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Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme (BERSMP)

4. Diversification of Community Natural Resources Based Livelihoods

This output aims to identify and understand natural resources use, livelihood diversification and income generation opportunities for local communities living with the resources. An important aspect of the work is to enable communities to develop an understanding of their natural resources in relation to their needs, and the problems associated with unsustainable use of these resources.



Six activity themes are identified by the programme to achieve the output's goal:

Identify opportunities for natural resources based livelihood diversification and income generation; carry out enterprise feasibility studies – market analysis; build Government and community skills; develop linkages with public and private sector on natural resources based enterprises; implement livelihood diversification; and scale up successful NRM and livelihoods initiatives through woreda offices.

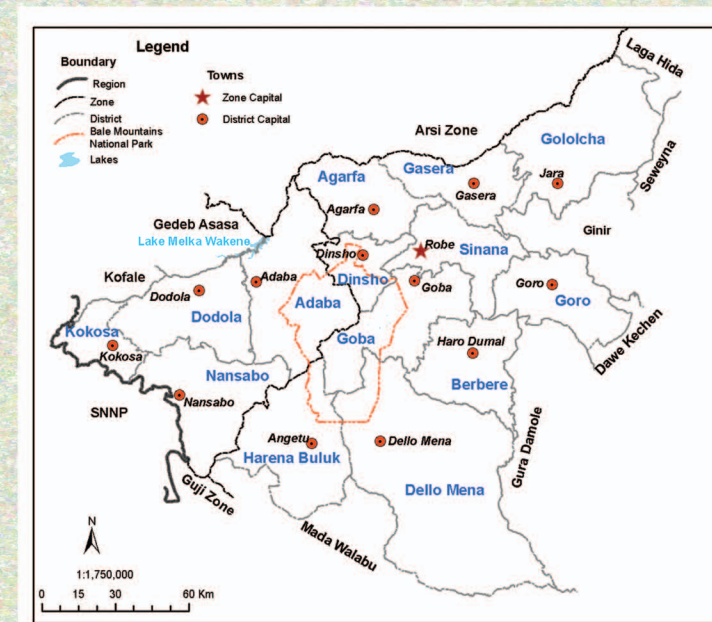
Programme Outputs

1. Development of Eco-Region Plan

Our Eco-Region planning process focuses on:

- Natural resource location and condition;
- Social issues and infrastructure; and
- Economic activities and opportunities.

By this we aim to develop a planning system that enables the review of activities at different scales and by different users including government offices and communities.



Implementation woredas

2. Building Government and Community Institutional Capacity

We carry out in depth training needs assessments with government and community implementation partners. This enables us to identify and deliver the specific skills needed to effectively carry out and support the new systems of planning and resource management being promoted by the programme.

Training options involve on-the job training and learning by doing. Training courses and exercises, study tours and exchange visits to community based natural resource management and co-management sites, both in country and overseas, are being arranged.

This output aims to lead to the establishment of strong Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and to promote coordination and communication between the Government and community partners.

3. Functional and Sustainable NRM and Conservation Systems in Place

We aim to introduce a range of resources management systems to allow greater management roles to organised community groups.

We intend to instill good participatory management systems where the community has a greater decision making role in resources management. The programme is building on current developments of CBNRM practices in the country, while applying the systems to new resources such as wetlands and grasslands.



The Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme

(BERSMP) is a joint programme of FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia. The programme has been operating since the end of 2006. It aims to bring local communities into a central role in sustainable natural resources management supported by government services, across the whole Bale Massif.

The goal of the programme is to mutually enhance the unique biodiversity and vital ecological processes of the Bale Mountains Eco-region, and the social and economic wellbeing of the communities dependent on the Eco-region's natural resources.

The programme will run in two phases from 2006-2011 and work in 14 woredas. The first phase has started in four priority woredas: Goba, Harena Buluk, Delo Mena and Nensebo.



5. Sustainable Financing Mechanisms in Place

A comprehensive strategy for sustainable financing is being investigated. This work is being carried out in line with new initiatives and opportunities presented under new funding structures such as Payments for Environmental Services (PES), and the establishment of Trust Funds for the Eco-Region. Various forms of sustainable financing mechanisms will be used at the local, regional and national levels.

Sustainable financing is a new area of work for the Government of Ethiopia. Capacity to understand the opportunities and to manage sustainable financing arrangements and agreements will thus be built.



6. Improved / Appropriate Legal, Policy and Regulatory Frameworks in Place

The programme runs its activities with close collaboration of government partners. Its policy lobbying strategy focuses in the involvement of appropriate government institutions and other policy advocacy groups from the start.

The major activities under this output are: publication of best practices, show and tell tours at all levels from zonal representatives to decision makers, policy analysis with publication of policy briefs, policy dialogue for policy learning and lobbying, and media outreach to build the profile of the programme.