

NDC Highlights is a bimonthly newsletter of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission, focusing on disseminating information and knowledge on the implementation of Ethiopia's NDC.



"The increase in the resilience of the IGAD region to the adverse impacts of climate change contributes to the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals."

HE prof. Fekadu Beyene, Commissioner, EFCCC

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Editor-in-Chief: Negus Gebre

Editorial Team: Tesfaye Gashaw, Muluneh Hedeto, Bemnet Teshome and Robi Redda

Contributing Team: Mensur Dessie, and Mohammed Andoshe

Layout and Graphics: Arsema Andargatchew

NEWS

Regional Consultative Meeting on Climate Change Held

The Inter-Governmental Authorities for Development (IGAD) conducted a consultative meeting for experts of the regional states on "data and tools" used for climate change actions in Addis Ababa from 13-17 September 2021.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting, Excellency prof. Fekadu Beyene, Commissioner to the Ethiopian Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission mentioned that "The increase in the resilience of the IGAD region to the adverse impacts of climate change contributes to the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals."

The consultative regional meeting was organized to develop and promote tools to generate and share regional and national datasets and information on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. It has also initiated discussion with technical institutions with a view to sign memorandum of understanding to engage closely with IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center in providing climate change-related education and/or research / innovation services to member countries.

Technical Training on Ethiopia's Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy Conducted

The Paris Agreement invites Parties to submit their Long Term – Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) by 2020 towards achieving their commitments to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to develop its LT-LEDS and towards this end, a memorandum of understanding is signed between the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change commission (EFCCC), national lead institute, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), implementing partner, and the French Development Agency (AFD), financier. The LT-LEDS development initiative was launched in March 2021.

On August 31, 2021, GGGI in collaboration with EFCCC conducted a technical training for experts from the Commission and line ministries. The training was intended to clearly guide the development of the strategy. Presentations and discussions were held on current situations, key policy objectives, data requirements, work plan of sector analysis and steps to be taken in order to meet the strategy development objective.

REDD+ Program in Ethiopia: Promises and Achievements

- Yitebitu Moges (PhD), National REDD+ Coordinator, REDD+ Secretariat, EFCCC

Background

REDD+ is a framework created by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties ([COP](#)) to guide activities in the forest sector that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. It also provides guidance on the sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. It primarily targets national governments to promote the implementation of activities to reduce human pressure on forests that result in greenhouse gas emissions at the national level, but as an interim measure also recognizes subnational implementation. The implementation of REDD+ activities is voluntary and depends on the national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country and the level of support received.

The framework is commonly referred to as the [Warsaw Framework for REDD+](#) (WFR) adopted at COP 19 in Warsaw, December 2013 and provides complete methodological and financing guidance for the implementation of REDD+ activities. REDD+ is also recognized in Article 5 of the [Paris Agreement](#), within which Parties re-iterated their encouragement for the implementation of REDD+ activities, and that these should be an integral element of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, the WFR is a foundation for Parties engaged in REDD+ to fulfill the highest level of commitment to climate actions in the forest sector.

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REDD+ Implementation Phases

Parties agreed that REDD+ should be implemented in phases, which can overlap:

- Beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building (the readiness phase);
- Followed by implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities (the implementation phase); and,
- Evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported, and verified, allowing countries to seek and obtain results-based payments (Results based payment phase).

To realize the national REDD+ and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions, Ethiopia has been a REDD+ participant country with the financial and technical support of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility since 2008. The National REDD+ Program is coordinated by the National REDD+ Secretariat accountable to the Forest Sector of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC). The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was prepared through a participatory process in 2011 and its implementation started in January 2013. R-PP implementation (readiness phase) has run from 2013 to 2017. The country moved to the implementation phase in 2017 and the implementation of two large scale REDD+ programs are currently underway.

Ethiopia's NDC and REDD+

In many developing countries, land use is one of the key sectors in achieving global climate and sustainability goals. As such, the Government of Ethiopia has placed increased emphasis on agriculture and rural land use as important domains of its investment, economic development, and strategy for poverty reduction.

To a growing degree, this is in recognition of rural landscapes as the nexus where the linked challenges of food security, energy production, economic development, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and climate change converge. Unsustainable land use practices that occurred in Ethiopia for centuries have transformed the once lush landscapes into arid drylands. Today, the majority of Ethiopia's forested landscapes are situated in the southwest and southeast highlands. These landscapes constitute important ecosystems that provide basic goods and services to the population of the country and the region, including the maintenance of agriculture, regulation of the quality and quantity of water, habitat for important biodiversity and regulation of climate functions. The REDD+ program is designed such that it achieves not only the carbon emissions targets of the NDC, but also contributes to the welfare of the rural people, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of the water resources of the country.

