

Semera

2011

# Progress report

## After Integrated Dry Land Management Project

### After Environmental Protection Land Use and Administration Agency

The majority of Afar's people live a pastoral life-style, within a culture that has evolved to be suitable as a way of survival in arid and sparsely vegetated land. Changes of conditions in weather patterns, inaccessibility to livestock markets and in the disruption of peace through conflicts with neighbors over natural resources, have occurred more or less simultaneously.

### The major problems to be addressed by Afar Integrated Dry Land Management Project

The Afar Region/ANRS is part of the East Africa Great Rift Valley and is characterized by a climate with high temperatures and low rainfall and by sparse vegetation with patches of *Acacia* woodlands, bush and grassland. A major portion of ANRS is now degraded scrub and range land, with only about 2.5% of the land under cultivation. ANRS is one of the drought-prone areas in Ethiopia that experiences repeated rainfall failure. This causes a situation where the pastoralists become dependent on food aid for survival. Disruptions in any rainy season will impact on the availability of pasture and water as well as the overall food security situation of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. Drought has been a feature of the Afar region since time immemorial and was seen as recurring within intervals of an average of 10 years. However, during the past decades drought seems to occur more frequently, in some areas almost every year. Harsh climatic conditions cause competition over water and grazing resources, which often results in frequent clashes with neighboring pastoral groups

The Afar Integrated Dry lands Management Project (AIDMP) is a scale-up of the Mille Integrated Dry lands Management Project which has been implemented in 2006-2008. These two projects are part of Ethiopia's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Under the framework of the TerrAfrica Initiative<sup>1</sup>, the Royal Government of Norway (RNE) has provided financial support to UNDP's Drylands Development Centre (DDC) for the implementation of drylands management projects in Uganda and Ethiopia

### Introduction

## Afar Integrated Dry Land Management Project progress report

Output 3: Livelihood diversification activities support

Output 2: Strengthen capacity for Sustainable Dry Land Management

Output 1: Institutional Support for integrated dry land management

### Expected outputs of AIDLMP

The aim of AIDLMP is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of Afar people in building climate resilient sustainable development through the implementation of the Regional and Woreda level Climate Change Adaptation Programmes, which will be the basis for implementing local level integrated dry land management programme initiatives.

To improve the livelihood and coping mechanisms of pastoral communities of 5 weredas by enhancing their capacity to sustainably manage and use natural resources through the implementation of on the ground adaptation activities that are identified in the 5 Woredas Climate Change Adaptation Programmes

### Objective of the project

These combined factors have resulted in an overall situation of a decline in livestock production and productivity and an increasing vulnerability of ANRS pastoralist communities, with particularly negative implications for women and children.

Regional and Woreda/District level Climate Change Adaptation Programme. have been worsening the life of pastoralists. This situation has been clearly identified on the rapid invasion of *Prosopis juliflora* bush and some acacia species locally called Gerento and Afar. There is a further loss of available pasture land, in some places a severe loss, due to the neighboring clans and with other ethnic groups have added to the burden of everyday life in traditional dry season grazing grounds due to the establishment of commercial farms, exclusion from cattle markets due to international conflicts, and water and grazing resource disputes with livestock diseases, and, due to chronic conflicts, political instability. Moreover, exclusion from underdeveloped in ANRS and the region has a high level of illiteracy, widespread human and drought resilience, season by season. Socioeconomic services and infrastructures are recurrent drought have worsened overall livelihood conditions and weakened Afar peoples' Regional and Woreda/District level Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

4. Since the Afar Environmental Protection Land Use and Administration Agency (EPLUA) is newly established governmental organization, it has got huge capacity gaps in terms of office furniture and supplies. Therefore, to fill the gap of the agency, the project has supported different office furniture and supplies to strengthen and improve the implementation and coordination capacity of the project.

#### Strengthening regional EPLUA with furniture and office supplies

3. Both regional and wereda PCU offices were equipped with different office furniture like tables, chairs, shelf, filing cabinets, and equipments such as desk top computers, printers, scanning machines, photo copier to facilitate the project activity at the office and for ease of communication at all level.

#### office supplies

#### Equipping regional and wereda project coordination unit offices with furniture and

2. To facilitate and support smooth implementation the project activities 2 project staffs at regional level (Project assistance coordinator and finance officer) and 5 field officers for all project weredas recruited and start to discharge their responsibilities as per the terms of reference prepared for their recruitment.

#### Project staff recruitment

1. Office for AIDLMP coordination unit established at regional level within EPLUA and 5 weredas PCU offices at each project wereda within Pastoral Agriculture Development offices respectively.

#### Project team and office establishment

The AIDMP Implementation is carried out by EPA's regional arm in Afar, the Afar Environmental Protection and Land Administration and Use Agency (EPLAUA) in collaboration with the technical and administrative support from federal EPA and UNDP. Since EPLUA in Afar is newly established organization, it needs to be well supported and strengthen with trained man power.

#### **Output 1:- Institutional support for integrated Dry land management project**

#### Major activities implemented

Output 4: SLM Communication and Information dissemination

7. To strengthen IDLM platform with local support group, general community meeting organized at 5 project weredas in all 15 selected project kebeles to create awareness among the community members about the project and what activity to be implemented, what will be the contribution of the community during the actual implementation of the project activities and for what purpose do all activities are to be implemented. Above all, redevelopment committee is established and the community management plan prepared at all project kebeles with support of wereda technical committee and agreed with kebele representatives.

### Community and wereda level consultation

wereda level and EPLUA at regional level. The management committee is represented by heads of Bureaus and respective offices and is chaired by the president. The secretary of the management committee is EPLUA at regional level and Pastoral Agriculture Development office at wereda level respectively. Similarly the project technical committee members are drawn from the above mentioned line bureaus and offices. It is a group of expertise skilled with different disciplines related to project activities and composed of Gender expert, forester, watershed management expert, Range land Development expert, Animal health experts, Environmental health expert, water engineer, cooperatives expert. The committee is chaired by PARDO head at wereda level and EPLUA at regional level.

6. To strengthen the project implementation effectiveness, project management and project technical committees were established both at regional and wereda levels members of which are drawn from concerned regional bureaus and wereda sector offices such as office of women, youth and children affairs, office of cooperatives promotion, bureau of Education, Bureau of Health, Bureau of water resource Mine and Energy, Bureau of Pastoral Agriculture Development, Environmental protection Land Use and Administration Agency and office of the President.

