



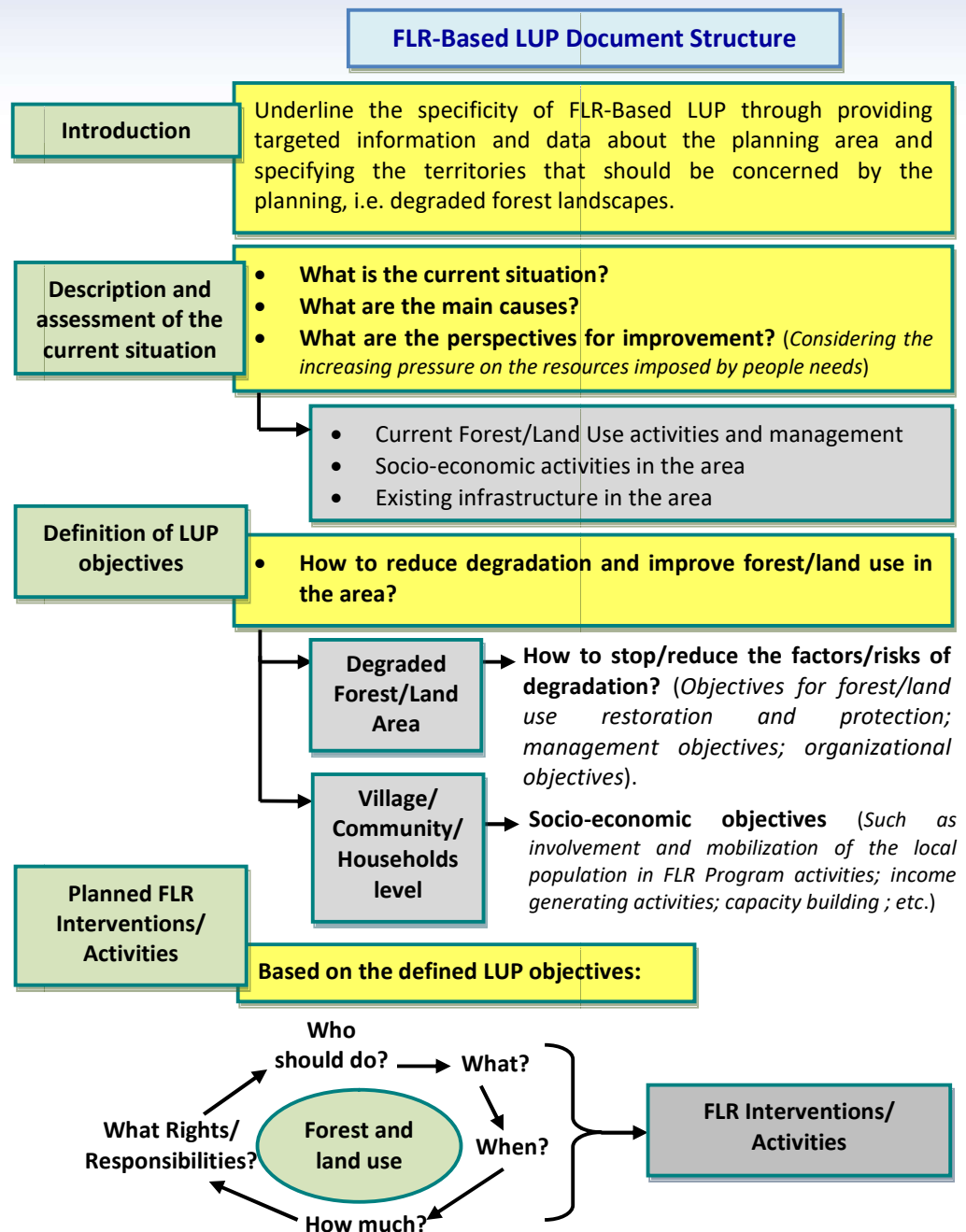
Strengthening the development of the green economy in Ethiopia

Refining the LUP Methodology and Content:
Switch from Conventional LUPs to FLR Based-LUPs !

The content of the pilot LUP achieved in Serawudi Kebele (*Ebinat Woreda*) during the inception phase revealed the necessity to reconsider, adjust and improve different organizational and technical aspects related to the LUP process and procedures.

Firstly, NFG team carefully examined the substance of the developed document, and highlighted the pluses and minuses regarding the information and data that the LUP should deliver to implement targeted FLR interventions in the area. To this end, NFG team took into consideration **FLR Program** objectives and approach, i.e.: **the possibility to interlink the majority of the program's work packages in the area and the prioritization of demand-driven, feasible, cost efficient and sustainable interventions** (from *ecological, socioeconomic and management point of view*).

