



## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

**The Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (NSSID) programme, funded by the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia, aims to sustainably manage forests, conserve biodiversity, build communities' resilience to climate change and develop sustainable livelihoods through holistic nature-based solutions across six river basins in Ethiopia, clustered into three eco-regions.**

The Wabi-Shebele and Genale-Dawa, Omo-Gibe and Baro-Akobo, and Rift Valley and Awash basins are eco-regional clusters where uncoordinated and unregulated development, combined with poverty, are driving unsustainable natural resource use and undermining the resilience of communities.

These areas struggle with soil erosion, deforestation, biodiversity loss and degradation of water and rangeland resources. Agricultural potential is being lost due to the degradation of these natural resources, reducing farmers' food security and incomes. Agricultural and non-agricultural economic opportunities are underused. With limited access to resources, unsustainable use and poor access to technologies and market opportunities come competition and conflict over resources, and high unemployment.

These interconnected problems are aggravated by gender inequalities and climate change, putting marginalised communities into even more vulnerable situations.

The NSSID programme will reduce poverty, build communities' resilience to climate change and protect the environment through five mutually reinforcing outcomes:

- Protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Improving sustainable food and nutrition security;
- Supporting communities to earn money from environmentally friendly businesses;
- Supporting communities to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reducing resource-based conflicts.

### 2023-2026

#### Location: Ethiopia

The programme will benefit households in seven Regional States and one City Administration in Ethiopia: Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, Somali, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), South-West Ethiopia and Addis Ababa.

#### Partners:

The programme will be delivered by a consortium of nine partner organisations:

Farm Africa (lead),

Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF),

International Water Management Institute (IWMI),

Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action (MELCA),

ORDA Ethiopia,

Population Health & Environment - Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC),

SOS Sahel Ethiopia (SOS-E),

Sustainable Environment and Development Action (SEDA),

Union of Ethiopian Women and Children Associations (UEWCA)

**Funded by the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia**



The programme will directly benefit 392,500 people in over 87,000 households, including smallholder farmers, community-based organisations, entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises and community leaders; with special attention given to building the resilience of women and young people. The programme will further indirectly benefit about 1.2 million households living in the target eco-regional clusters.

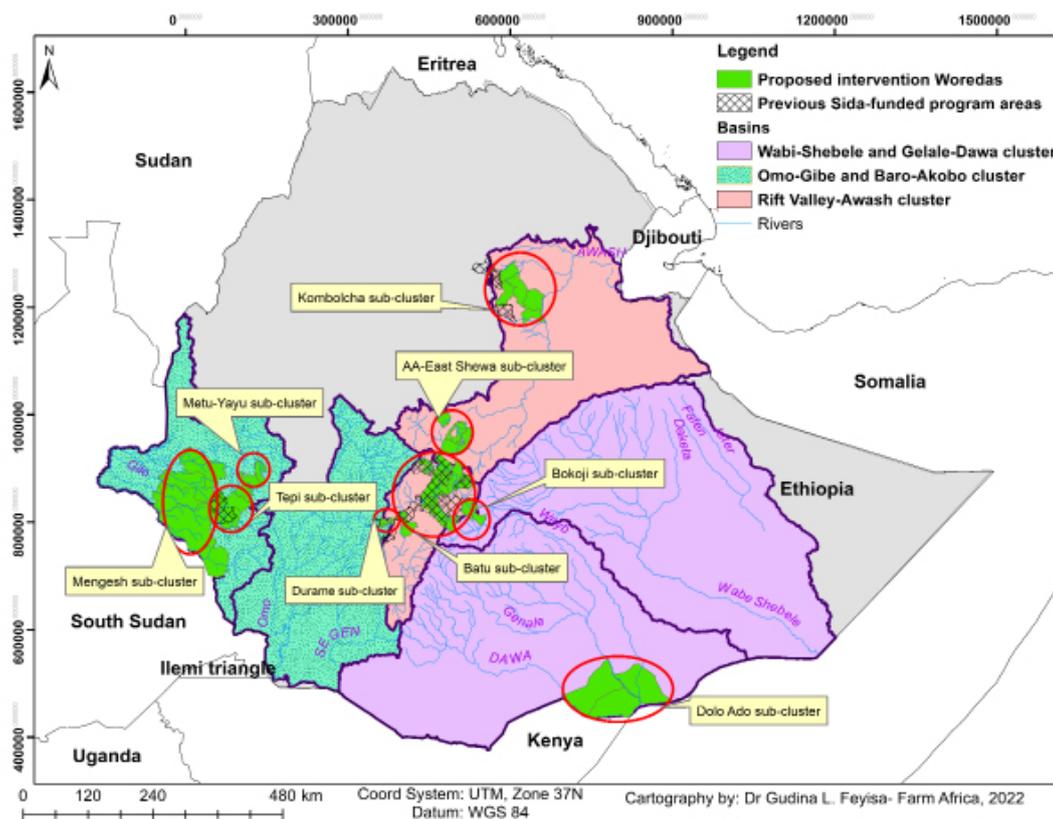
Reconciling food security, livelihoods, climate and conservation objectives, the NSSID programme strives to bring a triple win of poverty reduction, environmental conservation and tackling the climate crisis by promoting an integrated approach that diversifies livelihood options, builds climate resilience, and reduces deforestation and loss of biodiversity in a multi-sector and multi-stakeholder landscape.

