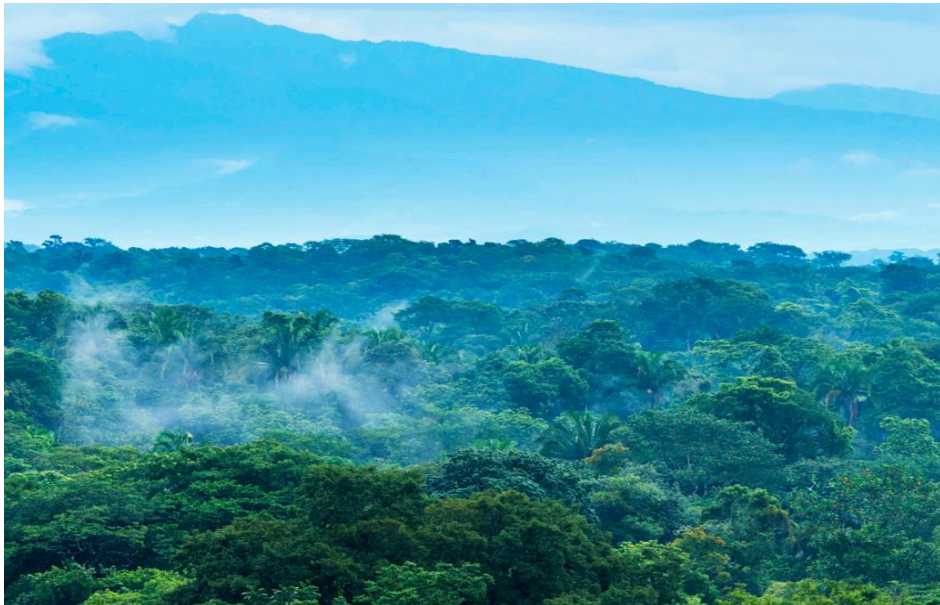


**OROMIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY**  
**OROIMA FORESTED LANDSCAPE PROGRAM–**  
**EMISSION REDUCTION PROJECT**  
**(OFLP-ERP) (P151294)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE**  
**DILIGENCE/AUDIT(ESDDA) FOR RETROACTIVE**  
**CARBON ACCOUNTING FOR OFLP-ERPA**



**January 6, 2025**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

## List of Acronyms

AR	Afforestation/reforestation
ANR	Assisted Natural Regeneration
BLA	Bureau of Land Administration
BMERP	Bale Mountain Ecoregion REDD+ Project
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
BSP	Benefit Sharing Plan
CIG	Common Interest Group (CIG)
COP	Conferences of the Party
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
DA	Development Agent
EFD	Ethiopian Forest Development
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPP	Emergency preparedness plan
ERCs	Emission Reduction Credits
ERPA	Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement
ERPP	Emergency Risk Preparedness plan
ESA	Environmental and social assessment
ESCAP	Environmental and Social Corrective Action Plan
ESCP	Environmental Social Commitment Plan
ESDDA	Environmental and Social Due Diligence Audit
ESF	Environmental Social Framework
ESFD	Ethiopian Sustainable Forest Development
ESIMAP	Environmental and Social Impact mitigation Action Plan
ESMF	Environmental Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental Social Management Plan
ESRA	Environmental and Social Risk Assessment
ESRM	Environmental and Social Risk Management
ER	Emission Reduction
ERPA	Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement
ESS	Environmental Social Standards
EU	European Union
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	Forest law enforcement governance and trade
FMNR	Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration
FRS	Federal REDD+ Secretariat
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GLP	Green Legacy Plantation
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
HSSE	Health, Safety, Social and Environment
ICP	Informed Consent Process
IESC	Independent Environmental and Social Consultant
IMS	Integrated management system
IP	Historically underserved and vulnerable groups
LMP	Labor Management Procedures
LP	Labor Procedures
MMP	Management and Monitoring plan
MP	Management plan
NAMA	National Mitigation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan
NCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
OEPA	Oromia Environmental Protection Authority

OFLP	Oromia Forested Landscape Program
OFLP-ERP	Oromia Forested Landscape Program-Emission Reduction Project
OFWE	Oromia Forest and wildlife enterprise
ORCU	Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit
OWE	Oromia Water and Energy
PCEP	Public Consultation and Engagement Plan
PDO	Program Development Objectives
PF	Process Framework
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
PIM	Project Implementation Manuals
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PR	Performance Requirement
PSESS	Project Specific Environmental and Social standards
REDD+	Reducing Emission from deforestation and Forest Degradation
RF	Resettlement framework
RIP	REDD+ Investment Project
RRAPO	Risk Reduction and Preparedness office
SDP	Social Development plan
SEAMP	Sexual Exploitations and Abuse Management plan
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SMP	Security Management plan
SRMP	Security Risk Management plan
SSESA	Site Specific Environmental and Social Assessment
SSI	Site specific safeguard instrument
TFAP	Tropical Forest Action plan
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Historically underserved and vulnerable groups People
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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## Executive Summary

This audit report encapsulates an in-depth analysis of Environmental and Social Due Diligence Audit (ESDDA) for the Retroactive Carbon Accounting of Oromia Forested Landscape Program-Emission Reduction Project (OFLP-ERP) (P151294) based on the underlying program and project activities which are needed to generate emission reductions as per the OFLP-ERP's E&S instruments. The underlying program and project activities include the OFLP Grant Financing (P156475), the REDD+ Investment project (RIP), the Green Legacy Plantation (GLP), and the two REDD+ legacy projects: the Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ (BMER) project and the REDD+ Joint Forest Management Areas of South West Ethiopia - Phase II Project (REJFMA-SW Ethiopia II), which were implemented under the old safeguards policies<sup>1</sup>. The project development objective (PDO) of ERP is to generate measured, reported and verified Emissions Reductions (ER) from reduced deforestation, forest degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), agriculture and other land use sectors that meet the GHG accounting requirements of the Bio Carbon Fund (BioCF) Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) in the Oromia State and will distribute ER payments in accordance with an agreed benefit sharing plan.

The scope of ESDDA for the OFLP-ERP retroactive carbon accounting focused from June 2022 to February 2023, the period before the emission reduction purchase agreement (ERPA) signing. The OFLP-ERP geographic boundary encompasses all forests in Oromia region. The audit comprehensively examined the key program outcomes and accomplishments, as well as the obstacles, gaps challenges and noncompliance encountered by the program in terms of implementing environmental and social risk management instruments for the period spanning from January 1, 2022, to February 09, 2023. The audit employed purposive sampling to select zones and woredas and gathered vital information and gained a comprehensive understanding of primary and secondary data perspectives. The audit involved the active participation of local communities, government sectors, and a range of projects and programs. This engagement was facilitated through the utilization of diverse tools such as Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and site observation. The audit process followed the hierarchical government structure, starting from the federal level and extended down to the grassroots community level. By involving stakeholders at different levels, the audit aimed to gather comprehensive insights and perspectives on the various initiatives and activities being assessed. At the kebele level, a focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted with local communities, cooperative members, kebele administrators and disadvantaged groups with 384 participants (including 109 females). Furthermore, at woreda level there were 169 participants, (including 18 females). Project coordinators, officers from the implementing and responsible sectors, and heads of the relevant sector were among the participants. At the kebele level, key informant interviews were conducted with 144 participants (including 53 females), as well as 122 people (including 6 females) who were interviewed from the zonal, woreda, and different project personnel. Field observation was undertaken over 48 sites of afforestation/reforestation (AR), assisted natural regeneration (ANR), GLP, participatory forest management (PFM) and active projects Nurse sites. For data quality assurance, the auditor triangulated each information collected during the FGD, KII, and site observation.

This audit was conducted in accordance with the OFLP-ERP's environmental and social risk<sup>2</sup> management (ESRM) instruments. These include the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Security Management Plan (SMP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which include a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) action plan, and the Environmental & Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which were developed coinciding with WB Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and disclosed both in-country and on the WB's external site. The audit utilized a system of five distinct categories to assess the level of E&S risks associated with the underlying programs and projects. These categories were labeled as "not comply," "partially comply," "comply except with minor issues," "fully comply," and "exemplary comply." The "not comply" rating was assigned to a program/project that failed to adhere to the necessary OFLP-ERP environmental and social risk management (ESRM) instruments coinciding with WB ESSs particularly the ESSs 1,2 & 4. The "partially comply" rating indicated that a program/project had made some effort to meet the required standards, but significant gaps still existed. In the case of the "comply except with minor issues" category, it signified that a

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<sup>1</sup> The instruments prepared and disclosed under the old safeguards policies include (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Process Framework (PF), Consultation and Participation (C and P) Plan, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment or Gender-Based Violence (GBV/SEA/SH) Prevention and Response Plan, Gender Action Plan (GAP)), and Grievance Redress Mechanism Guideline.

<sup>2</sup> The OFLP-ERP's overall environmental and social risk rating is Substantial.



program/project as a whole met the standards, but there were minor issues that needed to be addressed. Furthermore, a "fully comply" rating indicated that a program/project had successfully met all the necessary standards, regulations, or policies without any significant issues. Finally, the highest level, "exemplary compliance," was assigned to a program/project that not only met all the required standards but also exceeded them, serving as a model for other similar programs/projects in terms of compliance efforts.

The ESDDA assessed OFLP, RIP, GLP, and two REDD+ legacy projects (which are needed to generate emission reductions) compliances (see section 5, Table 9: Categorization of Compliance Evaluation) in line with the OFLP-ERP's E&S instruments specifically Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Security Management Plan (SMP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) (including GBV action plan) and Environmental & Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) prepared and disclosed as per the WB Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).

The retroactive carbon accounting audit addressed specific issues, including labor management (labor influx, child labor), occupational and community health and safety (OCHS), gender-based violence (GBV) specifically sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)/sexual harassment (SH) in workplaces. The verification of these issues was categorized according to the required WB ESSs, that coincides with the project ESRM instruments. Accordingly, the evaluation was categorized as not comply, partially comply, comply except with minor issues, fully comply and exemplary comply, representing from lowest to highest performances levels in meeting compliance standards (see section 5 for details). The review of the documentation, the information gathered during the site visits and FGD and KII with communities, cooperative members, active nursery daily workers, and officials indicated an overall compliance. The audit findings confirmed the absence of any reported or documented cases of physical or economic displacement within the project and subproject intervention areas. This confirmed that individuals or groups involved in the OFLP, RIP, or REDD+ legacy projects in the sampled areas were neither forced to relocate physically nor experience economical strains. Furthermore, the audit verified that the intervention areas did not exclude any disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals. This ensures that all members of the community members within the program/project intervention areas, regardless of their social or economic background, equally benefited from and had access to the opportunities and advantages provided by the initiatives.

Based on compliance rating percentages determined using specific indicators for each standard, the audit compliance evaluation for ESS1, ESS3, ESS5, ESS6, ESS7, ESS8, and ESS10 ranges from compliant with minor concerns to exemplary compliant (refer section 5, Table 9: Categorization of Compliance Evaluation), indicating a satisfactory level of compliance. Overall, the ESDDA, conducted according to OFLP-ERP instruments, revealed that social risks and impacts such as gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH), security issues, labor influxes, child labor exploitation, and forced labor risks were not recorded during the retroactive carbon financing audit period. However, ESS2 and ESS4 were found to have few gaps, particularly concerning occupational health and safety (OHS)/personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure the well-being of both the workers and the community affected by the programs/projects.



## 1. Introduction

The audit report conveys an Environmental and Social Due Diligence Audit (ESDDA) for retroactive carbon accounting of OFLP-ERP, focusing on programs/projects such as OFLP Grant investments, REDD+ Investment Project (RIP), Legacy REDD+ Projects, and Green Legacy Plantation (GLP), as the government has sought to generate Emission Reductions (ERs) before the ERPA signing date. These initiatives were implemented using the old safeguard instruments, including SESA, ESMF, RPF, PF, and C & P plan prepared and disclosed in accordance with the WB old safeguards policies. During the OFLP grant period and the retroactive audit period, the sustainable forestry practices (implemented through the enabling investments-programs and projects) included AR, PFM, ANR, and FMNR, coupled with efforts to enhance the livelihoods of communities reliant on forest resources in the Oromia region.

OFLP-ERP is Oromia National Regional State's programmatic umbrella and coordination platform for facilitating multi-sector and multi-partner intervention on all forested landscapes in Oromia. The Program encourages sustainable land-use choices that retain forests for multiple purposes and optimize the productivity capacity of forest-surrounding landscapes in Oromia. To promote such a transition into a sustainable and economically viable land use sector, the parent OFLP has implemented a range of on-the-ground activities to address deforestation, reduce land-use based emissions, and enhance forest carbon stocks. The Program also enhances institutions, provides incentives, and improves information and ESRM to scale up investment including coordinating and leveraging multiple REDD-relevant interventions across the regional state. The climate financing for this program will be channeled/managed through an Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) already signed between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the World Bank on Feb 09, 2023. The ERPA payments are then further distributed based on the agreed Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP). The OFLP-ERP consists of two main components: (i) Purchase of Emission Reduction and distribution following the BSP and (ii) improve the comprehensive measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system and program management including Safeguards Management system. The OFLP-ERP's environmental and social risk rating is substantial which could be managed through the application of hierarchical mitigation measures, monitoring, capacity-building training, and allocation of adequate resources.

After ERPA agreement signing period, active projects and subproject activities are using the new OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments developed through considering the ESF requirements to serve during the OFLP-ERP implementation period. such as This instruments are These instruments include the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Security Management Plan (SMP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) (including GBV action plan), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and Environmental & Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which were developed, approved and disclosed prior to project appraisal. In addition, the parent OFLP project ESRM instruments were updated based on the ESF requirements and disclosed accordingly.

The ESDDA has organized the assessment of ESRM instruments and standards compliance based substantive and procedural criteria. The substantive elements outline the issues and principles that need to be addressed, while the procedures specify how the ESRM instruments will be implemented and enforced. Social compliance encompasses considerations such as supporting vulnerable groups, community consultation and stakeholder's engagement, protecting tenure and resource rights, improving livelihoods and labor rights. Environmental compliance involves measures to mitigate environmental impacts, enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, and prevent reversals and displacement of emissions. Procedural criteria for evaluating compliances include integrating environmental and social risks into policies, laws, and regulations, enforcing transparency rules, requiring stakeholder participation, and establishing monitoring and reporting systems.

The primary focus of the ESDDA conducted for retroactive active carbon financing for the OFLP-ERP at the Oromia jurisdictional level was to evaluate various programs and projects implemented between January 2022 and February 9, 2023, in accordance with the OFLP-ERP instruments. In response to the government's request to produce Emission Reductions (ERs) before the ERPA signing date, an evaluation was conducted to assess and determine the compliance of these programs and projects with the necessary requirements as outlined in the ESDDA objectives and scope (refer to subsections 2.4 and 2.5 below for details) with particular attention to the GBV/SEA/SH, labor, safety and security issues. Following the completion of the due diligence report, an action plan for environmental and social due diligence was developed to address the identified gaps, impacts, and non-compliance issues. The corrective action plan includes specific corrective actions, an allocated budget, responsible entities, and a timeline of implementation to ensure alignment with the requirements of the OFLP-ERP instruments.

## 2. Project Description

### 2.1 Potential of REDD+ Programs

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a voluntary technical and financing instrument being developed internationally under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). REDD+ potentially may provide significant cash incentives to developing countries to protect and expand their forests, relying on the function of forests as storehouses or sinks for carbon in the global carbon cycle to mitigate carbon emissions and, thus, climate change. REDD+ was officially adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) in Cancun in 2010, and within the coming years a global REDD+ regime may become a reality. Since 2007, more than 50 developing countries have begun receiving assistance from the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the United Nations Collaborative Program for REDD (UN-REDD) and bilateral donors, such as Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Through these mechanisms, millions of dollars are being pledged and provided to different countries over years to design and put into place the complex array of policies, strategies, legislation, institutional arrangements and technical capacities that needed at the national level to run and regulate a payment-for-performance scheme. REDD+ can also be seen as the latest in a long series of international initiatives, such as Tropical Forest Action Plans (TFAP), participatory forestry, multi-stakeholder approaches and Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT), to address the enormous governance challenges of forest sectors of developing countries. Addressing these social challenges is central to effectively implementing the full range of forest carbon compliance and voluntary market activities. In most developing countries, forestry is a contested domain in which conflict and corruption are prevalent and many stakeholders, including powerful commercial interests, government officials, local entrepreneurs and often marginalized forest-dependent peoples, compete for access to valuable land and resources in what is often a governance vacuum. The social and environmental consequences of this situation have been enormous and largely negative, and now this legacy of poor governance, poverty and social conflict are potentially serious obstacles to achieving lasting emissions reductions via REDD+. Strong safeguards and transparency in their implementation are essential to attract financing for REDD+ and will be crucial elements of enacting the transformational change required for effective REDD+ implementation.

### 2.2 Project Components

The Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) is Oromia National Regional State's programmatic umbrella and coordination platform for multi-sector, multi-partner interventions on all forested landscapes across the regional state. The Oromia Forested Landscapes Program (OFLP) Gant financing was implemented with the aim of bringing about a significant transformation in the management of forested landscapes in Oromia. This comprehensive and long-term program has yielded numerous positive outcomes, such as poverty reduction, the promotion of resilient livelihoods, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and the provision of water resources. The OFLP has been designed to achieve these objectives through a combination of on-the-ground initiatives that tackle deforestation, decrease emissions resulting from land use, and enhance the carbon stocks of forests. Moreover, the program actively strives to enhance institutions, incentives, information dissemination, and safeguards management at both the state-wide and local levels, thereby fostering investment and creating conducive environment.

Additionally, the OFLP plays a crucial role in coordinating and leveraging various interventions related to REDD+ across the regional state. The implementation of the US\$18 million grant portion of the program has been ongoing for the past five years, started in April 2017 and scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2023. The main goal of the OFLP is to produce Measurable/quantifiable, reported, and confirmed Emissions Reductions (ER) by decreasing deforestation, forest degradation, improving forest carbon stocks (REDD+), agriculture, and other land use activities that adhere to the GHG accounting standards of the Bio Carbon Fund (BioCF) Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) in Oromia State. The Program was introduced in a phased approach, gradually transitioning towards a payment system that rewards the achievement of results for ERs. The program is composed of three distinct components, each of which can be summarized as follows:

**Component One - Enabling Environment:** The First component of the grant funded on strengthening the enabling environment at the state and local levels, supporting action for landscape restoration in priority deforestation hotspots, and improving the livelihoods of the local people. The grant is financing

the strengthening of institutions, policies, marketing, and Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP); improving information (i.e., strategic communication and MRV); and strengthening environmental and social management at the state and local levels.

**Component Two – Enabling Investments:** Enabling investment activities financing investments in plantation development (AR) in deforestation hot spots, PFM, livelihoods support to selected nature-based community enterprise development, and extension services and land use planning support at the state and local levels.

The Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) falls under Category B. In order to proactively address potential environmental and social risks of the program investments activities and other landscape level program/projects activities contributes for ER the program utilizes the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) as the specific instrument for analysis. The ESMF not only complies with the relevant national policy and legal frameworks for the Oromia Forested Landscape Program, but also adheres to the applicable the old environmental and social safeguard policies of the World Bank during the grant financing period. The Program has triggered eight out of the ten safeguard policies, namely: Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01), Natural Habitat (OP/BP 4.04), Forests (OP/BP 4.36), Pest Management (OP/BP 4.09), Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11), Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12), and historically underserved and vulnerable groups.

**Component Three -Emission Reduction Payments:** Finally, results-based payments for verified Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA). This would comprise a jurisdictional instrument aiming to purchase up to US\$50 million that pays for verified emissions achieved from the jurisdiction of Oromia from Jan 2022 to 2029. The emission reduction purchase phase has two phases: the first phase (Jan 2022- Dec 2024) accounts emissions reduced from the forestry sector only and the second phase (Jan 2025- Dec 2029) accounts emissions reduced from the landscape of Oromia both from forestry activities including reduced deforestation, forest degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and livestock enteric fermentation. The ERPA payments are then further distributed based on the agreed BSP. OFLP-Emission Reduction Project (ERP) similar to the OFLP grant period operates in a changing and fragile environment with complex social relationships and limited capacity and expertise within the government structures to deal with both social and environmental risks and need to properly implement and document the new ESRM instruments.

The risk mitigation measures rely on carefully implementation of ESRM instruments for OFLP-ERP (such as LMP, SEP, ESCP, Security Management Plan, ESMF, and capacity building measures to strengthen implementation capacity of the implementing agency and reinforced by a dedicated environmental and social risk management (ESRM) activities.

### ***2.3. Rationale of the assignment***

The Oromia Environmental Protection Authority has requested for a retroactive carbon accounting for OFLP- ERP (P151294) based on the underlying investments (including OFLP Grant Financing, REDD+ Investment Project, Legacy REDD+ Projects, Green Legacy Plantation (GLP) implemented using the WB old safeguards policies before the ERPA signature. The requested retroactive carbon accounting spans from January 1, 2022, to the ERPA signature date, Feb 09, 2023, with great emphasis on OFLP grant forest investment, Government initiative's' like GLP, REDD+ investment program's AR, ANR, PFM and the two REDD+ legacy Project PFM and plantations implemented during the auditing period. Therefore, the required environmental and social due diligence was conducted as reflected in the ESCP and ESMF for OFLP- ERP, and in the agreed ToR annexed to this report. By conducting this audit retrospectively, it allows for a comprehensive analysis of the project's environmental and social risk management instrument implementation performance, identifying any potential areas of environmental and social improvement and develops E&S due diligence action plan with an aim to address identified gaps, impacts and non-compliances with specific corrective actions, budget, responsible body, and timeline.

The designated institutional framework for addressing Environmental and Social (E&S) impacts involves the Offices of Environmental Protection Authority and REDD+ Coordination Unit (ORCU), which play a pivotal coordination role. These entities are responsible for enhancing the capabilities of implementing organizations such as Farm Africa, REDD+ investment initiatives, and Ethio-wetland projects. Additionally, they collaborate with relevant government bodies, including the agricultural

offices, livestock sectors, and land administration offices, to ensure effective execution of E&S impact management strategies (see details in Annex 8).

## **2.4. Objectives**

The objective of the assignment was to conduct the E&S due diligence/audit for retroactive active carbon financing for OFLP-ERP based on the underlying programs/projects (including OFLP Grant Financing, REDD+ Investment Project, Legacy REDD+ Projects, GLP) implemented using the WB old safeguards policies as the government has already requested to generate ERs prior to the ERPA signing date. Based on the due diligence report, an E&S due diligence action plan was prepared with an aim to address identified gaps, impacts and non-compliances with clear corrective actions, budget, responsible body and timeline.

## **2.5. Scope**

### **2.5.1 Spatial and Temporal Scope**

The spatial coverage of the assignment is Oromia National Regional State Emission Reduction Program (ERP) which includes the entire Oromia region, under the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The OFLP-ERP geographic boundary encompasses all forests in Oromia region. The region is located between 3024'20"-10023'26" N latitudes and 34007'37"-42058'51" E longitudes. This audit was conducted between January 1, 2022, and ERPA signature, Feb 09, 2023, which is ER for the period before the ERPA signing. The evaluation of environmental and social factors in the E&S due diligence process analyzed the effects of the core program and project operations, with a particular emphasis on labor practices, security measures, and gender-based violence issues. This assessment was conducted in accordance with the OFLP-ERP's environmental and social risk management (ESRM) instruments, such as the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Security Management Plan (SMP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which includes a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) action plan and the Environmental & Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which were developed and disclosed in-country and WB external website per the World Bank ESF. The use of these instruments is examined in this report. The report provides a comprehensive review of these frameworks and their effectiveness in addressing environmental and social concerns. It also identifies overlaps, gaps, or potential areas of improvement in order to enhance the overall sustainability and impact of the Project. Although all of these approaches treat social and environmental standards together, this review focuses highly on their social aspects that had assessed the impacts with a primary focus on labor, security, and gender based violence (as outlined in Annex 12 (Environmental and Social Due Diligence Guideline for Retroactive Carbon Accounting ) of the disclosed ESMF) of the underlying program and project activities which are needed to generate emission reductions as per the OFLP-ERP's environmental and social instruments specifically LMP, SMP, ESMF including GBV action plan, and ESCP prepared and disclosed as per the WB ESF. Thus, the E&S due diligence involves the systematic identification, quantification and assessment/evaluation of E&S impacts associated with the underlying programs and projects for the period for which retroactive Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) are requested. This process also helps identify key ESRM issues and the corrective measures that are necessary to ensure E&S compliance with the OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments (ESMF, ESCP, LMP, and SMP).

The ESDDA was conducted via a thorough examination of all available documents, site visits and stakeholder consultation and evaluated the implementation and compliance of the underlying programs and projects in accordance the requirements of the instruments prepared for OFLP-ERP. It was imperative to assess the environmental and social impacts of the OFLP grant financing, RIP GLP, and REDD+ legacy projects, with a particular focus on labor (ESS2), security (ESS4), and gender-based violence (ESSs 1, 2, and 4). To ensure adherence to these standards, conducting a comprehensive environmental and social due diligence is of utmost importance.

### **2.5.2 Structural scope**

The E&S due diligence assessed the impacts (with a primary focus labor, security, and gender based violence) of the underlying program and project activities which are needed to generate emission reductions as per the OFLP-ERP's E&S instruments specifically Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Security Management Plan (SMP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) (including GBV action plan) and Environmental & Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) prepared as per the WB ESF. Thus, the E&S due diligence used systematic identification, quantification and

assessment/evaluation of E&S impacts associated with the underlying programs and projects for the period for which retroactive ERCs are requested. This process also helped identify key E&S issues and the corrective measures that are necessary to ensure E&S compliance with the OFLP-ERP E&S instruments (ESMF, ESCP, LMP & SMP). Thus, the typical tasks followed for conducting E&S Due Diligence (ESDD) are stated below.

- **Conduct Environmental and Social (E&S) Impacts/Risks Screening:** The E&S impacts screening of underlying programs and projects were conducted as per the WB ESF requirements with a focus on labor (ESS2), security (ESS4), and GBV (ESSs 2 and 4). The Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs1-8 and 10) of the WB ESF are applicable to the OFLP-ERP except ESS9 (financial intermediaries). The E&S due diligence is required to comply with the WB ESF Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) with an emphasis on the ESSs 2 and 4 addressing labor, security, and GBV issues. The details for the environmental and social screening of the underlying programs and projects during both the grant OFLP period and the retroactive audit period are presented in Table 9 and Section 5.2. Compliance with assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts are also presented.
- **Categorization of E&S impacts:** E&S Impact's categorization was carried out based on the review of underlying programs and projects and environmental and social issues that are typically associated with labor, security and GBV. Based on the E&S compliance assessment of the underlying programs/projects with the (LMP, SMP, ESMF, & ESCP) requirements focusing on labor, GBV, & SMP for the period of retroactive crediting, (i) implementation gaps, and (ii) environmental and social impacts (positive and negative) were identified along with appropriate corrective measures or remedies. The details of the information presented in Table 11 outline the system for identifying environmental and social risks and impacts, while Table 12 focuses on labor management and working conditions. Additionally, Table 13 addresses community health, safety and security, whereas Table 14 deals with resource efficiency and strategies for pollution prevention. Tables 15 and 16 highlight land acquisition issues and importance of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources, respectively. Lastly, Tables 17, 18 and 19 focus on issues of disadvantage and vulnerable group (ESS 7), cultural heritage (ESS 8) and (stakeholder engagement (ESS10), respectively.
- **E&S Corrective Action Plan:** A due diligence compliance action plan and monitoring plan was prepared. If there are non-compliances identified during the due diligence, the Bank has the option not to generate the ERs; however, based on the E&S audit conducted for the OFLP grant financing and the current assessment/ESDDA, there are no significant E&S non-compliance issues. The details of the corrective action plan (CAP) are presented under Section 6 below. By adhering to the implementation and monitoring procedures specified in the (Table 22), stated responsible institutions solve the root causes of non-compliance and implement targeted strategies to mitigate these issues, thereby enhancing overall operational integrity.
- **Submit the Report:** The client will have to report the audit findings to the Bank for review and clearance. The report will be attached to the first OFLP-ERP Emission Reduction monitoring report submitted for the issuance of ERCs. This report will also undergo verification by an independent third-party coinciding with the designated first ERPA period monitoring, and reporting verification process. If significant non-compliances are identified, the Bank has the option not to generate the ERs for the period of retroactive crediting.
- **Monitoring & Reporting:** Based on the agreed E&S due diligence action plan, monitor and report the implementation of the proposed corrective actions based on the agreed plan to address environmental and social issues associated with the underlying programs/projects.



### 3. Approach and Methodology

#### 3.1. Audited Area

The audit conducted for retroactive carbon accounting in the OFLP-ERP project covered a total of 12 zones, consisting of both deforestation hotspots and non-deforestation hotspots. The deforestation hotspot includes East Wollega, Buno Bedele, Ilu Aba Bora, Jimma, East Guji and Borena, while the non-deforestation hotspot includes West Arsi, Bale, East Bale, North Shewa, East Hararge, and West Hararge. Within these 12 zones, a detailed assessment was carried out in 2 to 4 Woredas from each zone. Specifically, 2 to 3 AR/PFM/GLP sites under different initiatives were visited. These initiatives include the OFLP project implementing Woredas such as Diga, Wayu Tuka, Bedele, Dabo Hana, Didesa, Becho, Halu, Ale, Bore, Dire, and Yabelo. Additionally, the audit covered two legacy REDD+ Woredas, namely Ale, Becho, Halu, Dodola, Agarfa, and Gololcha, as well as RIP Woredas including Hurumu, Gemechis, Kersa, Deder, and Yaya Gulale. In total, 48 AR/GLP/PFM/ANR sites were assessed during the audit process.

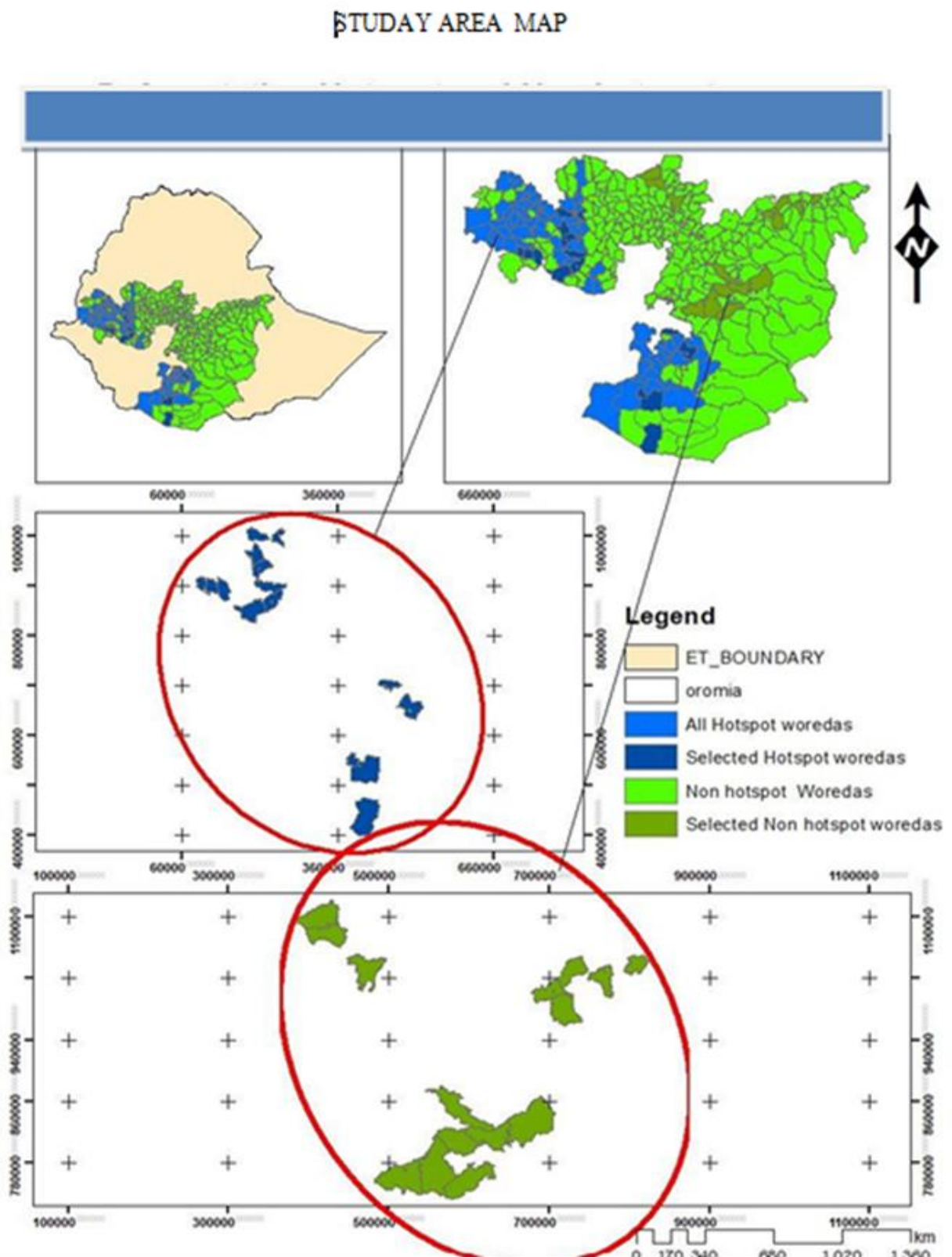


Figure 1 Study Area Map

## **3.2 Approaches**

The ESDDA's primary objective was to conduct a comprehensive analysis and assessment of data, information, and inquiries by employing a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The qualitative and quantitative data were sourced from various sources, including documents, records, and operational procedures relevant to the program's activities. Furthermore, interviews were carried out with pertinent individuals, focus group discussions were organized, consultations were sought, and field visits were conducted to ensure a thorough collection of data. To streamline the data collection process, specific tools were devised (refer to Annex 6 for details) for the detailed TOR of ESDDA, which is also annexed (see Annex- 9).

## **3.3. Methodology**

### **3.3.1. Primary Data Collection**

In order to gather crucial information and gain a comprehensive understanding of primary data and perspectives, field data collection was undertaken from March 20 to April 30/2024 and the auditor engaged with local communities, government sectors and different initiatives through a diverse range of tools including Key informant interview (KII) and, FGD following the government structure from the federal to the grass root community level (Table 1). PFM, AR and ANR cooperative level community consultation and site visits were additional tools incorporated for triangulation of the views collected from different points. Focus group discussions were organized at the kebele level, with the 384 participants, (including 109 females). At the Woredas level, 169 individuals (comprising 18 females) from relevant sectors and project coordination personnel were involved in the group discussions. Interviews with key informants were conducted at the kebele level, involving members of cooperatives, vulnerable groups, and nursery daily workers, with a total of 144 participants (53 of them are females). Additionally, 122 individuals (including 6 females) from zonal, woreda, and various project staff were included in key informant interviews. The community consultation brought together cooperative members to discuss on ESDDA related to PFM, AR and ANR initiatives as well as the implementation of ESRM instruments. The meeting was held in 4 zones and 5 woredas with a total of 181 participants including (43 of them are females). Both male and female attendees actively contributed valuable insights on the preparation and implementation of ESRM instruments focusing on issues such as community health and safety as well as strategies to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in project areas. The session proved to be fruitful with meaningful discussions and ideas shared by all participants. The auditor conducted 48 site visits from March 20 to April 30, 2024, on the Participatory Forest Management, Afforestation/ Reforestation and ANR sites. During these visits the auditor assessed the progress and effectiveness of the programs and projects on ESRM instrument implementations. They observed the activities being carried out on the sites and gathered data to evaluate the impact of the underlying programs and projects on the environment and the surrounding communities.

