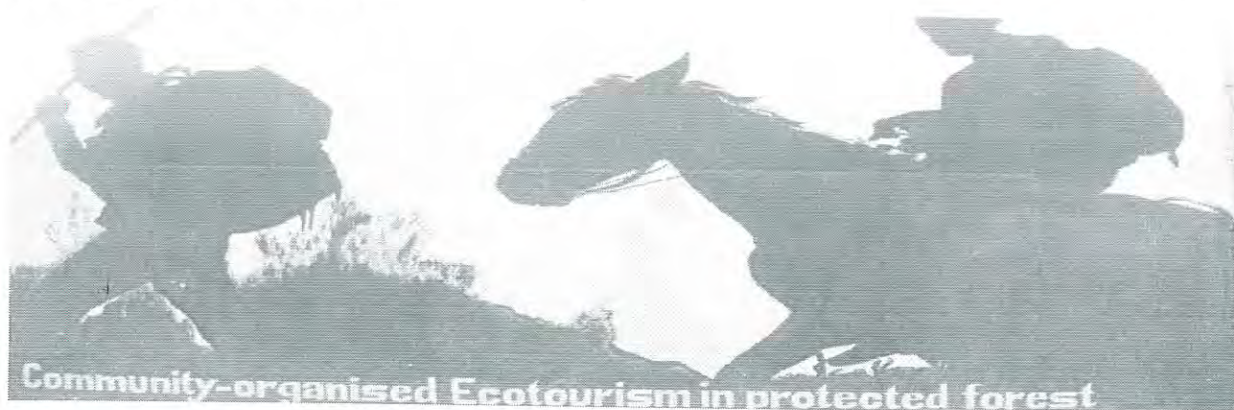


Escaping Poverty's Grasp: A *WAJIB* Approach For Environmental Conservation and Eco-Tourism Development to Enhance Rural Livelihoods. A Case Study on Integrated Forest Management project (IFMP) Adaba-Dodola.



A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

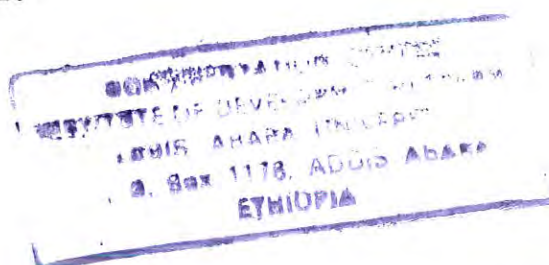
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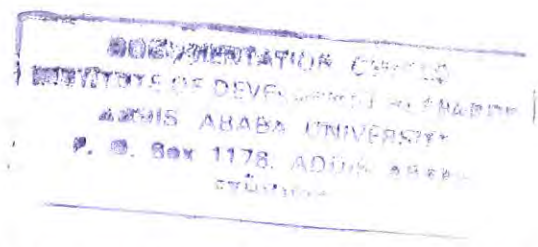
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Submitted To – Mulugeta Feseha (PhD)

By- Sewbesew Yideg

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Title

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Environmental Conservation and Eco-Tourism
Development to Enhance Rural Livelihoods. A Case
Study on Integrated Forest Management Project
(IFMP) Adaba-Dodola.*

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CSA:	Central Statistical Authority
ETB:	Ethiopian Birr
LDCs:	Least Developed Countries
m.a.s.l:	Meter above Sea Level
NGO:	Non Governmental Organizations
SPSS:	Statistical Package For Social Science
FPAs:	Forest Priority Areas
WAJIB:	<i>Waldayaa Jiraatoota Bosonaa (oromifa), Forest Dwellers Association</i>
PFM:	Participatory Forest Management
WCED:	World Commission on Environment And Development
SARD:	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
IFMP:	Integrated Forest Management Project
DFID:	Department for International Development
IETS:	International Eco Tourism Society
UN:	United Nations
SLF :	Sustainable Livelihood Frame Work
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
SNNPR	Southern Nations and Nationalities and Peoples Region
GTZ	Gesellschaft Für Technische Zusammenarbeit
OARDO	Oromia Agriculture and Rural Development Office
RLNRAA	Rural Land and Natural Resource Administration Authority
FBAC	Forest Block Allocation Contract
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IFAD	International Fund For Agricultural Development
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
Et al	et alii(I at), and others
Ha	Hectare
%	Percent
PA	Peasant Association

GLOSSARY OF LOCAL TERMS

<i>Afaan Oromo</i>	Oromo Language
<i>ETB</i>	Unit of Ethiopian Currency
<i>Dergue</i>	The Marxist Style Military Government That Ruled Ethiopia From 1974-1999
<i>Iqib</i>	Rotating Credit Groups
<i>Peasant Association</i>	The Lowest Administrative Unit In Ethiopia (Kebele)
<i>Woreda</i>	An Administrative Unit That Is Above Kebele and Less than Zone

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Abstract

The Bale Mountains in the high lands of Southern Ethiopia are an example for a huge impact which rural population can create on natural resources such as forest and their bio diversity .The heavy degradation of the remaining natural forests in this area has initiated an intervention by the GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) in 1995 with a goal to protect the remaining afro montane forest and to develop, use and manage them sustainably. The community based approach which is named WAJIB (Walda Jirratootaa Boossona), has been implemented to achieve the goal. WAJIB granted an exclusive user right while at the same time entitling the community with a right to earn a livelihood from wood and non-wood income generating activities. This research made an attempt to see the governance, effectiveness and sustainability of the approach while studying the contribution of the approach to enhanced capital assets and livelihood outcome of the local community in the study area. The study deals with the contribution of the approach to livelihoods, which is based on assessing the contribution of the approach to the livelihood of the poor employing the livelihood framework as a check list to collect, organize and analyze the data systematically. A mixed method approach (quantitative and qualitative) is employed to generate the required data. A total of 100 samples were drawn to collect the required data. After analyzing the data the study concludes the approach has scored a momentous result on the development of the capital assets of the community, but the analysis shows that the approach could not solve all the initial problems in the study area .While the natural capital is improved in most of the WAJIB areas it shows a deteriorating trend among the Non- WAJIBs due to the difference in forest management among the two groups. In view of the financial capital the introduction of alternative income possibilities and enhanced income from the existing resources has boosted. In studying the improvement in the social capital, though a strong social networks and connectedness is consolidated within and among the WAJIB members, a conflicting and hostile relationship is being observed among WAJIB and Non- WAJIB groups due to the creation of WAJIB blocks with exclusive user rights for a relatively limited number of beneficiaries. The contribution of Eco tourism to livelihood out comes is found to be imperative at varying degrees to the different livelihood out comes .While extremely important to meet cash needs; Furthermore, the study revealed that individuals participating in eco tourism activity in the area are getting a mean monthly income of 120 ETB, while the non financial benefits accrue in similar vein. But a further diffusion of income has to be supported. its contribution to people's empowerment must be dealt in depth to made the local community respond authentically to a livelihood strategy they may pursue in the future.

Key Words: WAJIB, Conservation, Livelihood, Capital Assets, Livelihood Out Comes

CHAPTER ONE-INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Local people often depend on nearby natural resources, products and services to meet their livelihood needs. These needs include the basic human needs of food, cloth and shelter, and other additional needs of development. Conservation of natural resources, on the other hand, requires the realization of stated objectives of protecting wildlife, vegetation and landscapes. One of the ways by which societies have been trying to conserve biodiversity, maintain genetic resources, protect important ecosystem functions and cultural landscapes is by establishing them under protected areas (Dudley and Phillips, 2006 cited in Mathewos 2007).

Human development has been and is being achieved through the continuous utilization of these resources. The boom of industrial age witnessed the accelerated resource utilization, which consequently resulted in accelerated depletion of natural resources. Therefore, nations began to realize that to be able to have a continuous development and progress, they must make use of these resources in a sustainable way. Nowadays, reconciling economic development with biodiversity conservation has become one of the main elements in search for sustainable development (Wells, 1995).

To this fact, government-controlled forest conservation initiatives began in Ethiopia in the mid 1970s. These initiatives have resulted in the establishment of different types of protected areas such as state-owned Forest Priority Areas (FPAs), National Parks, Game Reserves, Sanctuaries and Controlled Hunting Areas. By definition, all FPAs are state-owned, settlement inside the FPA is prohibited, and only the government may harvest the forest products (Abdurahiman et al, 2004).

Adaba-Dodola FPA is one of the 58 FPAs that have been under the management of the forest administration. This afro-montane forest had an area of 140,000 ha in 1982. Currently it covers only 53,000 ha (Tsegaye et al, 2004).

The Integrated Forest Management Project has developed a feasible forest conservation approach locally recognized as WAJIB. WAJIB in local language stands for *Waldayaa Jiraatoota Bosonaa*, which means Forest Dwellers' Association. The main principle of WAJIB is to grant exclusive user rights to the recognized members of the association (Abdurahiman et al, 2004).

Adaba-Dodola forest is characterized by beautiful scenery and rich biodiversity. The area offers high tourism potential attracting more than 900 international and domestic tourists per annum. Ecologically the area is important for watershed protection and soil conservation supporting lives of millions of people. It is in here where Ethiopia is exercising participatory forest management (PFM) with the objective of achieving sustainable forest management through community empowerment to bring sustainable livelihood development (Abdurahiman et al,2004).

Environment - community adaptation can provide the basis for sustainable livelihoods in a context in which human society is co-evolving with the eco-zone in which it is located; under the influence of external forces of policy, technology, trade, etc. Put simply, human society takes its raw materials from the environment to produce useful services and products for consumption (Naresh C. Singh, 1996)

Background and Overview Surfacing a decade ago in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the idea of sustainable livelihoods began as an approach to maintain or enhance resource productivity, secure ownership of land, access to assets and income-earning activities as well as to ensure adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs (Naresh C. Singh, 2000)

Measures designed to conserve biodiversity must, therefore, provide economic incentives to increase the net local benefits from conservation and sustainable resource use (McNelly, 1988). Local peoples livelihood activities should be studied and clearly identified in order to choose which of the activities are threats to the conservation or sustainable use of the natural resources. By identifying the major threats of biodiversity

conservation, we could then form strategies by which alternatives could be provided for local people's livelihood demands there by supporting conservation objectives of protected areas. This has meant a new emphasis on finding ways of deriving income from wild lands and biological resources which do not lead to further losses of biodiversity (Wilson, 1992 cited in Mathewos, 2007).

This paper will examine the *WAJIB* approach as to whether it has achieved its environmental conservation and alternative livelihood development objectives or not using the sustainable livelihood framework as a checklist to holistically analyze all the livelihood components systematically.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The Ethiopian highlands comprise nearly 45 percent of the total land area and support over 85 percent of the country's 64 million people that are overwhelmingly rural. The highlands are the centre of economic activity of the country and are characterized by enormous ecological, environmental, agricultural and cultural diversity. The Ethiopian highlands have also significant global environmental importance as being the source of some important Trans-boundary rivers, notably the Blue Nile, and host a wide variety of flora and fauna that are rich in biodiversity. There is severe degradation of the natural resources base that is fundamental to the achievement of sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD) and these highlands will not be able to produce and sustain livelihoods if the current trend of intensive cultivation, overgrazing and deforestation, soil erosion and soil fertility decline, lack of water control, shortage of livestock feed continue unabated (EPA, 2004).

The rural poor living around forests heavily depend on biodiversity to satisfy their basic needs such as food, water, housing and social services. The economic dependency of the people on the forest which offers firewood and area that can be converted to agricultural land is one of the main reasons for deforestation.

Adaba-Dodola FPA is one of the 58 FPAs that have been under the management of the forest administration. This afro-montane forest had an area of 140,000 hectares in 1982.

Currently it covers 53,000 hectares only. Rapid deforestation and environmental degradation has forced the forest administration to seek an alternative to government controlled forest conservation approach.

The natural forests of Adaba-Dodola is shrinking by 3 percent or 16 square kilometers every year. This is due to unregulated access by wood collectors and livestock herds. In addition to the overexploitation of the forest there is also a problem of regeneration due to overgrazing. During the cropping season livestock herds from the farming areas are brought into the natural forest in big numbers and this has disturbed the natural regenerations in many areas (WAJIB Information Material, 2005).

Most of the valuable trees had been selected and cut during the logging operations carried out by the government in the past. The local population has also used to cut trees remained from the logging operations. Destruction of natural regeneration by livestock coupled with selective cutting of medium trees by inhabitants in the area, resulted in over aged forest stands (WAJIB Information Material, 2005).

In an era of global social crisis characterized by increasing unemployment, jobless growth, and ecological destruction, we need a broader vision of how people can meet their needs in a sustainable way. Attempting to solve the world's employment crisis using conventional job creation through sustained economic growth cannot work (Naresh, 1996).

As the natural resources of Ethiopia's rural communities are the basis for their development. Increased production from the natural resources is required. This is necessary both to raise consumption levels, and also to permit capital accumulation. However, in many parts of Ethiopia, the natural resource base is currently being degraded. This is leading to lower levels of production and a deterioration in standards of living which threatens the survival of some rural dwellers.

With the above problems and assumptions in mind IFMP was under way since 1998 to conserve the natural environment and enhance the livelihood condition of the local

community and has undergone various works in the area. Conventional approaches for environmental conservation enacted in previous regimes bear no fruit. So it is evident that guards and guns could not prevent these destructive activities from being performed, as it is a question of survival for the local communities. Instead, considering the local people as threats to the biodiversity has exacerbated the problem.

Similar to this project under study, various projects are working in different parts of the country for the same mission. But, yet the livelihood impacts of such projects are not quantified. This study will contribute in filling the knowledge gap that is evident in understanding the impacts of these approaches on poverty reduction, environmental rehabilitation, and livelihood diversification and generally on rural local development. So this study will make an attempt to study the success of the considered state of the art approach (*WAJIB*) in minimizing environmental pressures and the subsequent achievement of better livelihoods in the study area to meet its short term and long term objectives.

1.3 Objectives of the study

General objective

- The general objective of the study is to uncover and examine the livelihood impacts of integrated forest management in the place under study.

Specific objectives

- Examine the *WAJIB* approach's fit with the livelihood of the poor in the place under study
- Assess the governance, effectiveness and sustainability of the *WAJIB* approach
- Reveal the impacts of the approach on people's various assets
- Uncover the impacts of Eco-tourism development on the local communities livelihood 'outcomes'

1.4 The Rational Assumption and Scope of the Study

This paper assumes that through identifying people's livelihood asset, strategy, priority, and expected out comes and acting upon with an appropriate strategy that considers the existing social, institutional, and organizational environment with a concomitant high local participation in decision and enterprises, then poverty impacts and sustainable rural development are likely to happen.

And the scope of the study is limited to those households found in the so called WAJIB blocks and members of the same found within the forests.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Participatory forest management is a relatively new approach focusing on conservation of forest resources through enhancing communities' livelihoods. This study therefore makes an attempt to contribute to the knowledge in this new approach in understanding the contribution of the approach to improved rural livelihoods. And in the course of the research work attempt will be made to identify areas that need the attentions of researchers to fill gaps that are beyond the scope of this study. In addition to the contributions to the understanding of the new development the study also has the following main significances:

- The study will come up with a result on how the integrated environmental conservation and eco- tourism works fit with people's livelihood and the impact it had on local peoples various assets.
- The results of the study will be used to enhance the WAJIB'S approach fit with livelihoods through suggesting ways to re-shape and re-focus the existing approach to better address poverty reduction.
- Provide basic information to governmental and non- governmental organizations interested to promote participatory forest management ventures
- Show directions on how the livelihood impacts of the *WAJIB* approach could be enhanced



CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL LITERATURE

This chapter attempts to shed light on the conceptual and theoretical frameworks anchoring issues related to environmental conservation, Eco-tourism, sustainable livelihood approach and generally on livelihoods. The framework is used to guide the data generation, analysis and discussion process in the study.

2.1. Concepts and Definitions

2.1.1. Livelihood

The basic concept of livelihood is widely and frequently used in the contemporary poverty and rural development literature. Despite the existence of many definitions of livelihood, its meaning often appeared to be subtle. Chambers and Conway (1992 as cited in Enat, 2007-8) for instance, defined livelihood as it refers to the capabilities, assets including both material and social resources and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base.

In addition, the term livelihood attempts to capture not just what people do in order to make a living, but the resources that provide them with the capability to build a satisfactory living, the risk factors that they must consider in managing their resources, and the institutional and policy context that either helps or hinders them in their pursuit of available or improved living condition (Ellis and Alison, 2004:7).

According to Ellis and Edward (2004), livelihood approach to rural poverty reduction comprises the three main dimensions of livelihood: Assets of the rural poor (divided between five categories of capitals), the activities (on-farm and off-farm) and the mediating process (institutions, organizations and social relations) which influence access to those assets and the use to which they can be put and the strategies adopted by the rural

poor for survival. Therefore, due to the fact that it considers the factors that mediate access and claims in addition to assets and activities, the current study has adopted the Ellis's (2000) definition of livelihood.

Core Concepts of Livelihood

People centered-people rather than the resources they use are the priority concern in the livelihoods approach, since problems associated to development often root in adverse institutional structures impossible to be overcome through simple asset creation. Therefore, sustainable poverty reduction will entail success only if development agents work with people in congruency with their current livelihood strategies, social environment and capabilities to adapt. At a practical level this implies a detailed analysis of people's livelihoods and their dynamics over time (DFID, 2002).

Holistic- A holistic view is aspired in understanding the stakeholders' livelihoods as a whole, with all its facts. This doesn't intend to be an exact representation of the way the world is, but rather a manageable model to identify the most pressing constraints faced by people regardless of where (i.e. which sector, geographical space,...) these occur.

Dynamic- Just as people's livelihoods and the institutions that shape them are highly dynamic, so is the approach in order to learn from changes and help refiguring negative impacts, whilst supporting positive effects.

Building on strengths- A central issue of the approach is the recognition of every one's inherent potential for his/her removal of constraints and realization of potentials. This will contribute to the stakeholders' robustness and ability to achieve their own objectives.

Macro-Micro Links- Development activity tends to focus at either the macro or the micro level, whereas the SLA tries to bridge this gap in stressing the links between the two levels. As people are often affected from decisions at the macro policy level and vice-versa, this relation needs to be considered in order to achieve sustainable development.

Sustainability- A livelihood can be classified as sustainable, when it is resilient in the face of external shocks and stresses, when it is not dependent upon external support,

when it is able to maintain the long term productivity of natural resources and when it does not undermine the livelihood options of others.

