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PROJECT TITLE	Climate Change Sector Reform Performance Contract in Ethiopia
FUNDED BY	European Union
IMPLEMENTED BY	Stantec consortium
DURATION	2019 - 2023
BUDGET	€2,835,700
MAIN OBJECTIVE	Transform Ethiopia's economic structure towards a climate resilient and green economy
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	Improve climate change mitigation in forestry and industry sectors Improve climate actions monitoring and climate integration in public finance

IMPACT REPORT ON OUTPUT 1	Improved forest management and benefits, including enhancing forest conservation and afforestation and reducing deforestation
RESULTS	<p>The EU budget support program in the forest sector primarily focused on achieving and measuring performance reduction of deforestation through realizing multiple benefits, including enhancing forest management, forest conservation, afforestation, and reduction of deforestation.</p> <p>The interventions impact can be demonstrated through:</p> <p>Supporting regional and woreda (district) forest development interventions: The regional and woreda (district) forest development interventions entail a multifaceted approach to sustainable forestry. This includes measures like Area Ex-closure, establishing and fortifying nurseries, afforestation, reforestation, technical assistance, capacity building, and the enhancement of Participatory Forest Management (PFM). Area Ex-closure initiatives focus on conserving specific zones, while nurseries aid the growth of crucial tree species. Afforestation and reforestation contribute to expanding forest cover, aligned with EU budget support forest-based mitigation actions across Ethiopia's regions. Technical assistance and capacity building enhance stakeholder skills, and PFM initiatives empower local communities, ensuring their active role in sustainable forest practices. This comprehensive strategy aims for a synergistic and sustainable approach to woreda-level forest development. The EU budget support project coincided with Ethiopia's green legacy tree planting initiatives, resulting in the remarkable achievement of planting billions of tree seedlings. This massive afforestation effort is a significant stride towards increasing overall forest cover, crucial for biodiversity preservation and carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change. Forest conservation emerges as a pivotal element not only for ecological diversity but also for its role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with global environmental sustainability goals.</p> <p>Efforts in reduction on rate of deforestation: The EU performance indicator project aimed to reduce the rate of deforestation and emissions compared to the 2013 baseline. The target was to decrease net deforestation from 72,000 hectares annually in 2013 to 47,000 hectares in 2021, and this goal was surpassed with a successful reduction to 11,632 hectares per year. Similarly, the objective to decrease baseline emissions from 13.1 MtCO₂e/year in 2013 to 9.51 MtCO₂e/year by 2021 was exceeded, with net emissions reduced to 2.56 MtCO₂e/year. The project emphasizes the challenges in detecting short-term forest gain, highlighting the need for regular data submission to international centres for compliance with reporting requirements, especially under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework. The technical support acknowledges the long-term nature of forestry activities, emphasizing the importance of</p>

continuous monitoring and data updates. This achievement is significant in combating deforestation, protecting existing forest resources, and ensuring the continuity of ecosystem services provided by forests, particularly in the face of threats like large-scale agriculture expansion.

Participatory Forest Management (PFM): Participatory Forest Management (PFM) empowers local communities to actively engage in forest management and conservation, fostering sustainable practices. Implemented under the EU budget support program, the Ethiopian Forest Development (EFD) executed PFM initiatives in selected intervention woredas. The approach not only safeguards forest resources but also enhances community livelihoods and local ownership of conservation efforts. The EU technical assistance facilitated capacity building, including a Training of Trainers program and field missions to the Bale eco-region. The comprehensive review of PFM implementation identified key recommendations, emphasizing addressing investment-related pressures on forests, strengthening PFM in government policy, and prioritizing effective execution for economic benefits. Despite PFM's established history, there is a focus on reinforcing government capacity to ensure successful interventions in alignment with recent forest proclamations.

Collaborative advancing Forest Monitoring: Collaboration among AFOLU-related institutions, primarily the national MRV unit with Ethiopian Forest Development, the Space Science and Geospatial Institute, and the Ministry of Agriculture, along with technical support from FAO and the JRC, allowed the project to utilize advanced methods, tools, and satellite data to monitor changes in forest cover. This collaboration ensured the accuracy of the data used to track progress toward project goals. Having reliable data is crucial for evidence-based decision-making and meeting international reporting requirements, such as those outlined in the IPCC guidelines. The adoption and utilization of high-resolution satellite imagery with advanced monitoring tools resulted in an improved accuracy level of 88%, compared to 82% from the previous year's monitoring and 73% from the FREL monitoring. Looking ahead, the Ethiopian Forest Development (EFD), in collaboration with AFOLU line-ministries and the national MRV unit, is expected to develop cost-effective, robust, and reliable methods to enhance the overall forest Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system.

In conclusion, the EU project in Ethiopia represents a comprehensive effort to improve forest management and achieve numerous benefits, including enhanced forest conservation, afforestation, and the reduction of deforestation. These actions are not only vital for environmental conservation but also have a positive impact on the well-being of local communities. Through participatory approaches, and the use of advanced technology, this project serves as a model for sustainable forest management, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change and preserve our natural resources.