

Proposal

Project proposal on natural resource conservation in Mt. Damota area

Ashebir Borena

Wolaitta Development Association Wolaitta Soddo, Wolaita, Woreda – Damot Woyde, Ethiopia. E-mail: wda@ethionet.et. Tel: (251) (6) 51-21-88 (251) (06) 512474. Fax - 251 –06 – 510037.

Accepted 8 March 2008

The general objective of this project is to maintain ecological balance on Mount Damota and its surroundings. There are, of course, a number of specific objectives behind proposing this project. Some of them that deserve paramount importance are bringing attitudinal change among farmers on natural conservation, reducing deforestation and wildlife extinction, reducing soil erosion and augmenting the daily income of the farmers around the mountain. The overall financial input of this project is 1,451,440 Eth. Birr. It is already planned that the project is going to start on May 2005 and end on April 2007. The main activities of the project are conducting training and workshops for farmers to raise their awareness, raising seedling in three nursery sites, planting the seedling on primarily targeted area that is, Mt. Damota, provision of farm implements to farmers, distributing fruit seedlings to the farmers who are living surrounding the mountain and carrying out conservation activities on farmers farmland. The direct beneficiaries of the project are farmers settled around Mt. Damota. 5000 households are the direct targets of the project. The outputs of this project are 2 workshop conducted, 5 trainings launched, various agricultural implements provided to farmers, 1,575,000 seedlings raised, 125,000 fruit seedlings purchased, 1,575,000 seedlings planted on Mt. Damota and 125,000 fruit seedling distributed to the farmers.

Profile of WODA

Wolaitta Development Association (WODA) is one of the indigenous organizations in Ethiopia. The association has legal license and agreement documents. The association was established in organized form in 2001. Improving the standard of living of Wolaitta people is the major goal it stood for. Since its establishment Wolaitta Development Association (WODA) has carried out several activities in agriculture, education, health, capacity building and other sectors. The following are major past achievements.

Agriculture: The activities executed / done are:

- Assessment of 13,725ha of land for resettlement.
- 878 settlers are provided with oxen.
- 1 veterinary post was constructed.
- 60 youngsters in fishery cooperatives in Lake Abaya were given start up capital.
- 32,125 seedlings were planted in Mt. Damota.

Education

- 4 primary schools were constructed in Doge Laroso,

- 5000 vegetable seedlings distributed for farmers.
- Bakulo 260 cattle were distributed for disabled persons.
- Sagno, Ome Bolola and shola Kodo.
- 1 modern public library was constructed in Sodo Town.
- 8 primary schools and 2 secondary school expansions were carried out in Boditi, Humbo Tabala.
- Kindo Halale, Edo Duguna, Kuto Sorpela, Obe Jage, Gurumo Asse, Soddo, Yukara and Suke bakala.
- 2 primary schools in Harto Burkito and Areka were maintained.
- 3 teachers residences were constructed in Harto Burkito, Anka Wocha and Abela Gafata areas.
- 2 schools were provided with furniture.
- 535 orphans and poor children are supported in schooling.
- 151 students were awarded for their good results in national and college exams.
- 84 students are being taught in colleges who were sponsored by WODA.
- 8 secondary schools were provided with reference books.
- 22 street children were trained in different technical and

vocational skills and given seed money.

Health

- 5 health posts were constructed in Mundena, Afama Mino, Fango Boloso, Zarada and Bilate Eta.
- 1 health post was maintained in Abaya Chokare.
- 40 home-based care givers were trained to prevent and control HIV/AIDS.
- 12 anti-AIDS clubs were established.
- 68 radio programs were transmitted on HIV/AIDS prevention and HTP education.
- 20 community based education programs on HIV/AIDS launched at market places and schools.
- 90 peoples living with HIV/AIDS were supported.
- 80 HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children were supported.
- 2 community sensitization workshops on HIV/AIDS prevention and control were launched.
- 153 peer educators were trained to handle the activities of HIV/AIDS prevention and control in 153 kebeles.
- 38 commercial sex workers were trained in peer education.
- 50 community conversation facilitators on HIV/AIDS were trained.
- Community conversation launched in 13 kebeles.
- 5 target health personnel were trained in health service.
- Medical equipment and furniture were provided for five health posts.

