Ethiopia's economy and the wellbeing of its people is highly dependent on biodiversity, particularly for the provision of foods, fuel wood and construction materials. Furthermore, about 70% of the human population and 90% of the livestock population are dependent on herbal medicine and some 49,000 tons of medicinal plants per annum are gathered from the wild for their primary health care.

Ethiopia is one of the top 25 biodiversity-rich countries in the world. It is also among the countries in the Horn of Africa regarded as major center of diversity and endemism for several plant species.

The objective of the project is to ensure that the biodiversity of Ethiopia is better protected from current and future threats by ensuring development and investment decisions do not impact negatively on biodiversity.

UNDP’s Approach

The intervention will focus on strengthening the enabling framework for mainstreaming incentives, promoting biodiversity conservation, creating awareness and building national capacity especially through trainings.

Highlight of Project Progress

- Advocacy around pro-conservation investment is being strengthened through the preparation of a Biodiversity Public Expenditure Review (PER);
- The demarcation of the Choke Mountain as conservation site as IUCN category XI protected area has been finalised;
- Pool of resource persons for Ecosystem Service Valuation has been created for the first time in Ethiopia;
- A National Strategy and Road map for Payment for Ecosystem Services has been prepared;
- The scaling up of Diga conservation site from the current 5437 ha to 12,000 ha is in progress;
- Significant number of biodiversity (flora and fauna resources) has been restored following the freeing up of 20,000 ha of highly threatened unique ecosystems from any form of human pressure.
- Decision makers are supported with tools such as digital mapping to enhance attention towards sensitive hotspot areas;
Implementing partners
The project brings together government sectoral institutions at regional, zonal and woreda bureaus. This include:
• Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electric city
• Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority
• Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

Funding partners
• The Global Environmental Facility (GEF): USD 3,316,453
• Government in cash: USD 1,600,000
• UNDP in cash: USD 200,000
• Government co-funding: 14,200,000

Project Contacts
Wubua Mekonnen: Programme Specialist (GEF)
Wubua.mekonnen@undp.org

Abdeta Debela
Project manager
Abdeta.debela@undp.org