Using an integrated landscape management approach, the programme will work with communities to sustainably manage forests, rangelands, parks, protected areas and wetlands.

We will help farmers to grow and sell nutritious crops using climate-smart agricultural techniques, while also helping local people to earn money from the production and sale of non-timber forest products.

The programme will be implemented in seven Regional States and one City Administration in Ethiopia, but the reach will extend beyond Ethiopia, benefitting neighbouring countries such as South Sudan, northern Kenya, and Somalia through improved watershed management and wildlife, biodiversity and forest conservation efforts.

The initiative builds upon our experience over the past five years, as well as the extensive technical and operational knowledge of the diverse members of the consortium implementing this programme. Between 2017 and 2022, Farm Africa led a consortium implementing the Sida-funded Growth for the Future programme, which sought to improve the profitability of people's livelihoods in Ethiopia in an environmentally friendly way.



## PROJECT COMPONENTS

### 1. Biodiversity and ecosystem services

The programme will strengthen the capacity of community-based institutions, and government and private sector actors to deliver improved sustainable and inclusive management of ecosystems. We will improve integrated natural resource management across six of Ethiopia's 12 river basins. We will strengthen the capacity of Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives, Participatory Rangeland Cooperatives and government staff to sustainably manage forests and rangelands. We will also strengthen community participation in the management of parks, protected areas and wetlands, ensuring that communities can derive economic, social and environmental benefits from their roles in stewarding local environmental resources.

We will contribute to generating an evidence base of successful approaches to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and the protection and enhancement of ecosystem services and will disseminate learning to promote the integration of approaches into national policies and programming.

### 2. Food and nutrition security

The programme will build the skills, knowledge and access to inputs for farmers and government staff, providing the enabling conditions for increased nutrition-sensitive and sustainable agricultural intensification and improved post-harvest management. As well as working in rural areas, urban agriculture will be promoted in selected cities and towns.

We will strengthen institutional systems governing food safety and quality standards, whilst building

the capacity of private sector actors (farmers, producers, entrepreneurs working in value addition) to better understand and meet food safety standards.

We will also address current barriers to market for farmers and producers, working closely with private sector actors, financial service providers and farmers' cooperatives to improve farmers' organisation and aggregation capacities, their bargaining power and their access to capital to invest in their businesses.

### 3. Environmentally friendly businesses

The programme will help strengthen at least five non-timber forest product value chains: bamboo, coffee, honey, spices, gums and resin, providing income-generating opportunities for entrepreneurs and enterprises through the production, marketing and value addition of these products. The programme will also strengthen income opportunities related to the commercialisation of high-value crops. Women and young people will be prioritised under this activity. To ensure that communities are able to invest in their businesses, we will work to increase access to finance, encompassing both informal arrangements such as village savings and loan associations and formal financial structures and products.

To showcase success, we will introduce model villages that demonstrate how a holistic approach that synergises environmental sustainability and development needs enables both local ecosystems and local communities to thrive.



With support from Farm Africa, Abubeker from Amhara started a business making and selling vermi-compost.



#### 4. Climate action

We will build the capacity of farmers and producers to adapt to and mitigate climate change by increasing the adoption of climate-smart agriculture and livestock production practices. We will promote high-yielding drought and disease/pest-tolerant crops, and help ensure that farmers have affordable access to organic fertiliser by supporting the set-up of vermi-composting businesses. Our support for climate-adaptive livestock production will include a focus on the production of improved feed, reducing pressure on degraded rangelands.

We will improve access to water, particularly in drought-prone areas, ensuring that farmers have access to water for their livestock and small-scale irrigation as well as for domestic use. We will promote solar and other environmentally friendly water lifting technologies such as ropes and washers and treadle pumps. The programme will also support the development of youth and women-led green energy enterprises, improving access to sustainable energy for farmers, producers and communities.

#### 5. Reducing resource-based conflicts

The programme will strengthen local capacity for the peaceful resolution of natural resource-based conflicts and will strengthen the capacity of government staff and community structures on gender transformative approaches. The interventions under this outcome will benefit two national parks and the community surrounding these parks. The programme will support the establishment and strengthening of existing safe spaces for dialogue on natural resource management and related conflicts.

We will also build the capacity of local peace champions to ensure sustainable peacebuilding and conflict resolution capacities remain embedded within local communities even after the project ends. The programme will strengthen the capacity of government, private sector actors and community-based structures to better understand and deliver conflict-sensitive approaches and support the revitalisation of identified indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms. All of these measures will be underpinned by the promotion of gender equality.

Farm Africa promotes sustainable agricultural practices, strengthens markets and protects the environment in rural Africa.

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