions for beneficiaries to adopt improved, climate-smart farming practices and diversify and/or intensify their current production systems. The major activities in the sub-component are construction of water harvesting structures with water efficient irrigation methods, homestead development by promoting high value crops and multi-purpose fruit trees and forage tree planting, livestock improvement (e.g. small ruminant fattening, promotion of beekeeping and honey production etc.), promoting bio-fuel/biomass, biogas energy, promotion of fuel saving and efficient technologies, and feeder road construction. Thus, the project will invest in three of the five Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technology packages defined by MoA 2, in-situ and ex-situ soil moisture management; Soil fertility and soil health improvement measures; and Crop development and management (agro-biodiversity) measures.

### *Sub-Component 1.3: Livelihood Diversification and Connection to Value Chains*

This sub-component aimed at providing finance advisory services and investments to improve access to and implementation of income generating activities, strengthen value chains associated with SLM productive activities, and promote access to low carbon household energy. A range of potential interventions have been identified including support for women-led enterprise development and vocational training, processing equipment and Community Storage Receipts Programs (CSRPs), facilitation of access to markets, technology and trade and a suite of household and smallholder low carbon energy solutions, such as solar water pumping for irrigation (where appropriate), biogas cook stove installations and other high-performing cook stove technologies. Additionally, RLLP II will promote efforts to integrate producers and producer groups in the supply chains of large firms and small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs). Lastly, to further enhance the economic incentive for maintaining restored landscapes, RLLP II will build on the promising early experience of watershed-level payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes.

## **Component 2: Investing in Institutions and Information for Resilience**

The objective of this component is to enhance institutional capacity and improve information for better decision-making in supporting resilient landscapes and diversified rural livelihoods in the

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<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Sustainable Land Management Program, “Climate Smart Agriculture-A Field Manual for Practitioners”, December 2016, Addis Ababa.

project area. This component will provide technical assistance at the local level (woreda and kebele) to build local government capacity for (i) planning and managing SLWM interventions, and (ii) managing the land certification process. This component will also provide resources to manage the knowledge generated through these and other assessments of SLWM, and to communicate the lessons learnt to a broad audience, including local governments and communities, relevant research institutions and Government agencies, as well as Development Partners. This component's objectives will be achieved through the implementation of the sub-components: (i) capacity building, information modernization and policy development; (ii) impact evaluation, knowledge management and communication.

### **Component 3: Project Management and Reporting**

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

#### ***Additional Project Information***

**Rural Land Administration and Use.** Land administration is an integral part of the SLM theory of change in which support for watershed management is reinforced with support strengthening land tenure security. Of the 47 new watersheds included for support under RLLP II, 15 watersheds have already received SLLCs from the UK-funded LIFT program, and the remaining 32 watersheds are scheduled to receive such support from the ongoing government program supporting land administration. While GCF proceeds cannot be used to the actual issuance of SLLC and the NRLAIS operationalization, the funds will cover public information awareness raising activities in the GCF project watersheds, provide capacity building training and equipment to process the geospatial and aerial mapping activities, and support modernization of information systems under RLLP II (Component 2).



### **3. Legal, Policy and Institutional Framework**

#### **3.1. The Constitution of Ethiopia**

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

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

#### **3.2. Ethiopian Laws on Pastoralists and Minority Groups**

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

The pastoralists comprise approximately 12-15 million people that belong to 29 groups of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples<sup>3</sup>. Whilst government policies have strengthened and resource allocations increased over the last decade<sup>4</sup>, pastoralist areas are still amongst the least served in terms of basic services. Education indicators for pastoralist areas are among the lowest in the country: lowest literacy rates, highest dropout rates and greatest distance from schools (Jennings et al., 2011). Some pastoral

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<sup>3</sup> Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, <http://www.pfe-ethiopia.org/about.html>

<sup>4</sup> PASDEP (2005 -2010), the previous five-year poverty reduction plan to GTP promoted more targeted assistance to marginalized areas – the emerging national regions and pastoralist/agro-pastoralist areas (MOFED 2010)

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

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

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

### **3.3. Relevant World Bank Environmental and Social Standards applied by RLLP II**

The environment and social standards will be required to comply with not only the relevant national policy and legal frameworks but also with the World Bank Environment and Social Standards. Relevant Environmental and Social standards applied by RLLP II, especially for Component I of the project, are listed below:

#### **Environmental and Social Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

Environmental and Social Standard 1 sets responsibility to the MoA in order to assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with each stage of a project to achieve environmental and social outcomes in consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).

The objective of this ESS is to identify, evaluate and manage the environment and social risks and impacts adopt a mitigation hierarchy approach Including avoidance , minimize or reduce risks and impacts to acceptable levels, utilize national environmental and social institutions, systems, laws, regulations and procedures in the assessment, development and implementation of projects, whenever appropriate & promote improved environmental and social performance, in ways which recognize and enhance MoA capacity.

The environmental and social impact of RLLP-II is largely positive, especially given that activities play a pivotal role in rehabilitating degraded landscapes and conservation of valuable ecosystems through afforestation/reforestation, and on agricultural lands and other ecologically critical ecosystems. The project is designed to create resilient landscapes and livelihoods for vulnerable rural populations in Ethiopia and, hence its potential negative social impacts are not likely to be significant, because the project is not complex and does not involve activities that have significant potential for harming people. The project will also improve climate resilience, land productivity and carbon storage, improve

access to diversified sources of income in selected vulnerable rural major watersheds found in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP, Tigray and Sidama regional states. Nonetheless, the Project will finance supporting infrastructure such as soil and water conservation activities, like for example, terraces, water harvesting trenches; soil fertility and moisture management; assisted natural regeneration, enclosures plus backyard livestock land use rationalization, intercropping, low tillage, gully reclamation, watering points and wells, etc. that may entail potential negative impacts to the social and physical environment. The environmental and social risks and impacts of the project are primarily associated with subproject activities under Component 1 and 2. Among others, some social and environmental related concerns include: limited capacity at local levels for the E&S risk analysis and implementation, biological and physical soil and water conservation practices such as area closures, reforestation and afforestation gully rehabilitation in private and communal lands, construction of community access roads; might require land acquisition, restriction to land use and involuntary resettlement ; competition over land, water and pasture, Conflicting demands on surface or groundwater supplies, safety issues due to labor works during the watershed implementation and increased use of livestock potential impact on biodiversity, mainly as a result of expansion of pasture and farm lands, introduction of new breed species of crops, seeds or animals; OHS hazards during any civil works and during operational phase such as disease transmission during animal dips; possible introduction of exotic/invasive species and genetic materials; antibiotic resistance from poor management of livestock drugs, etc.

Hence, as per the ESS1 requirement, the MoA will undertake an environmental and social assessment to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of a project throughout the project life cycle. The impacts will be minimized by addressing the capacity needs at all levels, carefully designed and community vetted inclusive targeting criteria to identify eligible households prioritized based on local context, and incorporating site specific mitigation measures prepared in the ESMPs/SDP. The ESMF includes items in the screening checklist about potential for both environment and social risks related

## **Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions**

ESS2 recognizes the importance of employment creation and income generation in the pursuit of poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. The objectives of ESS2 are: To promote safety and health at work, promote the fair treatment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunity of project workers, protect project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children (of working age, in accordance with this ESS) and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate, prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor, support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in a manner consistent with national law and provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns.

RLLP II project is not expected to create large-scale labor influx. Within the project implementing entities most staff are civil servants under the Bureaus of Agriculture. The project implementation will involve direct, contracted and community labor coordinated by the MoA, under National Program Coordinator for Sustainable Land Management Program (SLMP). The direct labor includes, the MoA,

under SLMP, RLLP II staff, Regional RLLP II staff, Woreda experts, development agents and Kebele community facilitators. Contracted workers will include local companies hired to undertake small scale civil works such as community infrastructure (water sources and roads.) Community workers will be involved in soil and water conservation work under component 1 as well as sustainable land use practices. Project workers will be subject to the relevant requirements of ESS2 via the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) including clear information on the terms and conditions of employment, principles regarding non-discrimination and equal opportunity, rules regarding child labor and forced labor, and occupational health and safety measures.

### **Environmental and Social Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

This standard recognizes that increased economic activity and urbanization often generate increased levels of pollution to air, water, and land, and consume finite resources in a manner that may threaten people, ecosystem services and the environment at the local, regional, and global levels. There is also a growing global consensus that the current and projected atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) threatens the health and welfare of current and future generations. Simultaneously, more efficient and effective resource use, pollution prevention and GHG emission avoidance, and mitigation technologies and practices have become more accessible and achievable. The project largely contributes for positive outcomes in terms of efficient use of energy resources and pollution prevention through supporting and encouraging Enterprises and Formal and traditional saving groups to manufacture, promote and sale fuel saving cook stove and alternative cooking fuels. Farm water and soil moisture management practices based on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) are part of promoting sustainable livelihoods and may indirectly involve use of agrochemicals. The project ESMF provision includes a description of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches that would elaborate on what actions need to be undertaken to minimize environmental, health and safety impacts.

### **Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety**

The standard recognizes that project activities, equipment, and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts. Communities that are already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration or intensification of impacts due to project activities. It addresses the health, safety, and security risks and impacts on project-affected communities and the corresponding responsibility of the project to avoid or minimize such risks and impacts, with particular attention to people who, because of their particular circumstances, may be vulnerable.

In line with safety provisions in ESS2, it is equally important to ensure the health and safety of communities from the potential impacts and risks of sub projects including soil and water conservation work such as stone bunds, roads, water harvesting structures, check dams construction of flood control structures, bridges, etc. which may pose risks to slips and falls due to wet surface and hillside activities,

dust that can affect eyes, and other respiratory problems. Water structures such as community earth ponds, hand-dug well, shallow wells have risks associated with water borne and vector borne diseases and physical fall safety risks for children and animals.

The ESMF for RLLP II includes provisions to integrate response and mitigation strategy including: allocate budget to fence or put clear sign on projects with potential risk; implement dust suppression techniques; plan for training and awareness creation on community health and safety hazards; and possible protection measures for coordinators and implementers at all level and for the communities. Prevalence of vector borne disease as a result of water logging and possible drowning of children or animals will also be another area of concern that will be addressed through the site specific ESMPs.

It is also equally important to ensure the safety of communities from the potential impacts and risks with rehabilitation, treatment of gully sites and community infrastructure work. This will include adverse environmental and social impacts; such as, possible health impacts because of use of agrochemicals, labor influx that disrupts communities, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation. While the civil works to be financed are limited in scale and scope, to ensure the health and safety of communities during the construction phases of the project, the project will develop and implement a Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) Plan in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG) for construction activities. The project shall adhere to relevant requirements outlined in the ESMF of RLLP II.

The civil works under RLLP-II are small in scale and the potential impacts and risks encompass, (a) increased living costs and food prices in local markets, (b) risk of cultural misunderstanding or exploitation. The risk mitigation measures include recruitment of required labor from the community and minimize the influx of labor. Further, the risk of sexual exploitation due to workers' relations with local women or girls will be mitigated through reliance on the analytical work and proposed action plan which define the RLLP-II's approach on gender, which is based on an exploration of values and norms, and the legal, social and economic context. Establish Community Communication Protocol: the project will adopt a comprehensive community communication and outreach protocol which will cover community health and safety with specific provisions to be included in each sub-project ESMP. By its very nature, RLLP-II involves large community based work force and therefore application of any precautionary measures against introducing the COVID 19 epidemic will be taken based on the ESMF/Safeguards Interim Note: COVID-19 Considerations in Construction/Civil Works Projects Guidance note, and other relevant guiding tools to protect the local communities. However, if subproject civil works will be undertaken by contractors, MoA shall enter in to contract agreements with contractors in determining what obligations should be considered in relation to the current situation. Overall, the task teams will work with the Borrower (PCU) to confirm that sub-projects (i) are taking adequate precautions to prevent or minimize an outbreak of COVID-19, and (ii) have identified what to do in the event of an outbreak.

## **Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

ESS5 recognize that project related land acquisition and restriction on land use can have adverse impacts on communities and persons. Project related land acquisition or restriction on land use may cause physical displacement (relocation, loss of residential land or loss of shelter), economic displacement (loss of land, assets or access to assets, leading to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood) or both. The term “involuntary resettlement” refers to these impacts. Resettlement is considered involuntary when affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition or restrictions on land use that result in displacement.

The environment and social standard on land acquisition and restriction on land use aims to: avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives; To avoid forced eviction; to mitigate unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use by:

- providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost; and
- Assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore their livelihood and living standards in real terms to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation whichever is higher.

To improve living conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced, through provision of adequate housing access to services and facilities and security of tenure:

- To conceive and execute resettlement activities as sustainable development programs, providing sufficient investment resources to enable displaced persons to benefit directly from the project as the nature of the project may warrant.
- To ensure that the resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful consultation, and the informed participation of those affected.

RLLP II deals with rehabilitation, civil works, treatment of gully sites and community infrastructure. The scope of land take would be small. ESS5 is applied recognizing that Component 1 may induce land acquisition or affect access to and use of natural resources. Therefore, this ESS applies to permanent or temporary physical and economic displacement resulting from land acquisition or restrictions on land use undertaken or imposed in connection with project implementation:

Under RLLP II, activities related to afforestation and reforestation sub-projects may not necessarily cause involuntary land acquisition since such projects will be implemented on communal lands. However, such activities may trigger ESS5 during enclosure of areas for rehabilitation and natural regeneration since it restricts access to natural resources.

## **Environmental and Social Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

ESS6 recognizes that protecting and conserving biodiversity and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development. This ESS addresses conservation of biodiversity, which is defined as the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. This ESS also addresses sustainable management of living natural resources, which are defined as plants and animals produced or harvested for human or animal consumption and use. ESS6 recognizes the importance of maintaining core ecological functions of habitats and the biodiversity they support and that all habitats support complexities of living organisms and vary in terms of species diversity, abundance and importance. ESS6 also addresses the need to consider the livelihood of affected communities, including Indigenous Peoples, whose access to, or use of, biodiversity, ecosystem services, or living natural resources may be affected by a project. The potential, positive role of affected communities, including Indigenous Peoples, in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources will also be considered.

