





A MANUAL FOR THE PREPARATION OF WOREDA AND LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Developed by experts in the
Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia,
and translated from Amharic
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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	203
Strategic objectives	204
Implementation strategies	204
WHY PLANS DRAWN UP BY WOREDAS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE NEEDED	205
Definitions	206
THE PREPARATION OF A LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	207
Planning stages.....	208
Preparation of the local community plan.....	209
Implementation of the local community plan	213
DRAFT BYLAW FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	215
Introduction	215
Name of our Association	215
The geographical limits of the Association	216
The objectives of the Association	216
Raising soil fertility	217
Restricting domestic animal movement.....	217
Fodder production	218
Meeting the needs for wood for fuel, construction and other purposes	218
The management and use of water.....	219
Rehabilitating gullies and preventing gully formation.....	219
The care and development of slopes	220
Qualification requirements for membership of our Association.....	220
Causes for expulsion from the Association	221
The organizational structure of the Association and its General Assembly.....	221
Composition and responsibilities of the Executive Committee.....	222
Appointing a third party of evaluators.....	223
Offence and penalty	223
Date of coming into force of the bylaws	224
Names and signatures of all members	224
ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS.....	225
The Environmental Protection Authority	225
Regional environmental protection office.....	226

Zonal (sub-regional) administration	226
Woreda administration	227
Kebele administration	227
CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PILOT WOREDAS FOR DEVELOPING WOREDA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS	228

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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EDITORIAL NOTES

What is written in this chapter about Ethiopia also applies to nearly all other countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa.

'Woreda' is the lowest level of official administration in Ethiopia. It is approximately equivalent to a district in other countries. Below the woreda are 'kebeles', approximately equivalent to parishes, with between 150 and 300 households. Local communities are neighbourhood groups of usually around 40 households occupying one integrated area where their homesteads, cultivated fields, water resources and other natural resources are found.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental resources provide the goods and services needed for combating poverty and for economic growth. Therefore, they are the basis for social and economic development. However, owing to mismanagement and inappropriate utilization, their current contribution to Ethiopia's overall development is not as large as it could have been.

In addition to hindering development projects by reducing raw material availability, the problems with the management and use of environmental resources increase risks to diseases, floods, drought and desertification. When environmental resources are not properly managed, they deteriorate; and when access to their utilization is unjust, at least some of the members of the rural communities that depend on them become impoverished. When both equity and appropriate management are lacking, poverty becomes widespread and the rural people turn into environmentally unsustainable exploiters and refugees. If the process is not reversed through the speedy institution of equity and appropriate management, the problem can spiral out of control and engulf the whole country in crisis.

Environmental degradation thus reduces both personal and societal economic well-being. The environmental resources then get mined out. The land's capacity to provide biomass for feed and fuel drops. The hydrological cycle gets disrupted. Soil fertility reduces. Climate changes. Both the local ecosystem and the local community become unstable and attempts to reduce poverty and bring about development become ineffective. For these reasons, reversing environmental degradation and eradicating poverty are mutually supportive. Therefore, they both need to be jointly undertaken in Ethiopia's attempts to develop. Ethiopia's national economic development programmes, national environmental management systems and international environmental obligations must thus be harmonized in implementation for a self-magnifying synergistic impact.

This means that Ethiopia has to do all that it can to develop socially and economically by sustainably using its existing natural and man-made as well as

cultural resources so as to improve the well-being of its citizens without reducing the opportunities of its future generations to maintain their well-being.

That is why Ethiopia's vision states: "To see Ethiopia become a country where democratic rule, good-governance and social justice reigns, upon the involvement and free will of its peoples; and once extricating itself from poverty becomes a middle-income economy".

Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives of environmental management for sustainable development are thus to:

- ✓ Ensure gender equality and motivate local community initiatives to strengthen environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources so as to improve life for each and all;
- ✓ Rehabilitate degraded ecosystems to their original productive capacity especially in food, feed and biomass for fuel and for maintaining biodiversity;
- ✓ Increase the ability of the environment for the sustainable availability of raw materials and services for development;
- ✓ Eliminate the harm to health that comes from urban waste;
- ✓ Protect the environment from chemical pollution; and
- ✓ Ensure that the dictates of environmental well-being and the observance of human values including equity, especially gender equality, are incorporated in all the processes of economic development.

Implementation strategies

In order to use environmental resources while ensuring equity, gender equality and people's participation, the implementation strategies are to:

- ✓ Foster the participation of all stakeholders in the management and use of environmental resources;

- ✓ Apply techniques that improve the management of natural resources and the efficiency of their sustainable use;
- ✓ Establish, to this effect, systems for dissemination of environmental information;
- ✓ Generate support and carry out activities needed to remove impediments to the preparation and implementation of plans for environmental management for sustainable development by the rural local communities themselves;
- ✓ Improve capacity on a continuing basis starting with what is already existing in the organized local communities and incrementally adding what becomes needed as time goes on; and
- ✓ Develop and implement to this effect awareness raising and information dissemination programmes for improving capacity for the management and sustainable use of environmental resources by all sectors of society.

WHY PLANS DRAWN UP BY WOREDAS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE NEEDED

The full participation in, and the ownership of, the processes for the preparation and implementation plans for environmental resources management for sustainable development by all the members of local communities ensure the inclusion of everybody concerned at all levels of decision taking.

The lowest unit of government administration is the woreda (district). Therefore, the harmonization of economic and social development initiatives with the management and maximization of the sustainable use of environmental resources can best be effected at this level. This is because the complete participation of the population in the process is easiest to achieve at the local community level. Therefore, it makes sense to synthesize even the woreda level plans for environmental management for sustainable development out of its constituent local community level plans.

The respective woreda and local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development should internalize the objective conditions of the local environmental resources and undertake to improve them through the use of the knowledge, skills and labour of the local communities, realistically augmented by additional scientific knowledge and skills new to them. To this effect, all stakeholders should participate in the preparation and implementation of the respective plans for environmental management for sustainable development.

The plans for environmental management for sustainable development can thus effectively implement the land and biodiversity provisions of the Ethiopian Environmental Policy and the environmental conventions to which Ethiopia is a party (the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change etc.)

Effective environmental management for sustainable development plans can then combat Ethiopia's problem of environmental resources degradation and contribute by 2015 to the reduction by half of Ethiopians that suffer from extreme poverty, as required by the first of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. It is towards this end that one of the aims of the Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia is the development and implementation of plans for environmental management for sustainable development by 125 woredas of the country over the next two years, i.e. from 2009 to 2010.

The local communities in these woredas will be helped to strengthen their respective environmental management institutions and thus also their respective capacities to generate wealth and save money, to identify and solve their environmental problems and to use their environmental resources as new sources of income while at the same time reducing their vulnerability to human impacts.

Definitions

In this document, the following terms will have the meanings respectively specified:

Local community means the farming families who live in a village or in neighbouring villages in a specified kebele and have agreed to jointly manage, protect and use their natural resources so as to jointly combat land degradation and droughts as well as floods through coordinating their respective activities and thus care for their whole ecosystem.

Sustainable development means achieving through mutual cooperation and gender equity and equality economic improvement for equity and self-sufficiency of each local community member without endangering the environmental well-being for, and economic opportunities of, future generations.

Local community environmental management for sustainable development means the participatory discussion by the members of the local community to clearly define and carry out through jointly providing the required financial resources, implements and labour for the activities aimed at achieving a development that will continue uninterrupted into the future.

THE PREPARATION OF A LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The plan for environmental management for sustainable development of a woreda is derived from the compilation into a single plan of the constituent local community plans. The woreda level compilation is then implemented by the woreda administration and the respective local communities with the support of other stakeholders as and when available and required.