The REDD+ Program, which is now embedded within the national Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy (and Ethiopia's NDC) is anticipated to contribute to a greater extent to the achievement of the CRGE/NDC targets through improved management of existing natural forests and expansion of forest cover through afforestation/reforestation (A/F). The 17.2 million hectares of forests covering 15.5% of the national territory (following the revised national forest definition) is under threat with an annual deforestation rate of 0.54% (Ethiopia's FREL, 2017). Having a large expanse of deforested lands, degraded forest areas, and degraded lands suitable for forest restoration, Ethiopia has potential for making significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration, while enhancing adaptation and resilience of communities through increased efforts in forest conservation and rehabilitation.

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In the updated NDC, the land use change and forestry (LUCF) sector promises the largest mitigation potential. At the same time, it is also the second most important driver of emissions under business as usual (BAU) assumptions, after the livestock sector. Policy interventions in the LUCF sector can reduce the emission level in 2030 to -99.9 Mt CO₂e in the conditional pathway, which turns the entire sector into a significant sink of emissions. REDD+ is designed to address emission from LUCF.

The potential for net emission reductions in the LUCF sector is realized through reduced deforestation and forest degradation and massive reforestation and forest restoration totaling up to 15 million hectares that have been pledged under the Bonn Challenge and Network Forestry summit (the ‘+’ aspect of REDD+). In Ethiopia’s NDC, the reforestation targets are divided between 3 million hectares of reforestation through tree planting, and 5-6 million hectares of restoration through natural forest regeneration. This has been taken as a long-term forestry sector goal based on Ethiopia’s Forest Sector Development Plan. Realizing this ambitious plan will increase forest cover to 30% of national territory over the long term, serving multiple functions.

REDD+ Implementation Progress

There are currently two major REDD+ Programs under implementation. The programs are supported by the World Bank’s BioCF and the Royal Norwegian government under its Norwegian International Forest and Climate Initiative (NICFI) and includes 5 high forest potential regional states of Ethiopia. The programs are:

1. Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP)
2. REDD+ Investment Program (RIP)

(1) Oromia Forested Landscape Program

Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) is designed to leverage investment grant resources from BioCF to attract new financing, expanding the total

footprint toward improved land use systems, forest retention, and forest gains. The initial investment grant of USD 18 million helped to establish a robust enabling environment for successfully implementing a jurisdictional approach for Emission Reduction payments and for leveraging and scaling up actions, investments, and initiatives on the ground. The OFLP, therefore serves as a “scale-up engine”. The grant lays ground to unlocking a BioCarbon Fund Commitment of up to USD 50 million for emission reductions payments measured against an agreed reference level in a period of up to ten years [2021-2030].

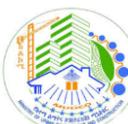
The high-level result indicators of the OFLP include 10 Mt CO₂e emission reductions in the Oromia regional state as an accounting area; and 71,056 ha of gross deforestation reduction in the accounting area. Lower-level results for physical investments in OFLP include: (a) 120,000ha of forest area brought under forest management plans; (b) 9000ha of area reforested; and (c) 25,000 individuals benefiting directly from project intervention, of which 30% are females.

Significant progress has been made in OFLP implementation and it is in the preparation for signing Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank.

(2) REDD+ Investment Program (RIP)

To realize Ethiopia’s ambition to ensure the implementation of its green economy strategy a Framework Agreement was signed between the Government of Ethiopia and the Royal Norwegian Government in July 2017 for a four-year program of 600 million NOK (ca 75,000,000 USD). The program is implemented through the coordinated effort of the EFCCC and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in collaboration with five regional states (Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, SNNPR Regional State and Tigray).

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EVENTS

Globally, in view of the continued spread and severity of the COVID-19 outbreak, several climate change and environmental sustainability related events, continue to be digital. The following are a list of events that will be conducted online. These events are accessible to a broader audience. For further information on each event please click on the 'source' link.

- Putting Gender at the heart of climate security, CGIAR, October 2021 | [Source](#)
- Reimagine Series: Climate Finance, Climate Action, October 2021 | [Source](#)
- Forest And Landscape Restoration , Africa, WRI, October 2021 | [Source](#)
- Hydrogen Transition Summit, Climate Action, November 2021 | [Source](#)
- Sustainable Innovation Forum 2021, Climate Action, November 2021 | [Source](#)
- Agri-Food Transition Summit 2021, Climate Action, November 2021 | [Source](#)
- Sustainable woodfuel value chains in Africa: Governance, social, economic and ecological dimensions, CIFOR, November 2021 | [Source](#)
- Local protected areas and green spaces helping to reconnect people and nature for improved health and wellbeing, ICLEI, November 2021 | [Source](#)

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The Program aims to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation by implementing targeted interventions. It is complemented through capacity building and innovation, and is re-enforced by applying appropriate policy instruments, which are instrumental for creating an enabling environment, enforcing legal provisions, and using existing institutional arrangements.