The overall focus of the AR, ANR, and PFM site visits was to evaluate the site-specific environmental and social preparation and implementation processes. This evaluation/assessment included eligibility checks, screenings, and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) preparation, implementation, and monitoring of performance outcomes as well as the E&S risk management process on-the- ground. This also included consultations, labor management, GBV/SEA/SH related activities, among others. The audit investigated the underlying program and project beneficiaries' impacts on social and natural environments, provided early consideration of environmental and social impacts in the program and included corrective and monitoring plans for anticipated impacts.

The key topics covered during interviews and consultations mainly focus to (i) assess stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of the current E&S safeguards in place, the current status of E&S safeguards implementation, the level of stakeholder engagement in the implementation process, the risks associated with the implementation of E&S safeguard and its compliance against the ESF requirements, capacity building support provided, and monitoring mechanism.

The site visits allowed the auditor to ensure that whether the programs and projects were being implemented or not in accordance with the OFLP-ERP instruments. The ESDDA primarily focused on assessing the environmental and social impacts management of subprojects implemented in hot spot and non-hot spot woredas. During site visits, the auditor utilized the SESA, RPF, PF, LMP, SMP, ESMF, ESCP and site-specific instruments (such as ESMPs) requirements as a reference point to conduct a thorough evaluation of the current environmental and social risk/impact management practices. Through



the collection of first-hand information, the auditor was able to verify the implementation of the parent OFLP, RIP, GLP and the two REDD+ legacy project's activities against the WB ESSs particularly ESSs 1,2 & 4 and the coinciding OFLP-ERP instruments to identify any gaps or areas that required improvement. This approach allowed for a comprehensive assessment of the environmental and social risk management status within the program/project implementation areas. By providing recommendations based on the findings, the auditor aimed to support the implementers in enhancing their risk management practices. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that the programs and projects aligned with the desired environmental and social standards set forth by the WB ESSs (with a focus on ESSs 1, 2 and 4) and OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments like LMP, SMP, ESMF, and ESCP requirements.

The engagement with local communities and stakeholders through face-to-face consultations, interviews, and focus group discussions played a crucial role in obtaining valuable insights and perspectives. By actively involving the concerned parties in the assessment process, the auditor was able to gather a diverse range of views and opinions, which contributed to a more holistic evaluation of the environmental and social risk management practices. This collaborative approach not only facilitated the identification of areas for improvement but also fostered a sense of ownership and accountability among the stakeholders, ultimately leading to more effective risk management practices within the program and project implementation areas. The primary data sources are indicated in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Primary Data Sources**

Sources of Primary Data	Level	Basic Data required
EFDA/REDD+ Secretariat	Federal	ES policy, Laws, Regulation and Strategy
OEPA/ORCU	Region	SG instrument, Guidelines Strategy and Site specific safeguard instrument (SSI)
OFWE (District and Branch)	Region/District	SG instrument, Guidelines Strategy and SSI
FARM Africa	Federal/region	ES policy, Strategy and Site SSI
Ethio-Wetlands and NR Association (EWNARA)	District	ES policy, Strategy and Site SSI
Bale Mountains Eco-regional REDD+ Project		ES policy, Strategy and Site SSI
Local leaders	Woreda, kebele	Facilitation role on FI and SGI implementation
Compliant Resolution Committee leaders	Kebele	Compliant Registration and Resolution and Documentation ER Payment
Development Agents (DAs) at AR/PFM sites	Kebele	Community consultation, GI
Youth Based AR Association	Kebele	Youth participation in Climate Change Mgt
Women Based AR/PFM Association	Kebele	Women Participation DM, Common Interest Group (CIG)
AR /PFM Coops /CBOs	Kebele	E&S safeguards management
Bureau of Land Administration		Land use plan and land Mgt
Bureau of Water and Energy (BoWE)	Region, Woreda	SG instrument, Guidelines Strategy and Site SSI
Bureau of Agriculture (BoA)	Region,	SG instrument, Guidelines Strategy and Site SSI

### 3.3.2 Relevant Stakeholders Consultation

To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the outcomes obtained through the environmental and social due diligence for retroactive carbon accounting, consultations were held with relevant stakeholders to assess compliance, identify implementation gaps, and evaluate environmental and social impacts (both positive and negative). Appropriate corrective measures or remedies were proposed based on the identified gaps and impacts incorporating feedback from stakeholders and beneficiaries including AR and PFM cooperative members.

It is imperative for the consultant to engage in thorough and detailed consultations with a wide array of representative stakeholders' at all administrative levels. These stakeholders encompass representatives

from relevant government bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development partners, local communities dependent on forests, and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, the involvement of different types of cooperatives, such as Participatory Forest Management (PFM) cooperatives, has proven to be invaluable due to the unique perspectives they bring to the table as indicated in Table 2 below. The consultations conducted served as a platform for extensive discussions and analysis of the findings, facilitating a holistic comprehension of the implications and the necessary actions that must be taken. The strategic identification of hotspot and non-hotspot woredas and kebeles based on their representativeness was a crucial step in ensuring their inclusion in the deliberations. From total of 12 hotspot and 12 non-hotspot woredas, along with 24 hotspot and 24 non-hotspot kebeles, were purposively selected 5 PFM/AR/ ANR cooperative sites for community consultation from March 20, 2024, to April 30, 2024. Accordingly, a total of 181 (including 43 females) members' forest cooperatives kebele administrative, civil community organization and local community elders are consulted in I/A/Bor, Borena, East Hararge and West Arsi zone selected kebeles. These specific areas were meticulously chosen due to their significance in enhancing stakeholders' understanding of the pertinent issues under consideration. By incorporating these key elements, stakeholders have been empowered to provide valuable insights that have significantly enriched the audit process. The list of relevant stakeholder consultation participants is indicated in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Relevant Stakeholder Consultation Participants**

No	Sectors of Participants	Description
1	AR/ PFM Cooperative Members	At Kebele has AR/PFM cooperatives
2	Keble Administration Representatives	
3	Community Institution Representatives (Women, Youth, Cultural group and Religious)	
4	Forest Dependent Communities	
5	Vulnerable and Minor Groups	
6	Development partners (NGO, Programs, Projects) Representatives	At Woredas level both hotspot and Non hotspots
7	Relevant Government institutions (OLA, OA, OWE, CODP, Branch/District OFWE, WEPA)	
8	Women and Children affairs office	
9	Woreda Administration Representatives (Community Issues Committee)	

### 3.3.3 Focus Group Discussions

The primary objective of conducting focus group discussions (FGDs) was to confirm, challenge, modify, or differentiate the findings of the audit as the program nears its conclusion or termination, especially in areas where there is a low level of literacy and/or a strong oral tradition. FGDs were strategically employed at the Woreda and Kebele levels to collect data from program/project implementers, such as technical and steering committees, as well as beneficiaries from various projects and programs within the region. At Woredas level, FGDs were held with from March 20, 2024, to April 30/2024, comprising 169 individuals (including 18 females). These discussions included key office members of OEPA, OFWE, OA, OCDP, OLA, and OWE, along with focal persons and relevant work process owners, to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the program/project implementation process. Conversely, FGDs at the Kebele level involved 384 participants (including 108 females). These discussions were specifically designed to involve community elders, underserved populations, forest-dependent individuals, women, youth, and Kebele administrators. The primary focus of the discussion revolved around the implementation of Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) instruments, specifically addressing the existing gaps related to Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Harassment (SH), Sexual Exploitation (SE), Labor Management procedures (LMP), and the safety and security of both contract and community workers. The conversation highlighted the critical need to identify and rectify these gaps to ensure a more comprehensive approach to risk management in the program implementation areas. Additionally, the discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring that programs/projects and activities carried out in the region adhere to the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (WB ESF) as well as the pertinent national and regional legal frameworks. This compliance is essential not only for the successful implementation of programs/projects but also for safeguarding the rights and well-being of all

stakeholders involved, particularly vulnerable groups. By addressing these issues, the discussion aimed to foster a more robust framework for managing environmental and social risks, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of program/project implementation. The collaborative efforts to bridge the identified gaps will contribute to a safer and more equitable working environment for contract and community workers, social equity and economic stability, benefiting all stakeholders involved as beneficiaries and in the labor market.

### 3.3.4 Key Informant Interviews

At the district and zonal levels, 128 people (including 6 females) participated in the key informant interview (KII). The primary areas of concentration for KII were the preparation, implementation of site specific Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) instruments tailored to their specific activities. Additionally, the assessment of KII views on the availability, execution, and awareness of provisions has been conducted to guarantee adherence to the relevant Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), specifically ESSs 1, 2, & 4, as well as compliance with the pertinent Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) instruments, including the LMP, SEP, ESCP, and SRAMP. This evaluation aimed to identify any procedural or administrative challenges that may hinder the effective implementation of Environmental and Social Risk that may affect the commencement ER payments. In the KII 144 participants (including 53 females) participated at the kebele level. This procedure essentially gathered the necessary data for the environmental and social due diligence/audit inputs. This interview process was held from March 20 to April 30, 2024, and engaged pertinent stakeholders at various levels, ranging from zonal to Kebele levels. Specifically, at zonal, and woreda levels, the KII was conducted with OFLP/OFLP-ERP relevant government bodies, non-governmental organizations, development partners, forest-dependent local communities, as well as vulnerable groups such as poor households, disabled individuals, and marginalized communities. The KII also encompassed interactions with a diverse range of stakeholders, including forest-based cooperatives like AR and PFM, as well as watershed-based associations at the landscape level. This comprehensive approach allowed for a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) instrument implementation, which could not be achieved solely through sub-project activities.

Moreover, the participation of community elders, underserved members, forest-dependent community cooperatives, women, youth, development agents, as well as governmental bodies like Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) (the are no outstanding cases at this stage and see subsection 3.3.4 below for details)

and kebele administrative representatives at the Kebele level, ensured a holistic and inclusive perspective in the information gathering process. The questionnaire developed for the KII is annexed (please refer to Annex 6 for details).

**Table 3. Key Informants Interview Participants**

Level	Identified stakeholders	No of Participants and Key points of Interview
Zones	Zonal Level relevant Sectors REDD+ Focal Person and Zonal Based Projects	1Exprts from EPA on SGI implementation and Documentation = 12
Woreda	• EPA	6 Hot Spot (HS) and 5 Non-HS (NHS) Woredas = 11 *1 Persons= 11
	• OFWE	6 Branch = 6 *2Persons=12
	• Land Administration	6HS and 5NHS Woredas=11*1Persons=11
	• Water and Energy	6 HS and 5NHS Woredas = 11*2persons 22
	• Agriculture and Livestock	6 HS and 5NHS Woredas = 11 *1persons=11
	• Cooperative Promotion Agency	6 HS and 5NHS Woredas = 11 *1persons=11
	• Farm Africa	2 Woredas*2persons=4
	• Ethio-Wetlands	2 Woredas*2persons=4
Kebele	• RIP	6 Woredas *2 Persons = 12
	• Kebele Administration	12 HS and 12NHS = 24 kebeles *2 person =48
	• GRM committee	12 HS and 12NHS = 24 kebeles *1 person =24
	AR/ANR/PFM/FMNR/GLP SITES Level participants	33 AR/ANR/FMNR/GLP and 14 PFM sits 67

### **3.3.5 Field Observation**

Field-specific observations were conducted at various program/project sites including OFLP, RIP, Green Legacy, and the two legacy REDD+ Projects in order to gather pertinent data on the performance of Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) practices during the audit period.

The observation encompassed assessing eligibility developing an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that addresses all pertinent environmental and social concerns specific to the locality. It also emphasized beneficiaries' awareness regarding ESMP implementation and strategies for mitigating significant impacts. Furthermore, it ensured compliance with all relevant Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), expect ESS 9, while adhering to the necessary Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) frameworks, including LMP, SEP, ESCP, and SRAMP.

To ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the ESRM assessment, a comprehensive approach was taken by conducting field visits to a total of 48 sites (PFM 14 sites, AR 20 sites, ANR 4 sites, and 3 Nursery and GLP 7 sites). The purpose of these field visits was to validate and cross-reference the data obtained from both primary and secondary sources, thereby enhancing the credibility and reliability of the evaluation process. The field visits were a crucial component of the audit because it allowed to directly observe the sites and interventions being checked. This hands-on approach allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the conditions and practices at each site and enabled the auditor to gather first-hand information and insights. By physically visiting the sites, the auditor was able to verify the accuracy of the data collected and ensured that the evaluation process was based on reliable and up-to-date information. Triangulation method was used to confirm the reliability of the data collected and provided a more comprehensive understanding of the environmental and social impacts of the projects. During the field observations, various tools such as cameras, video recorders, and GPS devices were employed to capture and document important physical, environmental, and social aspects of the project sites. These tools were essential in recording visual evidence on the environmental and social risks identification, anticipation of impacts and mitigation actions implementation performances during the ESDDA period.

## **3.4 Sample Selection Methodologies and Criteria**

### **3.4.1 Sampling Technique**

The ESDDA utilized purposive sampling and stratified random sampling techniques in their audit process. Purposive sampling was employed to select key informants from various levels of the administration structures, including the federal, regional, Woreda, and Kebele levels. This approach allowed for a targeted selection of individuals who could provide valuable insights based on their positions within the administration. The OFLP is a comprehensive program that operates in both hot-spot and non-hot-spot zones and Woredas. In areas identified as deforestation hot spots, the program directly implements activities such as forest investment and the implementation of AR (Afforestation and Reforestation) and PFM (Protected Forest Management) initiatives. On the other hand, in non-hot-spot Woredas, the program coordinates various investment projects that contribute to emission reduction. In both cases, under the umbrella program/OFLP, Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit (ORCU) provides technical support and follow-up for the ESRM (Environmental and Social Risk Management) activities.

### **3.4.2 Sample Selection Criteria**

Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) is an umbrella program (nesting approach) that has been implemented to address deforestation and forest degradation that are identified as hot-spot and non-hot-spot areas throughout the Oromia regional state as a pilot program. Hot-spot woredas in Oromia are those identified as high deforestation and forest degradation areas caused by various factors which include subsistence agriculture, large scale agricultural investment, mining and infrastructure development among others. Deforestation and forest degradation hot spot areas differ from the non-hot spot areas in terms of scale of deforestation and forest degradation and species or diversity being affected.

There are different implementers of the REDD+ program/project identified as government and non-government organizations that all are contributing to the overall goal of OFLP. Under the government organization, there are ORCU and RIP operating under EPA while FARM Africa and Ethio-Wetlands

are working as non-government organizations. ORCU operates in 79 hotspot woredas, RIP operates in 41 woredas. However, some of the woredas overlap with that of Bale REDD+ project operates in 11 woredas and Ethio-Wetlands project operates in 5 woredas whereas all the five woredas. Zonal and Woreda level implementers of the project (ORCU, RIP, Bale REDD+ and Ethio-Wetlands) were used as criteria for selecting sample sites in order to make inferences to all of them. The consultants have discussed and agreed upon the selection criteria and the selected sample sites representing intervention audit areas in collaboration with the EPA and OFLP program team.

**Table 4. Sample Selection Criteria**

No	Sample Selection Criteria	ID	
1	Hot Spot Zones and Woredas Hot-Spot Zones and Woredas	A/R	P1
		PFM	F2
		Forest Based Livelihood Support	PF 1
2	Non-Hot-Spot Zones and Woredas	Non-Hot Spot	NHS
		A/R/Green legacy	NHS1
		ANR/FMNR	NHS3
3	Implementing Institutes	OEPA/OFLP-ERP	II- 1
		RIP	II- 2
		The REDD+ legacy projects	II-3
		Farm Africa	II-4

### 3.4.3 Sample Size

The ESDD audit sample focused on 9 deforestation hotspot zones that had been implementing the OFLP forest investment program. Among these zones, 6 zone and 12 Woredas were selected due to their intersection with both the REDD+ legacy and Ethio-wetlands during the grant financing period. The selected zones include Jimma, Buno Bedele, East Guji, Ilu Aba Bora, East Wollega, and Borena. The selection of these specific zones was intentional, as they were chosen to focus on areas with significant forest coverage and high priority for deforestation. These zones were identified as key locations where extensive efforts in emission reduction (ER) were implemented.

This deliberate approach allowed for a thorough examination of ESRM instruments related to labor, GBV, SEP/H, and safety risk management, leading to a deeper understanding of ESRM phenomena and enhancing the richness of collected data. To ensure a comprehensive representation, the consultant randomly selected 2 to 3 AR and PFM sites from each Woreda within these zones, taking into consideration the potential of each Woredas. On the other hand, in contrast to the deforestation hotspot zones and Woredas, the consultant purposively had chosen 6 zones and 12 Woredas. These non-deforestation zones and Woredas were selected to provide a comparative analysis.

From these selected Woredas, the consultant randomly has chosen GLP and RIP investment sites, 48 sites for observation, FGD and KII interviews. From the non-deforestation Woredas, six zones (East Hararge, West Hararge, Bale, East Bale, West Arsi, and North Shewa), twelve (12) Woredas, twelve (12) plantation sites, and eight (8) PFM sites were selected using simple random sampling after stratification based on their cooperative and management performances (high, moderate, and low) (Tables 6 & 7). These sites were carefully chosen to ensure a representative sample that accurately reflects the overall situation in these non-deforestation areas. A kebele level focus group discussion was conducted with the participation of 384 individuals, including kebele administrators, forest-based cooperative members, elders, youth, and venerable groups. The diverse representation ensured a comprehensive discussion on various aspects related to the project (see subsection 5.2 the two paragraphs below for details).

The engagement of different stakeholders at this level helped in gathering valuable insights and perspectives that contributed to the overall understanding of the program/project's impact and implementation. These stakeholders contributed to ensure smooth implementation of environmental and social risk management with their active participation throughout potential risk and impact assessment, management, mitigation and monitoring processes. The capacity-building status of relevant stakeholders improved the quality of decision-making by reflecting the values and interests of stakeholders. The audit team checked and confirmed that consultations with forest-dependent communities, project



beneficiaries, cooperative members, and responsible government institutions were free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, and intimidation. The consultations considered inclusion of women, aged people, as well as other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, followed culturally appropriate approaches, and tailored to the language and accessibility preferences and decision-making processes of each identified stakeholder group.

The common measures and tools (refer to Annex Annex 6: Questionnaires for details) used by the underlying programs and projects to allow effective participation of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, included public meetings, separate discussions, and workshops. Based on prior and timely disclosure of accessible, understandable, relevant, and adequate information on ESRM instruments and plans, these were made available to relevant stakeholders. ESRM issues were initiated early in the program and project design process, continued iteratively throughout the underlying program/project's life cycle, and adjusted as risks and impacts arose. The role of relevant stakeholders in addressing social and environmental risks and adverse impacts, and the proposed measures and actions to address them, were confirmed by the audit. The audit confirmed from the discussions during stakeholder consultations that stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups, were empowered and enabled to incorporate all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision-making processes, such as program/project goals and design, mitigation measures, the sharing of carbon benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues.

At the district and zonal levels, a total of 169 (including 18 females) experts took part in the FGDs, bringing in their expertise and knowledge on the subject matter. Their participation added depth to the discussions and provided a more nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with the project. The diverse backgrounds of the experts ensured a well-rounded assessment of the project's compliance with the ESRM instrument preparation and implementation. Additionally, key informant interviews were conducted with 128 (including 6 females) individuals, including project coordinators, zonal and Woreda EPA heads, focal points, field-level project experts, work process owners, GRC heads, and vulnerable individuals. These interviews helped in capturing a wide range of perspectives on the compliance of the ESRM instruments preparation and implementation at project site specific activities during the retroactive carbon accounting audit period. The insights gathered from these interviews provided valuable feedback on the effectiveness of the project strategies and highlighted areas for improvement to enhance overall project outcomes.

**Table 5. Samples from Hotspot Zones and Woredas**

No	Proposed Sampling Sites from Hotspot Woredas			
	Zone	Woreda	Projects/programs	Sites
1	Ilu Aba Bora	Gera	OFLP	PFM
		Gomma	OFLP	AR
Ale		OFLP, Ethio-Wetlands	AR and PFM	
Becho		OFLP, Ethio-Wetlands	AR and PFM	
Halu		OFLP, Ethio-wetlands	AR and PFM	
Hurumu		RIP AR and PFM	AR and PFM	
3		Buno Bedele	Didesa	OFLP
	Bedele		OFLP	2 AR
	Dabo Hana		OFLP	AR and PFM
4	Guji	Bore	OFLP	AR and PFM
		Adola	OFLP	2 AR
5	Borena	Yabelo	OFLP,	AR/GLP and PFM
		Dire	OFLP	2 AR
6	E/Wollega	Diga	OFLP	AR and PFM
		W/Tuka	OFLP	2AR/GLP

**Table 6. Samples from Non-Hotspot Zones and Woredas**

No	Selected Site			
	Zone	Woreda	Projects/programs	Sites
1	West Hararge	Chiro	RIP and Green Legacy	2 AR
		Gamachis	RIP and Green Legacy	2 AR and Nursery
		Doba	GLP	1GLP
2	East Hararge	Deder	RIP	ANR and Nursery
		Kersa	RIP and Green Legacy	AR.GLP and Nursey
3	Bale	Agarfa	Bale Eco-Region	GLP and PFM
		Goba	GLP and BMER	GLP and 1PFM
4	E/Bale	Gololcha	Bale Eco Region	PFM
		Gasara	GLP	GLP
5	West Arsi	Arsi Negele	RIP and Green legacy	ANR and PFM
		Adaba	Farm Africa	PFM
		Dodola	Green Legacy and F/Africa	PFM
6	North Shewa	Kuyu	RIP and Green Legacy	PFM and GLP
		Warra Jarso	RIP and Green Legacy	AR/GLP
		Chancho	Green legacy	GLP sites

### **3.5. Review of Literature and Secondary Data Compilation**

A wide range of core literatures were examined as part of the audit, such as the OFLP-ERP Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Resettlement Framework (RF), Process Framework (PF), security risk assessment and management plan, and gender action plan as indicated in Table 7 below.

An in-depth examination was conducted on the PIM, PAD, and ERRM instrument of National and Regional parent OFLP, RIP, the two REDD+ legacy projects, were exhaustively analyzed. The OFLP (P156475) employed the ESRM instruments from (2017 to 2022) in order to efficiently screen, assess, and mitigate environmental and social risks and impacts. This strategy comprised OFLP compliance with agreed-upon ESRM instruments such SESA (including the Social Development Plan (SDP)), RF, PF, LMP, SEP, ESCP, and ESMF. The auditor also looks into how training and capacity-building have been deployed at the regional level to support different programs and projects at the landscape level. The fundamental ESRM tools have been used, and a safeguards information system has been established with particular consideration. The overarching goal of these initiatives is to increase the efficacy and durability of environmental and social risk management strategies by enhancing the awareness and understanding of those who are accountable for executing them effectively. In order to reach out to vulnerable groups, the program also built and reinforced a GRM, a plan for community participation and citizen engagement, and gender mainstreaming activities.

Additionally, during OFLP –ERP period the OFLP ESRM instruments which were developed based on the Old OFLP safeguard policies were updated based on the ESF requirements for the implementation of the OFLP ER program and disclosed in August 2022. Also, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Security Assessment and Management Plan, Gender mainstreaming guidelines, and GBV/SEA/SH action plan developed and disclosed in August 2022.

The auditor also examined the achievements of the programs and projects, as well as the overall national level performances in relation to REDD+ activities. The primary data sources that provide insights into the grant period achievements include OFLP safeguards instruments, the Environmental and Social Audit for the grant phase, the OFLP Borrower Completion Report (BCR), and the summaries of the OFLP grant and OFLP ERP ESRM reports, all of which were effectively reviewed and evaluated. The basic information on the preparation and implementation site specific ESMPs helps identify the anticipated and mitigation actions. Additionally, the legal framework/regulation issued by the



Government for title transfer rights for the ERP and the development and operationalizing of the BSP were reviewed and triangulated with KII, focus group discussions and interviews.

**Table 7. Basic ESRM Instruments Under WB ESF and the Program Reviewed**

No	The Grant OFLP Safeguard instruments	OFLP-ERP ESRM Instruments (updated and newly developed)
1	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)	Updated Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)
2	Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)	Updated Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
3	Resettlement Policy framework (RPF)	Updated Resettlement Framework (RF)
4	Process Framework (PF)	Updated Process Framework (PF)
5	Consultation and Participation plan (Cand PP)	Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) (newly developed)
6	Grievance Redress Mechanisms Guideline (GRM)	Updated Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (FGRM) Guideline
7	Safeguard Information System (SIS)	Labour Management Procedures (LMP) (newly developed)
8		Security Risk Assessment and Management Plan (SRA&MP)
9		Environmental Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) (newly developed)

## **4. International Convention, Country's Policy, Legal and Regulations**

### **4.1 Environmental and Social Legal Framework and Covenants**

Ethiopia is signatory to numerous international and regional conventions that oblige the government to prevent pollution and protect specified habitats, flora and fauna. Numerous frameworks and covenants have been devised to provide a comprehensive framework of regulations and guidelines that countries must abide by in order to protect the environment and promote social well-being. These supplementary documents have undergone rigorous assessments to ensure their efficacy and appropriateness in addressing the complex challenges faced by nations globally.

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Ethiopia has ratified the Convention by Proclamation No. 97/1994 on May 2/1994
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification: Ethiopia has ratified the Convention by Proclamation No. 80/1997
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD): Ethiopia has ratified this Convention by Proclamation No. 98/94, on May 31, 1994
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants: Ethiopia has ratified this Convention by Ethiopia by Proclamation No. 279/2002, on July 2, 2002
- The Rotterdam Convention: Ethiopia has ratified this Convention by Ethiopia by Proclamation No. 278/2002, on July 2, 2002
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of historically underserved and vulnerable groups Peoples (adopted in by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): the UNCRC was adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, and Ethiopia ratified the Convention in 1991
- United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): adopted by the General Assembly in 1979 and ratified by Ethiopia in 1981.
- UNESCO Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat/RAMSAR Convention.

### **4.2 World Bank Safeguard Policies and Environmental & Social Standards**

To ensure compliance, the safeguards encompass requirements for Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments as well as Environmental and Social Management Frameworks. Based on global assessment by FCPF, REDD+ projects Lack of secure land rights for forest-dependent people is broadly acknowledged to be an underlying driver of deforestation. At the same time, tenure insecurity makes REDD+ a potentially serious threat to peoples' livelihoods. Carbon markets will increase the value of forests and make them more attractive to private interests, and local people lacking secure tenure may be vulnerable to restrictions on their activities or to evictions. These are why WB operational policies and Standards are time-honored environmental and social impact assessment and management frameworks or instruments updated with the development strategy and time to manage risks and impacts of a project and to improve their environmental and social performance. Based on the WB ESRM requirements country's in need to implement REDD+ and required to developed national forest information system, National REDD+ strategy and National Safeguard framework and safeguard information system as a mandatory criterion. Accordingly, OFLP-ERP grant period has been triggering the old WB Safeguard Policies such as Environmental Assessment (OP 4.01), Involuntary Resettlement (OP/ BP 4.12), Physical and Cultural Resources (OP/ BP 4.11), Pest management (OP 4.09). Historically underserved and vulnerable groups People (OP/BP 4.10), Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04) and Forests (OP/ BP 4.36)

During the OFLP grant and the retroactive carbon financing period, the old safeguard operational policies were implemented to meet environmental and social safeguards management requirements while the OFLP-ERP is being implemented under the new WB Environmental and Social Framework.

*Table 8. Comparison of World Bank E&S Safeguards Policies and the New ESSs*

WB Safeguard operational polices Triggered by OFLP	WB Environmental and social Standards Applicable To OFLP-ERP
OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.04 Natural Habitat OP/BP 4.09 Pest Management OP/BP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.36 Forests OP/BP 4.37 Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.10 Historically underserved and vulnerable groups	ESS1; Environmental and Social Risks/impacts assessment and management ESS2: Labour and Working Conditions; ESS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; ESS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security ESS5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement ESS6: BD conservation and Sustainable management of living Natural resources ESS7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities ESS 8: Cultural Heritage ESS10: Stakeholder Consultation and Information Disclosure

The WB’s specific Environmental and Social Standards applicable to the OFLP-ERP are briefly summarized below:

**ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.** ESS1 is relevant for the project because project activities are expected to pose substantial environmental and social risks such as disruption on grazing pattern, livestock movement and overgrazing, soil and water pollution from toxic substances, agrochemicals, soil salinization, nutrient depletion, risks on biodiversity and ecosystems, risk of invasive alien species; and exclusion of vulnerable groups, social tensions/conflicts, security, forced labor, child labor, gender-based violence, etc. In order to meet the requirements with this standard, customers and borrowers must conduct environmental and social evaluation and management using relevant studies that are commensurate with potential risks and impacts. The scope of the assessment ought to encompass pollution prevention, biodiversity impacts, resource efficiency, climate change, sustainable use of natural resources, vulnerable groups, access to resources, impacts on livelihood, resettlement, cultural resources, working conditions, and community health and safety. It also requires that the assessment process be supported by effective information disclosure and consultation with a grievance mechanism in place.

The ESDDA evaluated the underlying program/project’s potential environmental and social risks and impacts on community safety throughout the planning, implementation and harvesting phases. They implemented preventive strategies and plans proportionate to the identified risks and impacts, prioritizing the avoidance or prevention of these risks rather than merely minimizing or reducing them. Comprehensive health and safety evaluations were conducted, and management plans were developed in accordance with established international best practices, specifically tailored to the relevant sector or activities. These assessments and management strategies considered the varying levels of risk exposure and sensitivity among different demographics, including gender differences, as well as the needs of marginalized and disadvantaged groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, minorities, and indigenous populations.

**ESS 2: Labor and Working Conditions.** The second essential service standard focuses on labor and working conditions. This standard is crucial in ensuring that workers are provided with fair wages, safe working environments, and reasonable working hours. The employment or treatment of project workers are not made based on personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements. The employment of project workers is based on the principle of equality of opportunity and treatment, and there shall be no discrimination with respect to any aspects of the employment relationship, such as recruitment and hiring, compensation (including wages and benefits), working conditions and terms of employment, access to training, job assignment, promotion, termination of employment or retirement, or disciplinary practices. Women and men shall receive equal remuneration for work of equal value. The labour management procedures shall set out measures to prevent and address violence, harassment, intimidation and/or exploitation in coinciding with Labour management Plan of the OFLP-ERP. The LMP includes

gender impacts related to project activities are identified and differentiated measures are adopted to prevent gender-based discrimination. Potential risks of gender-based violence and/or sexual exploitation and abuse of men, women, girls and boys that may occur in connection with any of supported activities are considered. Child labour, which consists of employment of children below the minimum age of employment as defined by the ILO Minimum Age Convention, and ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, may not be used in connection with or arising from the project activities.

**ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management.** ESS3 emphasizes the importance of resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management in achieving environmental sustainability. By promoting responsible resource use and reducing pollution, protects ecosystems, conserve natural resources, and safeguard human health. It is essential for individuals, projects and governments to work together towards a more sustainable future by implementing practices that prioritize resource efficiency and pollution prevention. The OFLP-ERP was designed and implemented in a manner that promotes the efficient use and consumption of land/soils, energy, water, and other resources and material inputs. Technically and financially feasible and cost-effective efficiency measures are implemented. Such measures integrate the principles of cleaner production into product design and production processes with the objective of conserving raw materials, energy, and water.

**ESS 4: Community Health and Safety.** ESS4 addresses the health, safety, and security risks to and impacts on program-affected communities. Community health risks are proliferation of pests and the prevalence of forest-based diseases. The health risks are waste generation including plastics, chemicals like pesticides, insecticides used in a manner that is not safe for human health and the environment. Where waste cannot be recovered or reused, it is treated, destroyed, or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner that includes the appropriate control of emissions and residue that affect human and environmental healthy. Program Induced Security risks are dynamics that include contextual circumstances (e.g. livelihood options, poverty, crime, legacy issues such as unsettled political claims or unresolved land disputes), direct safety threats (e.g. organized crime/violence and armed conflict) such as cattle trespassing for grazing, petty theft, right of way block, and community protests. Risk of wildfire is also repeatedly indicted as the most common contextual security risk of forest areas. Additionally, with collaborate closely with law enforcement agencies to formulate comprehensive safety strategies, improve emergency response systems, and establish a safe environment for all community members. The primary aim is to actively recognize and alleviate any adverse impacts on the health and safety of communities affected by the project throughout its entire duration, taking into account both routine and extraordinary circumstances. It is vital to maintain exemplary standards of quality and safety during the design and construction phases of the project's infrastructure, which will help to diminish the potential for safety risks and incidents. There should be concerted efforts to reduce community exposure to possible hazards, illnesses, and harmful substances associated with project activities. Moreover, it is imperative to put in place protective measures for both personnel and property that not only lessen risks to local populations but also comply with recognized international human rights standards and principles. In addition, comprehensive strategies must be developed to effectively address emergency situations, whether they stem from human actions or natural calamities. The OFLP-ERP's Security Risk Assessment and Management Plan tool aligns with the ESS4 principles by assessing the community's health, safety, and security in relation to primary project activities such as nursery operations, afforestation, reforestation, and participatory forest management. This comprehensive review strives to ensure that these activities are implemented in a way that emphasizes community well-being while efficiently managing project risks. The program ensures that projects avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to health risks (e.g. pollution, contaminated areas/resources) and diseases that could result from or be exacerbated by programming activities, including water-related and vector-borne diseases, and communicable and non-communicable diseases, injuries, nutritional disorders, mental health, and well-being that could result from project activities, taking into consideration the differentiated exposure to and higher sensitivity of marginalized groups, including communities living in voluntary isolation. Thus, it ensures that projects avoid or minimize transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of temporary or permanent project labor.