Capacity building

- 1 recreation center near Lake Abaya is being established.
- 1 youth empowerment project is launched that has youth recreation center, provides revolving fund on petty trading, sport materials and so on
- 1 woodwork and metal work workshop is maintained.
- 15 poor households are provided with housing.
- 294 grass root level associations were formed.
- 15 branch offices of WODA were organized.
- More than 200,000 WODA members were organized.
- One bazaar was launched.
- 7 community mobilization workshops were conducted.

Water

- 1 bore hole drilled in Bilate Eta
- 1 water supply project completed in Mundena

Background and justification

Wolaitta zone is located in southern regional state. The zone has a total population of more than 2.2 million with land area of 4383.7 km². The zone is composed of seven

districts such as Boloso Sore, Offa, Damot Woyde, Damot Gale, Kindo Koysha, Humbo and Soddo Zuriya. According to regional office of population and MEDAC this zone is one of the poorest zones in Ethiopia with per capita income of 729.7 Birr or 85 USD. Out of total population of the zone 46% is child while 52 and 2% are adult and old respectively. From the whole population of the zone 92% live in rural areas engaged in agricultural activities, which is the dominant activity. This area is recurrently hit by food insecurity mainly because of population pressure, environmental degradation, erratic nature of rainfall; land shortage, backward agricultural technology (lack of modern agricultural implements and input) and so on.

Most people usually define the term natural vegetation as a mere collection of trees found together. However, it is an absolute part of biosphere where trees, wild life varieties and water sources are found. On top of this, the existence of mankind and other animals entirely depends on it. No one can deny this universal fact.

In past, Wolaitta as a whole was with suitable climatic condition. Its climate changed from time to time due to the inhabitants' merciless destruction of plants on the area. Because of this nowadays, low and unusual delay of rain is the frequently occurring event of Wolaitta. Mt. Damota area is found in wolaitta Zone between Damot Gale, Boloso Sore, and Soddo Zuria Woredas. The area with its surroundings is composed of more than 15 PAs with estimated total population of more than 75, 000. The agroecology of Damot area is mostly "Dega". There are many types of vegetation that are typical to high land climate. Mt. Damota is a source of many streams flowing to different woredas in radial pattern namely: Hamessa, Waja, Bisare, Gazina and other rivers. It can be referred to as roof of Wolaitta (a water tower of Wolaitta) since it has many streams originating from it and its significant influence on the climate of several Kebele administrations surrounding it. It has also the highest peak in Wolaitta with altitude reaching 3000M asl.

The nearby areas of this mountain are characterized by high population density. Some decades ago the area was known for its thick vegetation cover and variety of wild animals living with in it. Damota was unsettled by man, untouched and served as beautiful scenery for the whole Wolaitta. However, nowadays this all has become history and an overall degradation is a prevailing phenomenon there. This is due to several reasons. According to the study made by agricultural office the major causes of deforestation are expansion of farmland, engagement of the farmers in charcoal and fuel wood production, fuel-wood shortage, utilization of wood for house construction and grazing of the land by cattle. Of all, the major one is high density of population in surrounding PAs, which has compelled the farmers to encroach the area for farmland. To do farming farmers deforest existing vegetation on hillside, which in turn leads to soil erosion as the hills are exposed of their original cover. Presently the farmland expansion is so enormous that near to the top of moun-

tain one can find human settlements and even on the steep sides of mountain there are many households who are engaged in cultivation for agriculture. People get firewood from this natural forest. As agricultural production decreases and food shortage occurs the surrounding dwellers are forced to collect wood from the mountain to sell, purchase food and sustain life. Besides, the livestock of farmers graze on the mountain, as there is no grazing area in nearby areas. The farmer households also cut the trees for constructing houses and they use it for making household furniture. Nowadays there is serious deforestation in most parts of Wolaitta that has caused fuel shortage. So the farmers in the nearby areas have no choice except going to mount Damota to cut trees for fuel wood. As a result of all these factors land degradation, wild life extinction, over grazing and shortage of fodder for livestock have occurred. These in turn have led to soil degradation, low agricultural productivity, food shortage and change in agro ecology of surrounding areas. In addition, many springs those have headwater from Damota dry and decrease in volume during dry season.

