POLICY BRIEF: ASSESSING THE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD MODELS FOR PFM WOREDAS OF RIP IMPLEMENTATION REGIONS: ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND VALUE CHAINS IN THE FOREST SECTOR

የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
የኢትዮጵያ የደን ልማት
Ethiopian Forestry Development
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
UNDP

KEY MESSAGES

Traditional management practices used to produce different forest products are not sustainable. These practices are not based on a management plan for the forest or guidelines for the sustainable harvest of the identified Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

As such, certain forest-based livelihood practices such as traditional forest coffee production can have devastating effects on forest conditions – in some cases causing a loss of 50% of species diversity.

There is a need for regional analysis of local forest biomes and conditions to implement optimal PFM programs and recommend the prioritization of region-specific forest products.

Certification for forest products has a high potential to increase the revenues of producers and improve forest conservation outcomes.

Increased technical and financial support to local communities is highly recommended to achieve forest conservation goals and generate sustainable livelihood opportunities.

INTRODUCTION

Ethiopia's forests have important socio-economic and ecological functions; however, forest degradation and deforestation continue to be a salient nationwide issue. As such, the Ethiopian government is committed to promoting afforestation and reforestation in order to achieve its ambitious socio-economic and climate targets of their Climate Resilient Green Economic (CRGE) strategy and their Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPII).

As part of this strategy, the REDD+ Investment Programme (RIP) is working on the expansion of Participatory Forest Management (PFM) practices that promote sustainable forest management in Ethiopia. The RIP intends to provide alternative livelihood opportunities to forest-dependent communities, which are both economically viable and environmentally friendly. These alternative livelihood opportunities are intended to reduce drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strengthen afforestation in the 110 RIP implementation woredas throughout Ethiopia.

This policy brief aims to contextualize the current livelihood practices and identify potential alternatives livelihood options to promote sustainable forest management in Oromia, SNNP, and Gambella. It will also highlight region-specific job opportunities that can be created based on existing forest-based livelihood practices. Finally, it will outline policy recommendations to improve the viability and longevity of forest-based alternative livelihood options.

Forests provide multiple products and services for the wellbeing of Ethiopians, particularly for rural communities. Many forest-based products are used for local consumption, while others are traded commercially and contribute significantly to the national trade bill. Coffee, honey, and spices are the most widely traded natural forests products.

Forest Coffee Production

•The traditional forest-based coffee production system is initiated through the management of wild coffee stands in as natural forests. In undisturbed natural the forests, coffee plants tend to grow taller, to with few branches and produce only very few cherries due to high canopy cover competition with small trees and for shrubs in the under-storey. To increase coffee yield to an economically feasible level, clearing the undergrowth vegetation and opening up the canopy is essential.

Beekeeping

Several million honeybee colonies are • managed with the same old traditional beekeeping methods in almost all parts of country. Traditional forest-based beekeeping is practiced by hanging traditional hives on forest trees and based on locally available materials used and the construction of hives, environmental conditions and positions.

Spice Production

Korerima (Ethiopian cardamom) and Timiz (long black pepper) are the two most popular spices that are produced non-timber forest products in Ethiopia and require similar habitat conditions is forest coffee.

Overall, the traditional management of these livelihood options, especially forest coffee production, can cause forest degradation through the clearing of herbaceous vegetation, small trees, shrubs that compete with the growth of NTFPs. This leads to a huge reduction in the density of saplings, small trees and shrubs levels – including a loss of 50% more of plant species from the system. Forest degradation can be mitigated by integrating sustainable forest management guidelines into the RIP livelihood programs.

የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
የኢትዮጵያ የደን ልማት
Ethiopian Forestry Development
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
UNDP

REGION-SPECIFIC RIP LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

Participants in the RIP livelihood interventions and experts in the forestry field were consulted to analyze the current and potential livelihoods opportunities in woreda from Oromia, SNNP, and Gambella.

