

The Sodo Ethiopia Community Managed Reforestation Project

World Vision

Ethiopia - Horn of Africa:

Located in the high altitude mountainous regions of Southern Ethiopia, 300km South-West of the capital Addis Ababa, the Sodo Reforestation project is an outstanding example of community driven reforestation, offering significant social, biodiversity and carbon sequestration benefits. The project extends across 503 hectare in the highlands of Mount Damota, north of the township of Sodo. Initiated in 2006, the project is regenerating and protecting invaluable forest resources for community benefit. Joint CarbonFix (CFS) & Climate Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) accreditation is being sought.



SODDO PROJECT LOCATION:
Community Driven Reforestation Project
Sodo, South-West Ethiopia



The Sodo Reforestation project has proliferated approximately 450,000 trees across the project site & surrounds, with the project site being completely reforested using a mixture of tree planting and natural regeneration. Over 1.2 million trees will be established and protected, and the project will sequester and store approximately 77,000 tonnes of CO₂ -e.

The project has been developed by the local community and World Vision, and is managed by community members living on and around Mt Damota. World Vision has extensive experience in the development of community forestry projects, including the Humbo project which is the first large-scale Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) forestry project to be registered in Africa, located 30km south-east of the Sodo project site. The Humbo project has also achieved CCBA accreditation, and both the Humbo and Sodo projects are managed by the same project team in World Vision Ethiopia.

As well as forest conservation, benefits include creation of alternative income streams, improved health and food security, education benefits and capacity building. Thus, the wide range of benefits ensure both the social and environmental integrity of the project.

The project employs skilled community members for protection and maintenance of the forest, and includes training on tree propagation, cultivation and planting, silvicultural management and project administration. The project is focused on creating outcomes which benefit the entire community. Revenue generated from the project will be reinvested in local development initiatives including education, health and environmental protection projects. World Vision will work with the community to ensure that revenue from the project is allocated carefully, and will benefit the whole community, and the necessary administrative, monitoring and legal frameworks will be in place to ensure the project is established and operating effectively.

In addition to social benefits delivered by the project, the plantings will deliver significant biodiversity outcomes.

Most of the trees planted are indigenous to the Damota region, and will potentially be utilised by a range of species including the ten native species listed as threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUNC) red list including the endangered endemic species such as the Nechisar Nightjar and Ethiopian Banana Frog.

Other significant environmental benefits include soil and water conservation; the protection of watercourses; helping improve water quality in groundwater recharge and replenishing natural springs on Mt Damota; the prevention of mudslides through stabilisation of steep mountainous terrain; and the protection of agricultural soils and infrastructure such as roads and walking tracks.



Ethiopia Banana Frog, ©MJ Largen approved use

World Vision has facilitated community consultation to develop the project, and is working with farmers across an additional 1700 hectare area of Mt Damota to encourage sustainable agro-forestry practice. Due to land tenure issues and isolation for forest monitoring, the agro-forestry areas are not officially part of the Sodo project for which CarbonFix accreditation is being sought, however World Vision is working with the extended community well beyond the 'project boundary' of the Sodo project.

A nursery has been established for seedling propagation (natives and naturalised species), cultivating local vegetables (native spinach and corn) and medicinal plants, and as a facility for community members involved in the project. Community meetings and training in sustainable farming and procurement take place at the nursery and thousands of apple seedlings and mixed species have been distributed to local farmers.

The land on which the project is located is owned by the communities – with the most robust legal land rights available in Ethiopia. The communities have established cooperatives to facilitate forest management and community consultation.

Established in 1950, World Vision is a Christian humanitarian charity organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves close to 100 million people in nearly 100 countries around the world. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.. World Vision facilitates community development in the areas of education, health, agriculture, and the environment. World Vision works to establish sustainable farming practice and encourage forest protection, to help empower communities toward a sustainable future, and has been a pioneer in the development of pro-poor carbon initiatives.

Project Summary

Project area:	476 hectares
Certified tCO₂:	77,000 CO ₂ -e
Planted trees:	450,000
Still available:	On demand
Jobs created:	Over 100 local workers employed annually for forest & nursery management.
Prices:	On demand
Planted Trees:	80% locally Indigenous mixed species, 20% Grevillea / Eucalyptus / Apple

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