**ESS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement.** The project requires avoiding land acquisition and displacement. However, if unavoidable, the ESS5 recognizes that project-activities related land acquisition and restrictions on land use can have adverse impacts on communities and persons which may cause physical displacement, economic displacement leading to

loss of income sources. This Standard aims to avoid involuntary resettlement wherever possible; to minimize Involuntary Resettlement by exploring Project alternatives, where avoidance is not feasible, to enhance or at least restore, the livelihoods of displaced persons in real terms relative to the pre-project Levels, to improve the overall socioeconomic status of the displaced poor and other vulnerable groups, and to conceive and implement resettlement activities as sustainable development programs, providing sufficient resources to enable the persons displaced by the project to share in project benefits. The applicability of this Standard is established during the social and environmental screening and categorization process. It applies to all OFLP\_ERP activities that may involve physical displacement (i.e. relocation or loss of shelter), whether full or partial and permanent or temporary, or economic and occupational displacement (i.e. loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or means of livelihood) as a result of project-related land or resource acquisition or restrictions on land use or access to resources (including through project externalities such as pollution and impacts to biodiversity or ecosystem services) that people depend on for physical, economic, social, cultural, or spiritual well-being. This Standard also applies to displacement activities occurring for associated facilities, displacement activities significantly related to the project, and displacement activities that have occurred in anticipation of a project if any. The Standard does not apply to voluntary, legally recorded exchange in which the owner is fully informed about available choices and has the genuine right to retain the land and refuse to exchange/change it. In instances where a could result in the displacement of individuals other than the exchanger those who occupy, utilize, or assert rights over the land in question specific requirements will be enforced. Additionally, the Standard does not pertain to limitations on access to natural resources that arise from community-based natural resource management practices, such as the creation of a community conserved area. In these cases, the community has the authority to voluntarily limit its own access to resources, provided that this decision is made through a transparent and inclusive community decision-making process that reflects a well-informed consensus.

**ESS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources.** ESS 6 will be applied since REDD+ activities may affect biodiversity and may be located in areas providing ecosystem services, upon which potentially local communities be dependent for survival, sustenance, livelihood or primary income source. A WB ESS and OFLP-ERP ESRM instrument equally addresses the procedures to avoid the risks and impacts of biodiversity. The practices align with the preservation of natural forests and the maintenance of biological diversity, guaranteeing that these areas are safeguarded against conversion into non-forest uses. They promote the safeguarding and conservation of natural forests along with their ecosystem services, while also amplifying various social and environmental advantages. Furthermore, the project supports the sustainable management of forest resources, which includes the implementation of independent and credible certification processes for harvesting operations. Additionally, efforts are made to sustain or improve biodiversity and the functionality of ecosystems in regions designated for forest restoration. Lastly, it is essential to ensure that plantations are ecologically sound, socially advantageous, and economically sustainable, with a preference for the use of native species.

**ESS 7: Historically Underserved and Vulnerable Groups Peoples/ Local Communities.** Historically Underserved and Vulnerable Groups, as distinct peoples, are equal to all other peoples and are entitled to enjoy and exercise their human rights without discrimination. Historically Underserved and Vulnerable peoples possess collective human rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and development as peoples. The special relationship these peoples have with their lands, territories, resources, and cultural heritage is integral to their physical, spiritual and cultural survival. This ESS underscores the need for project proponent and Bank staff to identify historically underserved and vulnerable groups peoples and to engage in a process of free, prior, and informed consultation. The policy aims to ensure that adverse impacts on Historically underserved and vulnerable groups are avoided, or where not feasible, minimized or mitigated and that they meaningfully participate in project and benefit from it in a culturally appropriate way. A comprehensive historically underserved and vulnerable groups Peoples Plan (IPP) and historically underserved and vulnerable groups Policy Framework (IPPF) for the project were prepared, consulted upon and disclosed. This Standard aims to ensure that programs/projects are designed and carried out in a way that promotes respect for the identity, dignity, human rights, economy, and culture of historically underserved and vulnerable groups Peoples (IP), as defined by the IP themselves. In this way, IP can: (i) benefit from culturally appropriate social and economic initiatives that are culturally appropriate; (ii) avoid negative effects from programs/projects; and (iii) actively participate in programs/projects that affect them. Since many forest-dependent populations, which reside in and within the boundary of forest, impacted by the REDD+

initiatives are classified as IP, this is aligned with WB environmental and social standards. Programs/projects may impact the rights, lands, territories and resources of underserved peoples require prior review and/or assessment of potential impacts and benefits. Such reviews and assessments conducted transparently with the full, effective and meaningful participation of the concerned Vulnerable/Underserved peoples. Their perspective is crucial for impact assessment, and they will have ample opportunities to participate early in developing avoidance and mitigation measures. Vulnerable/Underserved and traditional knowledge is a valuable resource for identifying and addressing potential risks, including hazards and disaster risks, and should be incorporated throughout the project cycle. Projects with potentially significant adverse impacts require a full social and environmental assessment conducted by an independent and capable entity. Assess all potential direct, indirect, social, cultural, spiritual environmental impacts on indigenous peoples, including potential impacts on their rights, lands, territories, and resources. Review of all substantive rights, property interests, tenure arrangements, and traditional resource usage may be required. Avoid adverse impacts on Vulnerable/Underserved peoples to the maximum extent possible, including exploration of alternative programming strategies, designs and locations or consideration of not proceeding with the activities.

**ESS 8: Cultural Heritage.** ESS8 is relevant because it sets out measures designed to protect cultural heritages throughout the project life cycle and general provisions on risks and impacts to cultural heritage from project activities. The safeguarding of cultural heritage is essential to prevent any form of damage, unsuitable modifications, disruption, removal, or misuse. It is imperative to ensure the preservation and protection of these invaluable assets while fostering an equitable distribution of the benefits derived from their use. Additionally, it is crucial to engage in meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders involved in the preservation, protection, utilization, and management of cultural heritage, ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes. The applicability of this standard is established during the social and environmental screening and categorization process. The Standard applies to projects that may adversely impact Cultural Heritage, including projects that meet any of the following criteria: (i) located in, or in the vicinity of, a Cultural Heritage site; (ii) involving significant excavations, demolitions, flooding, or other environmental changes; (iii) propose to utilize tangible or intangible forms of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes. The concept of “cultural heritage” encompasses both tangible and intangible elements that may hold significance at various levels, including local, regional, national, or global. Tangible Cultural Heritage refers to both movable and immovable entities, such as artifacts, sites, structures, clusters of buildings, human settlements, and natural features or landscapes that possess archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural importance. These tangible elements can be found in diverse environments, whether above ground, below ground, or underwater. On the other hand, intangible cultural heritage, often described as living heritage, comprises the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills that communities recognize as integral to their cultural heritage. This heritage is passed down through generations and is continually reshaped by the community's interactions with their environment, history, and nature, fostering a sense of identity and continuity. Based on the environmental and social impact assessment under the OFLP-ERP during the site-specific eligibility check, cultural heritage issues were assessed and resolved proactively.

**ESS 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.** Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing process that may involve, to varying degrees, the following elements: stakeholder analysis and planning, disclosure and dissemination of information, consultation and meaningful participation, dispute resolution and grievance redress, ongoing reporting to affected communities and stakeholders, and inclusion of stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation.

Stakeholder analysis and engagement is conducted in a gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory and inclusive manner, ensuring that potentially affected vulnerable and marginalized groups are identified and provided opportunities to participate. The basic measures undertaken to ensure that effective stakeholder engagement occurs where conditions for inclusive participation are unfavorable.

OFLP\_ERP conform ESS10 is relevant for all projects given the need to engage with beneficiaries and stakeholders on development activities that affect their lives.



### **4.3 Good International Industry Practices (GIIP)**

World Bank Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines represent the generally accepted state of the art in sustainability performance in private sector and multilateral project finance. They represent the requirements of World Bank “Safeguards” policies that have been to some degree adopted worldwide by multilateral, bilateral, and private financial institutions. These policies represent a detailed expression of the requirements of the WB ESS policy described above and are referenced throughout the ESMP document prepared for site specific subprojects.

### **4.4 National Policy, Legal Frameworks and Other Relevant Documents**

Ethiopia has made significant progress in incorporating environmental and social risk management into its legal and regulatory framework. The country has enacted laws and policies that promote sustainable development and address potential risks to the environment and society. These laws and policies provide a solid foundation for implementing the OFLP-ERP approach and ensuring that environmental and social risks are effectively managed.

#### **4.4.1. Legislation on Expropriation of Landholdings for Public Purposes and Payment of Compensation**

The legislation regarding the expropriation of landholdings for public purposes and the payment of compensation is outlined in Proc. No. 1161/2019. This legal document provides a comprehensive framework for the process of expropriation, ensuring that it is carried out in a fair and transparent manner. Under this legislation, the government has the authority to acquire private land for public purposes, such as the construction of infrastructure projects or the development of public facilities. However, it is important to note that this power is exercised with great responsibility and consideration for the rights of landowners. The legislation emphasizes the need for adequate compensation to be provided to landowners whose properties are expropriated. The amount of compensation is determined based on various factors, including the market value of the land, any improvements made to the property, and any potential loss of income or livelihood resulting from the expropriation. This ensures that landowners are fairly compensated for the loss of their land and are not left at a disadvantage. In compliance with Regulation on land exportation the old OFLP safeguard instruments like Resettlement framework bans involuntary loss of access or income loss due to the project intervention even though the land title based on customary or compulsory. In Ethiopia, it is ensured that both men and women have equal rights when it comes to owning land and property that is based on land, as well as other natural resources. This is a significant step towards promoting gender equality and empowering women in the country. By granting both genders the same rights to land ownership, it helps to ensure that women have access to resources that can improve their livelihoods and economic independence.

#### **4.4.2. Environmental Policy of Ethiopia (EPE, 1997)**

The Environmental Policy of Ethiopia (EPE) of 1997 is a crucial document that guides the country's efforts in environmental management and conservation. It highlights the government's dedication to promoting sustainable practices and safeguarding the environment for current and future generations. By adhering to the principles outlined in this policy, Ethiopia aims to achieve a harmonious balance between development and environmental protection, ultimately contributing to the well-being of its people and the preservation of its natural heritage.

#### **4.4.3. Forest Policy of Ethiopia (2007)**

The Forest Policy of Ethiopia, established in 2007, outlines the strategic framework and guidelines for the sustainable management and conservation of the country's forest resources. This policy aims to address the challenges faced by Ethiopia in terms of deforestation, degradation, and loss of biodiversity, while also promoting the socio-economic development of local communities. The Forest Policy of Ethiopia recognizes the vital role that forests play in supporting the livelihoods of millions of Ethiopians, particularly those living in rural areas. It emphasizes the need for sustainable forest management practices that balance the economic, social, and environmental aspects of forest resources. This policy encourages the active participation of local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders in the decision-making processes related to forest management.



#### **4.4.4. Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization (Proc. no 1065/2018)**

The Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization proc. no 1065/2018 encompasses a wide range of regulations and guidelines for the development, conservation, and utilization of forests. Notably, six articles within this legislation delve into the intricacies of a contemporary forest management scheme called PFM. These articles serve as the cornerstone for the establishment of community and associational forest ownership models. Overall, the proclamation has effectively laid the groundwork for the successful execution of PFM, providing a favorable framework for sustainable forest management practices. The Oromia Forest proclamation no 72/2003 is the other comprehensive legislation consisting of 18 articles and 5 sub-articles. This proclamation is aimed at acknowledging the importance of forest development and management while ensuring the protection of forest ownership rights. It serves as a legal framework that guides the sustainable utilization and conservation of forests in the Oromia region. Forest development and protection-based activities under the OFLP, RIP, REDD+ legacy Projects

#### **4.4.5. Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation (Proc. No.299/2002)**

The Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation (proc. No.299/2002) is a crucial legislation that aims to evaluate and mitigate the potential environmental consequences of any development projects. This proclamation plays a significant role in ensuring sustainable development by requiring developers to assess the impact of their activities on the environment before proceeding. The implementation of the OFLP-ERP has led to the development of various environmental and social risk management instruments. These instruments play a crucial role in enforcing emission reduction activities and ensuring their effectiveness. The OFLP-ERP takes a meticulous approach by thoroughly investigating the eligibility of these activities and screening them based on their potential impact. This enables the development of tailored management plans that address the specific risks associated with each initiative.

National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA, 2019): 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 and the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), 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. NAP-ETH aims to strengthen holistic integration of climate change adaptation in Ethiopia's long-term development pathway, supported by effective institutions and governance structures, finance for implementation and capacity development and strengthened systems for disaster risk management and integration among different sectors. The plan and its implementation are guided by the principles of participation, coherent interventions, stakeholder empowerment, gender sensitivity, equitable implementation and partnership. NAP of Ethiopia focuses on the sectors that have been identified as most vulnerable, namely: agriculture, forestry, health, transport, power, industry, water and urban. Within these sectors, 18 adaptation options have been identified for implementation at all levels and across different development sectors, recognizing the considerable diversity in context and vulnerability across Ethiopia's regions and social groups.

#### **4.4.6. Ethiopian Program of Adaptation to Climate Change (EPACC, 2011)**

The Ethiopian Program of Adaptation to Climate Change (EPACC, 2011) is a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing the challenges posed by climate change in Ethiopia. This program was developed in response to the urgent need for adaptation strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on the country's vulnerable communities and ecosystems. EPACC, launched in 2011, focuses on enhancing the resilience of key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and forestry to ensure sustainable development in the face of changing climatic conditions. In Ethiopia prevailing laws, policies, and strategies do not have a direct conflict with the concept and approach of OFLP-ERP Environmental and social risk management.

#### **4.4.7. Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE, 2011)**

Ethiopia's visionary Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, launched in 2011, represents a significant milestone in the country's commitment to sustainable development. This comprehensive framework not only acknowledges the urgent need to tackle climate change but also recognizes the potential for economic growth through green initiatives. By prioritizing climate resilience and adopting a green economy approach, Ethiopia is setting a positive example for other nations to follow. The CRGE strategy serves as a roadmap for integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into various sectors, fostering innovation and promoting sustainable practices.

## 5. Result Analysis/Key Findings

The ESDDA was carried out to assess and evaluate the environmental and social impacts linked to the underlying programs and projects implemented from January 1, 2022, to the ERPA signature date, Feb 09, 2023. This audit is crucial for understanding the potential effects of these initiatives on the environment and society. By conducting this assessment, the OFLP-ERP ensures that any retroactive ERCs requested are based on a thorough understanding of the E&S impacts involved. This process helps in making informed decisions and mitigating any negative consequences that may arise from the implementation of the underlying programs and projects. Besides, despite the audit scope (see subsection 2.5), the audit briefly assessed and reported the project/program's compliance status against the old safeguards policies, which is annexed (Annex 7) to the ESDDA report.

Based on the audit's conclusions regarding the key E&S issues identified, corrective actions/measures necessary to ensure E&S compliance with the OFLP-ERP instruments will be implemented, monitored and reported. The ESDDA was designed to present data at both the principal and criteria levels, providing a comprehensive overview of the information gathered. This audit report aims to offer a detailed analysis of the collected data, highlighting key points and trends that emerged during the evaluation process.

The report also focuses on categorizing the achievements of each indicator into five distinct levels. These levels were defined as (not comply, partially comply, comply except with minor issues, fully comply, and exemplary comply (Table 9 below). The main report provides a comprehensive overview of the data, highlighting the key findings and outcomes based on the established criteria. By categorizing the achievements into five distinct levels, the report allows for a more nuanced analysis of the programs and projects' progress. This approach ensures that stakeholders can easily identify areas of success as well as those requiring further attention or improvement. The compliance evaluation tables included in the report compare program and project activities with the requirements of specific performance standards and their compliance rating levels/categories, as stated below.

**Table 9. Categorization of Compliance Evaluation**

Categories	Rating Hierarchies Description
<b><i>Not -Comply</i></b>	The underlying program/project has not adhered to the required E&S standards, regulations, or policies
<b><i>Partially Comply</i></b>	The underlying program/project has made some effort to adhere to the required standards, but gaps remain.
<b><i>Comply except with minor issues</i></b>	The underlying program/project meets the standards overall, but there are minor issues that need to be addressed
<b><i>Fully Comply</i></b>	The underlying program/project meets all the required standards, regulations, or policies without any significant issues.
<b><i>Exemplary Comply</i></b>	The underlying program/project not only meets all the required standards but also goes above and beyond in its compliance efforts, serving as a model for other similar projects.

### 5.1 Compliance With the OFLP-ERP Instruments

ESDDA focused on the comprehensive analysis of environmental and social issues, in accordance with the OFLP-ERP instruments. Through this examination, it has identified gaps in the ESRM performance and developed corrective action plan to rectify them based on the underlying programs and projects activities.

The compliance of the underlying programs and projects (including OFLP, RIP, and the two legacy REDD+ projects) with the OFLP Safeguards Instruments and the OFLP-ERP instruments has been evaluated to provide a concise overview of the assessment findings. A summary table for each subsection has been included below, highlighting the compliance status of each program/project. This evaluation ensures that the programs/projects align with the necessary environmental and social standards set by the OFLP-ERP.

## 5.2. Compliances With Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

### 5.2.1 Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment

During the OFLP grant period (and the retroactive carbon accounting audit period, all Programs/Projects impact assessments were comprehensively addressed using the parent OFLP safeguard instruments. For the OFLP-ERP implementation period, the OFLP grant instruments were updated based on the ESF requirements and new OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments were developed and disclosed to be used during the implementation of the OFLP-ERP period. The implementation process of site specific environmental and social instruments for OFLP grant financing, RIP, GLP and the two REDD+ legacy projects followed the parent OFLP safeguard instruments. and the preparation process for site-specific instruments was conducted at the community level by the DA, using the DA eligibility checklist, in consultation with site dependent community. The kebele administrative provided an approval letter based on the screening results. Required site-specific instruments such as ESMPs for all sites of RIP and REDD+ legacy projects were developed, implemented and monitored.

The ESDDA for the retroactive carbon financing involved a thorough assessment of how well a plan addresses identified risks and repercussions, especially in labor, security, and gender-based violence, as related to OFLP-ERP's environmental and social instruments. Additionally, by investigating the organization's reporting, monitoring, and capacity building processes, the audit sought to evaluate the effectiveness of the environmental and social instruments in addressing social and environmental concerns. The ESDDA process helps organizations demonstrate their commitment to sustainable practices and responsible operations. The evaluation covered the techniques and activities implemented to improve social and environmental performance as well as the mechanisms for ongoing improvement. The ESDDA noted that appropriate procedures for reporting, monitoring, and capacity building are in place, showing that organizations are committed to effectively addressing social and environmental challenges.

During the audit period, data from FGDs and KIIs, and community consultations showed no reported risks of gender-based violence, sexual harassment/sexual exploitation in the program/project intervention areas. Developments agents together with local communities determined program/project activities' eligibility, with district-level experts assessing E&S issues. These tools ensured that programs/projects like OFLP, RIP and REDD+ Legacy projects met the required eligibility and screening criteria. Consequently, ESMPs were prepared and implemented for 538 out of the 2,202 PFM and AR sites.

Based on the implementation of site specific ESMPs, primary and secondary data collected during the ESDDA period show that no new investment activities implemented for OFLP-ERP during the requested retroactive carbon financing period. However, 890 active RIP forest investment activities on AR/ANR/PFM sites were checked for eligibility and screened. After the OFLP-ERP Agreement was signed, the newly developed ESRM tools for the OFLP-ERP were used and put into action for site-specific ESRM management at the landscape level. These new instruments and standards are effective in guiding and implementing the ER project's objectives through environmental and social risk assessments.

*Table 10. Site Specific Safeguard Instrument Preparation Status during OFLP grant and OFLP- ERP Period*

No	Initiative	Investment type	Area (ha)	Site Specific ESRM tools					
				Grant Period			OFLP-ERP Period		
				Eligibility	Screen	ESMP	Eligibility	Screen	ESMP
1	OFLP	AR	10835	1625	1625	558			
		PFM	217,522.6	191	191	189	37	37	37
		Livelihood		312	312	80			
2	RIP	AR	19,810.03	1596	1596	141	890	890	71
		ANR	275,095	997	997	428			
		PFM	424,000	345	345	202			
3	Bale Eco.R	PFM	60,924	17	17	17			
4	EU	AR	76.68	5	5	5			
		PFM	5,727.6	6	6	6			
5	SOS (Farm Africa)	PFM	14,498.2	7	7	7			
6	Green legacy Plantation	AR	35,233	3002	3002	362	672	672	29
		PFM	195,506	47	47	47			
8	ECFF			6	6	6			

### **5.2.2 Evaluation of WB ESS compliancy Categories**

In broad-spectrum, the compliance evaluation findings pertaining to the assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts performance are determined through a holistic approach. This approach considers a broad spectrum of factors and indicators to assess the level of compliance. Through the examination of various elements, including the effectiveness of environmental and social risk management measures, the evaluation aims to identify any instances of non-compliance and assess the overall performance in managing E&S risks and impacts as per Table 9: Categorization of Compliance Evaluation. Accordingly, the evaluation provides valuable insights into areas that require improvement and helps ensure that the requirements set in the OFLP -ERP ESF instruments are addressed during the retroactive carbon financing period requested by the government, January 1, 2022, to February 8, 2023. In addition to the focus E&S standards (i.e., ESSs 1,2 & 4), the remaining Environmental and Social (E&S) standards including the ESS 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 were assessed to evaluate the overall performance of projects and necessary mitigation measures are incorporated. The assessment findings for applicable ESSs are detailed in Tables 11 to 19 below.

*Table 11. Evaluations – Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.*

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance Category
Environmental and social assessment and management system-country's environmental and social framework	<p>Conduct a process of environmental and social assessment in accordance with the WB ESF and ESSs) incorporating, among others, the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country's policy, legal and institutional framework, consistency with national, subnational or implementing institutions, applicable laws, regulations, rules and procedures</li> <li>• Identification and implementation capacity of risks and impacts;</li> <li>• Management of programs/projects;</li> <li>• Organizational capacity and competency;</li> <li>• Emergency preparedness and response; stakeholder engagement; and Monitoring and review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The environmental and social risk management assessment and procedural coordination were included in the safeguards instruments including ESMF (prepared under the old safeguards policies) and implemented accordingly.</li> <li>• The relevant stakeholders were involved during the preparation of ESRM instruments.</li> <li>• Project affected communities/beneficiaries were consulted during impact assessment and ESMPs preparation and implementation.</li> <li>• The ESMPs have been developed by meeting OFLP parent instruments, and operational policies.</li> <li>• Mitigation and monitoring measures included in the site-specific ESMPs prepared for the OFLP grant financing and implemented accordingly</li> </ul>	Fully comply
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain a process for identifying project-related E&amp;S risks and impacts, in accordance with the OFLP-ERP ESMF and others.</li> <li>• Ensure that the risks and impacts identification process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is based on recent E&amp;S baseline data at an appropriate level of detail; and</li> <li>• considers all relevant E&amp;S risks and impacts of the project, including those from ESS 1 to ESS 10 except ESS9, and those who are likely to be affected by such risks and impacts (including individuals/groups that are considered disadvantaged or vulnerable) and complement this with a human rights due diligence in high risk circumstances;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Consider the emissions of greenhouse gases, the risks associated with a changing climate (and adaptation opportunities), and potential transboundary effects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Specific eligibility checks, screening and ESMP (sites with significant Impacts) were prepared for all RIP, OFLP and REDD+ legacy projects in sampled woredas and sites</li> <li>• ESMP preparation and implementation process ensured and followed proper procedures provided in the ESMF.</li> <li>• The screening of community health, safety, and security issues identified concerns and a project's sound environmental and social performance were recorded.</li> <li>• During Forest investment activity implementation, there were no exclusion, and all interested persons were participated freely, underserved community like Menjo Community in Halu Woredas were identified and separately provided with livelihood improvement support and special considerations (as per the FGD)</li> <li>• As FGD from Halu Woreda PFM Cooperatives developed as code of conduct Pregnant women were free from any participation on physical activity implementation during peak pregnancy time and the poor, elders considered as free membership and not forced to involve in physical activity.</li> <li>• Risk related to sexual exploitation, harassment, women's discrimination did not happen and record during the audit period.</li> <li>• Overall activities of OFLP, RIP, REDD+ Legacy projects, and GLP highly contributing emission reduction and contributes for transboundary effects on local community, underserved/vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>	Fully comply

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance Category
Environmental and social assessment and management system-country's environmental and social framework	<p>Identify individuals and groups directly and differentially or disproportionately affected by the project because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status and implement differentiated measures to ensure they are not disproportionately impacted or disadvantaged in terms of benefits and opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During project and sub projects activity implementation vulnerable groups have been identified and their socioeconomic effects were considered at the wider level in the ESMPs.</li> <li>• Disadvantageous groups (such as menjo community) in Becho, Halu and Alle woreda separately treated in PFM cooperatives and 30% of the livelihood support for the cooperative was allocated for those disadvantageous groups under Ethio Wetland projects.</li> <li>• There were no significant disproportionally impacted or disadvantaged groups in all RIP, OFLP activity during the audit period.</li> <li>• Disadvantageous and vulnerable groups in the subproject's intervention areas were identified, listed, consulted and supported. However, there were some gaps in consistently and effectively addressing issues related to disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, particularly of the underserved communities.</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues
	<p>Establish management programs that describe mitigation and performance improvement measures and actions that address the identified risks and impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favor impact and risk avoidance over minimization, and where residual impacts remain, compensate or offset these, where technically and financially feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on document reviews and KII suitability of the prepared ESMP to the sites were checked and obtained environmental clearance.</li> <li>• The Independent Environmental and Social Consultant (IESC) reviewed ESMPs in place and confirm the application of mitigation hierarchy, identification of improvements and offset measures for identified significant risks.</li> <li>• Historically underserved and vulnerable group (ESS7) and Cultural Heritage (ESS 8) and the Stakeholder Engagement and information discloser (ESS10) were considered, and the project has effectively implemented them in sample areas.</li> <li>• The mitigation hierarchy is promoted and favors impact and risk avoidance, includes measurable targets and indicators and assign roles and responsibilities for time bound implementation.</li> <li>• ESMP documentation includes defined actions for compliance with legal obligations, environmental and social design criteria and the ESMP commitments.</li> <li>• ESMPs include the identification of human and other resources required to meet defined performance requirements and delegate responsibilities for environmental and social performance to key positions within the organizational structure.</li> <li>• The process for defining ESMPs is clear and includes an audit and reporting process against WB ESF and OFLP-ERP Parent ESRM instruments.</li> <li>• The ESMP includes established performance targets and indicators which are measurable and practicable.</li> <li>• There was mere evidence that the implementing institutions has developed and implemented a programme of mitigation and performance improvement measures and actions that address the identified social and environmental issues, impacts and opportunities in the form of an Environmental and Social Impact mitigation</li> </ul>	Fully Comply

### **5.3. Compliance Against Labor and Working Conditions**

Typically, ESS2 is well-versed in the importance of prioritizing the safety and well-being of workers, fostering a healthy and secure work environment, and ensuring fair treatment and equal opportunities for all project workers, while eliminating any form of discrimination. This includes creating a level playing field for women, persons with disabilities, children of working age, migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers, and primary supply workers. The assessment of adherence to labor and working condition standards within the REDD+ initiatives was reinvigorated in the following manner.

#### **5.3.1. Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity**

Based on site specific discussion held with daily laborers working in east and West Hararge RIP nursery and Key Informant Interviews conducted during field level assessment of OFLP-ERP, RIP and the REDD+ legacy projects in the Oromia Regional State, it was noted that non-discrimination and equal opportunity are fundamental principles that upheld to promote fairness and justice in society. The WB ESS and OFLP-ERP Labour Management Procedures encompass the idea that every individual, regardless of race, gender, age, religion, or any other characteristic, is treated with respect and given equal access to opportunities created by the programs/projects. The initiatives are guided by principles that foster a harmonious and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive and contribute to their fullest potential. The fact that Ethiopia ratified UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, ILO Convention No. 169, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Historically Underserved and Vulnerable Groups has provided the background for OFLP grant period and OFLP-ERP activity implementation in the country, particularly considering the rights of historically underserved and vulnerable groups and marginalized communities.

During the duration of the OFLP grant and the retrospective carbon accounting periods, communities that are underserved and vulnerable are the focus of attention. These communities may lack access to essential services, face economic challenges, or be disproportionately affected by environmental issues. The program gave due attention to address the needs of these communities and ensure that they are included in decision-making processes that impact their well-being. The program's commitment to inclusivity and equity was evident in its efforts to empower underserved and vulnerable communities. By actively involving these communities in decision-making processes, the program aimed to ensure that their voices were heard, and their concerns were addressed. This approach not only helped in addressing immediate challenges faced by these communities but also fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment among the residents, leading to more sustainable and impactful outcomes on sustainable bases. As per the findings from the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) conducted at the community level, it was observed that all local communities were given an equal opportunity to participate in the forest-based cooperatives that were established. The main objective of the intervention was to enhance the livelihoods of the vulnerable groups within these communities. The approach ensured that no community was left behind due to sex, ages, disability, and economic status and that everyone had a fair chance to benefit from the cooperative initiatives.

#### **5.3.2 Protecting the Work Force**

In the rapidly progressing work environment of the present day, it is essential for organizations and projects to place great emphasis on the safety and well-being of their workforce. OFLP-ERP is implementing robust measures and protocols, beneficiaries including those organized under PFM and AR cooperatives/associations effectively protected their employees/members from potential hazards and created a secure working environment. The ESRM specialists of OFLP-ERP hosted in OEPA at the regional level regularly gathers security risk data from zones and woredas. The team's main objective is to pinpoint security risks in vulnerable woredas and kebeles to mitigate any potential threats or hazards that could arise in the workplace prior to implementing any field-level interventions. Based on the information gathered from KII, during the OFLP grant period, certain program investment activities initially planned to be implemented in security prone areas were reassessed and strategically relocated to areas considered free of security risks. Consequently, the OFLP grant financing was restructured for increasing the number of woredas from 49/52 (implementing PFM and A/R subprojects) previously identified as Deforestation and Forest Degradation hotspots to 78 woredas. This expansion was based on proximity to deforestation hotspots, with adjacent woredas annexed to compensate for those that became inaccessible due to insecurity. This adjustment enabled the OFLP to mitigate slower implementation progress in woredas where security risks hindered program activities, including program implementation support.

The strategic rearrangement of program investment activities into security risk free areas demonstrates the organization's commitment to prioritizing the well-being and security of its workforce. By taking proactive measures to manage security risks, the project not only safeguards its employees in a safer working environment but also ensures the continuity of the planned activities without disruptions. This decision reflects a thoughtful and responsible approach to risk management, highlighting the project's dedication to creating a safe and secure working environment for all individuals involved in the implementation of the underlying programs and projects.



This systematic process allows for the identification of any impacts during the retroactive carbon financing period and/or potential risks that may exist within the workplace environment, ensuring the safety and well-being of employees and minimizing the likelihood of accidents or incidents on community and project workers. Additionally, the project invested in comprehensive training programs for employees/workers with the necessary knowledge and skills to handle impacts/risks. The OFLP-ERP conducted a training session for zonal EPA experts and ongoing forest programs/projects. The training focused on emergency procedures conveyance mechanisms and the correct use of safety equipment. Additionally, the session aimed to promote a culture of safety awareness among participants. Overall, the training provided valuable information and skills to enhance safety practices within forest-related activities. The training needs further concentration on emergency procedures, mechanisms of conveyance and proper use of safety equipment, and promoting a culture of safety awareness. By empowering employees with the right tools and knowledge, the projects/programs foster a sense of responsibility and ensures that everyone is actively engaged in maintaining a safe work environment. Based on data gathered from KII at the zonal and woreda levels, the EPA and program staffs place a strong emphasis on offering comprehensive training, particularly in areas that are prone to forest fires. The OEPA and the programs specifically established to provide forest-dependent communities that are prone to hazards, particularly during forest fire incidences, the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage any potential risks that may arise. Emergency procedures, conveyance systems, and the use of safety equipment are just a few of the many subjects covered in these training programs. OEPA and the OFLP entity were able to promote a culture of safety awareness throughout our organization by making sure that staff members at lower administrative structures are knowledgeable in these areas.

Consequently, to improve their skills, training programs were provided to equip workers with both theoretical knowledge and real-world, hands-on experience. Through this practical approach, implementing entities' employees and community members are better equipped to respond appropriately in emergency circumstances by developing a deeper awareness of emergency protocols and the correct usage of safety equipment.

### **5.3.3 Child and Forced Labour**

The OFLP-ERP LMP was developed in line with ESS 2 to promote fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity, health and safety of all types of project workers. It is also intended to prevent the use of child labor and forced labor, which consist of any work or service not voluntarily performed that is exacted from an individual under threat of force or penalty. The risk of forced labor may be higher in certain circumstances and category of project workers such as migrant workers. The ESRM instruments specifically refer to LMP restricts the work of children under the age of 18 years, or only subject to an appropriate risk assessment. The LMP including the GRM specifically requires that any breaches of employment policy such as engagement of child or forced labour are to be reported to WB and relevant authorities. The ESDDA notes that Ethiopian law enables employment of 16-years-old, while the WB ESS 2 indicates as to employ only persons aged 18 years and over and non-forced labour. Based on the recent field data investigation conducted at Nursery operations in East Hararage and West Hararge zones, there is a concern regarding the status of children who are below the minimum age required for employment. The filed level collected data shows that there is a small number of child laborers working in nurseries, particularly in Kersa Woreda. In the one nursery site supported by RIP, 18 women were employed daily, with two of them under the age of 16. These individuals earned a monthly wage of 1,200 birr. Additionally, at one AR site within this woreda, a child under 16 was involved in soil and water conservation efforts, specifically bund construction on communal land designated for AR. Community level Focus group discussions indicated that children under 16 participated either to support their families or were hired for a small wage of 40 birr per square meter of bund constructed.

Overall, the above findings highlight the importance of complying with the ESS2 requirements and enforcing national laws and regulations that protect children from exploitation in the workforce. It is crucial to address this issue and ensure that all children are given the opportunity to grow and learn in a safe and appropriate environment. On the other hand, the investigation showed that forced labor was not a common issue in these areas. No cases of worker exploitation in the nursery's operations were reported. This finding is positive since it shows that there is no evidence of forced labor, which violates fundamental human rights, occurring at the RIP nurseries in the East Hararage and West Hararge zones.

### **5.3.4. Occupational Health and Safety**

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) is dedicated to safeguarding the health and well-being of workers engaged in the underlying programs and projects. It encompasses a comprehensive approach that involves identifying potential hazards, assessing risks, and implementing preventive measures to minimize the occurrence of work-related incidents including injuries and illnesses. Nursery workers were interviewed at the field level within the designated sampling area. The interviews revealed that there was a lack of provision of occupational health and safety (OHS) materials and dedicated OHS/labor experts who oversee and monitor the labor and working conditions as well as the relations between employees and employers. This meant that there was no dedicated team to develop and enforce safety plans and procedures, conduct regular inspections, and provide training on safe work practices. By prioritizing the physical and mental health of workers, OHS aims to create

conducive work environment that promotes productivity and reduces the likelihood of incidents/accidents or occupational diseases. OFP-ERP, RIP and REDD+ Legacy projects nursery operation was recruiting daily laborers for physical works that disaggregated men and women. The lack of OHS materials in certain active programs/projects poses a risk to the workers' physical well-being. It is crucial for the management to address these issues promptly at nursery sites and implement necessary measures to safeguard the workers' health and safety. The Oromia regional human resource management regulation is in place to help manage the labor force effectively by providing guidelines on how to select and recruit employees; and it is also the same with the LMP for OFLP-ERP. This regulation ensures that the right people are hired for the job, which helps in maintaining a productive and efficient workforce. Additionally, during the audit period working hours and salary/daily wages were included in the collective agreement ensuring that employees are fairly paid for their work and that their rights are protected. The compliance status of Labour Management and Working Conditions were presented in Table 12 below.

