

## **Review of sustainable Environmental Resources management policies, plans, proclamations and Strategies: Amhara National Region State, Ethiopia**

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### **Abstract**

*African agricultural inventions and cultivation techniques tend to be adapted to local ecological conditions and sensitive to the critical need to preserve fragile natural resources. Poverty reduction and macroeconomic growth is a legitimate concern for Ethiopia and the health of its citizens, since implementation capacity is hindered by inadequate funds. Nevertheless, a focus on poverty reduction cannot ignore the implications of development for the environment. Land degradation in the Ethiopian highlands, areas above 1500m above sea level, has been a concern for many years. Soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and deforestation are common, but little has been done to determine their impact on productivity. The Ethiopian experience indicates that sustainable, conservation-based strategies aimed at increasing food production for domestic consumption and bringing about the more equitable distribution of resources merit greater attention. Ongoing land degradation in Ethiopia requires urgent action, and has been addressed at different levels of society, including widespread soil and water conservation activities, and the introduction of technologies, which integrate local knowledge and farmer's initiatives. In our experience, and in line with studies reviewed elsewhere, natural resources conservation in Ethiopia is directed towards an integration of food self-sufficiency of the environment, and frequently follows a participatory approach. In Amhara National Regional State, policy, proclamation, plan and directives have been developed, and appeals and arbitration committees have now been formed. An information and documentation system is being instituted where data would be collected and compiled at Kebele level, while digital formats have been used at the regional level. "Sustainability" is a multidimensional and dynamic concept, encompassing considerations of interrelated economic, social and environmental factors. In order to be sustainable, development must be socially and environmentally sustainable, as well as economically sustainable. Although economic, social and environmental factors are all incorporated into the conceptual framework of any project, their relationship to sustainability needs to be clarified.*

**Key word: Sustainable Environment, Institutional roles, legal frameworks,**

### **Introduction**

The policies of the national and regional governments in Ethiopia have emphasized conservation based agriculture led industrialization

through liberalization of markets, decentralization of planning and resource management and widespread investments in improved infrastructure. Moreover, promoting use of improved agricultural inputs, such as improved seeds and fertilizer and

availability of short-term agricultural credit, and promoting development of farmer organizations and other local organizations are the ultimate target of the national and regional policies, plans, strategies and proclamations .

Ethiopia is one of the most important biodiversity hotspots of the world, but also one of the most degraded (FFE, 2011b; Conservation International, 2007; McKee, 2007). The country faces numerous environmental challenges such as deforestation, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and declines in soil fertility and water quality (FFE, 2011a; Bekele, 2008; EPE, 1997). These problems pose significant risks for Ethiopian citizens since – as emphasized in the 1997 Environmental Policy of Ethiopia – “natural resources are the foundation of the economy.” Political, social, and economic challenges can both contribute to and be exacerbated by environmental degradation. Much of Ethiopia’s population is dependent upon on the environment as their principal source of income (HoAREC, 2011; US DOS, 2011; McKee, 2007; EPE, 1997). This leads to a cycle of environmental degradation and poverty: to survive, people “are forced to disregard the long-term well-being of the environment and thus degrade it further” (MoFED, 2002, p. 121). Recurrent droughts, famines, poor infrastructure and periods of political unrest serve as additional challenges for environmental management within Ethiopia (Ogbaharya & Tecle, 2010; EPE, 1997).

The manner in which environmental issues are addressed in the coming years will have a significant influence on the well-being of the Ethiopian people, and on surrounding nations whose ecosystems are “dynamically interlinked” with Ethiopia (McKee, 2007). In this context, the development of strong institutions and networks is a necessity to address environmental degradation and management of natural resources. A key component of environmental management is how policies, once adopted, are carried out. The concept that “policies gain force through implementation” applies directly to environmental policy (Weimer & Vining, 2005). The issuance of a policy establishes the problem at hand, and how it should be addressed. Implementation meanwhile refers to “the efforts made to execute the policies – efforts that don’t always achieve the intended goals” (Weimer & Vining, 2005). Eugene Bardach developed a metaphor for understanding policy implementation that provides a way of conceptualizing the environmental policy process. Bardach’s metaphor likens implementation to a machine – in order for it to work all, of the parts must be assembled and kept in place. To begin, a working machine (effective policy) is dependent upon proper design (correct theory); without this, the “machine” will not work, and the desired policy results will not be achieved (Weimer & Vining, 2005). If the correct design (effective policy) is in place, but the necessary parts for policy implementation (essential policy elements) are either lacking or unreliable, then the

machine (policy) will be ineffective (Weimer & Vining, 2005).