The RIP has three complementary pillars:

- Community-based afforestation and reforestation (AR/ANR).
- Prevention of deforestation and forest degradation (DD) in the southwest forest block.
- The Forest Sector Transformation Unit (FSTU).

(1) Community-based Afforestation & Reforestation and Assisted Natural Regeneration (AR/ANR)

Ethiopia's landscapes are massively degraded and call for restoration. Lessons clearly show that not implementing strategic afforestation and reforestation interventions will result in the consumption of remaining carbon and biodiversity rich forests of the country. Meaning, AR and ANR interventions not only increase the forest cover of the country, reverse expansion of degraded landscape, increase ecosystem productivity and improve livelihoods of the poor, but also, are the guardian of remaining high value forests of the country. Taking this fact into account, RIP targeted restoring 54,000 ha of land by Afforestation /Reforestation and 729,000 ha of land by Assisted Natural Regeneration. The AR/ANR interventions are underway in 54 Woredas across the regions. Until the end of this fiscal budget year, about a total of 35,749.13 ha (66.2% of the total plan) of new community forest plantations were created by AR. Similarly, a total of 715,841.34 ha (98.2%) of degraded natural forest landscapes have been put under enclosure and enrichment plans through ANR. Note that some of the figures in the above computations did not include reports from Tigray region due to existing conflict and efforts will continue to include achievements from the region. In addition, 7,728 ha of forest land was demarcated for participatory forest management (PFM) interventions along the AR and ANR interventions under this component.

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(2) Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (DD)

One of the major tasks of the DD component is to demarcate PFM sites and organize communities into Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to sustainably manage forests. A total of 599,817.09 ha of forests out of the 660,000 ha of forests were demarcated in SNNPR, Oromia and Gambela Regional States, making the overall achievement 90.9%. In addition, 263 PFM based cooperatives have also been established in Oromia, SNNPR and Gambella regions through the end of the budget year, almost 100 more CBOs than targeted. In this reporting period in SNNPR 76,494.78 ha of forests, out of the 147,702.37 ha planned, were demarcated in five DD zones and 29 DD Woredas. The overall performance of PFM sites boundary demarcation was hence 52% in SNNPR. The delineated PFM sites have been undertaking participatory forest management assessments (PFRA), preparation and approval of PFM sites for sustainable forest management plans and approval for the legalization of 38 PFM-based CBOs in SNNPR.

In Oromia region 44,056.92 ha of forests, out of the 62,617.24 ha planned, were demarcated as PFM sites in six of the DD zones and 24 DD Woredas. The performance of PFM sites boundary demarcation was hence 70.4% in Oromia. Similarly, the delineated PFM sites have been undertaking PFRAs, preparation and approval of PFM sites for sustainable forest management plans and the legalization of 39 PFM-based CBOs.

Out of 54,000 ha forest planned for demarcation in Gambella region, a total of 83,585.00 ha (155%) forests in two zones and six Woredas have been demarcated and mapped. The delineated PFM sites have also been undertaking PFRAs, and preparation and approval of PFM sites for sustainable forest management plan. Regional, Zonal and Woreda level steering committee and technical committee meetings were also held that supported the functioning of RIP management. In addition, a total of 33,982,121 (54% of the plan)

seedlings of diverse species were raised to be planted in buffer zone and as enrichment in open areas of the forest.

(3) Forest Sector Transformation Unit (FSTU)

The FSTU focuses on innovative approaches to transform the forest sector and mobilize additional funds. Despite the COVID19 pandemic that challenged execution of the planned activities as per the schedule, FSTU has exerted significant efforts to undertake activities and deliver the intended results. The Unit has coordinated and developed a number of concept notes and bankable proposals to seek funding opportunities. Among the major proposals include a project entitled "Sustainable Management of Forests for Reducing Emissions from Dryland Forest", which includes a USD 95,467,105.00 budget. EFCCC delegated the UNDP to submit this project to potential donors and discussion is underway. Another Livelihood project targeting fuelwood collector women and children with a total budget of USD 9.8 million is also prepared. FSTU has also played a pivotal role in overseeing the preparation of the Project Document for RIP Phase II, which includes a total budget of 600 million Kroner and thereby seeks to renew the bilateral Cooperation between the Governments of Ethiopia and Norway aimed to transform the forestry sector. Many other smaller sized projects and concept notes have been prepared and submitted to different sources.

