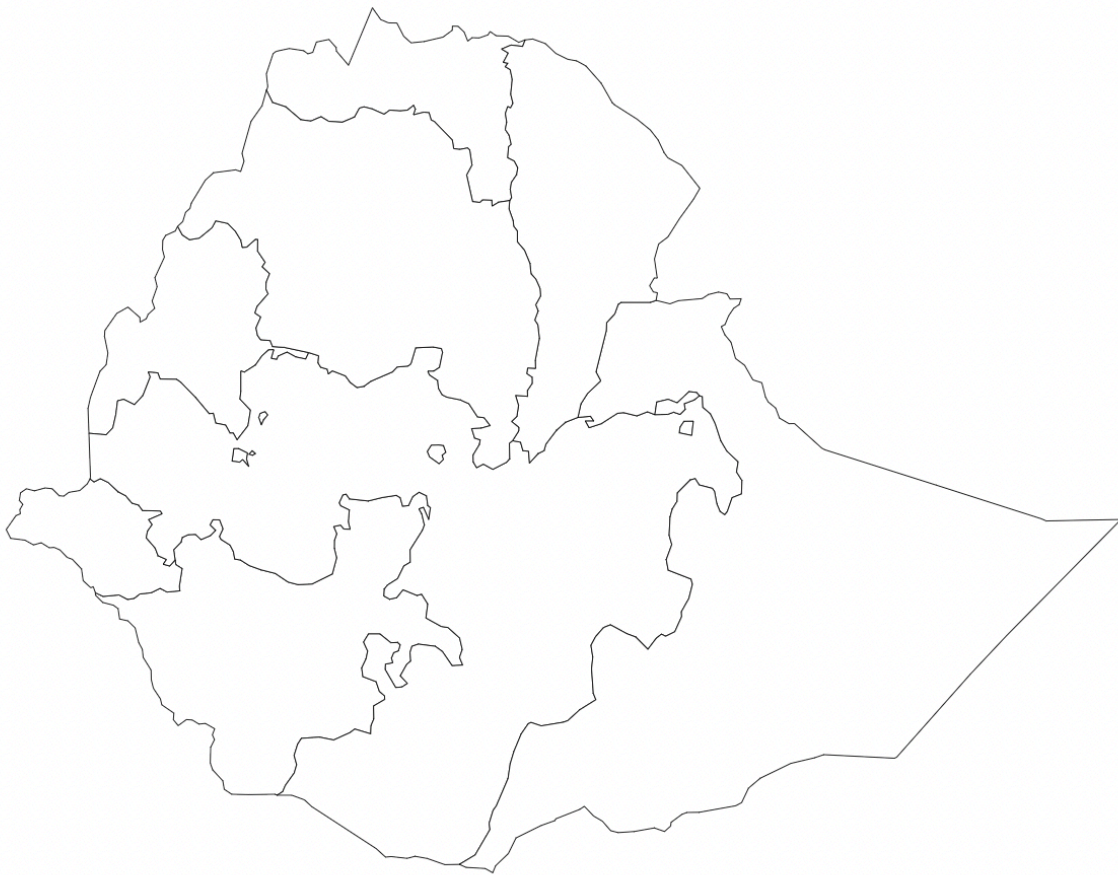


**University-Government Collaboration on  
Climate Adaptation Finance**

**ETHIOPIA COUNTRY PROFILE**



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## ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	Definitions
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
FIE	Federal Implementing Entities
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LUCCC	Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAP-ETH	National Adaptation Plan of Ethiopia
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NFP	National Focal Point
P&I	Policy and Institutions
PoC	Point-of-Contact
TT	Think Tank
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNI-LEAD	LDC University Leadership for Catalyzing Climate-Adaptation Finance

## **Executive Summary**

The objective of this country profile is to provide an overview on the status and the opportunities for university-government collaborations to access finance for climate change adaptation.

***The key existing policies to informed strengthening of university-government collaborations for climate adaptation in Ethiopia include:***

- Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, 2011
- Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP-ETH), 2019
- NAP Implementation Roadmap, 2020
- Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), 2021
- Ethiopia 2030: The Pathway to Prosperity-10-year Development Plan (2021-2030)

***The key existing institutions to be involved in strengthening university-government collaborations for climate adaptation in Ethiopia are the following:***

- Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee
- CRGE Facility
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation
- Federal Implementing Entities (FIEs-Line Ministries)
- National Planning Commission
- Research and academic institutions and National Agencies (NMA and CSA)

***The constraints/difficulties in accessing climate adaptation finance***

The constraints/difficulties in accessing adaptation financing identified by the stakeholders include among others :

- Limited institutional capacity
- Gaps in climate finance coordination
- Inadequate access to information
- Limited capacities in designing adaptation proposals

***Entry points for university-government collaborations***

The national dialogue and engagement workshop highlighted two major entry points for university-government collaborations on climate adaptation finance in Ethiopia.