Another aspect of policy implementation concerns cooperation. Cooperation becomes a factor in projects large in scope and scale that can involve many actors (Heikkila & Gerlak, 2005). In short, environmental policy implementation can be extremely complex, often crossing traditional administrative boundaries and requiring a great deal of knowledge and expertise. Actors in environmental policy issues range from government bodies (at federal, regional, and local levels) to civil society organizations (CSOs), academics, scientists, think tanks, corporations, and the general public.

The environment will continue to be one of the most important determinants of Ethiopia's welfare in the future (EPE, 1997). Environmental institutions play an important role in policy development and implementation, acting as instruments of change in improving environmental quality. Despite this, there has been relatively little research on the roles of environmental institutions. This review analysis represents one of the first efforts to contextualize the work of environmental institutions in Ethiopia within a national and regional policy framework.

## **Methods**

In order to gather background and historical information, an extensive literature review explored the evolution of environmental policy and

institutions, and the current state of institutions in Ethiopia and Amhara National Regional State. To a comprehensive understanding of this review, we sought informants from multiple different stakeholder groups policies plans and programs. As such, they offer valuable insights into the environmental policies of Ethiopia, as well as into Amhara regional state government relationships and the experience of environmental institutions.

## **Results**

### **The Evolution of Environmental Institutions in Ethiopia**

A review of many published and unpublished materials, reports, books and magazines showed that prior to the period of Italian occupation (1936-41), while there were rules that addressed aspects of the environment in Ethiopia, formal environmental decrees were rare. The resource laws during the Italian occupation focused on the economic potential of Ethiopia's natural resources rather than their ecological value. During this period, the Italians issued over twenty forest decrees and implemented destructive forestry programs to fuel infrastructural development (Bekele, 2008). After the return of the Ethiopian imperial government (1941-1975), government policy focused on the development of the agricultural sector for domestic consumption and export; as a result, national forest land was redistributed for conversion to agricultural land (Bekele, 2008). While the 1955 Constitution introduced the principle of conservation, it took years for forestry policies to develop and even

longer for any implementation to take place. The period of 1955-1968 is described by Bekele as “probably one of the most distressing phases in forestry management” in Ethiopia, where the highland forest estimated in 1937 at nearly six million hectares was reduced by almost half to three million hectares in the early 1960s.

In 1975, the militaristic Derg regime succeeded the imperial government, drastically changing Ethiopian environmental management. Environmental policies produced during the Derg era (1975-1991) were grounded in the socialist ideologies of the regime (Bekele, 2008). Environmental legislation from this time period “emanated from the socialist principles in which the role of the State as owner of land and manager of related resources was magnified and individual initiative greatly discouraged” (Bekele, 2008, p. 340). The environmental policies of the Derg regime were characterized by top-down management policies which, although they often incorporated extensive conservation and tree-planting initiatives, were accompanied by the disintegration of “customary institutions of natural resource management” (Ogbaharya & Tecle, 2010). This resulted in situations where “thousands of hectares of land belonging to communities and individual households came under plantation by force” (Bekele, 2008) without regard for local participation or community empowerment. As a result, when the Derg government lost power in 1991, most of the conservation and development

activities in the environmental sector were destroyed in protest against decades of top-down rule (Bekele, 2008; Keeley & Scoones, 2003).