RLLP-II is expected to finance afforestation/re-afforestation and other natural resource management (range land management, area enclosure) related activities for which ESS6 would apply. RLLP-II sub projects will exclude areas that qualify as critical natural habitats and sub-projects that would infringe upon protected areas. However, it may affect rangelands and other natural habitats, for which ESS6 will apply to protect even those non-critical natural habitats from any adverse impacts. Hence, the RLLP II ESMF ensures that sub-projects will be screened in conformity with the requirements of the ESS6 and that appropriate preventive or mitigation measures are formulated and executed. The ESS6 is applicable as the project areas are likely to encompass some forests which may be reforested and rehabilitated. The project ESMF provides guidance that subprojects are screened against these kinds of environmental related risks and that appropriate preventive or mitigation measures are formulated and executed (potential impacts associated with their mitigation measures are in Annex 8 and Annex 9). The details are presented in the ESMF of the project

The anticipated potential risks on biodiversity and other living natural resources that might be arisen as a result of possible use of agrochemicals (insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, etc.) shall also be administered in accordance to the PMP provisions which will be prepared as part of the ESMF. The biological treatment of the project watersheds improves forest quality of the project area. It has a positive role in promoting and improving the ecological environment in terms of water conservation, soil and water preservation, as well as increasing the income of farmers within the project area. Although, there is no endangered plant species that found in the project watersheds, the watershed should be treated with the integration of physical and biological conservation for future benefits and sustainability. The indirect ecological and environmental impact of these conservation activities might not be obvious during the project construction period but become gradually clear during the operating

period. The project should monitor gains and losses in biodiversity or individual species in the project areas, to understand the level of impact these changes over the course of the project and beyond as part of annual environment audit.

### **Environmental and Social Standard 7: Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

The ESS 7 recognizes that Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities have identities and aspirations that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies and often are disadvantaged by traditional models of development. In many instances, they are among the most economically marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. The aim of ESS 7 is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that projects supported by the World Bank enhance opportunities for Historically Underserved Peoples to participate in, and benefit from, the development process in ways that do not threaten their unique cultural identities and well-being. Their economic, social, and legal status frequently limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, land, territories and natural and cultural resources, and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development projects. The project will be implemented in Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz and areas where there are pastoralists and agro pastoralists in Oromia and SNNP regional states who meet the criteria of ESS7. The Ethiopian Constitution recognizes the presence of different socio-cultural groups, including underserved peoples and historically disadvantaged groups, as well as their rights to their identity, culture, language, customary livelihoods, socio-economic equity, etc.

The RLLP II Social Assessment is made in all the seven regions including Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz where these underserved people are found. The social risks and impacts relating to ESS7 have been assessed through an enhanced SA and extensive engagement process with potential project beneficiaries, including those identified as vulnerable groups and underserved peoples. The engagement process will enable communities to voice their views, concerns, and a range of recommendations resulting from the SLMP-II implementation experience, have already been incorporated into the project design. Based on the assessment report, some of the interventions may pose some undesirable impacts on these peoples. To avoid and mitigate the potential impacts social development plan prepared and will be implement accordingly. Therefore, to avoid/mitigate the impacts ESS7 is applicable by RLLP II.

### **Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage**

ESS8 recognizes that cultural heritage provides continuity in tangible and intangible forms between the past, present and future. People identify with cultural heritage as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. Cultural heritage, in its many manifestations, is important as a source of valuable scientific and historical information, as an economic and social asset for development, and as an integral part of people's cultural identity and practice. ESS8 sets out measures designed to protect cultural heritage throughout the project life cycle



In the project locations there are areas that may constitute physical cultural resources in the sense described in ESS8. Although the nature and scope of the proposed subprojects is not known at this stage, they are unlikely to involve any major excavation work or inundation of areas with water and are thus not likely to affect any physical cultural resources. Furthermore, subprojects will be carried out only in areas selected, through a broader consultative process that includes prior informed consent, by local citizens who would normally give great importance to safeguarding their cultural resources. Nonetheless, ESS8 will be consulted on the assumption that there could be “chance find”. There are national procedures and guidelines for reporting chance finds to be followed, and a national entity for coordinating and facilitating the archiving, safekeeping and documentation of physical cultural resources. Furthermore, the screening process will be conducted in consultation with the communities and kebele development committee at the early stages of subproject selection and prioritization phase. It should be done by applying a simple checklist and used as a format for fast track eligibility checking of identified sub-projects. RLLP II will work closely with the national authority, should any chance find issues arise. The ESS8 is applicable to RLLP-II, because access road construction, small scale dam construction, and other similar infrastructures may possibly affect physical and cultural resources.

#### **Environment and Social standard 10: Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure**

The ESS 10 recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation.

The overall objective of the stakeholder engagement plan is to define a plan of action for stakeholder engagement, including technically and culturally appropriate approach to public consultation and information disclosure, throughout the entire project cycle. Thus, SEP were prepared prior to the project appraisal which will be used throughout the project life. The SEP outlines the ways in which the project team will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about project activities. The involvement of different stakeholders, including the local population is essential to the success of the project in order to ensure smooth collaboration between project staff and local communities. These will help to minimize and mitigate environmental and social impacts and risks related to the proposed project activities. In the context of RLLP II, broad, culturally appropriate, and adapted awareness raising activities are particularly important to properly sensitize the communities to the potential benefits and risks related to project activities implementation, and measures to be taken to avoid and if avoidance is not possible to minimize and mitigate those risks. The SEP will also assure the participation of men and women. As a key focus of the project is to ensure that vulnerable groups including historically underserved people can access project benefits, the stakeholder engagement process shall ensure that their views are incorporated in project design and implementation, and that risks particularly affecting women and girls are adequately assessed and mitigated. Due to the presence of underserved communities in regions, Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz, in parts of regions Oromiya and SNNPR, any specific engagement requirements for their participation will be provided in the SEP.

SEP also helps to clearly identify roles and responsibilities of stakeholders at different level. As consultation as a continuous activity, RLLP II will engage stakeholders at different level, including communities as per the stakeholder engagement plan which will be adapted to the evolving nature of COVID 19. *Institutional Framework*

There are four key institutions upon which the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups in Ethiopia are anchored: (1) the ministry of women and children affairs that coordinates the empowerment of programs for women and children, and promotes gender equity, (2) the ministry of labor and social affairs that oversees the programs for elderly and people living with disabilities, (3) Human rights commission of Ethiopia that monitors government institutions and conducts investigations on alleged human rights violations, (4) the house of federation which has 20 seats reserved for minority groups (out of 548) and with its power to interpret the constitution enables safeguarding the constitutionally granted minority rights.

The Ministry of Peace was established in 2018 with duties that include, but not limited to ensuring equitable development among the regional states. This ministry took over the duties and responsibilities of the ex-ministry of Federal and Pastoral Development Affairs (MoFDA). The federalism and Pastoralist Development sub-sector of the ministry provides support to the development of the so-called emerging regions that require special support to ensure their equitable development. Two of the regional states where the RLLP II project is implemented, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella, are among those regional states. The responsibilities of this Ministry include promoting equitable development, with emphasis on delivering special support to the developing national regional states. The main purpose of the special support is to address the inequalities that have existed between the regions over the decades, thereby hastening equitable growth and development. Federal Special Support Board, which consists of relevant sector ministries including the MoA was reorganized in March 2011. The Ministry of Peace acts as Vice Chair and secretariat of the board. A Technical Committee (TC) composed of sector ministries constituting the Board were also set up under the Ministry of Peace to monitor and report the implementation of special support plans. As its main aim, the Board coordinates the affirmative support provided to the developing regions by the different organs of the federal government and ensures the effectiveness of the implementation process.

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

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

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

Land degradation in the form of soil erosion, sedimentation, depletion of nutrients, deforestation, and overgrazing - is one of the basic problems facing farmers in the Ethiopian highlands, and this limits their ability to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty and food insecurity. Land degradation in Ethiopia has proceeded at an alarming rate and will be increasingly aggravated by the impact of climate change. Conservative estimates suggest that climate change will reduce agricultural crop productivity in Ethiopia by 5 -10 percent by 2030. The highlands of Ethiopia contain one of the largest areas of ecological degradation in Africa. From 1981 to 2003, 296,812 km<sup>2</sup> (29.7 million ha) of land has been degraded, affecting a population of 20.65 million (Bai et al. 2008).

The RLLP II will be implemented in different agro-ecological and administrative regions characterized by different patterns of rainfall, temperature, growing periods, socioeconomic and biophysical environments. The project will be implemented in 40 (watersheds in seven of the national regional states, namely Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR, Gambela, Benishangul Gumuz and Sidama. Majority of the areas in typically highland agro-climatic zones (in *Dega* or high altitude and *Dry Woina Dega* or mid-altitude with cereal crop-based or mixed crop-livestock farming systems, high altitude and high rainfall, high potential productivity and moderate to severe land degradation, longer growing periods and high population density. There are also some woredas which are in the lowland agro-climatic zones where farming is crop-livestock mixed or annual/perennial crop-livestock mixed farming system is practiced. The environmental and socioeconomic milieu of the intervention areas are characterized by high production potential but with significant limitations due to severe land degradation, high agro-ecological variability and diverse farming systems, high population density and land fragmentation. Those areas with potential access to markets to maximize return from agricultural production, development potential for surface and ground water resources to increase production; and areas with critical importance for the protection of vital economic infrastructures from

on-going or potential erosion-sedimentation problems will be selected for intervention.

#### **4.1. Physical Environment**

##### *Climate*

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

##### *Soil and Geology*

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

#### **4.2. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of RLLP II Regions**

##### **Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS)**

##### *(a) Demographic and Economic Features*

SNNPR covers an area of 111,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and accounts for 10% of the total area of the country. The region is home to more than 56 ethnic groups and the most diverse in ethnic and linguistic composition in the country. SNNPR is in the southern and south-western parts of the country. It shares borders with the neighboring countries of Sudan in the west and Kenya in the south. In the northwest, the region borders with Gambella Regional State and with Oromia Regional State in the east and north. According to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data of all regions from 2014-2017, SNNPR has a total population of 17,837,005 (8,843,499 males and 8,993,006 female). 15,130,000 (84.8%) of the population are rural inhabitants, and 2,707,000 (15.2%) urban dwellers. This region has an estimated average population density of 141 persons per square kilometer.

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

annual temperature ranges from 15<sup>0</sup>c to 30<sup>0</sup>c.

The larger portion of the Region is cultivated land (35%), followed by forest land (21%), and grazing land (14.9%). Agriculture is still the single most important economic activity of the Region. The land holding of peasants is generally very small and the average land holding is less than one hectare per household. Livestock production is the region’s major economic activity, followed by enset and coffee production, fisheries, irrigation, and eco-tourism. Teff, wheat, maize and barley are the main crops grown in most of the areas in the region. RLLP II will be implemented in 12 GCF and 4 PROGREEN woredas/watersheds of SNNPRS and lists of the woredas are found in the table 1 below. SNNPR has five national parks (Mago, Nechsar, Omo, Chebera Churchura and Maze).

Table 3: SNNPRS RLLP-II (GCF and PROGREEN) targeted woredas

No.	RLLP II GCF woredas	RLLP II PROGREEN woredas
1	Ezha	Esera
2	Gombora	Cheta
3	Melekoza	Zala
4	Shey Bench	Kucha
5	Kindo Koysa	
6	Gewata	
7	Bitu	
8	Debub Bench	
	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

*(b) Ethno-Religious Features*

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

**Oromia Regional State**

*(a) Demographic and Economic Features*

With a total land area of approximately 353,000 km<sup>2</sup>, Oromia is the largest region accounting for about 34.3% of the country. Oromia is surrounded by the country’s all regional states except Tigray. Oromia also shares common borders with the neighboring countries of Sudan and Kenya. According to the 2007 national census, the region has an estimated population of 27. 2million, the largest of all

the nation's regional states. More than 87% of the people of Oromia live in rural areas while 13% reside in urban areas.

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

The economy of Oromia Regional State depends on agriculture, which contributes about 66% of the regional GDP and provides an employment opportunity for more than 89% of the regional population. Mixed farming dominates the livelihood of the region. Oromia accounts for 51.2% of the crop production, 45.1% of the area under temporary crops and 44% of the total livestock population of Ethiopia. Coffee is the main cash crop in the region. The major crops grown in the region are coffee, maize, wheat, barley, teff, sorghum, peas, bean and oil seeds. The average land holding size per household in the rural areas is 1.14 hectares, compared to the national average of 1.01 hectares. 24% of the population is engaged in non-farm activities (compared to the national average of 25%). RLLP II will be implemented in 12 woredas/watersheds of Oromia Regional State.

Table 4. Oromia region RLLP-II -GCF targeted woredas

No.	RLLP II-GCF woredas
1	Tole
2	Hetosa
3	Munesa
4	Ziway Dugda
5	Dugda
6	Akaki
7	Boji Chokorsa
8	Borecha
9	Shebe Senbo
10	Dale Sadi
11	Dale Wabera
12	Dama
	<b>12</b>

*(b) Ethno-Religious Features*

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

**Tigray Regional State**

*(a) Demographic Features*

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

Table 5. Tigray region targeted RLLP-II woredas

NO.	RLLP II/ GCF/woredas
1	Hawzien
2	Rama Adi Arbaete and Ahsa-a
3	Kilteawlalo and Gheralta
4	Eisra Adi Wejerat and Hintalo
	<b>4</b>

Altitudes range from 500 meters up to 3,900 meters above sea level. It is situated between 12<sup>0</sup> 15' N and 14<sup>0</sup>57' N latitude and between 36<sup>0</sup>59' E and 40<sup>0</sup> E longitudes with an estimated area of 53,638 km<sup>2</sup>. The mean annual rainfall for the region ranges from 600 mm in the north-eastern part to 1,600 mm in the Woredas lying in the western part. Temperature ranges between 16<sup>0</sup>C and 20<sup>0</sup> C in the eastern and central highland part while in the lowlands of the western zones it is 38<sup>0</sup>C to 40<sup>0</sup>C.

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

*(b)Ethno-Religious features*

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



## Amhara Regional State

### *(a) Demographic and Economic Features*

The Amhara Regional State covers a total land area of approximately 154,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The regional average landholding is 0.3 ha/household. According to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data from 2014-2017, the region has a total population of 20,018,988, out of which 84% live in rural areas. Even if more than 15 soil types are found in the region, leptosols, followed by Vertisols and Cambisols exist predominantly. Under RLLP II 10 watersheds/ woredas in the region are targeted for the implementation of the project.

