

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.



"If there is a dream and strong commitment, there is nothing that halts us from achieving our common goal."

H.E President Sahlework Zewde

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NEWS

Transforming Addis into a greener and resilient city

Sheger Park's Friendship Square was inaugurated on September 10, 2020, in the presence of President Sahlework Zewde, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed as well as senior government officials, development partners and various members of the public. The park is designed in line with the green legacy initiative and exhibit's Ethiopia's continued commitment to green growth. [Source](#)

Ethiopia's call for Green Recovery

During his address to the 75th general assembly of the United Nations, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, emphasized on Ethiopia's commitment to green recovery and stated "Our objective should not only be to recover and rebuild a better future, but to do so in a green and climate resilient way. There is no stark reminder of the need for urgent action than the devastating impact of climate change that we are witnessing in various parts of the world." [Source](#)

On the virtual launch event of the Africa office of the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), H.E President SahleWork Zewde highlighted the importance of developing climate conscious policies and getting ahead of the COVID-19 crisis. She further called for increased efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and endeavor to meet the targets under the Paris Climate Agreement.

[Source](#)

The Green Legacy Initiative: Supporting Greening and Afforestation in Ethiopia

- Tefera Mengistu (PhD), Technical Chairperson of the National Greening and Afforestation Plan Committee

Forestry is among the major pillars of the CRGE Strategy that aims to reduce national emissions by 50% by 2030. The national REDD+ program, has been identified by the government as one of the four fast-track programs for realizing the green economy vision. Further, the National Forest Sector Development Program is set to transform the sector in a way that catalyses GDP, generates employment and enhances environmental services including emission reduction. Forestry is, therefore, considered a major instrument for achieving emission reduction while also buffering emissions from other sectors as stipulated in the CRGE strategy.

In 2019, Ethiopia launched the Green Legacy Initiative, a nationwide program with a target of planting 4 billion trees of which 200 million were to be planted in a one-day nationwide mobilization. During this operation, 23 million people were mobilized, 30% being women and girls. By the end of August 2019, the initiative achieved beyond its target and 4.75 billion trees (2.45 billion forest trees and 2.3 billion mixed agroforestry species) were planted, including a world record of planting 354 million tree seedlings in a single day, July 30th, 2019. This was a globally acclaimed achievement.

Following the plantation program, post-planting care such as watering, weeding, and replacement planting were carried out to enhance tree seedlings' survival rate. In this follow up effort, about 13 million seedlings were replaced and 3.2 billion seedlings were supplemented by watering and weeding. A recent average survival rate of 78% has been recorded. Most plantation sites have geo-locations that enables assessment through ground truthing. For example, Amhara regional state has 435 geographically referenced plantation sites.

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This demonstrates the extent Ethiopia recognizes the importance of an integrated national greening initiative that encompasses agroforestry, forest sector development, greening and renewal of urban areas and integrated water and soil resources management. This will not only contribute towards the country's long-term social, economic and environmental development goals but also towards meeting its international commitments such as the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the African Agenda 2063.

The efforts on the ground are guided by strategic documents such as the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, the Ten-Year National Forest Sector Development Program, the REDD+ Strategy and the Bamboo Development Strategy and Action Plan. These programs and strategies are aligned with global goals, and provide guidance on Ethiopia's afforestation, restoration, urban greening, forest protection and sustainable use of forest resources for the coming ten years.

In addition to what is being done in the forestry sector, Ethiopia has also progressed well in strengthening other CRGE sectors. Climate smart agricultural intensification to increase productivity, renewable energy generation, and decarbonisation are among the key areas of work that have gained momentum. Some examples from the energy sector include:

- Ethiopia's investment in green energy power generation leading to the generation of 97% of its power from renewable energy sources.
- The *Light for all by 2025* program which works on grid network expansion and off-grid solutions through renewables. A total of 2,400 tons of black carbon is estimated to be emitted from the use of kerosene lamps and non-clean energy sources for

cooking in Ethiopia each year (from about 56% of the population), which is estimated to have a global warming equivalent close to 2.2 million tons of CO₂. Lack of access to electricity and alternative energy for light, cooking and heating results in significant deforestation, land degradation and nutrient mining from agricultural fields.

- The revised Ethiopia's National Electrification Program (NEP 2.0), aims to raise the current 44% rural and urban electricity access rate to 100% by 2025 through renewable energy resources.

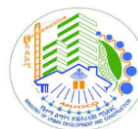
Other initiatives on decarbonization include the beautifying Sheger program, the city light rail system, the first African electrified railway to Djibouti, and substituting diesel-based electricity in Djibouti and Sudan through renewable energy generated by Ethiopia.