After a brief period of transitional government, the current federal republic system, led by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), was instituted in 1995 (Ogbaharya & Tecle, 2010). The violent change in government from the Derg regime to the current EPRDF was accompanied by a drastic ideological shift in environmental management that was manifested in the administrative structure of the government and the development of formal environmental institutions. The EPRDF's approach to land management, which views land as a common property resource owned by the state and by the people, exemplifies the recent shift towards a more inclusive approach to environmental policy in Ethiopia (Bekele, 2008). The period after the Derg regime can be characterized by a move towards political decentralization, i.e., “a transfer of decision-making power and administrative responsibility from the central government to the periphery” (Wamai, 2008). Ethiopia has pursued decentralization as a means of improving service delivery, resource allocation, regional development, and the meaningful participation of the people in decision-making processes (Wamai, 2008; MoFED, 2002). In theory, this administrative and fiscal decentralization was meant to result in more participatory, responsive, government structures and by extension, improved environmental management. The first wave of decentralization

policies in 1995 resulted in the establishment of a federal republic government, and in 2002 a further set of decentralization initiatives relegated more fiscal and administrative power to local government administrations (McKee, 2007).

Today, most large-scale environmental administration is dispersed between the federal government, and administrative subdivisions, including nine ethnically based regions and two chartered cities, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa (US DOS, 2011). In 1995, the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) was established as a response to the Rio Agenda 21, which emphasized “the necessity of integrating environment and development at policy, planning, and management levels for improved decision making” (Ruffeis et al., 2010, p. 31). The EPA is the primary agency at the federal level responsible for managing environmental issues, and its responsibilities reflect the Rio Agenda 21 goals. The responsibilities of the EPA include the development of environmental legislation and policy, setting of standards, monitoring of environmental policies, implementing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for proposed development activities, negotiating access & benefit sharing agreements, and undertaking capacity development in relevant agencies to ensure integration of environmental management into policymaking (McKee, 2007).

Regional environmental authorities represent another significant level of environmental

management institutions in Ethiopia. In 2002, the establishment of independent environmental agencies at the regional level was codified in the Establishment of Environmental Protection Organs Proclamation (McKee, 2007), known as Regional Environmental Protection Agencies (REAs), these groups were originally responsible for implementation of national and regional environmental policies. The federal EPA has since assisted Regional States in developing their own environmental conservation strategies, through provision of equipment, training and environmental education (MoFED, 2002). The second stage of decentralization introduced by the federal government in 2002 established the district) as the center of socioeconomic development.

### **Environmental Policy in Ethiopia and Amhara regional State Today**

As most of the literatures showed, the environmental policy of the federal and the regional states are basically similar. In some instances, the federal laws and policies are applied to the Amhara region without any change. Similar to the development of formal environmental agencies, most of the environmental laws in place today in Ethiopia were developed after a national backlash removed Derg regime policies that were perceived as authoritarian (Bekele, 2008; Keeley & Scoones, 2003). As Damtie (2011) notes, within Ethiopia “a separate enactment of environmental laws is a recent phenomenon in the history of making laws,” although some earlier laws had dealt with

environmental matters directly or indirectly. The majority of the environmental laws in effect today were developed after the transfer of power to the EPRDF in 1995 (Bekele, 2008).

After the Derg regime, a breadth of environmental legislation was written addressing many environmental sectors. Beginning as early as 1994 with the Water Policy Law, until the more recent 2007 Wildlife Policy, a number of sectoral policies were written, covering areas such as forests, conservation, rural land use, and impact assessment, among others. The strength of these policies varies significantly: some, like the Environmental Policy of Ethiopia (EPE) and its predecessor the Conservation Strategy of Ethiopia (CSE), are widely regarded as well-written, comprehensive environmental policies. Others, such as the Rural Development Policy, appear to lack crucial policy elements, or have been criticized for promoting development interests over environmental protection (Bekele, 2008). Issued in 1997, the current federal environmental policy, the EPE, spans numerous sectoral policies and various cross-sectoral policies (Bekele, 2008). This policy, unlike those of previous regimes, addresses implementation principles, evaluation, and policy review, and explicitly recognizes a role for participatory management. The EPE also addresses the importance of involving local communities, NGOs and professional associations, indicating in its text the relevance of decentralization of power and collaboration between sectoral interests

(Bekele, 2008). The EPE stresses the importance of sustainable development, stating that its overall goal is:

*...to improve and enhance the health and quality of life of all Ethiopians and to promote sustainable social and economic development through the sound management and use of natural, human-made and cultural resources and the environment as a whole so as to meet the need of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

To fully understand the implications of this process, one must understand the main objective of the current government that drives it. The thrust of the EPRDF's sustainable development plan has been motivated by what has been described as Ethiopia's complex, deep and structural poverty: 44% of the population was living below the poverty line in 2000 (MoFED, 2002). The Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) of 2006 and its predecessor, the 2002 Sustainable Development, and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) state that the "main development goal" of the Ethiopian government is poverty eradication (MoFED, 2006, 2002). The main mechanisms to achieve this goal are an "overriding and intentional focus on agriculture," and the strengthening of private sector growth and development of industry (MoFED, 2002).

