

# **CARE ETHIOPIA**

**Awash Conservation and Development Project II (ACDP II)  
2000- 2005**

## **Terminal Evaluation Report Commissioned by CARE Ethiopia**

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## Acknowledgement

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We would also like to thank the project supervisor Ato Dafa Gudina and project facilitators Ato Seid Mohammed and Ato Abdisa Seboka, who facilitated the field activities.

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Finally, we thank w/t Abinet Girma and all staff that contributed in various ways to attain the envisaged objectives of the evaluation.

## Project Identification

- Title: Awash Conservation and Development Project Phase II;
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- Location: Awash Fentale (Afar) and Fentale (Oromia) Woreda;
- Implementing Agency: CARE Ethiopia, AWASH Fentale Filed Office;
- Total Project Budget: USD 2,160, 739.00
- Evaluation Objective:  
The overall objective of the evaluation is to assess the implementation status of the phase II ACDP, identify major constraints and draw lessons learned and recommendations that would help for program sustainability and replicability. The evaluation is seen as a vital tool to learn CARE's experience and influence others based on own experience.
- Evaluation Date: Dec. 12- 20, 2005
- Evaluation report completed: January 2, 2006

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## Table of Contents

|   | Page      |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Acknowledgement .....</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Project Identification .....</b>                                     | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Table of Contents.....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Annex.....</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>ACRONYMS .....</b>   | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Executive Summary .....</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND .....</b>                             | <b>10</b> |
| 1.1 Introduction.....   | 10        |
| 1.2 Project Background.....   | 10        |
| <b>2. OBJECTIVE AND METHODS OF THE EVALUATION .....</b>                 | <b>12</b> |
| 2.1 Objective of the Evaluation.....                                    | 12        |
| 2.2 Methods of the Evaluation .....                                     | 13        |
| 2.3 Outputs of the Evaluation Method .....                              | 14        |
| 2.4 Participants/ Stakeholders Contacted.....                           | 14        |
| 2.5 Constraints in the Evaluation Method.....                           | 15        |
| 2.6 Training of Enumerators .....                                       | 15        |
| <b>3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .....</b>                                  | <b>16</b> |
| 3.1 Summary of Quantitative Findings vis a vis Baseline Results.....    | 16        |
| 3.2 Efficiency of the Pastoral Livestock Industry .....                 | 17        |
| 3.3 Local community adopt alternative income generating activities..... | 23        |
| 3.4 Collaboration of the Community- ANP and Local Government .....      | 28        |
| 3.5 Conservation of ANP Biodiversity and Habitats .....                 | 30        |
| 3.6 Policy Environment for Natural Resource and Protected Areas .....   | 32        |
| 3.7 Gender aspects of the ACDP II.....                                  | 32        |
| 3.8 MIS and M & E of ACDP II .....                                      | 33        |
| <b>4. RELEVANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ACDP II.....</b>                  | <b>33</b> |
| 4.1 Project Relevance.....  | 33        |
| 4.2 Sustainability of Project Achievements .....                        | 34        |
| <b>5. CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED .....</b>         | <b>35</b> |
| 5.1 Conclusion .....  | 35        |
| 5.2 Recommendations.....  | 36        |
| 5.3 LESSONS LEARNED.....  | 37        |

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**Annex**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Annex 1. ACDP II Physical Performance.....</b>           | <b>38</b> |
| <b>Annex 2. ACDP II Financial Expenditure.....</b>          | <b>41</b> |
| <b>Annex 3. ACDP II Manpower Resource.....</b>              | <b>41</b> |
| <b>Annex 4. Household Questionnaires .....</b>              | <b>42</b> |
| <b>Annex 5. Checklist for Quantitative Methodology.....</b> | <b>45</b> |
| <b>5.1. Focus Group Discussion (Elders &amp; Men).....</b>  | <b>45</b> |
| <b>5.2. Stakeholders.....</b>                               | <b>46</b> |
| <b>5.3. Women Group Discussion.....</b>                     | <b>47</b> |

**ACRONYMS**

|                    |       |   |
|--------------------|-------|---|
| <b>ACDP</b>        | ----- | <b>Awash Conservation and Development Project</b>       |
| <b>ANP</b>         | ----- | <b>Awash National Park</b>                              |
| <b>CAHW's</b>      | ----- | <b>Community Animal Health Workers</b>                  |
| <b>EWCO</b>        | ----- | <b>Ethiopian Wildlife and Conservation Organization</b> |
| <b>FGD</b>         | ----- | <b>Focus Group Discussion</b>                           |
| <b>HH</b>          | ----- | <b>Household</b>  |
| <b>M &amp; E</b>   | ----- | <b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>                        |
| <b>MIS</b>         | ----- | <b>Management Information System</b>                    |
| <b>MRD &amp; A</b> | ----- | <b>Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture</b>    |
| <b>NGO</b>         | ----- | <b>Non Governmental Organization</b>                    |
| <b>PCC</b>         | ----- | <b>Project Coordination Committee</b>                   |
| <b>TOR</b>         | ----- | <b>Terms of Reference</b>                               |
| <b>VCDC</b>        | ----- | <b>Village Conservation and Development Committee</b>   |

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## Executive Summary

CARE Ethiopia is an international non-governmental organization that has been involved in implementing multi-sectoral development programs and emergency operations for the last few decades in various regions of the country such as Oromia, Amhara, Afar, Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa. The Awash Conservation and Development Project (ACDP) is one of the development projects run by CARE Ethiopia for the last ten years divided in two phases. The extended program ACDP II has been operational in and around Awash National Park (ANP) in two project Woredas namely, Awash Fentale (Afar) and Fentale (Oromiya) Woredas during 2000 - 2005. This is an area in the Awash Valley which is semi-arid and where the local population practice pastoralism as a principal way of life. The ANP is considered important for its biodiversity, particularly wild life, and scenic attraction for tourism.

The main project objectives were \_“Enhancing household livelihood security of the Karayou, Ittu and Afar communities; strengthen the capacity of the Park and improving the relation between the park and the communities”. These objectives had the following specific intermediate objectives:

- Improving the livestock productivity through improved access to water; animal health facilities and animal feed;
- Improving community access to basic social services, especially to potable water for domestic use; water & sanitation education and basic education;
- Creating harmony between the ANP and the communities in and around ANP;

Following the conclusion of its implementation phase, CARE Ethiopia initiated the final evaluation of the project so as to measure achievements gained as a result of project implementation and lessons learnt. Accordingly, this report forms one of the outputs/deliverables of the final project evaluation mission conducted in the project area by external consultants during the last one month. The report highlights the findings from a fieldwork in the two Woredas, Awash Fentale and Fentale.

The report shows that whilst the overall objective of the project has been largely met, there is still gap between the community’s needs and the project’s effectiveness. A breakdown of the various project interventions indicates variations in terms of effectiveness and efficiency. At the level of enhancing pastoral livestock production, the project results are high. Household interview respondents (69.4% (n=243)) reported improved access to livestock vet service. Compared to the baseline data it increased from 7% to 69.4%. This achievement was mainly due to the intervention of the project in Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs).

The report also points that the project is largely successful at enabling the community adopting alternative income generation. The intervention at the level of introducing alternative ways of optimizing economic returns from livestock the project supported the introduction of livestock with better performance. Organizing women in to saving and credit groups was also one of the strategies implemented by the project to empower

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women for decision making. In addressing the community basic needs in supply of potable water has greatly increased in accessibility and reduced distance travel in search of water. Compared to the baseline access for water resource increased from 34% to 52.8% and while distance travel in search of water (<30 minutes) from 37% to 59.4%.

One of the other objectives of the project was to enhance the collaboration between the community, ANP and local government in the protection of the ANP. This is a very difficult area as the history of the ANP is also replete with conflict between the community and government competition over grazing land. Despite the odds, the report finds that the introduction of the Village Conservation and Development Committees (VCDCs) is so innovative that it enabled this component of the project, i.e. collaboration between community, ANP and local government, to be successful. The evaluation findings indicate that 30.9% of HH respondents attended trainings including rangeland management, natural resource conservation, and awareness creation. There were also trainings held for Woreda experts and ANP scouts. Experience sharing was undertaken within and outside the country to strengthen community conservation practice in ANP; and stakeholders including the target community, ANP administration, Woreda sector offices, and project staffs were participated. As a result, attitudinal change of the community towards adoption of natural resource conservation has increased from 10.4% to 41.1% compared to the baseline.