Region	Woreda	NTFPs and forest conditions	Existing forest-based RIP livelihood opportunities	Prioritized forestbased livelihood opportunities
Oromia	Yayo	Rich in NTFPs, good forest condition	Forest coffee, beekeeping, spices, construction materials (timber and climbers), and medicinal plants	Forest coffee, and beekeeping
	Gera	Rich in NTFPs, good forest condition	Forest coffee, beekeeping, spices, bamboo, and medicinal plants	Forest coffee, beekeeping, and spices
	Tiro Afeta	Low in NTFPs, and degraded low forest cover	Garden coffee, beekeeping, spices, bamboo, commercial plantation, fuelwood, charcoal, liana, and medicinal plants	Beekeeping and commercial plantation
SNNP	Sheko	Rich in NTFPs, good forest condition	Forest coffee, beekeeping, spices, medicinal plants, and liana	Forest coffee, beekeeping, and spices
	Gimbo	Rich in NTFPs, good forest condition	Forest coffee, beekeeping, spices, and liana	Forest coffee, and beekeeping
	Konta	Low in NTFPs, and degraded low forest cover	Forest coffee, beekeeping, spices, Gesho, medicinal plants, and liana	Forest coffee, beekeeping, and spices
Gambella	Godere	Rich in NTFPs, good forest condition	Forest coffee, beekeeping, spices, medicinal plants, liana, and roots and tubers	Beekeeping and spices
	Gambella Zuria	Low in NTFPs, high forest cover in good condition	Beekeeping, charcoal, roots and tubers, shea butter, and medicinal plants	Beekeeping and shea butter

Findings from qualitative and quantitative analysis of the current RIP livelihoods program in woredas across Oromia, SNNP, and Gambella were assessed to identify current bottlenecks and possible solutions.

Issues Identified	Solutions
Lack of investment / finance opportunities Shortage of skilled labour Poor technical management of collected products	Provide financial, technical, and material support: Investments in training and modernization of traditional practices can greatly improve NTFPs outputs and reduce.
Forest boundary disputes with neighboring kebeles	Secure tenure rights and demarcation for producers: ensure that the benefits are captured by the intended. beneficiaries and to protect the resource from over-exploitation.
Weak market linkages Insufficient local demand	Take the markets into consideration and improve value chain development: The size, nature, supply, and demand of local and international markets are crucial factors to consider when selecting NTFPs.
Low yielding or low quality NTFPs Lack of modernization from traditional practices	Improve quality and quantity of NTFPs: Investment in post-harvest storage and value-added processing can extend the economic life of the harvest and allow for the collection of larger volumes at a time and in one place by a single producer or by a group of producers.
Low profitability of NTFPs	Create certification standard of NTFPs: Certification fosters responsible resource stewardship through the labeling of consumer products. Certified products often fetch higher. prices to reward those who are adhering to certifications standards of multiple stakeholders. (ie. organic, fair-trade, etc...)
Lack of government engagement Lack of access to infrastructure (Transport roads, electricity, etc…)	Adopt an integrated landscape approach: PFM plans should consider different landscape elements and their multiple functions (conservation, development, livelihoods, provision of ecosystem services, research, and innovation) and should include the engagement of multiple stakeholders.

የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
የኢትዮጵያ የደን ልማት
Ethiopian Forestry Development
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
UNDP

Fast track PFM implementation with a land sparing approach

- Including the preparation of forest management plans for multiple functions (production and conservation).

Pursue region-specific prioritized livelihood options

- Prepare guidelines for the sustainable production of prioritized forest products in each region.

Provide financial support for improved PFM practices

- Financing options and financial support for cooperative and business groups to invest in materials and equipment needed to improve livelihood practices.

Provide technical support for improved PFM practices

- Local communities require technical support in forest management and monitoring, improved practices of NTFPs production and product quality improvements.

Strengthening governance and institutional capacity of the PFM cooperatives

- The cooperatives need capacity development in financial management, human resources management, organizational management, marketing and negotiation skills.

Promote certification of forest-based products

- Promote certification of products with strong environmental and social standards. This helps to enforce compulsory environmental and social sustainability requirements, and attract premium prices. for producers.

Reinforce market linkage

- Help forest-based products to gain access to specialty markets by direct trading with producers from cooperatives unions or facilitate specialty exporters to buy directly from smallholder farmers.

Create standard processing protocol for forest-based products

- This will help build aggregation capacity which can increase the number of cooperatives and plan for infrastructure development for processing and storage.

Forest Sector Transformation Unit
Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD)

Director: Tilaye Nigussie
Email: tilaye.nigussie@gmail.com

የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
የኢትዮጵያ የደን ልማት
Ethiopian Forestry Development
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
UNDP