Generally ecological degradation on Mt.Damota area not only affected nearby residents but also has adverse influence on the climate of surrounding woredas. The future fate of Wolaitta highly depends on preservation of natural vegetation on Mt Damota because as mentioned above the mountain is the source of many rivers, springs and various biodiversity .So, to make Mt. Damota and its surroundings suitable environment for human being and wildlife there must be an afforestation and natural preservation program. If not, the condition of this food insecure and drought prone area will unquestionably go bad. At the same time if people pay great attention to it, the dried streams and trees, the disappeared wild life and the deforested mountain will be rehabilitated in the near future. Therefore, tackling the problem is an issue of top priority.

Project objectives

Long-term objective

To maintain ecological balance in mount Damota areas.

Short term objectives

- To bring attitudinal change on natural resource conservation culture in the area.
- Reducing deforestation and wildlife extinction.
- Reducing soil erosion.
- Augmenting the daily income of the farmers around the mountain.

Project strategies

Community participation

The community shall identify the problem, point out the

Solution and implement the activity. They shall also monitor the activity and finally it is also the community who will take over the activity. The community will be mobilized in the reforestation program and by doing so they will internalize conservation practices.

Forming conservation clubs

The conservation club will be formed at Soddo town, nearby kebeles and schools mainly composed of youth & students. These will be initiated to carry out planting seedling on the mountain.

Collaboration of different offices

The office of Agriculture (rural development), of finance and economic development of woreda and zone, zonal and woreda councils as well as Pas administrations are expected to collaborate during the project cycle management.

Project description

This project is located in Wolaita zone on mount Damota and nearby areas of it .The direct beneficiaries of this project are those farmers surrounding Mt. Damota (5000 households). The indirect beneficiaries of the project are whole people in surrounding woredas of Mt. Damota. Total fund allocated for this project is Et.Birr 1,451,440 and the duration of the project is from May 2005 – April 2007

Project activities and targets

The major activities to be carried out under this project are:

Conducting training and workshops

Here two workshops will be launched for Zonal, Woreda and kebele influential persons and representatives to mobilize community. This will raise the awareness of community on causes and consequences of environmental degradation and initiate the community to involve in afforestation and natural resource conservation activities. Training will also be given for farmers in the nearby kebeles of the mountain. The major purpose of training is to familiarize farmers with indigenous and modern conservation practices. These farmers will have enough knowledge on conservation and will carry out it in their own farms.

Afforestation of Mt. Damota

Under this activity there are three major activities such as seedling raising in nursery sites, digging micro basins and