Table 6. Amhara region RLLP-II woredas

No.	RLLP II-GCF woredas
1	Angolelana Tera
2	Farta
3	Guna Begemidir
4	Gonji Kollala
5	South Mecha
6	Quarit
7	Sedie
8	Gonder Zuriya
9	Berehet
10	Dawunt
	<b>10</b>

The climatic condition of the Region is divided into temperate (Dega), subtropical (Woina Dega) and arid (Kola) agro-climatic zones, constituting 25%, 44% and 31% of the total area of the region, respectively. Mean annual rainfall of the Region varies from 700 mm to over 2,000 mm and the temperature range is between 10<sup>0</sup>C and 26<sup>0</sup>C. Most of the region is on a highland plateau and characterized by rugged mountains, hills, valleys and gorges. Hence, the region has varied landscapes composed of steep escarpments and adjoining lowland plains in the east, nearly flat plateaus and mountains in the center, and eroded landforms in the north. Most of the western part is a flat plain extending to the Sudan lowlands.

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

### *(b) Ethno-Religious Features*

Other ethnic groups include the Agaw/Awi (3.46%), Oromo (2.62%), Kamant (1.39%), and Argoba

(0.41%). Of the total population of the Region, 82.5% are Orthodox Christians, 17.2% Muslims, 0.2% Protestants and 0.1% others.

**Gambella Regional State**

*(a) Demographic and Economic Features*

Gambella Regional State has a total land area of 29,782.82 km<sup>2</sup>, with a total population of 396,000 (207,000 males and 189,000 female) according to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data for 2014-2017. Of these, 68.7% inhabit in rural areas while 31.3% live in urban areas. The region is in the south-western part of Ethiopia, bordering with Oromia Regional State in the north and east, SNNPR in the south and east, and Benishangul-Gumuz in the north. The Region also borders the Republic of South Sudan in the south and Sudan in the west. The altitude of Gambella region ranges between 300 and 2,500 m.a.s.l. Agro-ecologically, the region is predominantly lowland (kola), with a few midlands (Woina Dega).

The average annual rainfall of the region varies according to the different altitudes. While areas with 400 - 500 m.a.s.l of the western part receive 900 mm - 1500 mm/annum, areas over 2,000 m.a.s.l (eastern part) receive average rainfall ranging from 1,900 to 2,100 mm/annum. Accordingly, the average temperature is 17.50C – 27.50C and the mean annual rainfall is 900-2200mm. Most of the population of the region lives in rural areas where their livelihood is based on sedentary agriculture (crop based, livestock based and agro-forestry based) in which the region’s economy is predominantly dependent. The region is endowed with abundant natural resources of expansive land and water which are the main source of livelihoods of the people. Gambela Region is endowed with vast natural resources.

The main habitats of Gambella Region are forests, woodlands, swamps and rivers. Out of the total area 25% of the land is covered with forest. The region is very rich in water sources especially availability of five major rivers, namely, Baro, Akobo, Itang, Gillo and Alwero Rivers that are also trans-boundary makes the region a water tower. The RLLP II will be implemented in 5 (GCF and PROGREEN) woredas of the regions.

Table 7. Gambela region RLLP-II targeted woredas

NO.	RLLP II GCF woredas	RLLP II-PROGREEN woredas
1	Lare	Gog
2	Jikawo	Jor
3		Abobo
	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

*(b) Ethno-Religious Features*

The region is a home of five indigenous ethnic groups. The major ethnic groups are the Nuer (46%), Anywa (21%), Majang (7%), Komo (3%), and Opo (3%). Gambella is also a host region for people

who migrated there at different times, locally called highlanders, accounting for 20% of the population. The dominant faiths in the region are Protestant, Orthodox Christian, traditional belief, Islam, Catholic, and others.

### **The Majang**

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

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

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

### **The Anywa**

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

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

The Anywa are polygamous society and favor living in extended family groups in settlements established in isolated pockets on the banks of the Gilo and Baro Rivers, in front of their agricultural fields. A grass-roofed main hut for sleeping, a smaller version for grain storage, and chicken coops comprise typical Anywa family holdings. The Anywa worship Ochudho. For them, Ochudho or god of the river is responsible for the origin of their kings and chiefs. The Anywa have mutual and self-help traditional institutions and for settling conflicts and mobilize labor exchange called Akoch and

Kogne. Like many other Nilotic people. The Anywa have a complicated age-system in which different generation groups bear names that signify major happenings in their past. The population of Anywa is estimated to be 158,875 of which 77,822 are female (CSA, 2013-2017 Population Projection, 2013).

### **The Nuer**

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

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

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

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

### **The Opou**

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

## **Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional State**

### *(a) Demographic and Economic Features*

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

The climate of the region is generally favorable for crop and livestock production, but agriculture remains at subsistence level mainly due to lack of experience, low technology, and underdeveloped infrastructure. The region has climatic condition of Kola (lowland climate), Woina Dega (midland) and 8% Dega (highland) climatic conditions. It is endowed with rich natural resources, including fertile land, water, forest, minerals, and fish. Abundant water resources are available in the region. Abay River and most of its major tributaries flow across the region that can be used for irrigation. Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional State is endowed with a variety of natural resources. Over 50% of the land is covered with natural forest, which also has commercial value. RLLP II targets 3 watersheds of the region.

Table 8. Benishangul Gumuz region RLLP-II woredas

No.	RLLP II-GCF woredas
1	Debati
2	Assosa
3	Yaso
	<b>3</b>

### *(b) Ethno-Religious Features*

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

## **The Gumz**

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

Originally, most of Metekel zone was occupied by the Gumz and Shinasha people, also Kamashi was

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

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

The land tenure system of the Gumuz has been a “controlled access” system, combining individual possession with communal ownership. Members of the society enjoy equal access to communally owned land, such as cultivable virgin lands, forested areas, grazing and/or browsing land, and riverbanks as a matter of right. Thus, according to tradition, these resources are owned by the Gumuz society in general. Gumuz settlements are comprised of dwellings clustered together, with pastureland outlying the clustered villages and farmland situated away from residences. In most cases, settlements are compact and the number of households may range from 20 to 100. The nuclear family, consisting of married couples and their children, constitutes the basic unit of Gumuz society.

### **The Shinasha**

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

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

### **The Berta**

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

## **The Mao and Komo**

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

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

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

## **Sidama National Regional State**

**Demographic, Economic and ecological Features:** Sidama Region is one of the regional states (*kililoch*) of Ethiopia. Sidama is bordered on the south by the Oromia Region (except for a short stretch in the middle where it shares a border with Gedeo zone), on the west by the Bilate River, which separates it from Wolayta zone, and on the north and east by the Oromia Region. The region has a population of around 3.2 million in 2017 who speak the Cushitic languages Sidama (also known as Sidaamu Afoo). It has a total area of 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 97.71% is land and 2.29% is covered by water. Of the land, 48.70% is cultivated, 2.29% is forested, 5.04% is shrub and bush land, 17.47% is grazing land, 18.02% is uncultivated, 6.38% is unproductive and 2.10% has other uses. Some of the cultivated lands are in undulating escarpment and create difficulties for the farmers in the area.

Sidama region has a variety of climatic conditions. Warm conditions cover 54% of the area, locally known as Gamoojje or Woinadega, this is a temperate zone ranging from an elevation of 1500 m to 2500 m above sea level, mean annual rainfall varies between 1200 mm and 1599 mm, with 15 °C to

19.9 °C average annual temperature. A hot climatic zone, Kolla, covers 30% of the total area, elevation ranges from 500 m to 1500 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 400 mm to 799 mm, and the mean annual temperature ranges from 20 °C to 24.9 °C. Cool climatic conditions known as Aliicho or Dega exist in the mountainous highlands. This covers 16% of the total area with an elevation between 2500 m and 3500 m above sea level. This part gets the highest amount of rainfall, ranging from 1600 mm to 1999 mm and it has a mean annual temperature of 15 °C to 19.9 °C.

Most residents are subsistence farmers and the economy of the region is based primarily on subsistence agriculture characterized by archaic production techniques. The communities in Sidama Region have been practicing integrated agriculture (crop production like Enset or false banana, wheat, maize, sugar cane, etc. and livestock) for their survival and as income generation. Sidama is a major organic coffee growing area, where the majority of the communities are producing coffee, which is the main cash crop and main income generating agricultural activity. The region supplies over 40% of washed coffee to the central market. Most coffee producing farmers use natural fertilizers and not artificial fertilizer. As the coffee of Sidama is local variety, it has special aroma (unique test). The prevalent farming system of the midlands of Sidama is under stress mainly because of burgeoning human population. Land erosion is commonly observed by farmers who consider it a major problem though in some plots nutrients surplus, as unused manure, was observed. Pastureland is shrinking and degrading in its botanical composition. Most of the abundant water resources are now polluted. RLLP-II targets 1 woreda.

Table 9. Sidama region newly added RLLP-II woreda

Newly added RLLP-II woreda
Bursa
1

**Ethno-Religious Features:** The four largest ethnic groups reported in the Region were the Sidama (88.6%), the Amhara (4.15%), the Oromo (2.97%), and the Wolayta (1.84%); all other ethnic groups made up 2.44% of the population. 62.54% of the population practiced Protestant, 13.64% observed traditional religions, 8.24% practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, 8% were Muslim, and 4.24% embraced Catholicism.

#### 4.3. RLLP-II in Gambella and Benshangul Gumuz Regional States

The developing national regional states of Gambella and Benihangul-Gumz will be supported through the RLLP II activities. In Gambella national regional state, eleven (six existing and five new) watersheds located in three zones and one special woreda have been identified and selected for RLLP and RLLP II (GCF and PROGREEN). These are Mengeshi in Majang Zone; Itang, Itang Special woreda, Makuey, Lare and Jikawo in Nuer Zone and Dima, Gog and Jor in Anywa Zone. Among the potential project beneficiaries in these watersheds are the population groups of Majang, Anywa, Opou, Komo and Nuer. Similarly, fifteen (eleven existing and four newly added) watersheds



located in three zones and one special wereda in Benishangul-Gumuz Region have been selected for RLLP II. The selected SLMP-2 weredas in Benishangul-Gumuz include: Wombera, Bullen, Dangur and Debati, in Metekel Zon; Homosha, Assosa and Odain Assosa Zone, Belogiganfoy, Agalometi and Yao in Kamashi Zone and Mao and Komo Special weredas. The would-be project beneficiary communities in these watersheds are the Gumz, Berta, Shinasha, Mao, and Komo population groups.

These population groups in Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz national regional states are different from the mainstream smallholder agricultural communities targeted by the RLLP II in their livelihood system/strategy, land and resource use, management, patterns of settlement, and farm technology. Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz national regional states are classified as emerging regions with historically underserved people. Thus, Lare and Jikawo weredas of Gambella national regional states and Debati, Assosa and Yaso weredas in Benishangul Gumuz National regional state are RLLP II targeted weredas. The effective and successful implementation experiences in achieving the SLMP-II and RLLP objectives, will be replicated mainly on providing due consideration to the special characteristics of these population groups in its design, planning and implementation phases.

## **Assessment of Key Social Issues**

There are social dimensions to land management initiatives that can have positive or negative implications for the target communities, which need to be taken into consideration in the design, planning and implementation stages. Accordingly, a number of social issues requiring consideration in the preparation and implementation of RLLP II have been identified in the course of the social assessment preparation in the sample project *woredas* and due consideration have been given in integrating the views, concerns and recommendations in to the RLLP II design.

### **4.4. Potential Implications of RLLP II on the Vulnerable Groups**

In the context of the sample weredas community groups identified as vulnerable and underserved are the elderly, female-headed households, families with members living with HIV or other chronic illnesses, disabled persons, the jobless youth and landless, and historically underserved or disadvantaged ethnic groups. This finding agrees with the list of vulnerable groups indicated in the Ethiopian social protection policy developed in October 2013. This social protection policy identified pregnant and lactating women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, labor constrained individuals and households, the unemployed, those exposed to natural and manmade calamities, persons living with or directly affected by HIV/AIDS and other chronic debilitating diseases, victims of social problems such as drug users, beggars, victims of human trafficking and commercial sex workers and people with difficulties in accessing basic social services as vulnerable groups in the country. RLLP II will include measures to avoid potentially adverse effects on the vulnerable groups and historically underserved Peoples and when avoidance is not feasible, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such effects. Therefore, RLLP II will engage in a process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for sub-project activities that may have adverse impacts on historically underserved

people's land and natural resources or cause for their relocation or have significant impacts on them. Hence, to avoid or mitigate the potential risks and impacts on the historically underserved people, ESS 7 will be applicable by the project, accordingly.

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

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

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

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

*Land acquisition:* as RLLP II objectives are focused on reducing land degradation and improving productivity of small holder farms; environmental and social impacts are largely positive. However, investments on integrated watershed and landscape management component (water harvesting structures, hand dug well, spring development, afforestation, access road construction, and nursery development) necessitated acquisition of land. According to reports from regions, observations from field visits and consultations with regional and woreda implementers, households voluntarily gave their piece of plot for development work with some agreement. The agreement included land for land replacement, cash compensation from government budget and benefit

arrangement from implemented project activities. Overall, the nature of land acquisition in SLMP-II was voluntary according to the consultation held with affected persons. However, incomplete documentation of agreements, meetings and signed VLD templates are identified in few visited areas.

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

*Gender:* RLLP II targets female and male, young and old, and poor and better-off community members as beneficiaries. No community members in the selected watersheds will be intended to be excluded from the Project. Findings from monitoring, technical support visits and discussions indicated that in SLMP 2 and RLLP implementation women and men were actively participating in physical and biological soil and water conservation (SWC) activities on communal and individual lands and other project interventions and got benefits. Priority beneficiaries of soil and water conservation (SWC) activities and other labor based works with incentives were the poor (male and female), farmers with tiny landholdings or landless farmers, and youth. If the work requires many people, all the households who live in the micro-watershed are involved in the work. In most cases SWC activities are allocated to groups of male and female farmers. Normally the group members are from the same or neighboring villages. Light works such as digging out the soil, compacting soil bund, and transporting seedlings are performed by females. Despite such group arrangements, in some woredas, women are expected to work as much as men despite their additional household responsibilities and biological limitations for physically demanding activities. There were also cases in which women found it difficult to balance their triple roles competing for their equal attention: bearing and rearing children, maintenance of household members and domestic work, community managing role and productive role such as treatment of communal lands as part of SLMP implementation. The difficulty of balancing these equally important responsibilities resulted in the risk of losing project benefits in varying degrees. Therefore, it is necessary to implement affirmative action such as light works, flexible working environment and demand-driven activities which reduce/save women's time and energy.