2.1.2. Eco-Tourism

In 1991 the international Eco-tourism society (IETS) defined eco-tourism as “responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of local people.” This nearly encapsulates the difference between nature tourism and eco-tourism, namely the involvement of local people, enabling them to benefit from the proceeds. The UN recognizes eco-tourism as both a market segment and a set of principles. But one of the clearest definitions is a neat acronym from the East African Tour operator, Eco-resorts. Eco, it says, stands for “environment and community-oriented”.

Perhaps in order to prevent confusion with nature tourism, some people have begun to define eco-tourism as “responsible tourism”. But the two are not synonymous. Responsible tourism practices (such as respect for local cultures and environmental-friendly energy uses), can be applied to any segment of the tourism industry, including also apply to eco-tourism, eco-tourism is more specific, delivered primarily (though not necessarily) to small groups by small scale companies, and involving responsible behavior by both. It contributes to the conservation of bio-diversity and sustains the well-being of local people, while providing quests with a learning experience and renewable resources. The message is proactive, going beyond simple minimizing the negative impact of tourist activities but recognizing that tourism can be a powerful force for good. The emphasis is on community participation, as agents of conservation, so that people can enjoy improved living standards (Stephanie D, 2002).

2.1.3. Livelihood Diversification

Livelihood diversification is one among the livelihood strategies pursued by the rural people to supplement the income generated from the existing activity or to generally enhance their livelihoods. Diversification refers to increase in the number of sources of income and the balance among the different sources. Thus, a household with two sources of income would be more diversified than a household with just one source, and a household with two income sources, each contributing 50% of the total, would be more diversified than a household with one source accounting for 90% of the income (IFPR, 2002)

Diversification is also a response to new risks; especially those related to a trend towards smaller land holdings and increasing landlessness as population pressure increases; growing environmental risks like persistent drought and falling ground water; structural adjustment policies such as removal of agricultural price supports, reducing input subsidies and rising user charges for public service delivery and highest commodity price risks due to market liberalization (Deshinvar, 2004 cited in Enat, 2007:3).

Livelihood diversification is often one of several livelihood change strategies adopted by the rural poor depending on natural resources. Increasing numbers of rural poor are being forced to leave their traditional areas of employment and move into wage labor as the principal source of income, often as a result of indebtedness and the need to sell livelihood dependent assets, such as land and fishing craft (Campbell et al, 2005: 23)

Barrett identifies four distinct rural livelihood strategies. Those who depend exclusively on their own. Agricultural (animal or crop) production for income is known to be “Full time farmers”; others combine on farm production with wage labor on others farm referred as “farmer and farm worker” strategy. The other two strategies combine farm and non-farm earnings but with those who undertake skilled labor whether in the farm and non-farm sectors “farm and skilled non-farm” and those who do not are include in “mixed” strategy (Barrett et al 2001:319)

Barrett added that the four household livelihood diversification strategies do not offer similar returns. Based on the study made in different parts of Africa, non-farm income dominate those based entirely on agriculture while the farm and skilled non-farm and full

time farmer strategies generally offer superior returns to the mixed and especially the farmer and farm worker strategies respectively.

2.1.4. The Concept of Environmental Conservation

Humans have a significant control and mastery over the earth's resources. Baubaker (1972) has stated, only by the control of his numbers and limitations of his occupancy of space, can man leave room for many other species and for ecological preserves in which he can research his own past. Nevertheless, due to different reasons related with human behavior, socioeconomic conditions and advances in technology, humans have failed to manage the earth's resources effectively.

In recent decades, the accelerated loss of biodiversity all over the world has led to the increasing awareness of the potentially dangerous consequences of such loss on the earth ecological functions and the fulfillment of basic human needs (Gbadegesin & Ayileka, 2000). In the pre-modern world, traditional societies made use of the natural resources as a subsistence resource and to a lesser extent for trade.

Conservation approaches, however, have been evolving rapidly, responding to social and economic changes as well as advances in natural and social sciences. The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development that published the influential *Brunt land Report* in 1987, and the numerous environmental initiatives that followed, testify to the expanding global awareness that complex interconnections exist between development processes and the state of the environment (Stonich, 2000).

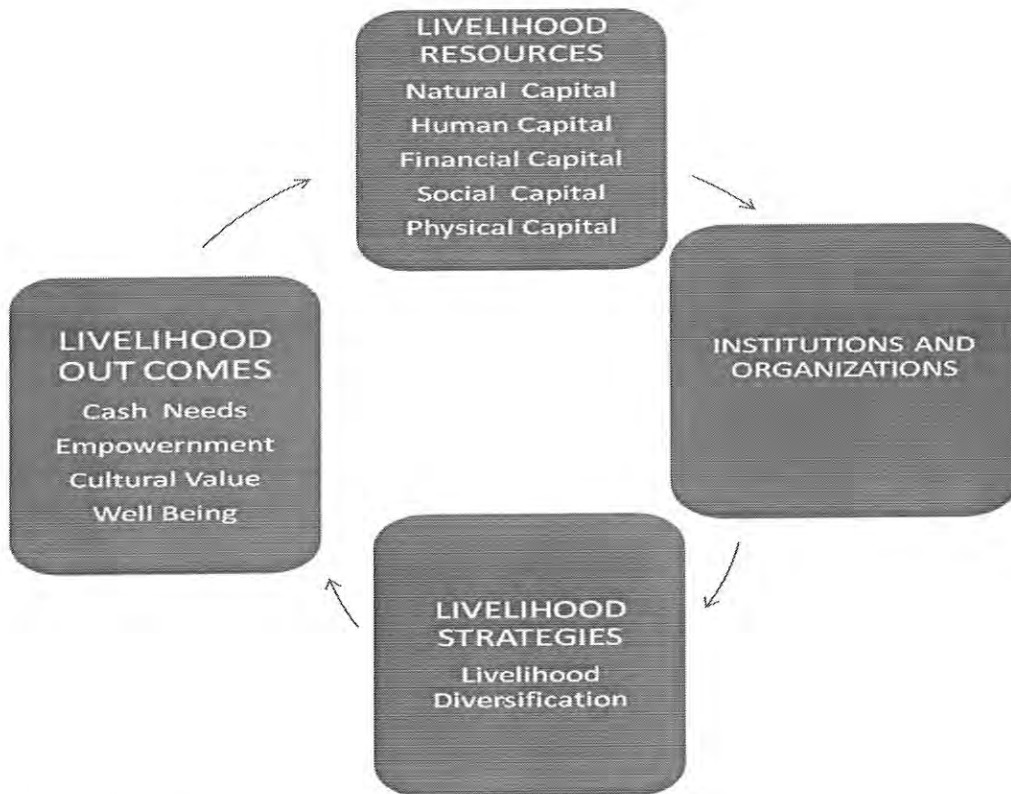
2.1.5 Poverty

Unlike the prevailing notion in which poverty is viewed as a serious of deprivations, largely quantifiable, characterizing specific groups and individuals, this research viewed poverty as a more dynamic social relationship among economic and political actors in a given society. The relationship is characterized by competition among individuals, diverse groups, economic agents and the state as each seeks to accumulate wealth and economic power. In that context, poverty is considered to be the result of the competition process in which many competitors are deprived , over time, of assets and opportunities to improve their living standards and are pushed to the margins of political processes.

Poverty is not a result of indolence or incompetence but the result of economic and political processes in which the poor are excluded from assets, and resources, be it through displacement from productive lands, political exclusion, ethnic conflicts, or numerous other causes (David, 2006).

2.2. The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF)

The SLF Forms the core of the sustainable livelihoods approach and senses as an instrument for the investigation of poor people’s livelihoods, whilst visualizing the main factors of influence. Like all models, the SLF shows diversity and richness of livelihoods, which can only be understood by qualitative and participatory analysis at the local level (DFID, 2002).



Source: SLF construction (adapted from Ellis), 2010

The framework depicts stakeholders as operating in a context of vulnerability, within which they have access to certain assets.

These gain their meaning and value through the prevailing social, institutional, and organizational environment (transforming structures and processes). This context decisively influences the livelihood strategies that are open to people in pursuit of their self-defined beneficial livelihood outcomes. In other words, the frame work provides a check list of important issues and sketches out the way this link to each other, while it draws special attention to core influences and processes and their multiple interactions in association to livelihoods.

The frame work is informative to summarize how households, especially the poor, in the rural areas are struggling for survival. According to this approach, the asset status of the poor individuals and households is fundamental to understand the option open to them, the strategies they adopt for survival and their vulnerability to adverse trends and events.

The sustainable livelihood framework, therefore, considers assets, mediating processes, contextual factors (trend and shocks) and activities as an interrelated components and processes that jointly contribute to the rural livelihood strategies (Scoones , 1998).

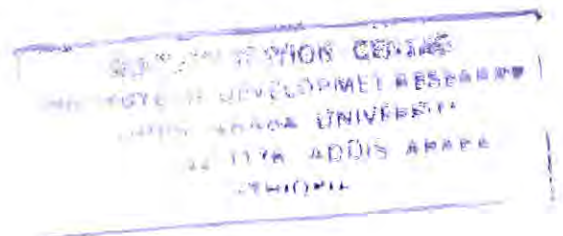
2.3. History and Approaches of Biodiversity Conservation in Ethiopia

The topography and diverse climatic conditions of Ethiopia have led to the emergence of habitats that are suitable for evolution and survival of various plant and animal species. As a result the country is one of the biodiversity rich parts of the world (EPA, 2003). Apart from the spectacular contrasts of landscapes, the country has a rich and diversified biodiversity. The wild life resource of the country includes 227 mammals out of which 31 are endemic, 862 birds out of which 16 are endemic, 201 reptiles out of which 10 are endemic, and 63 amphibians out of which 34 are endemic to Ethiopia (EPA, 2003). The extent of natural forest resources is about 3.9 million ha and covers 3.4% of the total land area of the country. It is distributed in three regional states namely the Oromia (2.6 million ha), the Southern Nations and Nationalities Regional State (0.8 million ha), and the Gambella Regional State (0.5 million ha) (EPA, 2003).

In Ethiopia, biodiversity conservation measures have a long history. Emperor Menelik , after meeting a British wildlife protection delegation in 1893, declared the first proclamation on wildlife protection in 1908. Long after this, in 1931, Emperor Haile Selassie I put forth a five-articled proclamation on wildlife protection . However, the first national parks were established in the late 1960's (although some imperial game reserves were established much earlier) to protect a wide variety of endemic species (Bassi, 2003 cited in Mathewos 2007). Even though conservation measures have a long history, the poor socio economic situation of the population in rural areas coupled with weak government policies have led to environmental degradation, which came about from deforestation, land degradation, soil erosion, declining agricultural productivity and wildlife loss and extinction in protected areas. But in recent studies and environmental conservation approaches, the problem behind environmental degradation is highlighted from a different perspective. Throughout the succeeding part of this study attempts will be made to see the results and draw backs of these contemporary approaches. And results will be assessed against the literatures presented here.

During the imperial era and the following socialist period, the total absence of any consideration for local communities in protected areas has produced an antagonistic feeling towards government-protected areas (Bassi, 2003). The Environmental Protection Authority, established by the present Federal Government to promote a comprehensive environmental policy in the country, identified a number of problems in the management and utilization of wildlife resources. The major problems identified were (EPA, 2003):

- ⇒ Failure to ensure the participation of local communities in the protection and management of wildlife resources;
- ⇒ The fact that human population living around wildlife sanctuaries don't have alternative livelihood, widespread poverty forces them to give priority to short term benefits;
- ⇒ Human settlements, farming and grazing activities, deforestation to meet fuel wood and construction needs as well as forest fires in protected areas;
- ⇒ The non-existence of legally recognized boundaries for the protected areas and illegal hunting.



The Environmental Policy of Ethiopia is the chief policy framework for the management of the country's natural resources, which gives particular focus on the natural and cultural heritages of the country. The overall goal of the policy is to improve and enhance the health and quality of life of all Ethiopians and to promote sustainable social and economic development through the sound management and use of natural, human-made and cultural resources and the environment as a whole so as to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (EPA, 2003).

The policy affirms that Ethiopia's rich *natural and cultural heritages* are facets of daily life and provide a powerful and socially cohesive force in the national consciousness. It further states that they are the major elements for development of the tourism industry in the nation. In addition, it recognizes that much of these natural and cultural heritages are under threat through neglect, decay, removal or destruction as well as through the less visible and tangible impacts of changing socio-cultural values, foreign ideas and imported technologies (EPA, 2003).

The Ethiopian Environmental Policy also includes an article (Article 3.3) concerning the conservation of genetics, species and ecosystem biodiversity (EPA, 2003). The policy specifies the need to promote *in situ*^{*3} systems as primary target for conserving both wild and domesticated biological diversity. The same article also specifies the need to promote the involvement of local communities inside and outside protected areas in planning and management of such areas (EPA, 2003). In addition, economic development policies and strategies were set by the government equipped with sectoral and cross sectional strategies that directly or indirectly incorporate environmental concerns (EPA, 2003).

Gedio's Agro-forestry system

Gedio zone, found in the SNNPRS, has a total area of 1347 km² inhabited by 773,514 populations. In *Gedio*, nearly all people live virtually in a home garden land use system. In this system slopes as steep as 80 degree are under production.

Out of the total zonal population, about 86%, living in the rural area is involved in agro-forestry development activities, which is one of the best measures to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in the zone. Mainly, biological measures are being practiced in the area. As a result, soil and water resources are well conserved, home garden agro-forestry and biodiversity have been enhanced; and most area of the zone is covered by evergreen vegetation. The success of this strategy is for instance manifested in the high diversity of life forms giving these ecosystems the appearance of forests due largely to “place-making” by woody perennials and diverse herbaceous “weedy” ground flora (EPA, 2004).

Konso’s Indigenous Terrace building

The Konso district is found in the Southern Nations/ Nationalities People’s Region (SNNPR). The District has an area of 2,354.3 km² inhabited by 212,235 population. Out of the total area of the district, about 80% is terraced. The farmers of Konso are well known for their own homegrown/special terrace building, which is one of the best locally available techniques for soil and water conservation. In addition, the Konso’s are well known for their crop diversification to minimize risk, mixed cropping and multi-story crop and tree production in traditional intensification. Merit is given to hard work, productivity and natural resource conservation. As a result, the Konso’s people have controlled land degradation even in hilly and mountainous areas. Each terrace has been in place for more than 50 years. All Konso people participate in terrace building. Konso’s terracing and agro forestry practices have significant contribution to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and needs to be replicated in other parts of the country (EPA, 2003).

The WAJIB approach for environmental conservation

This is the approach where the major focus of the research work resides on. In 1995 the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) initiated a project on participatory forest management in the Bale Mountains in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia. The inducement for the project was the heavy degradation of the remaining natural forests in this area due to uncontrolled anthropogenic use.

The overall goal of the Integrated Forest Management Project Abada-Dodola (IFMP) was to protect the remaining forests from further destruction and to develop, use and manage them sustainably (Girma, 2004). To reach these goals and respond to the problems adequately the GTZ decided to develop a community-based approach which was named the WAJIB approach (local language abbreviation for forest dwellers' association). The idea of WAJIB is that the forest dwellers get exclusive user rights for the forests which allow them to earn their livelihood with forest products. In return the WAJIB associations have to guarantee the maintenance of the tree cover. Supplementary, measures of the IFMP included the implementation of non-wood based income generating activities from which the most recognized is the eco-tourism project in Adaba-Dodola (Girma, 2004). The WAJIB approach was introduced after a long process of discussion and interaction with the relevant stakeholders. Together with representatives of each village surrounding the forest priority areas(FPA's), the forest administration defined the border between the area inside and outside the forest. Afterwards, the FPA was subdivided into forest blocks (FAO, 2004).

Organizational Structure of the WAJIB Approach

Each forest block is managed by organized user groups of not exceeding 30 households. This number is based on a calculated carrying capacity of 12 ha per homestead (FAO, 2007). Forest block is a demarcated area within the territory of Adaba-Dodola Forest (OARDO, 2007). The number of “30households has proved to be most appropriate in terms of manageability and positive impact with respect of forest conservation” (FAO, 2007). “ The highest decision making body of the WAJIB is the general assembly that includes all recognized members”. Meetings shall be conducted three times per month (Genene, 2010). Furthermore, each WAJIB group democratically elects leaders for the main committee, also called executive committee, which has its own regular meeting, in which they discuss and agree on pertinent issues (Girma, 2006). The executive committee formulates a management plan for the forest block in cooperation with the district's Rural Land and Natural Resource Administration Authority (RLNRAA). Its duty is to develop adequate measures to protect the forest against use by outsiders. According to Girma Amente (2004), all members and both sexes have equal rights in all aspects.

WAJIB Forest Block Allocation Agreement (FBAA)

In order to provide a legally binding contract the Forest Block Allocation Agreement has been elaborated. The FBAA is the result of “intensive consultation between stakeholders and official approval by the Oromiya Regional Council in 2000” (Girma, 2006). Each WAJIB group signs this contract with the government. The contract contains the rights and duties of both the forest administration as well as forest dwellers. According to the FBAA the WAJIB members have on the one hand the right to settle in the forest block and also to use the wood from the forest for themselves or for selling. On the other hand they have to fulfill their duties. These include restriction of settlements to the carrying capacity, maintaining the initial tree cover and paying forest rent (FAO, 2009). The rent must only be paid for the area, which is not covered by forest in order to encourage the WAJIB members to increase forest cover. 40 per cent of this rent retains the respective village administration to support also non-WAJIB inhabitants of the community. Further, the WAJIB group itself decides “on the amount of money each member contributes for the rent payment” (FAO, 2009). Another task for the WAJIB members is to regulate access to the forest. One effective method used by WAJIB members is monitoring the forest by patrolling. As determined in the internal regulations of each WAJIB, the absence from lling leads to penalty. In case of significant reduction of tree cover, non-payment of forest rent, excess in settlement or admitting of non-WAJIB members, sanctions are imposed (FAO, 2009). On the other side, the forest administration has the right to visit the forest blocks at any time and also to call and attend WAJIB meetings. Nonetheless, the main duty is to provide technical and organizational assistance (Girma, 2006). In addition, the forest administration is conducting annual tree cover assessments and settlement censuses. Therefore, some elected WAJIB members assist the forest administration. Another duty is to defend the “interests of WAJIB against others and to provide assistance in case of litigation” (FAO, 2006).

