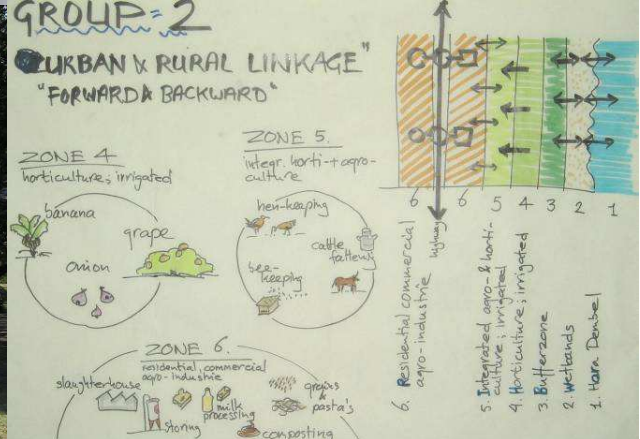
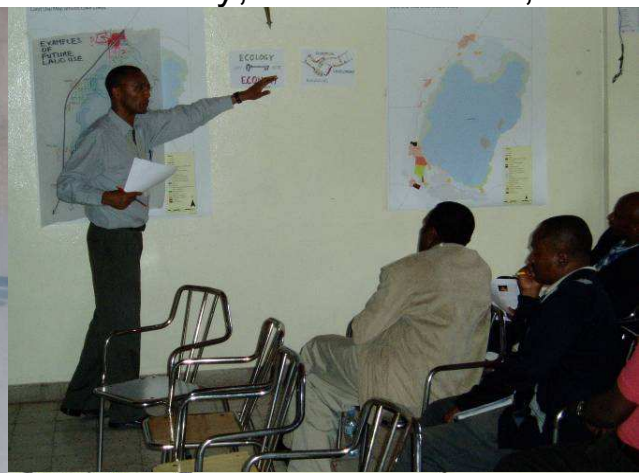


Towards a sustainable future of the western shoreline of Lake Ziway: Participatory land use plan development

Executive summary of workshop

Ziway, December 1-4, 2008



1. Introduction

This is the executive summary of the workshop ‘Towards a sustainable future of the western shoreline of Lake Ziway: Participatory land use plan development’, which was held in Ziway from the 1st until the 4th of December, 2008. The workshop brought together staff members from different levels of Government Administration (federal, regional, district and municipality), civil society organizations, and participants from the private sector (Annex I).

The overall aim of the workshop was to contribute to a more sustainable and integrated land and water management of the western shoreline of Lake Ziway. The key question was “how to stimulate the socio-economic development along Lake Ziway without further degrading and depleting the dwindling natural resource base”.

The workshop lasted four days and included an afternoon session on the 1st of December and a morning session on the 4th of December, and three overnight stays allowing informal interaction among workshop participants. The workshop was organized by the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre (HoA-REC), currently hosted by the Science Faculty of Addis Ababa University, Wageningen University and Research center, and DLG-Service for Land and Water Management, both from the Netherlands. Mr. Kidanemariam Jembere from the Ethiopia Country Water Partnership and Mrs. Annemarie Groot of Wageningen University and Research center facilitated the workshop. Sponsors of the workshop were the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, and the Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. Background of the workshop

The Rift Valley Lakes Basin Master planning project commissioned by the Ministry of Water Resources concludes that Lake Ziway is very fragile and sensitive in terms of water use. The shorelines of Lake Ziway require urgent attention due to the rapidly growing competing claims on the available natural resources, such as water for irrigation and for nature (Fig. 1). Moreover, the

area is of commercial and tourist interest and it supports a large livestock population. Over-exploitation of the natural resources and increasing use of agrochemicals threaten the environment. The downstream located Lake Abyata has been reduced by almost 50% in size over the last ten years mainly due to the reduced inflow of water from Lake Ziway. Furthermore, uncoordinated exploitation of the water resources may result in salinization of Lake Ziway and thus can have dramatic consequences for the local population and future development options. Therefore, policy development and the integrated use and management of water, land and related resources is crucial to stimulate the sustainable development of Lake Ziway and its basin, the Central Rift Valley (CRV). The workshop addressed specifically the future resource use between the cities Meki and Ziway because both are two major economic growth centers in the CRV affecting resource use most.