### Regional and wereda project management and technical committee establishment

5. The fasten the project activity implementation and day to day follow up at all project weredas, 5 motor bicycles procured and customs clearance started for distribution.

### Transportation

1. Due to global climate change and its manifestation in unavailability of rain such as rain failure, erratic and untimely rain accompanied by rangelands degradation, and population pressure, drought and related hazards occurs in the region almost every year. These situation makes the Afar community unable to satisfy their basic necessities to lead their

#### Afar community

### Assessing and documentation of traditional natural resource conservation practices

#### Output 2: Strengthen capacity for Sustainable Dry Land Management

17 schools of project weredas.

and distributed to all project weredas and 17 school environmental clubs established in environmental clubs, ways of information communication that the clubs used prepared roles and responsibilities of club members, types of activities to be done by regional environmental clubs establishment manual containing organizational structure, of natural resources needs have established as environmental clubs. For this purpose, activities to keep the environment safer for living through development and conservation awareness about the environment, volunteers groups who are interested to be involved in relation to natural resources development and conservation. To increase community in community inhabiting there are with low level of awareness about the environment in 9. The environment where the project kebeles are found is very fragile, degraded, and the

#### School environmental club establishment

reference.

management and control of vectors prepared and distributed to trainees for further sub title of climate and vector born diseases, prevention mechanism of vectors and females and 25 males ) in collaboration with Bureau of health. A training manual having 30 community health workers selected from project kebeles of the project weredas ( 5 with Integrated Vector management in relation to climate change organized and given to and vector born diseases needs to be improved. For this reason, 2 days training entitled impacts, the capacity of community health workers on how to manage and control vector condition for reproduction of vectors which harbor different disease. To minimize the 8. One of the major impacts of climate change on human health is creation of favorable

#### Integrated vector management training for community health workers

As it has been already observed the natural resource of Afar region specially the project weredas is severely degraded due to climate change and variability like destruction of forests, degradation of range lands, loses of bio diversity, loss of soil fertility etc. To

Experience sharing visit

To address all the above mentioned problems identified in the project weredas, there has to be strong coordination among the community, the implementing partners at all levels and the funding agencies for better success. Moreover, the active participation of the community is mandatory for effective implementation of project activities at grass root level. For this purpose, development agents who are assigned in the project site of each project weredas need to acquire skill how to mobilize the community for better participation in every activities being accomplished in their locality. Therefore, to improve the Development Agents capacity on how to mobilize the community, Community Mobilization Skill Training organized in collaboration with Bureau of Pastoral Agriculture Development and given for 45 ( 8 women and 37 male ) Development Agents and wereda experts selected from 5 project weredas.

Climate change impose diverse impacts in the region specially in the project weredas such as drinking water shortage, spread of human and livestock diseases, deforestation, flooding, conflict etc

Community mobilization training

To rehabilitate the degraded natural resource in the region, revitalizing the weakened and deteriorated traditional natural resource conservation practices of the community will play a major role and hence it needs to be assessed and documented. For revitalization of Traditional Conservation Practices for rehabilitation of degraded and deteriorated resources, a regional Task force established having a group of higher experts drawn from Semera University, Afar Pastoral and Agro Pastoral Research institute and Environmental protection Land Use and Administration Agency and Afar Traditional Natural Resource Conservation Practices were assessed from different secondary information and documented to make use of it for its intended purpose.

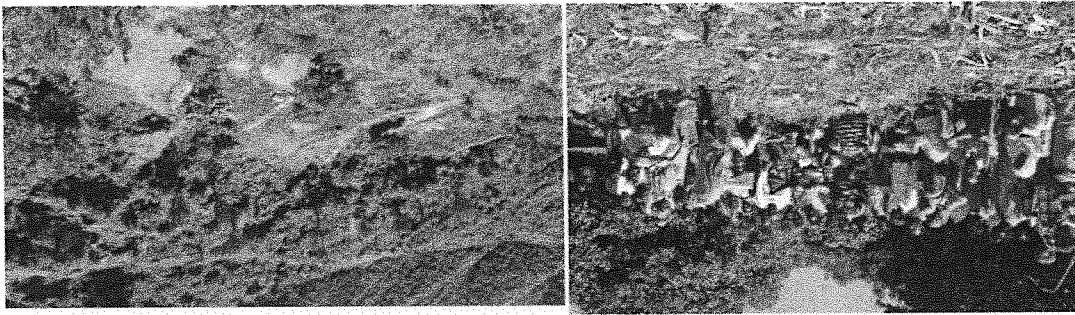
normal life and are forced to exploit the existing scares natural resource beyond its capacity by ignoring their useful and important traditional natural resource conservation practices . These useful traditional natural resource conservation practices of the Afar community deteriorated gradually and in some places completely wiped out.

4. Some of the reasons for sever deforestation in the Afar region is use of forest products as energy source, for income generation and for construction purposes. Moreover, though

**Solar panel installation**

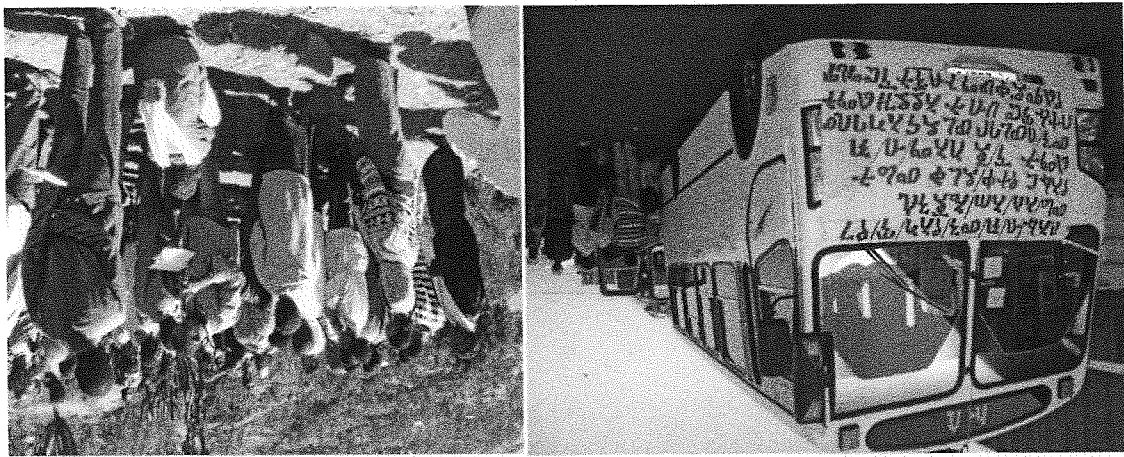
and wereda and regional experts. attended by 65 (7 female and 53 male ) community representatives, Development Agents in house hold asset building activities being undertaken. The experience sharing being

