

## 1. SUMMARY

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND EVALUATION CONTEXT

The project „Sustainable Management of Soil, Forest and Water Resources as a Pilot Model for Community Development in Southern Ethiopia, was implemented in 2010 – 2012 with support from the Czech Development Cooperation (CZ DC). The project was implemented by the Mendel University (MENDELU), Brno and administered by the Czech Development Agency (CZDA). Project partners included the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) Bureaus: Bureau for Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD), Bureau Water Mines and Energy (BWM&E), Bureau for Finance and Economic Affairs (BOFED), the project MERET (Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transition to More Sustainable Livelihoods), Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Sidama Zone Department for Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Awassa Zuriya Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office (WARDO), Alaba Special Woreda Office for Water Mines and Energy (OWM&E), Alaba Health Office and People in Need.

The project was comprised of two components: One focused on Soil and Water Conservation, the other one on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The respective development objectives were (i) *Contribute to decreased soil degradation and increased protection of biodiversity in the surrounds of the Awassa Lake* by continuing anti-erosion activities started by the preceding project in Awassa Zuriya Woreda, Lebu Koromo a Kajima Umbollo Kebeles. (ii) *Contribute to improved access to drinking water and sanitation in Alaba Special Woreda*. Under its first component, the project focused mainly on restoration of land by constructing simple anti-erosion structures and by planting seedlings grown in the project-supported tree nursery. Focus of the WASH component was the rehabilitation of three drilled wells and establishment of additional distribution points, construction of roof catchments and simple latrines. Both components included awareness raising and training of beneficiaries of both target Woredas.

The main purpose of the evaluation was to obtain objectively, well-founded information that can be used for decision making by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (MFA CZ) in cooperation with the Czech Development Agency (CZDA) about the overall perspective and future direction of CZ DC in Ethiopia in the sector Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing and in the WASH sector.

The evaluation approach was comparative non-experimental comparing the intervention areas and beneficiaries before and after the project. Baseline data were compared with available information about situation after the project completion and at the time of evaluation. This has been to some degree complicated by inconsistencies in baseline information. Isolating outcomes of the evaluated project with the outcomes of the preceding project „Anti-erosion Measures in the Surrounds of Lake Awassa, Ethiopia” implemented in 2008-2010 in the same locations has at times proven to be difficult.

Evaluation methodology took into consideration the evaluation objectives and client's expectation. Conclusions and recommendation are evidence based. The evaluation matrix including evaluation questions has been consulted with the Reference Group and accepted by the Client. The evaluation approach was participatory involving key stakeholders and other informants and information sources from both the public and the private sector including the target groups.

Evaluation was implemented at three stages: (i) Preparatory phase (before field work) aiming at the consolidation of and consensus on the evaluation questions and gathering information from available secondary data and interviews. (ii) Field investigations where additional information was gathered on specific project outcomes and results as well as on factors that contributed or hampered successful implementation. This phase included preliminary analysis of findings related to the evaluation questions and to the objective of the evaluation. (iii) During the final phase, information gathered during the preparatory and field phases has been sorted, analyzed, and assessed in relation to the evaluation questions.

## 1.1. MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Below is a summary of evaluation conclusions according to the evaluation criteria.

Evaluation criteria		Anti-erosion measures	WASH	Total for project
Relevance		High	High	High
Effectiveness		Rather high	Rather high	Rather high
Efficiency		Rather high	Rather low	Rather high
Sustainability		Rather low	Rather low	Rather low
Impacts		Rather high	Rather low	Rather high
Cross-cutting principles	Good governance	Rather high	Rather low	Rather low
	Human rights and gender	High	High	High
	Environment and climate	High	High	High
Visibility of CZ DC		High	High	High

### Relevance

Both components of the project reflected the priorities of the Ethiopian *National Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) 2010/11-2014/15* and the national WASH strategy introduced in the *Ethiopian Water Resources Management Policy* in 2001. Since 2010, Ethiopia belongs to priority (“programme”) countries of the CZ DC. Both project components were in compliance with the *Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010-2017* as well as with the *Plan for International Development Cooperation 2010*.

The anti-erosion component aiming at decreasing soil degradation and improving biodiversity also reflects the current priorities of BoARD, DARD Sidama Zone and Awassa Zurzia Woreda. This component follows of the preceding project *Anti-erosion measures in the surrounds of Lake Awassa* implemented in 2008-2010 in the same area by People in Need.

