**Oromia Environment, Forest and Climate Change Authority**

**Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit**

**OFLP Steering Committee Minutes**

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**Bishoftu**

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# 1. Background

## 1.1 Introduction

The Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) is Oromia Regional State's long term Program that would contribute to transformation in how forested landscapes within Oromia are managed to provide multiple goods and services in perpetuity. The Program would operate across the boundaries of the Oromia Regional State and the successful implementation of OFLP is anchored in: (i) Strengthening state-wide policies that help improve the enabling environment for reducing deforestation and forest degradation, (ii) Strategic coordination of ongoing and planned REDD+ relevant initiatives in the regional state across sectors and projects; and (iii) Accounting [reference emissions level (REL) and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)] at the level of the Oromia Regional State. The ORCU will coordinate day-to-day implementation Program related activities across sectors of Agriculture, Forestry and Energy. ORCU is currently administratively housed at Oromia Environment, Forest and Climate Change Authority. Furthermore, the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group for OFLP were established to provide strategic guidance and technical advice to the program respectively.

## 1.2 Objectives of the meeting

The overall objective of the meeting was to introduce OFLP steering committee members (as the majority of them are new cabinet members) on the preparation(design) and implementation readiness of the Oromia Forested Landscape Program.

## 1.3 Official opening of the meeting

Ato Tesfaye Gonfa has introduced the agenda of the meeting to steering committee members and call the chair person for well coming and opening remarks.

Director General of Oromia Environment, Forest and Climate Change Authority Dr. Hasan Yusuf made welcoming notes to steering committee members and he thanked all the members for their esteemed and came to these important meeting. Even though his excellence Ato Umer Huseen was not chair the meeting because of other assignment Dr. Hasan Yusuf also made an opening remark. In his speech he was clearly pointed out the significance of the steering committee members in the design of the program. He noted that OFLP contributes to CRGE vision and objectives because of its huge abatement potential through sustainable forest management. In his final speech he was clearly brief OFLP institutional setup, mandates and composition of steering committee.

# 2. **Session 1: Presentation on overview of the OFLP:**

The major topics of presentation covered by Ato Tesfaye Gonfa (ORCU program coordinator) includes:

* The linkage of the program to National REDD+ program, CRGE and GTP2;
* Phases of OFLP;
* Key design features of OFLP;
* OFLP as scale up engine;
* OFLP preparation and timeline;
* Scope of OFLP;
* OFLP interventions to address the main drivers of deforestation;
* Program Components and Activities; under this topic three different components with their respective activities were discussed;
* OFLP implementation arrangement and
* Implementation readiness.

In his presentation Oromia Forested Landscape Carbon Finance progam objectives clearly introduced to steering committee members. Background of Oromia Regional State in terms of land mass, forest resources and REDD+ potentials were clearly presented. The three phases of the program: Design phase, implementation phase and emission reduction phase was clearly presented by Tesfaye Gonfa (ORCU program coordinator)**.**  As he was clearly stated a series of analytical study has been conducted and consultations were held at different level (regional to local level) for relevant stakeholders drawn from different institutions and local communities during the design of the program.

In his presentation he was also explain strategic fit of OFLP to regional and national strategies(GTP2, CRGE, National REDD+ and existing REDD+ relevant initiatives in Oromia). The scope of the program based on landscape and jurisdictional approaches to meets donors interest and others (International national and regional) was presented.

Program components and activities to be included in the OFLP program such as Enabling investments (Land use planning at district and community levels, Extension services, Forest management Investment in deforestation hotspot districts),Enabling environment (Institutions, Incentives, Information, Safeguards Management and Program Management) and Emission Reduction Payment were clearly presented. In his final presentation he gave explanation on OFLP implementation arrangement and implementation readiness.

Ato Taye Dugessa (OFLP Social Safeguards Specialist) has made his presentation on the roles and responsibilities of OFLP steering committee members. In his presentation he was clearly indicates that steering committee members provides strategic guidance to OFLP management, implementation and provides management direction to ORCU.