The project was indeed relevant to the extent that it has addressed the crucial needs of the community and largely met its targets. However, there is still disparity between community needs and project results. This can be partly explained by the exacerbation of factors such as successive drought that determine the lives of the pastoral communities of Afar and Kereyu, the main ethnic groups around the ANP. Successive drought has decimated the livestock population of the pastoralists bringing in more community needs such as access to water and livelihood diversification on the agenda.

It is our findings that the project's implementation/performance in achieving its objectives is successful and commendable. It has introduced a system of community participation and representation through the VCDCs; has introduced community based primary animal health practices that is crucial to pastoralism, and a revolving fund as a mechanism to sustain the intervention. Awareness-raising as a crucial component of community conservation of natural resources has enabled the overall project to be successful. In brief:

- The project has contributed to improve pastoral livelihood in the project area.
- The interventions in veterinary services, watering facilities, establishing saving and credit service have benefited the community a great deal.
- The collaboration between the relevant stakeholders in the preservation of the ANP was an impressive contribution of the project.
- The introduction of VCDCs is innovative and constituted a crucial component for the success of the project that requires special attention for its sustainability.



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- The focus on supporting women is a radical intervention that would have positive impact on enhancing the position of women in the pastoral communities in the project area.

On the basis of the conclusions that we have drawn, we have also made recommendations:

- There should be a systematic methodology that enables the various stakeholders to fully participate in project design, plan and implementation.
- Project interventions in pastoral areas need to focus on provision of water in higher proportion than so far designed.
- Project documentation, monitoring and evaluation systems should be strengthened at all levels.

The report also draws lessons that need to be learned from the experiences of ACDP II. The most important lesson to be drawn is the crucial role that innovative approaches such as the VCDCs play in the efficiency and effectiveness of projects. It is such an innovative approach that unravels the secrets of success in communities such as pastoralists that are hardly understood by society, officialdom and sometimes by the development community. Secondly, the particular focus on enhancing the capabilities of women is another key factor for the success of any community based social development intervention in communities that are replete with patriarchal values.

The establishment of VCDCs as a contact point within the village ensures the sustainability of the project interventions through creating a sense of ownership by the community. The project has conducted workshops and trainings focusing to building the capacity of VCDCs. It will continue to serve as an entry point for any sector office and other NGOs who work on community based development interventions in the area.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Environmental and natural resource conservation and development have been among the focus areas of CARE Ethiopia. In general, CARE Ethiopia has been supporting the Awash Conservation and Development Project for the last ten years, a project that has been implemented within and around the Awash National Park (ANP).

Since the establishment of ANP in 1969 there has been a conflict of interests between the park's administration and the local communities on natural resource conservation and management that has been currently exacerbated due to increasing population pressure, drought, ethnic tension and other factors.

In order to mitigate and prevent these conflicts of interest that arose as a result of resource ownership and use, CARE Ethiopia introduced a conservation and development project that has been implemented since January 2000. The program goal of the project is to improve household livelihood security of pastoral communities living in and around Awash National Park (ANP), while conserving the park's unique and significant biodiversity and habitats. The project has been carried out for the last five years and completed in December 2005.

This terminal evaluation was conducted according to the agreement concluded between the stakeholders of the project. The evaluation serves as a vital tool to look into the impact and performance of the project vis a vis the long term aims of phase II to determine whether the original objectives have been met, pass recommendations and state the lessons learned to serve for future planning.

The evaluation report describes the background of the project, the objectives of the evaluation and its methodology, project performance, discussion on the findings, conclusion, recommendations and lesson learned.

### **1.2 Project Background**

The Awash National Park (ANP) is located in the eastern lowlands of the country, within the rift valley covering an approximate area of 752 square kilometers. The pastoralist communities of Afar, Ittu and Karayu, who largely depend on communal natural resource management systems, inhabit the area and live off the natural resources found within and around ANP. The extensive presence of the community within the park's boundary has influenced the management and the development of the park's natural resources. In particular, a serious of shocks due to drought has left and undermined the bulk of the pastoral communities' capacity to manage and conserve natural resources around and within the national park. The effect of human

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and livestock population pressure can also be observed from the shrinkage of the park's area and diminishing wildlife resources.

On the other hand, external ownership and management of the park and its resources, which the community believe that it belongs to them and managed by the traditional community institutions, have undermined resource conservation and management practices. These conflicting interests and systems of management had contributed to worsening relationship of the park's management, the community and even between different ethnic groups.

Since 1995, CARE Ethiopia, in an effort to create conducive natural resource management environment and simultaneously improve the livelihood security of the pastoral people has designed and introduced the "Awash Conservation and Development Project". The first phase of the project had been aimed at enhancing household security of the Karayu, Ittu and Afar communities; strengthening the conservation capacity of ANP and improving the relations between these communities and the ANP. By continuation, the ACDP phase II project (2000-2005) was designed to build on the successes of phase I (1995-1999) and to use the lessons learned to achieve a more balanced, integrated and effective conservation and development practices.

The important features of the ACDP II are:

- It recognizes the importance of community participation in ANP management;
- Establishment of resource planning and management systems that enable ANP managers to collaborate with the community and local government.

Intermediate objectives of ACDP II:

- The final goal of ACDP II is "Enhancing household livelihood security of the Karayou, Ittu and Afar communities, strengthen the capacity of the Park and improving the relation between the park and the communities".

Intermediate goals of the project include:

- At the end of the project period 20% of the target communities will have improved livestock productivity; access to basic social services; access to new or improved watering points and better access to animal health facilities;
- At the end of the project period 20% of the target communities in and around ANP will have positive contacts with ANP;
- At the end of the project period 10% of the target communities will have improved and additional animal feed resource;

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- At the end of the project period 10% of the target communities will have access to potable water for domestic use and 10% of the household will receive water and sanitation education;
  - 10% of the eligible population would have access to basic education;
  - The communities transport access will improve.

The goal of ACDP II was expected to be achieved through the introduction of improved access to animal feed and feed management, veterinary clinic construction and upgrading and expansion of community health services, construction of water points and training and capacity building activities.

## **2. OBJECTIVE AND METHODS OF THE EVALUATION**

### **2.1 *Objective of the Evaluation***

The objective of the terminal evaluation assessment as laid down in the TOR is to assess the implementation status of the phase II ACDP, identify major constraints and draw lessons learned and pass recommendations that would help for program sustainability and replicability. More precisely, the evaluation addresses the following elements:

- Assess progress in terms of attaining the final goal and intended behavioral and systematic changes;
- Assess the project accomplishment against targets (objectives, intermediate results, and activities);
- Examine the effectiveness and relevance of the design in terms of addressing the root causes of poverty in the pastoral communities;
- Assess sustainability of results/ outcomes, environmental impact, lessons and identify strengths, gaps, weakness that should be addressed to improve future interventions;
- Assess the effectiveness of project strategies;
- Asses the effectiveness of project MIS and M&E system;
- Investigate the extent to which the project has addressed gender equity and diversity of the pastoralist and semi pastoralist community of the target areas and indicate potential areas of improvement;
- Assess the impacts/ effects so far realized from the project activities in line with addressing community felt needs and priority problems and also the level of community empowerment and participation;
- Examine sustainability issues in line with implemented activities (capacities to take over, training, empowerment, e.t.c.);
- Systematically identify, draw and document key lessons learned from the current phase and recommend specific and practical directions for the future;

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- Assess sectoral and geographic diversity of the project activities and recommend any concerns pertaining to these aspects;
  - Investigate the situation of linkages and Networking with stakeholders and draw lessons from it;
  - Assess ways and means to ensure sustainability of project benefits and replicate sustainable outcomes;
  - Analysis of environmental and project unforeseen factors and propose potential mitigation measures.

## **2.2 Methods of the Evaluation**

The evaluation methodology framework, as stipulated in the TOR, is participatory to ensure the views and actions of project beneficiaries and stakeholders are clearly captured and reflected. With this background the method and purpose of information collection was discussed and agreed upon.

Quantitative and qualitative information collection checklists were prepared based on information obtained during the discussion with project management and staff. The checklists mainly focus on family background and main source of income, economic status and access to services, local institution building and operation, ANP and the community, ACDP II.

The fieldwork involved mainly households (HHs) based surveys and pastoral focus group discussions with women, elders and religious groups. A total of 350 HHs and 13 focus groups participated in the process.

Based on the discussion made with the relevant project staff the following criteria were used to identify sample kebeles and villages.