2.4. Environment Nexus Poverty

For centuries, rural people have relied on the natural resources around them to support their families and, when conditions have permitted, to raise their living standards and escape the numbing conditions of poverty. Productive activities-filling the soil, producing charcoal, mining precious metals and semi-precious stones and catching fresh water fish-have been possible because rural dwellers have had access to natural resources and environmental services that provide energy, materials for housing, medicinal treatments, marketable goods and food (David, 2006).

Through careful management of those environmental goods, many rural people have earned enough income to invest in more assets to improve their natural resource base, increase their ability to transition into other rural based endeavors or move to urban centers in search of improved living standards. In many situations over the past century that positive dynamic between rising living standards and the environment for people living in rural areas has been supplanted by an ambiguous, often negative one. The essence of that new dynamic is that the rural poor remain dependent on their meager or restricted natural resources. Assets, are unable to participate or compete in the formal economy and must draw down their limited assets in unsustainable ways in order to survive (David, 2006).

They have fallen into severe poverty, both absolutely and relative to access in their societies. The accompanying depletion of natural capital, be it by stressing the productive capacity of soils, overgrazing pastures, cutting down forests and mangroves or depleting fishing grounds, has resulted in a downward cycle of environmental degradation and deepening impoverishment. Promoting the positive, mutually enhancing dynamic between the rural poor and sustainable use of natural resources has provided a main rationale for rural development projects financed by international development agencies, as well as for the local activities of civil society organizations in developing countries around the world. For decades, the investments and activities of these agencies and organizations have complemented government programmes designed to increase rural productivity, extend social services and improve the management of natural resources.

Development partners pursued those goals through construction of infrastructure, provision of extension services, reforestation projects, health and educational programmes, rural financing mechanisms and a host of other activities (David, 2006).

Changes in international economic and political relations have unleashed national and local change processes that involve enormous challenges for the rural poor. The rural poor face new forms of competition for the resources upon which their existence depends. The underlying value of water, land and forests is rising in response to scarcity. In principle, this should be of benefit to rural communities as the values of their assets rise. In practice, this is a dangerous situation. On the one hand, small farmers are unable to leverage this increased value into greater access to investment capital on the other hand, precisely this rise in value gives greater incentive to elite groups to try to capture them (IFAD, 2005, p.22)

2.5. Eco-Tourism as a New Dimension in the Development Approaches

The fact that 2002 is the international year of ecotourism confirms much of the suspicion that once surrounded eco-everything is meeting away. Although a Niche Market, eco-tourism is emerging from the fringes, no longer the preserve of lenthil-lovers and eco-warriors. And its meaning has evolved. Many people think eco-tourism is nature tourism-which the "eco" comes from eco-system or ecology. While eco-tourism's roots do lie in nature tourism, it has grown to mean more (Stephanie D, 2002).

Eco-tourism was first defined by Cebalos-Lascurain (1987) as:

'Traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of studying, addressing, and enjoying the scenery and its plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestations (both past and present) found in these areas.'

In a similar vein, other researchers elaborated this definition by emphasizing certain aspects of it. Eco-tourism is a nature tourism that contributes to conservation, through generating funds for protected areas, creating employment opportunities for local communities, and offering environmental education (Boo, 1991).



In a clear and precise way (Lindberg and Mcleercher, 1997) defined eco-tourism as, tourism and recreation that is both nature based and sustainable. But the literal meaning of **Eco**-is derived from the Greek word *ekois* which means house, while eco-tourism refers to somewhat making guests feel at home (Pender, 2006). As to the contextual definitions of eco-tourism there are so many explanations as concept, development and commercial engagements or areas of business interests. However, there are some agreed up on definitions, which are commonly used in many areas of LDC's. A comparison of these definitions indicates that eco-tourism tends to have three main components: natural-based, educational and sustainable management that includes economic, social, cultural and ethical issues. Although these themes are more or less clear, limitations arise by attempts to express all these components with a single definition that is applied in all circumstances and in all eco-tourism research settings (Diamantis et al, 1999).

Eco-tourism is the most dynamic industry with growing market trend operating in a union environment of eco-sustainability and social conditions of responsible practices while breaking through some barriers of seasonality than other sectors of the industry. Eco-tourism is predominantly developmental; operating frequently by providing all-year round job to the people of the destinations as livelihood options, especially for the people of agrarian society. It promotes conservation linked enterprise developments with sustainable results and reasonable flow of revenue to the community as well as revenue re-investment to the local economic development. It is also known for its eco-sustainability by conserving natural areas, educating visitors about sustainability with clear understanding of the value of bio-diversity and healthy environment while benefiting the local people (Megan, 2002: 7-9 cited in Chernet 2008).

Eco-tourism in terms of space has strong association to rural tourism. Among the various tourist attracting factors in rural tourism are the presence of rivers and attractive natural forests. One of the most vital elements of Eco-tourism is the involvement of the host community. Tourism needs to be incorporated into the social and economic life of the community (GUNN, 1994).

This involvement should be in a direct form, such as share of the revenue generated, employment and most importantly, control in development and implementation of eco-tourism. Tourism can also create improved social welfare, education and infrastructure (Cater, 1994).

2.6. Environmental Conservation Visa-a-Vise Eco-Tourism Development

Eco-tourism can be said to be that occurs in natural settings (protected and non-protected) with an attempt to increase benefits to the economy, society and environment through sustainable educational practices from locals to tourists and vice versa (Diamantis, 1999).

In the eco-tourism definitions, regardless of their perspective, include the natural-based component. As eco-tourism initially developed in tropical regions, the natural-based experiences have been seen to take place in a protected areas (Barnes, 1996), which is 'an area dedicated primarily to the protection and enjoyment of natural or cultural heritages or maintenance of ecological life-support services' (IUCN, 1991 in Ceballos –Lascurain, 1996:29).

The emphasis on eco-tourism related to activities focused on educationally oriented recreation activities and on the enhancement of knowledge through non-consumption usage of the natural resources. In addition, all the activities are assessed as to whether or not they enhance and or protect the environment. The natural-based component of eco-tourism is based on the biological, physical and culture features both in protected and non-protected environments, in which the sustainability and/or conservation elements should signify its practices (Dimitrios, D, 2004).

Governments and non-governmental organizations around the world are developing and promoting eco-tourism in protected areas to benefit local communities and to help preserve the environment and different eco-systems (Pleumarom, 1995).

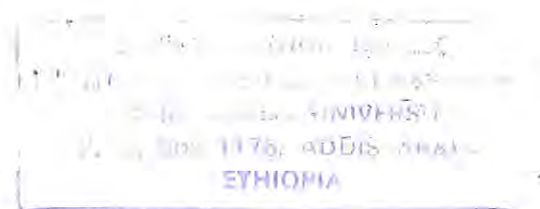
Providing education and interpretation as a part of the experience makes the visitor aware of the environment and how their actions can contribute to the conservation of the same. This is especially the case when visiting fragile resource sites-greater caution will arise from the visitor. Environmental education, if utilized successfully, can fortify environmental consciousness, concern and dedication through an amplified comprehension and appreciation of nature (Black, 1999).

The environment is the natural asset that eco-tourism thrives on; if it is not developed and managed properly eco-tourism can result in negative environmental impacts which would undermine the whole concept of sustainability (Anonymous, 2002).

Environmentally, eco-tourism is anticipated to offer motivation and incentive for preservation of natural areas and regions. The positive impacts that are expected to arise from eco-tourism come in both financial and physical form. Natural conservation, maintenance against environmental degradation, improvement and protection of biodiversity are a few examples of what eco-tourism strives to achieve for the area in which it operates (Israngkura et al, 1996).

2.7 Empirical Findings

A study result by Etefa (2003) indicated that *WAJIB* groups in the investigated households generated annually about ETB 167,250.00 from the forest products and save more than ETB 19,800.00 obtained from the forest in the form of farm implements while they annually received around ETB 62,760.00 to 99,840.00 from non-wood forest products (NWFPs), excluding annual savings from WITA grass products. The first two most promising NWFPs were community based Eco-tourism and honey production. Moreover, NWFPs have generated reasonable income for *WAJIB* groups. *WAJIB* groups have considerable know how of utilizing many forest products, and women have played a very important role in utilizing NWFPs. Promoting community based eco-tourism, honey production, handicrafts and tree seeds, training of *WAJIB* groups has assisted income generation of the community.



In a study conducted by Aklilu to assess the market supply of wood products from plantation and natural forests, he clearly put the impact of the *WAJIB* approach in the supply of wood products coming from the forest priority areas. The result of the study showed that the implementation of the *WAJIB* approach as expected, affected the volume of the supply of different wood products coming from the plantation has increased from 8% in 1999 to 15.45% in 2006 and supply from the natural forest has reduced from 92 % to 85.55%. Among the forest products coming to the markets, small sapling (sticks) product from the eucalyptus plantation had the highest share of market followed by branches from the plantation. Generally, the average price of wood from natural forests has increased by 39 %. Further he indicated, products from the natural forest had a trade value of birr 12,905.30 per market day.

On another study conducted by uncovsky, he attempted to estimate the approximate area of forest (carrying capacity), that would provide one rural household with the same net cash income through the sale of wood products and utilization of the forest pasture on sustainable basis as the farmers living on the plain part can achieve through cash crops grown on an average farm area of 3 hectares. Uncovesky considered the income from the sale of three main forest products: fire wood, construction wood, and sawn wood and through the utilization of the allocated forest area as pasture, for the calculation. The finding revealed that, for an average house hold, to generate, as much income as in the plain, 12 ha of 'forest block land' is required , where trees, pastures and farm plots are distributed as under current average conditions. Thus, the carrying capacity is one average homestead for every 12 ha of forest block surface.

In an attempt to assess the tourism potential of the Adaba-Dodola IFMP area, Max kasperek described some of the attractions of the area where he put it as: people coming to spend holidays in western Bale Mountains ascend from Dodola on horseback to the mountains covered with impressive *juniperous* and *Erica* forests. They make use of the unique opportunity to stay in the mountain over night in local style forest huts, where they found silence, fresh air and a unique nature. According to max, IFMP has promoted eco-tourism in the project area through construction of local style forest huts, providing some basic equipment for the forest huts, and handing over the forest huts to forest dwellers and communities, make sure that both hut keepers and communities benefit

from tourist income. The IFMP has helped in preparing rules, guidelines, and codes of conduct for the hut keepers and guides. Promoting the project area as tourist destination by preparing video show and information leaflets was one of the several activities that were implemented by the IFMP.

Conversion of degraded forests to nature based managed forests is of great importance in Ethiopia, where livelihood of considerable number of people living in rural areas is closely linked to utilization of forest resources. Past attempts to regenerate the forests by enrichment planting with exotic species failed due to lack of support from the local people. However, in the community managed forests of Adaba-Dodola forest priority areas, since the local communities were granted exclusive user rights they started to control grazing and set aside some portion of their forests for natural regeneration (Girma et.al, 2004).

CHAPTER THREE

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 Location, Topography and Climate

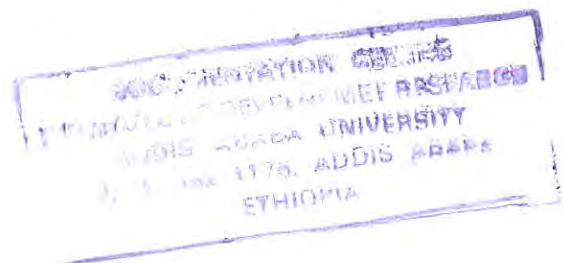
3.1.1 Location

The Bale Mountains arise in the region called Oromia, in the Bale Zone and the West Arsi Zone, each covering different Worredas. The research area is located in the North of the Bale Mountains in the Dodola Worreda, which is located in the newly created West Arsi Zone . The map shown in map 1 presents the old situation, in which the Dodola Worreda is still located in the Bale Zone.

Map 1: Oromia Zones and Worredas



Source: project f-11



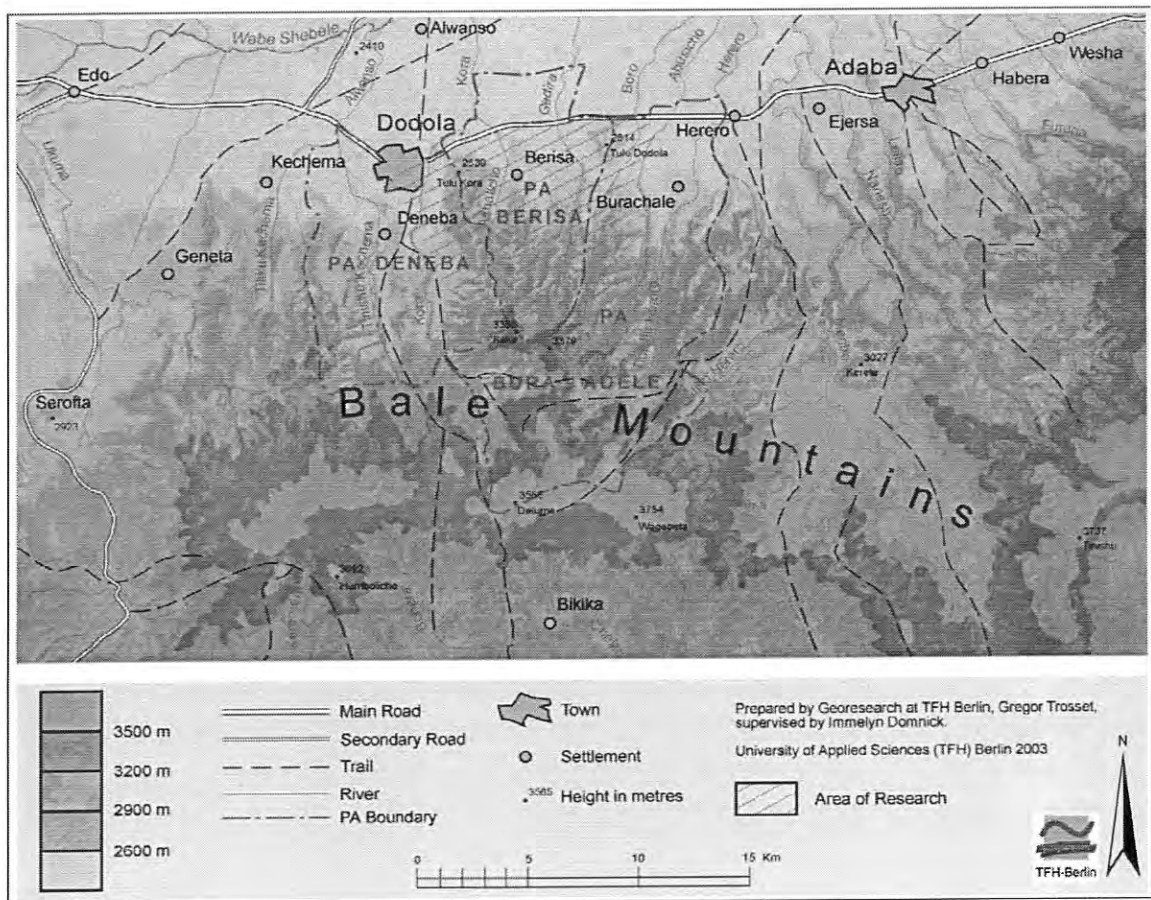
3.1.2. Topography

Dodola is at 2400 m above sea level at the foothills of a mountain range with peaks of over 3700 m. The climate is somewhat cooler than during summer time in central Europe.

The area is malaria-free. With increasing altitude the climate gets colder and wetter. Above 3000 m a.s.l. night frosts are frequent (www.baletrek.com).

The integrated forest management project encompasses two *Woredas* in which the 9 peasant associations and more than 70 forest blocks found in.

Map 2: Project Area of the IFMP by the GTZ

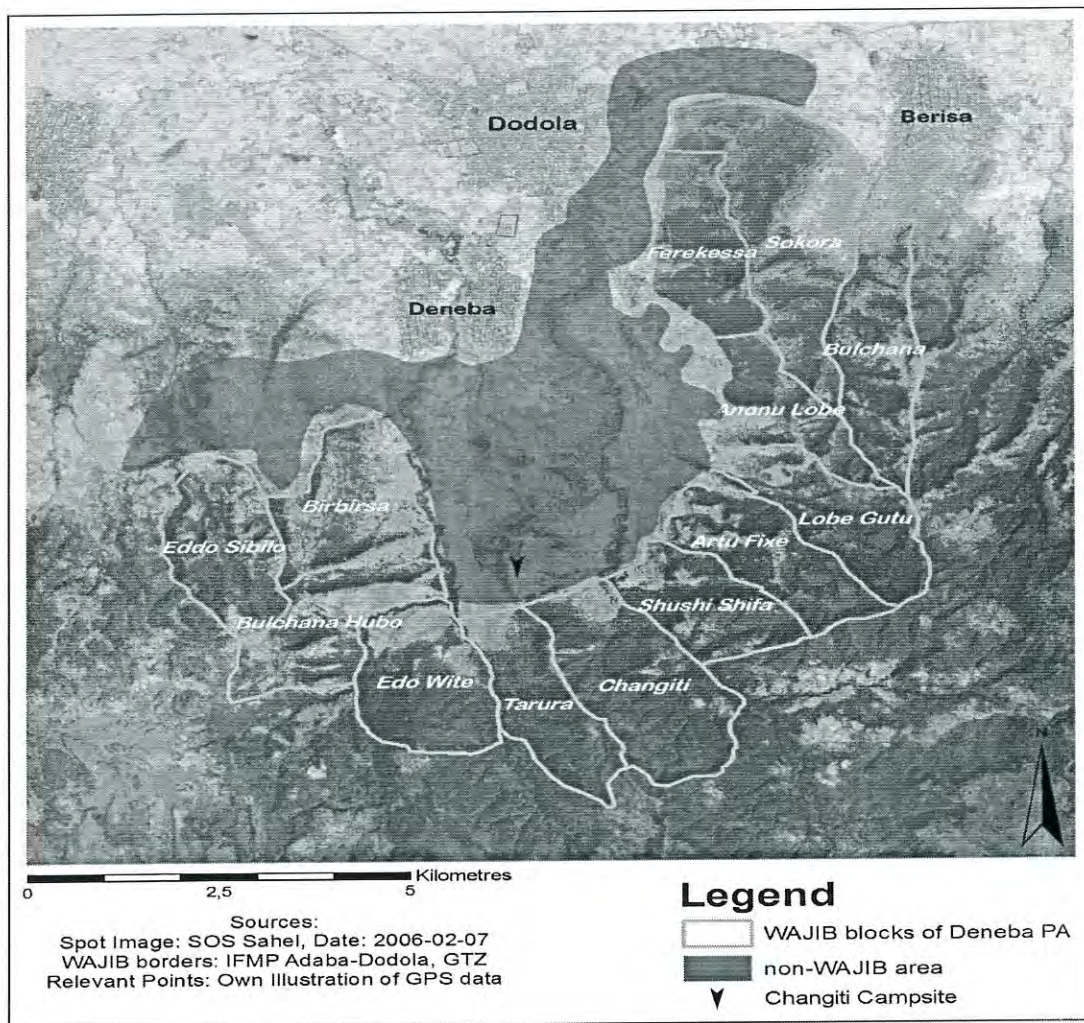


Source: Dominick, 2005, cited in project f-11

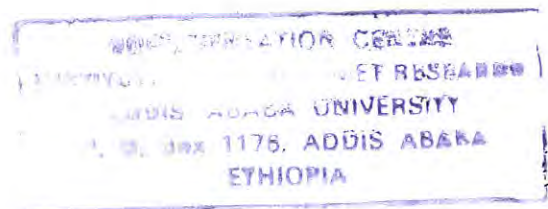
3.1.3 The Study Area

The town *Dodola* and the village *Deneba* are the two main settlements influencing the research area. *Deneba* peasant association has eleven forest blocks within its boundaries. The research area fits more or less in the borders of the Peasant Association of the *Deneba* settlement.