- University contribution to address data needs
- University contribution to address capacity needs

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This country profile is a product of the UNI-LEAD project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the benefit of 13 Least Developed Countries (LDC), members of the LUCCC<sup>1</sup> network. The country profile has been prepared for general guidance on the status of university-government collaborations to access finance for climate change adaptation.

The document is part of a series of 7 country profiles produced as part of the UNI-LEAD project. The objective of this exercise is to present the overall situation in terms of collaboration between government institutions (policy makers) in charge of climate actions at country-level and national universities and think tank with the aim of mobilizing domestic and international funding for climate change adaptation.

The country profile has been prepared taking into account four key elements including (i) the literature review and expert judgement on existing collaborations in the climate adaptation processes, (ii) the best practices guidelines on university-government collaborations in the field of climate change (iii) the country policies and institutional mapping report, and (iv) the reports of various consultations and dialogues organized at regional, national and provincial levels.

## 2. COUNTRY OVERVIEW: ETHIOPIA

1	Observed and projected climate change risks in Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events</li> <li>▪ Changing rainfall patterns</li> <li>▪ Rising temperatures</li> </ul>
2	Observed and projected climate change impacts in Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduced crop yields, increased pest and disease outbreaks, and changes in crop suitability.</li> <li>▪ Water scarcity, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions.</li> <li>▪ Endemic species and ecosystems loss.</li> <li>▪ Increase the risk of vector-borne diseases, malnutrition, and heat-related illnesses.</li> </ul>
3	Most vulnerable sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agriculture</li> <li>▪ Water resources</li> <li>▪ Human health</li> <li>▪ Energy</li> <li>▪ Infrastructures</li> <li>▪ Tourism</li> </ul>
4	Opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience-building in Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investing in irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting, and water conservation measures.</li> <li>▪ Supporting the development of value chains for climate-resilient agricultural products.</li> <li>▪ Promoting drought-tolerant crops.</li> <li>▪ Implementing early warning systems for extreme weather events.</li> <li>▪ Empowering communities to develop and implement climate adaptation measures.</li> <li>▪ Implementing disaster risk reduction measures to reduce the vulnerability of infrastructure and communities.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designing and building climate-proof infrastructures.</li> <li>▪ Conserving biodiversity to enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change.</li> </ul>
5	Adaptation financing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the 15 years NAP-ETH implementation period (2016-2030) the country needs nearly USD 6 Billion per annum (USD 90 Billion total) to be divided proportionally between the 18 adaptation options/programs. The Ethiopian government has committed to finance at least 20% of the total cost from the public expenditure and expects the donor community to assist with the rest.</li> </ul>
6	Major climate change adaptation challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited financial and human resources to implement adaptation measures at the necessary scale.</li> <li>▪ Significant data gaps regarding climate change impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation options.</li> <li>▪ Addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and ensuring equitable access to adaptation benefits is a major challenge.</li> </ul>
7	LUCCC University name and address	Addis Ababa University (AAU)
8	Host of the UNI-LEAD Think Tank	Addis Ababa University's Center for Environmental Science (CES)
9	UNI-LEAD Point of Contact (PoC) and TT Coordination	H.E. Prof. Eyasu Elias, PhD Professor of Soil Science, Addis Ababa University State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture Phone: +251 (911) 216 258 / +251 (963) 257 371 E-mail: <a href="mailto:evuelias@gmail.com">evuelias@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:eyasu.elias@aau.edu.et">eyasu.elias@aau.edu.et</a>
10	UNFCCC National Focal Point (NFP)	Ms. Fitsum Assefa Adela, Minister Ministry of Planning and Development <a href="mailto:info@mopd.gov.et">info@mopd.gov.et</a> +251111226662 <a href="mailto:fitsum.assefa@mopd.gov.et">fitsum.assefa@mopd.gov.et</a>
11	GCF National Designated Authority	Mr Abas Ali PRIMARY Director, Economic Analysis and Policy Ministry of Planning and Development PHONE +251 91 154 4526 <a href="mailto:ABAS.MOHAMMED5@GMAIL.COM">ABAS.MOHAMMED5@GMAIL.COM</a>
12	Adaptation Fund Designated Authority	Mr. Mohammed Andoshe Faynet Director, Climate Change Planning, implementation & Coordination Directorate, Lead Negotiator of Climate Change Ministry of Planning and Development / Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia Tel: +251 (0) 913 280 961 Email: <a href="mailto:workineshbedet@gmail.com">workineshbedet@gmail.com</a> ; Alternate emails: <a href="mailto:eenvironment@gmail.com">eenvironment@gmail.com</a>
13	GEF Focal Point	Mr. Mensur Dessie Nuri Operational Focal Point since 2023-04-10 Director, Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiation

	<p>Coordination, Ministry of Planning and Development  Tel: +251 111 40 30 71  Email: <a href="mailto:mensurdes2012@gmail.com">mensurdes2012@gmail.com</a></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mekonnen Hailu  Political Focal Point since 2024-04-01  State Minister, Ministry of Planning and Development  Tel: +251 111 40 30 71  Email: <a href="mailto:bement2002@gmail.com">bement2002@gmail.com</a></p>
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### 3. POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONAL MAPPING AND ENTRY-POINTS

#### 3.1. P&I Mapping

##### 3.1.1. Policies mapping

Ethiopia’s ambition is to achieve a middle-income status by 2025 in a climate resilient economy. Growth in agricultural sector is the main economic driver providing food for the growing population and increasing export earnings. If Ethiopia were to pursue a conventional economic development path to achieve its ambition of reaching middle-income status by 2025, GHG emissions would more than double from the current 150 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e to 400 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030; more than 85% of GHG emissions comes from agricultural land use and forestry. Therefore, Ethiopia has formulated an overarching policy – the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy that aims to sustaining economic growth while at the same time achieving net zero greenhouse gas emission.

The following table presents the major policies related to climate change adaptation in Ethiopia.

Policies	Description
<b>The Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy issued in 2011</b>	<p>Ethiopia’s CRGE strategy sets out strategies to achieve the development of green economy based on four pillars (1) climate smart agriculture - improving crop and livestock production practices for increased food security while reducing emissions. These may include improved crop varieties and expansion of irrigated farming, shifting to drought resistant and low emitting animals species, improved soil and water conservation and soil organic matter management; (2) forestry: protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services (carbon sink, erosion control, hydrological regulation). This can be achieved by means of reforestation, afforestation, and agroforestry practices; (3) Power: expanding hydropower electricity generation and exploring other renewable energy (geothermal, solar, wind) to reduce dependence on biomass energy which accounts for 80% of the household energy supply; and (4) Transport: adopting more energy efficient and modern technologies such as electric cars.</p> <p>In order to implement the CRGE, a number of sector</p>

	<p>specific climate resilient green economy strategies have also been formulated. The sectoral strategies show GHG reduction mechanisms and to enable actions on the priorities identified in the CRGE strategies by measuring, reporting and verifying impacts from the sectors. However, greater attention is given the agriculture forestry and other land uses, because these sectors account for more than 85% of the GHG emissions. Other sectors such as water and energy, transport, and urban development and housing sectors combined contribute only 8% of the emissions (FDRE, 2015). For this reason, agriculture and forestry sectors have been prioritized for most mitigation and adaptation interventions.</p>
<p><b>The National Adaptation Plan of Ethiopia (NAP-ETH), 2019</b></p>	<p>Ethiopia’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP-ETH) builds on ongoing efforts to address climate change in the country’s development policy framework, including the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy as well as sectoral climate resilience strategies and regional and municipal adaptation plans. Its goal is to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience.</p>
<p><b>The NAP Implementation Roadmap, 2020</b></p>	<p>The objective of the NAP Implementation Roadmap is to identify vital enabling activities that will realize the country’s NAP, their timelines and critical milestones to note during project implementation, as well as key actors responsible for their delivery. The roadmap is a description of “what” needs to be done for the NAP process by planners, financial institutions, sector ministries, sub-national bodies (regions, woredas, and kebeles), civil society, as well as training and research institutions.</p>
<p><b>The Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), 2021</b></p>	<p>Adaptation with mitigation co-benefits such as small-scale irrigation, watershed management are reprioritized and expanded in the NDC. Given the vulnerability and limited adaptive capacity in Ethiopia, the NDC outlines additional measures and further expand prioritized adaptation options. These include climate smart agriculture (CSA), diversification of livestock breeds (low emitting and drought resilient), improved drought resilient crop varieties, watershed management and rehabilitation, sustainable forest management (afforestation, reforestation, community-based forest management, etc.).</p>
<p><b>Ethiopia 2030: The Pathway to Prosperity - 10-year development plan (2020/21-2029/30)</b></p>	<p>The Ten-Year Perspective Development Plan (2021 – 2030) Of Ethiopia Aligned To Agenda 2063 And The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development. Ethiopia has vision 2030, which is to be an African Beacon of prosperity. The country prepared ten-year perspective development plan.</p>