Figure 12 agro forestry practice on reclaimed area



To this effect, the community representatives, the DAs, and experts at all levels have to gain best practices from other neighboring areas whom they did their best in natural resource conservation had best practices to share. To achieve this, experience sharing field visit being organized by the project in Amhara region of Werababo wereda where best practices on soil and water conservation, in range land management, in livelihood diversification and

Figure 11 experience sharing visit



rehabilitate the degraded natural resources of the project areas, activities in relation to natural resource conservation and management has to be given due attention.



the occurrence and the spread of human and livestock diseases are so immense, the health institutions found in the region to give medical service had shortage of medicines and medical supplies and even had no energy supply to use refrigerators to preserve medicines from spoilage. This situation makes health service in the region more complicated and exacerbate the problem.

On the other hand, the region has huge resource that can be used as alternative energy source like solar and wind energy. Hence, to minimize pressure on forest resources and wastage of medicines introduce alternative energy sources are being introduced in the region. The project have signed a procurement agreement with suppliers to instable solar panel at health institutions which are found in project kebeles providing power supply of 2 refrigerators, 2 ventilators, television, and mobile charger in all 5 project weredas. The suppliers will also provide training for beneficiaries on operation and maintenance of solar pannel.

#### **Construction of soil and water conservation structures**

5. To rehabilitate the degraded areas of the project areas, different soil and water conservation practices and activities targeting to increase the vegetation cover has to be done with active participation of the local community and other concerned stakeholders. To facilitate the soil and water conservation and nursery site activities 400 spade, 500 hoe, 500 zabia, 414 knives, 50 racks 50 watering cane, 10 round rope, 10 ( 50 meters long ) meter, 25 wheel barrow were procured and distributed for 5 project weredas .

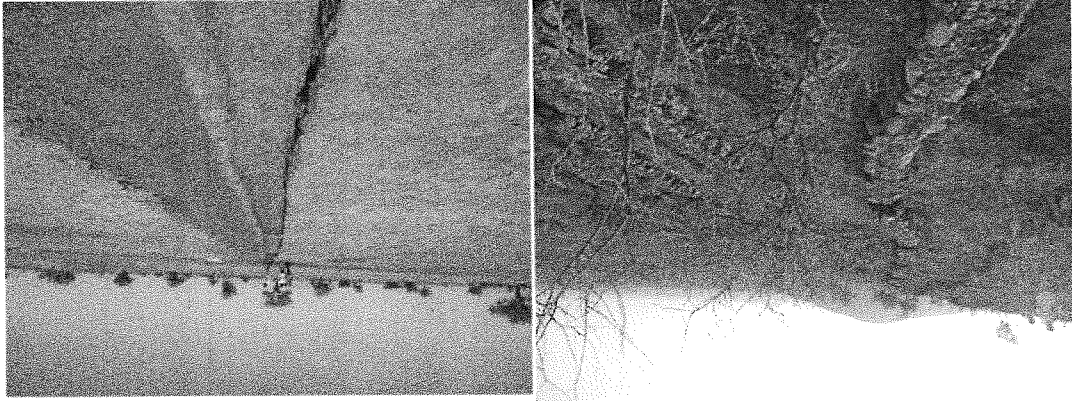
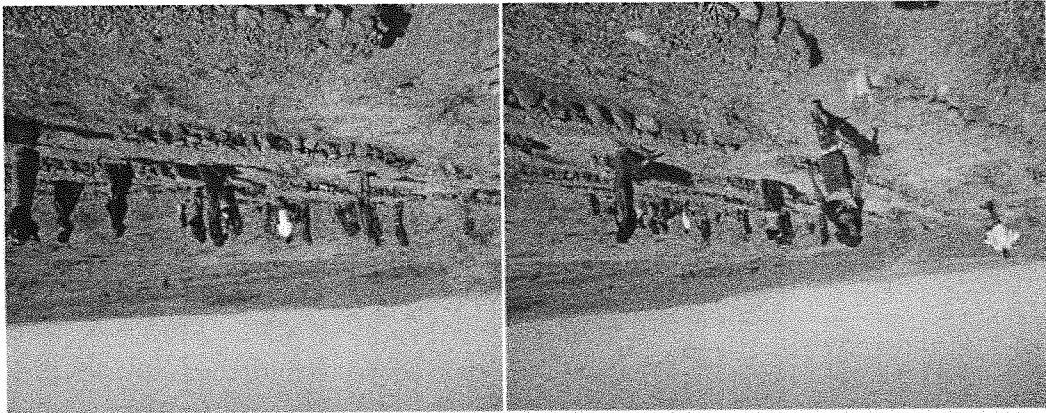


Figure 3 Stone and soil bunds

6. Due to the geographical location of the region number of seasonal and permanent rivers flow through it. Deforestation, land degradation and unexpected rain due to climate change causes overflow of rivers and creating gullies and landslides within the riverbanks. For gully treatment and riverbank stabilization, Gabion boxes procured and distributed to project weredas

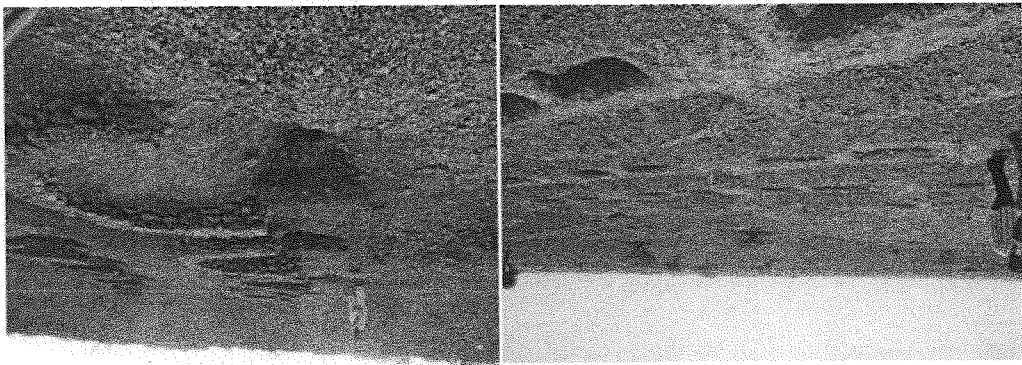
**Gullies and riverbank stabilization**

Figure 5 women participation on SWC



weredas. In all these activities, women were actively participated.

