

# ETHIOPIA'S NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

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Ethiopia has diverse ecosystems of which the major five (mountain, forest and woodland, aquatic and wetland, rangeland and agricultural land) spread out in two of the Global Biodiversity Hotspots supporting a large number of endemic and unique animal and plant species.

Ethiopia's biodiversity and ecosystems face pressures driven by multiple factors including land-use changes, specifically the conversion of natural vegetation covered areas into farmlands and a shift from the traditional communal grazing land system to private holdings which facilitated soil erosion, land degradation, rarity or local extinction of species and decline in ecosystem services.



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Ethiopia has rich indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) associated with agroecological farming and polyculture practices which contributed to the conservation of agrobiodiversity. It is acknowledged that the ILK component is not well understood and hence underutilised; and its integration in the conventional approach will help to enhance agrobiodiversity conservation for better agroecosystem services.

The green growth scenario archetype, developed as part of the National Ecosystem Assessment, assumes Ethiopia will successfully follow a growth path as outlined in the current national climate resilient green economy strategy, which aims at achieving net zero emissions through interlinked approaches of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and enhancing carbon sinks.



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Ethiopia envisages that the assessment will be useful for the proper implementation of the many ambitious plans, strategies and policies in place which have implications to biodiversity and ecosystem services. These include the Ten-Years Perspective Plan, the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy, and the Home-grown Economic Reform Programme.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

