

UNDP's Integrated Approach to Combat Impacts of Climate Change and Build Resilient Communities in Ethiopia



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Overview

Ethiopia ushered 2015 with six out of the eight MDGs met; a sustained fast economic growth over the past decade; and the knowledge that it had weathered well in the 2010/11 drought thanks to growing investments in its Disaster Risk Management (DRM) programme.

The same year the country experienced failure of the short and long rains and the current El-Nino induced drought, the worst in over 30 years. The failure of the two consecutive rainy seasons resulted in over 10 million people needing humanitarian assistance and an increased humanitarian request of US\$ 1.5 billion to be met by the government and contributions from development partners.

The nexus between climate change and poverty in Ethiopia is also extremely high. There is a growing concern that the cyclic droughts and floods, occurring with ever more frequency in recent years, may hamper the country's development gains.

As of March 2016, the onset of La Nina meant that torrential rains, floods and mudslides was causing loss of lives and in central and south eastern parts of the country and displacing thousands in the north, central as well as south.

As of March 2016, the onset of La Nina meant that torrential rains, floods and mudslides was causing loss of lives and in central and south eastern parts of the country and displacing thousands in the north, central as well as south.

Building long-term resilience

In recognition of the severity of the current drought, UNDP is supporting the country to develop a national early recovery action plan, and is also mobilizing US\$ 150 million new resources from Global Climate Fund (GCF) and others to scale up early recovery interventions to build resilience of the most affected communities.



UNDP's intervention in Ethiopia has kept its eye on long-term development and thus continued to encompass a wide range of policy as well as grass root level engagement as a down-payment on the country's resilience.

UNDP uses 3 complementary approaches; inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability to lead its interventions in the areas of;

- Environment & biodiversity conservation,
- Climate change adaptation & mitigation,

- Disaster Risk Management & livelihood recovery.

Over the last five years, 18 UNDP projects worth US\$ 100 million at national and district levels has continued to focus on long-term resilience to climate shock interventions. These projects invested in strengthening the country's climate information system and scaling up its engagement to mitigate the impact of current climate-induced disaster.

Disaster risk management

UNDP's US\$ 17.35 million DRM & livelihood recovery efforts have rehabilitated water-points, developed rangelands, and helped communities acquire the resources to restock their livestock and rebuild their assets through taking part in a voucher and cash-for-work activities in Afar, Somalia and Oromia regions.



UNDP's intervention in Gambella region, where South Sudanese refugees numbers almost matches that of the host community provides a unique area of engagement. The intervention focuses on flood hazard mitigation, enhancement of livelihood and peaceful co-existence to reduce conflict over resources and build the host population's resilience.

Making climate smart agriculture work for the poor

UNDP has partnered with the GEF since 2012 on a US\$ one million autonomous adaptation and coping with drought intervention at community level that pilots climate smart agriculture tools and techniques and improved animal husbandry.



CLIMATE-SMART
AGRICULTURE

The lessons from this pilot intervention has been scaled up to nine regions with a US\$ 25 million set of interventions financed by GEF, Norway, Japan and UNDP core. Despite the area being severely affected by the 2015/16 El-Nino induced drought, the communities supported by these interventions have managed to grow crops and stay out of the current food aid beneficiary list.

Support to climate resilient green economy strategy development

UNDP played a leading role in the development of Ethiopia's national Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy as well as preparation of sector specific investment plans and resilience strategies. Another strong area of intervention has been UNDP's contribution towards the development of Ethiopia's DRM policy, strategic programme and investment framework (SPIF) and professionalization of the national DRM taskforce.



CLIMATE-SMART
AGRICULTURE

Forest Sector Development

A new strategic long term intervention for UNDP has been its engagement around the development of Ethiopia's forest sector with the newly established Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The forest sector makes up one of the four pillars of the climate resilient green economy strategy and UNDP's intervention focuses on building the capacity of the sector to increase forest coverage (currently standing at around 15%), boosting carbon sequestration, and promoting sustainable supply of wood and wood products.

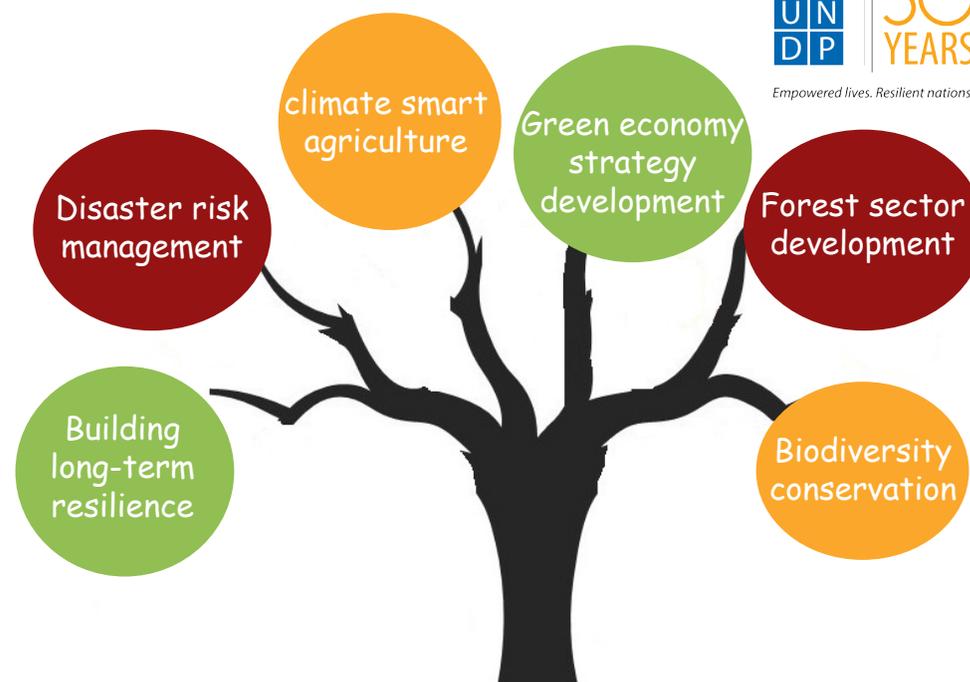


Biodiversity Conservation

UNDP's support to Ethiopia in the area of biodiversity conservation is also contributing to safeguarding the country's natural resources and enhancing livelihoods of local community.



Its programme on biodiversity conservation in partnership with GEF to strengthen the national gene bank and establish field gene banks, which conserve and distribute local variety seeds to farms who may have lost their seeds due to drought is a good example of this intervention.



Integrated Approach to Combat Impacts of Climate Change

Implementing partner



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Funding partners



Government of Norway



Global Environment Facility



Government of Japan



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Email: communication.et@undp.org
www.et.undp.org



@UNDPethiopia



UNDPinEthiopia