



# Bale Bulletin

Issue 5 June 2008

## Potentials for carbon financing in the Bale eco-region

The BERSMP and Oromia State Forest Enterprises Supervising Agency are working together to explore the potential of carbon financing in the Bale Eco-Region. If successful, a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) project will be implemented under the voluntary market. The total area that is expected to be under this programme is 0.5 million ha of dry and moist mountain forests. The project is estimated to generate about 80 million tCO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction, over a 20 year period and generate as much as US \$320 million. [Read Full Story](#)

## Passionate about Partnerships - BERSMP and the UK based International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) set up a forestry partnership

After preparatory contacts and discussions in 2007, a Senior Forestry Advisor with IIED, proposed a cost sharing partnership between BERSMP and the IIED Forestry and Landuse Programme. The first visit, funded by IIED - Forest Connect occurred at the beginning of 2008 by signing of a special Small and Medium Forest Enterprise – Ethiopia Country Study contract between FARM-Africa, SOS Sahel Ethiopia and Forest Connect. In May, as part of the BERSMP support and capacity building for the Oromia State Forest Enterprises Supervising Agency, an Introductory Business Management training course was delivered by IIED. In July senior staff from OSFESA and BERSMP will participate in an international workshop in Edinburgh, Scotland, and take part in development of a tool kit for facilitation of support to small forest enterprises. This has proved to be a very useful partnership for all stakeholders. [Read Full Story](#)

## Moving towards sustainable bamboo business development: the case of highland bamboo in the Bale Eco-region

The BERSMP in partnership with Oromia State Forest Enterprises Supervising Agency (OSFESA) organised a *bamboo handicraft* training for jobless youth groups in collaboration with the Federal Medium and Small Enterprise Development Agency (FeMSEDA). A total of 40 individuals were selected from *Goba, Harana Buluk, Nensebo* and *Sinana woredas* for the training. The products made by the trainees were exhibited and have been highly appreciated by both government officials and local consumers. BERSMP in partnership with relevant government offices will support in organising and strengthening the groups through providing trainings and facilitating linkages between the groups and the private sector. [Read Full Story](#)

## Participatory Forest Resource Assessment in the Bale EcoRegion

Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA) involves mapping and physical assessment of forest resources. The process involves both community and government representatives. So far the PFRA exercises have been carried out on forest resources found in six Kebeles. The results of the PFRA process showed that there are

serious problems and issues related to management of forest resources. Following this process, a series of discussions will be held to draw up forest management plans. [Read Full Story](#)

### Government's acknowledgment of Participatory Natural Resource Management evidenced through the annual Green Awards

The Green Awards is an annual event that is organised by the Forum for Environment and the regional and national governments of Ethiopia. Nominated groups and individuals who have contributed to the environmental development of the country are granted this award annually. The Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme was selected as first runner up in the Oromia region, under the NGO category, for its contribution towards sustainable natural resource management. This year, three of the FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia Participatory Natural Resource Management Projects (in Bale, Bonga and Borana) have received green awards at different levels. It is recalled that one of the Chilimo Forest Management Cooperatives was a national green award winner the previous year. This is encouraging and shows the growing appreciation given to participatory methods in natural resource management.

### Marketing Sustainable Forest Products

The BERSMP took part in the Addis Ababa based Artisans' Bazaar that is held biannually at the Tropical Garden. The objective of the participation is to raise awareness on the economic importance of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and sustainable timber utilization (GOOD WOOD) as well as to expose members of forest cooperatives to potential market outlets. [Read Full Story](#)

### Joint Programme of



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Supervising Agency



SOS Sahel Ethiopia

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