Map 3: The Research Area



Source: project f-11

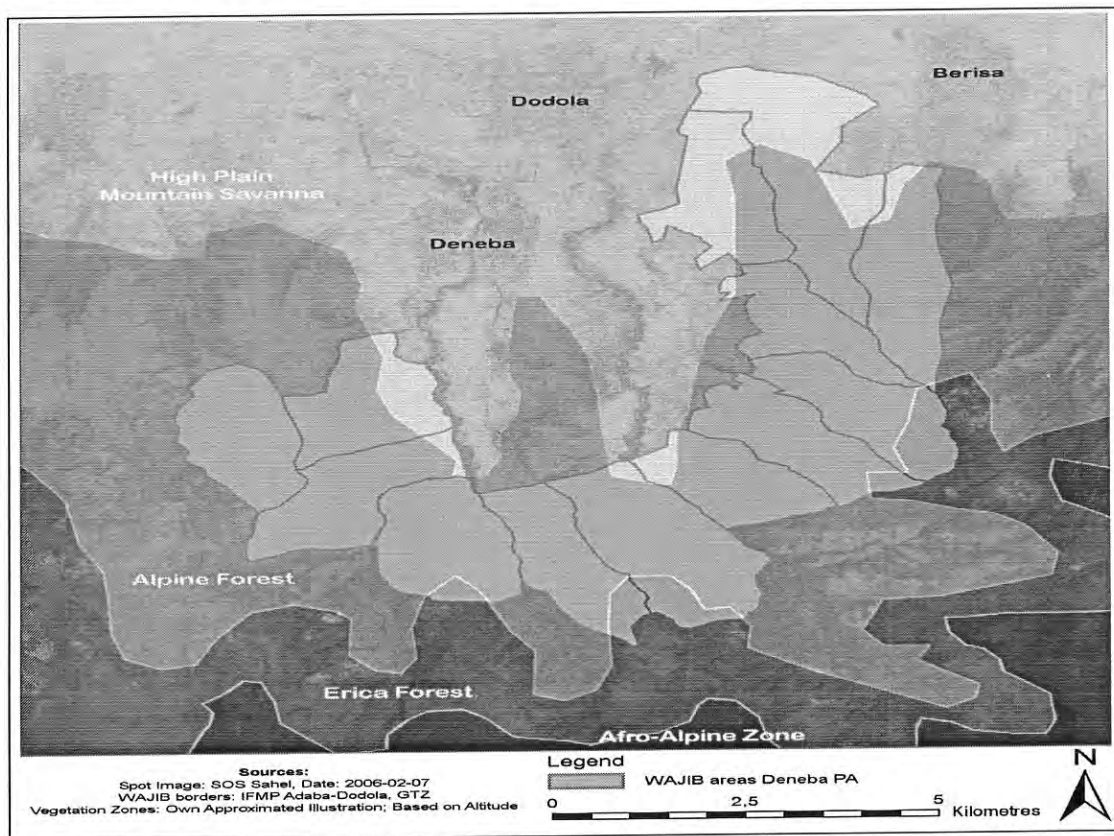


3.1.4. Climate

On average, the annual rainfall in Dodola district is 913 mm. Temperatures in the high plain range between 10 and 30 degrees Celsius with an average of about 15 degrees. With increasing altitude, the climate gets colder and wetter. In elevations over 3000 m, night frosts are frequent (www.baletrek.com)

The research area is characterized and affected by four different climate zones, which are Mountains Savannah, Alpine Forest, Erica Forest and Afro-Alpine Zone (see map 4).

Map 4: Climate Zones in the Research Area



Source: project f-11

3.2 Local Context of Eco-Tourism in the Study Area

3.2.1. Ecotourism in Adaba-Dodola

Tourism development as such is often accompanied by negative environmental and social impacts. Frequently it does not meet economic expectations of the local population with much of the foreign currency earnings bypassing them. Ecotourism, however, promises a different kind of tourism.

Picture 2: Eco-tourism in the Bale Mountains, Campsite



SOURCE: Own Photograph, 2010

3.3 Fauna and Flora of the Area

3.3.1. Fauna

A large diversity of wild animals exists in the Adaba-Dodola forests. Contrary to open, savannah- like habitats, spotting wildlife in the forest is not always guaranteed with some luck you may sight several of the following species. Among the mammals of the area are the endemic Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*), Menelik's bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus Meneliki*) and Ethiopian wolf (*Simenia semensis*) Not endemic but frequent are the three monkey species anubis baboon (*Papio anubis*), colobus baboon (guereza monkey, *Colobus abyssinicus*) and vervet monkey (*Cercopithecus aethiops*) (Badada,1999).

3.3.2. Flora

While the high plain has been converted into farmland during the past 50 years, the slopes of the mountain ranges are still covered by natural forest, changing its composition with altitude. The different forest formations with its unique vegetation are the main attraction of the area. Indigenous trees of the high plain are *Acacia abyssinica*, *Juniperus procera*, *Podocarpus falcatus* and *Olea welwitschii*, which now a days can be found only in loosely scattered stands. Eucalyptus trees, introduced to Ethiopia from Australia in '1905, became a significant feature of the landscape (Fichtmuller, 1997).

Picture 3- The Forest Cover at *Tarura* and *Changity* forest blocks



Source:own photograph

3.4 Population and livelihood

Population

Apart from the natural environment, a visit to the *Adaba-Dodola* Mountains offers a unique possibility to get to know the living conditions of its inhabitants. The area is part of the two administrative districts (*Woredas*) of *Adaba* and *Dodola* in the Bale zone of the Regional State of *Oromia*. The combined population of both districts is about 200,000. The district capitals *Dodola* and *Adaba* have 20,000 and 15,000 inhabitants, respectively.

Farming has attracted most of the rural population to the level cropping areas in front of the mountain ranges. In the forests, on the other hand side, there are only about 4,000 widely scattered homesteads.

The Oromo people expanded from the Bale Mountains to the west and north as early as the 16th century. The majority of the present population (91.8 % of *Dodola* district) is Oromo and follows the Muslim religion. The second largest group is the Amharas (6.1% of *Dodola* district). They mainly live in towns and are Christians. Consequently, the language of the rural areas is Afaan Oromo, while in towns *Amharegna* is commonly spoken.

Livelihood

In the forests, there are about 4000 widely scattered homesteads. Cattle, sheep and goats continue to provide the major basis of subsistence. Horses are the major means of transport. While donkeys are widely used in the lower plains areas, the chilly and moist highlands only allow for breeding of highly priced mules. Honey production is an important sideline activity in the forests. More and more fields are opened up in the forest. This is only partly due to the ever increasing population density.

While the plain is under extensive cultivation with barley and wheat as major crops, the forest dwellers mostly practice livestock herding. During the crop season, when all the non forest land is cultivated, the livestock from the plain also grazes in the forests, which leads to overgrazing and prevents the forest from regenerating.

3.5 Historical Back Ground of Environmental Conservation in the Study Area

The forest area in Ethiopia, which at one time might have occupied as much as 35% of the country, has now been reduced to about 2.3% (EFAP, 1994). Government-controlled forest conservation initiatives began in Ethiopia in the mid 1970s. These initiatives have resulted in the establishment of different types of protected areas such as state-owned Forest Priority Areas (FPAs), National Parks, Game Reserves, Sanctuaries and Controlled Hunting Areas. By definition, all FPAs are state-owned, settlement inside the FPAs is prohibited, and only the government may harvest the forest products. Therefore, since the establishment of the aforementioned protected areas the government conservation agencies has assumed sole responsibility of management and decision-making (Girma et al, 2006)

Adaba-Dodola FPA is one of the 58 FPAs that have been under the management of the forest administration. This afro-montane forest had an area of 140,000 ha in 1982. Currently it covers only 53,000 ha.

The rapid deforestation of natural forest and environmental degradation has forced forest conservation authorities to seek an alternative to the conventional way of forest

conservation (law enforcement, awareness creation, mobilization, etc.). Numerous efforts made by the government, such as forest border demarcation, resettlement of people in confined areas within and outside the forest, establishment of forest protection committees and check points, confiscation of forest products, reforestation, prevention of the use of selected indigenous tree species and of the settlements in the FPA, and the ban on logging by the Forest Service, could not reverse this trend. The underlying factors for this are the transfer of ownership from the private sector to the state; rapid population growth; agricultural expansion; absence of community involvement and unstable institutional arrangements. These factors, in combination with weak government institutions, have resulted in unregulated access, which is the core problem of managing the forest. For this reason, six participatory forest management (PFM) projects have been initiated over the past 12 years to improve forest conservation through community participation. The Integrated Forest Management Project (IFMP) at Adaba-Dodola is one of these PFM's (Abdurahiman et al, 2006).

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Design

The study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods to gather the necessary data for conducting the research.

4.2 Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary data have been used for this study. The primary data was gathered from the household (Hhd) heads, through structured interview. And semi-structured interview is also conducted with key informants representing different *woreda* level government officials and experts from non-governmental organizations. In addition, in order to get a better insight to the problems in the study area a detailed semi-structured interview is made with some of the local *WAJIB* members (household in-depth study). Relevant secondary sources were also reviewed and used in the research.

4.3 Sample Size and Sampling Design

The study has employed sampling procedures to select household samples that represent the whole population. Among the total 9 peasant associations in Adaba-Dodola forest priority area, *Deneba* peasant association is selected purposively for the following main reasons:

- The uniform distribution of schemes, results, and benefits among peasant associations
- Limitation of resources: time and finance, which could put a pressure if distant, and off-road PA is to be selected

In this PA there are widely scattered 11 forest blocks, simple random sampling method was employed to select representative five forest blocks. Among the selected five blocks

proportional stratified probability sampling method is employed to draw 20 samples from each forest blocks, where equal numbers of samples were drawn from a relatively equal number of households in the sampling frame.

Therefore, a total of 100 households in five forest blocks were questioned for the study.

Table 1. Sample peasant association and forest blocks selected for the study

Peasant Association	Name Of The <i>WAJIB</i>	Total Number Of Households	Number of households selected
<i>Deneba</i>	Shushi-Shifa	26	20
	Changity	24	20
	Tarura	25	20
	Bulchana Hubo	30	20
	Birbirsa	30	20
Total	Five(5)	140	100

Source: Summery Of the Sampling by the Author, 2010

Thus *Adaba-Dodola* forest priority area has 9 peasant associations under which the different forest blocks belong to. As it is difficult to assess all these peasant associations, which are found largely scattered, due to limitations in time, fund and resources. Among the peasant associations with the above mentioned methodology the *Deneba* PA is selected as a study area from which samples were drawn. This PA is selected due to its accessibility and representative ness to answer the research questions adequately. The samples are taken from five forest blocks among the total 11 forest blocks found in this PA.



Table 1 shows the different forest blocks in *Deneba* PA and the total number of households in each blocks.

4.4 Data collection methods

Various research instruments of data collection were prepared and used. These consist of both quantitative and qualitative instruments such as interview questionnaires, an in-depth household interview, key informant interviews, transect walk and secondary documents were also reviewed.

I-Interview questionnaires

One major task during the fieldtrip was the conduction of structured interviews in the Bale Mountains region. In structured interviews the investigator – in this case the researcher – asks a prepared set of questions in the same wording and order as specified in the interview questionnaires. In this case the questions referred to the respondents' education, their economic activities, land and forest use and also to the impacts of the *WAJIB* approach.

Structured questioners were distributed to the sampled households in the selected forest blocks. The sample Included 100 household heads in the five forest blocks found in *Deneba* peasant association. The researcher himself and additional assistant data collectors have scattered in the forest blocks of the bale mountain to gather the base line data for the research work.

Due to language limitations the researcher was restricted to take the responsibility of supervision while at the same time conducting a detailed case analysis and a transect walk accompanied by a local guide as a translator. The questionnaires included the general back ground information of the respondents, the biography of the vulnerability context in which the locals live in, livelihood assets and activities previously and currently performed, the institutional framework and status, and inquiries that measure the livelihood outcomes of the project, involvement on natural resources conservation activities in their localities, resource use restrictions by the *WAJIB* and its members and its impact on their livelihood, benefits in relation to the eco-tourism activities in the area were assessed by the interview questionnaires. Here in order to manage the different

wordings that the data collectors use in the process the interview questioner was translated to the local language (*oromifa*). That highly helped in the uniform understanding of each questions by different respondents.

II-Key informant and in-depth Interviews

For triangulation purpose and to increase the quality and reliability of data interview were carried out to gather information about: the role of the different stalkholders in the effective implementation of the project, the previous and current condition of the natural environment and livelihoods from an outsider perspective, etc. A semi structured questioner was prepared to dig this information from different *woreda* level offices, legitimate associations, and other relevant bodies. The interviews were concluded with the *Woreda* forest and wild life enterprise , the *Woreda's* agriculture and rural development office; the *Woreda* culture and tourism office, *Farachu Raya* forest protection and preservation union , Adaba-Dodola tour guides association , expert with the GTZ ,among others.

Apart from the information taken from the above key informants in order to get a deeper insight to the conditions in the study area, a detail investigation is made as to the sustainability of the *WAJIB* approach, benefits and costs of the approach, the eco-tourism activity functioning in the area and its future challenges and prospects, the organization and governance aspects of the approach, the trend in their livelihood after the implementation of the project, and other issues relevant to answer the research questions. Even issues which were overlooked during questioner development but relevant to the case in point could be drawn during this process.

Unlike the key informant interview where experts were asked about their knowledge and opinion about various issues, this detailed case investigation was carried out with people which are part and parcel of the local community who have a better understanding of the day to day activities underway in the forest blocks within the neighborhood. The information gathered through this approach is used for triangulation and helped the researcher to understand the local context much more clearly.

III-Transect Walk

The researcher traversed the *changity* WAJIB systematically. A local informant who was one of the WAJIB members, and a guide who translated the information, escorted the researcher.

According to the GTZ, this is the most important technique in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) besides interviewing “RRA can be defined as a qualitative survey methodology using a multi-discipline team to formulate problems for agricultural research and development” (website CSU). Everything encountered, observed, noticed and mentioned by an informant is discussed and recorded. The transect walk was useful to orient inside the WAJIB as a transect should include more detailed information than a sketch . The transect walk was quite instructive as the researcher received a deep insight into the spatial structure of the *Changity WAJIB*.

IV-Document research

Is also applied to collect additional data from secondary sources. The researcher used different library facilities such As the SUN Oromia Library, the GTZ Library, The Oromia Forest And Wildlife Enterprise Documentation, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Library, Culture And Tourism Minister Library, AAU Libraries, Etc. In Addition, Various environment related reports and archives, other official researches, quarterly and annual reports, etc. were also collected and studied from different governmental and non-governmental offices. Information was collected from relevant sources and also from different published documents, statistical abstracts, books, articles, different websites, journals and thesis works.

4.5 Modes of Analysis

Appropriate analysis methods were employed according to the data collected. Quantitative statistical analysis methods were used to analyze the data collected through the interview questionnaires. Document analysis was also used to analyze data collected from secondary sources.

Method of Data analysis

In order to meet the general and specific objectives of the study both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were employed.

The sustainable livelihood frame work is also used as a checklist to study every components of livelihood in the study area sequentially and systematically.

Descriptive statistics (Such as percentage, mean, minimum, maximum, and standard deviation) is used to analyze the quantitative data. The qualitative data from key informant interview is contextually analyzed and triangulated. The summarized data is displayed in matrices and diagrams and tables to look for possible relations between variables. The data gathered through different instruments is triangulated for accuracy and validity.

Beside SPSS 15.0 version software package is used to organize, arrange and analyze the data systematically.

CHAPTER FIVE

Interpretation and Analysis of Results

Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

5.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Under this sub topic the demographic and socio economic characteristics of the respondents will be presented.

5.1.1. Household Size

Table 2- House Hold Sizes of The respondents

HOUSE HOLD SIZE	NUMBER	PERCENT
1-4	16	16.0
5-8	45	45.0
9-12	25	25.0
13-16	11	11.0
17-20	3	3.0
TOTAL	100	100.0

Source: Own Survey, 2010

The number of persons living in a house hold is a demographic variable considered in this study to show the population dynamics that could show the extent to which households are large enough to create a pressure on the environmental resources of the locality.

As seen from the above table not less than 84 percent of the respondents have a family size more than five. Which even highly surpass the average house hold size at the national level (five).So, this fact shows the dynamic population increase which ultimately could put a big pressure on the natural environment unless new economic activities that can absorb this work force and endow with means of livelihoods are emerged or the existing ventures are consolidated.

5.1.2. AGE

Table 3- Age Distribution of the Respondents in Broader Age Groups

Age	Frequency	Percent
18-25	7	7.0
26-33	11	11.0
34-41	35	35.0
42-49	18	18.0
50-57	14	14.0
58-65	12	12.0
+66	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: own survey, 2010

As it is indicated in the table above, a considerable number of the respondents (35 percent) belong to the 34-41 age groups. Followed by 18 percent of the respondents in the age category of 42-49.14 percent of the sampled household heads fall in the age group of 50-57. And the remaining 18 % and 15% percent of the respondents are found in the young hood (18-33) and late adulthood (above 58) age category respectively.

