

Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

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Submission	
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Date of submission:	

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

The preparation of the thematic report process has tried to incorporate the views of pertinent stake holders that are directly involved in the conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

Accordingly, Natural Resource Management and Regulatory Department of Ministry of Agriculture; Forest Genetic Resource Conservation Project of Institute of Biodiversity conservation and Research (IBCR); Forestry Research Directorate of Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO) and Ecosystem Department of Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) as the overall co-ordinator of thematic report preparation process; were involved.

The guideline sent from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been distributed by Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for the aforementioned stake holders. Based on the guideline, the heads of the respective institutions have delivered their views on the status of implementation of decision IV/7 of CBD. The summary of all stakeholders opinion has been worked out by the thematic report preparation Co-ordinator institution - EPA.

The relevant documents cited when preparing the thematic report are:-

- Research Strategy on the Conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources
- National Forestry Strategy Plan
- Ethiopian Forestry Action Programme
- Forest Genetic Resource Conservation Project Documents
- Relevant documents on the flora of Ethiopia

Decision IV/7 on Forest biological Diversity

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this decision by your country?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. To What extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
				d) Severely limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Has your country assessed the status and trends of its forest biological diversity and identified options for its conservation and sustainable use? (Decision IV/7, Paragraph 12)	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) assessment underway (please give details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) assessment completed (please give details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) not relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>

If a developing country party or a party with economy in transition -	
4. Has your country requested assistance through the financial mechanism for projects that promote the implementation of the focused work programme on forest biological diversity? (Decision IV7, paragraph 7)	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes please give details below	<input type="checkbox"/>

Programme element 1: Holistic and inter- sectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking account of social and cultural and economic considerations

5. Has your country identified methodologies for enhancing the integration of forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into an holistic approach to sustainable forest management at the national level? (Work programme, paragraph 13)	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes - limited extent (please give details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes - significant extent (please give details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Has your country developed methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest - related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article B (j)? (work programme, paragraph 14)	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes - limited extent (please give details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Has your country promoted cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels in accordance with Articles 5 and 16 of the convention? (work programme, paragraph 15)	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give detail below)	✓
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	
8. Has your country promoted the sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities in all types of forest areas and networking modalities in all types of forest ecosystems? (work programme, paragraph 17)	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	✓
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

Programme element 2: Comprehensive analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest - management practices, influence biological diversity and assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences

9. Has your country promoted activities for an enhanced understanding of positive and negative human influences on forest ecosystems by land-use managers, policy makers, scientists and other relevant stakeholders, (work programme, paragraph 29)	
a) minimal activity	✓
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
10. Has your country promoted activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels to provide for the sharing of approaches and tools that lead to improved forest practices with regard to forest biological diversity? (work programme, paragraph 30)	
a) minimal activity	✓
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
11. Has your country promoted activities with the aim of providing options to minimize or mitigate negative and to promote positive human influences on forest biological diversity? (work programme, paragraph 31)	
a) minimal activity	✓
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

12. Has your country promoted activities to minimize the impact of harmful alien species on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 32)	
a) minimal activity	✓
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
13. Has your country identified means and mechanisms to improve the identification and prioritisation of research activities related to influences of human activities, in particular forest management practices, on forest biological diversity? (Work programme, paragraph 33)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes - limited extent (Please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (Please give details below)	✓
d) not relevant	
14. Does your country hold research results and syntheses of reports of relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological diversity issues and, if so, have these been disseminated as widely as possible? (Work programme, paragraph 34)	
a) not relevant	
b) some relevant material, but widely disseminated	✓
c) significant material that could be more widely disseminated (Please give details below)	
d) yes - already widely disseminated (Please give details below)	
15. Has your country prepared case-studies on assessing impacts of fires and alien species on forest biological diversity and their influences on the management of forest ecosystems and savannahs? (Work programme, paragraph 35)	
a) no - please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	
b) yes - please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	
c) To be initiated soon	✓

programme element 3: Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators for forest biological diversity

16. Has your country assessed experiences gained in national and regional processes, identifying common elements and gaps in existing initiatives and improving indicators for forest biological diversity?(Work programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes - limited assessment made (Please give details below)	
c) yes - significant assessment made (Please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
e) None	

17. Has your country carried out taxonomic studies and inventories at the national level. which provide for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes - limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant assessment made (please give details below)	✓
d) not relevant	

If you have ticked any of the boxes in questions 5 to 17 above which invite you to provide further details, please do so here.

(Information can include descriptions of methodologies and of activities undertaken, reasons for success or failure, outcomes and lessons learned)

3.

Assessment is underway;

Since 1998, a project entitled "Forest Genetic Resources Conservation Project" has been launched in the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR) with the major objectives of :

- Developing a strategy/concept for the conservation of the Ethiopian forest genetic resources:
- Creating awareness among the public and the government
- Building institutional capacity;
- Establishing and maintaining a gene -bank and ex-situ stand for the conservation of threatened indigenous trees and shrubs, and
- Establishing and managing suitable in-situ Conservation sites.

