

Landscape Profile

It is located in Amhara National Regional State, West Gojam Zone Administration. The landscape is an agricultural landscape including settlements with a total area of 900 ha.

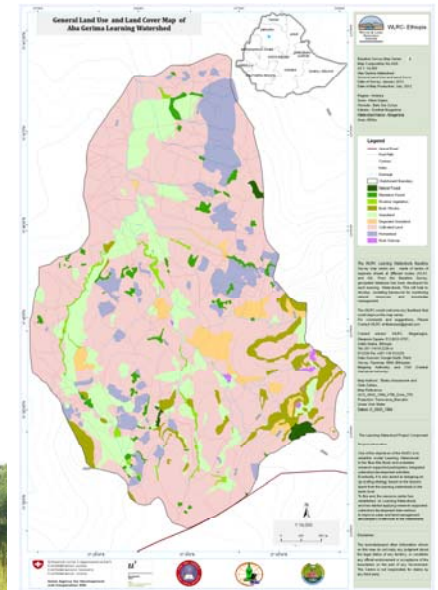
Actors: Initiative by WLRC project in 2011 as a learning watershed, Local & District Administration, Agriculture sector, ARARI, Community Watershed Team. .

Population: 1659 total population (446 households)

Agriculture system: Mixed crop-livestock farming system (maize, finger millet, Teff, mango, banana, avocado and Khat, cattle)

Ecosystems

- ✓ Land uses – crop land (66%), grazing(17%), plantation forest and riverine edible wild trees (3-4%), homesteads (9%), Lake Tana in the downstream



Problems before the Interventions

- High soil erosion and degraded hillsides
- Poor post-harvest storage
- Soil fertility decline
- Shortage of animal feed
- Poor veterinary services
- Lack of market linkage & saving and credit schemes , absence of access to timely information, lack of alternative livelihood means)
- Inappropriate abstraction of water resources



Successes and Best Practices

- Bottom-up planning process – community driven
- Community agreed bylaws for cross-Kebele boundary planning,
- Joint planning and M&E by development actors (leaders, extension, research and community)
- Controlled free grazing - increase fodder biomass and practice
- Community based animal health services
- Improved crop and farm technology adoption and dissemination through Farmer-Research-Extension Group
- Rehabilitated degraded lands & reduced soil erosion
- Improved downstream benefits – increase stream base flow and shallow wells; minimized conflicts
- Innovations for youth & women
- Knowledge management – impact monitoring & learning events
- Tools – Spatial planning, WOCAT, Exit strategy

Institutions and Collaborations

- Bylaws for cross- Kebele planning and management
- Joint planning of actors, Kebele and community
- Research and Extension linkage through Farmer-Research-Extension Group
- Saving and credit associations
- Community organizations, free labor
- Benefit sharing among user groups



Challenges

- Limited sectoral collaboration at Woreda level – lack to consider all sectors and actors
- Inadequate EIA monitoring
- Low level of awareness to achieve community empowerment and spread of farm technologies
- Limited understanding of ILM and system thinking – Upstream-downstream linkage, market integration
- Increasing landlessness, unemployed youths & inadequate diversified non-farm income sources
- Unequal downstream and upstream benefits
- Unregulated water resource use due to emerging irrigation use

Next Actions

- ✓ Foster landscape approach – collaboration of actors by strengthening Woreda Technical Committee or Platform
- ✓ Institutionalize Watershed Users' Association
- ✓ Continued awareness creation and training for the community on IWM/ILM
- ✓ Enhancing EIA activities