Planning stages

Step 1: Choosing woredas

Regional (federal administrative units) environmental protection offices use their respective criteria to identify the woredas that should be given the highest priority for support to develop and implement their plans for environmental management for sustainable development. The Environmental Protection Authority has preliminarily identified criteria (see below) to help the regional environmental protection offices in defining their respective criteria.

Step 2: Determination of the vision for the environmental management for sustainable development of a selected woreda

Based on Ethiopia's development vision and on an evaluation of the objective realities of the environment and development situation of the constituent local communities, a woreda administration with the participation of its local communities and available stakeholders puts into words the woreda's vision of environmental management for sustainable development.

Step 3: Determination of the woreda objectives for environmental management for sustainable development

The woreda objectives for environmental management for sustainable development are also articulated through the participation of the constituent local communities as well as available stakeholders taking into account the condition of the existing natural resources and the social, economic and ecological dimensions of the constituent local communities.

Step 4: The preparation and implementation of local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development

Because it has to be the local community's instrument for enabling the rural people themselves to bring about their own development, the plan for

environmental management for sustainable development of each local community has not only to be implemented but also to be developed by the respective local community through the full participation and ownership of all its members.

The local community through the full participation of its membership thus enunciates the targets it wants to reach. It then specifies the sources and quantities of the financial and other resources, implements and labour required to reach each of the targets.

Finally, it determines what is to be done when and by whom, and this produces the local community's plan for environmental management for sustainable development, which the local community implements.

Preparation of the local community plan

Selecting local communities

Through the participation of all the kebele farmers' associations, the woreda administration works to mobilize all the local communities (villages) in each kebele together, in groups or individually, as they see fit, to prepare their respective plans for environmental management for sustainable development. To this effect, the woreda administration assigns the work of mobilization to agricultural extension agents or to other experts, as it sees appropriate.

The initial local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development prepared in a woreda will obviously be used by the woreda for learning how the process of planning and implementation is best promoted. The first local communities that will prepare their plans should thus be selected with care for their appropriateness in providing experience that is likely to be valuable throughout, or at least through large parts of, the woreda in both the planning and implementation phases.

Awareness building

Both the members of a local community and all stakeholders need to know about the need for and the specifics of the planning process. They must thus also know the nature of the current environmental resources management within the area occupied by the local community and the objective of the planning process that is to be initiated. It is only then that they can all come to an agreement on what is to be done and how best to do it.

Information gathering

Gathering information on the local environment and discussing it to reach a common appreciation of its condition is a necessary first step. The local community then discusses the causes of the problems that it identifies, and evaluates the strengths and weaknesses both in itself and in the environment so as to be able to decide how to solve those problems and to rehabilitate the environment effectively.

In this way, the local community evaluates the environmental resources that are available, their adequacy to meet the future needs for its development, and the handicaps that it has in obtaining the needed resources. This information can lead it to the action required for effective environmental management and the improvement of human well-being.

Putting the local community vision into words

The local community thus becomes able to put into words its vision for environmental management for sustainable development based on its agreed analysis of the present condition of its environmental resources and an appreciation of what it realistically wants them to become.

Determining the objectives of the local community

The objectives determined by the local community are meant to show the work that must be done to bring about the content expressed in the vision for environmental management for sustainable development that has been put into words. These objectives will help generate a consensus on the strategic action that must be taken jointly by the local community and individually by its members to solve the identified problems. It will then become possible for the local community to agree on the time lines when the specific activities have to be carried out.

Setting the local community targets

After the objectives have been determined, the targets that have to be aimed at so as to achieve each objective are set. These targets must be specific enough to clearly show the action that must be taken to achieve them and the time, labour and resources that will be required. The outcomes must be measurable or at least capable of being described. The targets set will help assign responsibilities to specified local community members, and the measurement and description of the outcomes will enable the evaluation of achievements. Because their implementation requires the commitment of each individual that is to be involved, their specification has also to be made through a clear and exhaustive discussion that involves all of those who will implement them.