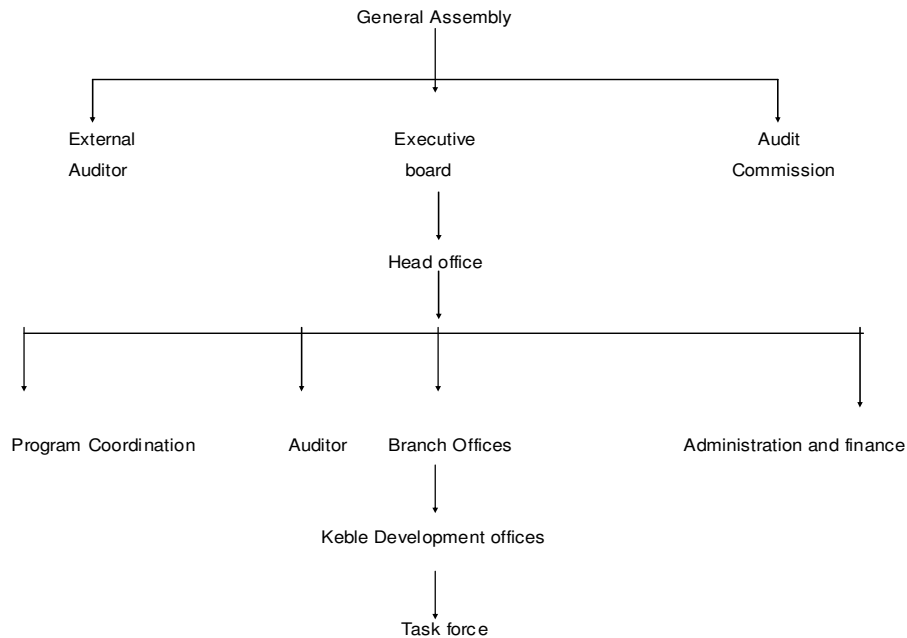


Figure 1. The simple Organogram

planting seedlings in the mountain. Seedlings will be raised in different government nurseries. The micro basins will be dug by the community for grain provision. Some of the seedlings will be planted by free labor of community and conservation clubs from SoddoTown (especially schools) and nearby schools on Mt. Damota. The remaining seedlings will be planted through grain provision. The fruit seedlings will be purchased and distributed to farmers so that they can generate income.

Carrying out soil conservation activities on farmers farm

In this activity the communities will carryout soil conservation activities on their own farm and around Mt.Damota. Here they will apply the training given to them during the first activity. The conservation practices to carry out are fanyaaju, soil bund and bench terrace construction.

Provision of agricultural implements

The beneficiary farmers will be provided with agricultural implements to undergo soil conservation works in their own farm.

Financial input

The total financial input of this project is Eth Birr 1,451,440. (Table 3a and b)

Organization and management

WODA has its own structure of organization through

which the association carries out different activities. WODA has the responsibilities of implementing, monitoring, supervising and evaluating the project. It shall implement the project through its staff and project expert to be employed. Monitoring will be carried out on regular basis through project expert. Zonal Administration and office of Rural Development have responsibilities of mobilizing community, providing technical support, monitoring and evaluating the project. Finance and economic development department shall involve in providing technical support, monitoring and evaluating the project. The community shall involve from planning to hand over the project .It shall carry out some activities by contri-buting labour for planting seedlings. The conservation committee will take over the project and handle it to ensure sustainability. The funding agency shall monitor, evaluate and receive the financial and physical accomplishment report. Figure 1 shows the organogram of WODA.

Expected output

The long term output

The ecological balance of Mt. Damota area maintained, natural resource conserved and living condition of nearby community improved.

Short term out puts

- 1 Workshop conducted on community mobilization.
- 5 trainings launched for farmers.
- 1,575,000 seedlings raised on three nursery sites of

Table 1. Project planning matrix (PPM).

		MOV	Assumption
Goal Maintained ecological balance of the area of Mount Damot			
Purpose Attitudinal change on soil conservation culture in the area brought Deforestation and wildlife extinction, reduced soil erosion reduced The daily income of the farmers around the mountain increased	By 2007 Farmers attitude towards conservation changed from low to high Deforestation rate in Mt. Damota and its foot hills decreased by half Wild life extinction decreased by half Soil erosion rate on Mt. Damot and its foothill reduced by 50% Nearby farmers' income level increased by 10%	Baseline survey, reports of WODA, reports of rural development and reports of finance and economic development department	Collaboration from stakeholders continues. The government policy on natural resource conservation continues There is no long dry season. Donations are available.
Results Community awarness creation forums conducted Community participation on conservation activity increased Seedlings raised in different nurseries Seedlings planted on Mt Damota Fruit seedlings distributed to farmers Different agricultural implements provided to farmers Different types of soil erosion prevention measures carried out	1 Workshop conducted on community mobilization. 5 trainings launched for farmers. 1,575,000 seedlings raised on three nursery sites 125,000 seedlings raised on school nurseries 1,575,000 seedlings planted on mount Damota 125,000 fruit seedlings distributed to the community 200Km bench terrace constructed 200Km fanyaaaju constructed 50Km soil bund constructed	Baseline survey, reports of WODA, reports of rural development and reports of finance and economic development department	Collaboration from stakeholders continues. Donations are available.

