

ForestConnect Project:

Builds upon the **Forests for Future** project, the **ForestConnect** project aim that the forest landscapes of SW Ethiopia provide long-term ecosystem services and income opportunities for the population, act as a resilience buffer against climate change and as an intact habitat for biodiversity.



ForestConnect Project Specific Objectives

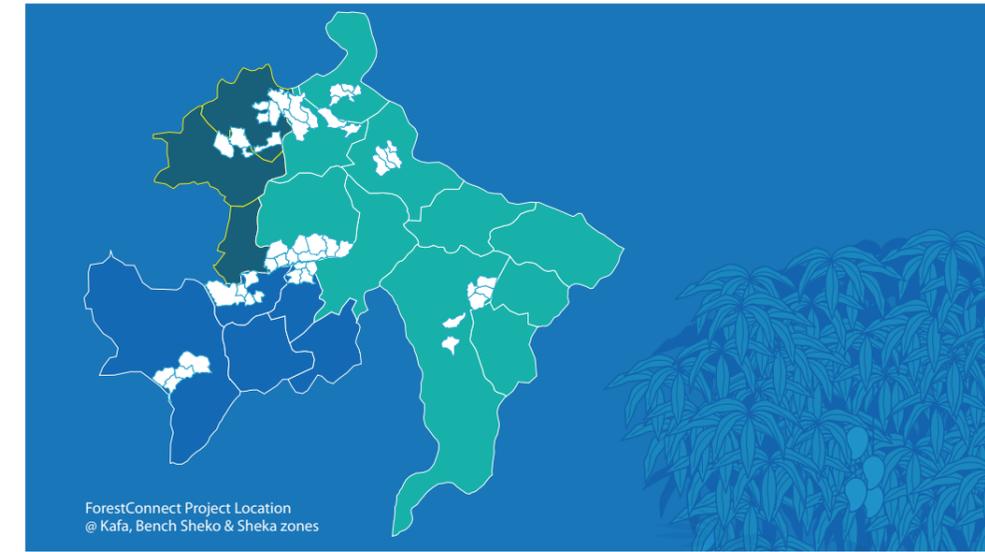
- To implement formerly developed tailor-made FLRAPs for FLR, climate adaptation & sustainable income support;
- To improve the nature-based, sustainable income of local communities, especially economically disadvantaged groups; &
- To institutionalize the holistic approach of the FLR concept in the policy, education, & science sector.

FLRAP Measures and categories for the Southwest degraded forest landscape

- A. Restoration Strategies & Activities**
- Restocking of degraded natural forest (ANR + Enrichment Planting)
 - Reforestation/Afforestation (community plantation, buffer plantation, corridor establishment, boundary plantation)
 - Woodlots
 - Agroforestry (home garden development, fruit based, coffee based, spice based, fodder based, apiculture based, windbreaks)
 - Bamboo Plantation
 - Forest protection
 - Land Use Improvement and Management Practices (physical & biological SWC, pasture/grazing land rehabilitation, soil fertility management, acid soils treatment)
 - Seedling Production
 - Forest Management Plan (including Silvicultural practices) implementation
- B. FLR Based Livelihood Improvement Measures**
- Promote backyard beekeeping (follow individual/group based support)
 - Introduce and promote permaculture
 - Promotion of nature based ecotourism
 - Bamboo processing
 - Tree seed collection and marketing
 - Carbon finance
 - Poultry farm
 - Sheep fattening
 - Sheep farming
 - Oxen fattening
 - Fuel saving stove production
 - Promote well performing local animal breeds (Sheko breed, Bonga sheep breed, etc.)
 - Improvement of local livestock breed husbandry (intensive management)
 - Mushroom production and marketing
 - Support building queen bee rearing centre for youth groups
 - Support development and marketing of herbs
 - Value chain development (including market link for selected products)
- C. Improvement & Backstopping of FLR Enabling Environment**
- D. Resources Governance & Cross-cutting Issues**
- E. Monitoring & Evaluation**