Perception of the anti-erosion measures as beneficial developed in the project areas gradually and remains limited to the groups of direct beneficiaries including farmers who live in places positively affected by the project interventions. The local population also appreciated payments for work on soil and water conservation structures.

The WASH component of the project was implemented in Alaba Special Woreda. The BWM&E supported the rehabilitation of drilled wells as well as the integration of sanitation and health. Access to drinking water in Alaba Special Woreda remains limited and the OWM&E considers rehabilitation of non-functional deep wells, which is beyond its financial capacities, important. Woreda priorities concerning sanitation and hygiene are not clear. The beneficiaries clearly prefer improved access to drinking water with shorter queuing times (in particular during the dry season, when people also bring their livestock for watering) and improved technical support to operation and maintenance of the water systems.

***The overall rating of relevance is „high“.***

### Effectiveness

The project outputs were generated in accordance with the project expectations. Evaluation of effectiveness has been complicated by the very general definitions of outputs and non-verifiable indicators in the Logical Framework, missing output for physical anti-erosion measures as well as by the fact that the time schedule did not include dates for all outputs.

After some initial delays, the project followed on the preceding project implemented in the same project area by People in Need and contributed to increased ecological stability by the implementation a complex of appropriately selected anti-erosion measures. The realistically assessed seasonal production capacity of the tree nursery has been reached. The piloted experiment with *Hobra* showed partially positive results. Its continuation and replication in the project area are however not realistic in the near future. Payments to

laborers working on the construction of anti-erosion structures, in the nursery as well as on communal plantation contributed to achieving good results within relatively short time. Maintenance and repairs of structures and protection of closure area and their sustainability however remain problematic.

The WASH component contributed to improved access to drinking water for some 30,000 inhabitants and improved, to a lesser degree, also access to sanitation.

Technical analysis of the feasibility to rehabilitate nine non-functional deep wells in Alaba Special Woreda has been completed and provided a basis for the selection of three wells to be rehabilitated under the project. Wells in 1stTuka, Rokenne Teffo a Qobochobare have been properly rehabilitated and are functional. The project also rehabilitated existing and constructed new distribution points. There is however no concept for maintenance.

Additional outputs were included during implementation. Very positively received and appreciated was the supply of equipment for measuring underground water levels and a camera for the technical analysis of drilled wells and related training, transfer of know-how and a workshop on pumping tests and camera survey of deep wells.

One of the newly constructed roof catchments (Health Post in Hamata Kebele) stopped functioning shortly after handing – over and has not been repaired. The remaining three are according to information provided by OWM&E functional.

Instead of constructing the 12 foreseen VIP latrines, the project contributed to the construction of simple single pit latrines implemented by the Alaba Health Office. These latrines only meet the basic requirements. Distribution of hygiene sets has been confirmed by local beneficiaries; its potential impact has been diminished by the lack of coordination with the water supply activities. Contribution of training and information activities to increased awareness about issues related to the health, hygiene and sanitation is considered low.

***The overall rating of effectiveness is “rather high”***

### **Efficiency**

The total expenditure of funds provided by the CZ DC is considered adequate in relation to the generated outputs. The amounts of individual budget items and the unit cost costs correspond with usual market prices for procurements of similar character and nature. Value for money has not been obtained by the production of 3D model, distribution of hygiene sets and the construction of roof catchments.

On the basis of a simplified model, the evaluation team established the unit cost for production of seedlings of selected species by the evaluated project, the following project (implemented by the Mendel University) and the Ethiopian Forestry Research Center. Partial conclusion from cost comparison (details are provided in Annex I) is (i) compatibility of the different seedlings producers; (ii) adequacy of the expenditure for production of the different species; and (iii) information on financial demands of above-standard technologies (grafting).

Missing information about deadlines for milestones/outputs in the activity schedule together with poor arrangement of outputs and missing indicators complicated the evaluation of time efficiency.

The CZDA monitored the project budget and expenditure on the basis of annual financial reports with itemized budget and expenditure records. The Agency also approved shifts between budget lines requested by MENDELU. An independent assessor verified the correctness of expenditure and whether funds have been utilized for intended purposes on an annual basis. No issues of concern have been identified in the financial management of the project.

