

Story in the Watershed

Restored Gully: The Case of Ketacho Micro Watershed, Basoliben Woreda, Amhara Region

Ketacho is one of the micro watersheds in Yeda-Baso major watershed supported since SLMP-II phase in Basoliben woreda, East Gojam zone, Amhara Regional State. The average elevation of the watershed ranges from 2001 to 2410m. The topography of the micro watershed is 37%, 25% & 12% for upper, middle and lower portion of the landscape respectively. Generally, the terrain is susceptible to erosion. The area receives a mean annual rainfall of 1200 mm, mainly during the rainy season that extends from April to October with highest intensity during July to August. As a result, Ketacho had been suffering from flood emerging from surrounding highlands that drain to Yeda River and crosses Ketacho micro watershed and created wider gullies.

As majority of the landscape in the micro watershed is hilly and with fragile soil, soil erosion was part of the phenomenon and it requires the use of appropriate land management interventions. However, due to lack of awareness and proper land management intervention, most of the lands were bare and degraded.

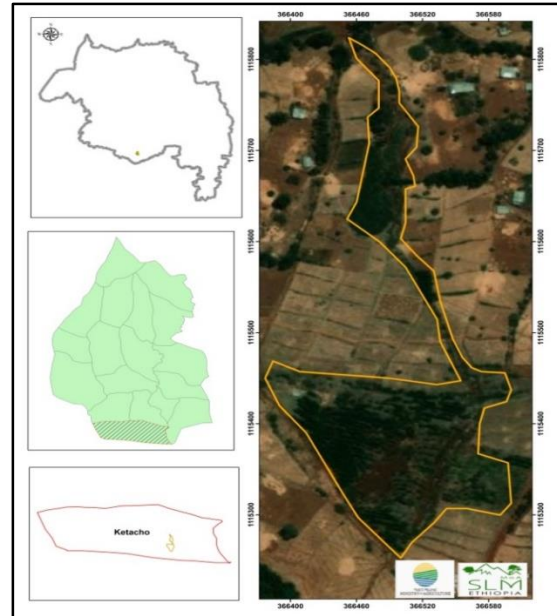


Figure1: Location Map of Gully Rehabilitation site in ketacho Micro watershed.

According to the farmers, there was no awareness on gully rehabilitation and area closure in the watershed before SLMP's intervention. They also said, the community were not benefitted from the communal land. Rather, the communal land of the micro watershed was the sources of heavy flood that affected their farmlands by creating big gullies.



Figure 2: Gully before treatment

Story in the Watershed

As part of the solution for the above problem, in 2014/15, SLMP established different platforms (WST, WTC, KWT and CWT), provided awareness raising and capacity building trainings on various aspects of SLM intervention and deployed various practices and technologies. To decrease soil erosion and protect their farm land from flood in the micro-watershed, the project supported in the identification of households and establishment of gully user group in Ketacho micro-watershed



Figure 2: User group at the time of meeting, Baso Liben Woreda, Yeda Baso Major Watershed, Ketacho Microwatershed (During field visit Sept. 2021).

The gully user group was established in 2015 with 106 households (6 female headed) members. With the support of SLMP, the user group identified, delineated and fenced the gullies' catchment that need to be restored. Then after the user group established functional bylaw that elaborated and agreed up on responsibilities to manage, maintain and utilize the gully and its

products. Finally, implemented combination of gully physical and biological structures (gully reshaping, bamboo matt check dam, Gabion check dam, trench/percolation pit, desho grass, Lupinus seed, treelucern seedlings, vetiver grass, gravioria rubusta and Acacia decarrence).



As a result of the project intervention, the farmers explained that about 60 ha of farmlands were prevented from flood destruction and became productive. Similarly, 15 ha gully restored and biomass harvest increased from zero to 424 qt per year. The community also explained that the weather road in the micro watershed was also protected from the flood damage. The group has been harvesting fodder biannually and distributed equally for all beneficiary (four quintal per households per year).

Story in the Watershed



Figure 3: Stabilized gully

Out of the 106 households, 15 households started utilizing part of the closed gully area for beekeeping (23 beehives) and on the coming months the team will harvest their first honey.

The treated gully started responding in 2019, after three years, and the group has benefited about 60,300 irr from sells of grass and Lupinus.

Lesson learnt: Strengthening of community ownership through involvement is critical for sustainability of rehabilitation efforts.

Contributors:

1. Ato Afework Mekeberaw
Senior GIS and Watershed specialist
SLMP National Coordination office
Mobil No. +251 0911675804
E-mail: afotesfaye@gmail.com
2. W/ro. Yiftusira Yitayew
Senior Forest Specialist
SLMP National Coordination office
Mobil No. +251 912 17 54 64
E-mail: yiftu2006@gmail.com
3. Ato Arega Alem
Regional Watershed Development specialist, Amhara region SLMP coordination Office,
Mobil No. +251 918800231
E-mail: aregaalemu@yahoo.com
4. Ato Demeke Ketema:
Basoliben woreda SLMP Focal person
Mobil No. +251 928510704
E-mail: demeke.ketemas@gmail.com
5. Selected member of Microwatershed Committee and beneficiaries