The government's focus on agricultural and industrial development has potentially large implications for Ethiopia's environment. This potential conflict (and undeniable link) between environmental protection and economic development goals was addressed in a section of the SDPRP entitled "Environment and Development,"

which holds accountable the EPA for ensuring “harmonization” of economy and environment through the laws established in the EPE, so neither sector suffers as a result of protection of the other (MoFED, 2002). In contrast to the SDPRP, the PASDEP features an expanded section on environmental degradation as a result of development and increased agricultural pressures, addressing explicitly the fact that “reversing environmental degradation and poverty eradication are mutually reinforcing imperatives and have to be implemented together in Ethiopia’s development initiatives” (MoFED, 2006). The SDPRP mentions the potential of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) laws to enable integration of environmental consideration into development planning (MoFED, 2002). The extent to which these EIAs have been consistently implemented has been debated, however, and as such, the ability of these laws to prevent environmental degradation is unclear (Ruffeis et al., 2010).

Poverty reduction and macroeconomic growth is a legitimate concern for Ethiopia and the health of its citizens, since implementation capacity is hindered by inadequate funds. But a focus on poverty reduction cannot ignore the implications of development for the environment. The link between environmental degradation and negative health and economic impacts is a concept solidified in mandated EIAs, yet often overlooked to make room for development investment (Bekele, 2008). It is reassuring, however, that the PASDEP, Ethiopia’s “guiding strategic framework” for development,

makes clear the need to address the link between environmental degradation and poverty (PASDEP, 2006). If development is to be sustainable in the long run, policies such as EIAs and development permits should be enforced to dissuade short term interests from undermining the central goal of poverty reduction. Sustainable development in Ethiopia is crucial considering that, as cited previously, “natural resources are the foundation of the economy” and of social and While sustainable development can address the issue of inadequate capital within Ethiopia in the long run, short term solutions such as financial assistance can serve to address the capacity issues that hinder implementation of environmental policies today.

Keeley and Scoones have noted that the establishment of the EPA as a separate government body from other ministries has left it with a limited budget and also weakened the influence of conservationists in the Ministry of Agriculture (2000, p. 105). In the short term, attracting foreign financial assistance for environmental projects could strengthen the EPA’s efforts. In the long term however, in accordance with Ethiopia’s focus on sustainable development and eventual independence from foreign aid, the future of the environmental sector could possibly warrant a ministry similar to the existing Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, or the Ministry of Water Resources (MoFED, 2002). Establishment as a ministry would endow the EPA with a budget of its own to build implementation capacity to address the environmental goals outlined in the EPE, and

perhaps address environmental issues in other relevant ministries.

Table 1: Summary table of federal and regional Environmental Management policies

No	Policy	Description and Objectives	Remark
1	Forest Policy	The basic aim of the policy is to meet public demand in forest products and foster the contribution of forests in enhancing the economy of the country through appropriately conserving and developing forest resources.	Federal and regional level
2	Soil & Water Conservation Policy	SWC policy is ensuring that land users are aware of their obligations and rights and that they pass over properly conserved land to future generations, finding solutions with regarding to reduction loss of natural resources (soil erosion) and the users to have feeling of sense of ownership, which is also stated in the land use policy of the region	Federal and regional level
3	Wildlife Policy	The major objective of the policy is to create conducive environment whereby the country's wildlife and their habitats are protected and developed in a sustainable manner, and to enable the sector to play an important role in the economic development of the country.	Federal & Regional
4	Environmental Policy of Ethiopia	The EPE's overall policy goal may be summarized in terms of the improvement and enhancement of the health and quality of life of all Ethiopians, and the promotion of sustainable social and economic development through the adoption of sound environmental management principles. Specific policy objectives and key guiding principles are set out clearly in the EPE, and expand on various aspects of the overall goal. The policy contains sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and also has provisions required for the appropriate implementation of the policy itself.	Federal and regional
5	Regional Land Use and Administration Policy	The primary hindrance to proper land and land resources management had been absence of clearly defined land use policy that guides the proper use of land. The periodic redistribution of land eroded the tenure security of land users, especially of the farmers. Realizing this, the regional state has approved regional land use and administration policy. This policy has a goal of supporting the improvement of the living standard of the population through the wise use, protection and development of natural resources	Regional
6	Water Resource Policy	The Ministry of Water Resources has formulated the Federal Water Resource Policy for a comprehensive and integrated water resource management. The overall goal of the water resources policy is to enhance and promote all national efforts towards the efficient and optimum utilization of the available water resources for socio-economic development on sustainable basis. The policies are to establish and institutionalize environment conservation and protection requirements as integral parts of water resources planning and project development.	

