

Ethiopia

Soddo Reforestation Project

Setting the scene

Ethiopia is one of the poorest nations in the world with a per capita GDP of just US\$177 per annum. Its agricultural sector, which provides livelihoods for over 90 percent of the population, has been crippled by environmental degradation. The overexploitation of forest resources has left less than three percent of Ethiopia's native forests remaining. Severe erosion reduces the capacity of the land to absorb water, and has resulted in increasingly severe cycles of drought and flood.

Pilot location

The pilot project extends over 503 hectares in the highlands of Mount Damota, north of the township of Soddo, which is located 330 kilometres south of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Mount Damota is less than 20 kilometres northwest of where World Vision is implementing the Humbo pilot project, Africa's first large-scale Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) forestry project.

Like Humbo, this area was highly degraded by overexploitation of forest resources, leaving its steep hills exposed to severe soil erosion and drought.

Pilot overview

The pilot project sought to re-establish 503 hectares of bio-diverse native forest and other selected species, to mitigate climate change, and support income and employment generation through community-managed natural regeneration. In addition, the sale of Voluntary Emission Reductions (VERs), and other forest and non-forest benefits, would contribute to sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty in the region.



Seedlings at the community nursery

The project is now in the final stages of accreditation jointly with the Carbonfix Standard (CFS) and the Climate Community & Biodiversity Alliance. Under CFS, the emission reduction units can be pre-sold after initial certification, providing communities with the financial resources to manage the project over its term. Issue of credits is expected in June 2012.



The foothills of Mt Damota, Ethiopia

Key benefits of the project include:

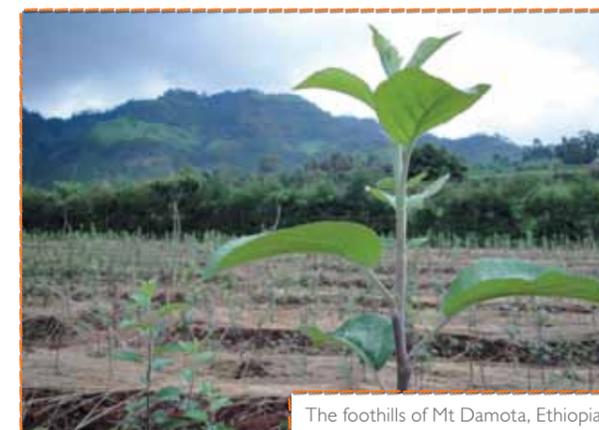
- mitigating climate change through the sequestration of carbon (an estimated 182,021 tCO₂e);
- alleviating regional poverty by providing:
 - a) increased production of wood and tree products, including honey, medicine, fibre, fruit and wildlife that contribute to household economies;
 - b) improved land management, which has stimulated grass growth, providing fodder for livestock or to be cut and sold as an additional source of income;



Community participation

A community-led carbon project in the voluntary market, with social benefits

- using Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) methodology to regrow vegetation from existing stumps and root stock. This process provides faster, more sustainable growth at a fraction of the cost of replanting trees from nursery stock;
- restoration of 503 hectares of degraded native forests with indigenous and selected non-indigenous bio-diverse species;



The foothills of Mt Damota, Ethiopia



Soddo



Pilot location: Soddo Region, Ethiopia

Pilot area: 503 hectares

Target population: >50,000

Community Cooperative Body: 1,200 members

Pilot project partners:

- Five village community cooperatives
- Government of Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Environment Protection Agency
- World Vision Australia
- World Vision Ethiopia
- Forest Finance

Climate change mitigation:

- Reforestation
- Carbon sequestration/trading

Climate change adaption:

- Flood prevention/control
- Soil erosion control
- Protecting water resources
- Natural resource management
- Food security

Project status:

Mature. Undergoing verification through CarbonFix and Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards. Issuance of VERs estimated June 2012.

Next phase: Scale up

The Soddo pilot project will establish and protect over 1.2 million trees and sequester and store an estimated 182,021 tonnes of CO₂e.