*Youth:* Over the last decade, the issue of youth has received greater attention in Ethiopia and the government has started to implement policies to support young people. The National Youth Policy of Ethiopia marks a major step in recognizing and promoting the rights of young people in the country. Approved in 2004, the policy aims “to bring about the active participation of youth in the building of a democratic system and good governance as well as in the economic, social and cultural activities and to enable them to fairly benefit from the results.” It envisions youth as “a young generation with democratic outlook and ideals, equipped with knowledge and professional skills”. Ethiopia's youth has the potential to play a significant role in the country's socio-economic and political development. Participation of youth is increasingly recognized by the public authorities, following the government's strategy to involve youth in decision-making processes<sup>5</sup>. Currently the youth are facing various challenges to be involved in economic activities. One of the challenges the youth are facing to engage in the agriculture sector is acquiring productive farmland. According to a study conducted by EDRI and IFPRI, 14 percent of youth-headed households living in rural and small-town areas are landless compared to 7 percent of mature-headed households. Similarly, the share of landlessness among the youngest households (15-24 years old) reaches 21 percent while 13 percent of experienced youth headed households between 25 and 34 years of age are landless (Schmidt and Bekele, 2016).

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

#### **4.5. Strengthening Institutions and Information for Resilience**

This component was vitally important to the successful implementation of the SLMP-II and the achievement of its development objectives. Regarding this, traditional self-help institutions of the diverse communities in the project *woredas* also contributed immensely to effective Project implementation and sustainability. In all SLMP -2 implementing regions and woredas, there are ages-old social capitals. These social capitals include indigenous institutions which have been established by the community for different purposes and are also working for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Land Management Program during planning, implementation and monitoring periods. These institutions include “Idir”, “Yehager Shimaglewoch”, (Elders), religious fathers, “Maheber”, etc. The indigenous institutions played significant role during SLMP

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<sup>5</sup>(<http://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/youth-issues-in-ethiopia.htm>).

implementation by mobilizing the community for physical and biological soil and water conservation measures, livelihood, rural land measurement and other SLMP activities. They were involved in community mobilization, advising, conflict settlement, and passing information/ messages to facilitate the speed up of program implementation. Indigenous institutions are part of SMP-II grievance redress mechanism.

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

## **5. RLLP-II Environmental and Social Management Implementation Arrangements**

### **5.1. Institutional arrangement of the RLLP II**

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

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

The National Steering Committee (NSC) has high level representations from the MoA, MoFED, MoWIE, MoEFCC, EIAR and BoA of the RLLP regions. The Committee is chaired by the State Minister for Natural Resources in the MoA and will be responsible for (a) establishing policy guidelines and providing overall supervision for project implementation; (b) approving the annual federal and regional work plan, budget and the annual procurement plan; and (c) reviewing the annual implementation performance report to be prepared by the RLLP Coordination Unit, including environmental and social risk management; and overseeing the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary.

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

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

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

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

## **5.2. Arrangements for environmental and social risk management**

The Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) is one of the program support section of the Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP II) with the aim to ensure that

subproject activities to be implemented are not only technically, economically and financially viable, but are also environmentally friendly and socially acceptable for the sustainability of the RLLP II investments. For the attainment of the RLLP II development objective and ensuring environmental and social sustainability the following institutional arrangement will be used.

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

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

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

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

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



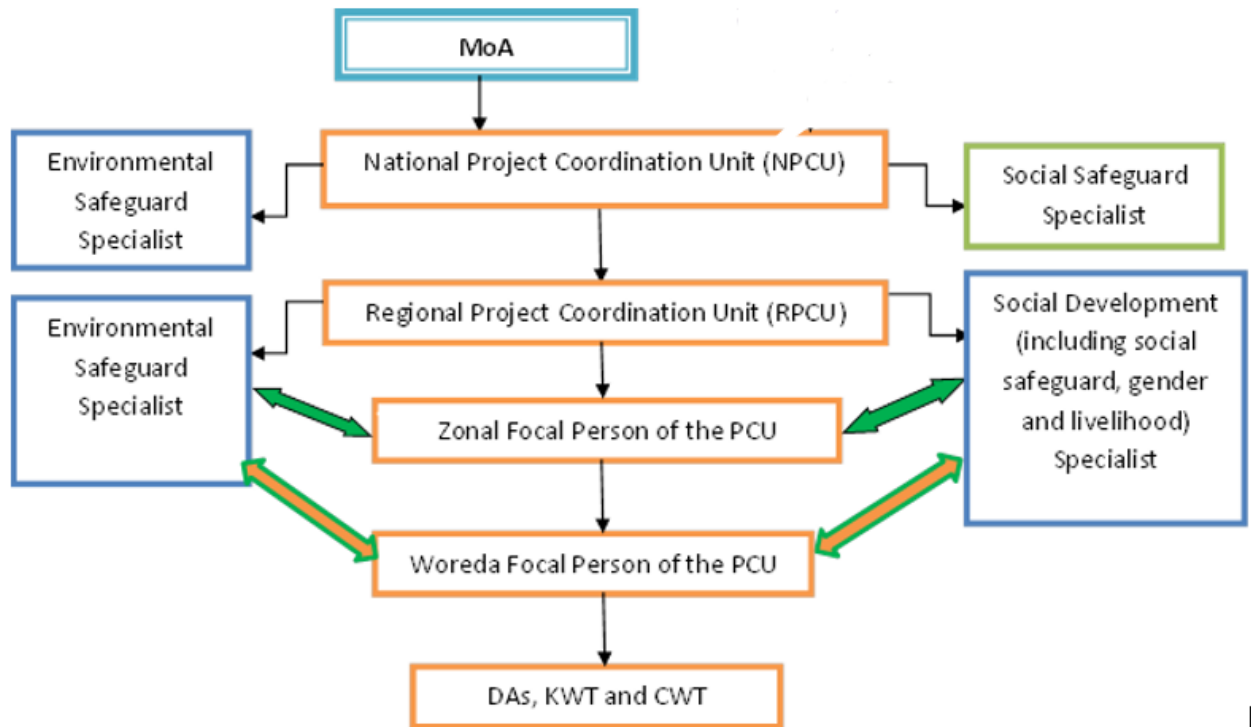


Figure 2 Institutional arrangement of environmental and social safeguard

### 5.3. Sub-Project Identification and Watershed Planning Process

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

## **6. Grievance Redress Mechanism in RLLP-II**

### **6.1. RLLP Grievance Redress Mechanism**

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

The GRM guideline includes the procedures, focal persons and time frame at each level of the administrative hierarchy. Awareness creation training was given to responsible woreda experts of relevant stakeholder offices, development agents (DA). Communities are aware of the mechanism (their rights, where to apply) and any person within targeted watershed who had complaints regarding the activities of the project during preparation/designing, implementation and operation phases will have access to the mechanism and get responses. According to SLMP-2 functional GRM experience; common cases of complaints were targeting for IGA, targeting for SWC activities on communal land and payment is not according to my work. Therefore, as the mechanism already operational in SLMP-2 watersheds will continue to serve the same purpose in newly added woredas during the implementation of RLLP II. Yet documented appealing and redress needs to be strengthened by RLLP II. See annex 3: for detail RLLP grievance redress mechanism guideline.

### **6.2. Scope of the GRM**

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

### 6.3. Access to GRM

The MoA/RLLP National PCU in collaboration with concerned regional and woreda (Bureau of Agriculture, and Woreda Agricultural office) will make the public aware of the GRM through awareness creation forums, training and capacity building. Any person who has complaints regarding the activities of the RLLP II subprojects during preparation/designing, implementation and operation phases shall have access to the Mechanism. Contact details in support of the Mechanism will be publicly disclosed and posted in the offices of concerned woreda offices, Kebele administration, kebele development centers/agriculture office and Farmers Training Centers (FTC). These will also be incorporated in the RLLP II environment and social safeguard information materials (e.g. reports, magazines, brochures, flyers and posters).

### 6.4. Grievance Investigation and Resolution Process (GIRP)

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

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

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

Regarding complaints related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse, the Woreda Women and Children Affairs office, which is legally mandated will be the first level referral pathway. The project will allocate resources for awareness creation on this GBV GRM. The Woreda Women and Children Affairs Office will be provided with capacity building and orientation on the basic principles of GBV case management encompassing confidentiality, non-judgmental, service referrals for survivors, etc. The office will have a working procedure regarding the standards for

services, referral, data collection, maintaining the best interest of the survivor.

#### 6.5. **Structure, Steps and Timeframe**

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

- Step 1. Complaint Form will be completed by any interested person or complainant and submitted to the community watershed team,
- Step 2: The community watershed team will review, investigate and discuss on the issue and resolve the matter within three days from the date of application is received. The decision will be provided in written form to the complainant. All meetings/discussions will be recorded, documented and copies of the minutes will be sent to kebele watershed team.
- Step 3: Based on the decision made, the community watershed team will act accordingly.
- Step 4: If the complainant is not satisfied by the response given by community watershed team or if no response is received from the community watershed team within three days after the registration of complaint, the complainant can appeal to the traditional grievance redress institution.

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

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

- Step 1: Appeal form will be completed by any interested person or complainant and submitted to traditional grievance redress institution (chairperson or facilitator depending in specific locality).
- Step 2: The facilitator or chairperson of traditional grievance redress institution will organize a meeting for the committee members and will review and resolve the complaint within seven days of receiving the appeal or compliant. All meetings will be recorded and filed. (Copies of the minutes of meetings will be provided to kebele Agriculture office (Development Agent), kebele administration and other concerned stakeholders.
- Step 3: If the complainant is not satisfied by the response given by traditional grievance redress institution or if no response is received within ten days, the affected persons can appeal to the kebele watershed committee.

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

- Step 1: Appeal form will be completed by any interested person or complainant and submitted to watershed team,
- Step 2: The kebele watershed team based on the appeal or complaint received from complainant and document which is transferred from traditional grievance redress institution will review and further investigate. If the decision given at traditional grievance redress

- institution level is appropriate, the KWT will approve it; otherwise if the appeal is valid, the team will resolve the issue within seven days from the date the application was received. The decision will be provided in written form to the applicants and copies will be sent to CWT and to woreda agriculture office. All meetings will be recorded and filed;
- Step 3: If the complainant is not satisfied by the response given by kebele watershed team or if no response is received from the kebele watershed team within seven days after the registration of complaint, the complainant can appeal to the woreda Agriculture office.

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

- Step 1: Appeal form will be completed by any interested persons or complainant and submitted to Resilient Landscape and Livelihood Project (RLLP) focal person at Woreda Agricultural Office.
- Step 2: Based on the appeal or complaint received from complainant, the (RLLP) focal person at Woreda Agriculture office (WoA) records the issues in the registry, assess the appeal or the grievance and will organize meeting(s) for a woreda steering committee. The woreda steering committee will review the decision given at kebele watershed committee level and endorse it if it is appropriate otherwise if the appeal is valid, the woreda steering committee will resolve the issue and give final decision within two weeks (14 days) of receiving the appeal or complaint. The decision should be provided to the applicant in written form. All meetings will be recorded and copies of the minutes will be provided to all concerned stakeholders. The application form is attached in Annex 4:

## **6.6. World Bank Grievance Redress Services**

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

## 7. Community Consultation: Views, Concerns and Recommendations

### 7.1. Views of the Community

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

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

***Broad Community Support:*** The consultation for updating the social assessment reached out 647 people (468 men and 179 female) in six regions thirteen woredas including five woredas targeted for RLLP II and seventeen kebeles during January to April 2018 and November 2020. In light of this, public consultations have taken place in Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella regions existing SLMP-2 and watersheds selected for RLLP and RLLP II. The major agenda of the discussions include interests of the community in the project, vulnerable and underserved groups, grievance redress mechanisms that the community uses, traditional NRM knowledge and institutions, traditional self-help groups, community participation including females and youth in development activities, capacity gaps, income generating activities, expectations from the project, fears, risks of the project and mitigating measures, and recommendations to the project. The data generated from those exercises, revealed that the project has broad community support. Among the many results of the community consultations; community interest in the project was ascertained. For instance, in Lare and Jikawo woredas of Gambella national regional state

community members stressed that the changes brought about by the Project in the adjacent Project *woredas* under SLMP-II and the benefits delivered in terms of land rehabilitation and involving in different income generating activities(IGA) caused them to feel that they missed the opportunity. They indicated that they gained lessons about the practical value of the Project from the successes achieved. Some of the successes the new project communities are impressed in and appreciated while consultation was held in Lare and Jikawo of Gambella,

The public consultations revealed that the communities were interested in the project due to the successes observed in adjacent SLMP-II *woredas*. They said that, SLMP II targeted areas have nursery sites in nearby and got seedlings for planting but we walked long distance searching for seedlings. Communities involved in IGA like beehive, poultry, and sheep fattening got income and could send their children to school, able to buy heifer etc. during the consultation, we learned about opportunities to benefit from a project called RLLP/RLLP II and we are happy; our community will be changed like the adjacent *woredas*. Therefore, if our *Woreda* targeted for RLLP/RLLP II we hope that all the changes in the landscape and benefits from income earning will be brought to us too. Communities in the watersheds selected for PROGREEN have also expressed their interest in and support for the project. For example, the communities of Puchala kebele in Gog *woreda* of Gambella said that they were committed to support the development works to be implemented by the project. They also said that the approach of the project should be based on thorough discussion with community elders, religious leaders/fathers, clan leaders and indigenous institutions when the project starts. When community members asked if they have any fear during implementation, they said that they don't have any as long as the project works in consultation with the community. However, they expressed that they might face loss of access to communal land which they were using for grazing their livestock and collecting firewood. Therefore, they suggested that when the project begins implementation there should be participatory community consultation and they expect wood-saving stoves as well as hand tools and tree seedlings to establish household woodlots.