5.2. Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

5.2.1 Literacy status

Table 4- Literacy Status of Respondents

Literacy status	Number	Percentage
illiterate	49	49.0
Read and write	3	3.0
Primary(1-4)	32	32.0
Elementary(5-8)	11	11.0
High school(9-12)	4	4.0
Vocational training	1	1.0
total	100	100.0

Table 4 illustrates that almost half of the respondents were found to be illiterate. And respondents who attend their primary education account for 32% of the sample population. While only 4 % of the respondents could join secondary education, respondents who completed vocational training are 1% from the sampled respondents. The least percentage is observed among peoples who have attended vocational trainings. This very low participation in higher education may be the outcome of over dependence on agriculture, early marriage, and limited access for education in the previous regimes.

5.2.2 Size of farmland

The farmland they own is mostly used for wheat, barley, and to some extent cash crop production in recent times.

Table 5-Farmland Size of the Respondent Households

Farm size (in hectare)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than one	25	25.0
1.5-2	52	52.0
2.5-3	8	8.0
>3	3	3.0
Total	88	8.0
Missing	12	12.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Own Survey, 2010

The above table shows that relatively higher percentage of the respondents (52 %) own 1.5-2 hectare (ha) of farmland. It can also be seen that only 11% of the respondents own relatively higher hectare of land (above two hectares).The significant share of respondents (25 %) has a farmland less than one hectare. On the contrary, in a locality where agriculture is the main source of livelihood 12 % of the respondents admit that they have no thier own farm land. This could be seen from the perspective that this land less group of the community may put a strong pressure on the forest resources either to create new farm lands or to find expedient income generating means's from the forest resources as an alternative livelihood strategy in the days to come unless works to consolidate the ongoing livelihood diversification undertakings pace up or relevant intervention mechanisms are devised.

5.2.3 Marital Status, Religion and Sex of Respondents

Table 6- marital status, religion and sex of respondents

MARS	Frequency	Percent
SEX		
Male	90	90.0
Female	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0
MARITAL STATUS		
Currently married	94	94.0
Never married	2	2.0
Separated	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0
RELIGION		
Muslim	91	91.0
Orthodox	8	8.0
Missing	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0

Source-Own Survey, 2010

From the total samples of respondents 90 % of the household heads happen to be males as being expected. As seen from the above table the place is predominantly occupied by Muslims, composed of 91% of the respondents, mainly due to historical legacies of the past. As indicated in table 5.5 above, almost all the surveyed household heads are currently married accounting 94 % of the total sample.

5.2. Assessment of the Governance, Effectiveness, and Sustainability of the *WAJIB* Approach

5.2.1. Governance

Although there is a wide range of definitions about good governance, all share the concept that it is all about the process of decision making and implementing it at appropriate level (Girma et al, 2004). One of the key elements of good governance is participation of all relevant stakeholders in making and implementing decisions about management of specific resources such as forest at the most appropriate level (Brown et al, 2002).

WAJIB is a participatory forest management approach in which a binding agreement is made between the local forest user groups and the district forest office with clearly stated rights, duties and obligations of both partners (Girma et.al , 2004).The village administration, the lowest government structure in the country, joins as a co-signatory. It is a system of partnership between the state and the local communities for forest conservation. The main principle of this approach is to enhance forest conservation through granting exclusive rights to self interest groups (Abdurahiman et al, 2002).

The forest in a given village is sub divided into forest blocks with an average size of 360 hectare. Based on the forest carrying capacity of 12 ha per household, each block is managed by a *WAJIB* group of not more than 30 households (Uncoveky, 1998). Each *WAJIB* group has its own by law (internal regulations), which govern the use, protection and rights and responsibilities of each household within the block. The main duty of the forest administration is to provide technical advice to the *WAJIB* groups on how to develop and utilize the forest on a sustainable basis (Girma et al, 2004).

It is after the consensus of the concerned stakeholders at all levels that the approach was implemented. During the implementation process there are always discussions and negotiations among adjacent communities and villages on issues that need common representatives of the forest dwellers, such as border demarcation.

In issues like border demarcation, representatives of the community groups, elders, influential persons, religious leaders, village executive members, representatives of the forest service and district administration are all involved in making decisions.

In order to provide a legally binding agreement, a Forest Block Allocation Contract (FBAC), has been elaborated by the project, which contains the rights and duties of the forest administration and the forest dwellers. The FBAC is the result of intensive consultations between the stakeholders and official approval by the Oromiya Regional Council in February 2000.

Participatory Decision-Making

The village community plays a significant role in accepting the approach and delineating the peripheral forest boundary where *WAJIB* groups enter into agreement with the forest

administration. Such collective decision-making is crucial for the establishment of successful WAJIB groups and the future relationship of the WAJIB and non-WAJIB groups. Administratively the WAJIB and non-WAJIB groups belong to the same village administration and most of the time they belong to the same clan or ethnic group. Therefore, so far there is no as such violent conflict between the two groups as a result of the WAJIB approach. Rather the benefits to the non-WAJIB groups are also increasing through revenue sharing between the village and the forest administration and income to households and village from ecotourism.

Selection of the WAJIB members is the responsibility of democratically elected founding members among those living in the forest. The founding members have the duty to set eligibility criteria considering the number of people currently living in the forest and the carrying capacity of the forest block. The list of the eligible members is submitted to the village administration and forest administration.

There exists a self management among the *WAJIB* blocks, they respect their by-law and work accordingly. At times the penalty for violation of the by law is believed to be merciful; they will immediately amend the articles on the gaps observed.

The WAJIB group has legitimate right to decision-making. It is left entirely to the WAJIB to decide on the management of the respective forest block. For this purpose, WAJIB normally passes internal regulations. It is observed that the indigenous knowledge and commitment of the WAJIB group, supplemented by technical and organizational assistance by the professionals is resulting in the sustainable forest management. The prime incentive to the forest dwellers to do so is the recognition of settlement in the FPA by the forest administration. Equally important is the right to utilize the forest and forestland in order to reach a decent standard of living.

Structurally each WAJIB group comprises general assembly of WAJIB members, democratically elected WAJIB leaders and ad-hoc committee(s) that elected as deemed necessary.

Internal regulations define the duties and responsibilities of the general assembly and WAJIB leaders. Based on the provisions of the internal regulations and the FBAC, each group contributes to participatory decision-making and management.

The WAJIB leaders are accountable for the decision that they make and are as transparent as they can. The implementation of decision is equally important for the WAJIB members.

It has been observed that strong decision-making procedures and implementation of decisions are crucial for WAJIB coherence. Unless strong working relations exist between the members, the success of the approach faces difficulties. Therefore, the leaders and general assembly fulfill the collective responsibilities of WAJIB groups through active decision-making and implementation of decisions. The WAJIB leaders and the general assembly also involve professionals in decision-making. Nevertheless, such involvement is a kind of consultation as the professionals play the role of advisors. This has advantages of learning from each other and increasing trust between the two parties.

Number of important organizational matters concerns WAJIB members. Among these, annual forests rent payment, participating in annual tree cover assessment, attending regular meetings of WAJIB members, collecting income and implementing credit and savings scheme.

It is the right of WAJIB to decide on the amount of money that each member contributes for rent payment. WAJIB members also elect individuals that assist tree cover assessment among their members. Recently, the forest dwellers and non-forest dwellers are increasingly participating in ecotourism initiatives. They have developed a kind of internal regulations on providing horses for mountain trekking

There is increasing recognition that efforts in economic development, poverty alleviation, environmental protection and social equity cannot be successful in the absence of appropriate governance structures and processes (FAO, 2001).

According to the evidence from a key informant:

In regards to decision making, we make a structure where local peoples can participate at different levels, where the eighty eight blocks found in the nine peasant associations come into cooperatives where each peasant association is represented by one cooperative. And the different cooperatives are organized under one union. The union being a coordinator for resource utilization among WAJIB blocks and also serving as a nerve center bringing all under one marketing, coordination and administrative body. During all the steps of developing, implementing and refining the approach, there was abroad participation of all stalk holders, specially the local communities who are the ones to be most affected by any decisions made about the resources they own.

As the household survey clearly shows, 94 % of the respondents confirmed that they were participating from the beginning of the project till this moment in various issues concerning them and the different groups they belongs to. Successful implementation of the laws could be brought about mainly due to the successive consultation and discussion forums held with the local communities during drafting of the law.

As each forest block has its own administration to be elected democratically every three year, they will review the penalties for violation of laws and elect a new leader if they sought for better.

Transparency

The functioning's of WAJIB is fully democratic. It is composed of a general assembly, an executive committee and various other committees elected by members. All members and all sexes have equal right in all aspects. To increase the participation of women in the decision making it is agreed by all WAJIB leaders to have at least one woman in the executive committee. Forest protection, development, utilization and all other administrative aspect are governed by an internal regulation developed by them. They have their own regular meetings where they openly discuss and agree on pertinent issues. All the discussions and agreements made by any of the WAJIB administrative organs will be communicated to the locals through the various channels available. In addition, any decision made about the forest resources of the area is made through a consensus where all parties are required to vote to pass a certain resolution.

Surprisingly, the researcher could notice posted figures which shows the current capital of the Farachu-Raya forest protection and conservation union, which shows the transparency level prevail among WAJIB institutions.

Due to the frequent discussion forums the locals have in their different associations, they have a good access for every information about issues burnt in any of their institutions. This allows a conducive environment for check and balance among the forest dwellers and their associations on one hand and among the different associations and institutions on the other.

According to the head in Farachu-Raya union:

The election process is so democratic and transparent that, board members of the union are elected from their respective cooperatives, and further process will be held through designating an electing committee to follow up the voting process, the representatives of each cooperative, are passing through to become union board members and to represent their respective cooperatives. So, the voting systems cross ponds to a bottom-up approach where the locals are made the ultimate decision makers in the process.

Equity

One major factor for success or failure of community based forest management is the continuous flow of tangible benefits and its fair distribution. The distribution of benefit from the system should be equitable by balancing wealth status, gender and the contribution of members in the forest management activities (Girma et al, 2004). Although the level of implementation varies from one to the other, the aspects of cost benefit sharing are well covered in the internal regulation of the user groups. Schmitt (2003) confirmed that in the first established WAJIB group's socially balanced benefit sharing mechanisms are already in place. The equity aspect of the project in its gender perspective of environmental resource utilization is well functioning through involving women in benefit sharing by selling wood products to the weekly market. On the contrary, direct involvement of women in the Eco tourism activity of the area is only restricted to catering in the forest huts and selling food and other petty items for the tourists. Where this activities accounted for less than 5 % of the total revenue earned from the activity.

In addition, the wealth status of the forest dwellers is not examined in entitling benefits to locals, especially from the Eco-tourism activity, while eco-tourism principles strongly argue for the benefits of the poor.

As exclusive use right is granted for each forest block, the block which exerts a significant effort for the rehabilitation of the natural environment will benefit better. So, contribution of members in the forest management and level of benefit from those resources have direct relationship. Boldly speaking, the equity dimension of the approach in some of its equity components is going well while corrective measures at some of them is inevitable.

5.2.2. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the project will be assessed against the objectives which have been set during the initial stages of the project. To have a comparative look into the achievements of the project in its undertakings, the strategy, the short term and long term objectives of the project are presented as follows.

Table 7- Strategies and Objectives of the IFMP

WAJIB has three main strategies:

1. Regulating access- forest dwellers are granted exclusive user rights with clearly defined and agreed on rights and duties.
2. Reducing pressure- the non-forest dwellers are encouraged to plant trees for various purposes around their homesteads.
3. Making trees profitable- possibilities for non-wood income from forest are assessed and implementation of options encouraged.

The short-term objectives of WAJIB include:

- to ensure improved forest conservation;
- to empower local people in forest management.

The long-term objectives of WAJIB include:

- to increase forest cover in WAJIB managed areas;
- to institutionalize WAJIB as an alternative and complimentary forest conservation approach;
- to ensure sustainability of ecological benefits of the forest for generations to come; and
- to improve livelihoods of the forest dwellers through sustainable forest management.

To measure the success of the approach, it is possible to refer to the own strategies and objectives of the WAJIB approach. The disadvantage of this measurement lies within failures already done in the compilation of the strategies and objectives, but on the other hand this point of view can help to understand the relations between proposed solutions and existent problems. This chapter takes a closer look, whether these aims and strategies were attained and whether they matched the needs of the forest and the local people in the area in the opinion of the researcher. The above table illustrates the strategies and objectives which were the basis of the IFMP and shall allow comparing the underlying ideas with the achievements of the IFMP.

Regulating Access

As the forest in the research area was easily accessible for all those in the area in need of forest resources, it was one main strategy of the IFMP to regulate the access to the forest.

Through the implementation of the WAJIB blocks control over the forest use could be gained and within the blocks a rehabilitation of the forest cover took place with the named differences relating to the location of the particular WAJIB. Confining the view on the WAJIB areas one can say that where the WAJIB approach was implemented, the strategy of regulating the access with the linked aims was very successful.

According to the forest and wild life enterprise head, previously everyone have the right to take resources from the Adaba-Dodola forest, no one will refuse any such attempts. After *WAJIB* grant exclusive use right to the forest dwellers, outsiders who want to use any of the resources under *WAJIB* blocks need to get prior permission from the respective block, even for public uses.

In their social life, there is a higher propensity to involve in *ider* and other traditional social institutions, the culture of team work had been well developed, group decision making in utilizing their resources, this all serving them as a buffer zone to hinder the penetration of outsiders to exploit their resources.

Reducing Pressure

Understanding the huge pressure laid on the forest resources, IFMP has designed intervention mechanisms which could ultimately reduce the prevailing pressure on the same.

Among which include, introducing alternative income generating activities: bee keeping and eco- tourism, distributing seedlings to urban dwellers in an attempt to make them at least partially energy self sufficient, educating people on wise utilization of forest resources, among others. But this all attempts geared towards the goal were not fully successful, mainly due to the failure in similarly addressing the issue among Non-*WAJIB*'s. An Effort to bring these groups to the *WAJIB* camp is believed to bear better fruits.

Make Forest Profitable

The profitability of forest resources could be enhanced through two distinctive approaches: consumptive and non- consumptive ones. The consumptive approach emphasizes at increasing the price of wood items through the invisible hands, while the second approach considers forests playing an instrumental role to generate revenue through the help of it. If the natural composition and esthetic value of the forest get momentum then economic activities which highly depend their presence on these resources will be revitalized. Eco-tourism and bee-keeping are some of the activities registered a real boost in the study area.

According to a study made by Akililu Ameha in 2004, the average price of wood from natural forests has increased by 39 %. This is mainly due to the restricted access to forest resources which ultimately increases the demand for wood products while the supply tends to decline. The percentage increase would be much higher if a market survey is conducted currently.

According to informants, locals are getting adequate fodder for their livestock due to improved grazing grounds. In addition, some households are selling grass to urban livestock owners and getting up to 20,000ETB from this activity. Generally, the legalization of controlled and sustainable use of wood products enhanced the income situation of the *WAJIB* members.

5.2.3 Sustainability

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. Sustainable forest management can be achieved only when the forest resource is developed and used without compromising the right of the coming generation to get the same goods and services (Tsegaye et al, 2004). The local communities are rehabilitating, and sustainably utilizing the forest being aware of this fact with a vision to pass a better forest resource to their children.

A common vision has been developed among the stakeholders on how to sustain the *WAJIB* approach beyond the German support. To this end practical steps are already underway in fine-tuning the approach and implementing it within the capacities of the government system. The regional government has also established a PFM unit at regional level and opened new job positions for PFM at different levels to support the implementation process.

Key informant and expert opinions are presented below to consolidate the above arguments: they express their opinion about the sustainability of the approach from different viewpoints.

According to an informant:

I believe the WAJIB approach will be sustainable if the concerned government bodies continue discharging their responsibility as they did and do currently. In addition, to guarantee its sustainability all governmental and non-governmental organizations using the services of the WAJIB approach must compensate for the service they received. If efforts to enforce the carrying capacity limits are strictly abided and the government and the established forest dwellers associations continue to provide the legal framework to penalize those violating WAJIB rules and regulations then the sustainability of the approach is going to be realized.

In addition the in-depth interview result reveals:

Local peoples understand how human life and the natural environment are interwoven and they are also convinced that the natural environment will not be in existence without WAJIB. I strongly believe that the approach will be sustainable due to: the considerable support it received from the regional and national level government bodies, the empowerment of the local people, Presence of government and non-government bodies that have a strong look at its operation and development, the actual and prospective fruit that eco-tourism bears to the local community and above all community owner ship of all rights, including use rights.

According to Shiberu, a local tour guide, the *WAJIB* approach is not sustainable in its eco-tourism component, He discuss the projects limited work among the tour guides association as;

Adequate training and logistics were missing to achieve the projects objective. In addition, the guest service provision and knowledge of the hut keepers about Eco-tourism activity is at its shallowest level. And violations of legislations by different legal institutions and authorities are prevalent hindering the legitimate functioning of the different stalk holders in the area. I can vouch that, "they are leaving us in the middle of nowhere". Despite this, the training the GTZ extends in the area of flora and fauna of the area, tour guiding techniques, web site up date, to mention some, have played a momentous role in discharging our task.

5.3. Contributions of the *WAJIB* Approach to Livelihood Assets

Local level resource endowments, trends, shocks and institutions and organizations are some of the most prominent features describing the complex features of rural livelihood strategies and outcomes. Given these features, it is imperative to use more comprehensive and people centered development approach to investigate the livelihood contributions of projects or development undertakings made to enhance rural livelihoods. The following sections are set to capture these contributions to the various household capital assets.

Household assets

The household resources, also known as assets, are composed of five core capitals pertinent to construct sustainable livelihood system both in rural and urban centers. The contributions of IFMP on these capital assets will be dealt in the subsequent sections.

5.3.1. Natural capital: land, forest, water resources

Rural livelihoods are reliant on natural resource base, at least, to some extent (scones, 1998). Put another way, natural capitals are fundamental assets to rural households where many of their portfolios of activities are directly linked to local natural resource bases such as land, water, forest, range lands e.t.c.

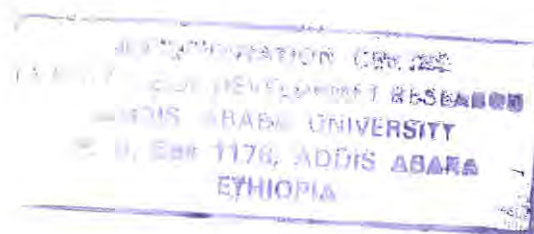
Each climatic zone in the Bale Mountains featured a distinctive land use pattern. While the mountain savanna (1800-2600m) is used for livestock herding and intensive farming, where mostly cereals are grown with annual crop rotation, the rest of the climatic zones also possess such distinguishing characteristics. But the common problem frequently observed among all was the inefficient use of fertilizers in farming activities and a huge amount of cattle led to an over use of the soil. The unrestricted and intensified deforestation coupled with over grazing led to a paramount soil erosion specially in higher gradients. With these realities and the concomitant increase in population which certainly result in seeking new lands for farming, grazing, and wood products for construction and heating continued, the livelihood situation of the locals was worsened. Before the implementation of the WAJIB approach negative ecological impacts were prevalent irrespective of the climatic zone.