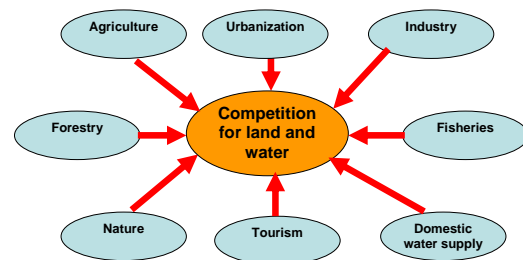


Figure 1. Competing claims for land and water resources.

3. Workshop objectives

- To jointly develop a vision and land use map for future development of the western shoreline of Lake Ziway.
- To contribute to sustainable environmental management.
- To exchange information on land use plans.
- To strengthen the capacity of stakeholders on integral resource planning.

4. Workshop program

The workshop program consisted of roughly five components to realize these objectives:

- Introduction to and updating of the current land use map.

- Identification of risks of the current land-water use system and strengths and opportunities for future land and water use through a field visit.
- Sketching and developing a future land use map and plan.
- Identification of follow-up activities within the framework of the future land use plan.

5. Kick-off of the workshop

His Excellency Prof. Mesfin Abebe, former Minister of Natural Resources and current advisor of the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia opened the workshop. In his key note he expressed his appreciation for the involvement of all stakeholders in this workshop of which the ‘lessons learned’ may be applicable for other parts of Ethiopia. In this respect, he referred to Lake Alemaya in Eastern Ethiopia which has completely dried up due to overexploitation of the surrounding natural resources. He emphasized that the current environmental destruction in Ethiopia is related to the lack of proper policies and the imposed ‘blue-prints for prosperity’ by past regimes, and to those motivated by ‘quick money’ while neglecting environmental concerns. A decreasing natural resource base increases insecurity, which is a breeding ground for conflict. Therefore, a holistic participatory approach is required to realize sustainable development. The Head of the Oromia Investment Commission Mr. Alemu Sime addressed the lack of proper management and over use of natural resources, and the need for a sound and broadly supported land and water use plan. Sustainable development can only be achieved with the participation of all stakeholders. Finally, the Mayor of Ziway, Mr. Tola Chala, welcomed the participants of the workshop in his city and acknowledged the increased competing resources claims which the city faces.

6. Current land use map and major plans

Throughout the workshop Geographic Information System (GIS) tools were used to integrate designs and sketches of future land use developed by workshop participants. As an introduction to the study area the workshop participants started with an update and revision of

the current digital land use map, which was specifically developed for this workshop (Annex II). This provided new information and created the same level playing field for the participants. Mr. Dejen Chaka of the Oromia Investment Commission presented the investment projects that are currently in the pipeline. There are many project applications in different stages of approval, but not yet spatially allocated. Participation of land users in investment projects depends on the type of land allocated to investors. For example, in the case of community land there is explicit attention for the potential benefits to the local population through employment opportunities or technology transfer.

7. Risks, strengths and opportunities

The participants, divided in four sub-groups, identified on the basis of a field visit the risks of the current land-water use system and the strengths and opportunities for future land and water use in four zones of the study area, i.e. the area around the city of Meki, between Meki and Abossa, between Abossa and Ziway and the area around the city of Ziway. Commonly agreed risks associated with high water extraction, lack of buffer zones along water bodies, overgrazing and water pollution related to irrigated agriculture and urban development. Strengths of the area were less generic and related to location-specific land use activities such as a nursery in the city of Ziway, a small preserved old forest in the Meki area (Fig. 1), and brick making on the basis of sand extracted from the Meki river.



Fig. 1. Strength: An old forest in the Meki area.

According to the participants of the workshop, major opportunities for the area are in the development of efficient irrigation methods, (eco) tourism and crop diversification within a value chain approach.