In the same manner during community consultation in the PROGREEN targeted watersheds of Kucha, Zala, Esara and Tocha *woredas* of SNNP regional state also expressed their interest and support to the project in all their capacities as they expect the project to enhance their economic, social and environmental benefits. Their fears during project implementation include restriction of access to resources in the parks such as firewood, wood for house construction, animal grazing and cutting grass, non-timber products such as honey, wild vegetables and spices, cultural medicines, denial of passage of their livestock through the parks to water points, displacement from buffer zones, fear of losing part of their farmland due to SWC structures, harmful pests and weeds harbored by the SWC structures, attack by wild animals of the park on their livestock and crops. They suggested that the negative impacts can be minimized by providing awareness, training for

knowledge/skill enhancement, continuous follow up with technical support and implementation monitoring, introduction of productive technologies/ inputs, and providing technical and material support to vulnerable groups.



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







Community consultation in Gambella regional state; Lare wereda Palbuol kebele

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

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

implemented as planned.

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

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

The data from new woredas about land acquisition for development work also show that communities have experiences in government initiated/financed development works such as irrigation schemes, farmer training centers (FTCs) construction of health posts, clinics, and access road construction which involved some form of land acquisition and restriction of access to natural resources. They mentioned cases where people donated land for construction of access roads for the common good. Also depending on the size of land to be acquired for road construction or the extent of restriction of access resulting from irrigation scheme, through rigorous consultations, mediated by council of elders and kebele administration, replacement lands (e.g., common landholdings or *mote- kedameret* – land left behind by the dead person with no inheritance) were given for the project affected households.

The Puchala kebele communities in the PROGREEN-supported watershed of Wang gnegag in Gog woreda (Gambella) expressed that they expect compensation of land for land, financial compensation by the government, delivering improved forage and multi-purpose tree and fruit species, and regular community consultations.

Likewise the communities in the Morka Kebele of Kucha Woreda, Waggesho kebele of Zala woreda, Duzi kebele of Esara woreda and Boba kebele of Chata expect from the project clean water sources for human and animal consumption, passage of their animals through the parks to watering points, alternative income sources for persons who depend on the natural resource for their livelihood, and provision of innovative technologies or inputs for improving production and productivities. Woreda experts also expressed their expectations in terms of working materials (hand tools, office utilities including computers,

field equipment, etc), logistics such as motor cycles and related facilities, one time budget release for implementation.

### **7.1. Summary of Public Participation and Consultations with Stakeholders in Implementing Regions**

Public Consultation was conducted as part of the participatory approach aimed at gaining good knowledge of the social issues/risks associated with the program as perceived by the RLLP and RLLP II targeted communities. It was also aimed at exploring and soliciting feedback on the operational steps; land acquisition related issues, compensation, grievance redress mechanism and broader context of implementation arrangements. The consultation was believed to promote community ownership of the RLLP, enhance sustainability and seek their broad support for the program implementation. Moreover, it provided opportunity for communities to make contributions aimed at strengthening the development program while avoiding negative impacts as well as reducing possible conflicts.

#### ***Pillars of community consultation and participation***

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

#### **Summary of social development related issues raised during community consultation meetings in RLLP II- PROGREEN Woredas**

RLLP is has broadened its scope by including seven additional watersheds that are going be financed by PROGREEN. These watersheds are found in seven woredas of the regional states of SNNP and Gambella that are adjacent to the three national parks: Gambella, Maze and Chebera-Chrchura. Consultations were held with communities of the watersheds to obtain their participation in the design and implementation of project.

Community consultations were held in six woredas using semi-structured questionnaire. The woredas are Kucha and Zala woredas of SNNP bordering the Maze national park, ESARA and Tocha woredas of SNNP bordering the Chebera-Churchura national park, and Gog and Jor woredas of Gambella region that are bordering the Gambella regional state. The major agenda of the discussions include interests of the community in the project, vulnerable and underserved groups, grievance redress mechanisms that the

community uses, traditional NRM knowledge and institutions, traditional self-help groups, community participation including females and youth in development activities, capacity gaps, income generating activities, expectations from the project, fears, risks of the project and mitigating measures, and recommendations to the project.

In PROGREEN targeted woredas according to the social assessment community groups identified as vulnerable and underserved are the elderly, female-headed households, families with members living with HIV or other chronic illnesses, disabled persons, the landless, and historically disadvantaged ethnic groups including forest dependent communities.

All consulted communities expressed their interest in and support to the project provided that there is participation of different community members at all stages of the project. The communities also expressed that they did not have any fear of the project as long as they are consulted. However, they expressed that they might face loss of access to resources in the national parks such as cutting grass and grazing their livestock, wood for house construction, collecting firewood, honey, wild vegetables and spices, cultural medicines, denial of passage of their livestock through the parks to water points, displacement from buffer zones, fear of losing part of their farmland due to SWC structures, harmful pests and weeds harbored by the SWC structures, attack by wild animals of the park on their livestock and crops, and sometimes on humans. They suggested that the negative impacts could be minimized by providing awareness, training for knowledge/skill enhancement, continuous follow up with technical support and implementation monitoring, introduction of productive technologies/ inputs, and providing technical and material support to vulnerable groups. The communities said that they expect from the project economic, social and environmental benefits, material support in terms of wood-saving stoves as well as hand tools and tree seedlings to establish household woodlots.

### ***Community Consultation and Participation focused on three key RLLP agendas,***

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

1. **Investment in Green Infrastructure and Resilient Livelihoods:** The objectives of this component are to support the restoration of degraded landscapes in selected micro- watersheds and to help build resilient livelihoods on this newly productive foundation. This will be achieved through:(i) the implementation of sustainable soil and water conservation practices in line with Multi-Year Development Plans (MYDPs) in SLMP-II and newly identified watersheds; (ii) support for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices in all project watersheds; and (iii) promotion of livelihood diversification and linkages to value chains in all project watersheds.

2. **Strengthening Institutions and Information for Resilience:** The objective of this component is to enhance institutional capacity and improve information for better decision- making in supporting resilient landscapes and diversified rural livelihoods in the project area
3. **Project Management and Reporting:** The objective of this component is to effectively implement and report on project activities with due diligence and integrity.

#### ***General level of awareness and understanding on RLLP***

- ✓ The consultation evaluated the level of understanding and the adverse impact of environmental degradation in their area and the positive impacts of soil and water conservation activities. The consultation participants identified, annual mean temperature increment, rainfall variability, increasing intensity of droughts, clearly witnessing agro- ecological changes, increasing frequency of flooding and soil erosion. ✓ During the interactive consultation and discussions, the participants identified the causes for environmental degradation as deforestation as agricultural expansion, population density, and overgrazing.
- ✓ Whereas, the impacts covered, diminishing water supply, declining agricultural productivity, flooding and higher risk of drought, health problem, and increasing social tension and conflicts.
- ✓ Communities and participants suggested mitigation options of the grave environmental degradation through the RLLP such as watershed management, continued consultation and awareness creation, introducing alternative energy sources, improving livelihoods.

#### ***General Agreements***

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

## 7.2. Concerns raised during consultation

- ✓ Ever increasing scarcity of land resources for agricultural practices in the region has escalated the problem of encroachment for cultivation, grazing and settlement in and around area closures and rehabilitated watersheds in their respective regions.
- ✓ Intensive and frequent consultation with local community should be carried out prior to commencing the implementation of RLLP activities considering the prevailing context and challenges (e.g., over grazing).
- ✓ Watersheds and protected areas management plans preparation need to involve local communities on demarcation, restriction of access, use and alternative benefits to ensure
  - ✓ sustainability and get broad community support.
  - ✓ Strengthening and proper utilization of local institutions of natural resource access, use and conflict resolution would increase the viability of RLLP. This could include customary grazing land management system associated with well groups for drinking and livestock; political, governance and conflict resolution institution, traditional resource access and management system; seasonal pasture, water and shelter access and use management system; condemn illegal and non-acceptable community members" practices which helps in conserving RLLP investments.
- ✓ Community members stressed that lack of sufficient consultation and awareness creation on the basics of environment and natural resource management with the broader community during the implementation of RLLP could cause conflicts with communities and land owners on use and access right.
- ✓ Underserved, vulnerable groups and the landless having impoverished families and small land have little livelihood alternative to support their families.
- ✓ The RLLP intervention might further restrict access and supply of traditional energy sources, (i.e., fuel wood)

- ✓ Community members have concerns that RLLP related activities may take land, and/or property and reduce their access to natural resource without proper consultation, engagement and compensation.

### **7.3. Recommendations**

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

## 8. Lessons Learned

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

### 8.1. General

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



## 8.2. Capacity development

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

Based on this in most of the project sites, the issues of capacity development, opportunities and constraints should be analyzed at all levels of the project implementation structures, namely the grassroots, *woreda* and regional levels. For instance, in Gambella Regional State, at grassroots level, the existing institutions that have been established for this purpose are the *Kebele* Watershed Team and Community's Watershed team. Similarly, in Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional state Bambasi Woreda grassroots institutions (CWT and KWT) actively coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the SLMP-2.

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

In general, the coordination between the three level structures provided immense opportunities and created capacity for the project in the last five years. Despite the above efforts and contributions provided for the successful implementation with varying degree of seriousness, there is a challenge regarding experienced staff turnover of *woreda* technical committee members from their position, and workload of officials who are steering committee members. Moreover, although SLMP-II provided training, awareness raising, experience sharing visits, office and field equipment (computers, laptops, motor bicycles, etc.) to build the capacity of implementing *woredas*, there are still capacity constraints regarding office equipment and particularly related to field vehicles and motor bicycles, and limited authorization for budget reallocation. The visiting team also observed that in existing GAC supported *woredas* and new RLLP targeted *woredas* as safeguard activities were not implemented in these watersheds there is a capacity development gap regarding environmental and social safeguards and gender mainstreaming implementation. Therefore, it needs intensive training, technical support and monitoring.

### **8.3. Proper Utilization of the Social Capital in the Watersheds**

In all RLLP II implementing regions and woredas there are age old social capitals. Exploiting the long- established and in-built traditional institutions and practices is deemed important to enhance the implementation of the project. This social capital may take various forms such as: institutions of self-help and mutual assistance, institutions of land and water resource use and management, land-related dispute settlement mechanisms and indigenous land use and conservation knowledge and practice. Capitalizing on these social resources is essential to bring about and maintain community involvement, which is the crucial element needed to institute RLLP II firmly on the ground for broader and long-term strategic goals.

#### **Traditional Mutual/Self-Help Institutions**

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

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

#### **Customary Land-related and other Dispute Settlement Institutions/Mechanisms**

Customary institutions have traditionally played an important role in the settlement of disputes involving rural land in the catchment areas. The designation and composition of these

customary/informal conflict mediation institutions may slightly vary between regions/catchments. Community trust and respect are crucial requirements that mediators must meet to be effective in land dispute settlement process. As the result, elders, family councils/trusted relatives, religious leaders, *idirs etc.* have won increased community acceptance and recognition in the settlement of land-related disputes. In fact, courts - regular as well as quasi-formal refer disputants to these institutions to seek resolution for their disagreements in the first instance.

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

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

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

### **Indigenous Land Use and Conservation Knowledge and Practice**

This study uncovered that the communities in and around the RLLP sites possess indigenous knowledge and practices that have contributed a lot to the businesses of their daily lives in general and to the success of the project in their respective areas. Accordingly, informants in Assosa *Woreda* the community maintains local knowledge on how to conserve natural resources and multiple ways of using land for different purposes. Some of these indigenous knowledge practices are terracing, gully rehabilitation, shifting cultivation, crop rotation, farm manuring and fallowing. For instance, in Assosa *Woreda*, the community employed indigenous land conservation method called *Gidad* which can be used to prevent water runoff and soil erosion.

Similarly, in Godare and Mengashi *woredas* of Gambella Region indigenous land use and

conservation knowledge and practices are widely used in SLMP-2 project. For instance, the Majang people have indigenous knowledge and institution in forestland management and forest protection. They have a local institution called the “*Jung*”, for governing forestland distribution and ownership assurance among the community.

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

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

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

Promoting cooperatives and organizing farmers under multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives is essential to mobilize resources scattered across individual households. Establishing marketing cooperatives is of paramount importance to farmers in facilitating market access for their products and maximizing their profits by avoiding their dependence on exploitative intermediaries. Marketing cooperatives may be established at micro watershed level and serve the membership as conduits for the buying and selling of inputs and outputs.

Saving and credit cooperatives can be instrumental in enabling smallholder farmers in the watersheds to cope with seasonal financial constraints that are common in the rural areas. The objective of these cooperatives is to pool idle and sterile money held by potential cooperative members and invest it on improving production and productivity. However, the aim of such cooperatives goes beyond the removal of financial constraints that smallholder farmers may experience. The provision of credit facilitates conditions for the adoption of new farm technologies. Along with saving and credit cooperatives, micro finance institutions meant to cater for agricultural service cooperatives in the watersheds can contribute to the success of RLLP & RLLP II initiatives. Hence, although banks are known to play a big role in providing loans, it is important to increase the availability of credit through the expansion of micro finance institutions, because of their flexibility and responsiveness to the needs and circumstances of the local population. In Benshangul-Gumuz region in all woredas, Benshangul-Gumuz microfinance institution serves by providing saving and credit to address financial/economic constraints for rural and urban women and other community groups.

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

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

### **8.5. Women's involvement in the project**

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

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

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

The field data collected was consistent in showing active role of women in the SLMP-2 activities, both in the planning and implementation processes. In Assosa woreda of Benshangul Gumuz region like men, women were consulted both prior to the introduction of the project and during the implementation process. For instance, in Assosa SLMP-2 the project lends money for women who use it to fatten sheep, goats and produce crop and vegetables. Moreover, women, like their men counterparts, actively take part in conserving lands that are brought under communal use for which they are paid as incentive. In relation to this, women's decision-making power is said to have been enhanced at the household because they become economically independent. Male

and female community members in Bambasi woreda said that women's decision making at household level improved immensely; they said, “we are exercising joint decision making”. Male farmers responded that deciding by male alone became a long history. Women are involved in leadership positions in grassroots community structures like CWT and women members in CWT are 40 percent in the region.