- Both project Woredas, Afar and Karayu, communities are included in the sample;
- Major intervention kebeles and villages are identified by project management and staff;
- 20% (n=14) of the villages among the major project served villages/ kebeles are included within the sampling frame;
- The sample size for household interview was 5% (n=350HHs) of the target beneficiary;
- Spinning method of sampling was agreed to identify the first sample household within the sampled village;

Simultaneously, the following information collection tools were employed.

- Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) by elders, women, religious persons/
- Discussion with stakeholders

- Discussion with CARE staff
- Analysis made on FGD's discussion and SPSS computer program adopted for household analysis

### 2.3 Outputs of the Evaluation Method

| No. | Description                    | Awash Fentale | Fentale | Total |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------|---------|-------|
| 1   | Total kebele                   | 6             | 18      | 24    |
| 2   | Kebeles sampled                | 3             | 4       | 7     |
| 3   | Total villages                 | 17            | 19      | 36    |
| 4   | Villages sampled               | 4             | 10      | 14    |
| 5   | Sample size                    | 87            | 263     | 350   |
| 6   | Actual sample interviewed      | 78            | 272     | 350   |
| 7   | Respondents by sex:            |               |         |       |
|     | • Male                         | 66            | 218     | 284   |
|     | • Female                       | 12            | 54      | 66    |
| 8   | Focus group interview by type: |               |         |       |
|     | • Elders                       | 4             | 3       | 7     |
|     | • Women                        | 2             | 2       | 4     |
|     | • Religious group              | 1             | 1       | 2     |

### 2.4 Participants/ Stakeholders Contacted

#### I. Project Management and Staff

1. w/t Azemera Molla , M & E CARE Ethiopia Country Office
2. Ato Wasihun Andualem, M & E CARE Ethiopia, Country Office
3. Ato Alemayehu Kuma, Project Manager, ACDP II
4. Ato Seid Mohammed, Facilitator, ACDP II
5. Ato Dafa Gudina, Supervisor, ACDP II
6. Ato Abdeisa Seboka, Facilitator, ACDP II

#### II. Partners

1. Ato Zeynedin ....., Head, Pastoralist Coordination Office, Awash Fentale
2. Ato Ayle Bedane, Head, Pastoralist Coordination Office, Fentale
3. Ato Alemu Tesema, Adjacent Region Affairs Head, Fentale
4. W/o Fatuma Adem, Head, Women Affairs Office, Fentale
5. Ato Biruk Wolekeba, Food Security Head, Fentale

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6. Ato Mulugeta Teferi, Head of Water Desk, Fentale
  7. Ato Arega....., Head, Awash National Park

## **2.5 Constraints in the Evaluation Method**

Due to the period being drought season, pastoralists included in the sample leave their homes early in the morning in search of livestock feed and water. The proposed clustering and random sampling methodologies and the study time frame was not compatible with the movement by pastoralists that was at the time aggravated due to drought and cotton harvest in the neighborhood village that was used as a livestock feed on the principle of first come first served. Moreover, Ittu communities were not within reach of contact. Therefore, randomly contacting household heads in the North, South, East and West village exit route of the respective village was considered.

## **2.6 Training of Enumerators**

A supervisor and facilitators assigned from CARE Awash field office and 12 enumerators employed for administering and sampling questionnaires were briefed on the overall objective of the evaluation and were trained on checklists of the questionnaire and the approach to follow in the interviewing process. Enumerators also went through the exercise of household sampling collection and discussions were held on the feedback from the field exercise.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Summary of Quantitative Findings vis a vis Baseline Results

The project put forward major indicators according to the baseline survey; improving access to vet service, livestock water, potable water, and attaining attitudinal change of the target community towards natural resource conservation. (Please see Table 1 for details)

**Table 1. Summary of Quantitative Findings vis a vis Baseline Results**

| Indicator  | Baseline (%) | Final Evaluation (%) |
|--|--------------|----------------------|
| Livestock as main occupation                     | 66.4         | 47.4                 |
| Access to livestock vet service                  | 7            | 69.4                 |
| Improved livestock water access                  | 8.2          | 28.8                 |
| Rangeland management adoption for grazing        |              | 21.1                 |
| Sufficient availability of grazing               |              |                      |
| Meher (rainy season)                             |              | 43.1                 |
| Meher (rainy season) to Spring                   |              | 56.9                 |
| Hand tools provision                             |              | 19.4                 |
| Access to extension service                      |              | 44.6                 |
| Establishment of saving and credit group         |              | 17.4                 |
| Livestock husbandry as the main source of income | 98           | *70.0                |
| Decrease in livestock holding                    |              | 92                   |
| Access of water for drinking                     | 34           | 52.8                 |
| Distance travel in search of water (<30 minutes) | 37           | 59.4                 |
| Extension service access                         |              | 44.6                 |
| Contribution of VCDC for ANP protection          |              | 46.3                 |
| Community attitudinal change for ANP             |              | 28                   |
| Community capacity building (Training)           |              | 30.9                 |
| Community's use of ANP                           | 21.6         | **14.3               |
| Adoption of conservation practice                | 10.4         | 41.1                 |

\*The decline is due to the recurrent drought effect on animal husbandry.

\*\*This indicates that the project intervention in protecting the ANP contributed for the decline of the beneficiary's undesired use of the park.



### 3.2 Efficiency of the Pastoral Livestock Industry

The project assumed that this goal was to be achieved through improving the quality of animals that increases the productivity and the market values per head that will be reflected in the improvements of off-take rate from the area. This is assumed to be reached through the provision of improved access to veterinary services, water supply, livestock feed development and marketing. Strengthening the capacity of the pastoralist office the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture (hereafter MRD&A) for the support of pastoral development is also an area of consideration.

The project progress report shows that the support provided for the provision of veterinary services by constructing animal crush (4), provision of equipments to veterinary posts (5), training of 28 Community Animal Health Workers (hereafter CAHWs), provision of Kits for CAHWs (28), and communities sensitization on preventive animal health practices (1044). Moreover, the project established a veterinary drug revolving fund and capacitated the “B” type veterinary clinics through the provision of laboratory, clinical and field equipments and office furniture. Supporting Woreda MRD&A through upgrading of veterinary laboratory (1) and training of trainers for veterinary staffs (16) were undertaken by the project. It also provided bicycles (8) to support to facilitate the transport needs of animal health activities (Table 2).

**Table 2. Access to veterinary service improved**

| Description  | Unit         | Target | Actual |     |
|--|--------------|--------|--------|-----|
|  |              |        | Qty.   | %   |
| Training of Veterinary experts                               | Participants | 8      | 16     | 200 |
| Participants of community sensitization and awareness forums | Participants | 1210   | 1044   | 86  |
| Training of CAHW's   | Participants | 28     | 28     | 100 |
| Provision of Kits for CAHW's                                 | Set          | 28     | 28     | 100 |
| Construction of animal crush                                 | No.          | 4      | 4      | 100 |
| Veterinary laboratory upgrading                              | No.          | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Conduct community cross visit- Borena                        | No.          | 20     | 20     | 100 |
| Equipment provision for veterinary posts                     | Set          | 5      | 5      | 100 |
| Provision of bicycles for animal health care                 | No.          | 8      | 8      | 100 |

The quantitative result of the evaluation show that 78.7% (n=214) and 37.2% (n= 29) respondents from Fentale and Awash Fentale respectively reported the access created to livestock health service due to the existence of CAHW's trained by the project. The variation in the two Woredas is due to the fact that large numbers of kebeles from Fentale Woreda are found in and around the ANP and the communities are relatively stable. Thus, since the target community in Awash Fentale is moving from place to place in search of grazing the achievement was not undermined.

**Table 3. Household interview summary**

| Indicator                                 | Respondent |      |
|---|------------|------|
|   | Qty.       | %    |
| Access to livestock vet service           | 243        | 69.4 |
| Improved livestock water access           | 101        | 28.8 |
| Rangeland management adoption for grazing | 74         | 21.1 |
| Sufficient availability of grazing        |            |      |
| Meher (rainy season)                      | 151        | 43.1 |
| Meher (rainy season) to Spring            | 199        | 56.9 |
| Hand tools provision                      | 68         | 19.4 |
| Access to extension service               | 156        | 44.6 |

Similarly, focus group discussions conducted in both Woredas verified the results of household interviews on community based animal health delivery system. Both the qualitative and the quantitative tools indicates that the improvement in the level of coverage of community animal health system available in both Woredas but with variable degrees.