Figure 4 water conservation structures



With the help of these hand tools and active participation of the local communities, 12 kms of stone and soil bunds and about 500 different water conservation structures constructed in 13 kebeles of all 5 project

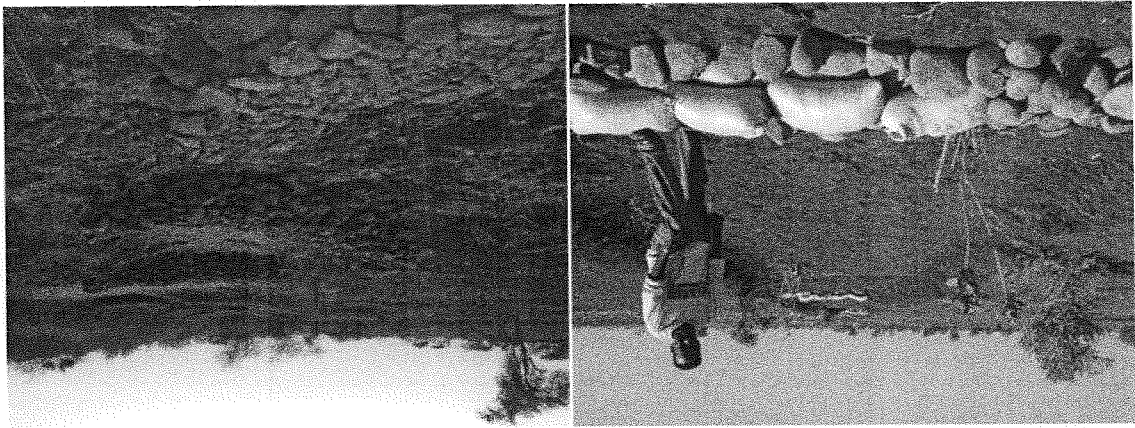
The training manual with three main sub titles namely nursery site establishment and development management, watershed management and rangeland conservation and development

woreda natural resource experts. Development Core Process for 50(10 female and 40males) development agents and with Pastoral Agriculture Development Bureau, Natural Resource Protection and

7. Training on Natural Resource Conservation and Management organized in collaboration

**Natural resource conservation and management training**

Figure 8 ston and soil check dams for gully treatment



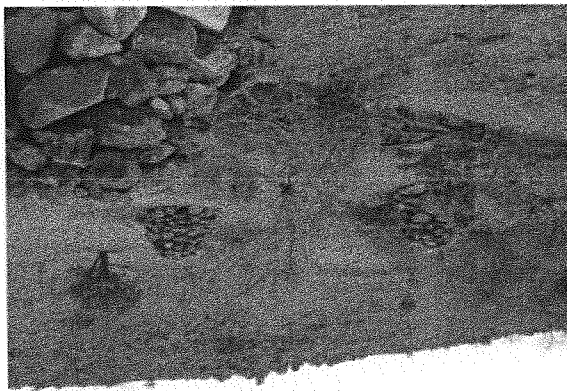
and stones for gabion works collected by community participation in all project weredas and actual works are being done in kebeles where there is gully formation. Moreover, gullies treatment being undertaken using different methods like stone and soil check dams.

**gabion works**

Figure 6 gabion boxes provided



Figure 7 stone for



produced by higher experts of Pastoral agriculture Development Bureau and distributed for trainees for reference.

**Area closure and invasive weed /bush management**

8. Severe range land degradation and loss of available pasture land, in some places a severe loss, due to the rapid invasion of *Prosopis* bush and some acacia species locally called Gerento and parthenium hystriphorus occurred in the project areas. The above issues coupled with pressure exerted by climate change have been worsening the life of pastoralists. To improve the availability of pasture and allow regeneration of grass species which were suppressed by the invasion of exotic unwanted bush, 50 hectares of range lands in all 5 project kebeles cleared from *Prosopis juliflora*.

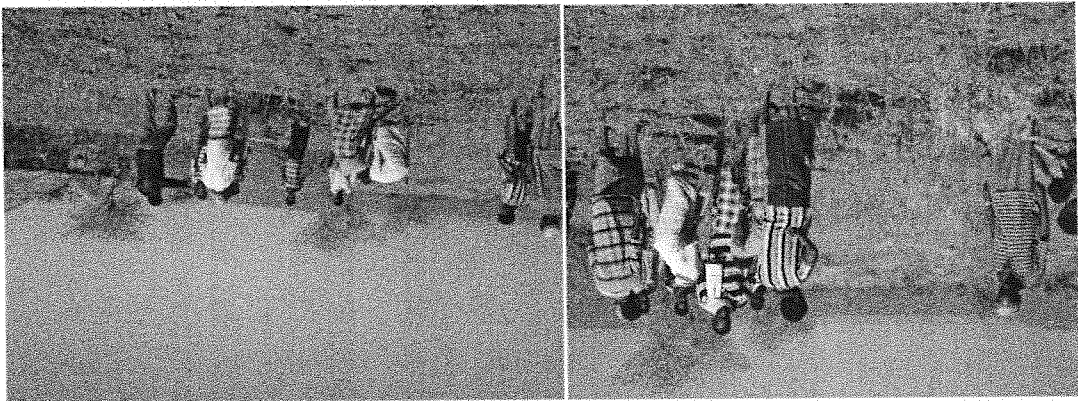


Figure 9 invasive weed management on range

land

and *parthenium* invasion and enclosed with local materials to protect it from human and livestock interference. To accomplish this activity community awareness enhanced and consensus reached among communities and bylaws where all community members are abide with is developed and agreed by all members.

10. Among the different impacts of climate change, drinking water shortage is one and very serious problem in all weredas of the project kebeles. To improve the availability of drinking water, 20 hand pumps procured and distributed for project weredas. The wereda project coordination units in collaboration with the wereda water resource development offices are doing their best in selecting sites for hand pump installation to solve the problem.

