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Ziway-Shalla Sustainability Partnership

On 17 January 2018, the coalition of public-private sector partners, convened by IDH, launched the Ziway-Shalla Sustainability Partnership at the sixth bi-annual partners' meeting. The partnership aims to promote sustainable land and water management in the Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia by promoting dialogue and action among the partners, and by jointly funding projects that improve the water quality and quantity of Lake Ziway, restoring degraded lands and creating alternative livelihood options for communities. The logo and the partnership name developed in collaboration with the partners was also unveiled.

Ziway-Shalla Sustainability Partnership logo
At the launch, the partners expressed their commitment to creating synergies, alignment and foster transparency. IDH will serve as the secretariat for the partnership, hosting meetings and handling communications on behalf of the partnership. The aim is to support the Ziway Sustainability Partnership to become a financially viable governance structure in the (near) future.



IDH, PAN-UK launch Integrated Pest Management project

In April 2018, IDH and the Pesticide Action Network (PAN-UK) launched a project on Integrated Pest Management for smallholders in the landscape. The three-year project aims to support healthy, sustainable and productive smallholder vegetable farming in the Adami Tulu-Jido Kombolcha and Dugda districts. About 600 households will directly benefit from the project by receiving training on different aspects of integrated pest management through dedicated farmer field schools established by the project. The project will also test the suitability of biological food sprays in controlling pests and diseases.

The project aims to complement the Global Good Agricultural Practices project, set-up by IDH and the Meki Batu farmers union, where local smallholders are certified. The wider community will benefit from greater awareness of the risks from pesticides. Safer alternatives, including cultural plant protection methods such as food sprays, that reduce risks to human health and the environment, will be introduced to smallholders. PAN-Ethiopia will implement the project in partnership with the bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the bureaus of Finance and Economic Development from the two districts.

Community starts to earn income from rehabilitated area enclosure

One year on from the establishment of the 71 hectares of enclosure at IDH's Worja reforestation site, the community has begun reaping the benefits. An important component of IDH's reforestation project in collaboration with Castel Winery and Adami Tulu-Jido Kombolcha District is encouraging the community to respect the area enclosure while allotting a grass cut-and-carry season from the protected area. In April 2018, the first group of low-income household beneficiaries of the scheme earned a total of 57,000 ETB (1,670 EUR) from the sale of grass that grew in the rehabilitated area protected from livestock and human intervention. The scheme is expected to be a good business case for the protection of the area in the coming years as the seed bank in the soil is enriched and more grass is collected.



Women cut-and-carrying grass in Worja

Sharing experiences from Wof-Washa Community Ecotourism Project

Wof-Washa (meaning 'bird cave') is a 6,000-hectare natural forest in North Shoa, Ethiopia. It is the oldest state forest and the last remnant forest in the region with many common, rare and endemic plant species and wild birds and animals. Its natural products and perennial springs and rivers support the local community. The Sustainable Natural Resource Management Association (SUNARMA), a local NGO, works to improve the management of the forest and the lives of local communities. Its Wof-Washa Community Eco-Tourism project is attracting clients by offering multiple walking treks and five lodges of accommodation within the forest and along the Rift Valley escarpment.

In April, a team from IDH Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Center and Network (HoAREC&N) visited SUNARMA's various livelihood improvement projects and spent a night at Qundi, one of the lodges. The projects include production of fuel-efficient woodstoves by a women's cooperative, an apiary, a poultry and household orchard farms. The

visiting team was impressed by the hospitality and hard work of the community and by SUNARMA's dedication to the success of the projects. The IDH team intends to apply some of the lessons from Wof-Washa in the upper catchment of Lake Ziway.

University evaluates IDH reforestation projects

The Water and Land Resource Center (WLRC) of Addis Ababa University conducted a validation assessment of IDH's reforestation activities around Lake Ziway. The team visited IDH's three reforestation sites in February 2018 to validate the suitability of the specific

interventions in the three sites and to recommend scientifically accepted landscape restoration approaches to existing and new IDH Ethiopia reforestation activities. The team held discussions with community members, the public and the private sector to identify issues and concerns with the ongoing IDH Ethiopia projects. The findings are presented in a report entitled 'Scoping mission report on the performance of IDH reforestation projects at the Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia'. The report can serve as a blueprint for successfully implementing reforestation projects and accompanying alternative income generating activities in dryland areas of the Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia.



IDH and HoAREC&N teams at Menelik's Window in North Shoa.

New initiatives and partnerships

A Water Potential and Demand study in the Ziway-Shalla sub-Basin is to be conducted by a consultant with financial and technical support from IDH and Wetlands International. The objective of the study is to generate crucial data to support the Rift Valley Lakes Basin Authority in promoting and monitoring the implementation of integrated water resource management in an equitable and participatory manner.

IDH and TREEAID are discussing a potential joint action on improving forest management and livelihood enhancement in the Gurage highlands of the upper catchment of Lake Ziway.

The Ethiopian Rainwater Harvesting Association (ERHA) submitted a concept note to IDH Ethiopia for collaboration on training lead-farmers to produce vegetables and perennial crops utilizing harvested and stored rainwater.



Model fuel-saving cook stove constructed by a women's cooperative in North Shoa.