The intervention as designed has been effectively implemented particularly in Fentale Woreda of Oromiya. Some of the respondents explained that the intervention, in addition to creating access to veterinary services, has created an enabling environment for CAWHs to acquire assets. As explained, this indicates the effectiveness and efficiency of the service.

Sensitization and awareness creation forums conducted through the project support also made consultation services available by CAHW's, who worked within the kebele and protected the community from using inappropriate veterinary drugs. The pastoralist office (MRD&A), which is responsible to coordinate such an activity has also confirmed the contributions of the trainings and assignments of CAHW's to address the demands of remote community's. Therefore, the intervention in the pastoral areas is found to be an effective way to improve the delivery of primary veterinary services. The provision of basic drugs after completion of all the training sessions, the introduction of the "animal drug revolving fund" has contributed to the effectiveness and expansion of the health delivery and sustainability of the system. The project also provides sprayers for external treatment of the livestock.

The evaluation, as described above, has found variations between the two wredas in the responses as regards access to animal health services. The fact that veterinary clinics and posts in Awash Fentale were non-functional during the evaluation period, confirms the concerns to this effect raised at the FGDs and the respective pastoral development offices. The pastoral development office further noted that the

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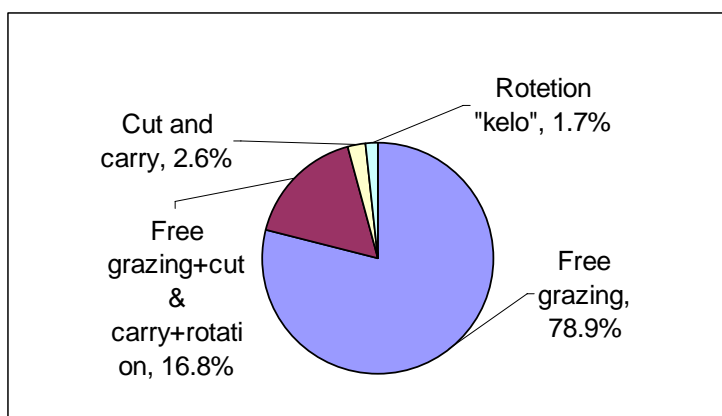
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veterinary services constructed either by the project or other development institutions in the kebeles are not functional due to the shortage of skilled manpower. It is explained that the Woreda is expecting that new college graduates will fill the gap and integrate their work with that of CAHW's to render a better service for the community.

Generally, as confirmed by the respective pastoralist offices and the majority of respondents, community based animal health care system introduced by CARE Ethiopia in Awash Fentale and Fentale Woredas is recognized to have contributed to the expansion and delivery of veterinary services.

The rangeland development and the establishment of closure areas are also activities supported by the project. The project has attempted to build on the local system known as "Kelo", a way of keeping a certain communal pasture area for a period of feed scarcity or drought. This practice has been observed in Fentale, where improved seed brought from the Werer Agricultural Center introduced so as to strengthen the community-run range rehabilitation plot. On an FGD held in one of the sample kebeles, participants described the significant contribution of "Kelo" practice to extend the period for grazing availability to the livestock. In another group discussion on the other hand, participants mentioned the challenges to exercise "Kelo" due to the fact that there is scarcity of land in their area. In Awash Fentale, beneficiaries responded individually and in groups that the rangeland development or enclosure did not materialize in sufficient quantity. The study team did not observe such practices in these areas either. Since pastoral communities mainly depend on communal ownership of natural resources particularly land and water the introduction and the achievement of the aim of rangeland development within the given project period is a difficult task.

Even though it is not significant that there is a practice of cut-and-carry and grazing land rotation "Kelo", this is still the result of sensitization and awareness creation effort made by the project. The assessment indicated that 78.9% (n=276) household interview respondents reported their experience of feeding animals on free grazing, while 16.9% (n=59) adopt cut-and-carry plus grazing land rotation, 2.6% (n=9) cut and carry, and 1.7% (n=6) grazing land rotation "Kelo" (Figure 1). This indicates that 21.1% adoption of rangeland management (Table 1).

**Figure 1. Livestock feeding and rangeland management**

Similarly, availability of livestock feed mainly depends on the availability of rainfall and usually it is sufficient during rainy and spring seasons. As per the respondents, 56.9% (n=199) reported availability of livestock grazing as sufficient in rainy to spring, and 43.1% (n=151) responded that grazing is sufficient in the rainy season only (Table 1). On a community discussion participants described the sufficient availability of grazing in late rainy season and spring.

To encourage rangeland development and community conservation practices the project has provided hand tools to community groups for land rehabilitation and water management programs (sickles, ricks, bush knives, hoes, spades, e.t.c) which is also a factor that contributed to the continuity of activities introduced by the project. Household respondents 19.4% (n=68) of respondents reported they benefited from provision of tools by the project for conservation activities (Table 1).

The project in the areas of livestock water supply has constructed (machine-dug) ponds (4) and maintained a pond that was constructed during the first phase of ACDP. Moreover, Village Community Development Committee (hereafter VCDCs) members were trained in livestock water management (40), and were provided with sets of hand tools (4) to facilitate maintenance responsibilities (Table 4). In Awash Fentale Woreda the study team observed ponds constructed during ACDP I were not functional. The fact that the ponds are out of function can be attributed to overuse and to the density of cattle population existing in the respective villages.

**Table 4. Access to Livestock Water**

| Description                      | Unit         | Target | Actual |     |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|-----|
|                                  |              |        | Qty.   | %   |
| Pond construction (Machine dug)  | No.          | 4      | 4      | 100 |
| Pond maintenance (Blanketing)    | No.          | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Water management training to CDC | Participants | 60     | 40     | 67  |
| Hand tool provision to CDC       | Sets         | 5      | 4      | 80  |

58.8% (n=160) of respondents said that their main source of water for animals in Fentale Woreda is the irrigation canal of the Methahara Sugar factory which tolerated the use of the irrigation canals by pastoralists. While 19.1% (n=52) said that ponds and lake Methahara, as is locally known, are their main sources of water for their animals, 12.5% (n=34) said that it is irrigation canal & ponds, while 5.1% (n=14) said it is rivers, 2.6% (n=7) said ponds, and 1.8% (n=5) said rivers and ponds. Despite the long distance travel for the majority of the kebeles of the Woreda the irrigation canal of Methahara Sugar factory will continue as a major source of water for their livestock. In Awash Fentale Woreda 80.8% (n=63) respondents reported that the Awash River is the main source of water for livestock. The remaining 19.2% (n=15) reported that rivers and ponds are the main sources of water for livestock (Table 5). It should be noted that ponds and cisterns available in the respective villages couldn't be used beyond three months.

**Table 5. Major livestock water source by the target Woredas, Fentale and Awash**  
Fentale

| Water source            | Fenatale      | Awash<br>Fenatale |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| River                   | 5.1% (n=14)   | 80.8% (n=63)      |
| Pond                    | 2.6% (n=7)    | -                 |
| Irrigation canal        | 58.8% (n=160) | -                 |
| Irrigation canal & pond | 12.5% (n=34)  | -                 |
| River & pond            | 1.8% (n=5)    | 19.2% (n=15)      |
| Lake & pond             | 19.1% (n=52)  | -                 |
| Total                   | 100% (n=272)  | 100% (n=78)       |

The overall improved livestock water access and vet service was found 28.8% (n=101) and 69.4% (n=243) respectively. Compared to the baseline data access to vet service increased from 8.2% to 28.8 %, and while vet service increased from 7% to 69.4% (Table 6).

**Table 6. Baseline data versus final evaluation comparison for livestock vet service and improved water access**

| Indicator                          | Unit          | Baseline survey | Final evaluation |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Improved livestock access to water | % respondents | 8.2             | 28.8             |
| Access to vet service              | “ ”           | 7               | 69.4             |

Pastoralist communities are also marginalized when it comes to service provision. With respect to low service provision it can be said that the training and the capacity building intervention is an important component of the project that has been thoroughly implemented to systematically change and build the awareness level of the beneficiaries on rangeland conservation, strengthen indigenous knowledge and keeping of limited productive herds. Household respondents, 44.6% (n=156), mentioned to have received extension service on livestock feeding (rangeland management), animal health, skills training, saving and credit, petty trading and conservation (Table 1).