**Provision of water supply**

9. A far community like other pastoral communities had its own important and use full traditional rangeland conservation practices such as shifting grazing. But these essential traditional practices are becoming weak from time to time and even completely wiped out in some places. Rangeland degradation coupled with mismanagement of the existing resources worsen the problem of livestock feed shortage. Therefore, to improve the availability of feed for livestock and improve its management for better use, these traditional conservation practices need to be revitalized. For this purpose, training being given for 150 community members drawn from 15 project kebeles to revitalize traditional shifting grazing organized by all 5 weredas project coordination units in collaboration with wereda livestock and rangeland team

**Training to revitalize shifting grazing**

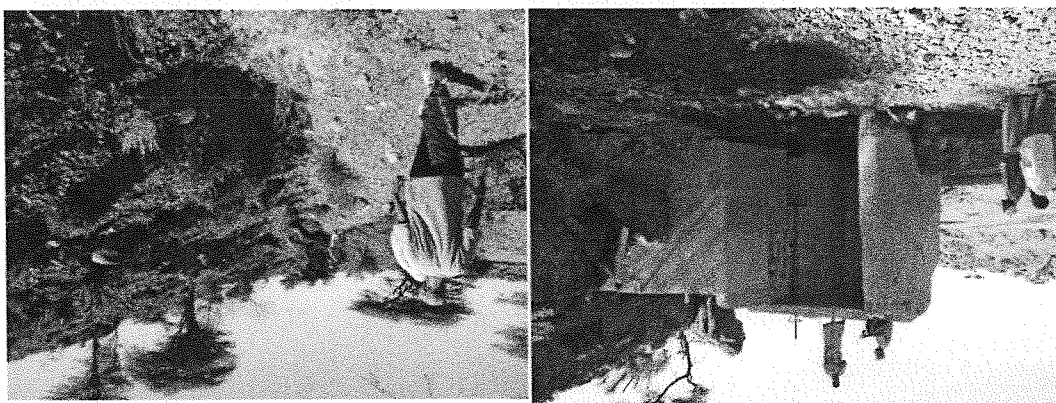
Figure 10 Area closure to allow regeneration of grass species





life. Having this objective, the AIDLMP in collaboration with Bureau of water mine and energy have done detailed study on 2 permanent rivers in Awra and Chifra weredas for irrigation structure expansion works having a capacity of irrigating additional 60 hectares of land and for maintenance of other 3 existing structures that can help to produce crops on 30 hectares of land in dewe, chifra

Figure 11 Detailed study for irrigation expansion



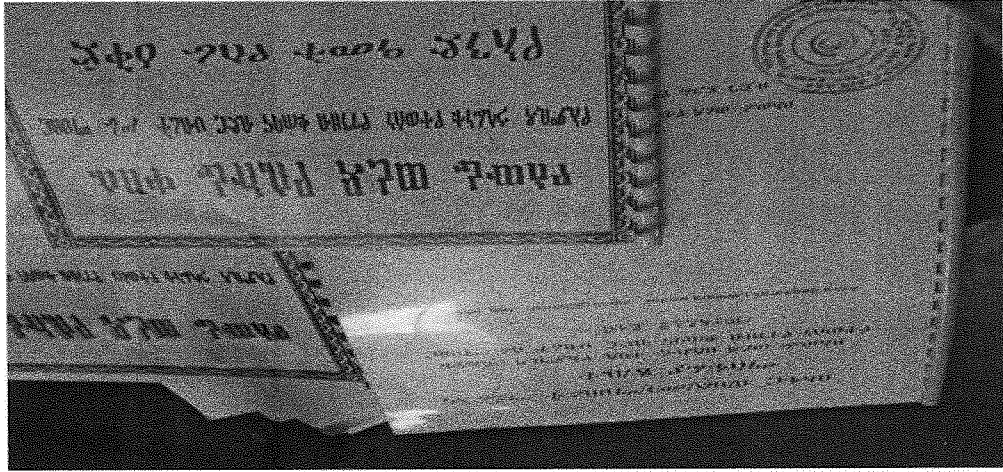
1. Though Pastoral way of life support Afar community for centuries, it will not continue as the only way mode of due to range land degradation water stress. In addition, there is a further loss of available pasture land, in some places a severe loss, due to the rapid invasion of *Prosopis juliflora* bush and some acacia species locally called Gerento and parthenium hystriphorus. The above issues coupled with pressure exerted by climate change have been worsening the life of pastoral people. Therefore, the pastoral community has to diversify their livelihoods to complement their usual way of

### Construction and maintenance of irrigation structures

## Output 3: Livelihood diversification activities selected and implemented

Therefore, community awareness training about micro finance institutions organized by wereda project coordination unit in collaboration with wereda cooperative promotion offices in all 5 project weredas for 275 community members and 5 saving and credit associations established to give the intended purpose for the members.

Figure 13 saving and credit associations established



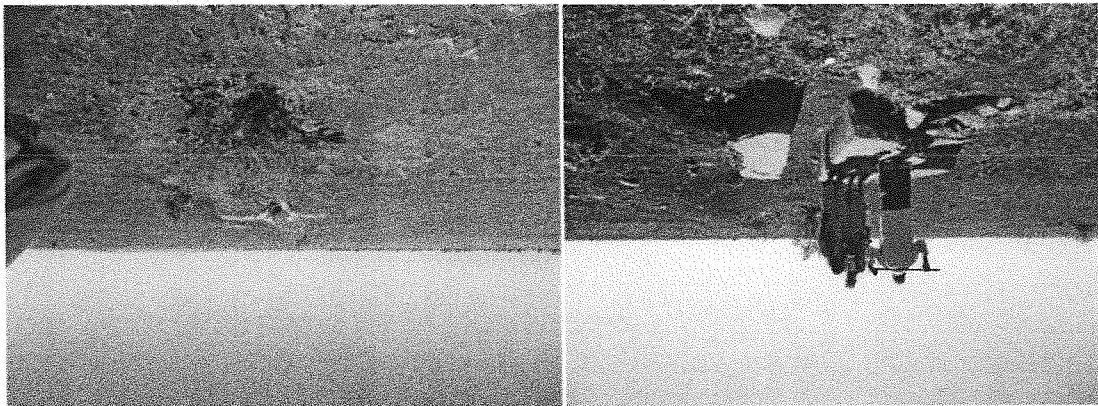
2. For the pastoral community to be engaged in other livelihoods options there has to be institutions that can provide loan service and to help the community as a saving center. But in Afar region, there is no an entity providing these services and even the community awareness about the importance of this institution is at low level.

Establishment of saving and credit associations

and Ewa weredas. This expansion and maintenance work help 150 community members to be engaged in irrigation crop production to complement livestock rearing activity.

structures

Figure 12 survey for maintenance of existing irrigation



**Output 4: Integrated dry land management (IDLMP), communication and information dissemination**

**Provision of information board**

1. As the impact of climate change is multi dimensional, the Afar Integrated Dry Land management Project is mainly focusing to address the problems exerted by climate change and is doing different integrated activities by involving different concerned stakeholders and with full and active participation of the community. But the awareness of the community about AIDLMP is at low level. There for to increase the awareness level of the community and for information dissemination purpose 5 information boards procured and distributed to 5 project weredas.