Specifying activities and apportioning responsibilities

Each of the activities to be carried out must be specified to show the problem that is to be solved, the time that it requires to carry out, the resources that must be made available to carry it out, the sources of each of the needed resource, and the practicality of its implementation.

Comparing and prioritizing activities

The local community develops agreed criteria and, using the criteria, prioritizes the identified activities. The criteria will specify the urgency of achieving the outcomes expected from each activity. Finally, the local community evaluates and accepts the prioritization of the activities.

Determining success indicators

The achieving of targets and thus the goals that gave rise to them must be evaluated by the local community itself so as to enable it to realize if the improvement in the environmental resources supply and thus also in human life that is aimed for is actually happening, and if that supply looks like it will continue into the future. Therefore, the local community needs to agree a set of criteria for making the evaluation. The criteria must be as concrete and as clear as possible and they must measure the level of maximization of benefits compared to expenditures in both resources and labour.

The participation of all members of the local community and stakeholders is essential to verify that the activities being planned do actually emanate from the objectives determined and that the targets set maximize the possibility of success as well as the accuracy of its evaluation through the use of the indicators that have been developed to measure it.

Finalizing the local community plan for environmental management for sustainable development

The plan for environmental management for sustainable development is formulated by the local community based on the consensus it reaches after considering all the ideas that its members and stakeholders that are directly or even indirectly involved in it express.

The substantive issues that should be considered during the planning process include the following:

- ✓ The implementability of each of the proposed activities by using the knowledge, skills, labour and resources found within the local community;
- ✓ Their potential in strengthening the community's knowledge, skills and natural resources;
- ✓ Their potential for continuing to help solve the local community's keenly felt problems;
- ✓ The extent to which the activities create productive employment;
- ✓ The extent to which they involve and benefit all the members of the local community;
- ✓ The clarity with which they specify who in the local community is to do what;
- ✓ The extent to which they have internalized the environmental and developmental conditions of the neighbouring local communities; and
- ✓ The extent to which they specify the problems and help to point to the solutions that will be encountered during implementation.

Implementation of the local community plan

If the local community agrees a set of bylaws that governs the implementation of its plan for environmental management for sustainable development, the coordination of action to be taken by each community member becomes easy.¹

The preparation of the local community bylaws for environmental management for sustainable development

The bylaws for the implementation of the local community plan for environmental management for sustainable development are prepared by the local community

¹ In Ethiopia, the role of local community bylaws in the environmental management for sustainable development is supported at all levels of government from the Prime Minister's Office through all administrative levels.

itself. The following draft merely aims at showing what it could look like. What is given here can thus act as a draft for a local community in starting to formulate its bylaws. Since nobody knows the internal conditions, collective wishes and existing capacity of any local community as well as the members of the local community itself, that local community can, and is encouraged, as it sees fit, to add to, subtract from or even altogether discard this draft to formulate its own bylaws afresh.

Recognition of the local community bylaws for environmental management for sustainable development

The plan for environmental management for sustainable development, especially the bylaws, thus formulated with the full participation of the members of the local community is first reviewed by the local community itself ensuring that the full participation of its members has been assured. Following the local community's approval, it is then submitted to the woreda administration. The woreda administration checks it, especially to ensure that the provisions of the bylaws formulated for implementing it do not violate the Constitution or any of the relevant national laws. The woreda administration then registers the bylaws, which become binding on the local community and all its members as well as any outsider who goes into the area under the management of the local community as of that date of registration.

DRAFT BYLAW FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

- Having decided to make our development sustainable by ensuring the compatibility of our social and economic development activities with the maximization of the well-being of our environment;
- Realizing that, by appropriately caring for the agricultural and natural biodiversity in our farms and on our uncultivated land and also by maximizing their production of biomass, we can sustainably increase our crop and animal production as well as satisfy our needs for wood for fuel and other purposes, while at the same time increasing water in the ground, in springs, and in streams;
- Convinced that environmental protection in both our private and communal land holdings will maximize success in the planning and implementation of our own development;
- We, the local community members of Village (Villages), Woreda,Region, have agreed, out of our own conviction and motivation, to care for and develop our environmental resources which are privately under the control of our respective families and communally under the control of our respective villages so that they satisfy our economic needs and improve the opportunities for our children to continue improving their well-being, and we have thus formulated these bylaws.

