

Landscape Profile

Located in Tigray National Regional State and found in Eastern Tigray Zone Administration. The landscape is composed of state forest at upstream and agricultural lands downstream with total area of 1605 ha.

Actors: Initiative by MERET project in 2009, Local District Administration, Agriculture, Land and Water sectors, Community Watershed Team.

Population: 321 households and the total population of the watershed is 1508

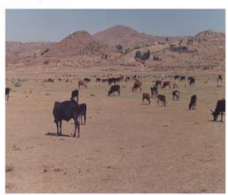
Agriculture system: Mixed crop-livestock farming (

Ecosystems

- ✓ Altitudinal range from 2600-3000 m a.s.l.
- ✓ Land uses - crop, grazing, state forest, area closure, home steads/settlements institutions

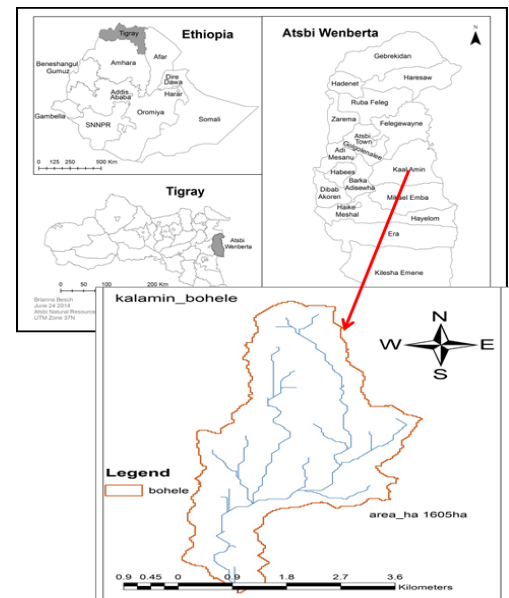
Problems before the Interventions

- High soil erosion and land degradation
- Uncontrolled (free) grazing and traditional agricultural system
- Shortage of animal feed
- Sever deforestation
- Low water availability both for domestic use and animals
- Erratic and variable rainfall resulting in recurrent drought
- Low soil fertility and crop productivity
- Food insecurity in the community
- poor and



Challenges

- ❖ Lack of market integration for honey and fruits
- ❖ Inadequate diversification of livelihood options – non-farm options
- ❖ Growing number of unemployed youths and landlessness
- ❖ Low practice of irrigation
- ❖ Lack of well planned impact monitoring on productivity, perception and hydrology



Institutions and Collaborations

- Bylaws for watershed planning and management
- Steering and Technical Committee at Woreda
- Involvement of elders and religious leaders and respecting social values and negotiations

Successes and Best Practices

- Bottom-up planning process – community driven
- Community empowerment
- Community agreed bylaws
- Harmonized sectoral objectives, planning and implementation
- Intervention plan is based on land use zonation
- Practice EIA at micro-watershed scale
- Practice of water harvesting system (in-situ and ex-situ)
- High grass biomass for animal feed
- Controlled free grazing and stall feeding practice
- Increased vegetation cover, protected forest, regeneration of forest biodiversity and reappearance of wildlife
- Integration of livelihood options for youths
- Experience sharing to other landscapes

Next Actions

- ❖ Strengthen the role of Steering and Technical Committees to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and relationship of upstream and downstream communities
- ❖ Enhancing water resource usage for irrigation and integrating it with the existing IWM
- ❖ Improve market integration between producers and consumers and initiate value addition activities
- ❖ Enhancing quantitative monitoring of changes / impacts and improve knowledge management