**Assessment of existing regional early warning system**

2. The early warning system that exists in the region is weak and is not capable of giving warning prior to the occurrence of disaster and hence hazards that could occur in the region will cause severe damage without having any preparedness. Therefore, assessment to identify challenges and constraints that makes the system weak conducted in all 5 project weredas to strengthen the existing early warning system for timely warning and to have full preparedness prior to occurrence of disaster to minimize the impact that could likely happen.

**Base line survey**

3. To know the current condition of the project weredas and to compare changes that the project brought after implementation, baseline survey conducted and documented in all 5 project weredas of 15 kebeles by organizing survey team and developing questioners and using different approaches

**Problem encounter during implementation of project activities**

1. Delay in budget release. The annual budget of the project was released at the end of third quarter which hinders the activities of the project to be implemented as planned schedule.
2. Transportation problem. Regional EPLUA has no vehicle to follow up day to day activities of the project so that the Agency is unable to give immediate solution for the problems that may require response for better performance
3. Absence of wholesalers in the region to fasten material procurement for project activities



**Solutions given for above mentioned problems**

1. Because of the delay in budget release we were unable to undertake the project activities as per the annual plan so that our financial performance became below the required level. Because of this reason we made program adjustment in such a way that all procurements required for project activities in 2011 and 2012 to be undertaken in the current year and transferring project activities that could not be implemented in 2011 to 2012 by the consensus reached between our Agency, UNDP and regional BoFED.
2. To solve the problem of transportation, the project is trying to provide motor bisks to project weredas for day follow up of the project activities. In addition to this the regional EPLUA found vehicle support from other sector bureaus to run the project activity implementation.
3. Though the bidding announcement to procure different materials is posted on news paper, there were fewer bidders participated in the bidding. In addition there were no material suppliers in the region which delays procurement process. But by continues bidding announcement we have achieved our target and procure required materials for project activities.

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<b>Travel Authorization #:</b>	

<b>Approved Mission Itinerary:</b>	Pretoria - Johannesburg- Addis Ababa - Pretoria - Johannesburg- Pretoria
<b>List of Annexes:</b>	

<b>(From)</b>	13 - 18 February 2012
<b>(To)</b>	
<b>Key counterpart (s) in each location:</b>	EPA: Berhanu Solomon Afar Regional Government: Assefa Biru - AIMDP Project Manager - through telephone The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Johan Helland, First Secretary and Sesay Nune, Programme Officer Natural Resources Management and Energy UNDP Ethiopia: Christine Musisi, Shimelis Fekadu, and Ababu Anage Programme Manager - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Global Programme Food Security (Sub-Sahara Africa)

**Purpose/Objective of Mission:** (specify the type of work which has/had to be accomplished - not acceptable to write "see attached")

Background: The Afar Integrated Dryland Management Project (AIDMP) has been in implementation since 2010, the current phase will end on 31 December 2012. The project has however suffered considerable delays (institutional and operational) that have resulted in a relatively average delivery of its outputs as per the agreed and signed PRODOC. It is in this context that the IDDP Africa Programme Team will be undertaking three missions in 2012. First mission took place in February, second is planned for September and third for November 2012. The aim is to undertake a continued and systematic review and monitoring in collaboration with UNDP Ethiopia and the Implementing Partners, to fast track programme implementation while ensuring progress is being made towards achievement of the projects intended outputs. While it is recognized that some of the on the ground activities to be initiated this year may not be fully completed by 31 December 2012, the intention of the Project is to ensure capacity of communities are built and that concrete activities are all underway/in progress/ongoing by the end date.

The **main purpose** of this mission was to review programme implementation in 2011, to discuss the 2012 work plan and agree on the way forward for achieving intended work plan objectives and outputs. The mission focused on:

1. Review of the current status of Project activities implemented in 2011 and results achieved as presented in the 2011 progress report shared by UNDP Country Office focal point and as presented in a meeting by EPA team overseeing AIDMP implementation.
2. Review, discuss and finalize the 2012 work plan
3. Present, discuss and endorse of a methodology for fast tracking of activities in the 2012 work plan, especially the delivery on the ground priority interventions, i.e., community implemented activities.
4. Discuss and agree on timelines for updates on progress towards achievement of results (every quarter) and the proposed future mission timetable (September and November).
5. Discuss and agree on timelines for virtual meetings - every quarter after submission of quarterly progress report.
6. Courtesy call to the Royal Norwegian Embassy to update on the current status of AIDMP.
7. AOB - meeting with Programme Manager - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Global Programme Food Security (Sub-Sahara Africa)

**Brief Summary of Mission Findings:**

**Meeting with UNDP - Country Office (UNDP-CO)**

**Progress updates and Reporting:** The mission was briefed on the activities undertaken in 2011 and achievements to date. It was noted during the meeting that some activities implemented in 2011 had not been reported on, for example exchange tours undertaken, procurement of solar panels, development of small irrigation road map/plan by the Water Bureau, etc.

The mission therefore requested that the earlier submitted 2011 annual report be revised to capture the missing information. Furthermore that the reports be improved and in particular these should capture results (results based management), based on the indicators as per the signed PRODOC. UNDP Ethiopia has agreed to train further the team in the Project Coordination Unit on results based reporting.

**2012 work plan:** DDC and UNDP CO had earlier submitted their feedback on the AIDMP draft work plan. A workshop was held in Awash bringing together EPA, the PCU based in Afar Regional and the 5 Woreda Project Coordinators (teams) to review and discuss this feedback. Workshop took place on 8 February 2012. The final document including feedback from this meeting was submitted to UNDP for review and finalization (also see section on meeting with EPA). The 2012 work plan was finalized and UNDP-CO requested to facilitate final review and signature with the main stakeholders, Afar Regional, EPA, MOFED, and UNDP-CO.