According to Ato Genene, the woreda forest and wild life enterprise head:

In the forest blocks of the Adaba-Dodola area forest cover is claimed to be increased by 15.6 % totally since the implementation of the IFMP. As the forest assessment work is abandoned for the last seven years the actual increment in forest cover could not be quantified in unambiguous terms.

In a response given by sampled households 94% of them express the improvement they have seen on land and forest resources of their locality after the implementation of the project. While, only 6% of the respondents claim that there is no significant improvement of these resources. This could be due to the continuing deforestation in some of the forest blocks which are nearby Non-WAJIB blocks and the town of *Dodola* where these groups are still engaged in illegal deforestation acts.

Different reasons were drawn for the enhancement of the forest resources of the area. Among which the exclusive use right given to the locals develop a sense of ownership and responsibility over the resources. In line with this, members are bounded by the forest block allocation agreement they have signed with the government that clearly depicts the rules they need to comply with while they are exercising their rights. As some of the deforestation acts unabated, the locals are offsetting its effects through planting of seedlings: both the indigenous and eucalyptus trees.



According to Ato Genene, surprisingly, *WAJIB* members are not even using their annual allowable cut, which could be attributed to the passion they have developed towards the natural environment, the benefits they are entertaining with the presence of the forest cover, and to some extent lack of technology to utilize this huge resources.

The general bio-diversity resources of the area are rejuvenated, in an inquiry extended to dig the real change the locals feel about bio diversity resources, 96% of them believe that the increase in this resources is getting momentum. The forest is getting respect as a means of securing direct financial needs, creating a conducive environment for two times a year crop production and live stock rearing, and equally important is serving as a shelter for wild animals where they are getting additional income from eco-tourism, beekeeping and trophy hunting.

With reduction in deforestation and subsequent measures of rehabilitation, the land which had been exposed to intensive erosion has got a relief. Another benefit generated through the *WAJIB* approach is that it helps to control soil erosion and flooding problems. The majority of the respondents agreed that exclusive use right and restricted access to initially uncontrolled forest helped communities from being vulnerable to flooding and soil erosion problems. The survey result from the households indicated the majority of respondents (94%) claim that land and forest resources are getting improved resulting in enhanced agricultural productivity, while 69% of the respondents believe the project results in erosion protection through the increased forest cover and limited grazing through the carrying capacity measures it took in distributing land to the forest dwellers. Land ownership at the house hold level is very minimal in size, as illustrated in table 5.4, increasing land productivity and diversifying livelihood activities are the vibrant options that could be sought.

Table 8- Reasons for Positive Attitude of Forest Dwellers on the contribution of the WAJIB approach on Their Natural Assets

Reasons Stated	Total Responses	Percent (%)
Improvement in land and forest	94	94.0
Enhanced Agricultural productivity	51	51.0
Bio-diversity	96	96.0
Environmental conservation	87	87.0
Erosion protection	69	69.0
Increased water availability	85	85.0
Improved air quality	88	88.0
Healthy environment	86	86.0
Improvement of the overall natural resources	95	95.0
Total	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2010

As shown in the table above , perceivable change in quality and quantity of the forest, enhancement of land quality, increment of water availability and air quality and soil erosion protection made much of the respondents to have a positive response on the respective inquiries forwarded to dig out each issues.

Among others, the reduction of deforestation rate through reduced access and the granted exclusive use rights that subsequently brought a better rain fall, reduced soil erosion, alternative income from bee keeping and eco-Tourism etc are some of the reasons obliged them to perceive the positive impacts of the *WAJIB* approach on their natural capitals.

Out of the total sampled households (100), 94 percent of them stated that the forest management activities carried out so far has brought an improvement in land and forest resources and 96 percent of them were confident on the observable increase on the

general biodiversity of the area. In addition, increased water availability and improvement of the overall natural resources are the two reasons why 85% and 95% of the respondents vote in favor of the *WAJIB* approach.

In relation to this Chale stated the following:

Previously during the summer season, where water is scarce, we were required to travel long to fetch water for household consumption and for livestock because all the nearby rivers and ponds dried. But due to the environmental conservation work which helps the forest to regenerate, we are getting water in all seasons at nearby areas. She added, as regeneration of plants witnessed in the area, wild animals who had been abandoned the forest began to start their life in the forests. We are starting to see and hear the voices of wild animals at close distance where we previously not.

According to an expert in the *Woreda* agriculture and rural development office, locals are benefiting in a multifaceted ways, their livestock's are getting adequate fodder and water, springs are wet all the year round, even the urban settlers are getting water, its impact even goes to the national level where *Melka Wakena* dam is getting part of its water at the same time protected from siltation due to minimized soil erosion.

As per the responses gathered from the sample of respondents, 95 % of them agreed that after the implementation of the *WAJIB* approach the natural resources of the area shown a momentous improvement. Having the above concrete data at hand, one can say *WAJIB* highly contributed for the protection and rehabilitation of the forest and the recovering of biodiversity resources in general.

5.3.2 Physical capital

Within the SLF physical assets includes basic infrastructures and goods that are needed to sustain livelihood. Infrastructures like personal shelter, road, and transport services, water supply and other socio economic facilities fall within physical asset category. Enhancement in these physical assets of a community will result in reduced vulnerability and improved livelihood condition of rural dwellers in particular.

It has specially a strong link with their possible vulnerability to shocks and the livelihood strategies open to them. In line with such perception and understanding examining the approaches contribution to physical asset creation is crucial in understanding the holistic gains the locals obtain from the approach.

With regard to road networks, the house-to-house survey result shows that 94 % of the families perceive the change in road networks. Most households were unable to visit the weekly market due to lack of road network that connect the different localities. In an effort to ease the accessibility of the forest huts, constructed 10km apart on average, the project out sourced the boardwalk and bridge construction work for one of the local inhabitants and work to facilitate the movement of visitors across. In addition the project made a gravel road from *Dodola* town to changity camp site.¹²(the first base camp serving us a sprinting point for trekking).The locals now could move through the entire areas in the forest as well as they have access to transport things either to the market or vice versa. But due to absence of scheduled transport to the area, the transportation problem could not be said resolved as 40 % of the respondents perceive. While the rest 60% of the sampled households confirm the transportation after the implementation of the project shown a real boost.

In terms of getting affordable energy, the implementation of the *WAJIB* approach as expected affected the supply of different wood products coming from the natural forests reducing it from 92%-85.55 % , in its availability in the local market (Aklilu, 2004).

The socio economic development is basically dependent on the availability of energy supply. And in the study area the major and only energy resource is derived from wood. Even if the price of wood items in *Dodola* market shown an increasing trend due to low supply of wood items, according to Aklilu, generally, the average price of wood from natural forests has increased by 39 %. In addition to the financial benefits the forest dwellers drive from the increasing wood price, they are securing their own energy needs as long as they are properly utilizing their forest resources. To this end, getting affordable energy for these rural dwellers is guaranteed as most of the respondents (70%) confirmed that they have access for affordable energy. The case would be the paradox if urban dwellers were examined for the same.

As the access for the local market is well developed and the interaction and communication of the local inhabitants with each other, with government bodies and individual experts get improved, peoples have a higher access for information.

The majority of sampled households, which accounts to 92% of the respondents, prove that their access for various kind of information is improved. In addition, a health center was constructed by the project at *Adele*, maintenance works on some of the schools was done and educational materials were distributed for some of the schools, pesticides and insecticides with their complementary technologies were distributed to the community assuming these elements are vital for laying a foundation from which their sustainable livelihoods emanate from. As the cooperative unions are mainly maintained to link the community with market access, their legal forest products are getting an ample market, enhancing their admittance for local and regional markets.

As per the information gathered from key informants, the income secured from eco-tourism activities in the area is used by the beneficiaries to construct residential and rental houses while some others used it for educational fees for themselves and their family members.

5.3.3. Social capital

Social capital is broadly taken to mean the social resources upon which people draw in pursuit of their livelihood objectives (DFID,2001:33). It includes networks and connectedness, membership in formal and informal groups, and relationship based on trust and exchange. In line with such understanding, attempt was made to see how far the local community's social capital is improved after the implementation of the project. According to the data gathered to assess the social contributions of the project, the majority of the respondents (94%) express new social connections are created in relation to this project. These social connections are created and consolidated with mainly the government bodies, within the local community and to some extent with professional experts and non-governmental organizations. This was realized through multiple realities among which includes: the formation of *WAJIB* blocks with its 30 homesteads creates a strong social integration in terms of formation of social institutions like idir and equib, frequent gatherings to discuss about conflicts, resource sharing, setting penalties for violation of *WAJIB* rules and for similar purposes.

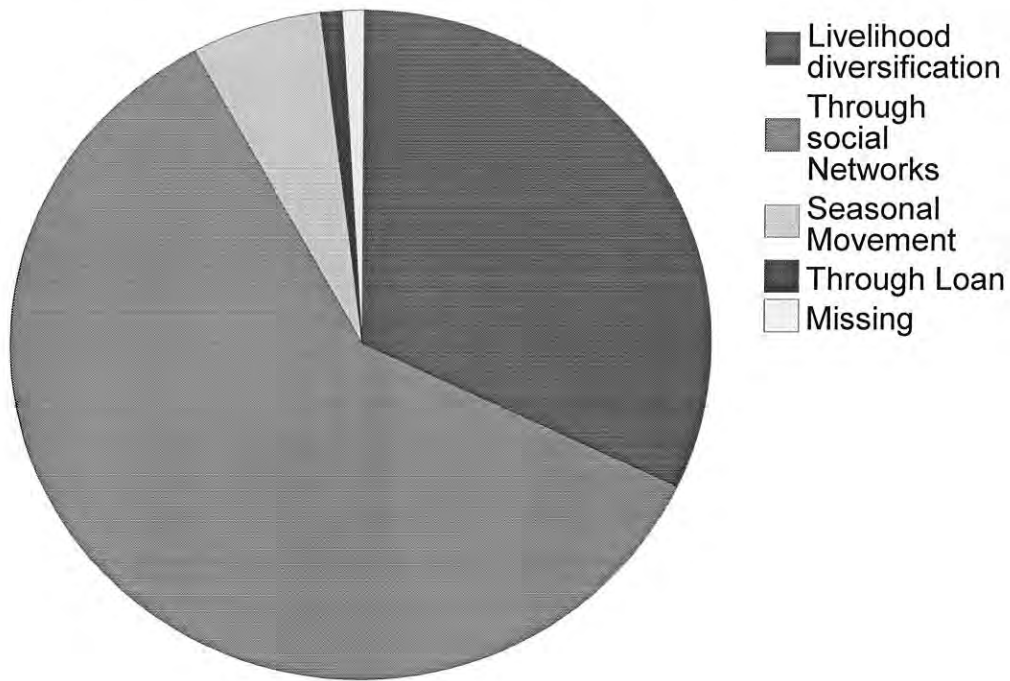
In addition most of them are not only *WAJIB* members but also forest dwellers cooperatives and *Farachu Raya* forest protection and preservation union where all these organizations are formed after the *WAJIB* approach comes in place. The various issues which could certainly arise from the above social creations in one or another way create a conducive environment for frequent communication with concerned government bodies. According to the respondents, membership in these associations not only helps them gain in financial terms but also it boosts their knowledge about various affairs as 72 % of the sampled households established.

According to a local informant:

Social interaction is highly consolidated. Specially, forest dwellers that live in the same block are living as a single family because there are various issues which need their discussion and consensus in regards to their common resources. That is due to the fact that both the benefits and losses are accrued and shared to all. They are also interacting with other WAJIB block members at the cooperative summits, they will discuss and share experiences on such gatherings too.

With these strong social bonds created among the *WAJIB* members, social networks play a pivotal role in addressing short term shocks the *WAJIB* family may face. The *WAJIB* block members assist each other either in cash or in kind during good and bad times. A *WAJIB* member will permit a member to sell wood products exceeding his quota when he is in need: to compensate a lost livestock, during funerals, marriage ceremonies and other incidents.

Figure 2- Mechanisms in Addressing Short-term Shocks



Source: Household survey, 2010

Polygamy, with its cultural and religious back ground, has been one of the practices that jeopardize the livelihood condition of the rural households in the study area, with the carrying capacity limit set in the forest blocks; peoples are discouraged to have more than one wife. According to key informants, there were peoples who abrogate their plan after the decision to have a second or more wives in the last few years. This decision is believed to curb the possible population increase that could take place due to polygamy.

While the social capital component of the local community is enhanced within and among *WAJIB* members, hostile and conflicting relationship has been developed among the *WAJIB* and Non- *WAJIB* groups due to the creation of *WAJIB* blocks with exclusive user rights for only a relatively limited number of beneficiaries in both wood and non-wood income generating activities where the lion share of the benefit goes to the *WAJIB* groups.

Boldly speaking, the *WAJIB* approach creates new associations and also consolidated the existing ones. So it could be said that the social component of the local community's asset base is well established to respond positively to any livelihood strategies the community may pursue in the future.

5.3.4. Human capital

Human capital represents the skills , knowledge , ability to labor and good health that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives(DFID, 2001;30). At a household level human capital is a factor of the amount and quality of labor available that varies according to household size, skill levels, leadership potential, health status, etc.

Human capital appears in the SLF as a livelihood asset and a building block or means of achieving livelihood outcomes. Its accumulation can also be an end in itself. This assertion comes from the recognition that ill-health or lack of education as core causes of poverty and thus over coming this through either formal education or informal context based skill and knowledge acquiring opportunities is one of the primary livelihood objectives. In accordance with this the study attempts to examine the IFMP's contribution to human capital development of peoples living in the study area.

I- Knowledge and skill

As clearly seen in table 5.3 above, half portion of the population (49 %) in the study area is deprived of even primary education, the relative higher achievement is seen in enrolling in primary education ,where the scientific knowledge component of the human asset is highly vanished. To this fact, a knowledge and skill development effort which considers the livelihood condition of peoples certainly could bear fruit. The IFMP project in its entire project period extend special skill training opportunities in areas of forest conservation and rehabilitation, livelihood diversification, eco-tourism service provision among others. As the response from the sample households clearly show 90% of the respondents confirm that they could get special skill training opportunity mainly given by the project implementer(GTZ).

The training mainly focuses on environmental conservation, where the project agenda and the locals livelihood coincide on. In addition considerable number of respondents (89%) admitted that their knowledge, most importantly, on the natural environment(42 % of them) and eco tourism and its activities(40%) is highly improved.

Table 9- Number of trainings given

Number Of Trainings Given	Frequency	Percent
One times	11	11.0
Two times	13	13.0
Three times	21	21.0
Four times	32	32.0
More than four	21	21.0
Total	98	98.0
Missing	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: own survey, 2010

According to the *Woreda* forest and wildlife enterprise head, the approach contributed to a broad spread of knowledge concerning the natural environment, forest rehabilitation measures, conflict resolution mechanisms, integration of local knowledge with scientific ones etc.

II- Nutrition and health

Unlike most of the lowlands, due to its highland location, the study area is not vulnerable to major epidemics existing in the country like malaria. In an attempt to see the contribution of the project on the locals access to nutritious food, 65 % of them confirm that they are getting a better nutritious food due to the cash crops they started to grow in their farm land, additional income they could secure from new income generating activities and the relative increase in the price of wood products.

But closer scrutiny as to the increase in daily calorie intake trends may unravel further and different evidences. In terms of improvement in health only 48% of the respondents express the improvement in health due to the project. They outlined, getting additional income for health related expenses and improvement in road infrastructure as the reasons for the betterment of the health situation of the households. As tried to be measured using the likert scale, the majority of the respondents (68%) express their fair satisfaction on the projects contribution to their health.

A Local Informant Explained That:

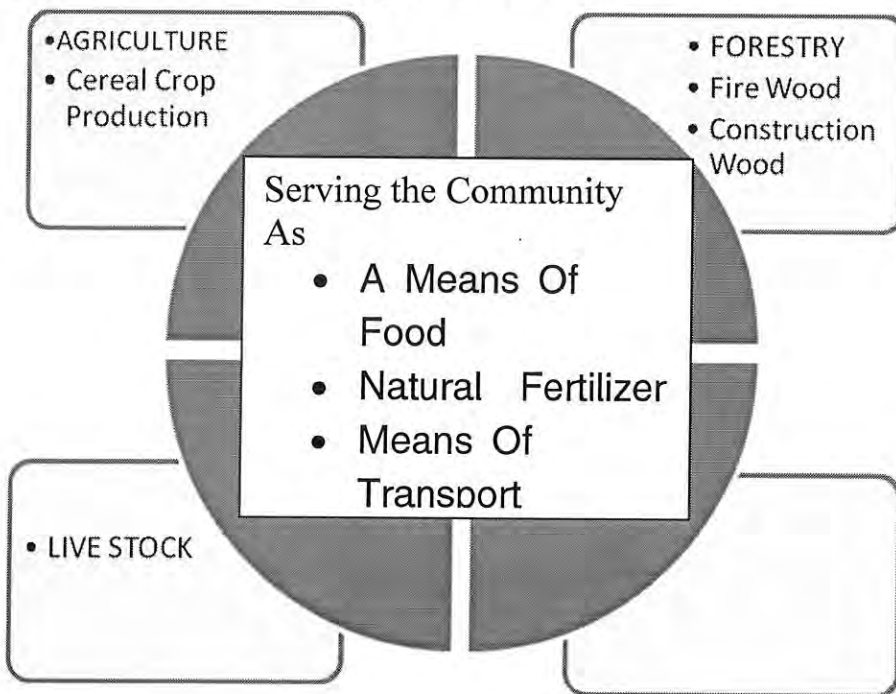
This time peoples develop a habit of taking families to clinic when exposed to disease. This days WAJIB members can get at least 250birr a month from selling wood products. In addition, we are farming two times a year due to the conducive environment and some of us getting income from eco tourism activities by working as horse assistant, renting horse, camp renting etc. This time as the environment is changed we are no more exposed to even to common cold and diarrhea where the case was rampant before. As there is a dust and number of flies in dry situations we have been exposed to eye disease. In terms of road network, previously there were areas totally isolated from each other, after the commencement of the project broad walks and bridges are constructed to connect the different forest huts for the tourists. Now the local peoples who have been isolated for many years get connected. Even we are easily getting herbal medicines for seek peoples and most importantly for our livestock's. And the tangible contribution of the project in this sphere is the construction of one clinic at 'Adele'.