	<p>The plan has six strategic pillars: Ensure quality growth, improve productivity and competitiveness, undertake institutional transformation, ensure private sectors leadership in the economy, ensure equitable participation of women and children, build climate resilient green economy. Macroeconomic goals are set to achieve the vision. Average growth target and sectoral growth targets are set. Structural change in sectoral composition of GDP is also set as macroeconomic goals. Natural resources, human capital, physical capital, unexploited growth potential, increased demand, political capital, continental and regional integrations and technology are considered as potentials. The focus area are productive sectors : agriculture, manufacturing, mining; service sector: tourism; enabling sectors : energy, transport, sustainable finance, innovation and technology, urban development, irrigation, human capital development. The plan focuses to bring nationally, regionally and locally balanced and competitive development. A system is organized to monitor and evaluate the plan. The country has also launched and implemented homegrown economic reform agenda with the goal to safeguard macro financial stability and rebalance and sustain economic growth.</p>
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### 3.1.2. Institutions mapping

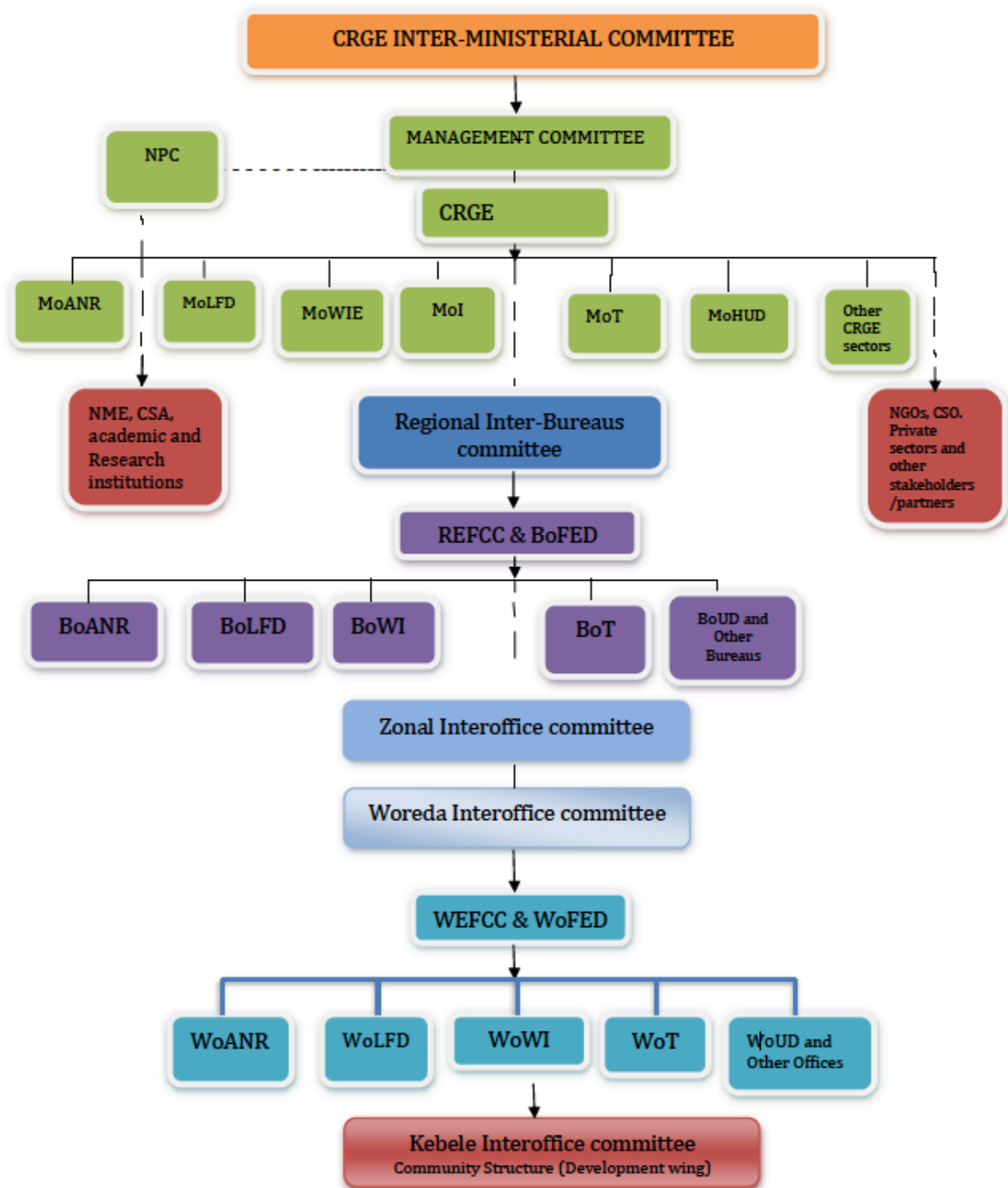
Effective governance is believed to play a significant role in ensuring the successful implementation of the objectives of the National Adaptation Plan. The existing CRGE structure is used as the governance structure for the implementation of NAP-ETH. The design of the CRGE Facility builds on international best practice and has been tailored to the unique circumstances and needs of Ethiopia. The CRGE architecture has been developed to enable a programmatic and transformative approach for implementing relevant activities that minimizes the transaction costs, fragmentation and duplication associated with a project-based approach. The system was created to help convert the CRGE vision into practical action on the ground.

