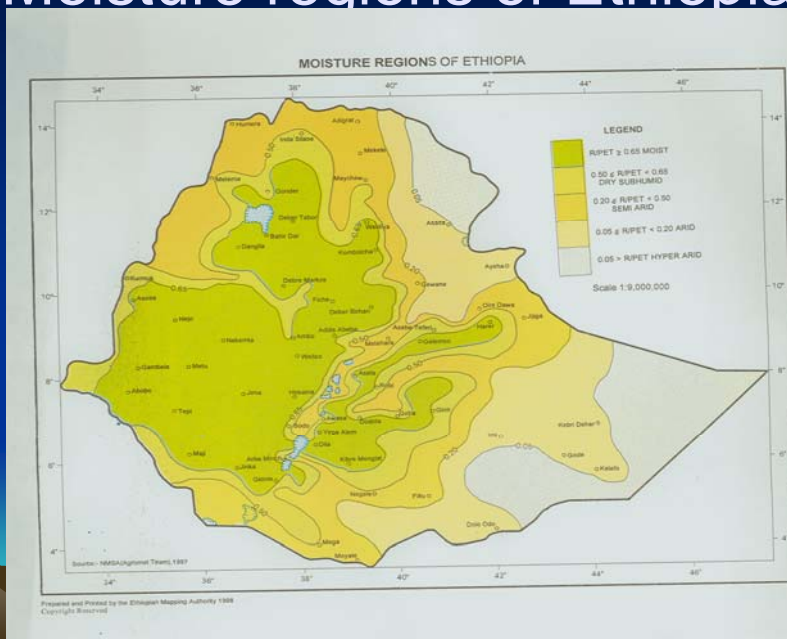


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Moisture regions of Ethiopia



Causes of Desertification and\ or Land degradation

- Accelerated land degradation and/or desertification commonly are caused as a result of human intervention in the environment, and by the natural landscape, which Ethiopia is most vulnerable.

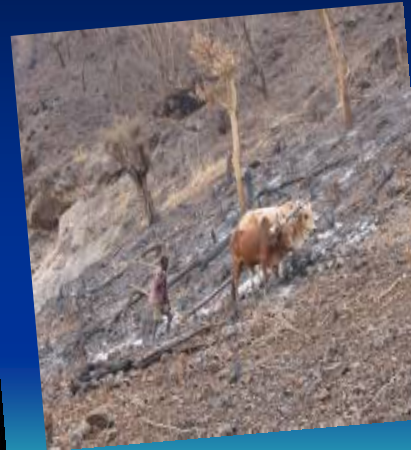
Causes of Desertification and\ or Land degradation (cont.)

- In some places of the country processes of land degradation is exceeding the rate of natural rehabilitation.



Causes of Desertification and\ or Land degradation (cont.)

➤ Unsustainable cultivation of croplands



Unsustainable cultivation of croplands

- An estimated 7 million smallholder farmers produce 97 percent of the crops.
- *Private entrepreneurs and state farms produce the remaining 3 percent.*

Causes of Desertification and\ or Land degradation (cont.)

➤ Overgrazing of rangelands



Overgrazing of rangelands

- 51 percent of total area of the country is a grazing land ;
- In 2000/01 Ethiopia's livestock was estimated to consist of 35.4 million cattle, 11.4 million sheep, 9.6 million goats, 4.9 million equines, 0.5 million camels, 38.0 million chicken.

Causes of Desertification and\ or Land degradation (cont.)

Deforestation



Causes of Desertification and\ or Land degradation (cont.)

- Soil erosion



Soil erosion

- Perhaps the worst erosion problem in the world, per hectare of farmland, is in Ethiopia
- Ethiopia loss 2 billion metric tons of soil each year to erosion.
-



Soil erosion

- This high rate of erosion is both a cause and consequence of the famine, poverty, and continued social unrest in the country.
- Soil erosion by water often accompanies depletion of nutrients.
- An eroded soil will almost always have less organic matter (biological soil degradation), increased bulk density (physical soil degradation) and other problems such as water logging

Causes of Desertification and/or Land degradation (cont.)

- Within these broad categories a wide variety of individual causes are incorporated.
 - conversion of unsuitable and low potential land to agriculture,
 - failure to undertake soil conservation measures in areas at risk of degradation, and
 - removal of all crop residues resulting in soil mining.

Causes of Desertification and/or Land degradation (cont.)

