Background

Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change Forum (EBCCF) is a non-profit organization established in 2010 and re-registered in 2019 by the National Charities and Societies Agency. The organization now has 16 years of expertise in a wide range of experiences related to environment, biodiversity, and climate change.

Vision: To be a leading CSO in the Horn of Africa in environmental rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation, and climate actions by championing human-centered sustainable development

Mission: Promote conservation and sustainable use of environment and biodiversity with low-carbon development and resilient ecosystems, where communities benefit from the results obtained.

Strategic Goals (2025-2025)

A. Promote environmental protection

- Promote community engagement and stakeholder collaboration in areas of environmental management.
- Contribute to National environmental and ecosystem rehabilitation;
- Promote aquatic and wetland ecosystem conservation;
- Facilitate policy platform and improve enabling conditions for implementation of environmental actions;

B. Enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

- Promote community-based biodiversity conservation initiatives;
- Implement programs and projects that enhance sustainable use and ecosystem services;
- Support agrobiodiversity, crop diversification, and local seed system initiatives
- Promote and advocate the mainstreaming of biodiversity-related initiatives into public and private program development;

C. **Promote climate-smart agriculture and food security**

- Promote climate-resilient crop varieties and local seed systems;
- Empowering community on sustainable soil fertility management practices;
- Integrate agroforestry with livelihoods and green jobs;
- Promote efficient water management and appropriate technologies;
- Advocate for grassroots and community-oriented CSA policy and strategies, etc

D. Support communities to contribute to sustainable development

- Promote eco-tourism that provides significant opportunities for the diverse ecosystem
- Expand, introduce clean cooking technologies contributing to reversing forest degradation;
- Assist the small-scale farmers/pastoralists to adopt solar power technologies for agriculture, including small-scale irrigation;
- Provide support to national land restoration targets, including green legacy, great green wall, and global biodiversity framework;

E. Social Inclusion, Gender, and Sustainable Livelihood

- Promote sustainable livelihood and economic diversification for vulnerable community members;
- Enhance participation of women, people living with disability and the youth in conservation of nature & biodiversity and access to equitable benefit sharing and livelihood opportunities;
- Policy advocacy on gender empowerment;

Currently, the Forum is actively engaged in implementing multiple projects in these fields in different parts of Ethiopia including Amhara, Oromia and Tigray. One of these projects is CARD II, being implemented in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray Regions. The EBCCF is working as a strategic partner in backstopping implementing partners (iDE, HELVETAS, ORDA REST and We-Action), particularly in agrobiodiversity and NRM.

Climate Adaptation and Rural Development-II (CARD-II) Project





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Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change Forum
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Key achievements (2022-2025)

Following the commencement of the project in 2022, the Forum performed various capacity-building activities to backstop implementing partners for the successful implementation of the CARD II project. Some of these are:

Policy dialogue

Policy dialogues on farmers' seed rights and land use were conducted, policy gaps identified, and a farmer-gene-bank-research platform created. Also, awareness also created on the current land use policy. Key federal and regional institutions, as well as development partners involved.



Policy dialogue workshop on farmer seed rights & land use

Manuals preparation and distribution

Seven manuals were prepared on CSB, Seed System, Agrobiodiversity, and NRM and distributed for CARD II implementing partners and other stakeholders, including the MoA, to be used as guidelines. Two of them were translated into three local languages



Capacity building

Seed security and community seed bank (CSB)

Numerous Training of Trainers (TOT) were conducted, focusing on seed quality management, seed security assessments, establishment and operation of Community Seed Banks (CSB), effective management of CSB seed stocks and revolving loans, and the implementation of a robust CSB business model, participatory variety selection (PVS), and prioritizing agrobiodiversity management, etc. As a result, the existing seed system is well understood and mainstreamed into IPs programs.

Natural resource management

TOT on soil fertility management, participatory assisted natural regeneration, and field visits in areas of best practices (Hararge Zones, Sidama and Southern Ethiopia regions) with special emphasis on agroforestry, home-garden, crop diversification, integrated watershed management, and forest management.



Seed quality management field visit in E.Arsi



Homegarden AF field visit in Sidama

Develop /select niche-specific crop variety

Three crop varieties (Wheat, Chickpea, and grass pea) were selected and seed multiplication were conducted at three project sites.