8. Development of a future land use plan

Subsequently, the sub-groups sketched future land use plans for the four zones taking into account the risks, strengths and opportunities identified. Common denominator in the design of most sub-groups was a spatial zonation including a buffer zone between Lake Ziway and the cultivated land (Fig. 3). The workshop participants considered well managed buffer zones a necessity to conserve soil and water resources. Also for the shoreline of the city of Ziway a zonation was developed in which various functions are spatially differentiated (Fig. 4). Finally, the four design sketches of different zones of the study area were integrated and digitized into one future land use map (Annex III).

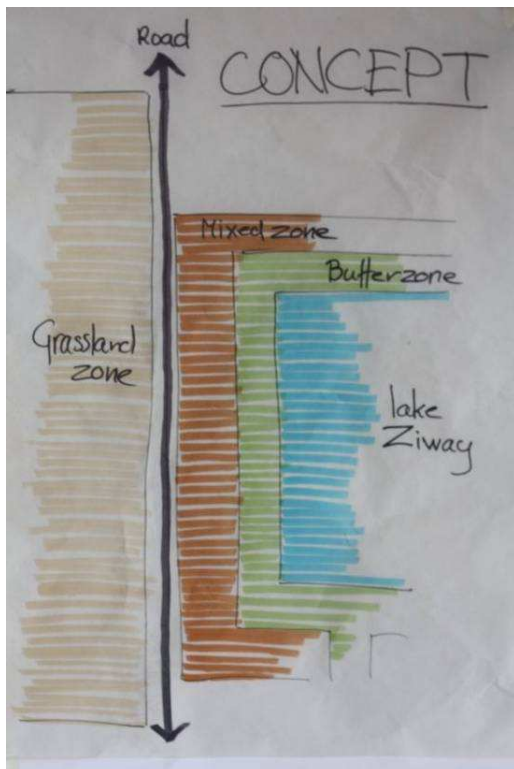


Figure 3. Zonation approach.

9. Follow-up activities

To achieve the future land use map each sub-group identified a number of follow-up activities such as seeking commitment for the plan at different levels of Government administration, raising awareness and creating ownership of local communities, studying existing legislation related to buffer zones, and the assessment of studies of the Ministry of Water Resources on the technical feasibility, environmental sustainability and economic viability of plans for expansion of irrigated land near Meki.



Figure 4. Zonation along the shores of Ziway city.

Some of the follow-up activities link up with existing initiatives such as the development of (eco)-tourism and the Ring of Lakes route that is supported by the Central Rift Valley Working Group and the HoA-REC, and the improvement of irrigation productivity including the creation of value chains for fruits and vegetables and the agenda of the Ethiopian-Netherlands Horticulture Partnership. In 2009 one (or more) feedback meetings will be organized to monitor the progress of the follow-up activities and to determine the next steps in the process of a more integrated planning and management of land and water resources in the CRV.

10. Outputs

- A digital map of the current and future land use along the western shoreline of Lake Ziway (Annex II and III, respectively).
- Common vision developed by stakeholders on the sustainable development of the shores of Lake Ziway.
- A number of actions identified by stakeholders which serve the development agenda for the shores of Lake Ziway.
- Increased awareness on the environmental problems of the area.

11. Closing remarks and conclusions

The results of the workshop were received by His Excellency Mr. Hennekens, ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ethiopia, Mr. Tola Chala, Mayor of Ziway and Dr. Araya Asfaw, director of Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre (Fig. 5).



Figure 5. Receipt of the workshop results.

His Excellency Mr. Hennekens referred to the densely populated Netherlands where spatial planning is a necessity to use resources efficiently. He recalled Ziway as being a dusty and little dynamic city three years ago and now it is booming thanks to the recent investments in horticulture and floriculture. He emphasized the need for activities aimed at securing a sustainable water level of Lake Ziway. Referring to the buffer zones, attention is needed for the people currently living in these zones since expelling of people from land is extremely difficult in Ethiopia. Mr Tola Chala was impressed by the commitment of participating organizations, but he warned for too much optimism as similar

exercises have failed in the past. He promised that the city of Ziway will provide any support to make the identified follow-up activities happen. Dr. Araya Asfaw told the audience that bringing the concept of sustainable development into practice is difficult, but that the developed future spatial plan could transform the city of Ziway and its surrounding into a modern and prosperous place and set an example for other parts of Ethiopia. Although the workshop addressed only a small part of the CRV, the topic was considered very relevant as expressed in the evaluation of the workshop by the participants. Obviously, only local actions are insufficient to solve basin-wide unsustainable use of resources in the CRV. A strong commitment and guidance of the Ethiopian Government is required to push this initiative further and broader. The workshop provided a starting point by bringing together a very diverse group of stakeholders in dialogue, raising the urgency of action, and contributing to future partnerships required for a more integrated use and management of resources in the CRV.