*Table 12. Compliance Evaluation: Labour Management and Working Conditions*

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance category
Human Resource Policies and Procedures	Adopt and implement appropriate human resource policies and procedures that set out the approach to managing workers in line with national law and OFLP-ERP LMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a human resource management Regulation at the regional level to guide the management of labour force, providing approaches on the selection and recruitment employees.</li> <li>• During the audit period, working hours, salary/daily wages were included in collective agreement.</li> <li>• There were no exclusion /discrimination based on sex/disability/ethnic background, forced and child labor and SE/SA/I harassment</li> <li>• Weak awareness creation for community workers and nursery daily labors on OHS /PPE as they were engaged /recruited by the projects.</li> <li>• Based on field visited done at nursery sites of RIP in Kersa and Deder woreda, workers not equipped with personal protection equipment.</li> <li>• There were no accidents and incidents registered and reported during Audit period.</li> <li>• Accidents and incidents reporting systems were created for all Projects and sub projects at Oromia state level using the EPA structure that were monitored under OFLP-ERP ESRM specialists.</li> <li>• Codes of conduct and agreement documents were not in place at some sites (lack of uniformity).</li> </ul>	Partially comply
	Provide workers with clear and understandable, documented information regarding their rights under national labour and employment law and any applicable collective agreements including rights related to hours of work, wages, overtime, compensation, benefits upon beginning the working relationship		
Working conditions and terms of employment	Respect collective bargaining agreements with workers' organizations. Provide reasonable working conditions and terms of employment where collective bargaining agreements do not exist or do no address working conditions and terms of employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary resting areas were availed for workers during the daily working hours,</li> <li>• This arrangement allows the workers to have peace of mind knowing that their children are being taken care of in a safe and comfortable environment, easily check them during breaks and provide any necessary support or assistance.</li> <li>• The Nursery labour working areas have been provided with basic services like drinking water and rest room, toilet for the workers.</li> <li>• Both the OFLP grant financing and OFLP-ERP ensured non-discrimination and provides equal opportunities for Women and men in nursery operation recruitment, CBO memberships and Livelihood enhancement</li> <li>• At Woreda, FGD and Nursery site levels, decisions regarding daily laborers and project workers were primarily on performance and behavior-based, and not based on characteristics such as: social status, family and marital status, nationality or ethnicity, political party affiliation, religious belief, physical restrictions, gender and sexual orientation, kinship.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure migrant workers are identified and engaged on substantially equivalent terms and conditions to non-migrant workers carrying out similar work.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where accommodation services are provided to workers: Implement policies on quality and management of accommodation and provision of basic services.</li> <li>• Provide services consistent with principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunity. Allow workers' freedom of movement or association.</li> </ul>		

ESS	Description of OFLP-ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance category
Workers' organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allow workers to develop alternative mechanisms to express their grievances and protect their rights regarding working conditions and terms of employment</li> <li>○ Do not discourage, discriminate or retaliate against workers from electing worker representatives, forming or joining workers organizations, and from collective bargaining. Engage with workers' representatives and workers' organizations and provide information needed for negotiation in a timely manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is no restriction; and free to join or form a union organized based on their interest to solve their livelihood.</li> <li>○ Workers are not required to work in excess of 48 hours per week and are provided with at least one day off for every 7 days period on average. This is in compliance with the national laws on working hours.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunities opportunity and fair treatment with respect to employment relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Take measures to prevent harassment, intimidation and exploitation especially against women. Apply principles of non-discrimination to migrant workers.</li> <li>○ The Employee Relations Management Plant requires that ESS2 and its contractors comply with the rule of law, which includes that on non-discrimination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No form of discrimination was reported by at the time of the audit. Furthermore, there are both females and males employed in different roles at RIP nursery sites</li> <li>○ The ESRM make any specific provisions for gender equality issues - especially in relation to the Project workforce or measures to implement the national legal requirements.</li> <li>○ Gender equality issues are discussed in the Gender mainstreaming assessment however it is not clear how gender equality was addressed from a management perspective with respect to non-discrimination in the workforce.</li> <li>○ All eligible workers at regional level have been covered under ESI (Employees State Insurance) &amp; EPF (Employees Provident Fund) schemes. The workers are paid equal wages for similar types of work regardless of gender.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
Grievance Mechanism (GM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide a grievance mechanism for workers to raise workplace concerns. Inform workers of the grievance mechanism when recruited and make it easily accessible. Address concerns promptly provides timely feedback, without retribution. Or impede access to judicial or administrative remedies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The OFLP-GRM guideline and ESS2 describe grievance handling, and the site audit confirmed that GM is in place and being implemented. The Employee Relations Management plan also requires that a grievance process be implemented for project workers.</li> <li>○ Made people Accountable for timely redressal of grievances. At Kebele/community level, 6653 GRCs are established, and 44 complaints are registered and resolved so far.</li> </ul>	Fully comply

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance category
Retrenchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses alternatives to retrenchment, prior to implementing collective dismissals. Where retrenchment is unavoidable, develop and implement a retrenchment plan to reduce the impacts of retrenchment on workers. Base the retrenchment plan on the principle of non- discrimination, consultation undertaken with affected parties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the Nursery site field visit in Deder Woreda at East Hararge zone the retrenchment of Nursery daily workforce took place. A nursery daily laborer raised a complaint about the retrenchment carried out by WOEPa as it was not done in a transparent or planned manner which resulted in discrimination against the workers. The laborer expressed concern about the lack of fairness in the retrenchment process.</li> </ul>	Partially comply
Child labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children will not be employed in a manner that is economically exploitative, hazardous, interferes with their education, or harmful to health or their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Comply with national laws.</li> <li>Less than 18 years will not be employed in hazardous work. Identify persons under the age of 18 and undertake an appropriate risk assessment and regular monitoring of health, working conditions and hours of work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on observations during the site visit, it was noted that child labor issues were registered at one nursery and one plantation site of the RIP project in Kersa Woreda.</li> <li>There were no any breaches of employment policy such as child or forced labour reported to relevant authorities during the audit period.</li> <li>The projects have strict rules in place not to employ anyone below the age of 16 years for nursery operations. These rules and procedures conform to the provisions of the relevant ILO standards. The HR policy for contract workers also restricts the employment of child labour.</li> <li>In most of sampled areas there is a code of conduct and agreement for daily laborers. In every perspective only voluntary /non-compulsory labour were employed.</li> </ul>	Partially comply
Forced labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forced labour will not be employed, whether involuntary or compulsory. Do not employ trafficked persons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In most of sampled areas there is a code of conduct and agreement for daily laborers. In every perspective only voluntary /non-compulsory labour were employed.</li> </ul>	
Occupational Health and Safety	<p>Provide a safe and healthy work environment. Minimize the cause of hazards (as far as practicable) to prevent accidents, injury and disease. In line with GIIP, including WBG EHS Guidelines, address areas including:(a) identification of potential hazards to workers (especially life threatening); (b) provision of protective and preventive measures (modification, substitution/elimination of hazardous conditions or substances); (c) training of workers; (d) documentation and reporting of accidents, diseases and incidents; and (e) emergency prevention, preparedness and response arrangements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedures were implemented to establish and maintain a safe working environment, while also providing training and information to project workers</li> <li>The project workers at Nursery sites of RIP were not provided with PPE without incurring expenses.</li> <li>No Regular review and Monitoring of OHS put in place to respond to identified risks and hazards, setting priorities for taking actions and evaluation of results.</li> <li>Daily workers deployed for daily works on nursery operation and community workers PFM process susceptible to accidents.</li> </ul>	Partially comply

## **5.4. Compliance With Community Health, Safety, and Security**

The ESF instruments prepared for OFLP\_ERP emphasize the importance of projects proactively addressing, preventing, reducing, and managing any negative effects on the well-being and safety of communities impacted by the project throughout its duration, whether due to regular operations or unexpected events. ESS 4 of ESF specifically targets projects with the potential to pose substantial threats to human health, safety, and overall security. These risks can be attributed to various factors such as the implementation of OFLP-ERP, RIP, and REDD+ legacy projects, interventions related to forest-based investments, alterations in the environment and socio-economic systems, concerns regarding water and sanitation, the proliferation of diseases, traffic and road safety, the handling and control of hazardous substances, the impact on natural resources and ecosystems, occurrences of natural disasters, the influx of project labor (which may adversely affect community health and safety), and the potential for misconduct by security personnel.

### **5.4.1 Community Health and Safety**

Community Health and safety focuses on promoting and improving the overall health of the population through various initiatives such as disease prevention, health education, and access to healthcare services. On the other hand, community safety aims to create a secure environment for residents by implementing measures to prevent crime, accidents, and other threats to public safety. These efforts are essential in reducing the burden of illness and improving the quality of life for community members. Community safety measures involve collaboration between law enforcement, emergency services, and community organizations to address issues such as crime prevention, disaster preparedness, and emergency response planning.

### **5.4.2 Emergency Preparedness and Response on Community Health and Security**

Emergency preparedness and response in forest development and participatory forest management is a critical aspect that requires careful planning and implementation. OFLP safeguards instruments and the OFLP-ERP ESF instruments include a detailed emergency preparedness and response plan in place, particularly for fire protection in fire-prone areas and security risks. The plan includes strategies for early detection of fires, tools preparation, and coordination with relevant authorities to ensure a prompt and effective response in case of emergencies. By developing specific actions for the event of emergencies, such as wildfires, the implementing entities of the underlying programs/projects, jointly with different stakeholders (government agencies, local communities, and non-governmental organizations), have been working together to minimize the adverse impacts of fires/disasters and safeguard the environment. This proactive approach prevents loss of biodiversity, destruction of habitats, and other negative consequences associated with emergencies in forested areas.

By collaborating and sharing resources, knowledge and expertise, stakeholders can enhance their capacity to respond to emergencies and address challenges effectively. The underlying programs/projects have invested in training, equipment, and communication systems to strengthen emergency preparedness and response efforts, ensuring the sustainable management of forests and the protection of valuable natural resources for future generations. During OFLP grant period, fire protection materials were distributed to fire and drought prone zones and Woredas and were used effectively.

### **5.4.3 Security Personnel Requirements**

Potential threats to project workers, sites, assets and activities as well as to project-affected communities need to be assessed and mitigate throughout the project life cycle. Security personnel should be engaged, the potential risks and impacts stemming from such engagement in turn need to be assessed and management measures identified in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.

To ensure the safety and security of community and project workers, specific requirements for security personnel were primed in detail on OFLP-ERP ESMF and ESRM instruments. These requirements include having a valid security license, undergoing background checks, and possessing relevant experience in the field. Additionally, it looks for individuals who are trained in emergency response procedures and have strong communication skills to effectively interact with staff and deployed government security institutions. The security personnel must be physically fit and able to handle potentially stressful situations with professionalism and composure. They should be knowledgeable about security protocols and be able to quickly assess and respond to any security threats or breaches. It needs essential that our security team is vigilant and proactive in maintaining a secure environment for everyone on the premises.



The audit findings indicated that, despite fluctuations in security concerns throughout the audit period, there were no recorded or reported security incidents. This absence of documented security issues during the specified timeframe serves as a testament to the robustness and effectiveness of the current security measures implemented for both contract and community workers. Further, dedicated security focal persons were not appointed or assigned at the zonal and regional levels. However, the social specialists at all levels are assigned to take the responsibilities of implementing the Security Risk Assessment and Management Plan (SRAMP) instrument of the OFLP-ERP developed to manage security risks in the project intervention areas. It is crucial to ensure that security focal persons are properly trained and equipped to effectively address security challenges. Limited awareness of security focal persons may increase the risk of security breaches and compromises the safety of individuals residing in the security regions. It is imperative to take immediate action to rectify this issue and enhance security measures in accordance with established protocols. To mitigate security risks and uphold safety standards, it is essential to adhere to ESS4 and Security Risk Assessment and Management Plan (SRAMP) by appointing and providing training for security focal persons at both the zonal and regional levels. By implementing these measures, security tensions in vulnerable areas can be effectively managed, ensuring the protection of individuals and property. It is crucial to prioritize security interventions in the region to maintain a safe and secure environment for all stakeholders involved.

**Table 13. Compliance Evaluation – Community Health, Safety and Security**

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance category
Community health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate risks and impacts to health and safety of affected communities during project life cycle;</li> <li>Establish preventive measures consistent with GIIP, such as the WBG EHS Guidelines;</li> <li>Identify risks and impacts and propose mitigation measures; and measures will favor the avoidance of risks and impacts over minimization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The comprehensive nature of the OFLP-ERP, Security risk Management Plan (SRMP) and (ESHS) performance, demonstrates the systematic approach in place for addressing emergencies and ensuring the well-being of the communities involved in the Project.</li> <li>By outlining potential risks, providing training and awareness programs and establishing clear guidelines for incident response and safety management, Occupational Health and Safety Plans were not incorporated in most of site specific ESMPs prepared for subprojects of the underlying programs and projects</li> <li>Among the sampled community, some lacks awareness on OHS</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues
Community exposure to disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid or minimize potential for community exposure to water-borne, water-based, water-related, vector-borne diseases and communicable diseases that could result from project activities, taking into consideration differentiated exposure to and higher sensitivity of vulnerable groups.</li> <li>Where specific diseases are endemic in communities in the project area of influence, explore opportunities during the project life cycle to improve environmental conditions that could help minimize their incidence. Avoid or minimize transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of temporary or permanent project and labour workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest-dependent communities were not exposed to various diseases and there were not recorded prevalence of diseases in the forest ecosystem.</li> <li>There were no reported cases of communicable diseases, except the Corona Virus and the preventive measures and health protocols implemented, and it was effective in containing the spread of the virus.</li> <li>There were no communicable diseases registered during the OFLP grant and audit period due to influx of labour. There was no labor influx as well.</li> <li>Community workers incidence and accident registration and reporting are at infant level.</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues
Emergency Preparedness and Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to ESS 1 emergency preparedness and response requirements, assist Affected Communities, local government agencies and other relevant parties in preparation to respond effectively to emergency situations especially when their participation and collaboration are necessary to respond to such emergency situations .</li> <li>If local government agencies have little or no capacity to respond effectively, they play an active role in preparing and responding to emergencies associated with the Project Document emergency preparedness, response activities, resources and responsibilities. .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are government sectors responsible for early warning and emergency responses at district level but at each subproject site level response team/persons were not assigned and only uses EPA structures.</li> <li>EPP is in place for high-risk treatments in Woreda administrative and Local government capacity to respond to emergency situations is satisfactory.</li> <li>Exercises are run periodically with communities to be aware of risks and threats at the local level.</li> <li>The projects were creating awareness and testing of site-specific emergency response plans, maintaining adequate response resources.</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues

	Disclose appropriate information to affected communities, government agencies and relevant parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The documentation describing specific communications, information disclosure and response activities, including local Affected Community involvement in preparedness and response requirements</li> </ul>	
Security Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When direct or contracted workers are retained to provide security to safeguard personnel and property, assess risks posed by security arrangements to those within and outside the project site.</li> <li>Security arrangements should be guided by principles of proportionality and GIIP. · Make reasonable inquiries to ensure those providing security are not implicated in past abuses. Train security personnel in the use of force. ·</li> <li>Sanction use of force only when used for preventive and defensive purposes. · Provide a grievance mechanism</li> <li>Assess and document risks arising from use of government security personnel deployed to provide security services.</li> <li>Encourage public authorities to disclose security arrangements. Investigate allegations of unlawful or abusive acts of security personnel. · Take action to prevent recurrence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Security arrangements for Project workers and community workers in the region were implemented followed the national security protocol for the underlying programs. Security risks are routinely assessed; investigated as required; and training provided to promote security awareness.</li> <li>Zonal and Woreda REDD+ focal persons were used for Security risk assessment for all projects and plan to manage project intervention in security prone areas.</li> <li>There was not formally recruited or assigned security focal persons at woreda and zonal level during the OFLP grant and the audit period, but the social specialists at all levels were serving as the focal persons.</li> <li>Community uses voluntarily selected community personnel act as a liaison between residents and law enforcement agencies, facilitating the exchange of information and promoting collaboration.</li> <li>The Project ESRM specialists at regional level gather intelligence on suspicious activities, report any potential threats, and work closely with local authorities and community elders to implement effective security measures.</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues

## ***5.5 Compliance with Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management***

Safeguarding the planet and ensuring the well-being of future generations necessitates prioritizing environmental preservation and embracing sustainable resource management practices. The underlying programs/projects (OFLP, RIP, GLP and the REDD+ legacy projects) actively engage in pollution prevention measures and conserve valuable forest resources to mitigate the detrimental effects of human activities on the environment and regional forest resources, contributing to global emission reduction. These programs/projects implement stringent regulations and standards to control emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, and other sources. Furthermore, promoting the use of clean technologies and renewable energy sources can significantly decrease pollution levels. Encouraging individuals and businesses to adopt eco-friendly practices, such as recycling, waste reduction, and responsible consumption, further contributes to pollution prevention. Forest and resource conservation plays a crucial role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the planet by managing resources wisely, minimizing wastes, and promoting efficient use of energy, water, and natural resources. Embracing sustainable practices, such as using energy-efficient appliances, practicing water conservation, and promoting sustainable agriculture, helps reduce our ecological footprint and preserve valuable resources for future generations. The underlying programs/projects have significant importance to Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency, which encompasses measures aimed at reducing or mitigating the adverse effects of pollution on both human health and the environment. Through conducting Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) at the woreda level, along with engaging relevant sectors and project workers, the OFLP, RIP, GLP and RED+ Legacy projects are actively taking measures to reduce the negative effects of pollution from plastic bag waste in nursery operations, water pollution, promoting efficient water usage, and prohibiting the use of chemicals, pesticides, and insecticides in nursery sites during seedling production. By adhering to the guidelines set forth in the ESS 3, those programs/projects are demonstrating a commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible practices. This approach not only helps in preserving the ecosystem but also ensures the health and well-being of communities living in and around these project areas.

### **5.5.1 Pollution Prevention and Resource Conservation**

The underlying programs/projects have addressed pollution prevention and resource conservation through combating deforestation and forest degradation and promoting sustainable forest management practices and preserving the integrity of forest ecosystems (e.g., via PFM, A/R, ANR, adopting alternative livelihoods, etc.).

### **5.5.2 Wastes and Hazardous Materials Protection**

The underlying programs/projects have managed plastic wastes and hazardous materials during nursery operation and plantation development. To ensure the responsible use and management of pesticides and insecticides associated with the underlying programs/projects, the environmental and social safeguards instruments prepared for the OFLP along with site specific ESMPs and guidelines have been used to govern the use of these chemicals (IPM guideline).

*Table 14. Compliance Evaluation – Resource Efficiency and Pollution prevention.*

<b>Compliance Evaluation – Resource Efficiency and Pollution prevention</b>			
<b>ESS</b>	<b>Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Compliance category</b>
<b>Resource Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implement technically and financially feasible and cost-effective measures for improving efficiency in consumption (energy, water, and other resources and material inputs). Consider alternatives and implement feasible options to reduce GHG emissions through renewable or low carbon energy sources, agricultural, forestry and livestock management practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Resource efficiency measures have been incorporated into project implementation, minimization and efficiency measures.</li> <li>○ Re use of plastic bags during seedling production (used for two round production period)</li> <li>○ Effectively uses of water resources and trees for seedling production area fencing, nursery and bed preparation</li> <li>○ Storing of poles, pegs and mulching materials for re-use</li> </ul>	Fully comply
<b>Green House Gas Emission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider alternatives and implement feasible options to reduce project related GHG emissions during design and operation (including project locations, agricultural, forestry and livestock management practices, reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, Energy saving technology distribution ).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Based on KII the rate of deforestation and degradation is reduced which has direct coloration GHG emission reduction whereas though AR and GLP forest gain in the regional state were in good progress.</li> <li>○ Document reviewed confirms OFLP-ERP is a jurisdictional program working on landscape level to reduce or avoid leakage and effectively implement community consultation and participation on sustainable forest management through coordinating different initiatives.</li> </ul>	Exemplary compliance
<b>Hazardous Materials Management (Pest Management)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoid or, when avoidance is not possible, minimize and control the release of hazardous materials.</li> <li>○ Assess production, transportation, handling, storage and use of hazardous materials.</li> <li>○ Consider using less hazardous substitutes in manufacturing processes or other operations;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All the project activities are based on Manual Pest Management (Hand weeding, site clearing.</li> <li>○ The Project not used Pesticides, insecticides in contrast to ESS3, international, and national, regulations.</li> <li>○ At Nursey and plantation sites chemical fertilizers were not utilized during the audit period.</li> </ul>	Fully comply

## **5. 6. Compliance with Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement**

### **5.6.1 Scope of Application**

The scope of application of ESS5 encompasses various scenarios related to physical and economic displacement resulting from land-related activities. This includes situations where land rights or land use rights are acquired through expropriation or other compulsory procedures as per the legal system of the host country. Additionally, ESS5 also applies to cases where land rights are acquired through negotiated settlements with property owners or individuals holding legal rights to the land, especially when failure to reach a settlement would have led to expropriation or other compulsory procedures. Moreover, project situations that involve involuntary restrictions on land use and access to natural resources, resulting in communities or specific groups losing access to resources they traditionally or legally have rights to, fall under the purview of ESS5. Furthermore, ESS5 also covers project scenarios that necessitate the eviction of individuals occupying land without formal, traditional, or recognizable usage rights. It also extends to cases where there are restrictions on access to land or the use of other resources, including communal property and natural resources like land, forests, timber, freshwater, medicinal plants, hunting and gathering grounds, as well as grazing and cropping areas. It is important to note that even if a project does not involve land acquisition or land use restrictions, if the impacts on land, assets, or access to assets become significantly adverse at any stage of the project, the client should still consider applying the requirements outlined in ESS5. This ensures that all potential consequences of the project on communities and individuals are thoroughly assessed and addressed in a responsible and sustainable manner.

### **5.6.2 Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement under REDD+ Schemes**

During the OFLP grant period, the forest investment activities required land from the local communities in different bases. OFLP land acquisition and resettlement compliances were evaluated in the ESDDA Audit period. The evaluation focused on several aspects, including the voluntary or involuntary resettlement of individuals and the associated economic impacts, the provision of compensation and benefits for those projects affected persons (PAPs) if any, the voluntary land donation procedures, planning and execution of resettlement and livelihood restoration efforts, and the existence of consultation and grievance mechanisms within the audited timeframe.

Compliance was evaluated based on WB ESS5 and OFLP-ERP Resettlement framework (RF). For OFLP, RIP and REDD+ legacy projects, the consultant reviewed the elements of the Project and land acquisition was assessed for their potential to trigger the requirements of ESS 5 based on available documentation from ORCU and EPA. ESS5 is applicable to the underlying programs/projects due to restriction of access to grazing/pasture resources, and potentially, loss of land use rights, discussed further below.

The implementation of the underlying programs/projects (including OFLP, RIP, and REDD+ legacy Project) did not result in any physical and economic displacement during both the OFLP grant and ESDDA for retroactive carbon payment. Based on secondary information grasped from ESMP prepared for site specific, FGD held at community level and site observation, the voluntary land acquisition involved by the project activities loss of communal lands for the grazing purpose, restriction of access to land resources, loss of mobility for both livestock and human and restriction of expansion of farmland which are the common ones registered. During the eligibility check and further screening based on consultation and technical expert input, it was confirmed from the site-specific ESMP developed and approved by the respective EPA that all mitigation actions were proposed and implemented. These actions included continuous consultation on the use of communal land for open grazing, substituting it with the cutting and carrying of fodder from plantation sites, developing new routes for animal and livestock paths, and delivering livelihood support for affected individuals. Accordingly, all issues were addressed, and no significant outstanding risks were observed during field observations, review questionnaires, and consultations.

The underlying programs/projects acknowledge and maintain the rights to lands, territories, and resources of various stakeholders involved. The ESS5 highlights the importance of effectively identifying the different rights holders, whether statutory or customary, and their corresponding rights relevant to the program. An evaluation of the REDD+ Social and Environmental standards found that the community forestry users' group was successfully implementing the REDD+ pilot without significant issues related to the misidentification of right holders and their rights to territories and resources. Furthermore, the ESS 7 emphasizes the recognition and respect for both statutory and customary rights to lands, territories, and resources that historically underserved and/ or local communities have historically owned, occupied, or utilized. The finding of the audit has confirmed that restrictions on firewood, fodder, timber, and grazing



for short period of time had happened and all the challenges were managed under ESMP developed and voluntary land donation procedures implemented in accordance with the project RPF and PF at site specific level and the community currently using agricultural materials, house construction and fuel wood-based PFM guideline and Utilization plan. However, conflicts were minimal during the assessment as only specific areas of the community forests were designated as protected zones for REDD+ initiatives. Lastly, the ESS 10 mandates that the REDD+ program obtained broader community support through free, prior, and informed consultations of underserved and local communities before implementing any activities that may affect their rights to lands, territories, and resources. The ORCU SEP has outlined a strategic approach to engage with the relevant stakeholders, including the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups ensuring that their voices are heard and respected throughout the process. The REDD+ strategy and those WB ESSs are significantly aligning with the government of Ethiopia's forest proclamation, which underscores the importance of recognizing traditional and customary practices in forest management to enhance governance and accountability.

### **5.6.3. Voluntary or Involuntary Displacement**

During the retroactive audit period, the REDD+ initiatives were put into action. These initiatives did not cause any physical or economic displacement. The forest investment activities that took place were done on communal and privately owned lands that were willingly pooled together for commercial plantation and forest restoration purposes. This shows that the implementation of REDD+ initiatives had a positive impact without causing any negative consequences like displacement. It is important to note that physical displacement refers to the involuntary relocation of communities or individuals from their homes or lands, whereas economic displacement refers to the changes in livelihoods or economic activities that may occur as a result of AR and PFM efforts. In the context of REDD+ initiatives, the focus is primarily on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while also promoting the conservation and sustainable management of forests. These initiatives aim to provide financial incentives to developing countries for their efforts in reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable land use practices. However, in some cases, the implementation of activities such as forest protection and sustainable forest management may lead to restriction of access to protected forest areas or changes in local economies, affecting the livelihoods of communities dependent on forest resources.

*Table 15. Compliance Assessment – land acquisition*

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	
Project design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine feasible alternative project design that prioritizes minimizing physical and economic displacement, while also ensuring a balance between environmental, social, and financial factors.</li> <li>Analyze the costs and benefits thoroughly, paying special attention to the impact on marginalized and vulnerable communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access Restrictions in plantation areas were limited to specific purposes and time frames and the project were designed to use privately pooled or communal lands for AR and state/community forest for PFM.</li> <li>There were not any land acquisition cases that led to physical or economic displacement registered both during OFLP grant and the retroactive carbon auditing.</li> <li>Adverse impacts on individuals and communities were minimized through adjustments in size, routing, or siting of project activity intervention sites.</li> <li>The project for AR intervention sites, were focused on prioritize communal land over private land to avoid/minimize land acquisition impacts.</li> <li>During the period designated for retroactive audit period, there were no privately pooled plantation sites established, and the activities related to Afforestation, Reforestation, and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) conducted under RIP program took place exclusively on communal lands that are governed by both the state and local communities.</li> <li>During the OFLP grant period Privately owned land in deforestation hotspots districts and villages were donated voluntarily AR activities (122 Sites voluntarily pooled for plantation during the OFLP grant Period but during the audit period there was no any land pooling for AR and, ANR in RIP</li> <li>The PFM process has brought the government managed high forest to collaborative government community governance which has great contribution to local community empowerment.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
Compensation and benefits for displaced persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When displacement cannot be avoided, offer displaced communities and person’s compensation for loss of assets at full replacement cost and other assistance. · Transparent and consistent compensation standards to be offered to all communities and persons affected by the displacement.</li> <li>Where feasible offer those whose livelihoods are land based and are displaced from land, land-based compensation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no physical and economic displacement registered during the audit period.</li> <li>The process of plantation establishments was done based on consultation and agreed up on it without any enforcement.</li> </ul>	Fully comply

### ***5.7 Compliance with Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources***

This section provides comment on the impact analysis of the biodiversity and natural resource assets associated with the implementation of the underlying programs and projects in Oromia region. The analysis focused on the adequacy of mitigation measures, management plan and Project monitoring. Particular attention was given on requirements for modified, natural, and critical habitats and on legally protected areas and invasive species, which are the principal tenets of ESS6, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management. Throughout the environmental and social assessment phase of ESS1, a comprehensive evaluation was conducted to analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that the underlying programs and projects may have on habitats and the biodiversity they support. This assessment took into consideration various threats to biodiversity, such as habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, as well as the potential negative effects of invasive alien species, overexploitation, hydrological changes, nutrient loading, pollution, and incidental take. Additionally, the assessment also considered the projected impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity; managing risks and impacts of programs/projects on biodiversity and natural habitats begins with scoping to determine whether they have the potential to affect areas important for biodiversity and living natural resources, which should include consideration of trans boundary risk or impacts. See for the findings of the assessment in the Table below.

**Table 16. Compliance Evaluation – Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance Category
ES risks and impacts assessment & management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the risks and impacts identification process (ESS1) consider direct and indirect project- related impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services and identify significant residual impacts. The process should consider:</li> <li>Threats to biodiversity and ecosystems services focus habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, invasive alien species, overexploitation, hydrological changes, nutrient loading, and pollution; and the differing values attached to biodiversity and ecosystem services by Affected Communities and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A site-specific Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) is meticulously prepared and approved in advance to ensure the proactive implementation of sub-project activities</li> <li>There is no habitat loss and invasive species registered due to project activity implementation at sampled areas.</li> <li>Degraded sites were rehabilitated, and productivity of invested areas was improved.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
A/R, PFM interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. When not possible, implement measures to minimize impacts and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The effects on BD were short-lived due to the implementation of well-thought-out measures aimed at restoring the affected area and establishing a fresh route.</li> <li>The successful rehabilitation of the barren lands led to remarkable improvements in the conditions of all the visited sites, surpassing their historical state.</li> <li>The restoration efforts not only remedied the damage but also elevated the overall quality of these locations, leaving a lasting legacy of progress and rejuvenation.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
Biodiversity & natural resources conservation/ mgmt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the project may cause risks or impacts to natural habitats, retain competent professionals to assist with conducting the risk and impact identification process in natural habitats.</li> <li>Where the project may cause risks or impacts to critical habitat, retain external experts with appropriate regional experience to assist in the development of a mitigation hierarchy that complies with ESS 6 and to verify the implementation of those measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By recognizing the significance of Natural Habitat, cultural and religious sites within plantation and PFM areas, the OFLP, RIP, and REDD+ projects aim to foster a holistic approach to forest management that takes into account the spiritual and traditional values associated with these locations.</li> </ul>	Fully comply

## **5.8. Compliance with Historically Underserved and Vulnerable Groups**

### **5.8.1 Scope of Application**

In parallel with OFLP-ERP ESMF, SESA and ESS7, the term historically underserved communities and vulnerable groups refer to a distinct social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics to varying degrees.

- Self-identification as members of a distinct historically underserved and vulnerable groups cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- Collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the Project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories; and
- Customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions those are separate from those of the dominant society or culture, and a historically underserved and vulnerable group's language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

Accordingly, the most economically marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. Their economic, social, and legal status frequently limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, land, territories, and natural and cultural resources, and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development projects.

Based on FGD conducted at the community level, the implementation of the underlying programs and projects have no negative consequences on the human rights, livelihood systems, culture, territory, natural or cultural resources of any of the people groups in Oromia region. The woreda-level KII findings have demonstrated that to date there has been no documentation of identified instances of forced assimilation or cultural erasure of historically underserved and vulnerable groups. This is an important validation as it underscores the necessity of safeguarding their distinct identity as a people, as well as their cultural values and ethnic identities. It is imperative to address any actions that aim to deprive them of their integrity or cultural heritage, and to refrain from dispossessing them of their lands, territories, or resources. Furthermore, it is crucial to uphold and protect all their rights, while actively working against forced assimilation or integration, as well as any form of propaganda that promotes or incites racial or ethnic discrimination against them.

It is crucial to emphasize that the underlying programs/projects fall into the moderate category concerning impacts on historically underserved and vulnerable groups. This classification is based on the nature of the identifiable social and cultural groups i.e., forest dependent communities within the programs/projects area who identify themselves as members of a distinct historical background and cultural settings. Moreover, these groups have a collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area, and they have a customary connection to the natural resources found in these habitats and territories. In the context of Oromia region, the pastoral and agro-pastoral groups have been identified as historically underserved communities. Although, these groups do not possess separate cultural, social, or political institutions that are distinguishable from those of the dominant society and culture, they lead distinct economic activities due to their mobile livelihood strategies. Since they do not have a distinct language that differs from the official language of the country or region, there are no barriers to communication or exclusion based on language within the project area.

In summary, the implementation of the underlying programs/projects has been carefully assessed to ensure that it does not negatively impact any historically underserved and vulnerable groups residing at the Oromia landscape level. The project took into considerations the socio-economic and livelihood situations of the identified underserved communities during project designing, implementation and monitoring. The SESA provided specific requirements to implement the grant project and underlying programs in culturally inclusive and socially acceptable manner.

### **5.8.2 Free, Prior, Informed Consultation (FPIC) for Participation**

OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments, including the SEP, LMP, ESMF, PF, RF, and SESA, prohibit any form of discrimination against historically underserved and vulnerable groups communities and advocates for their complete and meaningful involvement in decisions that affect them. It also guarantees their entitlement to protect the rights of underserved communities and to focus on advancing their own goals in the spheres of economic, social, and cultural progress. Forest-based cooperatives were established in certain areas under the EWNRA of the REDD+ legacy project Ilu Abba Bor zone districts of Becho, Ale and Halu. These cooperatives aimed to promote sustainable forest management practices and empower both underserved and local communities. Among the local communities, the “Menjo”

communities are underserved community dependent on forest for their livelihood and socioeconomic purposes with strong connection to the natural forest. Those community lives in forest only through hunting wildlife and other NTFP collection.

The experience of OFLP-ERP shows that community-based organizations and local civil society groups are often the primary organizing bodies and normative institutions in rural areas. For REDD+ activities to have relevance and traction with the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, funding of community-based activities had given due consideration. The project's local-level interventions present a distinct opportunity to tap into the capacity and local knowledge of vulnerable groups and other forest-dependent communities. Such approaches have the added advantages of versatility, flexibility, and rapidity in encouraging and engaging vulnerable groups while respecting their customary and legal rights. The community-based approaches complement national REDD+ actions, and successful activities and best practices were scaled up to the national level. The project considered vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and local communities, as they are essential to the success of REDD+.