**Programme implementation:** The key issue is fast tracking the delivery of outputs. Previously AIDMP had faced institutional and operational challenges, however all these issues have been resolved: i.e., Steering/Management Committee, Project Technical Committee, PCU, 5 Woreda Coordinators are all place as of 2011. Furthermore the Project Bank Account at Afar regional is operational and as of 2011 funding is disbursed directly to the region for implementing activities thus cutting down any time delays. It is anticipated that these major developments will ease project implementation in 2012, making it feasible to fast track delivery of project output. Furthermore systematic technical backstopping will be carried out by EPA and quarterly monitoring and reporting (funding has been allocated in the 2012 work plan for this purpose) will be undertaken to ensure targets as agreed in the 2012 work plan are met. UNDP - CO will also provide additional technical backstopping.

**Policy component:** The AIDMP includes a policy component, implementation of which still lags behind. This component was discussed in detail with UNDP CO who will be spearheading this activity. UNDP CO has proposed to commission papers on key issues of concern that the AIDMP is addressing. A dialogue workshop at national level is further proposed to bring together different stakeholders to discuss these issues and to distill key policy issues to provide feedback to improve government policy on drylands and pastoralists area management and contribute to the management of global environmental concerns such as desertification, biodiversity, and climate change.

**Capacity Building of Capacity Builders:** One of the challenges faced in Afar (similar characteristics to most other drylands areas) is the limited access of its population to capacity building opportunities that can enable them to stay behind within their own communities to build capacity of their own people, to deliver needed developmental and other services (in summary to build capacity of capacity builders). This would enable the Region to build a cadre of capable young adults who could become development agents within their own communities; who could link research to development by engaging in community participatory research as part of their degree programme. This would also build capacity of young Afar people on environmental issues. Based on the discussions held with the team at the Royal Norwegian Embassy, it was agreed that the CO would with additional allocation of funding by DDC prepare a TOR to commission a study to look into what is being done in terms of building capacity of drylands/pastoral communities at various levels (tertiary education, etc.), the gaps and needs, prospects, etc.. The results from the study would form the basis for discussion with Academic Institutions such as Makele and Samera, etc., who would come on board on a collaboration basis (seen as long term) to develop capacity building - training plans/curriculum in their institutions that could incorporate a training stream on drylands development or drylands as a focus.

**Partnership:** UNDP/CO was briefed on interests that the SDC - Swiss Development Cooperation has on the policy component - in particular as related to their focus on contributing to policy dialogue at continental level. Based on discussion held, SDC will schedule a meeting with UNDP - CO to follow-up on this component (areas of interest land policy and land management).

**Lessons Learnt and Best Practices documentation:** The CO was informed on the funds available to commission a Consultant to carry out this task. In addition the funds available for a south - south study tour, potential host of study tour discussed is Uganda. TORs for commissioning lessons learnt and template to be completed to enable DDC initiate the process of requesting the host country to develop a plan for the study tour have already been shared with the CO.

**Training Materials:** AIDMP is undertaking a number of capacity building activities. It was agreed that all Service Providers contracted to provide training should develop and submit all training materials to PCU, EPA and UNDP - CO. Materials will be compiled into a manual in Amharic and translated later into English. These can be shared with other IDDP countries implementing similar activities.

**Operations:** There has been challenge in meeting the quarterly UNDP financial reporting targets. The reporting and

recording of expenditure is seriously delayed. The UNDP NEX guidelines requires that the Designated Institution must submit the Financial Report to the UNDP country office not later than 15 days after the end of the quarter. The timely submission of these reports helps in verifying the correct use of funds for the previous quarter and whether progress is being made towards the achievement of the expected results. It is unfortunate that these delays have led to several messages from the Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) - PSU to cite the entire project as being poor in NEX management due to continuing outstanding NEX balances every single quarter. The need to communicate, record and report expenditure as per the UNDP issued NEX guidelines was previously stressed to the CO. It was agreed that this would be improved on and that continuous communication will be maintained with DDC Operations.

**Meeting with EPA, including telephone call to Samera:** EPA briefed the mission on key achievements of the project, their role in supporting project implementation and M and E, the 2012 work plan and final comments and agreements reached during the Awash workshop (see under 2012 work plan) as well as the minutes of this meeting. EPA also presented the Woreda level climate adaptation strategies developed in 2010 through funding from the Spanish MDG Fund. These strategies have identified vulnerability of the pastoral communities in Afar region and their environment, the available adaptive capacity and possible response measures to be taken at different levels that have been incorporated to enrich the AIDMP. EPA will share electronic copies of these strategies as well as an English version of the meetings minutes. For additional information on EPA's role in project implementation see under programme implementation. EPA will verify progress reports from Afar regional and advise UNDP to undertake the next tranche of disbursement. A telephone discussion was held with the Project Manager who concurred that the new institutional structure will ease implementation of project activities.

**Meeting with the Royal Norwegian Embassy:** A courtesy call was made to the Royal Norwegian Embassy where the team from UNDP-CO and mission met with the First Secretary and the Programme Officer Natural Resources Management and Energy to follow up on the last meeting held in 2010, to provide updates on programme implementation and brief them on the plans for 2012 as well as to learn about the Embassy's programme and any concerns they may have.

Norway's main area of cooperation in Ethiopia in the next few years is focused on natural resources management and energy. Under energy mainly soft support has been provided for example for planning, studies and assessments however they would like to move to more hardware support within this area. Also support is expanding in agriculture in particular climate friendly agriculture (sustainable land management) and Ethiopia is also being supported on issues of climate resilient green economy - forestry.

Norway's rationale for supporting the UNCCD is based on the need to build resilience in lowlands - drylands. In particular how this translates to better livelihoods in the drylands and pastoral areas.

Norway would like to see the Woreda Governments be able to establish links to policy, i.e., to come up with key environmental issues that can be taken up scale to policy levels. Increase capacity building of Afar young people to handle environmental issues as well as an opportunity to develop their capacity to acquire required qualification in the environmental field, to be competitive in the jobs market (also see section under capacity building of capacity builders).

Invasive Species (Proposis *glundlosa*): The key concern is how to tame this? Possible interventions could be - introduce energy activities (income generating activities) to transform this plant into briquettes, into charcoal, and/or establish a Task Force to monitor the situation - how much more is growing and where, etc.

The Norwegian Development Fund (NGO) is supporting and implementing environment activities in Afar in collaboration with local NGOs, AIDMP could look into possibilities of linking up.

Norway is funding FAO - long term, implementing a Disaster Risk Management Project in Afar. The mission communicated a request from SDC to meet with the Norwegian Embassy.

**Programme Manager - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Global Programme Food Security (Sub-Sahara Africa):** The mission met with SDC to follow up on earlier discussion on the two organizations areas of comparative advantages and potential areas of collaboration under SDC's global themes of food security, inter regional Africa - continental wide programme. The key areas are land policy and land management, post harvest, seeds production and distribution, civil society organizations - regional farmers organizations. Follow-up actions will be in April and a further one in mid 2012 in relation to the SDC strategy under development.