Conclusions and Outlook

The National REDD+ Program has been established as a flagship program of the government of Ethiopia. The progress made so far is significant. Its promise of addressing a major part of the national emission reduction targets, while also contributing to adaptation efforts, is demonstrated through the implementation of REDD+ actions in 5 regional states. A REDD+ program in Bale that has recently sold its carbon credits, has also demonstrated that results-based payment is a reality and communities will eventually benefit from their efforts. With continued support from donors and the commitment of the government of Ethiopia, REDD+ will have a significant footprint on the forestry landscapes of Ethiopia in the coming years.



PUBLICATIONS

Status of the Global Food Cold-Chain: Summary Briefing

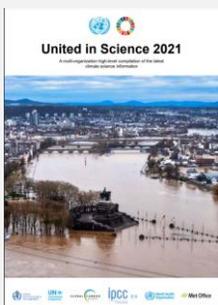


This is a short summary of a status report on the global food cold-chain, which includes case studies to show the current state and development across areas such as technologies, design approaches, finance and business models, policy, and planning. A full report will be published in December 2021. [Source](#)

Analysis of Climate Variability and Trends in Southern Ethiopia

This study investigated the trends and variability of seasonal and annual rainfall and temperature data over southern Ethiopia using time series analysis for the period 1983–2016. The results showed that the region experienced considerable rainfall variability and change that resulted in extended periods of drought and flood events within the study period. [Source](#)

United in Science 2021



This report has been compiled by the World Meteorological Organization on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General to bring together the latest climate science related updates from a group of key global partner organizations. It provides a holistic assessment

and present the very latest scientific data and findings related to climate change, to inform policy and decision-makers. [Source](#)

Green Technology Development and Transfer in Ethiopia

- Mrs. Yamelakesira Tamene Bekele, Director, Technology Development and Transfer, EFCCC

Background

As defined in [Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration](#), green technologies should protect the environment, are less polluting, use all resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more wastes and products and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than the technologies for which they were substituted. They include a variety of cleaner production processes and pollution prevention technologies as well as end-of-pipe and monitoring technologies.

Moreover, green technologies consist of hard technologies, such as goods and equipment, irrigation systems, flood control technologies, buildings, reservoirs, and improved piping systems that reduce leakage. It also includes soft technologies such as organizational and managerial procedures, organizational capacity, farmer education on applied scientific research and new agricultural practices.

UNFCCC (2005) defines adaptation technologies as “the application of technology in order to reduce the vulnerability, or enhance the resilience, of a natural or human system to the impact of climate change”.

Policy frameworks

Technology transfer has been under focus since the Rio Summit in 1992, where issues related to technology transfer were included in Agenda 21 as well as in Articles 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7 of the UNFCCC Convention. These were subsequently discussed in COP 1 in Berlin and COP 4 in Buenos Aires, with Decision 2/CP4 specifically highlighting key technologies needed in particular sectors of national economies that are conducive to addressing climate change and minimizing its adverse effects.

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The issue of green technology is also addressed in the Paris Agreement in Article 10. Article 10.1 maintains: 'Parties share a long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions'; while article 10.2 emphasizes that 'Parties shall strengthen cooperative action on technology development and transfer'.

In Ethiopia, the Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy was developed in 2011 to tackle the adverse effect of climate change. Ethiopia aims to achieve middle-income status by 2025 while developing a green economy. The strategy considers environmentally friendly technologies to achieve economic development goals in a sustainable way.

A number of policies and plans, including the Constitution of Ethiopia, Ethiopia's revised NDC, the 10 Years Development Plan, the Growth and Transformation Plans of Ethiopia (GTP1 and GTP2), Ethiopia National Adaptation Plan (ETH-NAP), National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), Ethiopia's Programme of Adaptation to Climate Change (EPACC), Regional CRGE Programmes and action Plan, Sectorial CRGE programmes and action plan, Climate resilience (CR) strategies across CRGE sectors, all consider green technologies as a tool to achieve their targets.

Environmentally sound technologies identification, piloting, implementation, and results achieved

Ethiopia emits almost 0.04% of the global GHG emission; however, the country is highly affected by the adverse effects of climate change. The Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) has been mandated to coordinate the national response to climate change. As the impacts of climate change intensify, it is of significant importance for Ethiopia to undertake adaptation actions. It is vital to identify and describe the problems and possible

solutions related to climate change adaptation. To this end, it is important to assess technologies and best practices which create green jobs, increase production and productivity, protect the degradation of the environment, and sustain the capacity of the environment to provide goods and services for development.