Then, several working sessions were organized with the specialists representing the local partners (*ORDA and AFE*) who organized the LUP activities in Serawudi and also took part in the document's redaction. As an entry point, NFG team underlined **the necessity to switch from traditional LUPs conducted in the region (which have their focus on agriculture/cultivated areas) to LUPs tailored for Forest Landscape Restoration which should put emphasis on degraded areas.**



TREES FOR THE FUTURE

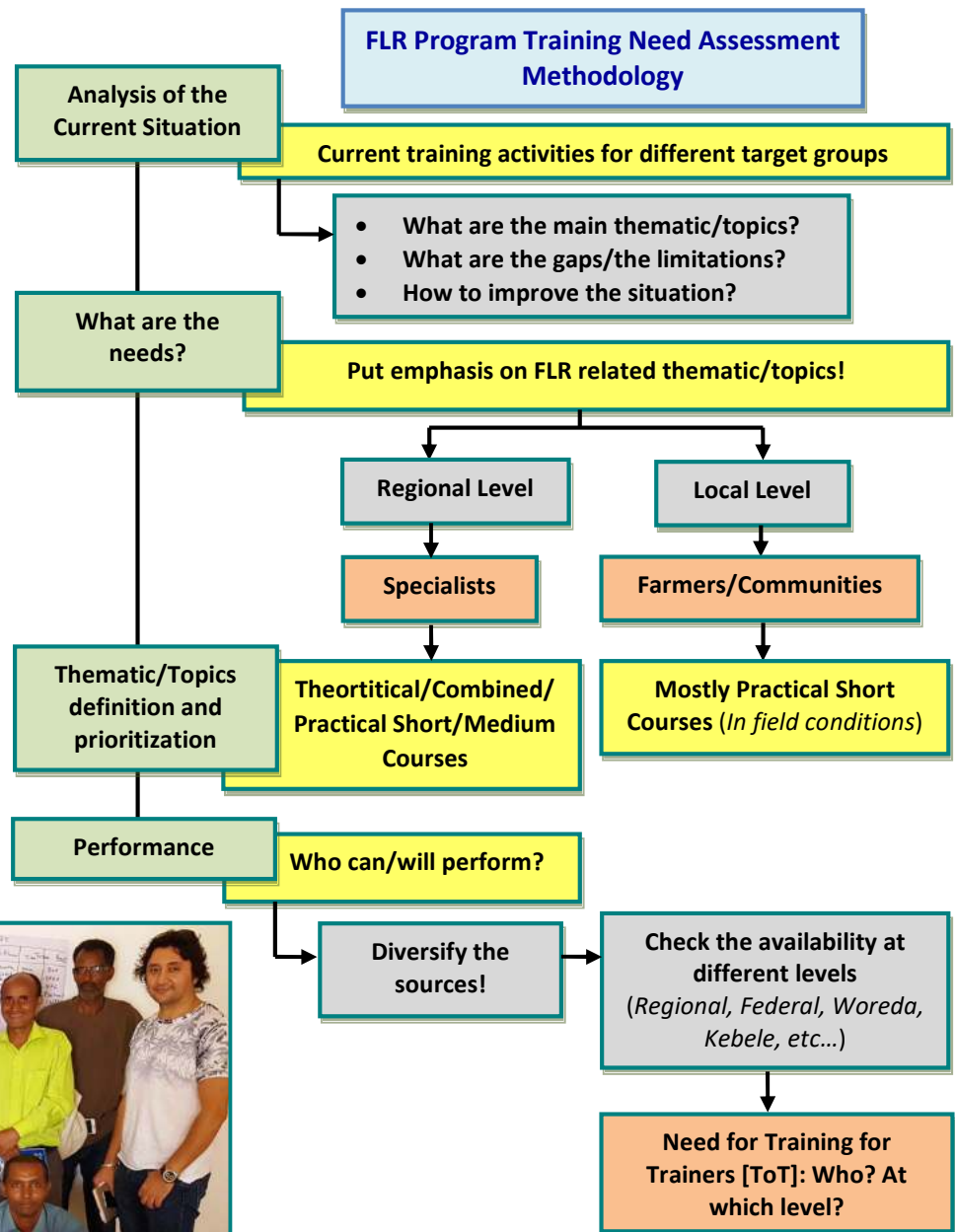
As to the substance of the LUP document, **NFG** team and the local partners agreed to improve the structure through emphasising relevant information and data, describing the key LUP components in a simple, precise and clear manner; using the same logical sequence as during the field works. Advices were also given to avoid any unnecessary exhaustive description, and bear in mind that LUP is a field planning document about rural people and communities and the related land use activities in degraded areas that are pertinent for Forest Landscape Restoration. An important issue related to the planning and implementing process was also raised, i.e.: **the period/frame time of the LUP**. Considering the fact that FLR is a long term process, it was agreed that the LUP for FLR interventions should also have medium to long term period of planning.