In the governance structure, implementation of NAP-ETH as a whole falls under the mandate of the various sectoral institutions, such as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC), Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource, Ministry of Livestock and Fishery Development, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and other sectors, commissions/agencies, research and academic institutions, NGOs, CSO, and private sector actors. The MEFCC holds responsibility for coordination of the implementation of the NAP-ETH, and for coordination of required follow up actions.

The NAP-ETH is aligned with the existing policy decision-making structures for the CRGE initiative and with the broader Government planning processes. It ensures that different parts of Government are properly integrated into the NAP-ETH's governance mechanisms; and that its governance mechanisms are transparent so that stakeholders can express concerns or opinions at appropriate points in the decision-making processes.



Collaboration between the government and its financial and technical partners in relation to the National Adaptation Plan should be maintained on the basis of the following structural arrangements.



Source: NAP-ETH governance arrangements, 2017

The specific expected responsibilities of the various bodies involved in NAP-ETH implementation and governance are described below:

Actors	Roles and Responsibilities
Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee	As Chair of the Inter- Ministerial Steering Committee, the PMO provides overall guidance to the work conducted with respect to

	<p>the NAP-ETH, and facilitates high-level decision making that determines what is required of NAP-ETH;</p> <p>Sets priorities and establish the necessary legal and institutional frameworks;</p> <p>Strengthens the implementation of all existing policies and programmes that could reduce vulnerability to climate change;</p> <p>Oversees cross-regional common interests arising during NAP-ETH implementation.</p>
CRGE Facility	<p>The MEFCC and Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation is primarily responsible for mobilizing funding both from domestic and international sources, in collaboration with counterparts in the various sectors and stakeholders;</p> <p>Authorizes the release of funds from the national and international account for approved priority resilient activities from the CRGE Facility Account;</p> <p>Presents technical and financial reports of NAP-ETH to the Management Committee for evaluation and approval.</p>
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	<p>Leads and provides strong Coordination for the implementation of NAP-ETH;</p> <p>Undertakes studies and research, and develop systems and action plans to ensure the successful implementation of NAP-ETH;</p> <p>Puts forward new initiatives and proposals that are designed to improve the incorporation of climate change adaptations into development policies and strategies;</p> <p>Consolidates and aggregates projects/programme performance data from across Regional Implementation Entities (IEs) and federal-level Executing Entities (EEs) and generates quarterly (progress) and annual (performance assessment) adaptation reports.</p>
Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation	<p>Makes operational a Facility that performs the effective promotion, financing, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of actions that meet the objectives of the CRGE strategy;</p> <p>Holds full programmatic and financial accountability, on behalf of the Government, for implemented actions;</p> <p>Releases funds from the CRGE Facility Account to line ministries and Regional Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development (BOFED) pursuant to the decision of the Management Committee and in compliance with the National Regulatory Framework.</p>
Federal Implementing Entities (FIEs-Line Ministries)	<p>Coordinates the implementation of sectoral and sub-sectoral activities</p> <p>Implement NAP-ETH successfully;</p> <p>Prepares and submits monitoring reports to MEFCC on a regional basis.</p> <p>Designs, establishes and staffs their respective Environment and Climate Change Coordinating Unit;</p> <p>Designs and establishes the MRV system per sector.</p>
National Planning Commission	<p>The NPC has the leading role in the planning process for the NAP-ETH;</p> <p>The NPC considers adopting NAP-ETH impact level indicators throughout the GTP periods and actively participate in M&amp;E of NAP-ETH implementation performance.</p>