With all these strategic interventions and support from its development partners, the Government of Ethiopia is confident that Ethiopia is well placed to achieve the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2020 National Greening Action Plan, its challenges, and Achievements

Ethiopia, has designed and embarked upon various initiatives to combat climate change, minimize deforestation, manage topsoil erosion, improve water balance, enhance carbon sequestration, and improve food security. The Green Legacy Initiative is among these, and in 2020 the Government of Ethiopia has announced its target to plant 20 billion trees between 2020-2023. The tables below show the 2020 national tree plantation plan, achievement and its distributions.

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Active Nurseries Managed by Different Actors (2020)					
Region	Government	NGO	Projects	Community	Total
Amhara	3,327	0	118	4,448	7,893
SNNPR	4,765	182	241	886	6,074
Oromia	1,501	79	182	8,401	10,163
Tigray	237	0	34	71	342
Total	9,830	261	575	13,806	24,472

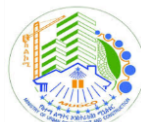
Fig 1. Number of nursery sites in four regions - Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, and Tigray (2020).

Number of Seedlings Prepared in 2020 (In Millions)					Number of seedlings planted in 2020 (in Millions)			
Region	Trees	Mixed Agro-forestry Species	Urban Trees	Total	Trees	Mixed Agro-forestry Species	Urban Trees	Total
Addis Ababa	-	-	6	6			7.88	7.88
Afar	2	3	1	6	2.36	0.895	0	3.255
Amhara	1,030	380	4	1,414	1072.99	422.25	18.2	1513.44
Benishangul Gumuz	14	7	1	22	14.36	10.74	1.67	26.77
Diredawa	-	-	1	1		0.334	0.533	0.867
Gambella	1	2	1	4	1.29	0.43	0.08	1.8
Harari	1	1	-	2	0.04		1.77	1.81
Oromia	1,260	1,340	10	2,610	1209.9	851.27	52.6	2113.77
SNNPR	251	580	5	836	917	554	27.11	1498.11
Somali	-	1	1	2	1.12	0.37	0	1.49
Tigray	83	12	2	97	55.55	8.31	0	63.86
Total	2,642	2,326	32	5,000	3,274.61	1,848.60	109.84	5,233.052

Fig 2. Seedlings prepared and planted by regions (2020)

Building on last years' experience, preparations were made early on to allocate enough funds for the program by regional governments and the three federal institutions responsible to coordinate this national operation. The Ministry of Agriculture (183.1M Birr), the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (83.2M Birr) and the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (74.5 M Birr) have contributed a total of 340.8 million Birr for this year's plantation.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges globally. However, Ethiopia has taken early and bold steps against the prevention of its spread by ordering a partial lockdown followed by the declaration of a National State of Emergency. As a result, the national tree plantation was carried out through a COVID-19 responsive tree plantation guideline based on the standards of the Ministry of Health. In doing so Ethiopia has successfully managed to plant more than 5 billion tree seedlings during the two months of July and August 2020 by sourcing additional seedlings from farmers and private nurseries.



EVENTS

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

- City Futures Summit, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, Oct 2020 | [Source](#)
- Daring Cities 2020, a virtual, global forum on climate change for urban leaders tackling the climate emergency, ICLEI and the Federal City of Bonn, Oct 2020 | [Source](#)
- Climate risk information for financial sector decision makers in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa, CDKN, Oct 2020 | [Source](#)
- A Time for Transformation: State-of-the-Art Partnerships and their Pathways to Accelerate the SDGs, WRI, October 2020 | [Source](#)
- Civil Society and Climate Adaptation to Weather Extremes, Climate Outreach, Nov 2020 | [Source](#)
- 2020 Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum, OECD, Nov 2020 | [Source](#)
- E-Course: Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) – Improving Performance Irrigation Services Provision (self-Paced), 31 Dec 2020 | [Source](#)
- E-Course: Policy Instruments for Low Emissions Development: From Design to Implementation (Self-paced), 31 Dec 2020 | [Source](#)
- Climate Adaptation Summit 2021, Jan 2021 | [Source](#)

Moving Towards Gender-Sensitive Climate Action

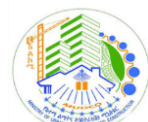
□ Contribution from the CRGE Facility

Since the launching of its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy in 2011, the Government of Ethiopia has been striving to direct its development efforts in a climate compatible direction. Towards this, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was launched, and sectors developed adaptation/resilience strategies and established CRGE units and directorates. Ethiopia was also one of the countries that submitted its intended Nationally Determined Contribution (iNDC) early, showing the country's strong climate commitment. Along with these strategies and plans, Ethiopia has also been implementing climate compatible programs coordinated through the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Facility, jointly managed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC).