Generally, almost all activities related to animal husbandry and preventive health services, the introduction of revolving fund and the various equipment support provided to CAHW's is an area that is supportive of the community animal health intervention. Sustainability of the system was to be insured through establishing and creating a link between village development committees and respective Woreda offices. However, the sustainability of the revolving fund particularly in the Awash Fentale area is questionable. Sustainability of the system can be affected if a system of monitoring is not in place.

The introduction of improved animals is among the major factor that should have been considered in the reduction of ownership of stocks and or livestock density in the project area to produce the envisaged objective of the project. However it is reported in the Fentale Woreda of Oromiya about the transport support given in transporting improved cattle's purchased by individual community members. On the community discussions participants discussed the better performance of the Borana cattle and, as a result, there is now high demand among the community to purchase Borana cattle.

Overall the findings of the evaluation study in relation to the efficiency of the pastoral livestock improvement shows that:

- Access to community based animal health services coverage has improved;
- The provision of seed capital –veterinary kit and drug- and the establishment of the veterinary drug revolving fund strengthened and contributed to the sustainability of community animal health system;

- The training and capacity building activities provided to members of the community have introduced alternative livestock management systems;
- Community based animal health care system is relatively being tried to be mainstreamed into the formal system in Fentale Woreda through regular monitoring of CAHW's activities that contributes to sustaining the system;
- The establishment and strengthening of VCDCs as an entry point to development interventions and coordination mechanism contributes to sustainability.

### **3.3 Local community adopt alternative income generating activities**

The project to promote income diversification has introduced the support to the already existing community groups and instituting the principle of saving and credit associations, financial control and management. The project support areas include milk processing, fattening and palm tree leaf production practices to serve as an alternative source of income. This support is further strengthened through the provision of training to beneficiaries on savings and credit, income generation and on the principle of cooperatives particularly of women groups. The revolving animal drug fund can also be seen as an alternative source of income for CAHW's. In addition, grain mill operators were trained in the operation and maintenance of grain mills. In this regard, the evaluation has found that ACDP II has introduced and strengthened women saving and credit groups that are currently practicing savings and operating shops. The project has also displayed the capabilities of women to undertake additional income generating activities.

**Table 7. Alternative ways of optimizing economic returns from livestock investigated and tested**

| Description                                       | Unit                  | Target | Actual |     |
|---|-----------------------|--------|--------|-----|
|   |                       |        | Qty.   | %   |
| Design pilot milk processing program              | Document              | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Support milk processing                           | Set                   | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Arrange cross visit to Gewane                     | Cross visit frequency | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Consultation and support to existing women groups | No. Groups            | 3      | 3      | 100 |

Respondents in Fentlae Woreda reported (21.7% (n=59)) that the function of credit and saving group established / strengthened in their village/kebele. The participants of focus group discussion explained interest based groups organized contribute 2 Birr per two weeks. Though, the establishment of the credit and saving groups was early in one of the sample kebele, Gelecha, FGDs mentioned that cash loan given to two

members of the group. In Awash Fentale only few respondents (2.6% (n=2)) reported the existence of women group established for saving and credit activities. Though ACDP I has provided an initial grant for the establishment of community shopping center, which was under operation, there was no information obtained about the functionality of the saving and credit group.

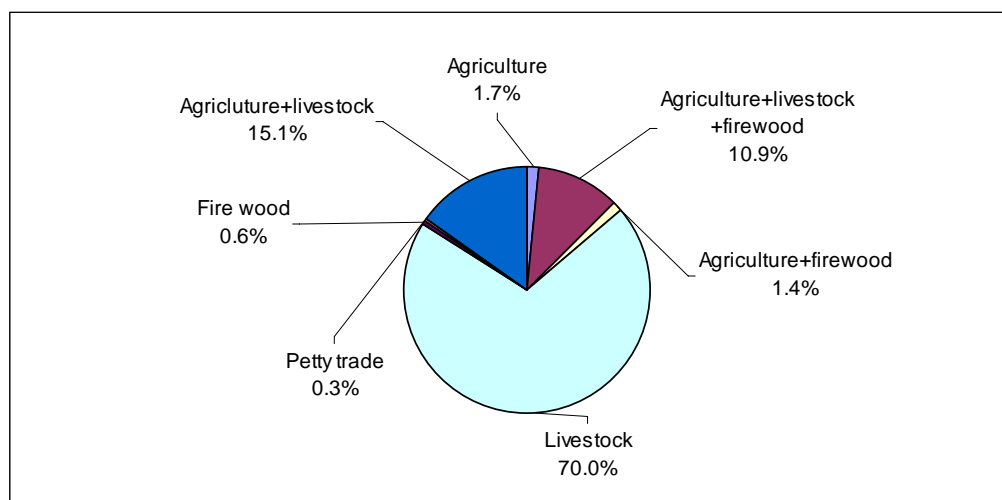
**Table 8. Household interview summary**

| Indicator  | Respondent |      |
|--|------------|------|
|  | Qty.       | %    |
| Establishment of saving and credit group         | 61         | 17.4 |
| Livestock husbandry as the main source of income | 245        | 70.0 |
| Decrease in livestock holding                    | 322        | 92   |
| Access of water for drinking                     | 185        | 52.8 |
| Distance travel in search of water (<30 minutes) | 208        | 59.4 |
| Extension service access                         | 156        | 44.6 |

The head of Fentale Woreda women affairs office appreciated the women-focused intervention implemented by the project, and the support given to the women affairs office for activities such as awareness creation on harmful traditional practices, experience sharing, and on HIV/AIDS. She also underlined the need to strengthen the cooperation between stakeholders and the Woreda women affairs bureau to avoid duplication of efforts that could arise due to lack of coordination.

Generally, pastoralist communities are dependent on livestock husbandry 70% (n=245) and their involvement in trade is mainly based on the sale of animals and their products (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Major source of income**





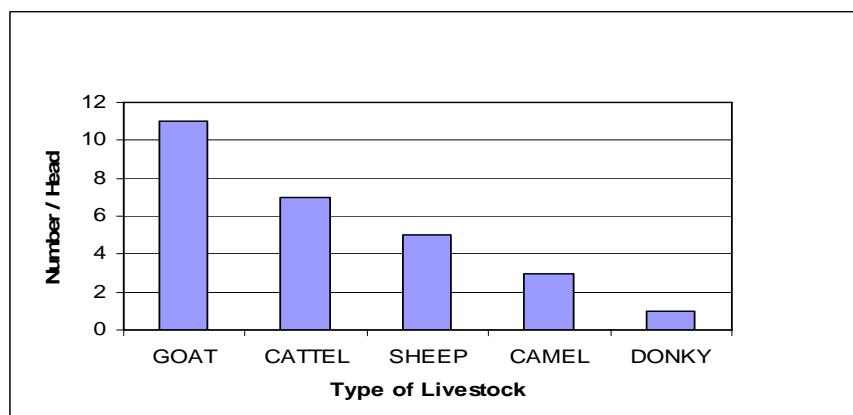
In Awash Fentale and Fentale Woredas 98.7% (n=77) and 61.8% (n=168) household respondents respectively reported that animal husbandry is their main source of income for the community (Table 9).

**Table 9. Major source of income by the target Woredas, Fentale & Awash Fentale**

| Income Source                       | Fetale        | Awash Fentale |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Agriculture                         | 2.2% (n=6)    | -             |
| Agriculture, Livestock, & fire wood | 18.8 (n=51)   | -             |
| Agriculture & firewood              | 1.8% (n=5)    | -             |
| Livestock                           | 61.8% (n=168) | 98.7% (n=77)  |
| Fire wood                           | 0.7% (n=2)    |               |
| Petty trade                         | 0.4% (n=1)    |               |
| Agriculture & livestock             | 14.3% (n=39)  | 1.3% (n=1)    |
| Total                               | 100% (n=272)  | 100% (n=78)   |

Average household livestock holding per household is found to be 27 per head, goat 11, cattle 7, sheep 5, camel 3, and donkey 1 (Figure 3). According 92% (n=322) respondents livestock holding decreased due to the recurrent drought and grazing problem (Table 1). If the trend continues, it may have huge impact on the survival of pastoralist communities.

**Figure 3. Average livestock holding**



Water development is one of the intervention areas designed to address the basic needs of the community. Construction of cistern, shallow wells, and bore holes, maintenance of water points, procurement of generators and water pumps were the

activities so far supported by the project. In one of the target kebeles, Gelecha, a 3.3 km. water pipe and a reservoir construction has recently been maintained. Moreover, to ensure the sustainability of the water structures built by the project a total of 204 member of the community trained on water point management, water caretaker, and operation & maintenance facilities. To create sustainable maintenance of the water structures a set of basic hand tools were provided to each water points.