Name of our Association

The Association that we have created through these bylaws shall be called “..... Local Community Environmental Management for Sustainable Development Association.”

The geographical limits of the Association

Our Association adjoins on the east,
.....on the west, on the north
and on the south.

The objectives of the Association

- ✓ Every member of our Association who cultivates a piece of land shall prepare and apply compost to maintain the fertility of that piece of land at as high a level as possible.
- ✓ By planting trees on hectares of land each of us individually in and around his/her land holding and all of us communally in uncultivated community land, we shall produce enough wood for everyone of us to use as firewood or for other purposes in 2010 and beyond.
- ✓ Each of our members shall have grass and other forage plants on hectares, and shall thus have sufficient feed for his/her animals in 2014 and beyond.
- ✓ All the members of our Association shall join hands to construct terraces and bunds on hectares of sloping land and shall plant trees, shrubs and grass, as appropriate, to both protect the physical structures that we will have built and to make them more effective in preventing soil erosion.
- ✓ We shall close off hectares of land to all domestic animals and to people and we shall guard the closed off area to enable plants and wild animals to re-establish themselves, and shall develop a plan for the management of the closed off area.
- ✓ We shall create employment opportunities for people by the end of the year 2010 and continue creating more thereafter so as to increase alternative income opportunities and reduce pressure from the land.

Raising soil fertility

Each of our members shall:

- ✓ Undertake to raise soil fertility in, and to prevent soil loss from, his/her cultivated and uncultivated land holding, as appropriate, by digging and/or building soil conserving structures and by planting appropriate soil protecting and enriching species;
- ✓ Collect weeds, leaves, animal dung, chicken droppings, household wastes etc. and mix them to make compost that is sufficient in quality and quantity to fertilize his/her cultivated parcels of land;
- ✓ Participate or enable, as the case may be, his/her family members to participate, in training programmes organized for the purpose; and
- ✓ Plant fodder seedlings, especially shrubs and trees, around his/her homestead and parcels of cultivated land as well as on land that is not cultivated so as to create coordinated soil conservation and soil fertility increases according to the plan agreed by the Association.

Restricting domestic animal movement

- ✓ Every member shall participate in all meetings on the planning and implementation of the management of grazing land and animal production as well as in their evaluation organized by the Association.
- ✓ Each member shall participate in meetings and specified activities determined by the Association to stop free range grazing by domestic animals in a phased manner, to protect the area in which free range domestic animal grazing has been phased out, and to evaluate the impacts of the phasing out of, and protection from, free range domestic animal grazing on forage and other biomass production.
- ✓ Each member shall tether his/her animals or keep them in an enclosed space and cut and carry fodder to feed them.

Fodder production

Every member of the Association shall:

- ✓ Plant fodder plants around his/her parcel of cultivated land and his/her homestead, care for the fodder thus planted, and use the fodder appropriately;
- ✓ Harvest and store hay at the end of each rainy season, grow fodder during the dry season using rain water, irrigation or harvested water as the case may be, and collect and store chaff and other crop by-products so that his/her animals that have been prevented from free range grazing, especially milk cows and their calves, shall not suffer from feed shortage;
- ✓ Contribute his/her dues, as specified by the Executive Committee of the Association, in developing fodder on the communal land that has been closed off from free range animal grazing;
- ✓ Participate in the planning and implementation of strategies to counter falls in the selling price of domestic animals in times of drought and fodder shortage;
- ✓ Carry out the work assigned to him/her by the Association's Executive Committee to protect the area closed off from free range grazing; and
- ✓ Cut, carry and store at the time specified by the Association his/her share of fodder from the communal land that has been protected from free range animal grazing.