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

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

## **8.6. Non/off farm employment**

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

An enabling policy environment is also a very important factor for non/off-farm development. The Government of Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan incorporates NFE development in its strategy: “In addition, those who have very small plots and landless youth and women will be encouraged to engage in non-farm income generating activities with adequate support in terms of preparing packages, provision of skill and business management trainings, provision of credit and facilitating markets, so that they can ensure their food security”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Institutional innovation is another important way to boost non/off-farm enterprise development by

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

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

## **9. Potential Risks, Challenges and Mitigation Measures**

This section aims to achieve two things. First, to briefly summarize the potential implementation risks and challenges, and second, propose the way forward to mitigate those risks and address the identified challenges.

The proposed RLLP II project is a landscape management, livelihood improvement and capacity building project, which will implement various interventions that will have a direct impact on the biophysical and human environment. The project is, primarily aimed at enhancing the positive impacts but may have some negative impacts which may occur at different stages of the project cycle (mainly during implementation and operation) due to improper design and implementation. The ESMF is prepared to ensure that the implementation of the RLLP II will be carried out in an environmentally sound and socially acceptable manner. It provides a framework to enable communities (with the help of DAs and woreda experts) to screen sub projects and take institutional measures to address adverse environmental and social impacts. The environmental and social management intervention is intended to maximize positive impacts and ensure sustainability of the project by avoiding, minimizing and/or mitigating the negative impacts through appropriate mitigation measures

The capacity to coordinate, facilitate, and implement SLMP-II related activities may be reasonably adequate at federal and regional levels. This is, however, thought to be lacking at *woreda* and grassroots levels. The deficiencies are related to monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge generation and management, among others. The risk is aggravated by frequent staff turnovers because of structural change. For example, institutional arrangement assessment of SLMP-II was conducted for the preparation of RLLP II and the team observed that there is readiness, willingness and commitment from WTC members. The major challenge faced by the project is turnover of Technical Committee members as they shifted to other work processes due to structural change: and because of this there is a gap in capacity development especially training on environment and



social safeguards to woreda TC members; the visiting team also observed the problem that except the woreda focal person, all other members of the woreda technical committee are new. Moreover, most of Woreda and regional steering committee members are new. The team also observed that in existing GAC supported woredas and new RLLP II targeted woredas there is a capacity gap regarding environment and social safeguard implementation.

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

The project also incorporates capacity development and institutional strengthening activities for relevant stakeholders: public sector organization, academia and research institutions, rural communities and smallholder farmers in the areas of sustainable watershed management and protection, land and water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate smart agricultural activities. These stakeholders are thus expected to become well-informed about participatory approach and take an active part in project implementation. Moreover, they will be able to play a role in making sure that beneficiaries of the project as well as those affected by are aware of the impacts and implications of the project. Participatory methods are known to facilitate community mobilization and involvement in contributing toward effective project management all the way through the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases. RLLP II will create a system and institutional memory for effective knowledge generation and management by woreda leaders, sectoral office heads and experts. It is also important to organize regular experience sharing visits between woredas to enable smooth transfer of knowledge and skills across project communities.

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

Some of the project interventions may have some localized but less sensitive, site specific and perhaps

reversible environmental and social impacts if appropriate measure is not done and if such impacts are not considered regarding their locations or during the design of the sub-projects. The types of sub-projects which include those related to construction and maintenance of water harvesting structures (e.g., ponds, storage tanks); construction of community access roads; roadside flood harvesting/drainage systems; diversion canals, small dams; area closures; reforestation and afforestation in communal and private lands might require land acquisition and affect the ecosystem services of the local community and the environment.

When land acquisition occurs the project activities may rely on voluntary land donation (VLD). The procedure should include trying to avoid by finding other alternatives, changing design or location or otherwise if the land holders are willing/agree to donate the land (VLD) the activity will be implemented. During implementation of VLD if it is household/family land consultation with family members (including spouses) must be made and family must be aware that refusal is an option; If the land is communal land individuals using or occupying the land must be identified and consulted to minimize the risk of settlers and local communities losing their livelihood due to the land donation decision.

If the land that may be donated is household/family land the proportion of the land must not exceed 10% of the total land holding of the donor and must not be the donor's main source of income; this is not significantly affect the donors' livelihood. Moreover, VLD should not occur if it requires physical relocation, loss of structures or fixed assets on affected portion of land. A formal statement or minutes for all consultation and discussion with the land holders, their interest and agreed actions including schedule should be signed and documented at kebele and woreda MoA offices and should be reported for enhanced transparency.

Water harvesting structures might be a potential source of conflict between the water users community unless carefully planned. Therefore, it is important to carefully plan with community consultation and organize water user's association

Small-scale infrastructure sub-projects which may possibly affect physical and cultural resources. The necessary steps of public consultations, engagement of cultural or religious leaders, local authorities need to be conducted before decision on sub project is made.

Moreover, In PROGREEN targeted woredas where protected national parks are source of ecotourism, leveraging private sector investment for eco- and community-based tourism can help increase revenue generation in targeted protected areas. However this activity may result potential adverse social impacts and risks such as immigration of labor to the area and uncontrolled growth of small businesses with a possibility of conflict with the community, disturbance of local cultures, practices, and values, risks of sexual abuse and exploitation of minors and adolescents. Therefore, it is important to carefully plan with inclusive community consultation and due attention should be given to maximizing the benefit share of local community.

The table below presents a summary of possible risks, challenges on historically underserved community and vulnerable group related to RLLP II by Project component and planned mitigation measures.

Table 9: Possible risks, challenges and mitigation measures related to RLLP by Project component

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
<p><b>Component 1:</b> Investment in green infrastructure for resilient watershed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on supporting smallholder farmers to scale up and adopt best-fit sustainable land and water management technologies and practices. Hence there is a possible risk/challenge of not properly addressing the circumstances of people, such as communities who entirely depend on natural resources, who peruse peculiar livelihood systems and natural resource management strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Device a mechanism to include livelihood Strategies of communities who are entirely dependent on natural resources into the RLLP activities. For example, traditional beekeeping though largely takes the form of forest honey collection, can be integrated into the RLLP activities with an injection of modern knowledge and technology based on their demand such as beekeeping technology as the latter is more productive, sustainable and environmentally and appropriate for women to manage.</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated in to component 1.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The creation of benefit streams through markets and other market based instruments like results-based payments involve the risk /challenge of not properly considering the elderly, people with disability and poor members of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recommended that the project through consultation with the beneficiary communities, devise possible mechanisms on how to make the old, the sick and people with disability benefit from the project even when they might not afford to contribute either labor or cash to the project implementation. For example, the elderly people can be used as advisors, people with disability as timekeeper, etc.</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The proposed mitigation measures are integrated into component 1.1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watershed community saving is part of the project activities that helps Users' Groups who voluntarily organize themselves to engage in IGA suitable to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project should devise a mechanism (e.g., interest free loan, for those who cannot involve in the regular scheme) by which watershed</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The required budget will be covered from component 1.3

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
	<p>their respective environment. In principle membership is open to all members, but the minimum cash contribution and active participation requirement to run the IGA leaves out some members of the community who could not afford. This involves the risk of further disadvantaging the vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>community members who are likely to be left out due to the inability to meet the minimum membership requirement can also benefit from the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For vulnerable and historically underserved communities unable to join cooperatives due to inability to pay the registration fee should be supported through flexible local level solutions such as means-test-based exemption of registration fee; allowing them raise registration fee from project activities; keeping the registration fee as low as much lower as the poorest of the poor can afford; and by introducing installment based payment</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Female household heads may face the risk of not benefiting from the Project in equal measure with male counterparts because of not being able to balance their domestic responsibilities with their project-related role in the treatment of communal lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Especial support needs to be provided to women playing the dual role of mothers and household heads, and active participation in the Project with male community members. Arrangements may be made in consultations with watershed committees in this respect. Suggested ways to help them balance their competing responsibilities may be allowing them to a certain number of hours or days off from the minimum required time of labor contribution to the Project.</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	More measures are identified in the gender action plan.

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
	<p>Construction water harvesting structures, community pond may cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competing claims over water use and conflicts</li> <li>• Competing claims upper &amp; down streams over water and conflicts,</li> <li>• Ponds become breeding place for disease vectors (malaria) and malaria infestation increases,</li> <li>• Land acquisition, loss of assets, loss of land</li> <li>• Mismanagement of water may cause gully erosion</li> <li>• Loss of water due to mismanagement,</li> <li>• Impacts on physical cultural resources,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out assessment study on water demand and availability,</li> <li>• Community consultations and consensus with upper and downstream community,</li> <li>• Careful design and installation of canal structures so that excess flows will be directed to natural waterways,</li> <li>• Consult PAP, Pay compensation /replace land for land, compensate for loss of land, livelihoods or economic benefits,</li> <li>• Conduct social assessment,</li> <li>• Plant mosquito repellent tree and shrub species around water ponds,</li> <li>• Construct fence/ in the activity cost include the budget,</li> <li>• Apply water efficient technologies and techniques,</li> </ul> <p>Provide alternative designs and locations or avoid if sub-</p>	<p>All implementers MOA, MOWE</p>	<p>The required budget will be covered from component 1.1</p>
	<p>Construction and rehabilitation of community access roads and path might cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road side erosion and initiation of flooding and gully erosion in agricultural fields,</li> <li>• Quarry site opening causes pollution of surface and ground water,</li> <li>• Disturbance to cultural, religious and historical sites or resources</li> <li>• Land acquisition</li> <li>• loss of livelihood and economic benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chanel road spillways to natural waterways,</li> <li>• Rehabilitate quarry sites with natural vegetation, rip raping, shaping and refilling, and avoid creation of standing water,</li> <li>• Avoid disturbance to cultural or religious sites. Unavoidable incidences must be agreed with stake holders such as leaders of churches, mosques and community.</li> <li>• Avoid occupied land. Prepare procedures to ensure equitable resolution,</li> <li>• Avoid if project causes relocation of people.</li> </ul>	<p>MOA</p>	<p>The required budget will be covered from component 1.1</p>

Component	Potential risks and challenges	Mitigation measures	Responsible body	Required Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degraded land treatment and rehabilitation on communal and private lands using physical and biological SWC measures might cause</li> <li>Restriction of access to communal lands</li> <li>Restriction of human and livestock mobility</li> <li>Risk of involuntary land acquisition and causing relocation of households</li> <li>Risk of conflict over diverse interests</li> <li>Loss of economic or livelihood benefits</li> <li>Wildlife attack on domestic animals and increase of crop pests (birds, primates, mammals)</li> <li>Loss of farmland due to structures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide alternative routes formed for mobility</li> <li>Compensations for loss of access (if caused economic loss)</li> <li>Provision of alternatives (options for cut and carry, awareness on alternative forage sources, forage species provision)</li> <li>Consecutive community consultations and consensus on benefits and costs, responsibilities of management, benefit sharing arrangements</li> <li>Carry out social assessment report and prepare social management plan if up to 40 HHs are affected or less than 20% economic loss by the activity</li> <li>Prepare resettlement action plan if more than 40 HHS are affected or more than 20% economic loss by the activity</li> <li>Avoid appropriation of land or eviction of households</li> </ul>	MOA	The required budget will be covered from component 1.1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competition with annual or food crops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting sites should be different and with sufficient distance from crop fields</li> </ul>	MOA	O
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of ecotourism around national parks may result in immigration of labor to the area and uncontrolled growth of small businesses with a possibility of conflict with the community, disturbance of local cultures, practices, and values, and risks of increased prostitution, sexual abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consecutive and inclusive community consultation at all stage (planning, implementation...</li> <li>Due attention should be given to maximizing the benefit share of local communities</li> <li>Consecutive consultation with clan leaders, religious fathers, elders, traditional institutions leaders</li> </ul>	MOA, SNNPR & Gambella Bureau of culture & tourism and other implementing organizations	The require budget will be covered from component 1
<b>Component 2:</b> Strengthening institutions & information modernization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learned from SLMP II show that inadequate attention to the use of locally available indigenous knowledge systems and time-tested adaptation strategies can undermine the potential positive roles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is highly recommended that locally available social capital such as traditional and indigenous knowledge of land use and natural resources conservation practices, conflict resolution for effective implementation of project activities to facilitate and speed up the implementation</li> </ul>	MoA-PCU	The required budget will be covered from Component 1 and 2

Although possible risks and challenges on historically underserved community and vulnerable groups related to RLLP II are provided above, proposed subprojects and activities will be screened at planning stage for actual and potential social and environmental adverse impacts and management measures will be planned to avoid, where feasible, to minimize and mitigate the impacts, where avoidance is not feasible; the community development plan will be implemented accordingly. The process will be managed by a team of experts in consultation with communities. The whole process, procedures followed, and the implementation of planned measures will be monitored and reported.

## 10.ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Checklist for community consultation Social Assessment

#### **Checklist for discussion with Woreda Experts and kebele DAs**

1. What are the social and cultural features that differentiate social groups in the project area? What are their effects on the different social groups?
2. What capacity constraints/limitations are evident on the part of the target communities that may result in minimal participation in the project and not benefiting from it?
3. Who are the key stakeholders of this project? How may these groups and the project affect each other in the course of project implementation?
4. What social mobilization strategies were adopted to galvanize community support and involvement?
5. What grievance procedures exist for individuals/groups to express their complaints? Are these procedures/mechanisms effective? If yes, in what way? What are the strengths and constraints of the grievance procedures?
6. Grass root local institutions in the catchment:
  - 6.1 What farmer organizations exist in the catchment? Do they exercise collective power to negotiate or influence the project towards their needs and interests? If yes, in what ways?
  - 6.2 What traditional institutions of land/resource/water management exist in the catchment?
    - How do these contribute to the project?
    - How does the project make use of such structures?
  - 6.3 What traditional land-related dispute settlement institutions/mechanisms exist in the catchment?
    - How do you see their role in addressing complaints that might arise in relation to the project (in the event of land acquisition, border disputes)?
  - 6.4 What traditional social dispute settlement institutions/mechanisms exist in the catchment?
    - How do you see their role in addressing complaints that might arise in relation to the project (in the event of involvement/targeting/ benefit share)?
  - 6.5 What traditional land use and conservation knowledge and practice exist in the catchment?
    - How does the project utilize such resources?
  - 6.6 What traditional institutions/self-help groups/mutual aid associations/and work parties exist and function in the catchment with direct or indirect role/involvement in the project?
    - In what ways do they influence the project (Probe for possible positive and negative impact)?
7. Are there any known conflicts among different groups that may affect project implementation?
  - If yes, what possible mechanisms can be used to address the problem?

