

## Regenerating natural forests in Ethiopia

The afforestation and reforestation activity of the “Humbo Ethiopia Assisted Natural Regeneration Project” involves the restoration of indigenous tree species in a mountainous region of South Western Ethiopia, covering a zone of approximately 2728 hectares of community land. In Ethiopia where only 2.7% of the original high forest remains, the project achieves about 15 000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions per year (net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks).



**15 000**

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided per year

**2 728**

hectares of forest regenerated

<b>Registry</b>	UNFCCC
<b>Project ID</b>	<a href="http://bit.ly/1VeRSst">http://bit.ly/1VeRSst</a>
<b>Pictures gallery</b>	<a href="http://bit.ly/1RtmLrT">http://bit.ly/1RtmLrT</a>
<b>Category</b>	Afforestation/reforestation
<b>Status</b>	Operational
<b>Certification</b>	UNFCCC CDM
<b>Auditors</b>	Tuv Nord



- first of its kind farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) project in Ethiopia
- 1<sup>st</sup> forestry project to be awarded Certified Emission Reductions by the UNFCCC in Africa

# The Project

The “Humbo Ethiopia Assisted Natural Regeneration Project” consists in the restoration of indigenous tree species in a mountainous region of South Western Ethiopia, to achieve about 15 000 tons of CO2 emission reductions per year. In practice, the project involves the regeneration of 2,728 hectares of degraded native forests with indigenous, bio-diverse species. These forests act as a “carbon sink” to mitigate climate change while at the same time building environmental, social and economic resilience for future climate change impacts.

## Project Owner

The project is managed by World Vision Ethiopia in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and World Vision Australia. World Vision has a long history of community development work in Ethiopia and a strong legacy of community based forestry programmes.

## Situation before the Project

The area was bare of trees, although some small shrubs remained. High rainfall led to flash flooding in the area, destroying roads and bridges and there was extensive erosion. Large amounts of topsoil had been lost, reducing potential productivity in higher areas and leaving large silt and rock deposits on farms in lower areas.



# Impacts



## Natural resource management

Ethiopia’s agricultural sector is severely stifled by environmental degradation. The over-exploitation of forest resources has left less than 3% of Ethiopia’s native forests remaining today. The Humbo project is a highly successful example of reforestation that alleviates poverty while addressing climate change through improved natural resource management.



## Climate Change

Climate change is likely to impact severely on Ethiopia where resource scarcity and poverty make communities particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks. Thanks to the project, reforestation results in the carbon sequestration of about 15 000 tonnes per year.



### Flood prevention/ control

Heavy rain events regularly cause flooding of lowland areas, and in extreme events, mudslides cause the death of people and livestock, and damage crops, roads, bridges and other infrastructure. The project improves water infiltration, resulting in the recharging of ground water and a reduction of flash flooding.

### Skills Transfer



World Vision staff are providing technical training and building the capacity of cooperative members. Much effort has also been invested in community consultation, education and awareness building around the concept of carbon trading.

### Food security

High population density, variable rainfall, environmental degradation and an over-reliance on maize has meant that the area still experiences food shortages.



### Soil erosion control

Severe erosion reduces the capacity of the land to absorb water, and has resulted in increasingly severe cycles of drought and flood. Reforestation is also reducing land degradation and soil erosion.

## The Country

Ethiopia has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and is Africa's second most populous country. Federalism and devolution of power to the regions are paving the way to overcoming geographic and socio-economic barriers to inclusive growth and structural transformation.

The economy of Ethiopia is largely based on agriculture, which accounts for half of the gross domestic product and 85% of total employment. The current government has embarked on a program of economic reform, including privatization of state enterprises and rationalization of government regulation. Despite recent improvements, Ethiopia remains one of the poorest nations in the world.