5.3.5. Financial Capital

According to a study by Aklilu (2004) the average trade value of natural forest per market day is equivalent to birr 12,905.00. And the income that is generated from the natural forest per annum and market place is birr 309,727.00. The study further revealed that the total annual turnover of wood products from the natural forest is estimated to be birr 34.9 million. Here the total market value is determined from the market survey, where most of the revenue was accrue to both the owners and the illegal encroachers.

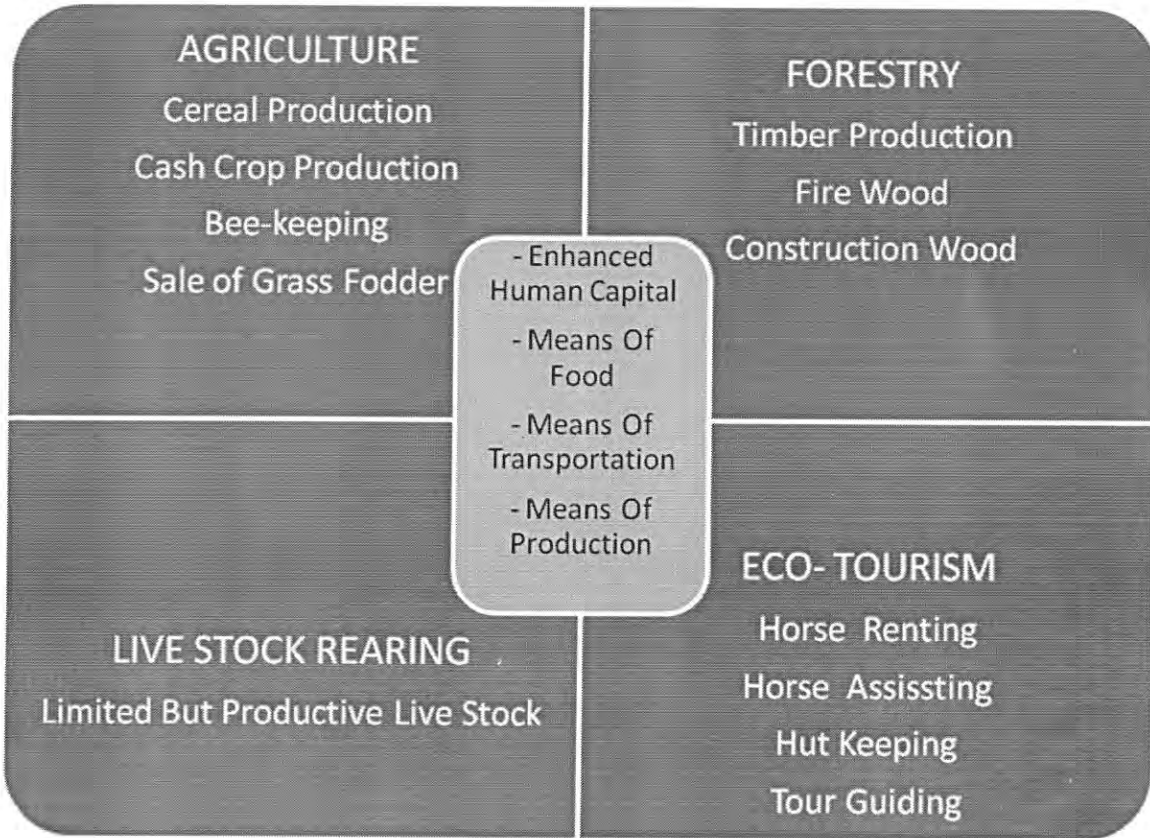
While this remains a result observed before 6 years, with a rapidly increasing demand for wood products and the accustomed wise utilization of the same and the ultimate use right granted for the respective WAJIB members only, and the steadily increase in the price of forest products due to increasing market demand, the annual earnings from the forest resources will certainly increase. In addition new earning opportunities are open to the community through enhanced pasture whereby improving the productivity of their domestic animals, supplying animal fodder to the local market, enhanced bee productivity, participation in eco-tourism activities are some of the reasons worth mentioning. The following diagrams demonstrate the comparative look into the income generating activities before and after the implementation of the *WAJIB* approach.

Figure 3- Income Generating Activities before Ten Years;



Source- own construction, 2010

Figure 4-Income Generating Activities Today



5.4. Contribution of Eco-Tourism Development to Household Livelihood Outcomes

Of course the Eco-tourism development is seen as the corporate part of the overall mission of the project in its façade of improving the livelihoods of the local community in the study area. In the previous section in the same chapter attempts were made to show the impacts of the overall project on peoples various asset components and the livelihood outcomes of the same. In this chapter the aggregate contribution of the eco tourism development will be discussed.

Households, who are living under a context of vulnerability, mobilize their resources through adopting a certain livelihood strategy to meet their livelihood outcomes. In the above discussions, attempts were made to see the contributions of the WAJIB approach on the household capital assets. Here, as Eco-tourism is one of the emerging activities in

the WJIB approach for environmental conservation and livelihood development, the study will investigate the impacts of this new tourism development approach on the local peoples' livelihood outcomes.

In the SL framework, assets are used and activities pursued to generate a range of livelihood 'outcomes' alternatively thought of as needs or goals (Ashly, 2002). Drawing on the preceding analysis, this section summarizes how eco-tourism affects some of the main household needs.

For those active in eco-tourism, the clearest and most direct contribution to household needs is cash. Despite the importance of all the other impacts reviewed here, there is no doubt that earning cash is a prime motivation for rural residents to develop Eco-tourism.

5.4.1 Cash Income

Eco-tourism in this particular destination generates cash in different ways: that includes, regular wage, casual earnings, and collective income earned by the community. Tourism ventures rarely generate permanent income for more than a small portion of a community, here the regular wage is accrued only to the watch men employed by the respective hut keepers. And casual earnings goes to the tour guides, horse providers, horse assistants and to those who sell food and crafts to the tourists. Collective income is earned by the community through entrance fee, portion of the bed levy by the hut keepers and when it leases hunting rights. As per the data collected from households of the study area 59 % of the respondents confirm that they are getting additional income after the introduction of eco-tourism in the area. As per the data gathered, the majority of participants get cash income through renting their horses (31%), working as horse assistant (19%), petty trade(5%) and food sells(4%).As the majority of the beneficiaries are getting additional cash from horse renting, it is possible to conclude that peoples are getting additional income while engaging themselves in their daily routine tasks. In addition, it relieved them from wasting a considerable number of hours they spent on preparing wood products to the market while at the same time reducing their level of dependency on the forest resources.

An operation that has incorporated the main components of eco-tourism, and especially local community participation, implies that average part of the revenue gained will stay within the region. When well managed, eco tourism can assist in redistributing income to local people and generate other indirect earnings within local areas (Israngkura, 1996).

Permanent jobs

Tourism venture rarely generates permanent jobs for more than a small portion of households in a community. However, these are important as wage cash boost to those families, which can lift them from insecure to secure status socio-economically. These earnings, in turn, are partially recycled within the local economy creating a multiplier effect (Ashley, 2002). In the study area the segments of the local community who are getting regular wages are mainly the watch mans in each huts. Where the 6 forest huts are employing 12 watchman's paying average monthly salary of Birr 150.

Causal earning opportunities

Craft makers, casual laborers (Horse assistants, tour guides), horse renters, and others sell their products and labor to tourists and tourism enterprises to get casual earnings. But the amount earned in each of these activities is much better than the regular wage employees. In addition, these casual earning opportunities are likely to benefit much more percentage of local households than full time jobs and are most important for the poorer people who have few other options for earning cash.

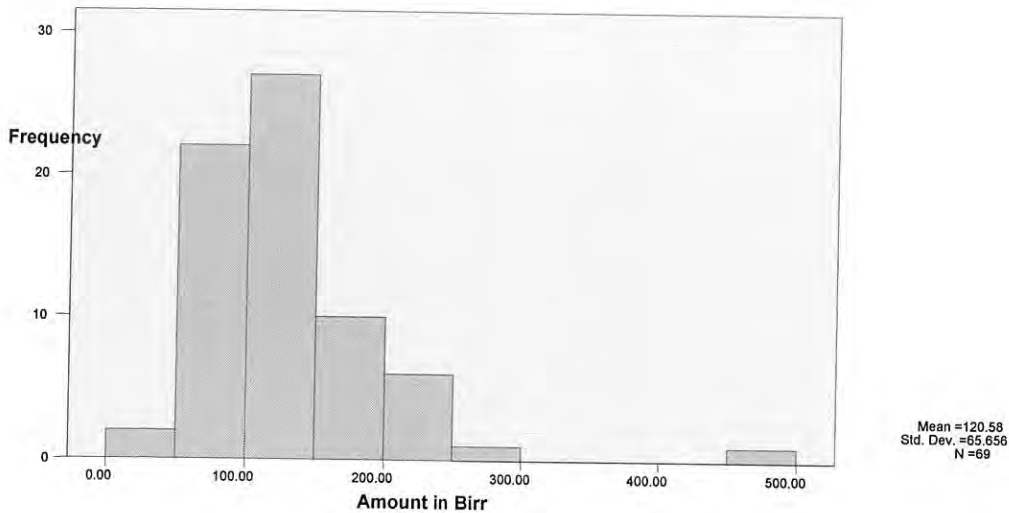
From the survey conducted in the study area, 59 % of the total respondents express that they are getting cash benefit from the eco-tourism activity. Among which, 7 % from petty trade (souvenirs and food items), 31% (horse renting), 19 % (horse assisting), 1 % (hut renting), and the rest 1% involved in tour guiding activities. And as the mean value shows the average monthly income this beneficiary respondents gain each month is found to be 120 birr/household.

The in-depth interview result shows:

A farmer must work for the whole day to cut, smoothen, and carry a pole to sell it in the local market for 20 birr, with the coming of eco tourism to this area he can engage in his usual work while gaining 40 birr a day for the horse he rented, a complimentary income with no or minimum cost, while

saving the time, energy and environmental resources. He added, eco-tourism could promote economic welfare while putting less pressure on the environment that we are leaving at its Mercy.

Figure 5- Average Monthly Income Generated from Eco-Tourism



Source: own survey, 2010

Profit from ownership of a tourism enterprise

Locally-owned enterprises are likely to be small scale like the forest huts existed in the *Adaba- Dodolla* forest. This forest huts are owned locally and a small portion of the income generated from this venture will be given for the village administration, for community work, while the rest will be used by the respective hut keepers.

As the in-depth interview conducted with the Changity camp owner reveal. She is getting 2000-8000 birr a month, where during off and peak seasons, respectively. She is getting the money from hut rent, food items sells, car parking and souvenir sells. While, hut rent contributing the major share. As the data from the tour guides association shows there is less seasonality of visitors, each month contributing almost equal number of visitors in the last three years, we can induce that the average earning of hut keepers is estimated to be 30,000 ETB per month taking the average earning as 5000 ETB per hut keeper. Considering the insignificant difference in the frequency of daily occupancy of each hut and the seasonal variation of visitor number, the rough average value (5000) is taken to be the average income of each hut keeper.

Collective income earned

Collective income is earned in this community when it leases tourism or hunting rights, part of a profit from a bed levy and from entrance fee to be payed at the tour guides office.

The value of this income for local households depends on how it is spent, which in turn depends on the local institutions and processes for managing joint expenditure. Annual collective income of a few thousand dollars a year could be a substantial boost to a community because there are few (if any) sources of this type of income. If divided is shared between households it would be a few dollars a year-not enough to change livelihood strategies but enough to cover, for example, school fees and a couple of bags of grain.

According to the *Farachu-Raya* forest protection and conservation union head,

We were having 800 ETB as an initial capital, now our capital rises to 247,053.27 ETB. Among which 177,000 ETB (60% of the total trophy hunting income) is secured from trophy hunting. And we put aside the income from trophy hunting as a community fund in the union. From this total we are currently to invest some 30,000 ETB for the construction of local school in one of the peasant associations. In addition, the community is getting collective income from entrance fee and bed-levy, where 10% and 20% of it will be given as a community fund, respectively. Moreover, the union concluded a further agreement with Shield and Spear International Safari to use a hunting ground from the year 2002-2003 paying 100,000 ETB annually.

5.4.2. Empowerment

Part of the involvement of the local population can come in the form of empowerment: the community is given the responsibility to make decisions or, at least, to be part of the decision-making process. The local community needs to be involved from the beginning of the project to establish the area as eco-tourism destination. If this is not done properly, the most likely outcome is that the population feels powerless in the face of the development and does not have the strength to influence the development (Brandon, 1993).

The common gloomy picture from tourism studies around the world is of local people disempowered by alien tourism developments and disenfranchised from their resources. The means of empowerment is largely through strengthening social and human capital. Manifestation of empowerment is most easily seen in the greater capacity of some communities to influence external organizations. In terms of the SL framework, it can be seen as local people enhancing their influence over the 'transforming structures and processes' (Ashley, 2002).

Empowerment of the local community could be measured from the perspective of: training opportunity, participation in development, financial gain, recognition from others and influence on development. Empowerment is different from participation because it encompasses all the above elements among others.

The empowerment aspect from the perspective of training and additional knowledge and skill is achieved well due to the subsequent trainings the project implementer extends on various issues of eco-tourism activity at the destination. As the data collected from the household survey clearly shows 95 % of the respondents have received training in the areas of environmental conservation and eco-Tourism. The contents of the training include: accommodation and food and beverage service delivery for the hut keepers, guiding techniques and fauna and flora of the destination for local tour guides, ethics and work procedure for horse assistants among others. Moreover, almost 71% of the trainings were extended by the GTZ. The financial gains from the activity are also an important component of this new business Venture. From the sampled respondents 59 % of them get cash benefit from the different activities they engage in. As the research result reveal the beneficiaries get average monthly cash income of 120 ETB from casual and permanent employment opportunities they get.

In addition, as the *WAJIB* approach in general and the eco tourism activity in particular get acceptance at national and regional level, 81 % of the respondents express the conducive support from the government to participate in eco-tourism activities of the local area.

5.4.3 Cultural Values

There are several positive impacts that do arise from encounters between visitor and host population. New facilities and services become accessible to the host population as these are developed for tourists, the creation of unique jobs which require the expertise of local people and resources and funds to re-establish local arts, traditions and cultural activities. Eco-tourism can also encourage the local community to value its natural and cultural assets and take pride in its heritage (Zeppel et al , 1997).

Some tourism activities focused around local culture can help strengthen the pride in traditions. Production of crafts for tourists is associated with revitalization of tradition.

In *Adaba-Dodolla* practical support to craftsmen is being extended, putting a different value on traditional skills to this people.

According to Tariku, the tour guides association head:

Cultural items and cloths which have been nearing to disappear are now got revived due to the financial importance of this items when tourists buy it as a souvenir. In addition, punctuality is being accustomed by those locals working in eco-tourism-partly due to the trainings they received about the ethics in tourism and their frequent communication and work relation with visitors. The social bond is strengthened not only within forest blocks but also among forest blocks due to the horse renting mechanism which highly demands coordination and communication in the interchange process.

A Summary of Contributions of Eco-Tourism Development to Livelihood Outcomes

There are clearly a range of livelihood 'outcomes' (in the terminology of the SL framework) that rural residents seek, and which can be affected by Eco-tourism, positively and negatively.

The livelihood diversification attempt to enhance the living condition of rural dwellers in the study area will be assessed through analyzing the relationship between participation

in Eco-Tourism and the various livelihood out comes that are brought and could be brought in this rural areas.

Table 10 - Contributions of Eco-Tourism to Peoples Livelihood ‘Outcomes’

Livelihood out comes	Positive effects
Food Security	Cash(particularly earnings of poor) Incentive for enhanced collective management Tourism earning invested in livestock and agriculture
Cash Needs	New earning opportunities Dividend from collective income
Empowerment	Training Skill development Confidence to challenge government and outsiders
Decreased Vulnerability	Income continues in drought Collective income earned for drought coping
Cultural Values	Community pride Reviving local traditions

5.4.4. Well being

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Conclusion

Natural forests have a high importance for the worldwide eco-systems. Furthermore, natural forests in east Africa and their biodiversity offer the rural poor manifold eco system goods and services for the support of livelihoods. The dependency on natural forests and the high demand of an increasing population often leads to an overuse as well as exploitation and deforestation. This development is characteristic for rural areas in developing countries as they are facing high poverty, high rates of population growth, low level of industrialization, and an extremely high dependency on the agricultural sector.

One approach which attempts to balance populations' needs and the protection of forests is participatory forest management. Forest management generally aims at the conservation of forests and its bio- diversity and at the facilitation for the forests inhabitant's to use the forest and its products more sustainable and more profitable. The basic idea of the development strategy is empowerment, participation, basic needs approach and bottom-up development, therefore this all are integrated in the approach of participatory forest management.

The PFM approach intends to contribute to the fulfillment of the basic needs and the increase of benefits from the forest. One PFM is the integrated forest management project *Adaba-Dodola*, which is community based and aims at the empowerment of local inhabitants to use the forest sustainably. The regulations of access to the forest through the creation of forest blocks and special user rights for local inhabitants are combined with the creation of alternative income opportunities in the project, e.g. the implementation of eco-tourism.

The basic ideas of these measures are the protection and conservation of the forest as well as the reduction of the pressure on the forest.

Concerning the success of IFMP in Ethiopia with regard to its strategies, it can be summarized that the governance, sustainability and effectiveness of the approach are interdependent with each other where the success in one of this will certainly put an impact on the other.

As the *WAJIB* group has legitimate right to decision making, it is left entirely to the *WAJIB* to decide on the management of the respective forest block. There exists a self

management among the *WAJIB* blocks which facilitate mass participation and decision making among them. The transparent and equitable functioning of *WAJIB* are some of the manifestations of the result the *WAJIB* scored in regards to governance. Of course, works to enhance the equity dimension of the approach in its eco-tourism strata is highly mandatory.

The approach could improve the forest cover and the livelihood condition of the local community through regulating access, reducing pressure, and making forest much more profitable. While it could regulate access through forming *WAJIB* blocks with exclusive use rights, attempts in reducing the pressure on the natural forest could not be fully successful due to the presence of non *WAJIB* groups encroaching into the *WAJIBs*.