These groups have historically and culturally played significant roles in the sustainable management of forests, which often lie within their ancestral and customary lands. Adequate ESRM instruments were developed and implemented in alignment with WB ESS to ensure equitable and effective participation of vulnerable peoples, forest-dependent communities, and marginalized populations such as women and the poor in natural resource management and land use decisions. This is crucial to avoid compromising the delivery of local and national benefits and the long-term sustainability of REDD+ investments. Consultations with, and feedback from, vulnerable peoples and forest-dependent communities have consistently reflected strong concerns over potential negative consequences that REDD+ activities could have on local rights, lands, and livelihoods. To address these concerns, REDD+ safeguards instruments were developed and implemented to ensure communities' rights are protected in REDD+ activities. While much of the responsibility for implementing these safeguards instruments and guidelines lies with responsible governments, it is also important to build the capacity of communities to play a role in meeting these standards. The Audit confirmed that these underserved community members were respected in all REDD+ initiatives ; promotes the right to self-determination and development with identity of historically underserved and vulnerable groups peoples (right to decide the kind of development that takes place among their people and on their lands and territories, in accordance with their own priorities and conceptions of well-being); guarantee broader public support through the application of the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consultation (FPIC) of historically underserved and vulnerable groups people affected by the project. Recognize, respect and preserve the rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems of historically underserved and vulnerable groups, and protect cultural heritage and avoid its alteration, damage or removal.

### **5.8.3 Impacts on Traditional or Customary Lands under Use**

The effects on lands that are considered traditional or customary due to their historical significance or cultural importance can be significant and far-reaching. These lands often hold deep spiritual and emotional value for the communities that have inhabited them for generations. Any changes or disruptions to these lands can have profound impacts on the social fabric and identity of these communities. The OFLP-ERP meaningful consultations, conflict resolution, and participatory monitoring were made to manage land use issues as it is sensitive under local communities. As revealed from community consultation and FGD the program has shown its support for ER activities by acknowledging and honoring the special bond that historically underserved and vulnerable groups communities hold with their ancestral territories. This recognition highlights the importance of respecting and valuing the deep-rooted connection that historically underserved and vulnerable groups peoples have with their traditional lands. By endorsing ER initiatives, the OFLP-ERP is demonstrating a commitment to upholding the rights and cultural significance of historically underserved and vulnerable groups in relation to their territories.

### **5.8.4 Relocation of Historically Underserved and Vulnerable Groups from Traditional or Customary Lands**

The protection of historically underserved and vulnerable groups Peoples and their ancestral or customary lands is a fundamental aspect of the Emission Reduction activities guided by the parent OFLP ESRM instruments. Throughout the duration of the OFLP grant and the Audit period, OFLP, RIP, GLP and REDD+ legacy projects intervention areas, there was no relocation or displacement within the affected communities. This accentuates the effectiveness of the planning and implementation strategies employed to mitigate any adverse impacts on the local population, historically underserved and vulnerable groups.



During the parent OFLP period 122 AR sites were generously donated by community groups consisting of 114 male-headed households and 8 female-headed households. These private landowners willingly pooled their land which included both customary and legally owned properties for the purpose of creating plantation sites. The voluntary donation of these sites was accompanied by proper documentation to ensure that the process was legally valid and binding for all parties involved. This act of generosity and cooperation from the community groups showcases their commitment to the success of the AR activities. The audit confirmed the private farmers who combined their land for afforestation and reforestation showed a strong interest and commitment to further expand their efforts. They were dedicated to increasing the tree cover on their combined land demonstrating a genuine passion for environmental conservation and plantation development. Their enthusiasm for planting trees and creating new forested areas was evident in their actions and attitudes towards the project. The farmers' collective initiative in pooling their resources for afforestation and reforestation highlights the positive impact of community collaboration in promoting sustainable land use practices. Specific to the retroactive auditing period private land donation for OFLP, RIP and REDD+ legacy projects were not recorded in sampled areas.

**Table 17. Compliance Evaluation – Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Groups**

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Compliance Category
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive consultations with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities that have a strong connection to the project area have been conducted, allowing them to actively engage in the project design and the establishment of implementation arrangements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the implementation of the RIP, grant OFLP and REDD+ legacy projects the local community and vulnerable groups within the community were consulted and actively participated</li> <li>The Disadvantaged /Vulnerable Ideas were valued to ensure that the projects were carried out in a way that benefitted everyone involved.</li> <li>By involving these groups in the decision-making process, the projects were able to address the specific needs and concerns of those most affected. This proactive approach helped to create a more inclusive and sustainable outcome for all stakeholders</li> </ul>	Fully Comply
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The anticipated direct and indirect economic, social, cultural, and environmental effects on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities that are located in or have a collective connection to the project area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local community and vulnerable groups were actively involved in discussions on the RIP, grant OFLP - and REDD+ legacy project.</li> <li>They were consulted on both the direct and indirect impacts of the activities and developed ways to minimize or avoid any negative effects. These mechanisms preferably assigned 30% livelihood support from Ethio-wetland REDD+ legacy project</li> </ul>	Fully comply
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures and actions will be formulated in collaboration with the impacted disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities and included in a time-sensitive plan, like an Underserved Traditional Local Communities plan. The plan's scope and scale will align with the potential risks and impacts associated with the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In certain areas specific support has been provided to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups within the community. This support has proven to be effective in helping these groups improve their livelihoods. For example, by allocating seed money to these individuals they have been able to start businesses and generate income.</li> <li>The local community development plan was not equally prepared by all projects, which failed to effectively identify vulnerable individuals due to the intervention of the underlying project and a weak plan to address the challenges faced by disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The projects aim to exclusively benefit Local Communities by actively involving the relevant disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities in the processes of project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure their ownership and participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The projects made a deliberate effort to involve disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in all stages of the project from brainstorming ideas to implementation and monitoring progress. This inclusive approach ensured that members of these communities felt valued and empowered as they were able to contribute their perspectives and have a voice in the decision-making process. Ultimately by actively engaging these groups the projects were able to create a more inclusive and impactful outcome that benefitted everyone involved.</li> </ul>	Fully comply

Free, prior and informed consultation (FPIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In recognition of this vulnerability, in addition to the General Requirements the Borrower will obtain broader community support through the FPIC of the affected disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities. in circumstances in which the project will: (a) have adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; (b) cause relocation of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or (c) have significant impacts on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities cultural heritage that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the communities' live</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the project area the local communities have been meaningfully consulted about the implementation of activities to ensure that their rights are respected. The project has developed stakeholder engagement plan and addressed vulnerability issues and established border community support as confirmed in during FGD and Community consultations. The project applied FPIC as the project activities has issues of land acquisition, vulnerable groups and cultural resources. The project implementers have been involved in assessing the impacts of the activities on both the tangible and intangible heritages of the community. After reaching a consensus the planned activities were implemented in a way that considers the input and concerns of the local residents. This proactive approach has helped to foster cooperation and understanding between the project organizers and the community members.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
GRM	a grievance mechanism is established for the project which is culturally appropriate and accessible to affected underserved /vulnerable groups of local Communities, and takes into account the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among Underserved Local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to address grievances in the project intervention areas a grievance mechanism was established early on covering all kebeles. Local community has access to culturally appropriate methods of resolving disputes such as Jarsuma (arbitration), Abba Ganda and Hada Sinke. These mechanisms are easily accessible and familiar to the community allowing for effective resolution of conflicts in a timely manner.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
Preparation of plans, strategies or other activities intended to strengthen consideration and participation in the development process	The preparation of plans strategies or other activities to strengthen the consideration and participation of underserved and vulnerable groups in local communities is crucial for inclusive development. These initiatives may involve creating opportunities for these groups to voice their needs and concerns providing access to resources and services and promoting equal opportunities for all community members. By actively involving underserved and vulnerable groups in the development process we can ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are met leading to a more equitable and sustainable community. This may include a variety of initiatives designed, to: (a) strengthen local legislation to establish recognition of customary or traditional land tenure arrangements; (b) address the gender and intergenerational issues that exist among Underserved /vulnerable groups of local Communities; (c) protect indigenous knowledge including intellectual property rights; (d) strengthen the capacity of Underserved /vulnerable groups of local Communities to participate in development planning or programs; and (e) strengthen the capacity of government agencies providing services to Underserved /vulnerable groups of local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impacts of the project and its activities on underserved or vulnerable populations are carefully assessed. A plan is then developed to reduce or minimize these impacts. Additionally, the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the project is improved to better address the needs of these populations. This ensures that any negative effects are mitigated, and the project benefits all members of the community.</li> <li>The parent OFLP ESRM instruments prioritize traditional land ownership systems. These instruments place great importance on the ways in which land has been passed down through generations. By focusing on these traditional systems, the parent OFLP ESRM instruments ensures that land rights are respected and upheld in a way that is meaningful and culturally appropriate.</li> <li>Gender issues play a significant role in the preparation of plans and decision-making processes within executive committees and cooperative members.</li> <li>Considered contributions of both males and females in order to create a balanced and inclusive approach. By acknowledging and addressing gender disparities the projects was ensured, all voices are heard and valued in the decision-making process. This can lead to more effective and involving both genders in these processes helped to create a more equitable and fairer outcome for everyone. Training and Awareness created at zonal, woreda level government institution on strengthening underserved/vulnerable groups knowledge protection.</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues

## ***5.9 Compliance with Cultural Heritage***

### **5.9.1 Protection of Cultural heritage in Project activity Design and Execution**

OFLP-ERP ESMF confirms that the preservation of cultural heritage within the framework of program/project activities' design and execution is of paramount importance. Throughout the OFLP grant period, it has been ensured that the unique cultural identity and historical significance of a particular site or artifact are respected and safeguarded throughout the project lifecycle. This process involves conducting thorough assessment to understand the cultural context and implementing appropriate measures to mitigate any potential negative impacts on the heritage.

No evidence of buried archaeological or other related data was found in AR and PFM sites under the underlying programs/projects. There is no evidence/indication of a large, extensive archaeological site in the OFLP PFM and AR investment sites, although the potential for the presence of small archaeological sites remains. Additionally, the underlying programs/projects did not coincide with any physical cultural heritage sites that are owned by national, state, or local communities. However, intangible cultural heritage such as the gada ceremonial area, cultural practices, and festivity sites are located within PFM sites and are respected and protected in accordance with sustainable forest management practices. Therefore, no deficiencies or non-compliances were identified against ESS8 and other performance requirements.

*Table 18. Compliance Evaluation Against Cultural Heritage*

<b>Compliance Evaluation Against Cultural Heritage</b>			
<b>ESS</b>	<b>Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>C. compliance category</b>
Protection of cultural heritage in project design and execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>compliance with National laws. Retain competent professionals to assist in identification and protection of cultural heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no cultural area overlap with programs/projects intervention areas both during the audit and grant period</li> <li>During ESA cultural heritage-based risks and impacts were assessed and no evidence registered regarding site overlap and location in vicinity.</li> <li>There is no reported encumbrance on any cultural site</li> </ul>	fully comply
<b>Critical cultural heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical cultural heritage consists of one or both of the following: the internationally recognized heritage of communities who use, or have used within living memory the cultural heritage for longstanding cultural purposes; or legally protected cultural heritage areas, including those proposed by host governments for such designation</li> <li>Do not remove, significantly alter, or damage critical cultural heritage.</li> <li>When impacts are unavoidable, use a process of Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) of the Affected Communities (as per ESS 1) and which uses a good faith negotiation process that results in a documented outcome.</li> <li>Retain external experts to assist in the assessment and protection of critical cultural heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical cultural heritage has not been identified.</li> <li>Not removed or damaged critical cultural heritage</li> <li>Informed consultation and participation were delivered for all affected and beneficiaries</li> </ul>	fully comply
Protected Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet the following requirements where a project is located within a legally protected area or legally defined buffer zone:</li> <li>Comply with national/local regulations</li> <li>Local community's fully consulted and engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No legally protected Cultural Heritage areas buffered with AR and PFM implementation sites</li> <li>The implementation of AR/ANR/PFM sites are complied with OFLP parent Instruments and ESS and OFLP-ERP instruments.</li> </ul>	fully comply

## ***5.10 Compliance with Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure***

### **5.10.1 Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Planning**

WB ESS10 ensures that affected communities are given the opportunity to engage in meaningful consultation regarding the project. This is achieved through the timely and effective dissemination of relevant project information, allowing stakeholders to stay informed and participate in the decision-making process. The ESRA provides some documentation of the stakeholder engagement and consultation processes that were carried out from the initial scoping stage up to the disclosure of the ESRM instruments including site-specific E&S plans. This documentation is supplemented by interviews conducted with stakeholders. Prior to the scoping stage, an analysis of stakeholders was conducted, and the disclosure of ESRM documents was done in accordance with the requirements of OFLP-ERP. The IESC acknowledges that ongoing engagement activities are the responsibility of the OFLP-ERP team and the OEPA structures at the district level. It is observed that documentation to support these activities, such as ongoing stakeholder analysis and planning, ongoing disclosure, participatory processes, documentation of the grievance mechanism, and ongoing reporting to affected communities, were recorded and reported regularly. It is crucial to ensure that these activities are properly documented to provide transparency and accountability throughout the project implementation period. This will enable a comprehensive review of the ongoing engagement and participation efforts, ensuring that the concerns and interests of affected communities are adequately addressed. Due to the nature and magnitude of the Project, as well as its proximity to various components, it is evident that the frequency of engagement during the active forest investment activities is inadequate. The stakeholder identification and analysis, which was supposed to commence from 2018 to 2022, was expected to build upon existing knowledge and lessons learned from previous engagements. This includes the identification of vulnerable groups and affected communities, which should have been presented at the village level without disclosing their identities, rather than being described in general terms for the project/region. The OFLP had conducted a Socioeconomic Survey (SES) to establish a baseline for measuring the impacts and benefits of the Project. It was assumed that this survey would allow for a more comprehensive analysis of stakeholder groups, villages, and other affected communities. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is meant to involve all groups affected by a project but in some areas the stakeholder engagement activities are not adequate to include specific ways to engage with communities impacted by the project especially those who are vulnerable. The FGD data collected at the district level shows certain individuals were not informed about where to voice their concerns or needs. It's important for the SEP to be more inclusive and considerate of all stakeholders so that everyone's input is considered. By improving the engagement mechanisms for these communities, the project can ensure that it is truly meeting the needs of all those affected. Lastly, there is evidence to suggest that efforts have been made to engage with the affected communities. It is crucial to recognize the significance of involving these communities in the decision-making process and ensuring their concerns and perspectives are considered. By engaging with the affected communities, the Project risks looked valuable insights and potentially exacerbating any negative impacts. Therefore, it is imperative that the Project initiates meaningful and inclusive engagement with the affected communities to foster transparency, trust, and collaboration.

### **5.10.2 Disclosure of Information**

The Parent OFLP environmental and social safeguards instruments, like the SEP for OFLP-ERP, require disclosure of information on the purpose, nature, scale of the project, duration of activities, risks and impacts on communities, the envisaged stakeholder engagement process, and grievance mechanism. Disclosure of relevant project information helps Affected Communities and other stakeholders understand the risks, impacts and opportunities of the Project. Consultation and Participation Plan (C and P plan) for the OFLP Gant and during SEP for OFLP-ERP were prepared, detailing the process through which stakeholders were identified and consulted, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the underlying programs/projects.

The SEP defines the Project Area of Influence, consultation to meet local legal requirements, stakeholder analysis and mapping including a summary of each stakeholder group/location, identification of vulnerable people, and mechanisms for communications with each stakeholder group, including identification and engagement methods and tools for engaging with local influencers and stakeholder group representatives according to their areas of interest. The SEP also includes analysis and discussion on past engagement activities to demonstrate lessons for ongoing engagement.

The ESMP report was submitted to the WOEPAs as the responsible Government authority, and simultaneously released to public and stakeholder groups for comment. Comments received on the ESMP report were collated, analyzed and responses issued where relevant. The ESMP was subsequently revised



and finalized after WOEPa approval the disclosure of monitoring plans to beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders. This transparency not only demonstrates a commitment to responsible project management but also helps build trust and engagement with the communities affected by the project. By sharing monitoring plans, including the stakeholder Engagement plan (SEP), stakeholders can verify adherence to the performance standards and understand the measures that will be implemented to address and minimize any potential impacts that may affect them. This proactive approach allows for effective communication with communities, ensuring they are informed about the mitigation measures that will be put in place to address any potential impacts. Transparency in sharing monitoring plans as part of the ESIA is essential to not only meet regulatory requirements but also to foster a positive relationship with stakeholders. It provides an opportunity for communities to be involved in the monitoring process and to hold project developers accountable for their environmental and social commitments. This open communication helps to build a foundation of trust and collaboration between project developers and the communities they impact.

### **5.10.3 Consultation**

The process of consultation is crucial in ensuring that affected communities have the opportunity to voice their opinions on project risks, impacts, and mitigation measures. OFLP, with its extensive experience in consultation at the village level and forest-based community areas since 2017, has demonstrated a commitment to engaging with stakeholders in the region. Through the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and consultation and participation documents, OFLP has shown a thorough identification and analysis of primary stakeholders within the Project Area of Influence. This stakeholder analysis has informed the development of an ongoing community engagement program, as evidenced in the OFP, RIP, and REDD+ projects. The results from the stakeholder analysis are utilized in the Participatory Community consultation and Engagement to tailor engagement approaches for different stakeholder groups. Despite the expansion of forest investment, the engagement strategies are designed to align with the nature and scale of project risks, particularly focusing on those who will be most impacted, defined as 'Affected Communities' near the project site.

Based on views collected at woreda level from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and interviews, the project uses different tools to cover the whole community and project affected parties the program entity has been disseminated basic information to the village level through face-to-face meeting, posters, presentations, and leaflets. This multi-faceted approach to consultation ensures that stakeholders are informed and engaged throughout the project lifecycle.

### **5.10.4 Grievance Mechanism for Affected Communities**

A system for addressing complaints from communities affected by the project is mandated by the WB ESSs particularly ESSs 1, 2, & 10. This mechanism is designed to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns related to the environmental and social impact of the project. It is crucial that grievances are handled promptly, and that the mechanism does not hinder affected communities' access to legal or administrative avenues for resolution. At the lowest administrative level, a grievance mechanism has been established for the community. The distribution of grievance logs has led to the registration of grievances, queries, comments, suggestions which were subsequently resolved and verified by the Independent External Consultant (IEC) during the ESDDA filed assessment period. During interviews held with key informant at the community level it was noticed that small number of community members did not fully understand how the grievance mechanism works for those who have been affected. This lack of understanding hinders individuals from seeking help or reporting issues that need to be addressed. It is important for everyone to know the correct procedures so that they can access the support and assistance. Educating the community on how to utilize the grievance mechanism helps to ensure that everyone's concerns are heard and addressed in a timely manner. As a result, community members were unable to articulate the process accurately or confidently. The grievance mechanism, monitoring data is shared with communities through GRC heads, especially when grievances are connected to specific individual issues. Furthermore, the project has a stakeholder engagement and grievance process that operates independently of the OFLP process. Grievance Redress Procedure was developed to provide a transparent and credible method to receive, assess, and address grievances raised by workers, contractors, affected communities, and other stakeholders in a timely manner. The records pertaining to the execution and resolution of complaints were reviewed and confirmed in collaboration with the complainants and the Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) team. All project and sub projects related grievances, compliances, queries, suggestion and comments were handled in accordance with the project grievance redressal mechanism defined under the ESMF, consultation and participation plan, and GRM manual of the OFLP project. The Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)

for the project provides an effective approach for complaints and resolution of issues made by the affected community in a reliable way. This mechanism was established prior to implementation of forest investment activities and remains active throughout the life cycle of the project. Open and transparent dialogues were maintained with project affected persons as and when needed, in compliance with ESRM instrument requirement. During the parent OFLP and the retroactive audit period, a total of 44 grievance cases were registered, and it is noteworthy that all claims were resolved without any pending issues. The common cases are conflict between cooperative members and nonmembers on the boundary issues, land acquisition, resource distribution, among others.

#### **5.10.5 Ongoing Reporting to Affected Communities**

Continuous reporting to affected communities is a requirement under the ESS 10, ensuring that those communities are kept informed about the project's progress and promotes transparency and accountability in the implementation of ESMPs. The annual reports or discussion on the ongoing impacts and risk management within the project activity influence didn't specifically cater to the affected Communities. Instead, their primary focus is on highlighting any significant alterations to the Project as a whole, adhering to the stakeholder engagement practices outlined in the SEP. Failure to define and identify Affected Communities may lead to uncertainty among project implementers regarding stakeholder awareness of project progress or changes, emphasizing the need for effective communication channels and engagement practices to involve all stakeholders in decision-making processes.

**Table 19. Compliance Evaluation – Stakeholder Engagement and Disclosure of Information**

ESS	Description of OFLP_ERP ESS Requirements	Findings	Category
Disclosure of information and publication of Project instruments	Disclose information on the purpose, nature, scale of the project, duration of activities, risks and impacts on communities, the envisaged stakeholder engagement process and grievance mechanism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent OFLP ESRM instruments such as RPF, PF, SESA, ESMF and C and Participation Plan others were developed through effective community consultation</li> <li>• A comprehensive Public Consultation and Participation Plan was developed on the process through which stakeholders were identified and consulted, roles and responsibilities of the relevant sectors communities and project implementers were identified, and the grievance process disclosed.</li> <li>• Monitoring plans have been disclosed with the ESMP responsible institutions who were identified and talked their responsibilities.</li> <li>• Steering committee, Coordination platforms with relevant stakeholders and technical meetings were held with project implementers on impact mitigation, or how to access the grievance mechanism.</li> </ul>	Comply except with minor issues
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a consultation process that provides Affected Communities with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts and mitigation measures. The client will consider and respond to these. Ensure the consultation is a two-way process that:</li> <li>• Commences early in the assessment process and continues on an ongoing basis; prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information.</li> <li>• Adheres inclusiveness for those directly affected, free of external manipulation, interference or coercion and intimidation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During Forest investment activities implemented (AR, PFM, GLP) beneficiary communities and communities adjacent to the site were consulted (Eligibility checking Consultation minutes were documented for both the grant and the Audit Period.</li> <li>• For OFLP, RIP and REDD+ legacy projects, annually consultation platforms were held in zonal cluster level.</li> <li>• There is an evident that efforts were made to consult with project affected communities and all local communities of each district and kebele level on Project activities, climate change and SG issues</li> </ul>	Fully comply

<b>Consultation Documentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private sector responsibilities under government-led stakeholder engagement?</li> <li>• Conduct an ICP process for projects that may have adverse impacts to historically underserved and vulnerable groups Peoples. In certain circumstances the client may be required to obtain their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)</li> <li>• Documentation of data both in hard and soft copy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation and Participation plan TOT were developed for both Hotspot and Non hot spot woredas.</li> <li>• A team relevant sectors consult community at each kebele level on PDO ,climate change and OFLP Safeguard requirements</li> <li>• Consultation documents at kebele and woreda level were documented in hard and soft copy.</li> <li>• The risks and impacts on the historically underserved and vulnerable groups community were actively considered and consulted during the implementation of sub project activities.</li> <li>• All project affected historically underserved and vulnerable groups communities were free, prior consulted during AR/ANR/FMNR and PFM activities implementation.</li> </ul>	Fully comply
<b>Grievance mechanism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of Affected Communities concerns about the project’s environmental and social performance.</li> <li>• Concerns will be addressed promptly, using an understandable and transparent consultative process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible at no cost and without retribution.</li> <li>• It will not impede access to judicial or administrative remedies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grievance mechanism is in place and the grievance log distributed and GR procedures were verified by the IEC.</li> <li>• The GRC at AR /PFFM site level have their own meeting with local communities at some AR and PFM based cooperative members and undertakes self-verification grievance process</li> <li>• Documentation on implementation and resolution of grievances was sighted and verified.</li> <li>• Grievances resolved using the formal process were not registered and communicated.</li> <li>• Weak understating of GRC committee and the community on grievances registration and resolution process</li> </ul>	Comply with minor issues
Ongoing reporting to Affected Communities	Provide periodic reports (not less than annually) to Affected Communities that describe progress with implementation of project Action Plans on issues of ongoing risk or impact on Communities and on issues that are of concern to Affected Communities.	Mechanisms for reporting back to communities on implementation of Action Plans (ESMPs) are presented by topic. Monitoring data is reported back to communities. AR and PFM cooperatives were established reporting systems	Comply except with minor issues

### **5.11. Underlying Programs/Projects and Subprojects Compliance**

Overall, the underlying programs and projects place a strong emphasis on the significance of environmental sustainability and social viability in alignment with the parent OFLP environmental and social safeguards instruments and international convention, national environmental policies, regulations, ERPA agreements and site-specific subprojects risks management. These underlying initiatives aimed at addressing deforestation, promote sustainable land use practices, and enhance the livelihood of local communities while adhering to comprehensive environmental and social requirements set forth by the OFLP grant financing at landscape level. The identification of non-compliance issues (based on the assessment carried out in accordance with OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments) and the proposed corrective action plan for improving compliance is required. The ESDDA, based on collected data from FGD and KII, provides valuable insights into the subprojects compliance status, highlighting the organization's efforts to ensure that all activities align with the ESRM instruments prepared for OFLP-ERP. Based on the ESDDA, the underlying programs and projects are required to address identified gaps during the audit period which are the basis for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the corrective action plan.

The audit result derived from FGD and KII, at community and district levels, reveals that the compliance with ESSs (except ESS9), averagely ranked from partial compliance to full compliance rating categories. Specifically, as indicated in Table 20 below, FGD result at community level shows the following rating categories: Fully comply (91.12%) with ESS1, (comply with except minor issues (89.3%) with ESS2, fully comply (91.72%) with ESS3, Comply with except minor issues (69.8%) with ESS4, fully comply (91.72%) with ESS5, fully comply (92.3%) with ESS6, Fully comply (89.35%) with ESS7, fully comply (92.9%) with ESS8, and–fully comply (94.7%) with ESS10. Additionally, KII result at community level confirms the FGD rating categories with the following rating percentage: ESS1 (fully comply 91.6%), ESS2-fully comply (69.5%), ESS3 (fully comply (97.7%), ESS4 –Fully Comply (73.7%),ESS5- fully comply (86.7%), ESS6-fully comply (69.1%), ESS7-fully comply (84.4 %) ,ESS8-fully comply (96.9%) and ESS10 –fully comply (95.3%). In addition, the KII at zonal, woredas experts, project personnel and heads of implementing institutions response the rating categories reveals ESS1 (96.1%), ESS2 (69.5%), ESS3 (97.7%), ESS4 (72.7%), ESS5 (86.7%), ESS6 (96.1%), ESS7 (84.4%), ESS8 (96.9%) and ESS10 (95.3%). Furthermore, when examining the compliance ratings by KII at the zonal, Woredas, and project levels and community level, it was observed that ESS2 scored (69.5% and 69.5%) and ESS4 scored (73.7% and 72.7%) respectively. However, these ratings also highlighted the presence of gaps in the implementation of these two standards. This suggests that while ESS2 and ESS4 may have met the minimum requirements for compliance at certain levels, there are still areas where improvements are needed to ensure full adherence to the standards. In summary, the evaluation of compliance across different levels shows the rating of each indicator under each standard revealed a mixed picture. The assessment related to ESS1, ESS3, ESS5, ESS6, ESS7, ESS8, and ESS10 demonstrated strong compliance of the underlying programs and projects with the stated standards, while ESS2 and ESS4 assessment showed adherence to the standards except minor issues. The zonal, Woredas, and project level ratings further emphasized the need for addressing implementation gaps in ESS2 and ESS4 to ensure that all standards are fully met. This comprehensive assessment provides valuable insights into the overall compliance status and areas for improvement within the evaluated standards.

The ESDDA made a primary focus on social issues like labor, prevention of child and forced labor; prevention, and management of labor influx, and prevention and control of epidemic diseases, emergency preparedness and response, grievance redress mechanism (GRM) for Project workers, training of Project workers on security, and gender-based violence, and OHS of the underlying program and project activities which are needed to generate ERs as per the Project's E&S. In terms of labor management, the audit examined indicators such as prevention of child and labor forced were found comply except minor issues, although there were some minor concerns related to occupational health and safety. In terms of gender-based violence the audit confirmed as there were no any exclusion /discrimination, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace and it were confirmed as fully compliant. The audit ensured that programs/projects and subprojects were meeting standards in these important areas and created a safer and more equitable working environment.

**Table 20. Compliance Evaluation based on Zonal, Woreda and Project Level FGD and KII**

WB -ESS	FGD					KII				
	Not comply	Partial comply	Comply with ESS except Minor issues	fully comply	Exemplary comply	Not comply	Partial comply	Comply with ESS except Minor issues	Fully comply	Exemplary comply
<b>ESS1: Assessment and Management of environmental and social risks and impacts</b>	0	3.6	5.9	91.12	0	0	1.6	2.3	96.1	0
<b>ESS2: Labor and working conditions</b>	0	4.1	89.3	7.1	0	0	1.6	28.9	69.5	0
<b>ESS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management</b>	0	16	4.1	91.72	0	0	0.8	1.6	97.7	0
<b>ESS4: community health and safety</b>	0	4.1	69.8	14.2	0	0	1.6	25.8	72.7	0
<b>ESS 5: land acquisition, restrictions and land use and involuntary resettlement</b>	0	3.6	4.1	91.72	0	0	2.3	10.9	86.7	0
<b>ESS6: Biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources</b>	0	5.3	4.1	92.31	0	0	0	3.9	96.1	0
<b>ESS7: IP/ SSA historically underserved local communities</b>	0	1.8	5.3	89.35	0	0	0	15.6	84.4	0
<b>ESS8: Cultural Heritage</b>	0	1.8	5.3	92.9	0	0	0	3.1	96.9	0
<b>ESS10: Stakeholders engagement and information disclosure</b>	0	1.8	3.6	94.67	0	0	1.6	3.1	95.3	0

**Table 21. Compliance Evaluation Community Level FGD and KII Information**

WB -ESS	FGD					KII				
	Not comply	Partial comply	Comply except with minor issues	fully comply	Exemplary comply	Not comply	Partial comply	Comply except with minor issues	Fully comply	Exemplary comply
ESS1: Assessment and Management of environmental and social risks and impacts	0	3.6	5.9	91.12	0	0	1.6	2.3	96.1	0
ESS2: Labor and working conditions	0	4.1	89.3	7.1	0	0	1.6	28.9	69.5	0
ESS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management	0	16	4.1	91.72	0	0	0.8	1.6	97.7	0
ESS4: community health and safety	0	4.1	69.8	14.2	0	0	1.6	25.8	72.7	0
ESS 5: land acquisition, restrictions and land use and involuntary resettlement	0	3.6	4.1	91.72	0	0	2.3	10.9	86.7	0
ESS6: Biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources	0	5.3	4.1	92.31	0	0	0	3.9	96.1	0
ESS7: IP/ SSA historically underserved local communities	0	1.8	5.3	89.35	0	0	0	15.6	84.4	0
ESS8: Cultural Heritage	0	1.8	5.3	92.9	0	0	0	3.1	96.9	0
ESS10: Stakeholders engagement and information disclosure	0	1.8	3.6	94.67	0	0	1.6	3.1	95.3	0



### **Summary of the significant risks/impacts identified during the audit Period:**

**i) Lacks clear confirmation of specific mitigation and management activities for the vulnerable groups:** During the audit period, disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals or groups in the underlying program/project intervention areas were not explicitly assessed and listed in the ESMP. The social development plan and activities are implemented to meet the particular needs and concerns of the identified vulnerable groups in the ESMP. The strategies for mitigation and management that will be implemented to safeguard vulnerable populations from any negative impacts arising from the project are not spelled out in detail in the site-specific ESMP.

Forest-based programs especially PFM based intervention may pose significant risks to vulnerable communities, often exacerbating existing inequalities and threatening their livelihoods. These risks may include displacement of income due to forest conservation, loss of access to essential resources such as charcoal and firewood, and potential conflicts arising from differing land tenure rights and resource utilization. To mitigate these adverse effects, the underlying projects under the audit implemented comprehensive strategies that prioritize the inclusion of vulnerable communities in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected. Additionally, established clear guidelines for sustainable resource management and providing alternative livelihood opportunities can help alleviate the pressures faced by these communities, fostering resilience and promoting equitable development in protected natural forest areas. This audit is designed to ensure that the unique challenges faced by these populations are thoroughly understood and addressed, allowing for targeted interventions that can effectively enhance their resilience. The audit revealed further awareness required for the cooperative members how they treat vulnerable communities and create a more intentional framework for addressing the distinct needs of these communities. This strategic focus not only facilitates the identification of critical areas for support but also fosters a collaborative environment where stakeholders can work together to implement tailored solutions that promote the well-being and stability of the affected individuals and groups. Overall, the assessment indicates that there were no specific vulnerable groups or individuals who were notably affected by the underlying projects, thus eliminating the immediate need for mitigation measures. However, given that the OFLP-ERP encompasses a broader geographical area and involves a substantial number of local communities, it is essential to conduct a more comprehensive evaluation and consider potential interventions to address any emerging issues.

**ii) Lack of PPE /OHS for Nursery Workers:** There are no minimal standards for personal protective equipment (PPE) for the daily laborers at the RIP nursery sites in West and East Hararge. Due to the numerous risks, they face at work, the workers' health and safety are seriously jeopardized by this absence of PPE. These workers are vulnerable to injuries without the required PPE, which could be minimized with the use of the right protective equipment. (Table 11)

**iii) Lack of GRC for Community and Project workers:** The audit findings reveal that currently there is no outstanding grievances from employees, community members, or other stakeholders that might present a risk to the project. This positive outcome suggests a stable environment in which all parties feel their concerns are addressed, thereby contributing to the overall success and sustainability of the initiative. Moreover, it has been verified that throughout the Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) process, there have been no unresolved grievances or claims linked to the programs, and underlining projects. However, the absence of a grievance committee for community and project workers is a significant concern that needs to be addressed. This committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that the rights and concerns of these workers are properly addressed and resolved. Without such a committee, workers may face difficulties in voicing their grievances and seeking appropriate redressal. A Grievance Committee serves as a platform for workers to express their concerns and complaints related to their working conditions, wages, safety, and any other issues they may face. It acts as a mediator between the workers and the management, facilitating open communication and fair resolution of conflicts. Additionally, the committee can also play a proactive role in identifying potential issues and implementing preventive measures to improve the overall working environment (Table 11).

