
*PFM in Oromia and SNNP regions of Ethiopia:
a review of experiences, constraints and
implications for forest policy*

FARM-Africa/SOS Sahel

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Outline of presentation

- The extent of forests and biodiversity resources of Ethiopia
- Contributions/potentials of Ethiopian forests
- Forest Management Issues
- The FARM/SOS Joint PFM Programme
 - How PFM works
 - PFM Processes
 - Achievements so far
- Opportunities for PFM
- Challenges for scaling up
- Lessons learned
- Recommendations on what needs to be done

The extent of forests and biodiversity resources of Ethiopia (WBISPP, 2000)

- 4 million ha of high forest
- 29.2 mil ha of woodlands
- 26.4 mil ha of shrub lands
- 130,000 ha of highland and 800,000 ha of lowland bamboo.
- >500,000 ha of plantations
- Species diversity : over 6000 plant species (with some 1150 Endemic species)

Contributions/potentials of Ethiopian forests

- 90% of household energy
- Ca. 170 wild food plants
- Some 600 medicinal plants as source of health care for ~ 80% of the population
- >2.7 mil ha of forest producing oleo-gum resins with a potential production of 2.5 mil qt/year
- > 400 honey source plants, > 10 mil bee colonies
- Various spices for domestic use and export
- 67% of bamboo in Africa

Contributions/potentials (Cont...)

- **Forests as inputs to crop and livestock:**
 - Fodder deriving from forest is 10% and 60% of livestock feed in wet and dry seasons, respectively.
 - 35% (175,000 sq.km) of Ethiopian rangelands are found under forest cover (mainly bush and shrub)
 - Regulation of water flow and erosion
- Civet farming
- Tourism and wildlife
- Forests as coffee shade (10% and 35% forest and semi-forest coffee)

Contributions/potentials of Ethiopian forests

- Various income types: daily, seasonal and emergency
 - Forest based micro-enterprise
 - Wage employment in the formal sector
 - Direct livelihood support for poor HH especially women
 - NTFPs
 - Tourism and wildlife
 - Payment for environmental services (potential)
- Watershed protection functions
- Buffer against climate change
- Biological diversity

Forest Management issues

- Population pressure → farmland expansion → deforestation
- Livestock management- 35 mil TLU (80 mil herds) → widespread overgrazing
- Ever increasing demands for forest products
- Who owns the forest resources?
- Organizational instability
- Poor implementation capacity

Forest Management issues ...

- Lack of clear policy guide – implementation guidelines/ modalities
- “Protectionist” forest management approaches unsuccessful
- Insufficient consideration of social, economic and cultural importance of forests for rural population
- Forest valuations poorly developed → GDP does not properly account for forest contributions → less attention

The FARM/SOS Joint PNRM Programme

- Joint programme of FARM Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia
- Projects in Bonga, Borena and Chilimo (Ethiopia), Nou (Tanzania)
- Strong partnerships with relevant government agencies
- Working to catalyze the adoption of PNRM within policy and practice
- Large scale implementation launched in 14 woredas of the Bale mountains (based on lessons from ongoing programme)

PFM: How it works

- Forest units allocated to forest user groups (FUGs)
- Boundary definitions by consensus
- Signing of agreement specifying rights, obligations and duties
- Sanctions in cases of non compliance
- Granting of rights for current and future use
- Share of revenue/ benefits between stakeholders
- Participatory decision making

PFM: The process

- Investigation
- Negotiation and
- Implementation stages

Forest Area under PFM

Community managed forests in Oromia and SNNPR

- Chilimo 4,944 ha (8 coops, 4 groups and 1 Union)
- Bonga 8,950 ha (10 groups, 3 coops)
- Borana 80,066 ha (3 sites)

Achievements gained so far

- Several Environmental, Economic and Social benefits gained
 - Environmental benefits:
 - 4 FPA under community management
 - 1(one) Forest Union established – manager and forester assigned by local government
 - Forest management improved (Communities start investing in planting tree seedlings and nursery management)
 - Serving as a seed source for indigenous spp. (Community collecting seed and selling)
 - Pressure on forest resources minimized

Achievements gained so far (Cont...)

- **Economic Benefits:**
 - FUGs benefit from forest sell (Chilimo > ETB 600,000) 30% to government and the remaining to Forest and community development activities
 - Forestry's contribution to rural economy and livelihood has increased
 - 85% community members involved in livelihood diversification (eg. irrigation, beekeeping, forage development, poultry, vegetables)
 - Asset building within community from Forest and livelihood diversification

Achievements gained so far (Cont...)

- Social benefits:
 - Several capacity building trainings provided for community and Government staff (PFM, PRA, Conflict resolution, Institutional & financial Management, PM&E, Gender)
 - Villagers developed participatory planning skills and started soliciting other funding sources
 - Strong social cohesion for collective action formed
 - Community's being empowered to run their institution and manage forest resources
 - Change of attitude towards Natural resources (PFM getting wider acceptance at different levels)

Opportunities for PFM

- Enabling Policy environment
 - The Constitution of The FDRE (Proclamation No.1/1995)
 - Strong government support for participation in all enacted Policies – Ethiopian Environment Policy, Ethiopian Conservation Strategy, Biodiversity, ARDS strongly support community participation)
- More than 10 yrs practical experience in PFM
- Encouraging results achieved- Forest development and livelihood improvement,
- Federal Forest policy (for the first time!) and new Forest Proclamation
- PFM supportive regional forest proclamations enacted
- Community members enthusiastic about PFM
- Promising markets emerging

Challenges to PFM implementation and scaling up

- The continued forest loss
- Forest Policy and Proclamation need to be explicit on different forms PFM: what are the grounds for scaling up?
- Loose Federal-regional linkages (strong administrative and technical support from the Federal level needed)
- Regularization: the absence of PFM Job positions (with clear Job descriptions) at different levels
 - Challenging to implement PFM under government regular program
 - PFM development will be limited to projects- (donor support)
- Differences in the thinking of professionals: the need for *facilitating* instead of *policing* roles
- Users beyond resource capacity → conflicts
- Institutionalization: FUG s unable to get recognition as CBO s

Lessons learned

- PFM is a viable option for forest conservation
- Consideration to existing traditional institutions
- Communities are capable of forest conservation
- Courage and flexibility from the regional/ local governments
- PFM is not a quick fix and is not a panacea
- PFM contributes to local governance and democratization
- The key challenge: putting in place a system of forest management that works in the context of increasing resource demand and land use competition

Recommendations on what needs to be done

- Development of implementation guidelines, decrees (for the policy and proclamation)
- Institutionalization: revision of job positions and descriptions to promote PFM/community participation
- Legal recognition for conservation based community organizations
- Provide for the formulation of long term Federal and Regional Forest Programs in the direction of community participation for Sustainable rural livelihood development
- Harmonization of other relevant policies to ensure consistency
- Ownership rights and certificates/titles for collectively managed /owned forests (communal ownership)

Recommendations

- Allocation of hillsides and degraded lands for private/group tree planting (with clear use rights)
- Promotion of PFM approaches
- Capturing opportunities (CDM, Forest Certification)
- Forestry can contribute to food security! (promote tree planting where appropriate)
- Multi-purpose management of forests
- Adjust and implement existing strategies (EFAP, NCS)
- A reasonable level of decentralization in forest governance
- Private sector investment

Thank you!!!