In Ethiopia, gender equality has been a recognized priority by the government and is clearly stipulated in the country's constitution and other relevant policies, such as the national women's policy, and national plan of action for gender equality. To translate policies into practice, the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (then the Ministry of Women's Affairs) was established in 2005 with structures at region, woreda and district levels. Since its establishment, the Ministry has carried out a number of programs to address gender equality in the country.

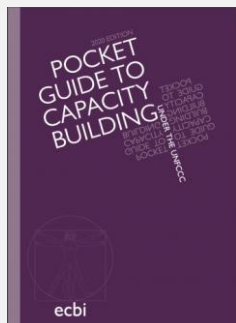
It is recognized that those who are already the most vulnerable and marginalized, experience the greatest impacts of climate change and have the greatest need for adaptation strategies. As women constitute the largest percentage of the world's poorest people, they are most affected by these changes. Further, women's ability to respond to the effects of climate change is limited by the

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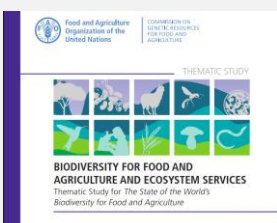
PUBLICATIONS

Pocket Guide to Capacity Building



ECBI has released an updated quick guide on the history of negotiations on capacity building under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the global institutional framework, and how global capacity building efforts can be improved. [Source](#)

Biodiversity for food and agriculture and ecosystem services



FAO has launched a study that provides an overview of the roles that the biodiversity found in and around food and agricultural production systems play in the supply of ecosystem services. [Source](#)

Living Planet Report 2020



WWF has released its Living Planet Report 2020. The report underlines how humanity's increasing destruction of nature is having catastrophic impacts not only on wildlife populations but also on human health and all aspects of human lives. [Source](#)

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existing gender-based inequalities, such as access to land and other assets, and limited participation in decision making processes. To address this, gender analyses were conducted, and guidelines, manuals and templates developed by the CRGE Facility. However, the challenge to translate these policies and guidelines into practice remains. In response, the CRGE Facility, in collaboration with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), commissioned the development of a gender framework. The aim is to assess the status and level of understanding of the integration of gender equality in the country's climate change programs at different levels and to initiate discussions with key stakeholders.

The study indicated that at a national level, there is strong policy commitment on gender equality and there is increasing awareness across sectors due to the country's commitment on gender issues at the highest level of government. Women affairs directorates within all sectoral ministries are also established with mandates to facilitate this within their respective ministries.

However, relevant policies are weak in areas of gender equality integration, particularly in the sphere of climate change. This is mainly due to lack of gender analysis during program/policy design as well as weak participation of the gender / women affairs units in the process.

Despite these shortcomings, the CRGE Facility has put effort into increasingly incorporating gender in its programs/projects. These include conducting gender analysis, preparing a gender mainstreaming strategy, hiring a gender and safeguard specialist, having a gender dimension in the Facility's manuals and templates, and a gender analysis of Ethiopia's NAP. Continued on Page 7

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These initiatives are critical in identifying gaps that need to be addressed. For instance, the following overarching gender gaps were identified in the NAP gender analysis: gender differences in adaptation needs, opportunities and capacities; equitable participation and influence in adaptation decision-making processes; and equitable access to financial resources and other benefits resulting from adaptation investments.

In December 2019, the CRGE Facility conducted a two-day workshop that involved the key gender and climate change actors in the country to validate the gender framework of the CRGE Facility. The findings of the framework report as well as the outcome of gender analyses and other progress within the CRGE Facility, MoF, EFCCC and sector ministries were discussed in detail. The participants deliberated on what has been done so far and what needs to be done going forward. The following key recommendations came out of this process:

- **Mainstreaming gender into climate change:** Policies, plans, programmes and projects should be based on gender analysis and the nexus between gender and climate change should be adequately assessed and addressed in all sectors.
- **Gender responsive budgeting:** Mainstreaming of gender into climate change also means ensuring sufficient resources are allocated for gender analysis, implementation, and monitoring and

evaluation. There is also the need to popularize MOF's gender budgeting tools.

- **Environmental and social safeguard policy:** Social safeguard policies are important entry points for gender mainstreaming and consideration, hence, enforcement of environmental and social safeguard practice should be gender responsive.
- **Capacity building support:** There is a need to undertake capacity building not only to promote existing tools and guidelines on gender and climate change, but also to undertake gender analysis, gender action plans and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Coordination and mutual support mechanism:** The workshop recognized the need to establish a coordination group and mutual support mechanism constituting members from all CRGE sectors; this is expected to support awareness raising and strengthen institutional responses to integrate gender in climate change policies and practices at the federal and regional levels.

The CRGE Facility together with the Gender Affairs Directorates of MoF and EFCCC, plan to capitalize on the momentum created and push for the realization of the above recommendations. The discussions and outcomes of the workshop are also expected to provide input during the upcoming NDC revision.



NDC Highlights

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