Based on environmental activities which were practiced by various organizations in the country, the EFCCC has undertaken pilot demonstration projects on different green technologies and best practices in various parts of the country.

Sixteen green technologies were piloted or demonstrated in different parts of the country during the first GTP. These were:

- Generating electricity from solar energy,
- Compost preparation from organic solid waste,
- Briquette production from organic solid waste,
- Electric driven vehicle (e-taxi) technology,
- Production and utilization of fuel-efficient stoves,
- Conservation-based fruit crops and other plant production,
- Rehabilitating degraded land resources through area closure,
- Growing multipurpose trees for additional income generation,
- Bamboo plantation and production of handicrafts,
- Extending the life span of infrastructures using biological and physical soil and water conservation measures,
- Producing ethanol from sugar cane,

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- Rehabilitating river side and treating polluted water for other uses,
- Promoting multipurpose trees to enhance natural fertilizer and reduce pollution,
- Production of biodiesel from jatropha seeds,
- Restoration of ecosystem, and
- Industrial wastewater treatment by biological methods.

The aforementioned technologies and best practices are supported with the development of appropriate policies, strategies, law and regulations, as well as the CRGE Strategy. These technologies and best practices protect and ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources of the country and enhance their economic, social and environmental benefits.

Moreover, promoting of livelihood improvement technologies such as beekeeping, poultry production and fattening were implemented in Oromia, Amhara and Gambela regions during GTP2. As a result, 796 local youths and women (355 women) have secured green jobs.

EFCCC is the National Designated Entity (NDE) to the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN). Based on the request of EFCCC and as per the demand of federal line ministries, CTCN provided technical support for the implementation of the following green technology initiatives: [Development of Product Standard and Comparative Labeling of "Electric Injera Mitad"](#), [Financial Strategy for Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit](#), and [Pre-Feasibility Study of Direct Utilization of Geothermal resources in Oromia, SNNP and Afar regions](#).

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Electric Taxi - initially imported and piloted in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions. Currently being assembled in Oromia and SNNP regions.

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Furthermore, through the technical and financial support of the EFCCC, 9 regions and 2 city administrations have developed their respective adaptation and mitigation technology needs assessment, action plans and barrier analysis. Concept notes are also developed for prioritized adaptation and mitigations technologies. In addition, based on the demand of the regions and city administrations, 22 locally available green technologies were prioritized during the GTP2 period.

Following the production of regional technology needs assessment documents, a national adaptation and mitigation technology needs assessment document was developed and eight (8) mitigation and adaptation green technologies were prioritized. In addition, a five to ten years strategic action plan, barrier analysis and concept note for prioritized technologies were developed at national level. The prioritized green technologies are:

I. Adaptation technologies

1. Agriculture sector/2 technologies/

- Agroforestry
- draught and pest resistant crop variety

2. Water sector/2 technologies/

- Water harvesting
- Underground water extraction

II. Mitigation technologies

1. Forest sector/2 technologies/

- Cook stoves
- Afforestation and reforestation

2. Agriculture sector/2 technologies/

- Animal mix
- value chain efficiency

In addition, Ethiopia's 10 Years Development Plan targets to implement 210 green technologies across sectors. The effective implementation of these technologies at national level will have a significant contribution to achieve Ethiopia's NDC targets. Ethiopia seeks about 316 billion USD to implement the updated NDC. Supports from development partners and concerned stakeholders that promote the implementation of environmentally friendly green technologies are highly needed to realize Ethiopia's ambitious NDC goals.

Conclusion

Ethiopia is one of the first developing countries to develop a strategy to comprehensively address climate change implications. The CRGE strategy (2011) aims to build a green economy and create resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change. Furthermore, Ethiopia is amongst the first few Least Developed Countries that has submitted the most ambitious NDC to overcome the negative impacts of climate change to the UNFCCC in 2015 and its revised version in 2021.

Ethiopia is, however, currently faced with serious challenges arising from climate change which include erratic rainfall, severe and recurrent droughts and floods. There is no doubt that technology can be a powerful solution to address the challenges of climate change. However, to implement Ethiopia's ambitious climate strategies and plans effectively, implementation of environmentally sound adaptation and mitigation technologies across sectors is very crucial along with the availability of the required financial and technical resources.



NDC Highlights

Public Relations and Communication Directorate
Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission

P.O. Box: 12760, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 11-170-4038/4150

Email: efcccethiopia@gmail.com; Website:

<https://www.efccc.gov.et/>

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