Meeting the needs for wood for fuel, construction and other purposes

- ✓ Each member shall grow and care for plants around his/her homestead and parcels of land for firewood, construction, shade, herbal medication, farming implements, handicrafts etc. as well as for fruits and fodder.
- ✓ Our Association shall allow trees, shrubs and tall grasses to grow as wind breaks and for maintaining soil fertility in areas that will not be farmed, including on

hilly terrain, and shall carry out enrichment planting as needed, and each of our members shall do the work assigned to him/her for the purpose.

- Each member shall contribute what is assigned to him/her to produce wood for fuel, construction, etc. on communal land and shall take his/her share from what has thus been communally produced.

The management and use of water

- Each member shall participate when appropriate techniques of harvesting and storing water as well as retaining soil moisture by the Association are discussed and determined, and shall individually or in a group, as determined by the Executive Committee of the Association, undertake the work assigned to him/her.
- When it is decided by the Association that specified areas around springs and along the edges of streams shall be free from human activity and from domestic animals, each member shall restrict the movements of his/her family members and domestic animals accordingly; the restricted area shall become accessible only for activities determined by the Association as appropriate.

Rehabilitating gullies and preventing gully formation

- Every member of our Association who has any gully formed or forming on his/her parcel of cultivable land has the obligation to prevent its expansion and to rehabilitate it.
- Gullies that are on uncultivated communal land and those that are on personal holdings but are seen by the Association as not capable of being rehabilitated by one farmer/household shall be rehabilitated by our Association. Every member of the Association shall participate in the gully treatment as assigned to him/her by the Executive Committee.

- ✓ Farmers with adjoining parcels of land that have been affected by a gully shall mutually agree on their respective contributions towards rehabilitating the gully and shall accordingly notify the Executive Committee, which shall then monitor the implementation of the agreed rehabilitation process.

The care and development of slopes

- ✓ We, the members of this Association, have agreed to rehabilitate the degraded hillsides in our village, which are hectares in extent and which are shown on the map that we have attached to this copy of our bylaws. To this effect, we have agreed to close off the indicated hillsides from access to domestic animals. Each of our members shall prevent his/her animals from going into this closed off area.
- ✓ The grass and the wood that grow in the closed off area shall be divided among us in a General Assembly of the Association for us to cut the grass and lop some branches of the trees and shrubs and carry away.

Qualification requirements for membership of our Association

- ✓ Any resident of our kebele (village, villages or sub-district) shall be a member of our Association. Any resident of our kebele (village, villages or sub-district) who does not want to be a member of the Association shall forfeit the right to graze domestic animals, to cut grass or to lop any branches of any shrub or tree from anywhere except his/her parcel of cultivable land.
- ✓ Each member of the Association shall contribute the labour, knowledge, skill or money that has been determined by the Executive Committee as his/her due to contribute.

Causes for expulsion from the Association

- Any member who refuses to obey these bylaws, who fails to be bound by the decisions of the General Assembly or the Executive Committee of the Association, or who fails to contribute with due diligence what has been specified to come from him/her for collective action, may be expelled from the Association by a decision of the Executive Committee.
- Any member who feels that any decision of the Executive Committee has been unfair can present his/her case to the General Assembly of the Association. The decision of the General Assembly shall be final.

The organizational structure of the Association and its General Assembly

- The Association shall have a General Assembly of its members and an elected Executive Committee.
- The General Assembly is the highest body of the Association.
- A General Assembly shall have a quorum when more than half of the members of the Association are present.
- The General Assembly shall be convened at a time and in a place that is decided upon by the Executive Committee.
- The General Assembly shall elect the members of the Executive Committee and shall adopt the bylaws, the work programme and activity report of the Association.
- The General Assembly shall consider and decide upon issues raised by any member of the Association.
- The General Assembly shall adopt decisions by a simple majority vote.