**iv) Daily workers Retrenchments:** The termination of temporary or daily workers in is a common occurrence in many nursery operations, often due to fluctuations in demand, budget constraints, or restructuring within the organization. These workers are typically hired on a short-term basis to meet specific needs or to fill in gaps in the workforce, and their employment is not guaranteed beyond the duration of their contract. While retrenchments can be a challenging experience for the affected workers, it is a necessary measure for the RIP to adapt to changing market conditions and ensure their long-term

sustainability. Daily worker retrenchments can have significant implications for both the individuals losing their jobs and the projects implementing the layoffs. For the workers, losing their source of income can lead to financial instability and uncertainty about their future employment prospects. On the other hand, the projects may face backlash from labor unions, negative publicity, or decreased employee morale as a result of retrenchments. It is crucial for organizations to handle retrenchments with sensitivity and transparency, providing support to affected workers and communicating openly about the reasons behind the decision.

**v) Security Personnel:** The absence of security personnel poses a significant challenge for both project workers and community workers. Without adequate security measures in place, project workers may face increased risks of theft, vandalism, or physical harm while carrying out their duties. Based on FGD at community and project workers, feels as vulnerable and unsafe without the presence of security personnel to ensure their well-being and protect property used. The requirements for security assessments and reporting require diligent labor and a committed individual to gather security concerns from the project intervention areas in order to mitigate security hazards.

**vi) Community Health and safety:** effective coordination, timely dissemination of information, and active participation of the community in emergency situations. Without clear guidelines, it becomes difficult to establish a structured approach to address the needs and concerns of the community health and safety during preparedness and response efforts.

## 6. Environmental and Social Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

The corrective action plan (CAP) aims to systematically address identified environmental and social risk management issues and gaps and enhance overall compliance of the underlying programs and projects with OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments, focusing on labor, GBV or SEA/SH, & SMP for the period of retroactive crediting. It is imperative to address the E&S risks of the underlying program and project activities associated with not comply, partially comply and comply except with minor issues identified in accordance with the scope/focus of the ESDDA. By implementing the compliance schedule proposed in (Table 6:1) the underlying programs and projects can retroactively address any areas of non-compliance and work towards achieving full adherence to legal requirements. Following the implementation of this CAP, the ORCU team will submit the implementation report quarterly as part of the program ESRM monitoring report. At the end of the CAP implementation, the completion report will be submitted. This structured approach will not only enhance compliance but also contribute to the overall success and sustainability of the underlying programs and projects.

Based on the findings of the ESDD audit, this section sets out the suggested measures to address some of the specific indicators of OFLP-ERP E&S instrument requirements rated as not comply, partially comply or comply except with minor issues as indicated in the table below (Table 22) a proposed corrective action for further action.

*Table 22. Environmental & Social CAP for Identified Corrective Actions*

Category	Identified Gaps, challenges and non-compliances	Corrective actions	Implementation plan			Monitoring plan				Budget source
			Responsible bodies	Timeline	Budget (ETB)	Indicator/frequency (timeline)	Means of verification	Res. body	Budget (ETB)	
Site specific E&S management issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site specific impact/risks mitigation measures implementations by responsible sectors were not equally performed.</li> <li>There is a gap of commitment in the institutional responsibility for implementation, and monitoring of environmental and social (E&amp;S) risks set in the ESMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide capacity building (CB) and awareness creation (AC) on impact/risk mitigation and monitoring to ensure the smooth implementation of active sub-project activities in accordance with their respective site-specific E&amp;S instruments (ESMPs).</li> <li>Ensure responsible institutions implement site specific ESMPs effectively for active subprojects by conducting consecutive monitoring.</li> </ul>	OEPA, ORCU team	January 2025	200,000	CB training/ AC materials/PPTs developed (Ongoing until Jan 2025)  Number of participants trained, & engaged in AC (with gender disaggregated data) (Early Feb 2025)  # of monitoring conducted	CB training and awareness creation reports   Monitoring reports	OEPA, ORCU	12,000	Part of OFLP ERP E&S monitoring budget
Labour management and working conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak awareness creation for community workers and Nursery daily labors on OHS /PPE as they were engaged /recruited by the projects</li> <li>Lack of OHS/PPE for Nursery daily workers</li> <li>Retrenchment of Nursery Daily workers (Complaining retrenchment done by WOEPa) as it was not based on transparent and proactively planned and informed them.</li> <li>Few child forces working in some nurseries who were below the legally required age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a rapid assessment on child labor and related OHS issues in all underlying projects and programs in the region and submit the report</li> <li>Share the draft code of conduct (CoC) with the WB for review and no objection and then finalize and share with implementing entities (IPs)</li> <li>Prepare capacity building training materials/PPTs.</li> <li>Conduct training and awareness sessions on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for daily workers in active nurseries.</li> <li>Ensure active subprojects of the underlying programs and projects under implementation have community workers and daily laborers who have signed the updated Code of Conduct.</li> <li>Enforce laws and regulations to prevent the recruitment of children below the minimum age.</li> <li>Monitor the effectively implementation of the Code of Conduct in line with the LMP.</li> <li>Develop a transparent and fair retrenchment process for active programs/projects like RIP.</li> </ul>	OEPA, ORCU, RIP team	Ongoing	80,000	A rapid assessment report on child labor & related OHS developed (Dec 2024) Draft Code of conducted finalized and shared with implementing entities Number of training materials/PPTs developed and finalized (Jan 2025). Quality of materials as reviewed by relevant stakeholders (Jan 2025) Percentage of workers who have signed the updated Code of Conduct for ongoing subprojects (Feb 2025). Percentage of sites with age verification processes in place. Project LMP implemented. Registered and resolved grievances reports (Ongoing).	A rapid assessment report; final CoC shared with IPs Finalized training materials and presentations.  Monitoring reports  Signed copies of the Code of Conduct.  Stakeholder consultation records. Worker feedback forms and grievance records.	OEPA, ORCU, RIP	40,000	Part of OFLP ERP E&S monitoring budget

Category	Identified Gaps, challenges and non-compliances	Corrective actions	Implementation plan			Monitoring plan				Budget source
			Responsible bodies	Timeline	Budget (ETB)	Indicator/frequency (timeline)	Means of verification	Res. body	Budget (ETB)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community workers incidence and accident registration and reporting mechanisms were at infant level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide comprehensive training for community workers (based on the ESMF for OFLP-ERP) on how to register and report incidents and accidents. And ensure they can accurately document details such as the date, time, location, and nature of each event</li> <li>Assign the responsible sectors and experts to register and report any incidents or accidents that occur within the community.</li> <li>Implement a standardized reporting system (in accordance with the OFLP-ERP instruments including ESMF) to ensure consistency and accuracy in documentation.</li> <li>Assign security personnel at the active programs/projects implementation zonal and woredas and continuously assess the status in the project implementation woredas and report accordingly</li> <li>The basic training for security personnel on security risk assessment, consultation and resolution, reporting procedures</li> </ul>	ORCU.EPA and Active projects	Up to Feb 2025	120,000	Monitoring reports  Training materials prepared (Jan 2025) # of sector/experts and community workers participated in the training (Ongoing until, Jan 2025) Identified and assigned # of specific responsible sectors and experts/development agents (Early Feb 2025)  Accident/incident reporting template shared with sector offices and development agents (Jan 2025)	Training reports  Implementation progress report	OEPA, ORCU	60,000	Part of OFLP ERP E&S monitoring budget
Community, Health, Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaps in emergency management procedures, mechanisms of conveyance and proper use of Safety equipment and promoting a culture of safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and distribute protocols for responding to emergencies such as natural disasters or accidents such as risks, flooding and drought</li> <li>Conduct training and workshops to inform the local community and relevant sectors on emergency management procedures (such as natural disasters or accidents).</li> <li>Strengthen effective communication systems for emergency alerts and information dissemination.</li> <li>Design and implement evacuation routes to ensure safe and efficient evacuation during emergencies.</li> <li>Provide training on the proper use of safety equipment such as helmets and fire extinguishers.</li> <li>Ensure that safety equipment is readily available and maintained in good condition.</li> </ul>	ORCU.EPA and Active projects	Up to Feb 2025	200,000	Protocols/guidelines for responding to emergencies developed and distributed (Early Jan 2025) Number of training and workshop provided (ongoing until early Feb 2025)  User satisfaction with the communication system (Feb 2025).  Number of evacuation routes designed and implemented.	Copies of distributed protocols. Percent of the training participants (with gender disaggregated data) User feedback on the effectiveness of the communication system.	OEPA, ORCU	40,000	Part of OFLP ERP E&S monitoring budget

Category	Identified Gaps, challenges and incompliances	Corrective actions	Implementation plan			Monitoring plan				Budget source
			Responsible bodies	Timeline	Budget (ETB)	Indicator/frequency (timeline)	Means of verification	Res. body	Budget (ETB)	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch awareness campaigns to promote a culture of safety within the community or organization.</li> <li>Encourage proactive measures to prevent emergencies, such as Fire protection materials support, fire grading in fire prone areas and encouraging as the beneficiaries and stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities.</li> </ul>				<p>Frequency of route inspections and maintenance.</p> <p>Number of drills implemented</p>	<p>Training materials and agendas as well as training attendance</p> <p>Training on the drill's implementation</p>			

Category	Identified Gaps, challenges and incompliances	Corrective actions	Implementation plan			Monitoring plan				Source budget
			Responsible bodies	Timeline	Budget (ETB)	Indicator/frequency (timeline)	Means of verification	Res. body	Budget (ETB)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In some Sampled community groups awareness on OHS in cases of forest fire protection and feebly equipped with fire protection in fire prone areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify fire-prone areas and leverage local community resources for mitigation.</li> <li>Conduct awareness campaigns during the dry season and develop a community early warning system and fire breaks.</li> </ul>	EPA, ORCU, and RIP	Ongoing	2000,00	Forest fire prone areas identified, Community early warning system/procedures for managing forest fire developed and shared with implementing entities, Forest fire management awareness for communities/ implementing entities conducted (January 2025)	Reports, Procedures for forest fire management, # of participants engaged in awareness creation	EPA, ORCU, RIP	15,000	OFLP-ERP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were gaps in security risk assessment and reporting</li> <li>There was no formally recruited or assigned security personal at woreda and zonal level during the OFLP grant and the audit period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct awareness sessions for government sectors on security issues and encourage collaboration with the underlying programs and projects security personnel.</li> <li>Strengthening the established system to continuously monitor and report any security issues related to the project.</li> </ul>	OEPA, ORCU, WEPA, WSO	On going	100,000	Allocate the budget awareness creations on the security related in issues with government sectors and relevant stakeholders (March 31, 2025)  Strengthened institutional capacity to address security threats collaboratively (ongoing)	Attendance sheet Session plans and training schedules on security related awareness creation. Records of training participants, budgets approved, and materials procured.	OEPA, ORCU, WEPA,	50,000	OFLP-ERP
GRM for Community and project Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grievances Resolved Using formal process (Solved through Arbitration by elders) were not fully registered and Communicated</li> <li>Weak understanding of the GRC and community on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness creation and capacity building on GRM including the compliant registration and documentation as well as resolution mechanism during the OFLP ERP program implementation.</li> </ul>	OEPA. ZOEPa, WOEPa and ORCU	Up to December 30/2024	120,000	Training Sessions Conducted on the GRM (January 2025)  Complaints registered that are resolved within a specified reporting timeframe (within three months)	#training provided, # GRM logbooks provided, & # complaint registration in the forms, and resolved result reports	ORCU	60,000	OFLP-ERP



Category	Identified Gaps, challenges and non-compliances	Corrective actions	Implementation plan			Monitoring plan				Source budget
			Responsible bodies	Timeline	Budget (ETB)	Indicator/frequency (timeline)	Means of verification	Res. body	Budget (ETB)	
	<p>grievances registration and resolution process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak understanding regarding the specific procedures of the grievance mechanism for affected communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute the logbook for the remaining established GRC at the community level</li> </ul>				GRCs actively use the distributed logbooks for complaint registration and resolution (end of Feb 2025).				
Vulnerable groups/individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local community development plan did not uniformly address the challenges encountered/faced by disadvantaged and vulnerable groups across all projects, impacting their livelihoods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging the underlying programs/projects to develop vulnerable communities support development plan (Livelihood support plan) and effectively implementing benefit sharing strategies to allocate the share of vulnerable individuals.</li> <li>Undertaking continuous and effective assessment of Vulnerable population involved in the underlying programs and projects</li> <li>In All ESMP prepared for site specific activities encouraging to include vulnerable peoples identified and specific mitigation action developed.</li> </ul>	OEPA, ZOEPA, WOEPa and ORCU	Up to December 30/2024	80,000	<p>Conducting vulnerable groups assessment and registration affected by the underlying projects</p> <p>Identifying the underlying projects action plans on vulnerable livelihood improvement action plans</p>	<p># vulnerable individuals identified and supported</p> <p># action plans developed to support vulnerable individuals</p> <p># risks identified and solved</p>	ORC, RIP, Ethio Wetland and Farm Africa project	80,000	OFLP-ERP

## 7. Challenge and Lesson Learnt

### 7.1 Challenges

**The Pattern Across Districts:** The analysis of various districts has revealed a distinct pattern in higher level of success in implementing the Environmental and Social risk management instrument, terms of deforestation hot spot zones and woredas, which have shown a significantly indicators compared to non-hotspot zones and woredas. The deforestation hotspot zones and districts have benefited from a greater degree of institutional support and assistance from the ORCU. On the other hand, non-deforestation hotspot areas have primarily relied on government-led initiatives, with the EPA facilitating the process. The success of the deforestation hotspot accredited such factors as increased investment, more advanced technical support, regular monitoring, and the extensive experience of external agencies in comprehending and implementing REDD+ projects. A comprehensive examination of districts has covered a consistent trend in the performance of deforestation hot spot zones and woredas compared to non-hotspot areas when it comes to the implementation of the Environmental and Social risk management instruments. The former districts have enjoyed a higher level of success, primarily due to the substantial support and guidance provided by the ORCU. Conversely, non-deforestation hotspot zones have predominantly relied on government-led efforts, with the EPA and OFLP Woreda coordinators playing a facilitating role.

**Limited Understanding of the ESRM instruments:** At some of the audited sampled districts, forestry officials have limited knowledge /experience on the parent OFLP instruments implementation especially on the mitigation of Environmental and social risk identified during site specific ESRM tools preparations due to high turnover. The audit team had communicated the meaning of each instrument to the respondents first. In the community level, legal and policy level issues were less understood.

**Lagged Benefit Distribution:** Most of the consulted community commented as the distribution of results-based finance was late. The benefits are largely based on the performance of GHG emission reduction, was top-down, i.e., each site received a fixed sum of money in the basket- within minimum vetting criteria against their performance. The Phases of REDD+ is a long period process from Readiness to ERP phases for several years that make it hard to trace activities and strategies taken up independently by those selected activities. On the other hand, among the higher-level authority, issues of rights on benefit-sharing for local cooperatives and forest dependent local community need further consultation and reaching on consensuses.

**Improper utilization of Voluntary Emission Reduction Payment Funds:** The payment for emission reduction was successfully distributed to the forest-dependent communities participating in the REDD+ legacy project within the Bale Mountain Eco regions. During the community consultation held at the Adaba Woreda PFM site Cooperative, members of the community expressed their concerns regarding the utilization of the emission reduction payment received from SOS Sahel of Farm Africa. The communities displayed a high level of interest in the payment and their commitment to the forest management was evident.

It is crucial to highlight that the distribution of the emission reduction payment should be aligned with investments in the forest sector to further contribute to emission reduction activities. Unfortunately, the current focus of the payment benefits made for the PFM cooperatives is used for purchasing shares of banks, bonds and constructions of buildings at town level. The OFLP-ERP, to prevent any deviation from the intended targets of the emission reduction payment objectives the program proactively, developed BSP and BSOMP to guide the distribution and efficient utilization of the payment. The communities' enthusiasm and interest in the project should be nurtured through transparent communication and clear guidelines on how the payment should be utilized. By ensuring that the payment is channeled towards investments that support emission reduction activities within the forest sector, the project can achieve its goals effectively and contribute to sustainable environmental conservation efforts in the region.

### 7.2 Best Practices Including Lessons Learnt

**Independent livelihood support for vulnerable historically underserved and vulnerable groups** The Menja community is a community that is often romanticized for their close connection to the local environment, with many of its members being forest dwellers and hunters who rely heavily on the forest for their sustenance. The Ethio Wetland REDD+ Legacy Project has taken a special interest in supporting the Menja community independently from the other members of cooperative, an historically underserved and vulnerable groups group (Menja's communities) living within the PFM site in Halu, Becho, and Alle Woreda. Through this project, efforts are being made to improve the overall quality of life and resilience

of the Menja community by providing them with a range of support and opportunities. Understanding the specific challenges faced by the Menja community, the project has tailored its interventions to meet their unique needs. By offering livelihood support in the form of resources, training, and capacity-building initiatives, the project aims to empower community members to engage in sustainable income-generating activities. This approach not only helps the Menja community reduce their reliance on traditional practices but also encourages them to explore new pathways for economic development. Through these targeted interventions, the project seeks to create a more sustainable and prosperous future for the Menja community, ensuring their well-being and livelihood security for generations to come.

The Menja people rely significantly on natural resources for their traditional activities, which include hunting, honey collection, and charcoal production. The initiatives and programs seek to promote income-generating activities; yet, in some situations, such endeavors could seem incompatible with the community's customary practices. Furthermore, the Menja people are widely dispersed, resulting in low engagement and economic participation in cooperatives.

To tackle the challenges faced by the community, a comprehensive collection and registration of the total number of Menja groups within the village or kebele was conducted. This foundational step was essential for understanding the demographic landscape and ensuring that all voices were heard. Following this, the Ethio Wetland project initiated a series of community consultations aimed at fostering a sense of inclusion among residents. These consultations were designed to engage the local population in meaningful dialogue, addressing issues of discrimination and social isolation that have historically affected certain groups within the community. These efforts are designed to empower the Menja community, ensuring that they have a voice in the development processes that affect their livelihoods. By fostering an inclusive environment, the project seeks to bridge the gap between traditional practices and new economic opportunities, ultimately enhancing the community's resilience and cohesion.

The established PFM cooperatives in the Menja community have significantly encouraged local participation. By mandating the Menja's involvement in the executive community and livelihood promotion groups, the cooperative creates a framework where collective decision-making is prioritized. This approach not only empowers community members but also ensures that their voices are heard in shaping initiatives that directly impact their livelihoods and overall well-being.

The Menja community possesses a distinctive focus on forest management, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable practices. When they are encouraged and actively engaged in initiatives, their participation becomes highly effective, showcasing their dedication to preserving and managing their natural resources. The Menja community fosters a strong sense of inclusion and support, prioritizing collective growth over isolated capacity-building efforts. This approach emphasizes collaboration and mutual encouragement, creating an environment where individuals feel valued and empowered to contribute to the community's overall development. By focusing on shared experiences and collective achievements, the Menja community cultivates a culture that enhances individual capabilities while reinforcing the bonds among its members.

**Women's Empowerment on Forest development and Management:** From the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the women indicated that women have little control over land, cash crops and income from sales of agricultural produce including livestock and are the main sources of family labor for agriculture production before the inception of the OFLP project. Within the framework of the project's sub activities, it was deemed necessary to ensure the participation of women at a level of fifty percent in the area of Agroforestry and thirty percent in Participatory Forest Management (PFM). As a result of this requirement, the individuals involved in the CIG collaborated and took individual initiatives to engage, negotiate, and take on full responsibilities in the management of forest resources. This initiative aimed to promote gender equality and empower women to play a more active role in decision-making processes related to natural resource management.

The active involvement of women in AR and PFM not only contributed to the overall success of the project but also helped in fostering a more inclusive and participatory approach to forest management. By ensuring that women were represented at a significant level in these activities, the project was able to tap into a wider range of perspectives and expertise, leading to more sustainable and effective management practices. The empowerment of women in these roles not only benefited the individuals themselves but also had positive ripple effects on the entire community, promoting social cohesion and environmental stewardship.

**Livelihood support plays a catalyzing role in PFM:** The OFLP-PFM cooperative members in Yabelo woreda, Dugda kebele, were dependent on subsistence pastoralism as their source of income. The project's most recent goal was to give the neighborhood's residents access to chances for sustainable livelihood, which were essential to their wellbeing. Few community members initially expressed a desire to actively participate in the PFM. But over time, the project provided economic assistance to the PFM cooperative, which set up a revolving fund to support community members' livelihoods. Thirty cooperative members were able to purchase two lambs for each family with this support. A notable number of community members were able to obtain more than six sheep or two fattening oxen, with a total value of 100,000 ETB at each cooperative member, as the project advanced and the revolving funds increased to include all of the members. This initiative's success and efficacy are amply demonstrated by its notable growth and good effects. The participatory forest management (PFM) group's elders were initially dubious about the project's emphasis on preparing forests to fend against climate change. But as the project progressed, it became clear that the forest was essential in determining the community's access to water, its weather, and its general standard of living. In the past, the community turned to deforestation as a means of coping with poverty.

## 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

To evaluate the compliance of the underlying program and project activities/sub projects, an environmental and social due diligence audit for a retroactive carbon accounting for OFLP- ERP) were conducted for the period span between January 1, 2022, and ERPA signature, Feb 09, 2023. The audit assessed compliance of the underlying investments including OFLP Grant Financing, REDD+ Investment Project, Legacy REDD+ Projects, Green Legacy Initiative/Plantation implemented within the audit period. The audit identified implementation gaps, environmental and social impacts and risks that were partially comply or comply except with minor issues requiring corrective actions and developed appropriate corrective measures or remedies based on the identified specific risks and impacts.

The audit involved review available secondary documents and primary data collected through field observation over 48 sites, community consultation constituted 181(including 52 females), FGD at community level with 384 (including 109 females) and at district level with 169 (including 18 females). Key informant interviews at zonal, district and project level included 122 (including 6 females) and at Kebele level 144 (including females) focusing on OFLP, RIP and REDD+ legacy projects forest-based investments activities (AR, ANR and PFM) from deforestation and non-deforestation zones and districts to ensure compliance with OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments.

The findings of the audit indicated that no AR and PFM activities were implemented under OFLP-ERP and REDD+ legacy projects during the retroactive audit period. However, it was prominent that all the underlying programs and projects are active during the audit period and have site-specific ESRM tools in place and effectively managed activities in accordance with environmental and social requirements. Land acquisition for subprojects/activities implementations were not registered and no outstanding physical and economic displacement ensued with respect to the Afforestation/reforestation and ANR/PFM activity. The audit also highly investigated E&S compliances of OFLP-ERP, RIP and REDD+ Legacy project with social issues: labor management (labor influx, enforcement, child labor) and gender-based violence (exclusion, sexual abuses and harassment) and community health, and security related risks. The audit confirms all these social risks were not posed a significant risks and all of them were compliant with the OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments with only insignificant incompliances in areas of PPE supply, child labor and retrenchment process .The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for daily laborers engaged in hazardous tasks, such as tree climbing, land excavation, and the transportation of heavy materials during nursery operation expected to improve focusing on PPE for daily workers.

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) analogous with ESMF and Project specific environmental and social standards (ESS1, ESS2 and ESS10) were designed to effectively handle and resolve concerns and complaints raised by affected individuals from community members. It is evident from the findings that both the community and project worker Grievance Redress Committees (GRC) require a more targeted focus on their establishment and operations. Strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of these committees is essential to ensure that grievances are addressed promptly and satisfactorily. By providing adequate training, resources, and support to the GRC members, the grievance redress mechanism needs to be further enhanced to meet the demand of the affected individuals and communities. Regular monitoring and evaluation performance, coupled with feedback mechanisms from the affected individuals, will be instrumental in identifying areas for enhancement. By fostering a culture of responsiveness and inclusivity within Environmental and social management process, the OFLP-ERP needs to effectively mitigate social risks, address project impacts, and safeguard the interests of vulnerable groups in the region. A comprehensive capacity building training program needs to be developed to address the implementation gaps on the new OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments for the lower administrative structure of the EPA experts. Alongside the capacity building training, there will be a continuous focus on community consultation regarding the technical documents of the OFLP-ERP. This consultation process needs engaging the local communities, stakeholders, and experts to gather their input, feedback, and suggestions on the OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments implementation to avoid or minimize the environmental and social risks happened on the long run. In general, based gaps, challenges and incompliances that were identified in Environmental and social corrective action plan need to be effectively communicated and monitored to meet the required standards.

## Annexes

### ***Annex 1: References***

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**Annex 2: List of consulted individuals, communities' representatives/elders, and organizations and interested parties**

<i>Sr no</i>	<i>Name of Participant</i>	<i>zone</i>	<i>Woreda</i>	<i>Site/Orgn/</i>	<i>Mobile</i>
1	<i>Aerit Husen</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>RIP Exper</i>	<i>917141841</i>
2	<i>Malaku Bekela</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>Land Admin.Ex</i>	<i>946459734</i>
3	<i>Alamayo Tamirat</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>RI Socio Economist</i>	<i>912690744</i>
4	<i>Abraham Mohammed</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>agr.office NR Exper</i>	<i>913483935</i>
5	<i>Mohammed Shamsadin</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>EPA exper</i>	<i>913710110</i>
6	<i>Mohammed Abdalla</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>EPA Envtalexper</i>	<i>920460565</i>
7	<i>Mohammed Abdalla</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>Gara Bela ANR</i>	<i>901771841</i>
8	<i>Nura Abdibakar</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>Gara Bela ANR</i>	
9	<i>Wardi Abdibakar</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>Gara Bela ANR</i>	<i>907232857</i>
10	<i>Fayiza Abdala</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Deder</i>	<i>Gara Bela ANR</i>	
11	<i>Ahimed Mohammed</i>	<i>WestHararge</i>	<i>Gamachis</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	<i>932727817</i>
12	<i>Ayelu Jemal</i>	<i>WestHararge</i>	<i>Gamachis</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	<i>903716903</i>
13	<i>Asnaku Asefa</i>	<i>WestHararge</i>	<i>Gamachis</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	<i>992946227</i>
14	<i>Hamza Mahommed</i>	<i>WestHararge</i>	<i>Gamachis</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	<i>953542513</i>
15	<i>Indale Jamana</i>	<i>WestHararge</i>	<i>Gamachis</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	
16	<i>Misira Adama</i>	<i>WestHararge</i>	<i>Gamachis</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	
17	<i>Haji Amadin</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Kersa</i>	<i>Gara Umer AR</i>	<i>937169783</i>
18	<i>Ibsa Mohammed</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Kersa</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	<i>983542503</i>
19	<i>Nasir Abraham</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Kersa</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	
20	<i>Jamal Mohammed</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Kersa</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	
21	<i>Aysha Abdula</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Kersa</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	
22	<i>Iftu Mohammed</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Kersa</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	
23	<i>Sharif Abdul Jalil</i>	<i>East Hararge</i>	<i>Kersa</i>	<i>Bari and Dengu AR</i>	<i>974572145</i>
24	<i>Abera Abdisa</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>917792227</i>
25	<i>Chasa Merdasa</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>931992721</i>
26	<i>Jenfe Tamiru</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	
27	<i>Shibiru Mengesha</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	
28	<i>Amsalu Terefe</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>956048228</i>
29	<i>Mulugeta Ababe</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>934089749</i>
30	<i>Taye Tamiru</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	
31	<i>Lalisa Tashome</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>925950754</i>
32	<i>Dasalegn Mestamo</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>911059845</i>
33	<i>Anbassu Tasama</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>935296956</i>
34	<i>Idilu Tizazu</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>Baro PFM</i>	<i>940630266</i>
35	<i>Dagnachew Tadasa</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Baco</i>	<i>Woreda EPA Head</i>	<i>976161585</i>
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37	<i>Chemedo Abera</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Baco</i>	<i>Farm Africa PFM facilitator</i>	<i>924015685</i>
38	<i>Getachew Geleta</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Matu</i>	<i>PA Zonal WP owner</i>	<i>917965975</i>
39	<i>Diriba Abera</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Matu</i>	<i>EPA Zonal Head</i>	<i>969538458</i>
40	<i>Ayalew Argaw</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>PFM Facilitator</i>	<i>931080549</i>
41	<i>Zemacu Tadase</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>agr.office NR Exper</i>	<i>917528129</i>
42	<i>Chaniyalew Terefe</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>EPA expert</i>	<i>910596931</i>
43	<i>Endale Bogale</i>	<i>I/A/Bor</i>	<i>Halu</i>	<i>EPA Head</i>	<i>917098396</i>
40	<i>Luka Hayile</i>	<i>Borena</i>	<i>Yabelo</i>	<i>Zonal Expert</i>	<i>9133335411</i>
41	<i>Dhiba Sora</i>	<i>Borena</i>	<i>Yabelo</i>	<i>Zonal Expert</i>	<i>916900596</i>
42	<i>Yaltashewek Beriso</i>	<i>Borena</i>	<i>Yabelo</i>	<i>Zonal work Process</i>	<i>911399814</i>
43	<i>Jatani Gabebo</i>	<i>Borena</i>	<i>Yabelo</i>	<i>EPA</i>	<i>912069675</i>
44	<i>Wario Boru</i>	<i>Borena</i>	<i>Yabelo</i>	<i>EPA</i>	<i>924702683</i>



45	Loko Wario	Borena	Yabelo	EPA	916382595
46	H/Mika'el Aman	Borena	Yabelo	EPA	913221865
47	Halake Dida	Borena	Yabelo	Agr.office NR Exper	9030080445
48	Wariyo Wafu	Borena	Yabelo		916818587
49	Habtamu Soboka				901541601
50	Diga Guyo			Agr.office NR Exper	941382153
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53	<i>Habte Abera</i>	<i>EWollega</i>	<i>W/Tuka</i>	<i>ACOD</i>	<i>0935893979</i>
54	<i>Gemechu Mokonen</i>	<i>EWollega</i>	<i>W/Tuka</i>		<i>0925984752</i>
5	<i>Immiru Temesgen</i>	<i>EWollega</i>	<i>W/Tuka</i>	<i>WOEPA HEAD</i>	<i>0935741281</i>
56	<i>Asres Kebede</i>	<i>EWollega</i>	<i>W/Tuka</i>	<i>EPA -Fp</i>	<i>0961841255</i>
57	<i>Kefeyalw Alemayo</i>	<i>WHararge</i>	<i>Gemechis</i>	<i>WOEPA.Forest P.owner</i>	<i>0917210148</i>
58	<i>Abdalla Amin</i>	<i>WHararge</i>	<i>Gemechis</i>	<i>WOEPA.Entalist</i>	<i>0917210148</i>
59	<i>Ahimadin Mume</i>	<i>WHararge</i>	<i>Gemechis</i>	<i>RIP coordinator</i>	<i>0910290757</i>
60	<i>Fikadu Dufera</i>	<i>WHararge</i>	<i>Gemechis</i>		<i>0911197273</i>
61	<i>Adem Dawud</i>	<i>WHararge</i>	<i>Gemechis</i>	<i>WOEPA-FP</i>	<i>0920466172</i>
62	<i>Birehanu Mazgabu</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>PFM cooperative</i>	<i>0917992812</i>
63	<i>Tariku Fikadu</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>		<i>0963824134</i>
64	<i>Birehanu jifar</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>		<i>0917908527</i>
65	<i>Ayala lagasa</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>		<i>0993888491</i>
66	<i>Shitaye bayana</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>PFM</i>	-
67	<i>Taye lagasa</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>PFM</i>	-
68	<i>Habtamu Makata</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>AR Coops</i>	<i>0974460065</i>
69	<i>Abshiru Asrat</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>AR Coops</i>	<i>0924762318</i>
70	<i>Darajje Getahun</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>AR Coops</i>	<i>0963102530</i>
71	<i>Dagafa Keno</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>AR Coops</i>	
72	<i>Dase Eba</i>	<i>Buno Beddelle</i>	<i>D/Hanna</i>	<i>AR Coops</i>	<i>09883217</i>

## Community Consultation minutes

Godina Booranaa Guyyaa 21/4/2024

Marii Hawaasaa Sadarkaa Woldaa PFM

Aanaa Yaabellu Ganda - Obdaa

Bakka Woltajjii:- Bulchiinsa Ganda Obdaa

Woldaa Booranaa - Qubbaa Obdaa

(WBBH Qubbaa Obdaa)

Baay'ina namoota arjaganii

Phi 19

Qub 6

Ida. 25

Ajandaa Marii:- Qorannoo fooditii dhiibbaa Naannoo

fi Jawaasaa

Sira katetti

kaarboonii gaaffaattanii imatti

Mari'achuu (ESPDA for retroactive  
Carbon Accounting).

### Qabxiwwan qorannoo dhiyaatanii

1<sup>th</sup> - Hojiwwan PFM (BBH) akka gando keessaniitti  
raawwatani dhiibbaa naannoo fi Jawaasaa  
uurgamaa jiru, ya firaate dhiibbaawwan kana  
hambidun tarkaanfii fudhatamaa jirra?  
dhiibbaawwan kana galachuu keessatti  
eenyum faattu qooda fudhate? Bulaa Sira  
arjamee akkanii ibsuu dandeetti? Maaltti  
akka jirmaattanii isin kakkase?

1

## Yaada ka'e!

- Durqannii naannoo kanaa Jundii akka Jirmaatuf waamicha faasisameen namootni fedhii gabani Jundii dhiibbaa tokko malee akka Jirmaatan ta'eera.
- Rakko Sabba BBH (PFM) wolgabatee dhufu danda'u irratti mari'achuuf dhiibbaawwan naannoo fi Jawaasaa irratti waliigalame fawkanfii sirreettanqaa fudhachuuf akkasumas galachuuf dursee Jubbannoo akka irratti kennamu ta'eera.
- Akka bosono keenyatti rakko Caamja (Kontee) wolgabatee dhufu danda'achuu dhibbuun biqiltuu gootum fi Jephachuun malee dhiibban adda mul'ate Jiru Jiru.
- Dhimmi Jilivango gilleesaa dhimma keenya, dhimma adunya ta'u waan Jubbaneef Jirmaaduu danda'eenye.

## Erja OFLP - Dhufee Jubbannoo kennee as karaa

Seeran ala ta'een rukka murru, cirum fi daantaa bosonaatti ganna babalifachuun Jambisuu eejumsa naannoo mirkanneessaa Jiraachuun, akkasumas miidhaa Jilivango gilleesaa wolgabatee dhufuu danda'ani Jambisuu danda'eera.

- Hanga ammaatti miidhaa/dhiibbaa gabatanqaa naannoo fi Jawaasa Jubbannoo danda'u Jiru miidhaa Sabba OFLP - Jilivannii gabatanqaa bosono deebiif faayidaa Jawaasaa mirkanneessuu keessatti bu'aan gaariin argameera.

2<sup>th</sup> - Sababa BBH (PFM) kana Joojiira daldhannif mirji dhala naqaa dhiibuu, dhiibbaa wolqanna. mti Saalaa, naqeenya fi faayidaa Jawaasa hubanneera.