#### **Checklist for discussion with Woreda and Kebele structures Officials**

1. Who are the most vulnerable and underserved groups in the SLMP Woreda? (Probe for the



poor; the poorest of the poor; women and children; the elderly; the disabled; female-headed households; youth; underserved ethnic groups)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Are there community groups who will be adversely affected by the project activities?


- If yes, who are these community groups?
- In what ways are they adversely affected?
- In your opinion, what are the best ways to address the adverse impacts?

2. Are there community groups who will be particularly benefiting from project activities?

- If yes, who are these community groups?

- In what ways are they particularly benefiting /positively affected?
3. Were communities consulted about the project?
    - What was the process followed?
    - Was their consent secured? If yes, in what way?
    - How did the vulnerable and underserved groups participate in the project?
  4. In what way will women involve in the project?
    - Do they benefit from program activities?
    - If yes, how?
    - If No, are they at a disadvantage as a result of the project?
    - If yes, how?
    - In your opinion, what are the best ways to address the issues?
  5. In what way will jobless youth and landless HHHs involved in the project?
    - Do they benefit from program activities?
    - If yes, how?
    - If No, are they at a disadvantage as a result of the project?
    - If yes, how?
    - In your opinion, what are the best ways to address the issues?
  6. What types of economic organizations are available in the catchment? (Saving and credit cooperatives, service cooperatives, microfinance institutions), especially for women, youth and the poor?
    - How do these organizations link up with the project?
  7. What will be the socially relevant results of the project (Probe for poverty reduction, equity and inclusion, strengthening of social capital and social cohesion)?
  8. What will be the possible risks and adverse impacts of the project?  
How are especially the vulnerable and underserved groups affected by these risks?
  9. What risk mitigation/minimization measures will be devised to deal with such anticipated adverse impacts?
  10. What project-induced consequences are anticipated to affect the local population (Probe for displacement, loss of land and other assets)?
  11. What compensation/resettlement measures are designed in case of these consequences?

**Annex 2. ATTENDANCE DURING CONSULTATION,**

Farmer participants  
 Woreda: Hintale wajemt  
 Kebele: Bahri tseba  
 Moderator: Kirs G/hawot. sig.  date: 05/07/2010

S-N	Name	sex	Age	Social status	Signature
1	Birhan Kiro	F	35		
2	Tenbeu Berhe	F	55	FHM	
3	Hadas Aberat	F	40	"	
4	Abena Mesele	M	28	Youth ICH	
5	Abereha Hago	M	28	Youth ICH	
6	Redae W/gossa	M	55	MHM	
7	Silas Ateki	F	58	FHM	
8	Hizewet Abena	M	58	MHM	
9	Haile Gebremet	M	52	MHM	
10	Gebre Kidan G/yesus	M	40	"	
11	Girmay Hadas	M	42	"	
12	Hafom Kiro	M	33	Youth ICH	
13	H/Gebre Amdu	M	50	MHM	
14	Kahsay Redae	M	25	Youth ICH	
15	Jekle Abreha	M	40	MHM	
16	Abantit Guluma	F	34	FHM	
17	Edray Asene	F	51	-	
18	Hagos Engda	M	64	MHM	
19	Gezat Misgusie	M	52	MHM	
20	Hagos Abreha	M	53	MHM	
21	Tsegay Haile	M	24	Youth	

No	Name	Sex	Age	Social class	Signature
22	Mek bebu Kiro	F	22	-	
23	A Senit Goyteem	F	30	FHM	
24	M/Abhin Beke	M	62	MHM.	

### Kebelle Administration Participants

Woreda: Hintalo Wajerat

Kebelle: Bahri tseba

Moderator: Kiro G/hawet, Sig date: 05/11/2010


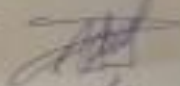


S.N	Name	sex	Age	Position	Signature
1	Birhanu Nigus	M	30	Manager	
2	Mehari hidru	M	44	Follower Comm	
3	Kechi Meqes Hatfou	M	29	Youth Affairs	
4	Alaba W/gersin	F	46	Women's Affairs	
5	Lemlem Tesfu	F	48	SC	
6	Nigisti Asgedom	F	41	Women Affairs	
7	Kalata Mekonen G/hawet	M	20	Youth Assoc	
8	Kechi Abtin G/hawet	M	35	Kebelle Administration	

Experts and DA Participants  
 Woreda: Hintalo Wajerat  
 Kebele: Bahri tseba

Moderator: Kinos Gharaf Sig:  Date: 05/07/2018

S-N	Name	Sex	Age	Position	Signature
1	Binzamsemlen	M	28	DA-NR	
2	Atsew Kelayu	F	22	DA-H/K	
3	Borru Meresa	M	32	human resource expert	
4	Daniel Girmal	M	35	woreda supervisor in charge for community cash for work	
5	Tesfay Berhe	M	32	<del>cash for work</del>	
6					
7					


Woreda Structure & Discussion Questions

S.N.	Name	Sex	Age	Position	Signature
1	Tesfere	M	41	Farmer & land use	
2	Zekino Ababa	M	29	Kebele head	
3	Kalayu Atsion	M	31	Kebele head Construction team & transport	
4	Mekonen Habitu	M	53	NRM Co-ordinator	
5	Tsehaynesh Nigus	F	30	WAPRES	

## Famer participants

Wordda: Saesie Tseneda embu

kelalle: Gula Aberia


Moderator: Kiri G/hawot Sig.  Dulu 1/10/2020

S.no	Name	Sex	Age	Social status	Signature
1.	Berhane Ghustel	M	35	YOUTH	
2.	Berhane Debita	M	38		
3.	Tesfay G/yohann	M	40		
4.	Hailay Akiba	M	37		
5.	Nigsti Kasli	F	35		
6.	Alemraoh Tekla	F	70		
7.	Amele G/hale	F	50		
8.	Mulka Tekla	F	45		
9.	Taddelesh Barak	F	30		
10.	H/mariam Arkebe	M	62		
11.	Keshi Atsbeha Araya	M	37		
12.	Keshi G/hawot Desta	M	63		
13.	Shewangnech G/leone	F	40		

Kebelle Administration Participants


Woreda: Sausia Tsaeda Emba







Kebelle: Gula Abernia

Moderator: Kiros G/hawot Sig.  Date: 15/10/2020

S-N	Name	Sex	Age	Position	Signature
1.	Gelawie Abchal )	M	48	Vice kebele Chairman	
2.	Gemedhin E/maria	M	39	Youth Affairs Kebele	
3.	Koflen Yirgaw	M	47	Kebele Chairperson	
4.	G/michael Lemten	M	40	Youth Affairs	
5.	Gidey Seche	M	47	Chairman	
6.	Elsa G/medhin	F	22	women Assoc	
7.	Tsegaberkhan w/gabriel	F	30	Kebele women Affairs	

Woreda Experts and DAs  
 Woreda: Saesie - Isacala Emba  
 Kebele: Gula Abeneza

Moderator: Kiros G/hawot sig  Date 14/01/2016

S.N	Name	Sex	Age	Position	Signature
1.	Kirsten Desta	M	42	Woreda Crop prod expert	
2.	H/Iskara G/medha	M	32	Woreda secretary	
3.	H/Iskara Borhane	M	23	Kebele SSS	
4.	Hailay Wagos	M	21	Wahr supply	
5.	Tirhas Teofany	F	23	Kebele Crop	
6.	Tiuntu G/medha	F	21	Kebele livestock prod:	
7.					



# ATTENDANCE DURING CONSULTATION, Amhara Region

## Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

Region- Amhara Woreda... West Gojam zone (Pinate Selam) -

Date of consultation ... 14/6/2010 E.C

Place of consultation ... Department of Agriculture (F/Selam)

Time ... 4:00 - 6:30

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
1	Desie Sitotaw	F	35	Zone	Agriculture	[Signature]
2	Adena Adamu	M	41	zone	Biological S. A. U. C. 2010	[Signature]
3	minmuyelet Gobeyehu	m	37	zone	NRAM head	[Signature]
4	Yismaw Nurelegn	M	31	West Gojam Zone	Soil & Water Conservation	[Signature]
5	Motta'iner Abdis	M	30	West Gojam Zone	Gender expert	[Signature]
6	Anirut Melaku	M	32	W/G Zone	ESBA expert	[Signature]
7	Yikeber Siraw	M	32	W/G Zone	Agronomist	[Signature]
8	Haile Admasie	M	32	W/G Zone	Agronomist	[Signature]
9	Sewalem Alomaw	M	30	W/G Zone	Soil & Water Conservation Expert	[Signature]

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

Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

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

Date of consultation ... 12/16/2010 E.C .....

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

Time ... 4:00 - 7:00 .....

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
1	Dessalegn Tilahun	M	48	Dube kebele	leadership	
2	Achenafe Aycheu	M	36	Dube kebele	water shed committee	
3	meretafa melamu mesait	M	44	Dube kebele	yehezenyat abab	
4	Abunet Gelahun	F	40	Dube kebele	female	
5	Mepistie Wolie	F	30	Dube ..	female	
6	Tadefotech rhanio	F	35	Dube ..	female	
7	mamaye metik	F	25	Dube ..	female	
8	Desse Asteres	M	35	.. ..	water shed committee	
9	Tesfaye Dagnaw	M	45	.. ..	water shed committee	
10	Girma mekuraw	M	57	.. ..	water shed committee	
11	Arenaw Zashie	M	52	.. ..	water shed committee	
12	Yemaneb Atanaye	M	46	.. ..	water shed committee	
13	Abeie Dereso	M	68	.. ..	water shed committee	
14	TAGELE GENET	M	38	.. ..	water shed committee	
15	Yese Agemenu mensaha	M	27	.. ..	water shed committee	

Moderator: Name Ayana yehuala signature date 12/16/2010 E.C



Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

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

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

Place of consultation ... Akromenor kebele

Time ... 6:00 - 7:00

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
1	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	32	Almenor	የሃይማኖት ጸ/ገ	ቆይዘለቀ
2	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	35	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
3	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	36	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
4	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	28	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
5	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	34	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
6	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	35	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
7	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	40	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
8	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	47	ጋጋ	የሃይማኖት ጸ/ገ	ቆይዘለቀ
9	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	45	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
10	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	50	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
11	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	21	ጋጋ	የጽሑፍ ጸ/ገ	ቆይዘለቀ
12	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	30	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
13	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	34	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
14	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	33	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
15	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	36	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
16	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	32	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
17	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	36	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ
18	ቆይዘለቀ ገሰው	ጠ	43	ጋጋ	ጋጋ	ቆይዘለቀ

Moderator: Name Amara Yehuala signature [Signature] date 7/6/2010 E.C

Community consultation for RLLP

Focus group Discussion (FGD) participants' attendance.

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

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

Place of consultation ... Abromenor kebele .....

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

s/n	Name	sex	Age	Woreda/kebele	Responsibility	Signature
19	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	28	Abromenor	የአሰጣጥ	[Signature]
20	የገብረ	ጾታ	35	»	»	[Signature]
21	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	37	»	»	[Signature]
22	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	40	»	»	[Signature]
23	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	52	»	»	[Signature]
24	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	45	»	»	[Signature]
25	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	53	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]
26	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	45	»	የአሰጣጥ	[Signature]
27	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	49	»	የአሰጣጥ	[Signature]
28	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	25	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]
29	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	25	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]
30	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	24	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]
31	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	41	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]
32	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	45	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]
33	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	50	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]
34	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	35	»	»	[Signature]
35	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	52	»	»	[Signature]
36	ገብረ ለገሰ	ጾታ	48	»	የሃገር ሰጣጥ	[Signature]

Moderator: Name ገብረ ለገሰ signature [Signature] date 7/6/2010 E.C









**Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet**

Region B.G  
 Woreda Dibati  
 Kebele Kido / 2081  
 Micro watershed -----  
 Name of consulted groups 7-2011

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



Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet

Region no/12  
 Woreda 6/13  
 Kebele 230/10  
 Micro watershed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of consulted groups not

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1	አብነት አበበ	M	58	አ/አ/አ	
2	ወይንስ አበበ	M	20	ወ/ሙ/ት	
3	ወይንስ አበበ	M	70	ወ/ሙ/ት	
4	አብነት አበበ	M	18	ወ/ሙ/ት	
5	አብነት አበበ	M	30	አ/አ/አ	
6	አብነት አበበ	M	22	ወ/ሙ/ት	
7	አብነት አበበ	M	60	አ/አ/አ	
8	አብነት አበበ	M	30	አ/አ/አ	
9	አብነት አበበ	M	44	አ/አ/አ	
10	አብነት አበበ	M	40	አ/አ/አ	
11	አብነት አበበ	M	32	አ/አ/አ	
12	አብነት አበበ	M	35	አ/አ/አ	

**Annex II: Community Consultation Attendance Sheet**

Region RS  
 Woreda Yaso  
 Kebele Ayasa  
 Micro watershed \_\_\_\_\_

*(Gumuzo Ethnic Group)*

No	List of participant	Sex	Age	Responsibility	Signature
1	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የህግ ገብረ-ቤ	
2	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
3	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
4	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
5	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂			
6	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂			
7	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
8	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂			
9	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂			
10	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የህግ ገብረ-ቤ	
11	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
12	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂			
13	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂			
14	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
15	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂			
16	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
17	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
18	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
19	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
20	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		የግብርና ገብረ-ቤ	
21	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
22	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
23	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
24	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
25	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
26	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
27	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
28	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
29	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
30	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	
31	አገረ ገብረ-ቤ	♂		"	

Region: Gambella  
 Woreda: Lave  
 Date: 27/02/2018

Moderator: Biel Dak  
 Name & specific place/  
 Wote: Thian

No.	full name	Sex	kebele	Signature
01	NYATHOL : Thok	Man	Paikwot	
02	NYACHOT : Ther	"	"	
03	NYAGACH : Thok	"	"	
04	NYAGUER : DOLUOT	"	"	
05	NYAMUAL : biciok	"	"	
06	NYACHEW : kek	"	"	
07	NYADEBAH	"	"	
08	NYACHIENG : Lul	"	"	
09	NYACHUDIER : Tut	"	"	
10	NYAWAR GAK : G/Luak	"	"	
11	NYAMNECH : rial	"	"	
12	NYAZOTE : Lomj	"	"	
13	mer - : mach	"	"	
14	NYACHOP : Tal	"	"	
15	NYAMAL : Roang	"	"	

## **Annex: 3 Project Grievance redress mechanism guideline**

### **Introduction**

A grievance is any concern or complaint raised by an individual or a group within communities affected by RLLP-supported activities. SLMP implementers should keep in mind that unanswered questions or ignored requests for information have the potential to become problems and should, therefore, be addressed promptly. Effectively addressing grievances from people impacted by the projects activities is a core component of managing operational risk. Redressing grievances of affected people should be an integral part of a project's design, plan, and management. Setting up appropriate mechanisms to address community concerns, prevent adverse consequences and risks, and bring about positive changes in people's lives and relationships is increasingly important in development projects. Resolving grievances of project-affected people at the lowest level, without allowing them to rise into higher levels, equally benefits both the aggrieved parties and the project implementers.

Grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) can be an effective tool for early identification, assessment, and resolution of complaints on projects. Grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) are institutions, instruments, methods, and processes by which a resolution to a grievance is sought and provided. It is a way to receive, assess and resolve complaints that may arise from the RLLP-supported activities. Understanding when and how a GRM may improve project outcomes can help both project teams and beneficiaries improve results. Grievance redress mechanisms will respond to needs better if they are established early as a measure to preempt rather than react to escalation of tensions with surrounding communities. An adequate social and environmental impact assessment process is essential to the success of a grievance redress mechanism. A GRM provides a predictable, transparent, and credible process to all parties, resulting in outcomes that are seen as fair, effective, and lasting.

A well-functioning grievance mechanism increases the likelihood that small disputes can be brought to a conclusion relatively quickly before they become deep-seated grievances, keeps ownership of the dispute in the hands of local people, and offers an early, efficient, and less costly way to address concerns. A well-functioning grievance mechanism can also provide valuable feedback to the project management unit by serving as an early warning system for wider problems, yielding insights from individual grievances that spotlight changes that might be needed to SLMP operations or management systems, indicating possible systemic changes that might be needed to ensure that particular grievances do not recur.

The goals of GRM are: 1) open channels for effective communication, 2) demonstrate that SLMP is concerned about community members and their well-being, 3) mitigate or prevent adverse impacts on communities caused by RLLP activities, 3) improve trust and respect, and 4) promote productive relationships.

In Sustainable Land management Program (integrated watershed and landscape management component) the activity plans originate from communities and add up to kebele, woreda, regional and federal levels. That means the general assembly or watershed community identifies major problems in the watershed along with the possibilities of addressing the problems in the framework of the SLM project with the coordination of community watershed team (CWT). Since they are the primary beneficiaries of the project, they are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of the project including problem/need identification, preparation, work planning, implementation, monitoring, operation and maintenance. Therefore, the planning process follows a bottom-up approach to lay foundation for all of the interventions and to ensure sustainability. Since the whole process is participatory and transparent, the occurrence of complaint is very rare. Even though the existence of complaints is minimal, there should be a mechanism to address unforeseen events.

To this effect, it is necessary to establish grievance redress mechanism (GRM) in newly RLLP targeted watersheds and strengthen in existing watersheds which provides a transparent, and credible process to all parties, resulting in outcomes that are seen as fair, effective, and lasting.

The GRM is an essential part of the safeguard instrument that intends to resolve complaints on the RLLP subproject activities. It should address complainant concerns and complaints promptly, using an understandable and transparent process that is gender responsive, culturally appropriate, and readily accessible to all segments of the complainant persons. Generally, the Mechanism will ensure that (i) the public within RLLP investment influence are aware of their rights to access, and shall have access to, the mechanism free of administrative and legal charges, and (ii) concerns arising from RLLP activity in all phases are addressed effectively. Such kinds of approach are useful, among others, to improve outcomes of RLLP implementation, help to prioritize supervisions, identify systematic implementation issues and trends, and promote accountability through creating more predictable, timely and results-oriented responses to citizen concerns.

Accordingly, RLLP project coordination units (PCUs) at federal and regional level are required to set up the mechanism. To this effect, the following approaches will be followed.

### **Objectives**

- The objective of establishing the grievance redress mechanism in SLMP is to address any complaint concern and complaints related to RLLP activity implementation promptly and effectively.
- Scope of Grievance Redress Mechanism
- The scope of the issues to be addressed in RLLP grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be all complaints arising from RLLP activity implementations.
- Any person within RLLP targeted watershed who has complaints regarding the activities of the RLLP subprojects during preparation/designing, implementation and operation phases shall have access to the Mechanism.

**Access to Grievance Redress Mechanism:** The MoA/RLLP National PCU in collaboration with concerned regional and woreda (Bureau of Agriculture, and Woreda Agricultural Office) will make the public aware of the GRM through awareness creation forums, training and capacity building. Any person who has complaints regarding the activities of the RLLP subprojects during preparation/designing, implementation and operation phases shall have access to the Mechanism. Contact details in support of the Mechanism will be publicly disclosed and posted in the offices of concerned woreda offices, Kebele administration, kebele development centers/agriculture office and Farmers training Centers (FTC). These will also be incorporated in the RLLP information materials (e.g. reports, magazines, brochures, flyers and posters).

**Grievance Investigation and Resolution Process (GIRP):** The MoA/RLLP national project coordination unit (NPCU) in collaboration with its regional and woreda counter parts established a clear GRM that allows any person, who has complaints regarding the activities of the RLLP, to raise issues, feedback and complaints about the effects of RLLP activities implementation/performance. Complaints can be communicated in written form using the standard complaint form to community watershed team. All received complaints and responses given should be documented and copies sent to kebele watershed team.

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

Complaints unresolved at traditional grievance redress institution level (if the complainant is not satisfied) will be brought to kebele watershed team and investigated and resolved. All received complaints and responses should be documented and copies sent to community watershed team and woreda agricultural office.

Complaints unresolved at kebele watershed team level (if the complainant is not satisfied) will be brought to woreda agricultural office. At woreda level, all received complaints which were unresolved at kebele watershed team level will be reviewed by the woreda agriculture office and sent to woreda steering committee for

investigation and final decision. To this effect, a GRM with clear timeline and responsibility is required at different levels so as to be transparent, accountable and responsive. Accordingly, the steps of the GIRP at each level are outlined as follows.

### **Structure, Steps and Timeframe**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Monitoring, evaluation and learning:** Monitoring and evaluation is a process that helps to improve performance and achieve results. Monitoring and evaluation is used for measuring the effectiveness of the grievance redress mechanism and the efficient use of resources, and for determining broad trends and recurring problems so they can be resolved proactively before they become points of contention. Monitoring helps to identify common or recurrent claims that may require structural solutions and enables the project to capture any lessons learned in addressing grievances. Monitoring and reporting also create a base level of information that can be used by the project to give information back to communities.

Monitoring indicators are included in the environment and social safeguard reporting template. The indicators include but not limited to the establishment of GRM at different levels, the number of grievances registered and resolved, the time taken to redress a grievance, and the level of community satisfaction. The federal and regional environment and social safeguard specialists, monitoring and evaluation specialists, and the woreda experts will conduct GRM monitoring and report quarterly.

**GBV GRM Approach:** Regarding complaints related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse, the Woreda Women and Children Affairs office, which is legally mandated will be the first level referral pathway. The project will allocate resources for awareness creation on this GBV GRM. The Woreda Women and Children Affairs Office will be provided with capacity building and orientation on the basic principles of GBV case management encompassing confidentiality, non-judgmental, service referrals for survivors, etc. The office will have a working procedure regarding the standards for services, referral, data collection, maintaining the best interest of the survivor.



## Grievance Redress Mechanism reporting format

Quarter\_\_\_\_\_

Year\_\_\_\_

No.	Activity	Unit	Annual target	Target		Achievement		
				This quarter	Up to this quarter	This quarter	Up to this quarter	Achievement /planned (%)
1	Monitoring and technical support	No of woreda						
2	Awareness creation to community, CWT, KWT,	Male						
		Female						
		Total						
3	Established and functional GRM	No of woreda						
4	Number of grievance registered	No.						
5	Number of grievance resolved	No.						
6	Types of cases appealed	Types of cases						

**Annex: 4 Grievance application form**

ቀን.....

**የዘላቂ መሬት አያያዝ ፕሮግራም የቅሬታ ማቅረቢያ ቅፅ**

1. የቅሬታ አቅራቢ ስም..... የሚገኝበት ቦታ፣  
ወረዳ.....  
ቀበሌ.....ጎጥ.....  
ንዑስ ተፋሰስ ስም.....
2. የቀርበው የቅሬታ  
.....  
.....
3. የችግሩ መንስኤ(በቅሬታ አቅራቢው አስተያየት)  
.....  
.....  
.....
4. የቅሬታ አቅራቢው እንዲሆንለት የሚፈልገው ፍላጎት  
.....  
.....
5. የቅሬታ ተቀባይ ስም.....  
ፊርማ.....ቀን.....

## Annex 5. Glossary of Terms

Census:	A field survey carried out to identify and determine the number of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) or Displaced Persons (DPs) as a result of land acquisition and related impacts. The census provides the basic information necessary for determining eligibility for compensation, resettlement, and other measures emanating from consultations with affected communities and the local government institutions.
Compensation:	The payment in kind, cash or other assets given in exchange for the acquisition of land including fixed assets, is called compensation. These include other impacts resulting from activities to rehabilitate or cushion the impacts from displacement.
Disclosure:	Information availability to all stakeholders at all stages of the development of projects.
Entitlement:	Range of measures comprising compensation, income restoration transfer assistance, income substitution and relocation which are due to affected people, depending on the nature of the losses, to restore their economic and social base.
Grievance Mechanism:	The SA contains a grievance mechanism based on policies and procedures that are designed to ensure that the complaints or disputes about any aspect of the land acquisition, compensation, resettlement, and rehabilitation process, etc. are being addressed. This mechanism includes a procedure for filing of complaints and a process for dispute resolution within an acceptable time period.
Implementation Schedule:	The RPF contains an implementation schedule that outlines the time frame for planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the RAPs for sub-projects, if applicable.
Income Restoration:	Re-establishing income sources and livelihood of people affected.
Involuntary Resettlement:	Resettlement is involuntary when it occurs without the informed consent of the displaced persons or if they give their consent without having the power to refuse resettlement.
Land:	all types of agricultural and/or non-agricultural land and any structures thereon whether temporary or permanent and which may be acquired by the project.
LandAcquisition:	the possession of or alienation of land, buildings, or other assets thereon for purposes of the project.
Mitigation measures:	Refers to methods to reduce, eliminate or compensate for adverse social effects;
Project Affected Persons (PAPs) or Displaced Persons (DPs):	Persons affected by land and other assets loss as a result of project activities. These person(s) are affected because they may lose, be denied, or be restricted access to economic assets; lose shelter, income sources, or means of livelihood. These persons are affected whether or not they will move to another location. Most often, the term DPs applies to those who are physically relocated. These people may have their: standard of living adversely affected, whether or not the Displaced Person will move to another location; lose right, title, interest in any houses, land (including

premises, agricultural and grazing land) or any other fixed or movable assets acquired or possessed, lose access to productive assets or any means of livelihood.

Project Impacts:	Impacts on the people living and working in the affected areas of the project, including the surrounding and host communities are assessed as part of the overall evaluation of the project.
Project Implementing Unit (PIU):	Some projects make use of project implementing units (PIUs), which are generally separate units within the project recipient's agency. The PIU is often composed of full time staff devoted to implementing the project, and have been encouraged to have separate teams with environment and social specialists who can carry out the activities
Rehabilitation Assistance:	the provision of development assistance in addition to compensation such as livelihood support, credit facilities, training, or job opportunities, needed to assist PAPs or DPs restore their livelihoods.
Relocation:	Rebuilding housing, assets including productive land and public infrastructure in another location.
Replacement Cost:	Replacement cost refers to the amount sufficient to cover full recovery of lost assets and related transaction costs. The cost should be based on <b>Market rate (commercial rate)</b> according to Ethiopian laws for sale of land or property. It is normally calculated based on a willing buyer-willing seller basis, but also applies in Ethiopia to acceptable market valuation or from an assessment from the Land Commission and government value.
Resettlement Action Plan (RAP):	The RAP is a resettlement instrument (document) to be prepared when sub-project locations are identified. In such cases, land acquisition leads to physical displacement of persons, and/or loss of shelter, and /or loss of livelihoods and/or loss, denial or restriction of access to economic resources. RAPs are prepared by the implementing agency and contain specific and legal binding requirements to resettle and compensate the affected people before project implementation.
Resettlement Assistance:	Resettlement assistance refers to activities that are usually provided during, and immediately after, relocation, such as moving allowances, residential housing, or rentals or other assistance to make the transition smoother for affected households.
Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF):	The RPF is an instrument to be used throughout the project's implementation. The RPF sets out the objectives and principles, organizational arrangements, and funding mechanisms for any resettlement, that may be necessary during implementation. The RPF guides the preparation of Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), as needed, for sub-projects.
Rights and Entitlements:	Rights and entitlements are defined for PAPs and DPs (with the cut-off date) and cover those losing businesses, jobs, and income. These include options for land-for-land or cash compensation. Options regarding community and individual resettlement, and provisions and entitlements to be provided for each affected community or household will be determined and explained, usually in an entitlement matrix.
Social impacts:	refers solely to adverse impacts on people: labor and working conditions, community health, safety and security, indigenous peoples, land acquisition

and involuntary resettlement, and cultural heritage.

Social impact  
assessment

refers to a tool to identify and assess the potential social effects of a project, evaluate alternatives, design mitigation, management and monitoring measures and the document or documents which describe the processes, findings and conclusions of the assessment

Vulnerable Groups:

People who by virtue of gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage, or social status may be more adversely affected by resettlement than others and who may be limited in their ability to claim or take advantage of resettlement assistance and related development benefits.