12. Contact persons

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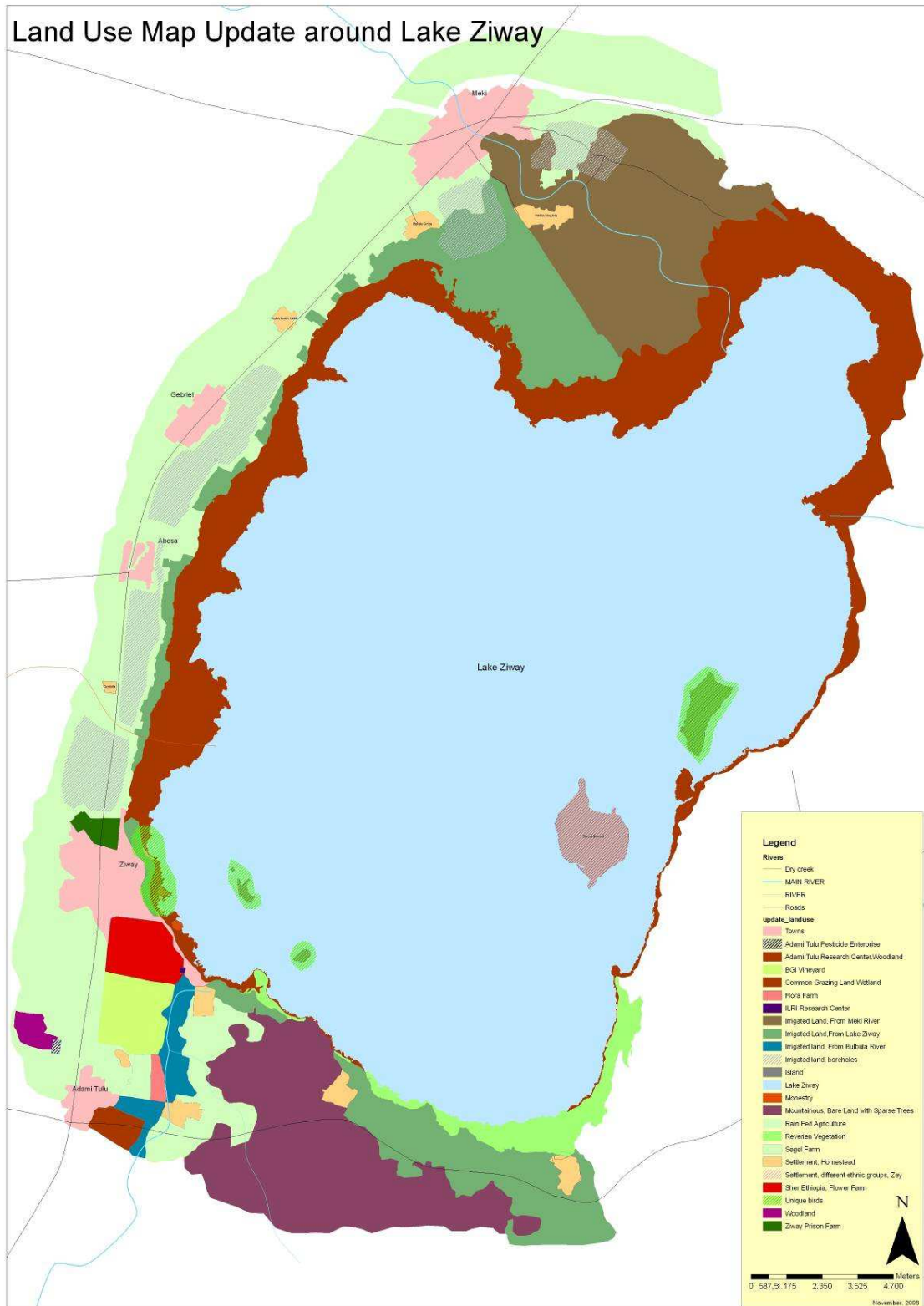
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Annex I List of participants