**Table 10. Potable water supply improved**

| Description                                   | Unit            | Target | Actual |     |
|---|-----------------|--------|--------|-----|
|   |                 |        | Qty.   | %   |
| Training of CDC on water point management     | # participants  | 55     | 69     | 125 |
| Community water caretakers training           | # participants  | 48     | 75     | 156 |
| Training of community members on O&M          | # participants  | 60     | 60     | 100 |
| Assessment of phase I water supply activities | Document        | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Community consultation for site selection     | No. communities | 7      | 6      | 86  |
| Construction of new Cisterns                  | No.             | 12     | 10     | 83  |
| Construction of Shallow wells                 | No.             | 2      | 2      | 100 |
| Construction of Bore holes                    | No.             | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Water supply line extension                   | km              | 5      | 3.3    | 66  |
| Hand tool provision per water point           | Set             | 4      | 4      | 100 |

In Fentale Woreda 40.8% (n=111) of the household respondents reported that their main source of water for drinking is the irrigation canal diverted from the Awash River by the Methahara Sugar factory, and 40.5% (n=110) of the respondents reported utilizing cistern and ponds by rainwater harvesting. It is also reported by 14.3% (n=39) that a water pipe constructed by the project in Gelecha kebele provides water for drinking. While in Awash Fentale 53.8% (n=42) respondents utilize water from rivers, and the remaining 46.2% (n=36) utilize rivers and ponds alternatively (Table 11).

**Table 11. Water source by Woreda**

| Type of source           | Fentale       | Awash Fentale |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Irrigation canal         | 40.8% (n=111) | -             |
| River                    | 0.7% (n=2)    | 53.8% (n=42)  |
| Lake                     | 1.8% (n=5)    | -             |
| River & irrigation canal | 1.8% (n=5)    | -             |
| Cistern & pond           | 40.5% (n=110) | 46.2% (n=36)  |
| Pipe water               | 14.3% (n=39)  | -             |
| Total                    | 100% (n= 272) | 100% (n=78)   |

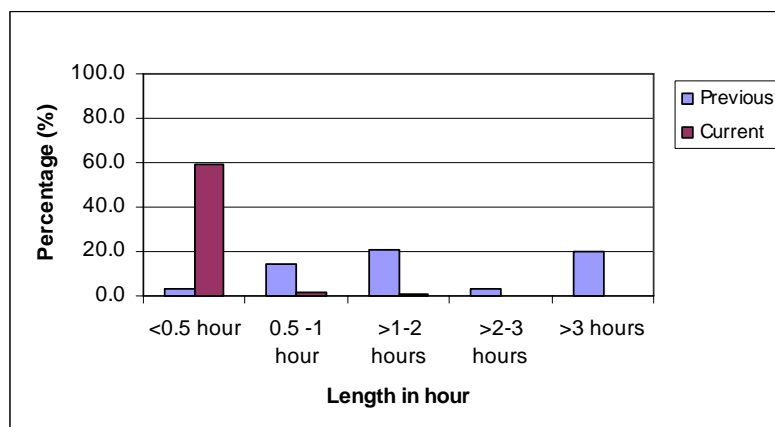
The different water structures, ponds and cisterns, which reserve water for 2-3 months after the rainy season, and extension of water pipe facilities reduce distance travel in search of water to less than 30 minutes according to 59.4% (n=208) of the respondents (Table 1).

Compared to the baseline data access to water and distance travel in search of water (<30 minutes) has improved according to respondents, which increased from 34% in the base line survey to 52.8% and from 37% to 59.4% respectively. This was achieved due to the construction of cisterns, ponds and pipe water extension by the project (Table 12).

**Table 12. Baseline data V final evaluation comparison for access of water and distance travel in search of water**

| Indicator                     | Unit          | Baseline survey | Final evaluation |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Access of water               | % respondents | 34              | 52.8             |
| Distance travel (<30 minutes) | “ ”           | 37              | 59.4             |

**Figure 4. Comparison of distance travel in search of water before and after ACDP II**



The findings show that the overall availability of such basic facilities varies between communities and specific sources of drinking water during certain periods of the year. In most cases, reliability in terms of quality, functionality taking over the responsibility of operation and maintenance is in question due to capacity limitations, the relationship between resource/ facility and human and cattle population.

Therefore, focus in the magnitude of basic service provision has to be revisited for future consideration. This is an important area that affects the effectiveness and sustainability of the systems under consideration.

### **3.4 Collaboration of the Community- ANP and Local Government**

Forums created within the community, community, can generally explain this component of the project and sector staff dialogue on natural resource conservation and development, conflict management conferences that involve Afar, Kereyou and Ittu communities, Woreda administration, security officers and local representatives. Based on the understanding created, the community, government administration and other relevant stakeholders have formulated a working plan that served to sustain the efforts undertaken. Moreover, the Village Conservation and Development Committee, established by CARE Ethiopia, as representative of the respective community facilitated the contact between different development partners and the community. This can be seen from household interview respondents that indicated the contribution of the VCDC (46.3% (n=162)) in the protection of the ANP (Table 1).

The capacity of sectoral staff for the provision of technical support has been built by the project through different types of trainings conducted. The trainings were on rangeland management, conflict management, conservation education for kebele and Woreda development committees, wildlife resource protection and on the merits of community participation in local development endeavors, community-run bush encroachment and degraded site reclamation, water point and rangeland management.

**Table13. Community-ANP-Local Government collaboration improved**

| Description  | Unit                  | Target | Actual |     |
|--|-----------------------|--------|--------|-----|
|  |                       |        | Qty.   | %   |
| Organize village conservation committee                | No vcc                | 28     | 33     | 118 |
| Strengthening community discussion forums on NRM       | No. forums            | 15     | 11     | 73  |
| Provide conservation education to Village CDC          | No. meetings          | 6      | 5      | 83  |
| Provide conservation education to Kebele CDC           | No. meetings          | 15     | 11     | 73  |
| Provide conservation education to Woreda CDC           | No. meetings          | 15     | 10     | 67  |
| Community- ANP- Local Government cross visit to Semien | Cross visit frequency | 2      | 2      | 100 |
| Hand tool provision to CDC                             | Sets                  | 5      | 4      | 80  |
| Develop Awash Natural Resource management Plan         | Document              | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Conduct workshop on the Management plan                | No. meetings          | 2      | 2      | 100 |

The introduction of VCDCs as a contact point within the village is also an important mechanism through which the beneficiary communities are involved in the decision-making process. The VCDCs also serve as an entry point to the village for any development organization that wants to work and/or collect relevant information. These institutions are mainly responsible for mobilizing the community or specific social group (men, women, religious persons, e.t.c.) for work on natural resource conservation and development; to work closely with formal institutions and NGOs; work on resolving conflicts; protect abuse of public resources; implement community development activities that have been agreed upon by the community; conduct inter village and regular meetings; e.t.c. According to respondents of the household interview, 28% (n=98) reported the attitudinal change observed among the community (Table 1). However, in the far distance sample kebeles the communities have little idea about the park.

Trainings provided to VCDC members also facilitate the introduction/dissemination of new ideas/technologies and operation and maintenance of facilities provided to the respective communities. Household interview respondents 30.9% (n=108) were reported attending the trainings on livestock feeding (rangeland management), animal health, skills training, savings and credit, petty trading and conservation. It is also reported by 41.1% (n=144) of the respondents that the community adopt conservation practices on individually owned and on the communal land (Table 1).

**Table 14. Training held for the community**

| <b>Type of training</b>                  | <b>Respondents</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| Conservation                             | 8.8% (n=31)        |
| Grazing                                  | 1.7% (n=6)         |
| Vet                                      | 2.9% (n=10)        |
| Skill                                    | 0.6% (n=2)         |
| Saving & credit                          | 0.9% (n=3)         |
| Conservation & grazing                   | 11.4% (n=40)       |
| Conservation, grazing, and animal health | 4.6% (n=16)        |
| Not attended                             | 69.1% (n=242)      |
| Total                                    | 100% (n=350)       |

Compared to the baseline survey there is an increase of attitudinal change in adopting conservation practice from 10.4% to 41.1% (Table 1).