## Yaada Hirmaattotaa

- Ergaa OFLP Hojiim oolee uurganii darani hubannoo mirraa fi dhiigarga bosonaa (Q) uurgaa kunuunsiis keessatti gabu hubateera.
- Aadaa fi argantaan walqabatan dhiibbaa dubartotaa, daawiyaa, qaantuddootarra gahu hin jiru.
- Miroo dubartoota akko aadaa Orogotti Jaantif, dubartiin bulkeetti hin dhaananti, Saalqunanti Seeraan alaa aadafalee, Saafuu Hawaasaa Cabuur dha kanaaf, rakoon kun Sababa pirojektii kanaa ta'usaa hin mudanne.
- Naajeennii fi fayyummaan Hawaasaa (Community Health and Safety) - hubannoo gahaan dhabuu haa jiraatu malee, rakoon naajeenyummaa (Security) naannoo keenya kana hin mudanne. Rakoon kana keessatti fayyummaa fi naajeenyummaa OFLP baldhinnaan hin hojjanne. Bosonaa fi fayyummaa/Naajeenmaa Hawaasaa walitti dhufeenyii gabani dhibuu. Hubannoo kennamani gaha ta'u dhabuu kan kale keessatti rakoon itiddaa too'achuun hubannoo haakannamu malee qeestoleen deegaramuu dhabuu.

3<sup>th</sup> - Waa'ee itti fufinsaa (BBH/PFM) Sustainability) imatti qaalii yaaddu?

## Yaada Hawaasaa:

- Qabeenya uurgaa keessatti bosonni gabeenya diinaaddeen keenya dhumantuu fooda fudhateera, keessatti itti fufinsaa bosono keenya gaannii



bu'aa imaa anjama jantoo anjactti dhaqaa'ii  
keeyyan. wu<sup>hiid</sup> jantoo / wu<sup>hiid</sup> jadaalu kun imjoo  
seeraan aluma jajjabeessa.

kloldaan cimuu dhabuufi hubannoo gahaa  
dhabuun namoonni murasni gofnaan gahaa  
barbaadameen gahuun lein danda'amu.

4<sup>th</sup> - Dhimmii xiyyeeffannoo barbaadani keessatti  
dhibbaa naannoo fi Jawaasaa danda'achuu  
ykn golachuuf garagaraani adda bahaniiin,  
waan lein jantootaani jirani maal faa?

- Balaa ibiddaa ittisuuf (fire protection)  
xiyyeeffannoo barbaada.
- Bosono keeyyo bu'aan jirgata kaarbonii  
jiraatus dhiisuus ni eeganna. Bosonii keeyya  
medda firreenya keeyya akkas ta'e hubanneemo.
- Hirketummaa namoota harkafalleeyyi bosono  
imatti jebani jantoo leenjii fi deegarsi  
hojii gatii progressuu itti fufu jaba.
- Hiryaannoo dubartota progressaa deemuun  
keessattuu murteessumaa isaanii cimuu.

5<sup>th</sup> : Dhibbaan gabartaa muldhaa / uumama jira?

Lakkii! dhibbaan naannoo fi Jawaasaa Sabbe BBH  
kanaa naannoo fi Jawaasaa keeyyo irratti dhibbaa  
geessise lein uumama, irra caalaa haala  
naannoo keeyyaa progressaa faayidaa nuufi  
fidee dhufe malee dhibbaa tokkoyyuu lein  
anjama'ifne. Lafa gogaa'uu progressaa mana  
biqilhe, bishaan deebise malee miidhaa hingabu

- ilaalchaa fi hubannoon boqonnaa kunuuf qabu quntumaa quntutti jilliirameera.
- Hojii misoorra boqonnaa itti fufisaa jiraachaa jira.  
Fedhin keenya torbee torbeen hojii misoorra boqonnaa imatti ni jirgachanne Seera Ithiin bulqata keenya wal dhiiganne.
- Rakkaa kamiyyuu karaa koree woldaan fi koree komii (GRM) firaachaa jiraachaa jime, taruu komiin koree biro dabre jirin jira.

Magees Mawootti Jirraa'atanii

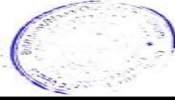
- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Obbo Ameerii Boruu | Obbo Garbalee Boruu      |
| Obbo Taaddii Ukkaa    | " Obbo Dubsum Ukkaa      |
| " Godanaa Hiddii      | " Obbo Dinqee Jaarsu     |
| " Biida Dooyyuus      | " Obbo Ameeru Joraa      |
| Adda Shiitayee Boruu  | " Obbo Muluu dambalee    |
| " Xummee Jaarsu       | " Obbo Abduu Alii        |
| Obbo Waaqiyoo Alakee  | Adda Uchaa Kalamiyoo     |
| " Muddaa Jaarsu       | Obbo Isiyaa Guyyu        |
| " Robaa Netjaash      | Adda Kushee Godanaa      |
| Adda Jiloo Odaa       | Obbo Gadiichoo Godanaa   |
| Galoo Gufuu           | " Obbo Dambubaa Netjaash |
| Adda Qartii Turaa     | " Jaarsu Edeenza         |





Gemochse Woreda - 331-

No	Name	Responsibility	Mobile	Signature
1	Kasahun Alemu	Forest Officer	091220142	[Signature]
2	Abdellaa Amira	Environment Extension	091220142	[Signature]
3	Ahmedin Mune	Forestry (RIP)	091187115	[Signature]
4	Fisaaduu Diferesa	Auditor (DFIP)	0920466172	[Signature]
5	Adem Dawid	Forest Person (EPN)		



Ya'abelo blocks of Borena Zone EPA FGD attenders

No	Name	Phone Number	Signature	Office
1	Luka Haile	0913335411 0916900596	[Signature]	EPA/zone
2	Whisa Soru	0944399814	[Signature]	CNA
3	Yaashework Beriso	0912069675	[Signature]	EPA/zone
4	Jaatani Gababo	0924902683	[Signature]	ATEN
5	Wano Boni	0916382597	[Signature]	EPA (W)
6	Loko wario	0918221865	[Signature]	ATEN
7	Micheel Aman		[Signature]	ASNR
8	Halakee Dida	0903080445	[Signature]	ATEN
9	Wawo Wawo	096818587	[Signature]	ATEN

W/Tuka Woreda FGD

No	Name	Responsibility	Mobile	Signature
1	Gezessa mulatuu	Gezessa <del>Woreda</del> <sup>Woreda</sup>	0925774520	
2	Habte Aberra	Gezessa Woreda (Coop)	0935893979	
3	Gemochse Mitonile	Flower	0925924352	[Signature]
4	Samuel Tamosee	ILR MSE	0925741221	[Signature]
5	Fisaaduu Diferesa	World Bank Auditor	0911187115	[Signature]
6	Adrees Kabbale	Forest person	096545255	[Signature]





# West Arsi Zone PFM









**I/A/BOR ZONE -BECHO WOREDA PFM**



**JIMMA ZONE-GERA WOREDA PFM**



**DEDER WOREDA ,CHEKA- MERGA JALALA NURSERY SITE**

**TOILET**



**Annex 5: Data and Information Collected for Compliance Assessment**  
**Annex 5.1 : Community level FGD information data**

<b>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</b>											
<b>ESS</b>	<b>Not Comply</b>		<b>Partially Comply</b>		<b>Comply except with Minor Issues</b>		<b>Fully Comply</b>		<b>Exemplary Comply</b>		<b>Total</b>
	Respondent	%	Respondent	%	Respondent	%	Respondent	%	Respondent	%	
<b>ESS1</b>	0	0.0	9	2.3	20	5.2	355	92.45	0	0	384
<b>ESS2</b>	6	1.6	30	7.8	81	21.1	267	69.53	0	0	384
<b>ESS3</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	79	20.6	297	77.34	8	2.08	384
<b>Ess4</b>	5	1.3	19	4.9	83	21.6	277	72.14	0	0	384
<b>ESS5</b>	0	0.0	14	3.6	22	5.7	348	90.63	0	0	384
<b>ESS6</b>	0	0.0	10	2.6	23	6.0	351	91.41	0	0	384
<b>ESS7</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	73	19.0	311	80.99	0	0	384
<b>ESS8</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	37	9.6	347	90.36	0	0	384
<b>ESS10</b>	4	1.0	12	3.1	17	4.4	351	91.41	0	0	384

*Annex 5.2 : community level KII information data*

<b>KII</b>												
<b>ESS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Not Comply</b>		<b>Partially Comply</b>		<b>Comply except with Minor Issues</b>		<b>Fully Comply</b>		<b>Exemplary Comply</b>		
		Respondent	%	Respondent	%	Respondent	%	Respondent	%	Respondent		%
<b>ESS1</b>	384	0	0	4	2.8	7	4.9	133	92.4	0	0	144
<b>ESS2</b>	384	0	0	17	11.8	40	27.8	87	60.4	0	0	144
<b>ESS3</b>	384	0	0	7	4.9	11	7.6	126	87.5	0	0	144
<b>Ess4</b>	384	0	0	15	10.4	32	22.2	97	67.4	0	0	144
<b>ESS5</b>	384	0	0	9	6.3	18	12.5	117	81.3	0	0	144
<b>ESS6</b>	384	0	0	5	3.5	11	7.6	128	88.9	0	0	144
<b>ESS7</b>	384	0	0	7	4.9	9	6.3	128	88.9	0	0	144
<b>ESS8</b>	384	0	0	7	4.9	18	12.5	119	82.6	0	0	144
<b>ESS10</b>	384	3	2.083	5	3.5	11	7.6	125	86.8	0	0	144

**Annex: 5.3: Woreda level FGD information data**

ESS	<i>FGD Respondent</i>										
	<i>Not Comply</i>		<i>Partially Comply</i>		<i>Comply except with Minor Issues</i>		<i>Fully Comply</i>		<i>Exemplary Comply</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	
<i>ESS1</i>	0	0.0	5	3.6	10	5.9	154	91.12	0	0	169
<i>ESS2</i>	0	0.0	6	4.1	151	89.3	12	7.10	0	0	169
<i>ESS3</i>	0	0.0	7	16.0	7	4.1	155	91.72	0	0	169
<i>Ess4</i>	0	0.0	27	4.1	118	69.8	24	14.20	0	0	169
<i>ESS5</i>	0	0.0	7	3.6	7	4.1	155	91.72	0	0	169
<i>ESS6</i>	0	0.0	6	5.3	7	4.1	156	92.31	0	0	169
<i>ESS7</i>	0	0.0	9	1.8	9	5.3	151	89.35	0	0	169
<i>ESS8</i>	0	0.0	3	1.8	9	5.3	157	92.90	0	0	169
<i>ESS10</i>	0	0.0	3	1.8	6	3.6	160	94.67	0	0	169

**Annex:5.4: zonal ,woreda and project personnel level KII data**

ESS	<i>KII Response</i>										
	<i>Not Comply</i>		<i>Partially Comply</i>		<i>Comply except with Minor Issues</i>		<i>Fully Comply</i>		<i>Exemplary Comply</i>		
	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No of Respondent</i>	<i>%</i>	
<i>ESS1</i>	0		2	1.6	3	2.3	123	96.1	0	0	128
<i>ESS2</i>	0		2	1.6	37	28.9	89	69.5	0	0	128
<i>ESS3</i>	0		1	0.8	2	1.6	125	97.7	0	0	128
<i>Ess4</i>	0		2	1.6	33	25.8	93	72.7	0	0	128
<i>ESS5</i>	0		3	2.3	14	10.9	111	86.7	0	0	128
<i>ESS6</i>	0		0	0.0	5	3.9	123	96.1	0	0	128
<i>ESS7</i>	0		0	0.0	20	15.6	108	84.4	0	0	128
<i>ESS8</i>	0		0	0.0	4	3.1	124	96.9	0	0	128
<i>ESS10</i>	0		2	1.6	4	3.1	122	95.3	0	0	128



## **Annex 6: Questionnaires**

Over all Data Collection Tools for ESDDA

### **I. KII for Federal level stakeholders**

- 1.1 Amenabilities of Environmental and Social commitment plan Compliances with National Environmental Policies and implementation at program or project level
  1. Do you think REDD+ projects fully performing as agreed ESCP /ESRM instruments?
  2. What are the key indicators and validating mechanisms used by federal EFD/REDD+ secretariat to confirm the implementation status as agreed ESCP and WB ESF?
  3. Are there traceable technical backstopping and support on ES policies, laws, regulation and agreements implementation at following the government and project structures?
  4. Do you think the OFLP/RIP/the two REDD+ legacy projects/activities implemented in the Oromia region comply with the relevant WB ESF and ESRM instruments?
  5. Do you confirm that the implementing entities and stakeholders understand their respective roles and have the technical capacity to execute their responsibilities as set in ESRM instruments during program activity implementation?
  6. What measures have been taken to enhance specific capacity building, particularly in the area of professional development, and what outcomes have been observed?
- 1.2 Evaluation of Patterned WB Policies and Safeguard instruments vs the newly WB ESF, ES Standards (the new ESRM instruments) availability, implementation & awareness
  1. Do you think all Projects or programs at Parent Oromia forested landscape project level contributing for Emission Reduction activities were engaged ESRM instruments for their Specific activities?
  2. Is there any formal central systems developed for Monitoring and evaluation of ESRM instruments implementation performances of different landscape based projects?
  3. Do you have Vertical and Horizontal communication on ESRM instruments implementation and Coordination on potential impact management?
  4. How Safeguard information System developed at county and project level?
  5. ESS implementation performances of OFLP, RIP and the two REDD+ legacy projects
  6. Do you think Environmental and Social Assessment requirements of each project activities are developed, monitored and Evaluated regularly and clearly reported?
  7. Has the REDD + project made provisions to ensure compliance with the applicable ESS: ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS5, ESS6, ESS7, ESS8, and ESS10 etc.?
  8. Has the REDD + project made provisions to ensure compliance with the applicable ESRM instruments: LMP, SEP, ESCP, Security Management Plan, SA etc.
  9. How the Government and NGO Projects Does are coordinating to integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
  10. Have there been any reports of non-compliance with labor management procedures, gender-based violence, and safety and security challenges in the programs/projects implemented in the Parent Oromia forested landscape project for ER activities? If yes, what specific issues have been reported and how have they been addressed?
- 1.3 Gaps and Challenges identified and needs further intervention
  1. Are there E&S Policy or regulation gaps in the REDD+ Based activities?
  2. If there is no Policy or Regulation gaps all the requirements according WB ESF under full implemented or not? If yes, what are the evidences?
  3. Publication and Documentation of ESRM instruments and other relevant Environmental policies and Regulation to manage potential impacts accordingly
  4. Do you think the down ward structures are fully aware and internalized WB ESF, old Safeguard instruments and other Environmental policies, regulations and agreements?
  5. How do you check the lower government structures on performing according to their accountability, Environmental police publication and documentation?
  6. Please can you provide a comprehensive list of the documents that you have examined, specifically focusing on operational monitoring reports and Environmental Social Management plans that were prepared throughout the program's implementation?
  7. Do you think the Current Safeguard plans for ER needs some improvement and Modifications before the Commencement of ER payment? Are there Procedural or administrative obstacles on implementation of ER payments? Please Mention if any?
  8. Do you think ES commitment plan for Managing Environmental and Social Aspects of ER programs are fully implemented in integration with international / National Environmental and social policies? Do you think relevant stakeholders and the ER beneficiaries were capacitated and developed an understanding of ESRM instruments?
  9. Do you think any mismatch in ESRM instruments implementation to need to be amended or improved before the commencement of ER payments?
  10. Do you think any OFLP/RIP/ REDD+ Legacy projects activities present emerging Environmental and Social Risks/impacts not identified or expected in the E & S plans prior to ERPA Signature? If

yes, what are the proposed corrective actions to ensure compliance or manage risks/impacts and how do you confirmed its effectiveness?

11. What are specific capacity buildings measures (training) have been implemented to upgrade ESRM instrument implementation of the OFLP/RIP/ REDD+ Legacy projects?
12. What are the safeguards (E&S) preparatory instruments the implementing entities are responsible to fulfills for sub project activities in consistent with WB ESF comprehensive requirements.
13. How many of the forest Based Project and Sub project activities are passed under site specific safeguard requirements? Please illustrated specifically for different projects at Parent Oromia forested landscape project levels.
14. How did you confirm the program activities are implemented in accordance with management and mitigation measures prepared during ESMP?
15. Are there any evidence or indicators of environmental and social management measures prepared during program activity implementation are implemented in practice and the required quality standard?
16. How do you confirm the qualities of stakeholder engagement and their effectiveness on their responsibility to take part in potential impact mitigation?
17. Have you engaged all stakeholders including the local community in the following OFLP major activities?
18. Do you confirm that Grievance Redress Committee established at all Kebele levels and how you can tracks evidences in Compliant resolution or Feedbacks of GRM responsive to the project intervention based quarries, comments, complains or grievances?
19. Are there any gaps in implementing the safeguard instruments for REDD+ activities? What are they? And how the gaps are going to Modified or improved before the commencement of ER payments?
20. Do you think any security issues affected ESRM implementation of the OFLP REDD+ RIP/the two REDD+ legacy project activities in some areas of the region? And what are the proposed strategies or Plans commenced to overcome any Security issues?
21. Do think all venerable or underserved groups are identified and got concerns in Project activity implementation and separately capacitated on Project activity and ER payments?
22. Do you think are there any ESRM issues hinder the effectiveness of agreed commitments in Benefit sharing plan or Result Based payment distribution? If not, what is the evidence?
23. Do you think BSP has been completed and endorsed publicly; there won't more Safeguard compliances ensued? If yes, what are the anticipated cases and how you will go to manage?
24. Have you faced any legal claims or any serious E and S incidents like occupational health & safety (OHS) risks, discrimination and forced labors?
25. Are there Claims like occupational health & safety (OHS) risks, discrimination and forced labors that are addressed or has define plan to address?
26. Have the occurrences of the local stakeholders and communities or beneficiaries' grievances, appeals, quarries or comments impacted programs /projects operations in your site/district?

#### **Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Checklist**

1. Do you think that environmental and social safeguards should be implemented to manage the OFLP/RIP/the two EDD+ legacy project activities? If yes; which ESRM instruments were implemented? Are there any gaps on implementation ESRM instruments at program/project level? What do you recommend for effective implementation of ESRM instruments prepared for the programs/projects before ERP?
2. Did the OFLP/RIP/the two REDD+ legacy project activities result significant impacts in relation to GBV/SH/SE,LM and safety and security of contract and community workers? If yes, What are measures undertaken to resolve it?
3. Do you think the OFLP/RIP/the two REDD+ legacy projects/activities implemented in the region compliance with WB ESF and the Relevant National and Regional legal frameworks? Yes / No. Describe your evidence?
4. Do you know OFLP/RIP/the two REDD+ legacy projects ways of stakeholder engagement and consultation without any discrimination during program implementation? List all the stakeholders who are participated in the consultation process?
5. Have you faced any labor and working conditions poor and breached WB ESF/ESS and local regulations during implementation stages the REDD+ activities?
6. What do you think about the compliances of WB ESS and OFLP-ERP instruments during Sub project activity implementation?

#### **II. KII Questions for Zonal , Woreda and Project level**

1. Have you faced any legal Claims or any serious Environmental and social incidents during the last years of Underlying OFLP,RIP and Legacy REDD+ activities?
2. Do you faced any OFLP/RIP/GLP/ and REDD+ legacy Project based activities posed any labour and working conditions poor and breaching WB ESS and local Regulations?
3. Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?
4. Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?

5. Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? Is there any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or historically underserved and vulnerable groups historically underserved and vulnerable groups or local communities?
6. Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water?
7. Does the Project activity implementation or operation; posed a threat to the community health Safety and security?
8. Do you think Project activity implemented has been result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, Practices)?
9. Do you think the Project or portions of the Project activities have been implemented on respected historically underserved and vulnerable groups rights and Knowledge?
10. Are there any Claims on GBV/SH/SE, LM and safety risks that have been addressed or has a definite plan to be addressed?
11. What do you think about the compliances of WB ESS and OFLP-ERP instruments during Sub project activity implementation?

No	ESS	Compliance (Effectively implemented and Performed)	Partially compliance and moderately performed	Noncompliance and weakly performed
1	ESS1			
2	ESS2			
3	ESS3			
4	ESS4			
5	ESS5			
6	ESS6			
7	ESS7			
8	ESS8			
9	ESS10			
10	OFLP-ERP instruments			

### III. Checklist for Discussion and KII interview at Kebele Level

Major concerns	Specific Interview Questions at Kebele level
ES Assessment	1. Have you been participated in OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy Project activities Environmental and Social risks/impact assessment?
	2. Is there any potential ES risks/ impacts has been stated /anticipated during Environmental and Social risks/impact assessment clearly happened in OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy Project activities ? if yes please list the major impacts /risks happened on the sites.
	3. Are there any Potential actions/ measures applied to sustain the positive and Mitigate the negative impacts happened on OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy project sites in your locality? Can you mention parts that taken continuous involvement and what do you think any actions planned to taken and yet un implemented?
	4. What are Environmental and Social tools implemented on OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy Project activities? Are there any legal documents shared and available with the benefices of OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy Project activities at a site level?
	5. How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period ?
Human Rights/social issues	1. Do you think OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy Project activities have had adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?
	2. Are there likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups?
	3. Do you think the Project potentially restricted availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?

	4. Are there a likelihood that the Project would excluded any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?
	5. Are there measures or mechanisms in place to respond to local community grievances and Feedbacks?
	6. Are there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?
	7. Do you think due to the implementation of OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy Project activities there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?
	8. Do you think during the implementation of OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ Legacy Project activities all the local communities or individuals, given equal opportunity, to engaged on decision making process?
	9. How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	1. Would the OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ legacy project activities potentially caused adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services that made habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes.
	2. Do you think OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ legacy project activities implemented within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or historically underserved and vulnerable groups historically underserved and vulnerable groups peoples or local communities?
	3. Do you think the OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ legacy project activities in your landscape level have posed a risks Invasive alien species?
	4. Do you think the OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ legacy project activities in your landscape level have posed a risks o Invasive alien species?
	5. How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Are there a probability that the OFLP/RIP/GLP/REDD+ legacy project activities have posed adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?
	Are vulnerable groups (poor, women and elderly) identified and addressed appropriately during the planning and implementation stages of OFLP/RIP/ the two REDD+ legacy projects or activities?
	Would the Project potentially reproduced discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?
	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?
	Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?
Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	Do you think Project pose potential risks to community health and safety risks/impacts?
	Do you think the Project activities involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?
	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals due to a lack of adequate training or accountability?
	How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Cultural Heritage	Does Project activities resulted in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture ( knowledge, innovations, practices)?

	How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Displacement and Resettlement	Did you faced a special case in which OFLP/RI/GLP/ REDD+ legacy Project activity implemented Potentially posed temporary or permanent and full /partial physical displacement/economic displacement due to land acquisition or access restrictions?
	Are there cases OFLP activities the resulted in loss of assets or access to resources due economic displacement to– even in the absence of physical relocation?
	Is there a risk that the Project will be forced to forced evictions?
	Did the Project activities possibly will be affected land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources? How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Historically underserved and vulnerable groups	Do you have faced a case historically underserved and vulnerable groups historically underserved and vulnerable groups present in the Project activity area? If yes, Is there a portions land for Project activities claimed by historically underserved and vulnerable groups peoples?
	Do you think Project activities potentially affected the Cultural Heritage of historically underserved and vulnerable groups peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	Do you think the project activities potentially resulted in the release of pollutants /waste /to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?
	Do you think the Project activities used pesticides /insecticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health? If yes what are the management activities were planned?
	How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Labor and Working Conditions	Does OFLP/RIP/ the two REDD+ legacy projects or activities (such as A/R, nursery, etc.) implementation increased influx of labour into your locality and induced impact? If yes describe
	What types of work OFLP/RIP/ the two REDD+ legacy projects or activities created here?
	In the workplace, is there any form of harassment or abuse occurred on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, and political opinion or other? Please explain?
	Do guards and workers who are exposed to injure use personal protective equipment (PPE) and protective clothing? List the PPE given?
	Do you think any discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, political opinion or other? Please explain? How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of this specific standard /tool's preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?
Capacity and commitment assessment of implementing institutions	What capacity building packages you received from OFLP/RIP/ the two REDD+ legacy projects with respect to the implementation off safeguard tools
	What support you need from OFLP/RIP/the two legacy REDD+ projects for the implementation of safeguards with respect to capacity gaps?
BSP and Expectation	What kinds of Benefits do think from Result based emission payment?
	What do you fill if your expectation and benefit you shared as Coops/Kebele will be mismatched?
	How do you think the contribution of ER payment in poverty reduction and sustainable development?

#### IV. FGD Checklist community level

What do you understand about the REDD+ project implemented in your locality?

Are you familiar with Safeguard and Project activity implementation?

Did you and your community are well informed about the commencement of Carbon payment and Carbon Based benefits sharing? If yes? How and When?

Did you encounter for social problem or risks during the starting and operational phase of project's activities/initiatives at your locality?

Do you think any conflict encounters during the implementation of the ER Payments? List them and how do you solve it please describe?

Do you have any other suggestion regarding this ER Payments?

How do you specifically evaluate the compliances of ESS and OFLP instruments preparation and implementation during the grant and ERP period?

#### **4.1 PFM, A/R and ANR Members community consultation**

What are the motivations behind of your participation in OFLP/RIP/GLP/ REDD+ legacy project activities?

Are any Discriminating or incrementing criteria for inclusion or exclusion in the project activities?

Do you think all the local communities have equal chance of participating in OFLP/RIP/GLP/ REDD+ legacy project activities and benefit equally?

What do you think about sustainability of the project activities?

Are there any anticipated Environmental and social impacts practically happened? if yes list them and their mitigation action effectively implemented.

Are there any proposed corrective action identified and you have been communicated on and yet un implemented and needs further action plan?

### **V. Field Visit Checklist**

What are anticipated E&S impacts identified during program/project activity per implementation? Are there E and S impacts happened and mitigated? What are the evidence that confirms?

What are specific evidences and indicators that confirm the site level proposed corrective actions or recommendations are practiced by the community and responsible organization to mitigate the potential impacts?

Does the program/project apply a non-discrimination policy, laws and other terms of conditions for participation/employment? What are evidences that confirms?

Are there specific requirements set for minimum age, minimum wage, forced labor and discrimination?

Does grievances mechanisms implemented at program /project based activities level for its employees and communities? What are the evidences that confirms?

Has a risk assessment conducted to identify and assess for controlling health and safety risks associated with workplace?

Has the program/project sub activities taken all necessary steps to avoid or mitigate (to an acceptable level) OHS risks?

Are collective protective measures (safety equipment) prioritized over the use of personal protective equipment (PPEs)?

What is the % of women participation in cooperative management positions /sub project activities implementation at specific site? Is there any specific mechanisms implemented to encourage gender participation?

Are there any community risks and impacts registered at the site level? If there, what measures are taken?

## ***Annex 7: Compliance Status with the Old Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and the Prepared OFLP Safeguards Instruments***

Though it is not part of the scope of the ESDDA, the consultant has assessed the compliance of the underlying programs and projects in accordance with the old WB safeguard policies and the OFLP safeguards instruments. Summary of the findings is described below.

### **A. Compliances with Old WB Safeguard Policies**

**Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01):** In line with the World Bank operational policy requirements, Environmental Assessment (OP 4.01) was triggered by the Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP), including OFLP grant activities, RIP, REDD+ legacy Projects and GLP which have been under implementation during the audit period to identify, avoid, and mitigate the potential negative environmental impacts associated with Bank lending operations. This policy is the umbrella policy for the Bank's environmental policies. In line with this, the World Bank Policy for Environmental Assessment is guided by Operational Policy/Bank Procedure (OP/BP) 4.01 and consists of the following basic elements like (i) Eligibility check (ii) screening; (iii) environmental assessment (EA) documentation requirements; (iv) public consultation; (v) Environmental Social assessment review and approval of safeguard instruments and documentation and (vi) arrangements for supervision, monitoring, and reporting. During the ESDDA period no new forest investment activities were implemented under the OFLP and REDD+ legacy projects. However, the RIP forest investment activities were guided by this operational policy. All sites in the sampled woredas and kebeles underwent environmental assessment processes including Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ Project eligibility checks, screenings and preparation and implementation of ESMP for sites with moderate environmental and social impacts.

**Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04):** Requires promoting environmentally sustainable development by supporting the protection, conservation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of natural habitats and their function. The REDD+ initiatives were designed in such a way that the forest habitat protected, conserved, maintained, and rehabilitated; the operation for forest (natural habitat) protection and conservation has been made in accordance with the project's designing procedure. This policy prohibits Bank support for projects that would lead to the significant loss or degradation of any critical natural habitats.

The definition of natural habitat includes those natural habitats that are: legally protected, officially proposed for protection, and unprotected but of known high conservation value and the REDD+ initiatives developed to manage natural habitat without any conversion of forest land.

During the audit period, subproject activities under the OFLP including RIP and GLP have been implemented considering the natural habitat and the operational policy. All program/project interventions promote and support the conservation of natural habitats and improved land use that maintains ecological functions. Various forest development and conservation activities like PFM AR ANR and FMNR have been executed to ensure the sustainable management of natural forests and the preservation of natural habitats. Based on Key Informant Interviews (KII) Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and site observations in all project and subproject activity implementation areas there was not a conversion of natural habitat due to project activities intervention.

**Pest Management (OP/BP 4.09):** Requires minimizing and managing the environmental and health risks associated with pesticide use and promote and support safe, effective, and environmentally sound pest management including the integrated pest (IPM) techniques and encourage their use in the whole of the sectors concerned. In line with this requirement, the OFLP during the grant period integrated pest management for two AR sites.

**Forests (OP/BP 4.36)** - requires the conservation of forest biodiversity, the sustainable management of forest areas, and the participation of local people particularly in the management of the surrounding forests. In line with this requirement, the project has been implementing participatory forest management (PFM) to conserve, develop, sustainably utilize and protect the forest by engaging the local community.

**Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37):** Requires ensuring quality and safety in the design and construction of new dams and the rehabilitation of existing dams, and in carrying out activities that may be affected by an existing dam. The main objective of this operational policy is to protect people, property and the environment from the



harmful effects of mis-operation or failure of dams and reservoirs. There was no any dam construction/rehabilitation during OFLP grant period and in the audit period.

**OP 4.10 Historically underserved and vulnerable groups (Underserved People's and Vulnerable Groups):** Requires the government to engage in a process of free, prior and informed consultations with historically underserved and vulnerable groups peoples, forest dependent communities. Bank considers the GoE's legal provisions and adopted the latter's policies, laws and regulations meant to address the social, economic and cultural marginalization of the communities broadly referred to as the 'underserved' in Ethiopia. The Bale Mountain Ecoregion REDD+ Project (BMERP) implemented the Free Prior and Informed Consultation throughout the project sites. The sub-project activities carried out within the OFLP grant period were overseen by local communities in the Oromia Regional State. Historically underserved and Vulnerable groups were identified, treated equally, and provided special supports.

**OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement:** Necessitates that involuntary settlement is avoided or minimized, and where unfeasible, assistance is given to displaced persons to improve or restore their livelihoods. Even if the project has not undertaken any resettlement, this OP was triggered to oversee meet the policy requirements on access to and use of natural resources including forest based and non-forest-based resources. So far, there is no involuntary resettlement related issue in the subproject implementation period.

**OP 4.11 – Physical cultural resources:** Aims to protect physical cultural resources. Though the OFLP, RIP, GLP and the two REDD+ legacy projects are socially and environmentally friendly. The underlying program and project activities/subprojects implemented in Oromia region did not have any adverse impacts on physical cultural resources including ritual sites of historically underserved and vulnerable groups' religions and cemeteries.

#### **B. Compliance Status with the Environmental and Social Safeguards Instruments Prepared for OFLP**

The compliance status of the underlying Programs/Projects with the prepared E&S safeguards instruments has been assessed through a structured process, as identified during the environmental and social assessment (ESA) and through consultations with key government stakeholders in the regional states. At the time of OFLP grant period (and the retroactive carbon accounting audit period) all Programs/Projects impact assessment was comprehensively addressed using the parent OFLP safeguard instruments whereas as for the OFLP-ERP implementation period (a) the OFLP grant instruments were updated based on the ESF requirements and (b) new OFLP-ERP ESRM instruments were developed and disclosed to serve during the implementation of the OFLP ERP period. The implementation process of site specific environmental and social instruments for OFLP grant financing, RIP, GLP and the two REDD+ legacy projects have been executed following the parent OFLP safeguard instruments; and site- specific instruments preparation process was conducted by the community level DA through using eligibility checklist with consultation of the community. The kebele administrative provided an approval letter based on the screening result. The required site-specific instruments such as ESMPs in all sites of RIP, REDD+ legacy projects were developed, implemented and monitored.

The ESDDA for the retroactive carbon financing was carried out thorough assessment that established how well a plan addresses identified risks and repercussions. It is essential for making sure that the organization has placed appropriate procedures in place to regulate and mitigate the likelihood of negative impact on the environment and society, mainly focusing on labor, security, and gender-based violence of the underlying program and project activities which are needed to generate emission reductions as per the OFLP-ERP's environmental and social instruments. Additionally, by investigating the organization's reporting, monitoring, and capacity building processes, the audit sought to evaluate the effectiveness of the environmental and social instruments implemented to address social and environmental concerns. Organizations may demonstrate their commitment to sustainable practices and responsible operations by going through ESDDA procedure. Accordingly, the evaluation covered the techniques and activities implemented to improve social and environmental performance as well as the ongoing improvement mechanisms. The ESDDA noted that appropriate procedures for reporting, monitoring, and capacity building are in place, organizations are demonstrating that they are truly committed concerning effectively tackling social and environmental challenges.

During OFLP grant period, environmental and social risk assessment for the OFLP grant financing, RIP, OFLP, the two REDD+ legacy projects and GLP has been conducted using the parent environmental and social safeguard instruments. During the ESDDA retroactive carbon period, all forest investment activities were

implemented under parent OFLP instruments. During the audit period, the collected FGD and KII data and the findings of community consultations conducted at local community and beneficiaries cooperated on AR and PFM confirm that the environmental and social risks/impacts in relation to gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation risks in the project intervention areas were not raised and recorded.

Developments agents together with local communities were involved on determining program/project activities' eligibility. Local experts at district level further assessed and screened program/project activities to effectively address specific E&S issues. These tools have played a crucial role in ensuring programs/projects like OFLP, RIP and REDD+ Legacy projects to meet the required eligibility and screening criteria. Consequently, ESMPs have been prepared and implemented for 538 out of the 2,202 PFM and AR sites that were deemed eligible and reviewed.

Based on site specific ESMPs implementation, primary and secondary data collected during the ESDDA period show that there was no new investment activities implemented for OFLP-ERP during the requested retroactive carbon financing period. However, there were 890 active RIP forest investment activities on AR/ANR/PFM sites that were checked for eligibility and screened. After the OFLP-ERP Agreement was signed, the newly developed OFLP-ERP ESRM tools were used and put into action for site-specific ESRM management at the landscape level. These new instruments and standards are effective in guiding and implementing the ER project's objectives through environmental and social risk assessment.