FLR Program Capacity Building and Training Activities: Definition of Relevant Thematic for Different Target Groups

During the program’s inception phase several meetings have been organized with local partners and stakeholders (BoA, ORDA, AFE, etc.) to assess training needs of the communities and their development agents and specialists. It was agreed that capacity building and training activity must be linked closely to the topics of the other FLR program work packages.

A preliminary assessment was done by the NFG team through several field visits to the program Woredas and discussions with experts and agents from both BoA and Farmer Training Centres [FTCs] in the Kebeles.

As a result a large demand was expressed on different thematic related to forest and land use activities.



To refine such issue, and focus on thematic that are more relevant for FLR Program, it was decided to organize a workshop in the early stage of the program’s post-inception phase. This working session gathered representatives from

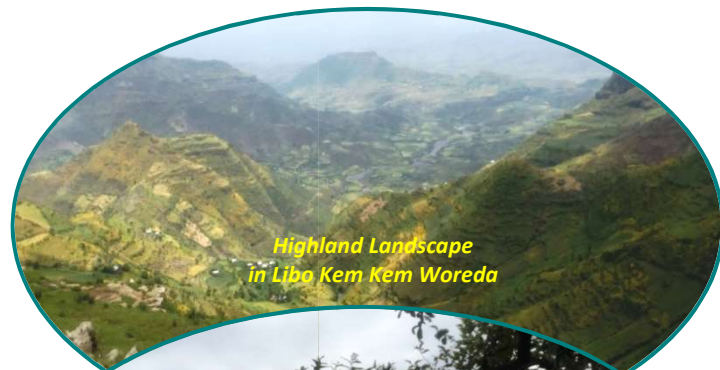
local key stakeholders at regional and local levels, as well as representatives from **Amhara Women Association** and **World Vision**. To this end, NFG developed a methodology to structure the discussions towards defining/identifying pertinent topics that may be developed as capacity building /training activities in the framework of **FLR Program**. In the same course of action, additional working sessions were also organized to discuss one more constituent of capacity building/training activities, i.e.: **schools and school children component**. Many teachers selected from schools located in the program areas, together with representatives from BoE and NFG, discussed possibilities to improve and promote environmental education at school level, notably through developing appropriate teaching methodologies and materials.

Selection of FLR Program Intervention Areas: A Continuous Process!

NFG team together with its partners (ORDA and AFE) and the local stakeholders in the Woredas where **FLR Program** is supposed to intervene continue to give the priority for identifying and selecting appropriate areas for FLR interventions, according to the approach and the selection criteria specified in the inception phase of the program.

Even if the program's post-inception phase started in the middle of the rainy season, which is manifestly considered as a limitation factor for active field activities in the highlands, many potential areas have been identified and many sites selected to launch several LUP activities before the end of 2018 and accordingly define suitable FLR interventions for the next planting season (2019). This was the case in Libo Kem Kem Woreda with LUPs in 3 clusters covering more than 17000 ha in 7 Kebeles (*Taragedam, Asta, Agela Montogera, Shehosh Tahara, Shamo, Libo and Birkute*) and also Ebinat Woreda with about 6000 ha in Metchana Kebele (*with a possibility to extend to the adjacent Kebele/Amestiya*).

In the upcoming period the focus will be on the neighboring Farta Woreda, where most of the areas are draining to Rib River Dam and Lake Tana.



Highland Landscape
in Libo Kem Kem Woreda



Metchana Kebele/Ebinat Woreda

Tree Nurseries in the Program Areas: From Assessing Towards Strengthening !

During the program's inception phase, three existing tree nurseries in the eight program Woredas and their respective Kebeles were assessed and mapped. Three types of nurseries based on ownership were identified, i.e.: **(i) Central/model nurseries owned by government and non-government organizations and state enterprises, (ii) Nurseries owned by cooperatives (youth groups), (iii) Private nurseries owned by individuals.**

Preliminary assessment for tree nursery strengthening has been undertaken during the inventory and mapping of the existing tree nurseries in the program areas. Lack of material resources, necessary nursery tools, quality seed and management skills were identified as major limitations in all nurseries, but the degree of these limitations was serious in the cooperatives and private nurseries. Presently, NFG team in concert with the local partners started to promote nursery strengthening and/or establishment in the program areas where LUP activities are achieved or initiated (*Ebinat and Libo Woredas*).