- On the highlands, the combined effects of
- steep topography,
 - high intensity of rain storms,
 - degraded vegetation,
 - extensive cultivation, and
 - overgrazing,
- leads to severe soil erosion



Causes of Desertification and\ or Land degradation (cont.)

Human induced soil degradation during Road Construction



Effects of Desertification and\ or Land degradation

- It is clear that land degradation is the function of changes in vegetative cover. Hence, the high forest type of the country has declined from 40% in 1900 to 3.56% recently.
- Over 14 million hectares of top soil have less than 50 cm depth, making it susceptible to drought.
- In terms of soil nutrient depletion, the equivalent of 30 kg/ha of Nitrogen (N), and 15 to 20 kg/ha of phosphorous (P) are lost annually through erosion on cultivated lands.

Effects of Desertification and/or Land degradation (cont.)

- There is a reinforcing relationship between poverty, livelihoods, food security and the environment.
- Poor rural people are totally dependent on the natural resource base for their existence, and destruction of the environmental resources is highly affecting their livelihoods.
- The rural households live within a biomass-based subsistence economy.

Effects of Desertification and/or Land degradation (cont.)

- There is always a vicious cycle in which resource degradation (land/environmental degradation) and drought lead to reduced household assets, and reduced assets in turn affect degradation in the Ethiopian lowlands and highlands.

Effects of Desertification and/or Land degradation (cont.)

- Thus, the environment and poverty are inseparably linked, and poverty reduction strategy should explicitly address the environmental concerns of the country.



SPREAD OF DESERTIFICATION

- Therefore, combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in Ethiopia is the basis for accelerated sustainable development and eradicating poverty and the realization of which mainly requires strong partnership building and commitment at the national and international levels.



Efforts and measures

- **NAP prepared in 1998 after the convention ratification in 1997**
- **NAP PRIORITY AREAS;**
- **Promoting Peoples participation in sustainable development and natural resource management;**
- **Improving knowledge on drought and desertification;**

Efforts and measures (cont.)

- **Management of natural resources leading to sustainable development;**
- **Improving the socio economic environment;**
- **Improving basic infrastructure;**

Efforts and measures (cont.)

- **Promotion of alternative livelihood;**
- **Intensification of agriculture;**
- **Promotion of awareness;**
- **Improving institutional organization and capacity;**
- **Empowerment of women**

Measures taken implement NAP

1. **Formulation of Policies and Laws**

- **The Conservation Strategy of Ethiopia**
- **The Environmental Policy of Ethiopia**
- **Agricultural and Rural Development Policies and Strategies**

Measures taken continued

- **Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation (legal provisions on land use planning and proper use of sloppy, gully , wetlands etc);**
- **Other sect oral and cross sectoral polices (e.g. .Water biodiversity, energy population ,etc);**
- **Chief defile arrangement**

Measures continued

2. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

- **Decentralization policy of the government and its relevance for UNCCD;**
- **Relevant Government Institutions at Federal and Regional levels;**
- **3. National Capacity Needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management;**

Measures taken continued

3. Adoption of NAP in the Government programmes (PASDEP)

- District Environmental Management Plans prepared and implemented in various districts;
- The effort to prepare District Environmental Management Plans at Community level started
- Forrest, soil and water conservation, area closure, etc are the main intervention areas

Measures taken continued

- Guideline for the preparation and implementation of WEMP is being prepared;
- Training for TOT being provided on WEMP preparation and implementation;

Measures continued

- Ethiopia is also one of the selected pilot countries in the sub-Saharan African countries for the Terr Africa Initiative. This initiative is hoped to bring a lot of resources for Ethiopia. Being CP to the convention is a prerequisite to access this resource;
- Support youths to protect their surrounding environment and improve their livelihood initiative is started
- Combating desertification relevant measures by GOVs and Non GOVs

Challenges of UNCCD/NAP Implementation

Global challenges

- Lack of adequate and predictable financial mechanism;
- Lack of clear targets globally for monitoring and follow up the implementation of the Convention;
- Lack of long term Strategic plan for the Convention;

Challenges continued

Country level challenges

- Low level of awareness on the impacts of desertification at all levels;
- Poor information and net working system among and between stake holders for information exchange on the status of desertification and efforts of combating desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- Lack of adequate environmentally sound technology and practices;
- Absence of Environmental/Desertification fund;

Conclusion

- Development of Community level Action Plan and implementation is very essential for combating desertification and mitigate the effects of drought is very essential;
- Effective institutional coordination among the relevant stake holders (NGOs,CBOs,Govs,Donor communities, etc)
- Promote the synergistic implementation of the three RIO Conventions

