

Promoting Nature Based Technologies for Enhanced Resilience to Climate Change in Horn of Africa

T4.22 Nature-climate Solutions: Lessons to move from buzzword to transformative practice in tropical forest landscapes

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Abstract

Much of the Horn of Africa is dry and highly degraded and suffers from frequent and severe droughts. Therefore, accelerating technology transfer through knowledge sharing and promoting adoption of existing good practices was identified as a strategy to collectively address natural resource management (NRM) challenges in Horn of Africa (HoA). A regional Initiative known as Africa Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD) was developed in 2016 for implementation in seven HoA countries namely; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. The Initiative aimed to address NRM challenges and contribute to making nations and communities resilient to climate change. The partnership was formalized through Terms of Reference (TORs) developed and adopted to guide participating HoA countries to work harmoniously. Tools for identifying, collecting, and documenting good practices in NRM from farmers within the region were developed. A series of workshops and meetings for Horn of Africa AI-CD participating countries were held for policy and technical level officers. The objectives of policy level forums were for participants to familiarize with the Initiative activities, and facilitate dialogues among member countries. The aim of technical level workshops was to build capacity of technical officers on field data collection and repackaging of information for farmers and other community based end users. Participating countries identified and documented good practice information from the field in home countries. Information collected was used to develop good practice knowledge materials which included; books, manuals, guidelines and brochures, which were shared through internet and non-internet based platforms. A major lesson from farmers was that they preferred integrated farming approach as it guaranteed food security, ensured income generation and provided ecological benefits such as soil and water conservation, biodiversity conservation and promoted adaptation to climate change. The farming approach encompassed various time-bound farm enterprises namely: Short-term enterprises which involve food crop growing; medium term enterprises mainly fruits trees farming and livestock keeping; and long-term enterprises which involve tree growing. Good practices that have shown high adoptability by farmers in one area, should be promoted widely to enable HoA to collectively combat land degradation, desertification, and enhanced resilience to climate change.