The IFMP has also contributed a lot in enhancing the capital assets of the community. The area forest cover is claimed to be increased by 15.6 % totally since the implementation of the project. The societies access for road networks and affordable energy has shown a real improvement. Moreover, the social bond is highly strengthened within and among the *WAJIB* blocks while hostile relationship is prevalent among the *WAJIB* and Non-*WAJIB* groups. The introduction of alternative income generating activities and the improved level of resource utilization and resource productivity entitles the community with additional income to be spent on health, education, and other necessities of the community.

The advent of the eco-tourism activity in the study area results in infusion of income through various channels partially fulfilling the cash needs of the community through direct earning and its multiplier effects. The cultural elements which have been nearing to disappear are getting revived due to their market value when sold as a souvenir. The community is able to get new skill trainings to work in the sector and generate additional income while the level of well being of the community is highly moving up.

To sum up, the IFMP achieved to improve the forest cover and livelihood condition of the community by limiting access to the forest, empowering local forest dwellers to protect and manage their resources , and creating alternative income generating activities.

6.2 Action Recommendations

The previous chapter displays the results of the research in the Bale Mountains concerning the contributions of the IFMP. In this chapter action recommendations which shall allow improving the approaches fit with local communities' livelihoods and ways to re-focus the approach shall be given.

- Timber processing capacities should be extended to increase the direct forest related income: and improvement of utilization techniques and concentration on high value products like Timber
- Additional income sources from non-wood forest products should be developed and expanded to broaden the income possibilities e.g. incense, eco-tourism and trophy hunting, introducing sheep's for wool and textile production.
- To reduce the hostility among the *WAJIB* and non *WAJIB* groups' tangible infrastructures which can benefit both groups must be put in place. A strong work to bring all the Non- *WAJIB* group to the *WAJIB* camp could bring a healthier result
- Planting of seedlings, indigenous trees as well as other, quick growing trees like bamboo or eucalyptus could lessen the high dependency on the natural forest for various type of consumptions. To bring the best of the planting this should be accompanied by training and financial support to extend and improve afforestation measures.
- To reduce the high dependency on the forest, invention of energy saving stoves which also could heat the huts of the inhabitants and other alternative techniques like a more energy saving house construction must be promoted.
- Training and capacity building works for local Eco-tourism operators (the tour guide association) at various levels, including maintaining logistical requirements of the association to facilitate its functioning is crucial.
- The Eco tourism venture should be institutionalized by putting a structure where appropriate and trained individuals could handle the various functions of the activity. And to increase the revenue from the eco-tourism activity works to extend the length of stay of visitors must be done

- To increase the number of persons profiting from eco tourism and to allow a more equal distribution of the earnings –changing the distribution of the entrance fee-the best opportunity would be to change the recipients of the entrance fee from the tourist office to the *Woreda* administration. So that the *Woreda* administration could invest this profit in social and technical infrastructure like schools or wells, so that more people could profit.
- Introducing a rotation system of Eco-tourism related activities (e.g horse renting): this system includes that every person who likes to participate in eco-tourism with his capabilities has the opportunity to take part in the preferred activity. A neutral institution must be maintained to observe this system to assure a fair distribution of jobs and activities to allow broader participation of the locals.
- Diversification of offers, as to availing new activities like mountain biking, sport-fishing, parachuting or the possibility to join cultural events like coffee ceremonies could attract tourists and elongate their length of stay while enhancing the attractiveness of the destination.



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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Impacts of community based eco tourism development on rural livelihoods: a case study of IFMP

QUESTIONNAIRE

IDENTIFICATION (1)

NAME OF THE KEBELE _____

LOCALITY NAME _____

NAME OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD _____

HOUSEHOLD NUM.

QUESTIONNAIRE NUM.

ENUMERATOR

INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT

INFORMED CONSENT

Hello. My name is _____.

This survey is being undertaken by a student of Addis Ababa University,
College of Development Study, in the Department of
Rural Livelihood and Development, as a partial fulfillment for the award of MA
in Development study. In this survey there are several
questions that you are kindly requested to provide your real feeling and
knowledge about your livelihood and the environment you are living in.

This survey is anonymous and confidential.
Your honest answers are helpful
for the study and its subsequent application to
enhance Eco Tourism development in your area. I again kindly request
your kind cooperation and patience to respond carefully
to each and every question considering the importance of the study
to your area and your community in general.

At this time, do you want to ask me anything about the survey?
May I begin the interview now?

Signature of interviewer:

Date:

SECTION 1. RESPONDENT'S BACKGROUND

NO.	QUESTIONS AND FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
101	How old were you at your last birthday?	AGE IN COMPLETED YEARS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
102	How many individuals live in your house (household size)?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
103	Have you ever attended school?	YES 1 NO 2	→105
104	What is the highest grade you completed?	GRADE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> TECHNICAL/VOC. CERTIFICATE .. 1 DIPLOMA 2 DEGREE 3	
105	Have you ever attended in any informal sector education such as Bible school or koranic school or any other that involves learning to read or write (not including primary school) ?	YES 1 NO 2	
106	What is your religion?	ORTHODOX 1 CATHOLIC 2 PROTESTANT 3 MUSLEM 4 TRADITIONAL 5 OTHER 6 (SPECIFY)	
107	What is your marital Status?	YES, CURRENTLY MARRIED 1 YES, LIVING WITH A WOMAN/MAN 2 Never Married 3 Separated 4	
108	Sex of the respondent	Male 1 Female 2	
109	does the household have its own farm land	yes.....1 No.....2	→ 111
110	what is the size of th the household farmland in hectare ?	less than 1.....1 1.5 to 22 2.5 to 33 above 34	
111	Is the area being cultivated sufficient enough for food production and livestock keeping in sustianing the given family?	yes 1 No..... 2	→ 201
112	if the answer is No, why?	farnilly size and shortage of land..... 1 highly degraded and mountainous..... 2 land is infertile..... 3 swampy..... 4 stony..... 5 exhausted..... 6	

section two livelihood asset survey

NO.	QUESTIONS AND FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
201	have you received special skill training opportunity in relation to environmental conservation and eco tourism?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	→ 205
202	if yes, what kind of training have you received ?	environmental conservation..... A catering..... E tour guiding C leadership..... C other, specify..... E	
203	how many times ?	1.....A 2.....B 3.....C 4.....D more than fourE	
204	who did give you the training ?	the woreda administration..... A GTZ..... B oromia agri and rural devt bureau..... C do not know..... D other, specify..... E	
205	do you believe that your health facility is improved after the coming of this project to your area?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	→ 207
206	if yes, why it is improving? Multiple answer is possible	getting nearby clinic constructed by the project..... A getting additional income for health related expenses..... B improvement in infrastructure of the area C getting a health education in connection with the project..... D other specify E	
207	the income that you received from eco tourism activities helped you get a better nutritious food?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	
208	do you believe that the implementation of IFMP enhanced your knowledge ?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	→ 210
209	if yes, in which areas ? Knowledge about Multiple answers are possible	the natural environment 1 livelihood diversification..... 2 the cultural and natural heritage of the locality..... 3 eco tourism and its activities..... 4 other specify 5	
210	in the last one year , has a death of less than five years children occurred in the household?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	
211	is malaria a major disease in your locality?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	
212	is there any membership you get in a formal association after the implementation of the project?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	→ 214
213	if yes, what kind of associa' ?	saving and credit..... 1 environmental..... 2 eco tourism related..... 3 other, specify..... 4	
214	is their any traditional association consolidated with the help and support of this project?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	→ 216

NO.	QUESTIONS AND FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES		SKIP	
215	if yes, which association? multiple answer possible	idir	1	A	
		mahebe	2	B	
		debo	3	C	
		equib	4	D	
		other specif	5	E	
216	is their any social connection created in relation to this project?	yes	1		218
		No	2		
217	if yes , with which bodies?	government bodies.....		A	
		NGOs.....		B	
		other stakeholders in tourism.....		C	
		individual professionals and groups.....		D	
		within the society.....		E	
		other specify.....		F	
218	in what ways it does help you being the member of these formal and informal organizations ? it helps during..... multiple answer possible	shocks or lacks		A	
		in gaining new knowledge		B	
		in securing financial needs		C	
		to get expertise support		D	
		other specify		E	
219	do you think the implementation of the project enhanced the environmental conservation in relation to	type	RESPONSE		
			YES	NO	EX VGG
		water resources	1	2	1 2 3
		air quality	1	2	1 2 3
		erosion protection	1	2	1 2 3
220	in what ways does the environmental conservation works positively impact your livelihoods? multiple answer possible	additional cash income		A	
		healthy environment		B	
		enhanced agricultural productivity		C	
		employment opportunity		D	
		infusion of new knowledge and skill		E	
		other specify		F	
221	does the environmental conservation work impede access to pasture land ?	Yes	1		
		No	2		
222	is their a change you see in improvement of the natural resources after the implementation of the project?	Yes	1		
		No	2		
223	is there a change in the following asset components of the community after the implementation of this project? multiple answer is possible	road networks		A	
		adequate water suppl		B	
		affordable energy		C	
		access to information		D	
		other specify		E	
224	do you get any financial or cash benefit from the eco tourism activity?	Yes	1		
		No	2		
225	if yes, from which activity do you get the cash? multiple answer possible	labour income		A	
		petty trade		B	
		house renting		C	
		hut keeper		D	
		tour guiding or escorting		E	
		other specify		F	
226	how much do you get each month on average?			

Institutional Assesment Survey

NO.	QUESTIONS AND FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
301	are you a member of any traditional or formal institutions?	YES 1 NO 2	→ 303
302	if yes , in which associations do involve in? multiple answer possible	debo A idir B wajib C cooperative unio D equib E other specify F i	
303	which traditional institution plays a significant role in achieving your livelihoods?	geda 1 idir 2 iquib 3 debo 4 other specify 5	
304	do you have access to loan ?	yes..... 1 No 2	→ 306
305	if yes , from where you get it? multiple answer possible	local lenders A banks..... B friends and relatives C credit and loan institutic D othe E specify	
306	is their any traditional and relegious practices in your locality that you believe affecting your livelihood?	Yes 1 No 2	
307	if you do not belong to any of the above institutions ,why? multiple answer possible	do not believe in ther A there is nothing to cooperate l B no access to join them C nepotism D other E specify	
308	do you think the above institutions have a role in addressing some of your vernerability problems?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	
309	do you believe the legeslations by WAJIB and the NGOs working in this project are effective in meeting the projects over all goals ?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	→ 311
310	if no , why? Multiple answer possible	lack of local community involvement A lack of coordination among the different development actor B lack of effective implementation works C lack of local communities adherence to these legeslation D other E specify	
311	do you have interest in conserving your land and other communal lands?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2	
312	if no , why? multiple answer possible	I donot feel a sense of ownership A I do not get compatible return from the land B other C specify	

section four general livelihood

NO.	QUESTIONS AND FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES
401	what is the main source of income for the household?	agriculture 1 day labour 2 petty trade 3 government employment 4 environmental resources 5 eco tourism 6 remittance 7 other 8 specify
402	if eco tourism, in which of the following activity does the household engage in? multiple answer possible	petty trade A camp keeper B hut keeper C tour guiding D horse provider E escorting F other G specify
403	are you participating in eco tourism activities in your area?	Yes 1 No 2
404	if the answer is No, why? multiple answer possible	lack of knowledge about non farm activities A no support and encouragement by the development actors B fear of losing land if they involve in the activity C due to discrimination by power and kin ship D due to religious and ethical issues E other F specify
405	do you get additional income after the introduction of eco tourism activity in your area?	Yes 1 No 2
406	if yes, how much of your total monthly income is generated from eco tourism activities?
407	I get the money from.....activity. multiple answer possible	park entrance fee A accomodation B equipment rental C food sales D parking E merchandise sales F donations G other H specify

Section Five vulnerability

NO.	QUESTIONS AND FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES			SKIP
		type	response yes	No	
501	are you vulnerable to such problems like	health	1	2	
		price fluctuation	1	2	
		food inadequacy	1	2	
		flood	1	2	
		drought	1	2	
502	if yes , which one affects your life severely?	drought	1		
		food inadequacy	2		
		price fluctuation	3		
		flood	4		
		other specify	5		
				
503	what do you think causes or aggravates your vulnerability to some of the above shocks? multiple answer possible	environmental condition	A		
		population increase	B		
		water logging	C		
		seasonality of visitors	D		
		unfavourable gov policy	E		
		Others	F		
		Specify			
504	how do you try to cope with some of your problem related to your vulnerability? Multiple answer possible	livelihood diversification	A		
		through social networks	B		
		seasonal movement	C		
		remittance from relatives	D		
		through loan	E		
		other	F		
		Specify			
505	in times of crisis like drought and food shortage who helps you best?	relatives and friends	1		
		government	2		
		NGOs	3		
		associations like idir	4		
		cooperatives	5		
		other	6		
		Specify			
506	do you get the required support to engage in eco tourism activities from the government institutions?	YES	1		
		NO	2		
507	do you think government services are adequate in minimizing your vulnerability and diversifying your livelihoods?	YES	1		
		NO	2		
508	your family ever experianced food shortage?	YES	1		
		NO	2		
509	if yes, how often?	one to three months a year	1		
		three to six months a year	2		
		more than 6 months a year.....	3		
510	how do you cope with food shortage seasons? multiple answer possible	reduce quality of food served	A		
		reduce quantity of food served	B		
		redue number of meals	C		
		eat less preferred food	D		
		eat wild food	E		
		other	F		
		Specify			

Section 6: Livelihood Analysis Survey

How satisfied are you with the contribution of eco-tourism
 Where 1= very satisfied 2 = fairly satisfied 3= unsatisfied
 How satisfied are you with the contribution of eco-tourism to

NO.	QUESTIONS AND FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES		
		Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Unsatisfied
601	Food security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Cash needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Decreased Vulnerability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Cultural Values	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Physical Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
606	Well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
607	Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
608	Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does the implementation of the project have a significant positive impact on the following asset components of your family?

		Yes	No
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
609	Health	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
610	Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
611	Skill	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
612	Knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
613	Affordable energy	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
614	Access to information	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
615	Social Connectedness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
616	Water availability	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
617	Environmental conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
618	transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
619	shelter and sanitation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
620	Regular inflow of money	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
621	Membership in informal and formal organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
622	Land and forest	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
623	Bio diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
624	Labor income	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2

Interview Guide for Key Informants

Interview

Semi-Structured Interview for Generating Data on Impacts of Eco-Tourism development on Rural Livelihoods

Name of Woreda _____

Name of Kebele/PA _____

Title of the respondent _____

Name of the organization _____

1. Do you believe the woreda's agriculture and rural development and tourism bureaus legislation and support is conducive for the effective implementation of the project? How?
2. Do you believe that there is a significant change on the livelihood of the community? How?
3. What kind of support are you giving for the project's success in its entire efforts?
4. Do you believe the project will have a sustainable impact on the livelihood of the communities? How?
5. How do you describe the change in the living standard of the society after the implementation of the project?
6. Do you believe that there are constraints for the effective implementation of the project? If yes, what are they?
7. Do you think the peoples access for social services like education, access to market, health service and infrastructure had improved due to this project? If yes, how? How does it have any contribution for rural development?
8. What should be done in the future to up-scale the projects fit with livelihoods?
9. Do you think this project enhance the financial, natural, human, physical and social capital assets of this community? How? Where

Each capital asset is represented by the following indicators

Human capital -Health ,Skill ,Knowledge

Physical capital-Transportation ,Shelter and sanitation ,Affordable energy,Access to information

Financial capital-Labor income ,Cash

Social capital- Social connectedness ,Membership in informal and formal organizations

Natural capital- Land and forest ,Bio diversity ,Water availability,Environmental conservation

10. Do you believe the results scored are sufficient enough when you compare it to the projects objectives? If yes how? If no, why?
11. Do you believe there is strong integration of work among all the development actors in this area? If yes how, if no, why?
12. Is there a harmonies or conflicting relationship among eco-tourism and other livelihood activities of the society?

Interview Guide for the In-depth Case Study

Semi-Structured Interview for Generating Data on Impacts of Eco-Tourism development on Rural Livelihoods

Date of interview _____

Name of interviewer _____

Name of interviewee _____

Name of translator _____

1. Does the implementation of the project brought a significant improvement on your:-

Indicators	Response
Health	
Cash	
Skill	
Knowledge	
Affordable energy	
Access to information	
Social connectedness	
Water availability	
Environmental conservation	
Transportation	
Shelter and sanitation	
Regular inflow of money	
Membership in informal and formal organizations	
Land and forest	
Bio diversity	
Labor income	

2. Do you believe eco-tourism is a good option for your livelihood? If no, what do you suggest?

3. Do you believe you are getting a good benefit by the implementation of this project in your area? If yes, How?

4. Is there a harmonies or conflicting relationship among eco-tourism and other livelihood activities of yours?
5. How eco-tourism supports and conflicts with your livelihood outcomes?
6. What should be done in the future to up-scale the projects fit with livelihoods?
7. Do you believe that there is a significant change on the livelihood of the community? How?
8. Do you think the peoples access for social services like education, access to market, health service and infrastructure had improved due to this project? If yes, how? How does it have any contribution for rural development?
9. How do you describe the change in the living standard of the society after the implementation of the project?
10. Do you believe that there are constraints for the effective implementation of the project? If yes, what are they?
11. Additional topics of discussion
 - Permanent or temporary livelihood activities, besides agriculture and livestock rearing, that you or people in your locality involve in that is thought to have better income earning potential other than these two.
 - Do these activities utilize natural resources?
 - If so, which ones?
 - Rate your living conditions for the past five years as improved, no change, deteriorated and give reasons/ examples.
 - Conservation activities, as a community or individually, done around your area or in the park, its benefits?
 - Perceptions and attitudes towards the protected area and its management.

- Problems you face with the protected areas authorities during the utilization of the park's resources.
- Benefits you have lost as a result of natural resource use restriction by the protected area management?
- Kind's benefits (in terms of income) you receive from eco- tourism activities of the area.
- In what ways do you think you can make a livelihood, if the government could assist you to create new livelihood strategies that do not involve natural resource use? For example eco-tourism related activities.

Declaration

I the undersigned declare that this thesis is my original work, has not been presented for the degree in other university and that all sources of materials used in this thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Name: Sewbesew Yideg

Advisor: Mulugeta Feseha (Ph.D.)

Signature _____

Signature: _____

Date _____

