

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Gilgel Gibe catchment		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Food security, Water, Agriculture, Forests, Pasture		
Date of submission	6 March 2017		
Web link	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=54		

Geographical Information

Country	Ethiopia	Location(s)	Oromia Regional State						
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	https://www.google.com/maps/@7.9247479,37.3818794,10z?hl=en								
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	
Dryland	x	Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
The basin is generally characterized by rugged topography and severely degraded ecosystems due to deforestation, overgrazing and poor land management associated with the subsistence agriculture that forms the basis of the local economy. As a result of soil erosion, the lifespan of hydroelectric dams is threatened by siltation, on top of the sharp decline in agricultural production that has resulted from the loss of topsoil and organic matter.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
The natural vegetation of Gilgel Gibe catchment has been heavily cleared, except for some remnant scattered trees and shrubs and patches of planted Eucalyptus species. As a result, the surrounding hills are severely eroded. Agriculture is by far the dominant activity. People in the area generally produce more than half of their annual food requirement in their own fields.									

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Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017
Rationale			
Beginning in 1997, poor harvests and the appearance of crop diseases have resulted in lower agricultural production. As a consequence, food insecurity has increased significantly, with 37 percent of the region's inhabitants now experiencing some level of food insecurity.			
Objectives			
Restore degraded ecosystems through improved water, soil and vegetation management; Increase and stabilize agricultural yields through crop diversification, agro-forestry systems, tree plantations, integrated crop-animal systems and other approaches, as well as improved storage of agricultural products; Improve livelihoods through eco-friendly small-scale community enterprises and improved market access; Put in place effective community-based institutional governance structures for effective participatory decision making.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Constructing soil and water conservation structures on degraded sites; Rehabilitating Gilgel Gibe dam buffer zone through area closures and augmentation planting; Establishing nurseries for grassland rehabilitation, agroforestry, and income; Introducing alternative income opportunities; Producing and distributing fuel-saving cook stoves; Establishing functional CBOs to undertake local landscape interventions.			
Results			
CBOs constructed soil bunds, waterways, check dams, and other measures to reduce erosion and soil degradation; community members closed severely degraded areas to all grazing and human use; CBOs are			

involved in the production of multi-purpose trees and shrubs; Income-generating activities such as cattle-fattening, bee-keeping, and aquaculture are introduced; A cooperative has begun to produce and sell energy-efficient stoves; Conservation and development cooperatives are established and legally registered.	
Lessons learned	
Creating area closures on heavily degraded sites is a good way to create public awareness; Local CBOs often have a lack of project management experience and need capacity building; There is a need for broad-scale public education on the consequences of destructive land uses; It is difficult for local communities to understand the landscape resilience indicators and score them appropriately, showing the need for facilitated discussion.	
Key messages	
Local projects share a similar design and are undertaking similar interventions. This is in part dictated by the poor physical condition of the watershed, which requires remedial interventions such as soil stabilization and revegetation. This similarity may, however, result in greater connectivity among projects and more rapid effects. There has been fairly rapid advancement of local CBO capabilities and the establishment of a landscape-wide CBO network.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 280,000.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Ethiopia.

Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	■		■	●		●			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
			●	●			■	●	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

●	●			■		●	■	
		■	■		●			