Composition and responsibilities of the Executive Committee

- ✓ The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of a Chairperson, a Secretary, an Accountant and a Treasurer.
- ✓ The responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be to:
 - ✓ Define the individual and collective shares of activities of the members and notify them accordingly;
 - ✓ Carry out any activity required to ensure that the bylaws are implemented;
 - ✓ Solicit means of capacity building for the local community;
 - ✓ Ensure that the property and resources of the Association are put into appropriate use;
 - ✓ Receive, examine and decide upon suggestions forwarded by members; and
 - ✓ Have the accounts of the Association audited by a qualified auditor.
- ✓ Each member of the Executive Committee shall serve for five years. However, the General Assembly can, if it so wishes, extend the term of office of any one of the members of the Executive Committee by another five years. Nevertheless, a person shall not be elected for the same office consecutively for more than two terms.
- ✓ The Chairperson shall legally represent the Association in all matters. He/She shall call and conduct the General Assembly as well as present the report of the activities of the Association. In the event that the Chairperson is unable to attend a General Assembly, he/she shall authorize one of the other members of the Executive Committee to stand in for him/her.
- ✓ Any bank account of the Association can be operated only through the joint signatures of the Chairperson and the Accountant.
- ✓ The Accountant shall keep all the accounts of the Association.

Appointing a third party of evaluators

- ✓ We, the members of our Association, have agreed that the secretariat of our kebele in which our Association is found shall appoint a neutral third party of evaluators to examine the effectiveness of implementation of these bylaws at intervals and present its report to the Executive Committee of the Association.
- ✓ Each member is obliged to provide any information concerning the Association required of him/her by the evaluators assigned by the kebele secretariat.
- ✓ The evaluation report compiled by the kebele secretariat shall identify any weaknesses of the Association and suggest possible solutions. The report shall be presented by the Executive Committee to the General Assembly to be discussed and, as appropriate, for issues raised in it to be decided upon.

Offence and penalty

- ✓ Any person who, without permission from the Chairperson, fails to attend a General Assembly has committed an offence and shall pay a penalty of Birr² for the first offence, Birr for the second offence and Birr for the third offence.
- ✓ Any person whose animals are found in, or who drives another person's animals into, any area that has been closed off from free range grazing has committed an offence and shall pay to the Association a penalty of..... Birr per animal for the first offence, Birr per animal for the second offence and Birr per animal for the third offence.
- ✓ Any person whose animals are found in, or who drives another person's animals into, another member's holding which has been prohibited for free range grazing has committed an offence and shall pay to the Association a penalty of Birr per animal for the first offence,Birr per animal

² Birr is the currency in Ethiopia. In other countries, it is the appropriate local currency that would be specified.

- for the second offence and Birr per animal for the third offence.
- Any person who damages any dam or wall built to stop gullyng, any terrace, any bund or any plants established for erosion control shall be compelled to repair the damage and, in addition, shall pay to the Association a penalty of Birr for the first offence, Birr for the second offence and Birr for the third offence.
- Any member who fails to protect or care for shrubs, trees or grasses planted around his/her parcel of land or any rehabilitating gully in his/her land has committed an offence and his/her case shall be presented to the General Assembly for decision taking.
- Any member who causes any problem in the implementation of a plan of the Association or who fails in his/her personal or share of collective responsibility in the implementation of an assigned activity shall have his/her case reviewed and decided upon by the General Assembly.

Date of coming into force of the bylaws

These bylaws have come into force as of , when the woreda (district) secretariat registered them as having been approved by the woreda administration following successive approvals by the General Assembly of our Association, the signing of each of our members, and the approval by the kebele administration.

Names and signatures of all members

Name	Signature
1
2
3
.	
X

ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS

The main stakeholders include, but are not restricted to, the Environmental Protection Authority at the federal government level, the respective regional environmental protection office, the zonal (sub-regional) administration, the woreda administration and the kebele administration.

The possible roles that these stakeholders may play are detailed as follows. It should be emphasized that the roles described are meant to serve as examples, and the specific set of stakeholders and their respective roles are best defined by each local community and each woreda on a case-by-case basis.