The establishment of VCDCs, conducting awareness creation forums and meetings, the development of action plan as a way of following responsibilities bestowed upon communities and other stakeholders and the trainings provided all contribute to the strengthening of and collaboration of the community, government and other stakeholders.

**Table 15. Household interview summary**

| Indicator                                | Respondent |      |
|--|------------|------|
|  | Qty.       | %    |
| Contribution of VCDC to ANP's protection | 162        | 46.3 |
| Community attitudinal change toward ANP  | 98         | 28   |
| Community capacity building (Training)   | 108        | 30.9 |
| Adoption of conservation practice        | 144        | 41.1 |

### **3.5 Conservation of ANP Biodiversity and Habitats**

This component of the project is an entry point to the conservation and development projects with the introduction of a pilot that focuses on community conservation practices mainly and on capacity building of project and counterpart staff. Community conservation experience building blocks include resource identification, use of monitoring, revenue sharing, cost sharing for wildlife damages, institutional capacity building for park management community institutions, local administration and partners/collaborators.

It is with this component that the project provided support for the preparation of Sustainable ANP Natural Resource Management interim Plan, an area of intervention that will contribute to the sustainable management of the parks resources. The interim plan was prepared with the participation of all stakeholders which are in the main the Woreda Council, pastoral office, ANP and the community at large. The community and all these local government institutions have approved the document and submitted to the respective federal authorities, namely the MA&RD for approval. The plan basically incorporated community conservation and benefit sharing mechanisms that are necessary for the sustainable management of the natural resources and unique flora and fauna.

In connection with this, a series of workshops and practical exercises on community conservation was carried out that mainly focused on biodiversity, natural resources conservation, community participation strategy, natural and international policy aspects of wildlife conservation and monitoring and evaluation of integrated conservation and development programs. The workshops defined roles and responsibilities of ANP community conservation and a warden job description was also developed.

This component has also strengthened the VCDC establishment and the support provided in linking them with the Project Coordination Committee, in establishing a working relationship with the park's administration and the community. Furthermore, the project supported training of staff and scouts, awareness creation forums so far conducted, transport facility and equipment provision has also strengthened the work of the park's authority.

**Table 16. Development of ANP natural resource management plan with community participation**

| Description                                    | Unit           | Target | Actual |     |
|--|----------------|--------|--------|-----|
|  |                |        | Qty    | %   |
| Develop Awash Natural Resource management Plan | Document       | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Conduct workshop on the Management plan        | No. meetings   | 2      | 2      | 100 |
| Finalize and submit Interim plan               | # workshop     | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Training of CC scouts                          | # participants | 20     | 20     | 100 |
| Capacity building training for ANP scouts      | # participants | 20     | 20     | 100 |

Findings of the evaluation study group discussions especially in Fentale Woreda revealed that communities have high level of awareness about VCDCs and their responsibility towards protecting the park from community interference. In Awash Fentale, almost all respondents are not aware of the relationship of the park to the project and to their livelihood though this is contested by the project management. This is due to the fact that between the Afar and the park there lay the Kereyu communities, who have conflicting interests that prevented them from interfering within the park's area.

The respondent's perception of ANP's purpose and benefit varies between the two Woredas and even within a Woreda as a factor of distance to the park's boundary. The communities in Fentale have responded that if the community is required to protect the park's resources there should be ways through which the communities benefit from the park's resources such as bee hive keeping, cut and carry, and direct sharing of income from tourists to utilize for communal asset building. Moreover, a very limited number of respondents (14.3% (n=50)) of household interviews attested to the benefit of the park to the community (Table 1). The FGD participants also responded that they benefit from the park only through feeding their livestock during critical period such as drought.

The discussion held with stakeholders revealed that the participation of the responsible institutions at all levels, including the MA&RD, in the planning and implementation of sustainable mechanisms in the conservation of the park and incorporating them into ACDP II was very limited. Therefore, the contribution of the current physical activities of the project towards sustaining the parks natural resources, biodiversity and habitats is limited, i.e. there exists a loose relationship between the project's activities –except SO 4- to the conservation and development of ANP.

### 3.6 Policy Environment for Natural Resource and Protected Areas

This intervention recognizes the role to be played by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Conservation Organization (EWCO) and other key stakeholders including the community in the effective management of protected areas within the country. It was in this context that the members of the community, sector offices, ANP and project staff shared community conservation experiences through conferences and study visits made to the countries in East Africa so that all stakeholders can have the confidence in playing and implementing the interim plan prepared for the sustainable management of ANP. The preparation of Awash National Park Natural Resource Management Plan prepared with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders is the most important support provided by the project that will serve as a reference point for the improvement of the policy framework for natural resources conservation and development practices of protected areas. Even though, the ANP has the interest to implement the interim plan there was a problem due to the structural change of park administrations in the country. And it may need coordination effort of all stakeholders respective to the ANP.

**Table 17. National policy environment for protected areas & community cooperation enhanced**

| Description   | Unit       | Target | Actual |     |
|---|------------|--------|--------|-----|
|   |            |        | Qty.   | %   |
| Participation in panel discussion on policy environment | # forum    | 2      | 1      | 50  |
| Cross visit to Kenya and Uganda                         | No. visits | 1      | 1      | 100 |
| Support policy that encourages community participation  | # support  | 1      | 1      | 100 |

### 3.7 Gender aspects of the ACDP II

The project, through its alternative ways of income diversification components (income generation), has intervened to support women's needs. Such activity support includes: milk processing, petty trade, establishment of shops and palm leaf conservation and sale. The women groups organized with the assistance of the Woreda cooperative office is the focus of the project. The palm tree leaf production is based in an enclosure of a quarter of plot wild seedling of *doum* (the scientific name for the palm tree specie used by the community.) These women were also trained in women's role in development, income generating activities, hygiene and sanitation and other social aspects.



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The relationship women have with the park and the benefits they get from it is not very clear. Most women were reluctant to respond. The responses of the sampled women can be framed as those who “don’t know”.

### **3.8 MIS and M & E of ACDP II**

The Phase II ACDP project has an M&E plan that identifies input, output, effect and impact relationships for the assessment of project performance. The system of monitoring and evaluation also could be explained by the presence of regular reports and reporting mechanism that is usually composed of field report, quarterly and annual reports using the activities and indicators formulated in the project design. Quarterly Project Coordination meetings are also part of the monitoring and evaluation system of the project.

Moreover, the project introduced a regular supervision mechanism, provided transport and other office facilities that facilitated the support provided to the pastoral communities. The organized cross visit between communities of East African countries has also strengthened the way of integrating community based conservation practices.

## **4. RELEVANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ACDP II**

### **4.1 Project Relevance**

The pastoral communities that are targeted by the project are largely dependent on the natural resources found within and around the park. The increase in human and livestock population further exacerbated the pressure on the natural resource use within the area. The parks’ administration, on the other hand, was struggling to protect the park from the communities’ interference and use the natural resource.

CARE Ethiopia in an effort to resolve the conflict of interests on conservation and human livelihood security has introduced and implemented ACDP for the last ten years.

The overall project and its intervention components when viewed from both the community, ANP and the local government contributes as a temporary solution to resolve the conflict of interests on natural resource conservation and development. The project’s achievements, however, cannot serve as a sustainable remedy to the root causes of the socio economic problem of the community and the park.

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## **4.2 Sustainability of Project Achievements**

- ❖ The establishment of VCDCs as a contact point within the village ensures the sustainability of the project interventions through creating a sense of ownership by the community. It also has the capacity to serve as an entry point for any sector office and other NGOs who work on related community based development interventions in the area.
- ❖ The technological level with which the project interventions were conducted do correspond with the level of the local skill. The existing facilities could be operated and maintained by the community and the local stakeholders using local resources. During the field visit, i.e. dry season, however it is found out that these facilities do not function. Maintenance and constant supervision could have contributed to project sustainability.
- ❖ The provision of watering facilities as reported do not have the capacity to meet the average demands of the villages that resulted in the optimal use of the facilities affecting sustainability.
- ❖ The establishment and strengthening of local institutions contributes to control of community resources and to problem solving.
- ❖ There is no system of cost sharing mechanism that contributes to the sustainability of facilities through the creation of sense of ownership.
- ❖ The focus given to women in project operation and management of local income generating endeavors has introduced a sense of self-esteem, the consolidation of which can greatly contribute to sustainability.

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## 5. CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

### 5.1 Conclusion

ACDP II is a complex project designed to reduce the conflict of interests on natural resource conservation and use in and around ANP. The project, as designed, aimed to improve the livelihood security of pastoralist communities that live within and around ANP, while conserving the park's unique and significant biodiversity and habitats.