BoFED signed a *Memorandum of Agreement* with MENDELU and was familiar with the project budget but not with the implementation progress and expenditure. The Office of Finance and Economic Development of Awassa Zuriya Woreda obtained financial reports and participated in project evaluations.

The Logical Framework Analysis included in the Project Document did not facilitate a systematic assessment of effectiveness and impacts; many indicators were missing or not verifiable. Moreover, changes of outputs and activities introduced during implementation were not systematically recorded which further decreased the transparency of the theory of change. The Logical Framework has not been revised and has not been used for its intended purpose - as a tool for project monitoring, planning and management.

***For the reasons mentioned above, efficiency is rated as “rather high”***

### **Sustainability**

The tree nursery continues functioning, but only to a limited extent. Subsequent funding of the nursery will be reportedly secured by the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development from the „*Rift Valley Lakes Basin Integrated Watershed Management Fund*“, complemented by the budget of the Zonal Department for Water, Mines and Energy.

Regeneration of growth in closure areas is obvious. The closure areas continue to be guarded by 7 guards allocated by the Kebele Committees. The anti-erosion banks are largely intact, the dams constructed from wood and stones only partially. Works on anti-erosion measures practically ceased with the project completion. The project did not have a phasing out strategy or handing over plan. The local authorities do not have the funds to continue and to replicate anti-erosion structures or plantations (the implementer covered 70% of the expenses). They also do not have the capacities to continue intensive work with the communities.

The procedures for sustainable management of natural resources introduced by the preceding project implemented by People in Need and supported by the evaluated project implemented by the Mendel University continue to function. Awareness, understanding and interest of the local population in supporting anti-erosion measures is evident, but is mostly linked with the expectation of payments.

Availability of funding is the key pre-requisite for improved sustainability of the rehabilitated wells. This would require a realistic calculation of cost for production of drinking water including non-revenue water (losses), depreciations, inflation and a reserve fund. On the basis of cost calculation and assessment of households' ability to pay cost recovery water tariffs, the tariff amount and the need for possible subsidies from Woreda or regional budgets could be calculated. Introducing systematic monitoring of tariff payments, measures to increase tariff collection rates and written agreements with the local authorities on the amounts of possible subsidies (before rehabilitation) would help to improve financial sustainability of the water supply systems. At the same time continued awareness raising activities about the importance of preventive repairs and maintenance is important; this awareness continues to be low in the local communities. Increasing technical capacities, improving the efficiency of management and the organizational stability of WASHCOs including their legalization would further contribute to increasing the likelihood of sustainability of the systems. One of the factors decreasing sustainability is also insufficient communication between WASHCOs and the Woreda.

The sustainability of the roof catchments is, considering the quality of works, rather low. The public latrines are poorly constructed and no system has been put in place for their maintenance and cleaning; they are in the long-term not sustainable.

***Sustainability is rated as “rather low”***

### **Impacts**

Isolating impacts of the evaluated from the following project has proven difficult, not only for the evaluation team but also for the beneficiaries; assessment of impacts is partially related to both projects.

As a result of the tangible benefits due to the implemented anti-erosion measures, the inhabitants of Lebu Koromo and Kajima Umbollo Kebeles perceive the project outcomes as positive. However, anti-erosion measures are not on the top of their priority list. The project has had several positive impacts. Decreased

erosion in the intervention area due to stabilization of the top soil, stabilization of upper parts of the gullies and decrease of their depth leading to increased retention of rain water and increased productivity of land. Increased biodiversity and the infiltration of rain water to ground water increased. Economic impacts (such as proceeds from fast growing tree species for sale, cheap grass or income from processing of Moringa fruits). Increased experience with the planning, implementation and management of closed areas and physical anti-erosion structures.

Inhabitants living and farming in Kebeles located in the lower areas of the watershed perceive the impacts as rather negative due to the decreased of fertile sediments brought by floods and lower water levels. The impact of the anti-erosion activities has been dampened due to the selection of project area on the basis of administrative rather than watershed boundaries.

The project provided training to Community Facilitators and Development Agents in the processes of planning and creating anti-erosion measures, selection of measures appropriate for different terrains, and in related subjects. Relevant staff of BoARD, DARD and WARDO trained under the project highly appreciates the contribution MENDELU made to their knowledge of different modern anti-erosion measures and their applications.