Research and academic institutions and National Agencies (NMA and CSA)	Academic and research institutions undertake studies and research, to develop systems and models for the successful implementation of NAP-ETH; The National Meteorology Agency (NMA) has the role of developing climate models, prediction and scenarios, and seasonal forecasts, clarifying the level of uncertainty for each agro-ecological zones in Ethiopia; The Central Statistical Agency (CSA) holds and collects climate related data, which can serve to populate some resilient activities indicators, through data base on impact of climate change for each agro-climate zone and vulnerable groups.
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### 3.2. GESI Mainstreaming

According to the National Adaptation Plan of Ethiopia (NAP-ETH), gender is a key consideration, recognizing that women may be particularly vulnerable to climate change due to socio-economic inequalities that limit their adaptive capacity. With significant numbers of people in Ethiopia living in conditions of chronic food insecurity, building resilience and adaptive capacity for vulnerable communities and groups is critical. Gender sensitivity is one of the six (6) **Guiding principles of the NAP-ETH**. Implementation of the NAP-ETH will be governed by the following specific guiding principles, which are based on relevant and appropriate policies, and strategic guidance documents at the national, regional and sectoral levels. They are as follows:

1. Participation: successful implementation of the NAP-ETH depends on broad participation by stakeholders such as Federal Ministerial offices, Regional Bureaus, NGOs, private sector entities, academic institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors;
2. Coherent interventions: this principle requires actions to be carried out in a coherent and concerted manner in order to obtain more tangible results;
3. Stakeholder empowerment: stakeholder empowerment is a vital step in terms of achieving results;
4. **Gender sensitivity: *the adaptation options identified in the NAP-ETH will be relevant and will have significant impact if both men and women participate in and benefit from the action. Women are given due attention because they are often more vulnerable to changes in climate;***
5. Equitable implementation: the need for equitable implementation of the NAP-ETH at the social and environmental level is vital in order to safeguard the coherence, continuity and sustainability of interventions;
6. Principle of partnership: permanent dialogue needs to be established between the representatives of various groups of stakeholders in the sector.

### 3.3. Entry points

Ethiopia has 42 federal universities distributed across different national and regional states. These can serve as ‘hubs’ in their local communities for creating, testing, and disseminating knowledge about regional climate projections and adaptation strategies, and should work directly with their local communities to explain the science and implement solutions. Create awareness on climate change risks preparing society to adapt to the impacts of climate disruption by providing research and education around adaptation strategies and science. Universities should incorporate climate adaptation in their curricular offerings on, both through mainstreaming climate information in core courses and offering electives that specialize in the climate science stream.

At higher level of CRGE governance, the PMO oversees the Environmental Council for climate adaptation actions. The council is chaired by the PM, or his delegate and members are ministers of the implementing sectors and the presidents of the regional governments. The regulation states that an advisory board involving representatives from the development partners, universities (e.g., Haramaya, Addis Ababa, Hawassa universities), the private sectors and CSOs actors. This would have been the best entry point for the university-government engagement at a higher level but so far, the opportunity has not been materialized. It needs lobby work and informal discussions as appropriate forum.

At sectoral levels, line ministries are directly mandated for the implementation of CRGE sectoral strategies. They face huge capacity challenges that universities and academia can assist address if proactive engagement is attempted. At this level, universities, research/academia can assist in (a) conducting feasibility and effectiveness/efficiency of pilot sectoral projects in reducing GHG emissions; (b) support with measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) on sectoral interventions, for example, monetize reduced emissions from livestock; and (c) provision of climate information service such as climate change trend analysis, crop response and yield estimation and adaptation to climate change impacts, etc. In addition, universities and research institutions assist with the integration of gender perspectives throughout the adaptation research cycle (design, data collection, analysis, database development and reporting) to encourage the participation of women in the adaptation research (Eth/NAP, 2020).