Accordingly, in Serwudi Kebele where was achieved the pilot LUP, a site was identified, the land tenure was clarified and an area was delineated to establish a small scale village nursery for the benefit of local women and youth group. The aim is to produce locally demand-driven seeds/tree species and also introduce new/multipurpose species suitable for the local context. The production process will start before the end of 2018. The seeds will be provided from the seed centre in Bahir Dar. As an incentive, the program will purchase most of the produced planting materials in the tree nursery I to cover some of FLR planting interventions during the next planting season (2019).

As a part of capacity building component, a training session involving women, youth and farmers community was also organized in Serawudi on basic tree nursery management and production practices.

In addition, and after many visits to the Model nursery belonging to Ebinat Woreda, the program started to assess the reasons and the problems behind the unproductive use of such potential nursery and try to define needs and priorities to improve and strengthen the production and the management of the site.

The process of identifying new sites for establishing small scale village nurseries and selecting nurseries to be strengthened in the program areas will continue, particularly in the sites identified for LUP activities (*Ebinat, Libo, Farta and Adama*).



Training session on tree nursery
topic in Serawudi Kebele

1st FLR Program Steering Committee Organized in Bahir Dar

As stipulated in the project document for **FLR Program**, a Program Steering Committee [PSC] has been set up to monitor the project implementation, to support a sound and effective implementation; to advise and guide the Project Team.

The PSC is composed from 7 members representing different organizations, i.e.: the chair of PSC is from Provision of Adequate Tree Seed Portfolio Program [PASTPO], 2 members representing Amhara Bureau of Agriculture [BoA], 1 member representing Amhara Environment, Forest and Wildlife Development and Protection Authority [EFWDPA], 1 member from REDD+ Amhara Regional Coordination, 1 member from Ebinat Woreda (*Program area*) and a representative of Amhara Women Association. The gender issue (*women*) is well considered in the PSC composition (*2 members from 7 are women*) and this rate might be improved during the evolution of the program's working process.

The mandate of the PSC was developed during the program's inception phase. It illustrates the scope of **work and specific tasks of the PSC which mainly concerns the monitoring of the program's progress, the guidance and advisory support towards efficient program's implementation.**

Many subject matters constituted the agenda of the 1st PSC organized in Bahir Dar in November 2018. This concerns notably the following issues:

- ▶ **Composition of the PSC: members, gender issue and possibility to involve other relevant organizations/institutions.**
- ▶ **Adjustment and approval of PSC mandate and annual meeting calendar.**
- ▶ **FLR Program Inception Phase: Systematized information and data about what was initiated or achieved during the inception phase and what are the lessons learnt from this process.**
- ▶ **NFG-FLR Program local partnership: the process, procedures and agreements.**
- ▶ **The action plan for the post inception phase/remaining part of 2018 (*September/December 2018*).**
- ▶ **The status regarding FLR Program staff engaged to support the planning and implementing process (*This concerns both the local staff and NFG-FLRP Work Packages specialists/consultants*).**

Many other not less important issues were also raised and discussed during this PSC session. This concerns notably the major ongoing and/or upcoming events/activities such as **NFG Registration as an international NGO in Ethiopia, the improvement of collaboration/partnership with stakeholders at different levels, the promotion of relevant thematic related to FLR through organizing Technical Advisory Groups, Forest Landscape Restoration Forum (*Set-up, members, first meeting*), etc.**

PCS Secretariat composed from local NFG-team took minutes from the session. The minutes will be sent to the Chair of the PSC for approval then distributed to the other members. The PSC suggested **March/April 2019** for its next session with a possibility to combine it with some field visits to FLR Program areas.

For further information, please contact:

Norwegian Forestry Group/NFG

P.O. Box 123 Lilleaker
N-0216 Oslo, Norway
Web: www.nfg.no



Newsletter realized by Kamel CHORFI/NFG

FLR Program in Bahir Dar, Amhara/Ethiopia

- Program Director: Mr. Oystein AASAAREN
Phone: + 47 91354810/+ 251 93809 6666
E-mail: oystein.aasaaren@norskog.no
- Project Manager: Mr. Kamel CHORFI
Phone: + 251 902098507
E-mail: chorfi_kamel@yahoo.co.uk

Project funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by NFG

POVERTY
REDUCTION

ENVIRONMENT &
BIODIVERSITY

DEVELOPMENT &
GROWTH

RESEARCH &
EXTENSION