CODE	DESCRIPTIONS OF PRINCIPLES AND GUIDING ELEMENT
P1	FOCUS ON LANDSCAPES
GE1	Undertake inclusive, gender-responsive landscape-level assessment and land-use planning
GE2	Gain recognition that FLR must transcend sector policies
GE3	Conduct FLR at an appropriate scale
GE4	Address tenure and access rights
P2	ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS AND SUPPORT PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE
GE5	Build adequate governance capacity for decentralized FLR
GE6	Obtain strong stakeholder agreement
GE7	Conduct joint stakeholder analysis of the drivers of degradation
GE8	Strive for social equity and benefit sharing
GE9	Conduct participatory FLR planning, decision-making and monitoring
GE10	Build stakeholder capacity for sharing responsibility for FLR
GE11	Address long-term financing for FLR initiatives
GE12	Establish a favorable investment environment for FLR
P3	RESTORE MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS FOR MULTIPLE BENEFITS
GE13	Generate multiple functions and benefits
GE14	Conserve biodiversity and restore ecological functions
GE15	Improve livelihoods
GE16	Make full use of local knowledge
P4	MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE NATURAL FOREST ECOSYSTEMS WITHIN LANDSCAPES
GE17	Avoid the conversion of natural forests
GE18	Restore degraded forests and rehabilitate degraded forest land
GE19	Avoid forest perforation and fragmentation
GE20	Conserve natural grasslands, savannas and wetlands
P5	TAILOR TO THE LOCAL CONTEXT USING A VARIETY OF APPROACHES
GE21	Assess local context and restrictions
GE22	Allow for future changes in conditions
GE23	Tailor FLR interventions to the local context and generate local benefits
GE24	Achieve the financial and economic viability of FLR investments
GE25	Identify opportunities to increase local incomes
GE26	Develop sustainable supply chains
P6	MANAGE ADAPTIVELY FOR LONG-TERM RESILIENCE
GE27	Take an adaptive management approach
GE28	Continuously measure the biophysical dimensions of the landscape
GE29	Periodically assess vulnerability to climate change
GE30	Develop participatory monitoring of FLR
GE31	Encourage open access to, and the sharing of, information and knowledge
GE32	Report on FLR outcomes

Overview of the six principles and 32 guiding elements of FLR



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Forests for Future and ForestConnect Projects

for degraded forest landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, connectivity creation and livelihood improvement in the Southwest Ethiopia

The Problem

The southwest forest block is known for its rich biodiversity, ecosystem services and source of livelihood for people in the region. This forest resource and its biodiversity faces disturbance due to population growth, increasing demand for land resource, limited development of alternative livelihood options for growing population and other large scale land based economic activities. Main disturbances are forest degradation, perforation, fragmentation and deforestation resulting in forest islands, habitat fragmentation, disruption of gene flow and genetic erosion. This makes the forest resource of the southwest more vulnerable to further disturbances and climate change induced impacts.



The Response

NABU Ethiopia and NABU initiated a landscape level approach as a response to address the problem. NABU Ethiopia, NABU and EWNRA as well as government signatory partners jointly implemented a phased out *Forests for Future* project as well as are implementing its follow up and ongoing *ForestConnect* project both of which are attempting to restore degraded forest and landscapes, conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functionality, create connectivity and sustain and enhance the source of livelihood options for the people in the project zones; Kafa, Sheka and Bench Sheko zones. The *Forests for Future* project worked out on stakeholder analysis and problem diagnosis; establishment of the Southwest Forest Alliance (SWFA) Platform to create enabling environment for FLR implementation and forest and biodiversity conservation; capacity building; data collection and analysis; zonal FLR Action Plan and implementation guideline development with toolboxes; and piloting the action plan. Below diagram illustrate the key millstone of the phased out project.



Key Millstones of the Forests for Future Project

The FLR Implementation Guideline:

Developed as part of the Forests for Future project and outlines 4 key phases and 8 steps to guide and assist planning and implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration Action Plans (FLRAPs). The following diagram presents the phases and steps for FLR (<https://forestsforfuture-ethiopia.com/downloads/>)



Phases and steps for Implementation of FLRAPs