Table 2a. Activity breakdown.

No	Activity	Unit	Total	For Year 1	For Year 2	Year 1 plan by quarter				Remark
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	Conducting workshop	No of w/shops	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	
2	Undertaking training	No of training	5	5	-	-	5	-	-	
3	Afforestation									
	3.1 Purchasing seed	Kg	1000	500	500	-	500	-	-	
	3.2 Purchasing polythene tube	Kg	2000	1000	1000	-	1000	-	-	

Table 2a. Contd

	3.3 Raising seedling									
	3.3.1 In RD nursery sites	No of seedling	1,575,000	787,500	787,500	-	-	787,500	-	
	3.3.2 purchasing seedling	"	125,000	50,000	75,000	-	-	50,000	-	
	3.4 Digging micro basin	No	1,575,000	787,500	787,500	-	-	787,500	-	
	3.5 Planting seedling on Mt. Damota	No	1,575,000	787,500	787,500	-	-	787,500	-	
	3.6 Distributing fruit seedling to community	No of seedlings	125,000	50,000	75,000	-	-	50,000	-	
4	Carrying out soil conservation activity									
	4.1 bench terrace	KM	200	100	100	-	-	50	50	
	4.2 Fanyajuu	KM	200	100	100	-	-	50	50	
	4.3 Soil bund	KM	50	25	25	-	-	12	13	
5	Provision of agricultural implements	No of tools	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	x	-	
6	Forming conservation clubs	No. of clubs	5	5	-	-	5	-	-	
7	Monitoring & Evaluation									
	Follow up & supervision		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Review Meeting	No.	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	
8	Rewarding best performances	No. of persons	40	20	20	-	-	-	20	

Table 2b. Physical plan of year 2

No	Activity	Unit	Total	For Year 2	Year 2 plan by quarter				Remark
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	Conducting workshop	No of workshop	2	1	-	1	-	-	
2	Undertaking training	No of training	5	-	-	-	-	-	
3	Afforestation								
	3.1 Purchasing seed	Kg	1000	500	-	500	-	-	
	3.2 Purchasing polythene tube	Kg	2000	1000	-	1000	-	-	
	3.3 Raising seedling								
	3.3.1. In RD nursery sites	No of seedling	1,575,000	787,500	-	x	x	-	
	3.3.2. Purchasing seedling	"	125,000	75,000	-	-	75,000	-	
	3.4 Digging micro basin	No	1,575,000	787,500	-	-	787,500	-	
	3.5 Planting seedling on Mt. Damota	No	1,575,000	787,500	-	-	787,500	-	
	3.6 Distributing fruit seedling to community	No of seedlings	125,000	75,000	-	-	75,000	-	
4	Carrying out soil conservation activity								
	4.1 bench terrace	KM	200	100	-	-	50	50	
	4.2 Fanyajuu	KM	200	100	-	-	50	50	

Table 2b. Contd

	4.3 Soil bund	KM	50	25	-	-	12	13	
5	Provision of agricultural implements	No of tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6	Supporting conservation clubs	No. of clubs	5	-	-	5	-	-	
7	Monitoring & Evaluation Follow up & supervision Review Meeting	No.	x 2	x 1	x -	x -	x -	x 1	
8	Rewarding best performances	No. of persons	40	20	-	-	-	20	

Table 3a. Financial plan for year 1.