Table 2: Summary of federal and regional Environmental Management strategies

No	Strategy	Description and Objectives	Remark
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1	Conservation Strategy of Ethiopia (CSE)	Since the early 1990s, the Federal Government has undertaken a number of initiatives to develop regional, national and sectoral strategies for environmental conservation and protection. Paramount amongst these was CSE, approved by the council of ministers, which provided a strategic framework for integrating environmental planning into new and existing policies, programs and projects. The plan comprehensively presented the exiting situation within the country and gave priority actions plan on the short and medium term. In particular, it recognizes the importance of incorporating environmental factors into development activities from the outset, so that planners may take into account environmental protection as an essential component of economic, social and cultural development	Federal
2	Regional Conservation Strategy	The conservation strategy of the region, which was approved in July 2000, includes sectoral and cross-sectoral umbrella policy objectives for the management of the regions natural, human-made and cultural resources. The principles and strategies expected to provide the region with an adequate umbrella strategic framework for the effective management of the environment.	Regional
3	Regional Food Security Strategy	Rural household production and productivity is constrained by inefficient agricultural practices, insufficient access to land, insecure land tenure, limited non-farm income opportunities and the relative inefficiency of agricultural inputs, output and factor (land, labor and capital) markets. These conditions are particularly acute in the arid and semi-arid areas of the region, where the majority of the food insecure population resides. The detailed aspect aspects of the strategy are highlighted as follows: with regard to agricultural production in mixed farming system, the aim is to enhance supply or availability of food through increasing domestic food production where soil moisture availability is relatively better. Subsistence farming has to be transformed in to small scale commercial agriculture. Household base integrated and market oriented extension packages would be employed.	Regional
4	Environmental Management Strategy of ANRS (1999)	Related to water resource development the strategic document underlined the need for environmental impact assessment for all major water conservation, development and management projects. According to the document environmental assessment process shall include costs and benefits of protection watershed forests, wetlands and other relevant key ecosystems in the economic analysis of such major water resource projects. The strategic document further stated development plan for small scale and micro irrigation projects within the context of regional, zonal and local level agricultural planning and development in close collaboration and participation of local communities	Regional

Table 3: Summary of federal and regional Environmental Management Plan

No	Plan	Description and Objectives	Remark
1	Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP)	<p>The document has identified more pillars (strategies) and a few of them are new. Two of the previous pillars, viz., “scaling-up to reach MDGs” and “a geographically differentiated strategy” are dropped. But, they are included elsewhere, albeit in a less conspicuous manner. As a matter of fact, the main objective of the PASDEP as stated in this document is to at least realize the MDGs. The pillars of the PASDEP are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All rounded capacity building (new);</li> <li>2. Accelerated, broad-based and sustainable economic growth (the focus is redefined: this is now not only on growth as was the case in EV, but also on broad-based and sustainable growth);</li> <li>3. Balancing population and economic growth;</li> <li>4. Unleashing the potential of Ethiopian women;</li> <li>5. Strengthening infrastructure development;</li> <li>6. Strengthening human resource development (new);</li> <li>7. Managing risk and volatility (new);</li> <li>8. Capacity development to realize development goals (new);</li> <li>9. Creation of employment opportunities</li> </ol>	Federal and regional
2	Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP)	A five year Growth and Transformation Program (GTP) is launched by the government starting from this year to increase mainly the production and productivity of agricultural crops through an intensive use of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, improved seeds, etc.), irrigation, and conserving and developing of the natural resource base through a watershed management approach. The GTP policy centers in enhancing farmers’ knowledge to increase productivity; capacity building of extension system to support and improve farmers’ knowledge and skills; and rapid transfer of proven technologies.	
3	Agricultural growth plan (AGP)	AGP with the objectives to increase agricultural productivity and market access for key crop and livestock products in targeted districts with increased participation of women and youth. AGP is essentially an investment window for four regions including the Amhara region to prepare demand driven investment ready proposals and seek funding. The funding will be on a competitive basis among the regions. Other components of AGP support activities that are considered necessary for improving irrigated agricultural productivity such as irrigation extension, adaptive research to improve availability of improved inputs, etc.	