1	H.E. Prof. Mesfin Abebe	Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia
2	H.E. Alphons Hennekens	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (ambassador)
3	Alemu Sime	Oromia Investment Commission (commissioner)
4	Dejen Chaka	Oromia Investment Commission (expert)
5	Fekede Terefe	Oromia Investment Commission (expert)
6	Kefyalew Tulu	Oromia Investment Office (head of East Shewa Zone Investment)
7	Geert Westenbrink	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (agricultural counselor)
8	Janny Poley	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (1 st secretary Environment, Water and Energy)
9	Tola Chala	Municipality of Ziway (mayor)
10	Muluneh Balcha	Municipality of Ziway (vice mayor)
11	Wosho Kedir Hasan	Adami Tulu Jido Kombolcha woreda (head of woreda administration)
12	Feyisa Asefa	Adami Tulu Jido Kombolcha woreda (head of Agriculture and Rural Development Office)
13	Andarge Kecha	Municipality of Meki (mayor)
14	Abera Wakitola	Municipality of Meki (vice mayor)
15	Desalegn Geremew	Dugda woreda (head)
16	Assefa Hunde	Dugda woreda (capacity building executive)
17	Bariso Bekela	Dugda woreda (head of Agricultural and Rural Development Office)
18	Alemayehu Tafesse	Ministry of Water Resources (team leader)
19	Manaye Yimenu	Ministry of Water Resources (team leader)
20	Siraj Bekelie	Oromia Environmental Protection Office
21	Araya Asfaw	Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre and Network (director)
22	Zelalem Abebe	Generation Integrated Rural Development Consultants (GIRD)
23	Teshite Guye	Selam Environmental Development Association (program coordinator)
24	Tesfaye Wudneh	Fish for All (manager)
25	Wario Kuno	Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau (head of Tourism Department)
26	Tibebu Koji	Oxfam America (program officer)
27	Regassa Duressa	Ziway Water Supply (manager)
28	Siraj Hussein	Rift Valley Children and Women Development (senior program officer)
29	Tilaye Bekele	Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association (chief Technical Adviser)
30	Mengistu Wondafrash	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (team leader biodiversity conservation)
31	Abiti Rafiso	Ilka Chalama Peasant Association (chairman)
32	Jabeessoo Markatoo	Gerbi Widema Boremo Peasant Association (chairman)
33	Mulugeta Debebe	Oromo Self Help Association (executive director)
34	Girma Dalu	Selam Environmental Development Association (executive director)
35	Bekele Belda	SHER Ethiopia (Director Public Relations)
36	Cheru Dane	SHER Ethiopia (Public Relations)
37	Damene Assefa	AENDETH News (Manager)
38	Zelege Tesfaye	UNDP GEF Small Grants Program (coordinator)
39	Tafesse Bikila	Oromo Self Help Association (project manager)

40	Getachew Senbete	Ziway Fisheries Research Centre (director)
41	Zewdie Wondatir	Haramaya University (Msc student)
42	Aschalew Lakew	Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute
43	Dabie Konshie	Selam Environmental Development Association
	Organisers:	
	Kidanemariam Jembere	Ethiopia Country Water Partnership
	Mygenet Hiruy	Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre and Network
	Annemarie Groot	Wageningen University and Research Centre
	Huib Hengsdijk	Wageningen University and Research Centre
	Jasmina van Driel	Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre and Network
	Pieter Boone	DLG Service for Land and Water Management
	Joost van Uum	DLG Service for Land and Water Management
	Zelalem Amdie	GIS expert / Jimma University
	Dawit Yirga	GIS expert
	Dinka Zewudie	Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre and Network

ANNEX II Updated current land use map of the western shoreline of Lake Ziway.



ANNEX III Future land use map of the western shoreline of Lake Ziway.

