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Strengthening Climate Change Collaboration in Ethiopia

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Report Highlights:

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is supporting Ethiopia in meeting their national climate change goals and international commitments. In collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Forest Service works with the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MEFCC), the Ministry of Industry (MoI), and the Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), to provide climate change policy and technical support and promote collaboration across the government. USFS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Strengthening Climate Change Collaboration in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy is well respected nationally and internationally as a leading example of building economic resilience in the face of climate change. The strategy outlines responses to climate change through actions that aim for a carbon neutral economy by 2030 and bring middle-income status to the country by 2025. At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties in Paris in December 2015, Ethiopia confirmed these commitments in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to global greenhouse gas emissions reductions, consistent with their CRGE.

The U.S. Forest Service is supporting Ethiopia in meeting their national climate change goals and international commitments. In collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Forest Service works with three of Ethiopia's ministries – the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MEFCC), the Ministry of Industry (MoI), and the Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), to provide climate change policy and technical support and promote collaboration across the government. This program currently funds three climate change advisors to help the government integrate climate change into the development plans of their forestry, transportation, and industry sectors.

The advisors support the ministries on preparation and review of policies relevant to technical implementation and resource mobilization for CRGE. For example, in partnership with the U.S. State Department and MEFCC, the U.S. Forest Service advisors are playing a leadership role in Ethiopia's National Adaptation Program (NAP) development, providing substantial input by participating in stakeholder support meetings, drafting documents, incorporating feedback and review into draft NAP documents, and leading NAP refinement. As part of this technical assistance, the advisors are providing substantial input to revise and renew the Environmental Policy of Ethiopia. The policy has not been updated in almost 20 years, and the new policy will ensure alignment with the CRGE and help Ethiopia achieve the emissions reduction targets outlined in their INDC.

In addition to policy support, the advisors also provide technical support to the ministries through planning and implementation of CRGE-tailored trainings and workshops. Recently, the U.S. Forest Service partnered with MEFCC to organize and implement a public engagement workshop in June 2016 on best practices for effective stakeholder engagement and collaboration within the ministries to further CRGE implementation. In addition, to assess the overall efficacy of the CRGE strategy at reducing greenhouse gases, the advisors are currently working on implementing an effective Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification system (MRV) to provide a baseline data set and build capacity for ongoing monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions.

By continuing to strengthen collaboration and support for Ethiopia's climate change efforts, the U.S. Forest Service advisors are supporting the country's significant efforts while contributing to global climate change mitigation and resilience.



Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change joins participants of the Public Participation Workshop held in Addis Ababa from June 27 – July 2, 2016