The Environmental Protection Authority

The Environmental Protection Authority shall continue to prepare various documents that will help in the formulation and implementation of local community and woreda plans for environmental management for sustainable development and in the carrying out of related activities.

It can also carry out related supporting activities.

It can organize meetings to evaluate the manuals together with various experts drawn from the region in question.

It can organize the training of trainers drawn from among experts working in the concerned region and woreda or woredas.

It can provide technical support for, as well as monitor the implementation of, the woreda or local community plan for environmental management for sustainable development.

It can provide support for cross visiting programmes to exchange experiences.

Regional environmental protection office

The regional environmental protection office can create opportunities for the participation of bureaus of agriculture and rural development, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, educational and research institutions, the private sector etc., in the formulation and implementation of local community and woreda plans for environmental management for sustainable development.

It can organize cross visit programmes for exchange of experiences, especially within its region.

It can support the initiatives being taken by the regional, zonal (sub-regional) and woreda administrations.

It can monitor and give technical support for the implementation of the woreda and local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development.

It shall submit reports on the implementation of the woreda and local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development in the region to the Environmental Protection Authority.

It shall prepare its regional state of the environment report based on the reports it receives from woredas and submit it to the Environmental Protection Authority.

It shall carry out the necessary follow-up to ensure that local community associations for environmental management for sustainable development and their bylaws are given legal recognition.

In consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority, it shall monitor developments in environmental management for sustainable development and make suggestions for improvement and additional action.

Zonal (sub-regional) administration

The zonal administration can work together with the regional environmental protection office to support the implementation of the plans for environmental management for sustainable development of the woredas within its domain.

Woreda administration

The woreda administration shall convene meetings of all stakeholders in its domain to raise their awareness so that they can support and contribute to the implementation of its planned activities.

To this effect, it shall nominate an expert who shall be responsible for following up the implementation of local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development in its domain, it shall monitor the activities of the appointed expert and provide him/her the support needed to carry out his/her duties.

It shall convene a meeting or meetings of all the kebele administrations within its domain and explain to them the specifics of planning and implementation of local community and woreda plans for environmental management for sustainable development.

It shall collate the local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development in its domain into its own plan for a woreda-wide implementation and have the woreda-wide plan for environmental management for sustainable development approved by an assembly of the representatives of all the kebeles in its domain.

It shall compile its woreda state of the environment report on a yearly basis.

It shall encourage the diffusion, especially within its domain, of the successful experiences of its local communities through local cross visits to exchange experiences.

Kebele administration

It shall support the local communities in its domain to develop and implement their respective local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development.

It shall help its local communities obtain recognition from the woreda level for their respective plans for environmental management for sustainable development and especially for their bylaws for implementing these plans.

It should motivate other stakeholders within its domain to support the planning and implementation of local community plans for environmental management for sustainable development and shall prohibit activities, especially by outsiders, that could take place in violation of the respective local community plans and their respective implementing bylaws.

It shall help in the diffusion of successful experiences within and among local communities, especially within its domain.

It shall carry out other related activities required of it by its woreda administration.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PILOT WOREDAS FOR DEVELOPING WOREDA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The following criteria are merely being suggested. It is preferable that the environmental protection office of a given regional government develops the criteria that it finds appropriate for choosing woredas for initiating pilot plans for environmental management for sustainable development. This is likely to make the choice of criteria appropriate for the objective reality in each region.

The woreda should be one where:

- ✓ Land degradation is a serious environmental problem;
- ✓ Repeated droughts have been occurring, and desertification is a threat;
- ✓ Food shortage is a frequent problem;
- ✓ Activities by non-governmental organizations have been minimal;
- ✓ The local administration is keen to work towards sustainable development;
- ✓ The environmental and developmental conditions make the experiences gained there useful for other woredas in the region; and
- ✓ The monitoring of activities and associated developments by stakeholders will not incur much inconvenience.