Table 4: Summary of federal and regional Environmental Management Proclamations and legislations

No	Proclamations and legislations	Description and Objectives	Remark
1	Environmental framework legislation	The following three Proclamations are currently being used. These represent a framework building on the policies and strategies set out in the CSE and the EPE, which sets out basic and general provisions for the regulation of environmental matters in a coherent and holistic manner, and will be supplemented in due course by more sector-specific legislation.	
2	Proclamation on Institutional Arrangement for Environmental Protection	The Proclamation for the Establishment of Environmental Protection Organs, No. 295/2002, was issued to establish a system that fosters coordinated but differentiated responsibilities among environmental protection agencies at Federal and Regional Levels. The proclamation recognizes assigning responsibilities to separate organizations for environmental development and management activities on the one hand, and environmental protection, regulations and monitoring on the other is instrumental for the sustainable use of environmental resources, thereby avoiding possible conflicts of interests and duplication of efforts.	
3	Proclamation on Environmental Pollution Control	The Proclamation on Environmental Pollution Control (Proclamation No. 300/2002) is mainly based on the right of each citizen to a healthy environment, as well as on the obligation to protect the environment of the country. The primary objective of the Proclamation on Environmental Pollution Control is to provide the basis from which the relevant ambient environmental standards applicable to Ethiopia can be developed, and to make the violation of these standards a punishable act. The Proclamation states that the “polluter pays” principle will be applied to all persons. Under this Proclamation, the EPA is given the mandate for the creation of the function of environmental inspectors. These inspectors (to be assigned by EPA or regional environmental agencies) are given the authority to ensure implementation and enforcement of environmental standards and related requirements.	

## Conclusion

In Ethiopia, balancing poverty and socioeconomic needs with environmental concerns creates very pressing problems. To meet this challenge and to realize the spirit of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992, a number of countries have formulated strategic environmental sustainability policies to: a) include environmental concerns in their mission statements; b) develop long-term

objectives; c) generate alternative strategies to pursue those objectives; d) implement strategies to devise policies, motivate employees, and allocate resources so that the formulated strategies can be executed; e) monitor the execution of strategies and make adjustments according to feedback; and f) assess whether the strategies actually fulfill the countries’ mission statements. Therefore, Ethiopia is one of those countries which has tried to draft different policies, plans, strategies etc and put in to

effect both at federal and regional level. A number of proclamations and supporting regulations were made that contain provisions for the protection and management of the environment that reflect the principles of the Constitution and Environmental Policy of Ethiopia (EPE).

Historical evidences indicate that the reasons for century-old lack of sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection tradition are mainly related to the instability of successive governments, their rapidly changing political economy etc and non-participatory top down development programs (Bekele, 2008). The post-Derg period has witnessed the development of many formalized environmental institutions, including environmental laws spanning diverse environmental issues. However, due to lack of effective implementation of the federal and regional policies, plan, strategies, legislations and proclamations, a severe environmental degradation has been faced in the Country.

Based on the above analysis, the long-term and short term policies, plans strategies and proclamations' objectives of Ethiopia's Environmental management are congruent with the mission statement but they do not seem to be very realistic. They are hardly measurable and there is no time frame for achieving the stated objectives. Assuming that the Ethiopian Government is on the right track, it does not appear to have worked out the enforcement capacity, or trained human resources, or established the technical and scientific base for setting standards to measure compliance.

Finally, workable appeal and grievance procedures have hardly materialized. Therefore, given that the Environmental management must be an integral part of any social, economic and cultural as well as political development.

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