



SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF NRM TWG MEETING ON: CARBON FINANCE IN RANGLANDS – REALITIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

1st August, 2009 Queen of Sheba Hotel¹

A. Key Highlights of the Presentation by John O Niles of the Tropical Forest Group (TFG).

1. Overview of global climate change and its effects on developing countries:
 - Climate change is already happening
 - Humans affecting the actual atmosphere
 - Everybody is still trying to figure out what to do
 - For the first time humans are putting restrictions on themselves in order to reduce pollution of the atmosphere.
 - Global climate change ‘rules’ are changing rapidly
 - Ethiopia is already engaging on global climate change issues by developing national adaptation program of action (NAPA) (lead by the EPA) and CDM (clean development mechanism) projects like the HUMBO project facilitated by World Vision (see below).
 - All these activities will put Ethiopia in a leadership position to embark on global climate change from Africa.
2. A summary was provided on the realities, opportunities & challenges of carbon finance.
3. The main highlights of the mission of the Tropical Forest Group (TFG) to Ethiopia were provided. The TFG came to Ethiopia by invitation of SC-US Ethiopia to assist SC-US staff and other stakeholders in better understanding potential for carbon financing and climate-derived support in the Ethiopian rangelands; to analyze and compile sufficient information about carbon and potential realistic land use changes that could occur; and to begin to understand Ethiopia and Borana specifically, as well as development approaches for pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

During a field visit to Borana the TFG conducted a study on carbon stock in an enclosure in Negelle district, Guji zone. Vegetation and soil samples were taken both from and outside the enclosure area for the analysis of carbon stock.

Samples were also taken from burned and unburned parts of another enclosure in Siminto PA, Liben district, Guji zone. The vegetation and soil samples were taken for comparison and understanding of the status of carbon in burned area (burnt 3 years earlier) and in unburned area.

¹ This summary is based upon minutes taken by Biruk Asfaw, SC-US

Finally vegetation and soil samples were taken from less disturbed forest areas in Arero district, Borana zone.

B. Highlights from the Presentation by Holly Gibbs (from Stanford University and part of the TFG team) on the methodologies used during the visit:

- Potential sampling areas were identified using a topographic map and through discussions with project staff;
- The chosen area was surveyed to know the total study area and to lay out representative samples based on the area's conditions.
- Sampling plots were set up.
- Plots were documented using GPS and pictures.
- The percentage (%) cover of grass, shrub, bare land, rocks and trees in the plots were identified with assistance from the local community.
- All vegetation was sampled.
- Tree diameters at DBH were measured.
- Soil samples were collected.

Benji Orcutt (TFG team) showed the different instruments used by the team and how they were used.

C. Group Discussions

Examples of Carbon Financing Work in Ethiopia

A good example of a new initiative in Ethiopia is a project facilitated by World Vision working with communities to develop carbon financing from the World Bank from improved National Resource Management (NRM) including forests and their rehabilitation. Though this is not a rangeland project it can provide good experiences to learn from.

The EPA has commenced an important project, identifying potential areas for carbon finance across the country, working in collaboration with the national mapping agency. Therefore this TFG study and the work of SC-US are very important and can link with this.

In addition, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi is preparing to represent the African group in Copenhagen later this year on global climate change issues, indicating a strong support within the Ethiopian government to work on world global climate change and related issues.

The issue of clean development mechanism (CDM) in Ethiopia is at infant level and has not reached at level needed. The country is struggling to include new aspects of CDM finance through projects like the Reduction of Environmental Degradation and Deforestation (REDD) project.

There are other areas of focus e.g on compost. Therefore a lot is expected from different stakeholders in increasing Ethiopia's benefits from different CDM projects. EPA is also working with the World Bank and UN Development Program (Rob

Kelley) to increase the awareness of different stakeholders on climate change and carbon financing.

For example Humbo was the centre of focus on World Environment Day in the country. Here, carbon financing is fuelling a greater movement of changing views and respect for the environment and the benefits of its sustainable use.

Challenges of Developing Carbon Financing in Rangelands

It is more difficult to develop carbon financing in the rangelands due to the problem of **additionality** i.e. proving that additional carbon is being stored as part of activities. However there are examples of carbon financing in the rangelands and this study/visit is one step towards implementing such projects in Ethiopia.

D. Way- Forward

The NRM-TWG (especially SC/US) can play a role in taking these opportunities and initiatives forward. These can include:

1. Consolidate Information and Experience on Climate Change and Carbon Financing Issues in the Country.

It is important to consolidate and link up information on what is going on across different agencies regarding climate change needs. For instance the Ethiopian Meteorological Agency (EMA) has ample information on climate change scenarios of Ethiopia and the representative from the EPA explained that the EPA have deliverable outputs regarding climate change and carbon financing. All this information should be shared.

2. Development of a Carbon Platform (sub-group of NRM TWG)

To achieve this, another platform like this could be created in which the NRM-TWG and a Global Climate Change (GCC) focal organization carry out a study to: understand what is going on; know what is being done in different organizations/initiatives; identify how current work by the TFG can link up with these initiatives and compile information and come up with an action plan.

It has been shown that the studying of carbon is not complicated and there are institutions/laboratories here in Ethiopia capable of playing a role. However, why is it that things are not being done about climate change and preparation for it, particularly at the local level? Why is data not being collected?

3. Development of Strategic Plan/Framework

We need to be able to understand national and global issues that are emerging regarding climate change and how to play our role in that. Things need to be taken a step forward. Maybe we have to develop a strategic plan/framework on how to bring the experiences of different actors at grassroots and federal level together to be on the same understanding/platform.

The NRM-TWG has been playing this kind of role so far (bringing various actors together) but hopefully it will play a greater role in future by bringing different actors together to discuss global climate change issues.

4. Training

Participants also suggested that the TFG team and SC/US should facilitate trainings on how to conduct carbon assessments at the field level, in laboratory and give technical assistance and capacity building to different stakeholders on proposal writing and other issues of global climate change. This could be achieved through the proposed Carbon Forum. The EPA has also requested help with such as proposal writing for carbon financing projects.

Participants

Participants	Organization
1. Dereje Agonafir,	Environmental Protection Authority
2. Mateos Mexiso,	Federal Environmental Protection Authority
3. Representative, Federal Ministry of Rural Development and Agricultural	Federal Ministry of Rural Development and Agricultural
4. Haileyesus Brook	United Nation Environmental Program
5. Mahelet	United Nation Environmental Program
6. Getachew Gebru	GL-CRSP/PARIMA
7. Nikocal Thtalson	PACT Ethiopia
8. Abdirahman Ahmed	Somali Region Livestock, Crop and Natural Resource Bureau
9. John O Niles	Tropical Forest Group, USA
10. Holly Gibbs	Tropical Forest Group (and Stanford University)
11. Benji Orcutt	Tropical Forest Group
12. Elias Getachew	SC/US, Addis
13. Ferhan Abduladir	SC/ US, Jijiga
14. Jason Forauer	SC/US, Addis
15. Biruk Asfaw	SC/US, Addis
16. Gebru Jeber	Ethiopian Metrological Agency