No	Activity	Unit	Total budget	For year1	Year 1 budget by quarter				Remark
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	Conducting workshop		150,000	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	
2	Under taking training	Birr	75,000	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	
3	Afforestation								
3.1	Purchasing of seed.	Birr	150,000	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	For grain For grain and transport
3.2	Purchasing of polyethyne tube	Birr	40,000	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	
3.3	Raising seedling and care for seedling	Birr	50,000	25,000	-	12,500	12,500	-	
3.4	Digging micro basin	Birr	250,000	125,000	-	-	125,000	-	
3.5	Planting seedling on Mt. Damot	Birr	130,000	65,000	-	-	65,000	-	
3.6	Purchase and distribution of fruit seedlings for community	Birr	260,000	104,000	-	-	104,000	-	
4	Carry out soil conservation Activities -Bench terrace -Fanyaaju -Soil bund		-	-	-	-	-	-	Community Contribution
5	Provision of Agricultural implements	Birr	150,000	150,000	-	-	150,000	-	
6	Supporting conservation club.	"	20,000	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	
7	Monitoring &Evaluation	"							
	7.1 Purchase of Motor bike	"	34,000	34,000	-	34,000	-	-	
	7.2 Salary & benefit for expert.	"	36,000	18,000	4500	4500	4500	4500	
	7.3 Follow up & Supervision	"	40,000	20,000	5000	5000	5000	5000	
	7.4.Review meeting	"	10,000	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	
8	Administrative expense	"	56,440	30,730	-	13,555	-	17,175	
	Grand Total	"	1,451,440	831,730	9500	324,555	466,000	31,675	

Table 3b. Year 2 financial plan.

No	Activity	Unit	For year2	Year 2 budget by quarter				Remark
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	Conducting workshop	Birr	75,000	75,000				
2	Under taking training	Birr	-	-	-	-	-	
3	Afforestation							
3.1.	Purchasing of seed.	Birr	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	
3.2	Purchasing of polyester tube	Birr	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	
3.3	Raising seedling and care for seeding	Birr	25,000	-	12,500	12,500	-	
3.4	Digging micro basin	Birr	125,000	-	-	125,000	-	For grain
3.5.	Planting seeding on Mt. Damot	Birr	65,000	-	-	65,000	-	For grain and transport
3.6.	Purchase and distribution of fruit seedlings for community	Birr	156,000	-	-	156,000	-	
4	Carry out soil conservation Activities -Bench terrace -Fanyaaju -Soil bund	-	-	-	-	-	-	Community Contribution
5	Provision of Agricultural implements	Birr	-	-	-	-	-	
6	Supporting conservation clubs	"	10,000	-	10,000	-		
7	Monitoring &Evaluation	"						
	7.1 Purchase of Motor bike	"	-	-	-	-	-	
	7.2 Salary &benefit for expert.	"	18,000	4500	4500	4500	4500	
	7.3 Follow up & Supervision	"	20,000	5000	5000	5000	5000	
	7.4 Review Meeting	"	5000	-	-	-	5000	
8	Administrative expense	"	25,710	10,110	-	15,600	-	
	Grand Total	"	619,710	94,610	127,000	383,600	14,500	

Table 4. Manpower information of WODA is listed as follows.

R.No	Position	Level of education	Quantity	Remark
1	General manager	MA	1	
2	Project officer	B ED	1	
3	Health expert	Diploma	1	
4	Agriculture expert	Diploma	1	
5	Community mobilization and promotion expert	BA	1	
6	Administration and finance Officer	BA	1	
7	Engineer	Advanced Diploma	1	
8	Auditor	Diploma	1	
9	Accountant	Diploma	1	
10	Cashier	Diploma	1	
11	Secretary	Certificate	1	
12	Income Collectors	Certificate	13	
13	Driver	3rd driving license	1	
14	Guards	12 complete	3	One is certificate holder
15	Janitor	12 complete	1	
16	Archivist	11 grade	1	
17	Store man	11 grade	1	

RD.

- 25,000 seedlings purchased.
- 1,575,000 seedlings planted on mount Damota.
- 125,000 fruit seedlings distributed to the community.
- Different conservation activity carried out on the farmers' farm.
- Farm implements provided to farmers.

Kebele development committee, kebele administration committee and village level development actors who were established are to take over responsibility of different tasks. The phase out shall take place when the community and stakeholders are empowered and capable to handle the project.

Phase out strategies and sustainability

The issue of sustainability is a central point in the whole-proposed activities. The project has designed strategies for activities to implement through its relevant stake holders to sustain the implemented activities. The user community and local government will fully participate in planning, implementation, supervisory and evaluation of activities. During the project duration, to sustain the implemented activities the project will empower the local community and relevant government bodies through provision of awareness raising workshops and skill development training.