These engagements can be in the form of pilot projects to access climate finance to implement pilot projects that particularly look into the complexity of MRV systems and approach. This complexity requires research support in quantifying and monetizing emission reduction in the specific sectors (e.g., livestock, forestry, soils). Sometimes, unachievable performance indicators coupled with complex MRV boundary vs mitigation intervention/project boundaries, leakage make the climate adaptation/mitigation interventions difficult to monitor.

#### 4. NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND COUNTRY ROADMAP

A national engagement workshop was held on 29 September 2023 on the University-Government Engagement to Access Climate Adaptation Finance in Ethiopia.



During the workshop, the MoA advisor has introduced the NAP general document and the Agriculture’s NAP plan contents, and the potential for collaboration with academia. He also identified the critical challenges facing the implementation of NAP in the agriculture sector and has introduced the 18 adaptation options prioritized, as well as the challenges facing its implementation. It has been highlighted the critical data needs to effectively implement NAP in the agriculture sector, the NAP priority adaptation options implementation activity data, Climate vulnerability data as well as Climate risk data and Agro-met information. They are an opportunity for the universities to help government generating those missing data, to support implement, track and learn from adaptation actions in Ethiopia.

The universities can contribute to the following points to reduce the gaps observed for the effective implementation of adaptation actions.

University contribution to address data needs	University contribution to address capacity needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generate context specific adaptation and mitigation evidence</li> <li>▪ Verify adaptation and mitigation data</li> <li>▪ Enhance institutional data management system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short- and long-term hands-on training based on capacity gaps and needs assessment.</li> <li>▪ Conducting research on priority adaptation and mitigation actions</li> <li>▪ Generate and adopt effective adaptation and mitigation technologies</li> <li>▪ Include climate basics into universities curricula and training modules.</li> </ul>

## 5. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Ethiopia has been grappling with the impacts of climate change. It has rectified a number of international conventions on environment and climate change and formulated national level policy strategies to reduce GHG emissions and enhance adaptation capacity. It has created institutional arrangements at federal, regional and grass roots levels for the implementation of sectoral strategies within the overarching CRGE policy. However, a number of challenges have been encountered to effectively implement climate adaptation policy strategies. Limited financial resources and technical capacity gaps are the most important challenges to roll out the CRGE strategy.

Strengthening the engagement of the universities and research institutions in the areas climate modeling and prediction of scenarios, vulnerability assessment in different agro-ecological zones and vulnerability groups and MRV activities is crucially important. These engagements can be in the form of pilot projects to access climate finance to implement pilot projects that particularly look into the complexity of MRV systems and approach. This complexity requires research support in quantifying and monetizing emission reduction in the specific sectors (e.g., livestock, forestry, soils). Sometimes, unachievable performance indicators coupled with complex MRV boundary vs mitigation intervention/project boundaries, leakage make the climate adaptation/mitigation interventions difficult to monitor. In order to address such constraints, it is recommended that joint research and development projects be formulated with scientists together with development partner organizations by means of universities partnership.

The other recommendation is to strengthen institutional linkages. Since implementation of climate adaptation actions are multi-sectoral and multi-institutional, government should ensure strong inter-sectoral and inter-institutional linkages at all levels. To this effect, operationalization of the institutional architecture including environment council, inter-ministerial steering committee and technical committee activities is crucially essential. In addition, institutional stability is essential for sectors to effectively deliver their mandates and outside of the push-and-pull of the political process. In context of the current government organs reform process, there have been mergers and splits of institutions that affect the performance institutions mandated for climate governance. The case in point is the evolution of the EPA into Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, and then downscaling it to a commission level and then more recently back to EPA to its original status. This is a major source of frustration for high profile staff and continuity of planned activities is at stake.

A final recommendation for government is to conduct proper monitoring and impact evaluation (ex-ante, ex-post or during implementation) of the different climate policy strategies formulated so far. I have revised a number of relevant government documents and asked key informants if any of the policy strategies have gone through a process of evaluation. I could not get any evidence on this and therefore make a strong recommendation that this be done as soon as possible.



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Reviewer:  
Eyasu Elias  
Point of Contact, LUCCC/UNI-LEAD

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