# 3. Session 2: Discussion on the presentation

The chair person, Dr. Hasan Yusuf kindly call for the steering committee members to raise their comments, suggestion or question on the presentations made by Ato Tesfaye Gonfa. Upon the request, Participants raise the following suggestion, comment and question;

The first suggestion and questions was raised by Ato Didha Dirriba, OFWE General Director. He was explain the design and importance of OFLP. In his speech he was explain the procedure so far passed in OFLP design and to attract international, regional and donors attention; the scope of OFLP is through negotiation agreed at jurisdiction scale. Finally he proposed Oromia Pastoralist development Commission, Oromia Bureau of Livestock and fisheries resource development and Coffee and Tea Authority as steering committee members.

Oromia Finance and Economic Cooperation head Ato Tolasa Gedafa appreciate the presentation made to provide information on the status of OFLP. He was confirm the importance of OFLP in reducing deforestation and forest degradation. In his speech he was clearly indicates the importance of Forest in the livelihood improvements, climate regulation, carbon revenue and watershed management. Finally he suggested the power of community consultation and participation for the design and implementation of OFLP.

Oromia Bureau of Water, Mineral & Energy head Ato Aseffa Kumsa concerned in the severity of deforestation and forest degradation in oromia and he supposed that the OFLP is/will be a solution for the problems.

**Questions**

1. What are the roles of different sectors in OFLP implementation?
2. Is there any action plan prepared for the steering committee?
3. What is the methodology used to set Baseline/Reference level for OFLP?
4. Why OFLP is not at watershed scale/ Why jurisdictions?
5. How integrated land use planning is considered in OFLP?
6. How far OFLP coordination strong?
7. What is the commitments of BoA to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation?
8. What is the role of forest in the GDP?

**Answer**

Ato Abebe Wolde in the status of deputy head and NRM process owner was a first respondent to the questions raised by the steering committee members. In his speech he was clearly indicates the efforts/mandates of agriculture and natural resource bureau in community mobilization towards natural resource management. He recommended the need to strength platforms to increase the contribution of BoA to REDD+.

Dr. Teshoma Adugna respondent

Ato Didha Dirriba gave a brief explanation why the program is/will be at jurisdictions. According to him to create a center of attention for donors, regional and international body and to manage the leakage it was agreed through negotiations at jurisdictions. Ato Tesfaye and Ato Didha are also explain the methodology used to set Reference level. They confirmed that the OFLP baseline/reference level was set based on FCPF methodological framework (Average historical deforestation and forest degradation). The reference level developed for the country was lead by MRV specialist based at MEFCC. Therefore, MRV unit is responsible for reference level developed.

It is possible to consider land use planning through establish a multi-sector coordination platform on land-use issues, strengthen the capacity of the sectors and support implementation of land use planning with additional financial and technical resources.

Ato Tesfaye clearly stated that effective OFLP implementation requires clear and coherent mandates, sufficient capacities, and effective horizontal and vertical coordination. The roles and responsibilities of each relevant sectors were included in the PIM and that of the steering committee was presented by ORCU social safeguards specialist.

Finally Dr. Hasan clearly indicates conflict resolution mechanisms because of different interest. In his remark he was explain BSM helps to establishes the level of benefits, and how, when, where and to whom benefits are distributed in the REDD+ program to address conflict of interest between different stakeholders. The issues of coordination and the contributions of forest sector in GDP were detailed by Dr. Hasan. Finally he was underline the needs of Action plan for steering committee to obtain the support of the members.

# 4. Session 3: Closing remark

Dr, Hasan Yusuf Director General of Oromia Environment, Forest and Climate Change Authority, gave a brief closing remark by summarizing what has been presented and discussed. In his speech he thanked all the steering committee members for their attendance and active participations.

The meeting was adjoined at 1:00 pm