Recommendations/Actions to be Taken and by Whom:

Distribution: (Copies to)

1. UNDP -CO to facilitate 2012 Work plan signature (work-plan is being signed on 16 March 2012)
2. UNDP-C O to spearhead the policy component of AIDMP based on allocated funding
3. UNDP -CO to commission a study for building capacity of capacity builders funding to be allocated by DCC
4. UNDP - CO to build capacity of Afar -PCU on reporting based on indicators (results based reporting)
5. UNDP -CO to brief SDC (Swiss) on the policy component planned
6. UNDP-CO to ensure expenditure is reported and recorded on time (NEX advances)
7. UNDP to send to the Royal Norwegian Embassy - Valdemar's end of mission report
8. UNDP -CO to commission documentation of lessons learnt and traditional natural resource management techniques and best practices based on the TOR prepared by DDC
9. UNDP-CO in consultation with Afar Regional -PCU and EPA to complete the template for south - south cooperation study tour to enable DDC to initiate the process of requesting the host country to develop a plan for the study tour (global funding).
10. EPA to share, in electronic format climate adaptation strategies developed in 2010
11. EPA to translate and share minutes of Awash meeting
12. EPA to provide systematic and on target technical backstopping and M and E to Afar regional (as per allocated funding in 2012 work plan)
13. EPA to document and submit to UNDP all reports of monitoring missions undertaken, with suggestions on methods for improvement to ensure delivery of outputs in the 2012 work plan.
14. All training materials to be compiled into a manual in Amharic and translated later into English, PCU, EPA and UNDP -CO.
15. Afar Regional - PCU to fast track delivery of 2012 work plan with technical backstopping from EPA and UNDP -CO
16. DDC to upload the signed 2012 annual work plan and make available funding for project activities, including for the policy component, commissioning studies, lesson learnt, traditional knowledge and best practices and for south - south cooperation study tour.
17. DDC to send additional information as discussed to SDC.
18. DDC to prepare and submit a proposal once SDC has informed on the issued call for proposals.
19. DDC to follow-up with SDVC as discussed.
20. DDC to field monitoring mission with possible participation of the Norwegian Embassy in September and November 2012 - to Afar region.



Mission Date: December 03-10, 2011

Members of the Mission: Ababu Anage

National Climate Change Specialist

Project Title: Afar Integrated Dry lands Development

Project ID: 00015497

**Places visited**

- Environmental Protection, Land Use and Administration Agency
- Bureau of Water and Energy
- Pastoral and Agricultural Development Bureau

**Officials Met:**  
**EPLUAA**  
 Afar National Regional State

Ato Abdu Mtey  
 Acting manager, Environmental Protection, Land Use and Administration Agency(EPLUAA); Tel 0911183320  
 Ato Assefa Biru  
 Environmental Protection Process Owner; Tel 0911852030  
 Bureau of Water and Energy Bureau  
 Mr. Wola Witika,Irrigation Supply and Drainage Process owner; Tel:0922617507  
 Mr. Ahmed Mohamed, Drinking water Supply Process Owner  
 Tel:  
 Mr. Eskender Ayalew, Hydro geologist  
 Mr. Hiwoi Hailu, Water Resource and Development Engineer

**II- Purpose of the mission**

The overall purpose of the mission is to accelerate project delivery by rectifying project implementation hurdle identifying fast delivery mechanism and reinvestigating regional coordination mechanisms.

❖ MoU between the Environmental Protection, Land Use and Administration Agency (EPLUAA) and Bureau of Water Energy drafted to work together on water and energy related activities ( new/upgrading of small scale irrigation scheme, hand dug wells development, etc) of the project in the selected Woredas of the

❖ Shadow Plan prepared and 70 % delivery target is set before the end of the year. The current delivery rate 4%;

❖ Information on the government procurement procedure and potential suppliers provided by BOFED. As per the new circular of the Regional Government all government institutions are mandated to conduct procurement without any restriction. Early next week invitation for suppliers will be issued;

❖ Items to be procured identified and specifications prepared;

❖ Consensus reached to bring forward procurement of 2012 to 2011 and in order to accelerate delivery agreement reached with EPLUAA to undertake procurement worth of 262112 USD before December 31 2012 using the short listing approach;

❖ Draft Annual Work Plan for 2012 prepared;

### III. Major Tasks being accomplished

- ❖ Undertake reprogramming if the situation so require;
- ❖ Observe the recruitment and placement of project persons;
- ❖ Initiate a procurement process;
- ❖ Filter out fast deliverables, key action in terms of resources and sequence of activity,
- ❖ Interpret annual work plan into an implementable work break down structure and also come up with organizational break down structure to implement them.
- ❖ Identify root problems, discuss and negotiate for lasting solutions;

Specific purposes of the Mission were:

- Procurement of the 5 motor bicycles need to be finalized as soon as possible and distributed for the wordas. The motor bicycles are very important to accelerate project implementation.
- On job training for the project personnel at regional and federal level should be organized ASAP
- Close follow up and regular monitoring should be carried out without interruption;

### VII. Recommendations

- Delay in the fund transfer-the first transfer was made on September, 2011
- The responsibility of project coordination is vested on the newly established EPLUAA which is not well organized and equipped ;
- Delay in the recruitment of project staff
- Lack of experience of staffs on project monument

### VI. Key Constraints

- ❖ Terms of reference prepared to document traditional practices of the Afar Pastoralists for natural resource conservation and management
- ❖ Action Plans;
- ❖ Agreement reached to accelerate delivery by developing and implementing 15 Kebeles Community Plans;
- ❖ EPLUAA agreed to make request for the cabinet of the regional government to cover the tax and insurance costs of the 5 motor cycles planned to be procured by the UNDP;
- ❖ Plan for building the capacity of the newly established EPLUAA in terms equipment and materials prepared and it is expected that it will be materialized before the end of the year
- ❖ Participants on Experience sharing visit identified and tentatively agreement reached to conduct experience sharing visit in Tigre;
- ❖ Recruitment of 7 project staffs finalized and announcement made for the winners and they will start work early next week

project;



Attachments

- Annual Work plan of 2012
- Draft MoU of EPLUIAA and BWE
- Reprogramming of 2011 AWP
- Shadow Budget

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Reported by: Ababu Anage  
Signature:

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