The project increased the potential to improving health of the population by improving access to drinking water and to pit latrines. This potential could have been better exploited better with coordinated planning of interventions aiming at improved water supply, sanitation and training.

The rehabilitation of three wells improved access to drinking water for up to 30,000 people from 6 Kebeles and greatly benefitted women and children (who are mainly responsible for fetching water) by shortening the distance to water source and the queuing time. The capacity of WASHCOs to manage and to maintain the rehabilitated water supply systems has been increased (intervention implemented by People in Need under a separate CZ DC supported project “*Long-term Access to Water in Alaba Woreda*”, 2011-2013). Negative impacts in the project area where malaria is endemic could have the unresolved drainage of areas surrounding the water collection points where small leakages remain unattended. Another possible negative impact is the risk of fluorosis.

Construction of single pit latrines contributed to a limited extent do decreasing of risk from fecal-oral infections. Distribution of hygiene sets had no noticeable impacts.

BWM&E described the project outcomes as excellent. Trainings in using the equipment for water level measurement and camera that also included three regional hydrogeologists were considered particularly beneficial. The Bureau also stressed the importance of good communication with the implementer and exchange of know-how throughout the project duration.

***Taking in to consideration risks related to their long-term sustainability, impacts are rated as “rather high***

### **Good governance**

The project cooperated with the local structures developed at the community level by the preceding project for improved natural resource management. Further strengthening of their capacities remained limited to trainings. The by-laws have not been further developed and community participation in the planning of soil and water conservation activities has not increased. Community participation in the implementation of anti-erosion measures has been secured mainly by payments. Working relationships with the communities and their representatives were very good.

***Overall rating of good governance is “rather low”***

### **Human rights and gender equity**

Women, children and men equally benefits from decreased harvest losses due to decreased flooding and soil erosion as well as from access to cheaper grass for fodder and roof construction. The project worked



with farmers and equally involved people from poor households (landless) residing in the project area in partially paid works.

Improved access to drinking water is valued in particular by women and children who are responsible for fetching water; due to the increased number of working distribution points, distances to water sources as well as queuing time have decreased.

Women are represented on WASHCOs and have the opportunity to participate in decisions about the management of the rehabilitated wells.

***Human rights and gender equity are rates as “high”***

### **Environment and climate**

Project objectives, outputs and activities aimed at the improvement of the environment, in particular by introducing anti-erosion measures resulting in decreased land degradation and increased biodiversity.

The WASH component aiming at improved access to drinking water by rehabilitating non-functional wells has also been implemented with considerations for the environment – utilization of ground water was selected in a way so as not to put undue burden on hydrogeological structures. In 1st Tuka, where the pump has been connected to the public electricity supply system, the project also eliminated potential environmental contamination due to transporting and handling fuel for the generator and emissions from its operation. The sanitation part of the project, due to the way it has been implemented, did not result in the expected environmental improvements.

Interventions were implemented with consideration for environment and partial negative operational impacts were more than compensated by the positive impacts.

***The overall rating for environmental protection and mitigation of climate change is “high”***

### **Visibility of CZ DC**

The CZ DC logo has been used during seminars, trainings and workshops, is placed on the fences at the rehabilitated wells and at the roof catchments, on office equipment handed after the project completion over to the OWM&E as well as on the 3D model of the project area (anti-erosion measures). The logo was however missing on promotional items during the action “week of tree planting”.

The project has been presented in the Ethiopian TV (ETV1) at the end of 2011 (coverage of the handing over of the water level measuring equipment and camera to the BWM&E) and in 2012 (overall presentation of the project in the news). The project received the prize “SNNPR Regional State Green Award Program – 2011, Non-Governmental Organization Category, Outstanding Winner”.

***Visibility is rated as “high”***

## 1.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendations related to project and continuation of CZ DC

Recommendation	Main addressee	Degree of importance
Watershed should be the planning unit for implementing soil and water conservation and anti- erosion measures	CZDA	1
Calculation of full cost recovery tariffs for drinking water services	CZDA, implementer	1
Support to improved access to high quality seed	CZDA	2
Hydrological/hydrogeological study of the Awassa Lake basin	CZDA	2

### Recommendations to processes and mechanism

Recommendation	Main addressee	Degree of importance
Using the LFA as instrument for planning and monitoring, revision of LFA	CZDA	1
Detailed phasing out plan/handing-over plan	CZDA	1