Currently, the majority of the 58 Forest Priority Areas are inventorized both biologically and Socio-economically. The results of these surveys would be used to prioritize the forests for in-situ conservation efforts. The conservation of a variety of genetic information is one of the preconditions for the adaptability and therefore for the stability of forest ecosystems. However, the conservation of forest genetic resources should not be considered as an isolated task, but should not be integrated in a common approach regarding:

- The implementation of sustainable forest management;
- The conservation of forest genetic resources;
- The development of tree improvement programs; and
- The promotion of the utilization of forest reproductive material procured for reforestation and afforestation.

Considering the relationships among the number of genotypes conserved and the necessary resources of finances and personnel, priority has been given to all measures of in situ conservation for forest genetic resources wherever applicable. The reason for this is that there is only limited knowledge on genetic variation, reproductive biology and seed physiology of most indigenous species of Ethiopia. The costs of in situ conservation are low and the risks are calculable. The highest possible amount of genetic variation can be conserved compared to the other conservation methods.

5

Once the survey indicated in 3b above is accomplished, it will help to develop methodologies for enhancing integration of. sustainable forest management at the national level.

6

Traditional conservation practices in Ethiopia, such as the farm forestry practices in the central, south and southwest, tree based soil and water management practices in Konso and forest based resources management in Borena contributed to the conservation of forest genetic resources. The Gedeo people have ecologically sound land use system where fairly dense natural trees are left on the farm in which coffee, false banana (enset) and other food crops are inter-cropped. The people of Tigray, North Shoa and North Wello are practicing area closures where the regeneration of the natural vegetation is enhanced.

The tasks accomplished to promote the above generation built traditional knowledge as per the work programme of Article 8(j) is very minimal. However, the draft Environmental Impact Assessment procedural and sectoral guidelines of Ethiopia, has given due emphasis for the involvement of all stake holders including local community in the whole process as of assessment of development projects. One of the major areas of assessment is conservation, utilization and fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity resources where the forest genetic resources conservation is the major one .

7.

The project mentioned in 3b above is a joint venture between Ethiopia and the Federal Republic of Germany. The country has also links with other countries that are directly or indirectly promoting the cooperation. It is also a member of the Sub Sahara Africa Forest Genetic Resources Network (SAFORGEN).

8.

The country is a founding member of both AFORNET (African Forestry Research Network), AFREA (Association of Forestry Research Institutions in Eastern Africa) and AFRENA-ECA (Agroforestry Research Network in Eastern and Central Africa in ICRAF), etc, where relevant technical and scientific information are presented and discussed.

9.

The major cause of deforestation in Ethiopia is the rapid population growth, which leads to an increase in the demand for crop and grazing land and to an increase in the demand for wood for fuel and construction. Lack of viable land use policies and the corresponding law also aggravated the rate of deforestation. Encroachment to the forested land has enhanced the conversion of forestland into agricultural and other land use systems.

The low level living standard of the people coupled with low level of awareness and lack of alternatives are the underlying causes responsible for forest destruction.

All the underlying causes of deforestation including the low level of awareness among land-use managers, policy makers, scientists and other relevant stake holders with regard to forest genetic resources conservation is the agenda of forest related action plans, strategies, programs, etc.

Accordingly, workshops, seminars symposiums etc have been organized to raise the awareness of the above mentioned social groups with regard to forest genetic resources conservation.

12.

The issue of *Prosopis juliflora* -one of the alien spp in Ethiopia, is currently invading various ecosystems of the country including Forest Eco-system. The problem is very much appreciated and mitigation measures are suggested at different fora. For example, at the Workshop organized by the weed science Association.

13

outh-west, tree based soil and water management practices in Konso and forest based resource

The Country has developed two strategy plans:

1. **National Forestry Research Strategy Plan** The prepared strategy document contains the following major chapters:-

- Importance of and major constraints of the forestry sub-sector and the need for forestry research strategic is planning;
- Detail review on past and present research status and environments
- Analysis of gaps that constrain forestry research;
- General goals and objectives of forestry research;
- Approach to development of the forestry research strategic plan;
- Components of the strategy to bridge the identified gaps;
- Expected out puts from the strategic plan;
- Beneficiaries from the forestry research endeavor

2. **Research Strategy on the Conservation and sustainable utilization of Forest Genetic Resource in Ethiopia. Both documents have also tried to address the question raised in #13.**

The document on Research Strategies on Forest Genetic Resources of Ethiopia has contain the following principal themes:-

- Nature of Forest Genetic Resources
- Values of " " "
- Status of Tropical Forest Genetic Resources;
- Need for conservation of Forest Genetic Resources ;
- Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in Ethiopia;
- Past and on going Forest Genetic Resources Activities and Achievements;
- Gaps and constraints;
- Strategies/ Actions;
- Future Research Directions;
- Proposed Research programs and Thematic Areas;
- Research priority setting;
- Partners in /Research on Forest Getnetic Resources.

15

Preparations are underway to develop research proposals for national projects that will address the problems of fire and alien species (e.g Prosopis juliflora) in the country. These projects are hoped to be multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary with an active participation of key stakeholders, particularly the small hold-farmers.

17

A modern Flora of Ethiopia, which includes also forest biological diversity, has been under preparation. Since1980s. Currently, four out of eight envisaged volumes have been successfully published with excellent information on the tree flora of Ethiopia.