Overall, the Oromia Forested Landscape Program was designed to oversee the implementation of measures outlined in the ESRM instruments to mitigate environmental and social impacts associated with the underlying program and project activities. Through regular monitoring and evaluation, the program aims to track progress, identify any potential issues or challenges, and make necessary adjustments to ensure compliance with the ESRM instruments. To check compliances with impact mitigation action plan produced during the grant period, field monitoring implemented on sampled sites and report was produced by ORCU Environment and Social risk management specialists. Considering this, the main environmental and social issues are briefly summarized below.

**C. Environmental Issues:** The Program/OFLP has achieved a range of positive results, including improved rainfall patterns, the resurgence of spring-water sources, a reduction in forest fires, an increase in forested areas, the return of wildlife species, economic opportunities, community commitment to reducing reliance on forests, and a shift in attitudes towards conservation and restoration efforts. The long-term livelihood security and wellbeing of historically underserved and vulnerable groups and local communities are positively impacted by the program along with all its associated initiatives, with a special emphasis on women and the most marginalized and/or vulnerable individuals. Evidence gathered from the I/A/Bor zone, Halu woreda PFM cooperatives also confirmed these outcomes. Right holders have experienced tangible livelihood consequences due to the underlying programs and projects including REDD+ legacy PFM cooperative members benefiting the financial resources allocated from the entire livelihood fund. The CIG has received money through the underline program and projects including REDD+ legacy project and OFLP grants. Although the funds received were insufficient to significantly raise the locals' standards of living, they did enhance their means of subsistence and shift attitudes towards forest management. PFM's third objective, which emphasizes expanding livelihood assets and food security as well as diversifying employment opportunities for forest dependent communities, especially women, the impoverished, and the most vulnerable and/or marginalized people, has explicit provisions on this matter. Consequently, the Program/OFLP has successfully instilled a positive change in attitudes towards the importance of conservation and rehabilitation, paving the way for a more sustainable future for the environment and the communities involved in the program implementation

**D. Social Issues:**

During OFLP grant period, various parent instruments and frameworks have been established to manage environmental and social risks in programs/projects, such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Process Framework (PF), and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) with the Social Development Plan (SDP). These instruments were carefully designed based on the specific nature, scope, risks, and impacts of each project. One of the key focuses of these instruments is the development of site specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), which is tailored to address site-specific concerns and ensure effective risk mitigation strategies are in place. In addition to addressing environmental risks, these instruments also play a crucial role in evaluating assessing and managing social risks, including issues such as gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and

harassment. During the period of the OFLP grant, several social issues were brought to light, including land acquisition, restricted access, and lack of mobility routes, loss of grazing areas and pastures, and income losses. These issues were addressed through the implementation of ESMPs. One of the main concerns that arose during the grant period was land acquisition. This refers to the process of acquiring land for various purposes, such as infrastructure development or conservation projects. The OFLP grant period witnessed instances where land was acquired, which led to social issues. The RPF aimed to mitigate the negative impacts of land acquisition by ensuring fair compensation for affected individuals and communities, as well as providing alternative land options when possible. Another social issue that emerged was the restriction of access. This refers to limitations placed on individuals or communities in accessing certain areas, such as forests or water bodies. The OFLP grant period witnessed instances where access to certain resources was restricted, leading to social tensions. The parent ESRM instruments including the Process Framework (PF) developed as part of the RPF and ESMP developed and implemented during the grant and the retroactive carbon accounting period addressed those issues by promoting dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders to find mutually beneficial solutions. It also emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable access to resources for all affected parties. Furthermore, the lack of mobility routes was identified as a social issue during the grant period. This refers to the absence or limited availability of transportation routes, which can hinder the movement of people and goods. The ESRM instruments recognized the importance of mobility routes for communities and worked towards improving transportation infrastructure in affected areas. This included the construction or improvement of roads, bridges, and other means of transportation to enhance mobility and connectivity. Loss of grazing areas and pastures was another social issue that arose during the OFLP grant period. This issue particularly affected communities that relied on livestock rearing and agriculture for their livelihoods. The ESMP aimed to address this concern by implementing measures to restore and rehabilitate grazing areas and pastures, as well as providing alternative livelihood options for affected communities. Lastly, income losses were identified as a significant social issue during the grant period. The implementation of the OFLP project sometimes resulted in disruptions to local economies, leading to income losses for individuals and communities. The parent ESRM instrument and site specific ESMP recognized the importance of economic sustainability and sought to minimize income losses by promoting income-generating activities, providing training and capacity-building opportunities, and supporting the development of alternative livelihood options. Overall, the social issues raised during the OFLP grant period were addressed through the implementation of ESMPs. This plan aimed to mitigate the negative impacts of land acquisition, restricted access, lack of mobility routes, loss of grazing areas and pastures. During OFLP grant Period, the ESRM requirements outline the necessary measures to manage impacts and risks related to health, safety, legal compliance, and environmental and social responsibility.

## **F. Organizational Roles and Responsibilities**

OEPA oversees OFLP, RIP and REDD+ legacy and OFLP-ERP ESRM instrument preparation and implementation and ensuring that the old safeguard instruments are implemented in all REDD+ legacy projects, RIP, GLP, and OFLP project activities. This means that OEPA plays a crucial role in making sure that the programs/projects are carried out according to established guidelines and standards. By doing so, OEPA helps to protect the environment and ensure that the programs/projects are sustainable for the long term. The organization's work is essential in promoting responsible and effective practices in the field of conservation and resource management. The implementation of parent OFLP/ OFLP ERP activities have been/are relying on existing government structures and existing and/or new community institutions established for the program/project implementation. Thus, at all administrative levels in Oromia region, government has roles in providing oversight function; and government and community institutions in providing technical and implementation support. Under the parent OFLP, implementations followed a decentralized approach and local communities were the primary responsibility for executing program/project activities, including identifying, prioritizing and implementing community investments. Government implementing relevant sectors (Agricultural, Land administration, Water and Energy, cooperative development and promotion agency, and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) and community institutions were supported by Project Coordination Units (PCU) at regional, and Woredas levels. Project teams were responsible for coordinating implementation of the project, managing fund flows, ensuring fiduciary and ESRM instrument preparation, capacity building and monitoring its implementation obligations, monitoring performance, maintaining timely and regular physical and ESRM reports, and documenting Environmental and social risk management information system. During the OFLP grant period, zonal lead facilitators, safeguard coordinators and Woredas coordinators took the responsibility to appraise community investments (sub-projects activities), particularly in terms of social and environmental issues, technical soundness, gender equity, consistency with the government and different Programs /projects at local level.

In the ER period, the OFLP-ERP consists of 19 professionals, while 4 of them are environmental and social risk management specialists continually delivering ESRM implementation support for the OFLP-ERP especially on effectively implementing the benefit sharing plan and avoidance or minimization of conflicts, complaints and grievances which may be raised by the beneficiaries. Further, during OFLP - ERP period, Zonal and district EPA oversees the government's commitment to deliver environmental and social protection and has regulatory roles and responsibilities for ensuring the management of natural resources, including forest development at the local level. Kebeles provide a link between the state and the local community and are responsible for enforcing the directives from the federal and regional governments at the grass root level. The OEPA, REDD+ focal persons at zonal and district levels are in charge of conducting the environmental and social screening of each subproject. The EPA focal persons supported by members of the technical committee established at the district level and Development Agents deployed at the Keble level. Before submitting the environmental and social screening reports of subprojects with application for approval to the regional PCU, it is checked and approved internally by the district EPA. The Kebeles administrative governmental services are conveyed through them PFM/AR/ANR cooperative established and administratively supported at the grass root level in Parallel with GRC of the project.

## **F. Capacity Building and Community Awareness on ESRM**

The capacity building training program extension was delivered to a wide range of services, starting from the grassroots level DA, Woredas relevant sectors, and various initiatives that directly or indirectly contribute to ER. The data acquired from Woredas and the community-level FGD simultaneously affirms that the OFLP and OFLP-ERP projects have been successfully promoting public engagement and consultation. Public participation within the context of the ESDDA implies a process where participants exercise some influence over the program, the plan of action, and the decisions to be made. In comparison to consultation procedures, participatory processes frequently require a deeper level of participation from the same individuals throughout multiple stages, and they yield more transparent results. An organized procedure known as "public consultation" allows members of the public or other interested parties to provide feedback on and participate in ideas and decisions that have an impact on them. Consultation is primarily about having the opportunity to be heard.

Public consultation describes structured processes through which the public or stakeholders can comment on and contribute to the decisions and proposals that affect them. In contrast to participation, consultation is largely the right to be heard, not the right to decide. Consultation is a two-way process of dialogue that aims to improve the exchange of information, collaboration, and mutual understanding of the parties involved in project development. The program encourages and enforces public participation in forest management investment areas. At the overall jurisdictional level, community consultation has been planned, a separate document has been prepared for each district of the region, and all the local communities need to participate in the consultation. Accordingly, the OFLP-Grant report confirms that 2,204,004 community members were consulted on program activity, ESRM, and climate change adaptation and mitigation (REDD+ Strategy). Whereas the program specifically undertook public participation, 92,576 participants participated in AR, PFM, and livelihood enhancement. Similarly, during the audit period 16,422 officials from different stakeholder groups, including regional, zonal, and woreda government institutions and non-government bodies, were consulted on the program and ESRM.

## **G. Community or Stakeholder Engagement on ESRM**

The OFLP's approach to jurisdictional management is focused on three key areas: supporting state-wide policies to reduce deforestation and rural poverty, coordinating ongoing and planned REDD+ initiatives across sectors and projects within the regional state, and ensuring accurate Accounting Measuring Reporting and Verification (MRV) at the Oromia Regional State level. This means that implementing the parent OFLP has been effectively coordinating multiple initiatives funded by different sources and carried out by various stakeholders and encouraging fulfilling E&S requirements of OFLP.

The project has used different community engagement mechanisms for effective preparation and implementation of ESRM issues. Annually, a consultation platform for different projects, programs and government institutions and civil organizations was held consecutively. Public meetings, site specific consultation at PFM, AR, ANR and other forest-based cooperatives level. During the OFLP grant period and OFLP –ERP, the Peoples who might be directly affected by the impacts of the programs/projects whose land is voluntarily pooled and whose livelihoods affected due to loss of access, ethnic minority group whose culture and lifestyle are affected because of the programs/projects and whose access to natural resources is restricted

were effectively engaged. During site level investigation, the individual consultant confirms in person all the adjacent community or the community rides in and around the Natural Forest well engaged during consultation, cooperative establishment and decision-making process in relation to the program activity implementation. The REDD+ initiative has been guided under OFLP ESRM instruments were the Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ Project (BMERP) and Joint Forest Management in the five districts of Ilu Abba Bora Zone in Oromia Regional State. The BMERP comprises 16 districts which in total are 566,258 ha k forests. The “REDD+ Joint Forest Management in the five districts of Ilu Ababora Zone (Ale, Becho, Diddu, Halu and Nono Selle), Oromia Regional State, South-West Ethiopia - Phase II (REJFMA-SW Ethiopia II) Project. In due course of time different standards such as Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), and Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) safeguard instruments were employed for project description, design, and implementation. All the PFM activities implemented under Bale Ecoregion and Ethio wetland retroactively implemented site Specific ESRM instruments during the parent OFLP grant period based on the parent OFLP ESRM instruments. With these tools in place the E and S effects of forest investment were closely monitored and enforced that guarantees the long-term sustainability of these important ecosystems for the Carbon market and coming generations. The audit has taken samples from both the Ethio-wet land and BMERP to check compliances of the E and S risks identification, Management plan preparation and mitigation action implementation. All the PFM sites were fully implemented ESMP and compliance with the parent ESRM instruments. Beneficiary community members and other relevant stakeholders were continuously consulted and participated throughout the project design, implementation and monitoring of sub-project activities and site-specific instruments.

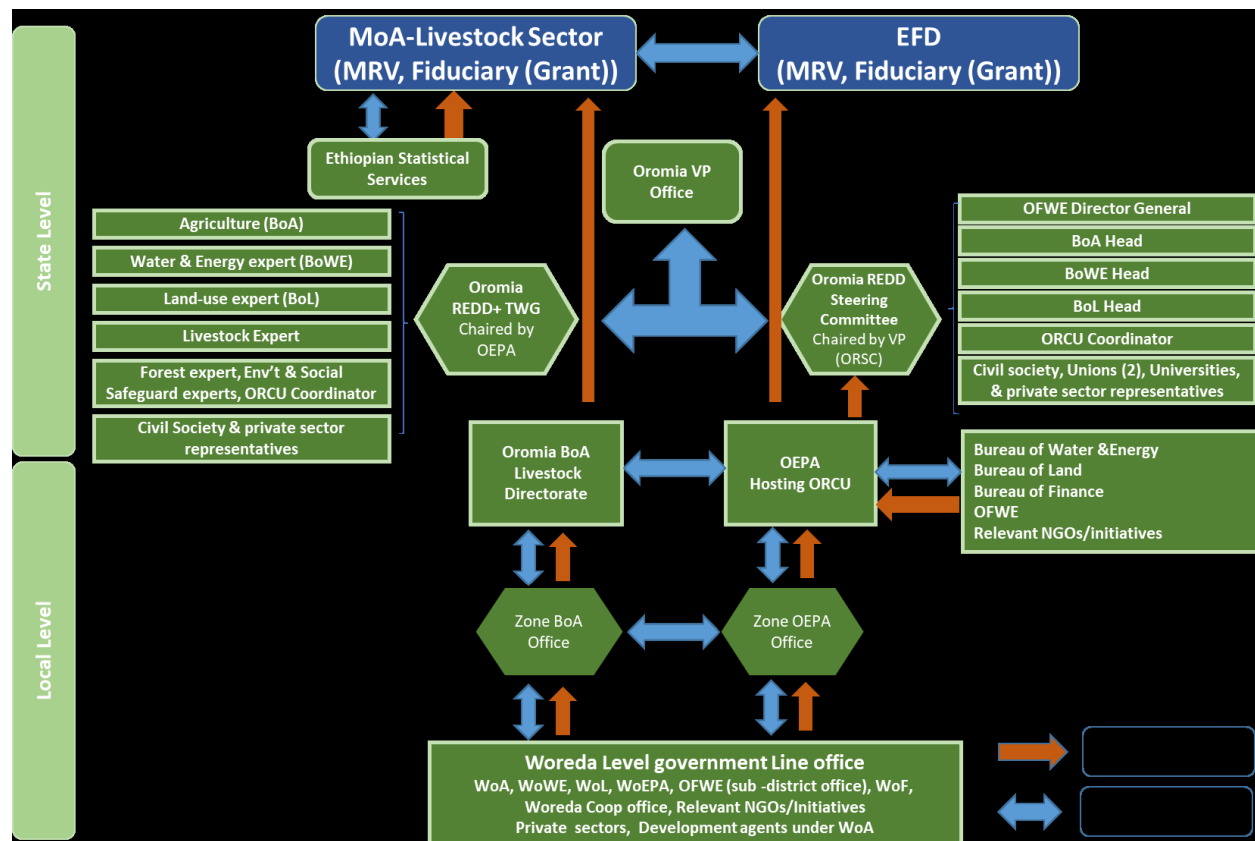
## **H. Monitoring and Reporting of ESRM Instrument Implementation**

Comprehensive Environmental & Social Assessment and Management System enhances the ability of all stakeholders to better predict and mitigate environmental and social impacts.

**Implementation and Supervision:** At the Regional level, the OFLP-ERP E&S specialists, in collaboration with zonal and Woreda EPA, cascade supervision and provide support to the implementation of E&S instruments incompliance with WB policies, OFLP E&S instruments and site specific ESMP mitigation measures, and systemic follow-up is needed for the sub-project to verify that measures identified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), has been implemented and monitored. For implementation of E&S instruments documentation, preparation for site specific activities, mitigation action implementation and community involvement/consultation performances has been supervised. The implementing institutions EPA, agricultural offices, livestock sectors, land administration and cooperative promotion agencies and programs/projects were the responsible parties. Additionally, necessary plans, targets actions were supervised, monitored and reported on together with other progresses of the projects and subprojects in relation to E&S instruments implementation. The preparation, implementation and monitoring of the E&S instruments are consistently carried out across all old and active projects activities. This process ensures that the E&S instruments are effectively implemented to manage risks and enhance project performance. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the E&S instruments also allow for adjustments to be made as needed to improve subproject efficiency and effectiveness. During supervision, relevant stakeholders play important roles in ensuring that information is shared effectively, implementation of E&S impact mitigation activities is carried out responsibly, and accountability is maintained throughout the process. Stakeholders actively participate in discussions provide valuable input and work together to address any issues that may arise. By taking on these responsibilities’ stakeholders help to ensure that programs/projects are carried out in a sustainable and ethical manner ultimately benefiting the community and the environment. Their active involvement and commitment are essential in achieving successful outcomes and promoting positive change.

**Monitoring the compliance:** OFLP and OFLP ERP carryout compliance monitoring internally and externally. Conducting compliance monitoring of projects implemented at regional and Woredas levels are the responsibility of ORCU or Woreda Environmental Protection Offices. The planning for external compliance monitoring/inspection will be conducted as per the project legal agreement (which includes the ESCP). During the OFLP grant period, IESC audit was implanted on OFLP, RIP, GLP and the two REDD+ legacy projects (Bale eco-region and Ethio-wet land EWNRA projects in Illu Abba bor zone, and based on the findings the Environmental and social mitigation corrective actions were developed and under implementation to avoid or minimize the potential impacts of sub project activities the parent OFLP.

## Annex 8: OFLP-ERP Institutional and Implementation Arrangements



The OFLP is the programmatic umbrella and coordination platform for multi-sector, multi-partner intervention in Oromia. It is coordinating all relevant agriculture-forested landscape related initiatives in the region. The grant OFLP institutional arrangement for ESRM implementation relies on existing Government institutions both at the federal and Oromia National Regional State (encompassing all concerned regional institutions up to kebele administration office) levels with discrete accountabilities and decision-making roles based on existing mandates. The Ethiopian Forest Development (EFD), and the Oromia Regional Environment Protection Authority (OEPA) and its corresponding zonal and woreda offices through their environmental and social impact assessment experts and woreda focal persons, will continue to play a lead role at all administrative levels during the ERPA period. The OFLP grant supports the placement of OFLP safeguards personnel (two E&S specialists at the regional level and six OFLP safeguards coordinators at the zone/cluster levels) and capacity strengthening (training, awareness and technical support) for safeguards monitoring and management in the OFLP carbon accounting area. Also, there are 3 OFLP lead facilitators (at zonal/cluster level) and 38 OFLP woreda coordinators (at woreda level) who provide technical support on grant OFLP implementation, including safeguards management up to December 2022. In addition, a functional grievance Redress mechanism (GRM), comprising a total of 5006 grievance redress committees (GRCs), has been established during the grant OFLP period throughout the Oromia region and will be strengthened and continued to serve during the ERPA period.

Thus, as a strategic multi-sectoral Government program utilizing diverse financing sources and partner support to scale up action, the OFLP's ER institutional arrangement is anchored in the following principles: (i) the institutional set-up would be based on existing federal and state Government structures; (ii) clear institutional roles, responsibilities and procedures based on existing institutional mandates; (iii) extensive multi-sectoral coordination to plan and implement related projects, activities and policies critical for OFLP's success; and (iv) coordinating and leveraging selected associated initiatives (financed by the WBG and/or

others). Accordingly, the key institutions are described below.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) at federal level will sign the ERPA and take the overall fiduciary responsibility. MoF will receive funds from the ERC purchase based on verified ER amount achieved by the OFLP-ERP at the end of each ERPA phase and distribute ER benefits according to the BSP.

EFD will oversee the overall technical and policy dimensions of the program at the Federal level and OEPA will have the oversight responsibility for the OFLP-ERP in subsequent phases in the jurisdiction in Oromia National Regional State. OEPA was set up by Proclamation 199/2016 on July 20, 2016 (as amended

recently by regional regulation no. 242/2021) and is officially mandated to oversee the forest sector in Oromia.

The Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit (ORCU) is the implementing unit for OFLP, tasked with the Program day-to-day technical and administrative management including ER monitoring, reporting and Safeguards activity supervision to ensure the program's compliance with the ESF instruments. While ORCU reports administratively to the OEPA, it seeks strategic and tactical guidance from the Oromia Regional State Vice President, given the multi-sector nature of OFLP and land use challenges in the regional state.

The ORCU and OEPA will be supported by the EFD which will carry out an oversight role in particular on MRV, safeguards, financial management and procurement. The regional state's multi-sector REDD+ Steering Committee and Technical Working Group will provide strategic guidance and technical inputs, respectively, to guide OFLP ERP implementation. The OEPA and sector bureaus including the Oromia Agriculture Bureau (OAB), Livestock and Fisheries Resources, Development Agency (LFRDA), Oromia Water and Energy Bureau (OWEB), Oromia Land Bureau (OLB) and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) will be supporting the

OFLP-ERP implementation and coordinate activities on the ground through their decentralized staff, particularly those activities potentially conducive to produce more ER financed from own sources or from ER proceeds. In addition, OEPA will, in the near-term, rely on development agents (DAs) under the authority of the OAB and OLB to implement investment activities on the ground until such time as OEPA has its own core of DAs in place. OFWE has a similar structure with local extension agents with experience in participatory forest management (PFM), but OFWE does not follow the woreda structure and instead follows its own district structure based on its forest concessions. Specific activities to be implemented by the OEPA,

OFWE and relevant bureaus will be defined with specific accountabilities, including lead and supporting roles and budgets, in the joint annual work program and budget and joint procurement plan.

At regional state level, joint work planning, budget formulation and reporting for the OFLP ER and forest related policy development/harmonization will take place with the involvement (as needed) of the Executive level of Oromia Regional State, the OEPA, OFWE, all relevant bureaus, and others as relevant, with the ORCU serving as the OFLP secretariat at the OEPA.

At the zone level, OFLP safeguards coordinators are overseeing the safeguards work of the OFLP woreda coordinators and ensure that environmental and social risk managements are implemented according to the OFLP environmental and social risk management instruments.

Also, OFLP lead facilitators (at zonal level) hosted by selected zone offices of the OEPA, will providing technical and operational support to OFLP woreda coordinators and OFLP safeguards coordinators to ensure satisfactory implementation.

At the woreda level, each woreda administration office together with a combination of woreda sector experts and development agents under them, who are already implementing a range of sector programs and operations, will support on different activities. OFLP woreda coordinators are hosted by selected woreda offices of OEPA to: (a) reinforce woreda capacity to coordinate implementation of OFLP activities, related projects and operations, (b) lead implementation of activities directly funded by OFLP financing, and (c) support fiduciary aspects of OFLP ER including ESRM, activity reporting, financial management and procurement.

Overall, to preclude and manage Environmental and Social risk, a robust safeguards system has been already established in the OFLP grant period and will continue to be strengthened during the ERPA period to ensure that the program's citizen engagement, equitable sharing of program benefits, GRM, and safeguard risk management steps are sustained beyond the grant period; and the FDRE will allocate adequate resources (human and financial) for ESRM implementation/due diligence.



**Annex 9 : TOR FOR ESDDA**

*The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Oromia National Regional State  
Environmental Protection authority  
Oromia Forested Landscape Program-Emission  
Reduction Project (OFLP-ERP) (P151294)*

*Terms of Reference  
Environmental and Social Due Diligence Audit for  
Retroactive Carbon Accounting for OFLP-ERP  
(P151294)*

## ***Terms of Reference***

### ***Environmental and Social Due Diligence Audit for Retroactive Carbon Accounting for OFLP-ERP (P151294)***

**Assignment Country:** ET- Ethiopia

**Individual/Firm:** The consultant will be an Individual Consultant/ Senior Safeguards Consultant

**Timeframe:** The assignment will run from contract signing to the delivery of a final audit report.

#### **1. Background**

The Oromia National Regional State Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) is Oromia National Regional State's programmatic umbrella and coordination platform for multi-sector, multi-partner interventions on all forested landscapes in Oromia. OFLP aims to reduce net Green House Gases (GHGs) emissions from the land use sectors across the regional State. The primary geographic areas of OFLP include all of Oromia's rural woredas. The US\$18 million grant part of the program has been under implementation for the last five years since April 2017 and ends on June 30, 2023) and entered into the Emission Reduction payment (ERP) phase that pays for verified emissions achieved from the jurisdiction of Oromia from Jan 2022 to 2029. The emission reduction purchase phase has two phases: the first phase (Jan 2022- Dec 2024) accounts emissions reduced from the forestry sector only and the second phase (Jan 2025- Dec 2029) accounts emissions reduced from the landscape of Oromia both from forestry activities including reduced deforestation, forest degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and livestock enteric fermentation. The emission-reduction-purchase agreement (ERPA) for the first phase was signed between the World Bank and government of Ethiopia on Feb 09, 2023.

The Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP)-Emission Reduction Project (ERP<sup>3</sup>) will pay for ER results generated across Oromia. The Program is expected to provide financial incentives to support sustainable forest management, conservation, restoration, and investment, which, in turn, enhance environmental, social and economic benefits in Oromia National Regional State (ORS). By making payments to the Program Entity for measured, reported, and verified Emissions Reductions (ER) units from reduced deforestation, forest degradation, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) achieved throughout the jurisdiction of Oromia, the program will support to distribute ER payments in accordance with an agreed benefit sharing plan (BSP) and used primarily to ensure the sustainability of land use interventions, as well as to scale up action in other geographical areas within Oromia.

This climate financing will be channeled through an Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) already signed between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the World Bank on Feb 09, 2023. The ERPA payments are then further distributed based on the agreed BSP. Monitoring forest cover and forest cover changes will follow a methodology that is established at the national level and is in line with international best practices. The data generated by the OFLP will feed into the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). The outputs of the NFMS will in turn feed into the broader UNFCCC reporting. The project is envisioned to have two main components, which are (i) Purchase of Emission Reduction and distribution following the Benefit Sharing Plan and (ii) improve the comprehensive measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system and program management including Safeguards Management system. The OFLP-ERP's environmental and social risk rating is substantial which could be managed through the application of hierarchical mitigation measures, monitoring, capacity-building training, and allocation of adequate resources.

Currently, the Oromia Environmental Protection Authority, through an individual consultancy service, has intended to conduct a program environmental and social due diligence assessment for a retroactive carbon accounting for OFLP- ERP (P151294). The retroactive emission reductions to be accounted span between January 1, 2022, and ERPA signature, Feb 09, 2023. In this regard, client will carry out E&S due diligence for retroactive carbon accounting for the Project for a period which spans between January 2022 and ERPA signing date based on the underlying investments (including OFLP Grant Financing, REDD+ Investment Project, Legacy REDD+ Projects, Green Legacy Initiative) implemented using the WB old safeguards policies. Thus, this E&S due diligence terms of reference (ToR) is being prepared as per the guideline annexed to the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for P151294, and reflected in the ESCP, among others. Thus, Oromia EPA/ORCU is seeking a qualified individual Senior Safeguards

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<sup>3</sup> The project development objective (PDO) of ERP is to generate measured, reported and verified Emissions Reductions (ER) from reduced deforestation, forest degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), agriculture and other land use sectors that meet the GHG accounting requirements of the BioCF ISFL in the Oromia State and will distribute ER payments in accordance with an agreed benefit sharing plan. The specific objective of the ERP to; (i) Support Program Management including E&S standards implementation and communication; and (ii) Improve the Comprehensive Measurement, Reporting and Verification system

Development Consultant, with proven experience in safeguards risk management and good track records, to prepare the intended environmental and social due diligence audit for retroactive carbon accounting for OFLP-ERP (P151294) through a consultative and participatory process.

## **2. Objective of the assignment**

The objective of the assignment is to conduct E&S due diligence/audit for retroactive active carbon financing for OFLP-ERP based on the underlying programs/projects (including OFLP Grant Financing, REDD+ Investment Project, Legacy REDD+ Projects, Green Legacy Initiative) implemented using the WB old safeguards policies as the government has already requested to generate ERs prior to the ERPA signing date. Based on the due diligence report, an E&S due diligence action plan will be prepared with an aim to address identified gaps, impacts and non-compliances with clear corrective actions, budget, responsible body, and timeline.

## **3. Scope and tasks of the assignment**

The E&S due diligence should assess the impacts (with a primary focus labor, security, and gender based violence) of the underlying program and project activities which are needed to generate emission reductions as per the OFLP-ERP's E&S instruments specifically Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Security Management Plan (SMP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) (including GBV action plan) and Environmental & Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) prepared and disclosed as per the WB ESF. Thus, the E&S due diligence involves the systematic identification, quantification and assessment/evaluation of E&S impacts associated with the underlying programs and projects for the period for which retroactive ERCs are requested. This process also helps identify key E&S issues and the corrective measures that are necessary to ensure E&S compliance with the ERP E&S instruments (ESMF, ESCP, LMP, and SMP). Thus, the typical tasks to be followed for conducting E&S Due Diligence (ESDD) are stated below.

- **Conduct E&S impacts screening of underlying programs and projects** as per the WB ESF requirements with a focus on labor (ESS2), security (ESS4), and GBV (ESSs 1, 2 and 4). Except ESS9 (financial intermediaries), the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs1-8 and 10) of the WB ESF are applicable to the OFLP-ERP. The E&S due diligence is required to comply with the WB ESF Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). For details on the WB ESF and ESSs, refer to the following link: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework>.
- **Carry out E&S Risks and Impacts Classification:** based on review of underlying programs and projects and environmental and social issues that are typically associated with labor and working conditions, community health, safety and security and GBV or SEA/SH. The level of the impacts and risks will be determine based on the finding of the assessment and will be categorized, as per the program ESMF, as well as WB ESF technical note guideline Screening and Risk Classification under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The summary of the E&S risk classification requirements for the investment project financing (IPF) is annexed to this ToR for your reference. Assess on contextual issues of rights and duties of stakeholders in the national and regional policy and legal provisions;
- **Assess/review E&S compliance status of the underlying programs and projects** with the (LMP, SMP, ESMF, & ESCP) requirements focusing on labor, GBV or SEA/SH, & SMP for the period of retroactive crediting. Based on the compliance assessment, identify (i) implementation gaps, and (ii) environmental and social impacts (positive and negative); and then propose appropriate corrective measures or remedies based on the identified gaps and impacts;
- **E&S Corrective Action plan:** Prepare a due diligence compliance action plan and monitoring plan or the proposed remedies for the past non-compliances. If non-compliances are identified during the due diligence, the Bank has the option not to generate the ERs; and based on the E&S audit conducted for the OFLP grant financing and the current preliminary assessment, there are no significant E&S non-compliance issues. For high, substantial and medium risk/impact rated activities, a time bound action plan with relevant requirements will have to be included in the E&S due diligence documentation.
- **Submit the report.** The client will have to report the audit findings to the Bank for review and clearance. The report will be attached to the monitoring report submitted for the issuance of ERCs at the end of the monitoring period. If significant non-compliances are identified, the Bank has the option not to generate the ERs for the period of retroactive crediting.

- **Monitoring & Reporting:** Based on the agreed E&S due diligence action plan, monitor and report the implementation of the proposed corrective actions (if any) based on the agreed plan to address potential environmental and social issues associated with the underlying programs/projects.

#### 4. Methodology of E&S Due Diligence

By combining the analysis of the available data with on-site assessments and verification (sample size and sampling framework, questionnaires, etc.), the consultant is expected to develop a standard and acknowledged methodology that best meets the accomplishment of the audit. For each of selected sample sites/woredas, all pertinent data (environmental and social risk management issues) will be independently gathered, compiled, and synthesized before being combined in one report with supporting data bases and analyses, as is expected for a distinct environment and social report in one document.

The consultant will also handle the following responsibilities at the same time.

- **Conduct Desk:** Review of relevant documents including Emission Reduction (ER) Program environmental and social risk and impacts management instruments ((LMP, SMP, ESMF, & ESCP).
- **Conduct Site visits:** In consultation with the implementers of the underlying programs/projects, conduct field visits to obtain first-hand information on environmental and social risk management status of representative programs/projects as per the LMP, SMP, ESMF, & ESCP) requirements with a focus on labor, GBV, & SMP;
- **Analysis/assessment** against applicable WB ESF environmental and social standards;
- **Conduct consultations and in-depth interviews:** Conduct consultations and in-depth interviews with representatives of relevant government institutions, NGOs, development partners, local communities (including forest dependent communities, and other vulnerable groups as well as different type cooperatives such as PFM) and other relevant stakeholders on the findings of the E&S due diligence for retroactive carbon financing.

#### 5. Supervision and Responsibility

The consultant will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit and will also receive technical support from the OEPA/ ORCU team and the World Bank task team members. ORCU will facilitate field visits, meetings for the consultants and, also provide relevant data, information and documents as well as the ESRM instruments regarding the program and reports of implementation Program as well as will engage through each consultative process. For field works and tasks out of office, ORCU will provide field vehicle and fuel along with a driver.

#### 6. Deliverables

The consultant will prepare and submit:

- **Inception report:** the inception report will be included a detailed methodology, suggested contents of the report, and action plan on how to conduct the assignment, roles of the consultant, and other relevant information for achieving the objectives of the assignment, among others;
- **Draft Report:** Draft environmental and Social due diligence audit report will be shared for review;
- **Validation workshop:** validation workshop will conduct with relevant stakeholder for further enhancement of the audit report; and
- **Final Report:** Final report with incorporating review feedback will be submitted to the relevant stakeholders.

#### 7. Timeframe

The assignment is expected to be completed within 45 days indicated in table below;

No	Activities	deadline
1	Preparation and submission of an inception report	5 days after the contract signature
2	Submission of the detailed draft environmental and social due diligence audit report	20 days after the submission of the inception report
3	Submission of the revised draft environmental due diligence audit and social report, including minutes of consultations with stakeholders	10 days after receiving consolidated inputs/comments from relevant stakeholders

4	Present final report on a validation workshop (half or one day)	3 days from submission of the revised final report
5	Submission of final report incorporating inputs from the validation workshop	7 days after validation workshop

#### **8. Minimum Qualification, experience, and competencies of individual consultant**

- The individual consultant should have MSc/MA degree in sociology, social anthropology, , development studies, and related social science field of studies with related experiences in social audit, social assessment and social impact assessment (Social Audit);
- Excellent understanding and knowledge of the environmental and social risk management aspects in relation to the forest sector management, as well as relevant international experience is an added value;
- Minimum of 10 years of related work experience in field of reconnaissance survey, experience in auditing of environmental and social management system, experience in development of ESIA, Social assessment (SA), Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Framework (RF), and other E&S risk management instruments;
- The individual consultant should be familiar with the World bank safeguards operational polices and Environmental and Social Framework (ESF);
- The consultant should have the ability to analyze a range of environmental and social issues in relation to Natural resource management and the project interventions;
- Experience in working with Vulnerable and historically underserved groups in Ethiopia;
- Experience in data analysis, both quantitative and qualitative; and
- Excellent facilitation, analytical and report writing skills.