Generally, the projects' implementation/performance towards achieving the activities targeted (see Annex) is commendable. In particular, the project has introduced a system of community participation and representation through the Village Conservation and Development Committees. It has introduced community based primary animal health practices and a revolving fund as a mechanism to sustain the intervention. More importantly it has provided and strengthened the system of service provision through the different trainings and capacity interventions conducted throughout the life of the project.

In general, the project achievements can be viewed in the following ways:

- The project by itself and its interventions generally have an important contribution to the improvement of the livelihood of the pastoral community;
- Animal health related interventions; provision of human and animal watering facilities, the establishment of revolving fund and income generating activities have created improved access to the services from which the community benefited. It should be noted here that the facilities work for limited months;
- Integrating and cooperation between the relevant stakeholders was initiated and strengthened as a result of the introduction of different interventions. The establishment of Project Coordination Committees (PCCs) and VCDCs are among such mechanisms;
- The establishment of the VCDCs is an important entry point for any development intervention and community participation in the planning and decision-making. This intervention also helps for sustainable management of resources and facilities created by the project;
- The support provided in the preparation of the Awash National Park's Natural Resource Plan preparation is an important step for the sustainable management of the park's resources and for the consideration of community conservation practices;
- The training and capacity building interventions carried out so far have produced a significant and systematic change in the level of awareness, resource

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conservation and management, participation in decision making, sustainability of facilities provided by the project, e.t.c. Specifically the cross visit among communities and experience sharing visits made to East African countries has made communities and other stakeholders aware of their responsibilities and benefit sharing mechanisms to protect unique natural resources, biodiversity and habitats;

- Gender-based interventions specifically for the pastoral people are the first intervention in the area that inculcated a view that showed the role that could be played by women. It is an intervention that showed the income generating and management capacity of women to the society.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

Pastoral communities, who practice communal resource ownership and management system, generally inhabit the project area. Moreover, the number of livestock of a household and the overall community is an important indicator of socio-economic status. Cultural and other forms of behavior are also important elements that should be investigated thoroughly. In view of the above, the following recommendations are given.

- Participation of stakeholders of the project in the design, planning to implementation should be in a systematic way to address the root causes of the problem, incorporate their views and aspirations. Participatory planning and management process should be institutionalized.
- Project interventions particularly in resource scarce areas like the pastoral communities should give a focus to the provision of basic needs such as animal and human water facilities in higher proportion than the existing practice. More over, the design and construction of such facilities require professional investigation and input in relation to technical aspects.
- Planning and capacity building considerations should be based on the existing gaps.
- The provision of physical facilities also have their own impact in building and exercising soft ware aspects such as participatory planning and decision making, operation and management facilities and resources, e.t.c.
- Conservation and development interventions should recognize benefits and responsibility distribution systems towards the people who are more relying on the natural resources for their livelihood. Therefore, clear understanding of these communities and integrating them with the project for effective management is necessary.

- In view of pastoral communities, basic services provision particularly the construction of cisterns and ponds are priority focus areas that should have been supported more intensively.
- Accountability and cost recovery systems or a mechanism that sustains the community animal health system and the revolving animal drug fund should be devised that involve all the relevant stakeholders in the management, operation and monitoring.
- Project documentation, monitoring and evaluation systems should be strengthened at all levels.

### 5.3 LESSONS LEARNED

Innovative approaches and mechanisms such as the VCDCs designed to the concrete socio-cultural conditions of the pastoral communities are vital to the success of development projects.

Projects that contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the particular community should recognize the interests, benefits and responsibility distribution between stakeholders and particularly of the community. More cross visits to other countries with similar problems can contribute to Sustainable Conservation Based development.

In alleviating animal health problems that pastoral communities encounter, the formation and intervention through a structure such as that of the CAHW's is indispensable.

Facilitating and rendering of services to women through credit and saving scheme indicated that with little support but with the right intervention, the marginalized such as women can perform great work.

| ID         | Description                                      | Unit         | Target | Actual |   |
|------------|--|--------------|--------|--------|---|
| <b>SO</b>  |  |              |        |        |   |
| <b>1.1</b> | <b>Access to Veterinary services improved</b>    |              |        |        |   |
| 1.1.1      | Training of trainers (TOT)- MOA Veterinary staff | Participants | 8      | 16     | : |
| 1.1.2      | Training of MOA staff                            | Participants | 2      | -      |   |
| 1.1.3      | Communities sensitization and awarness meetings  | No. kebeles  | 10     | 10     | : |
| 1.1.4      | Training of communities on Animal health         | Participants | -      | -      |   |
| 1.1.5      | Provide initial training to CAHW's               | Participants | 30     | 20     |   |
| 1.1.6      | Training of CAHW's- Paravets                     | Participants | -      | -      |   |
| 1.1.7      | Provision of Kits for CAHW's                     | Set          | 28     | 10     |   |
| 1.1.8      | Prventive animal health training for 24 days     | Participants | 660    | 528    |   |
| 1.1.9      | Refresher training for CAHW's                    | Participants | 40     | -      |   |
| 1.1.10     | Construction of new veterenary posts             | No.          | 5      | 6      | : |
| 1.1.11     | Construction of animal crush                     | No.          | 4      | 1      |   |
| 1.1.12     | Veterinary laboratory upgrading                  | No.          | 1      | 1      | : |

|        |   |          |    |    |   |
|--------|---|----------|----|----|---|
| 1.1.13 | Carry out livestock census                            | Document | -  | -  |   |
| 1.1.14 | Animal drug revolving fund establishment              | Set      | -  | -  |   |
| 1.1.15 | Establish PAH center in Afar                          | No.      | -  | -  |   |
| 1.1.16 | Conduct community cross visit- Borena                 | No.      | 20 | 20 | : |
| 1.1.17 | Equipment provision for veterinary posts              | Set      | 5  | 5  | : |
| 1.1.18 | Provision of Motor bickles for veterinary technicians | No.      | 9  | 8  |   |

### Annex 2. Financial expenditure for ACDP II (2000-2004)

| FY                 | Budget (\$)         | Actual              |              |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                    |                     | Amount (\$)         | %            |
| 2000               | 339 080,00          | 321 000,00          | 94,67        |
| 2001               | 444 090,00          | 373 000,00          | 83,99        |
| 2002               | 448 890,00          | 498 000,00          | 110,94       |
| 2003               | 476 479,00          | 487 651,00          | 102,34       |
| 2004               | 452 200,00          | 434 655,02          | 96,12        |
| <b>Grand total</b> | <b>2 160 739,00</b> | <b>2 114 306,02</b> | <b>97,85</b> |

### Annex 3. ACDP II Manpower resource

| S/N          | Position             | Number of staffs |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1            | Project Manager      | 1                |
| 2            | Livestock Officer    | 1                |
| 3            | Conservation Officer | 1                |
| 4            | Extension Agent      | 3                |
| 5            | Driver               | 4                |
| 6            | Support Staffs       | 7                |
| <b>Total</b> |                      | <b>17</b>        |

## Annex 4. Awash Conservation and Development Project (Phase II) Final Evaluation

### Household interview

#### 1. General

1.1 Name of Peasant Association .....

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- 1.2 Village Name.....  
 1.3 Interviewee ID number.....  
 1.4 Sex: M  F   
 1.5 Age .....
- 1.6 Occupation: Livestock  Agriculture  Livestock + Agriculture  
 Farming + Livestock + Wage labor  Fire wood   
 1.7 Family size: M  F

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## 2. Livestock

2.1 Average livestock holding(No):

- Cattle.....
- Camels.....
- Goat .....
- Sheep.....
- Donkey.....

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2.2. How is the livestock holding per family during the last five years?

\_\_\_\_\_ Increase  decrease

2.3. What are the common livestock management practices?

- Free grazing , cut & carry , grazing land rotation ,  
 Free grazing +cut &carry + grazing land rotation

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2.4. Who owns the grazing land: the community , individual , both

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2.5. Do you have sufficient feed at all seasons?

\_\_\_\_\_ Meher , bega , belg , spring , meher +spring

Formatted: Norwegian (Bokmål)

2.6. Is there a veterinary service around the village? Yes  No

2.7. Who financed the construction? the project Yes  No

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2.8. Who is responsible for the management of the veterinary facilities?

\_\_\_\_\_ the community , the project , pastoral office

2.9. How do you get drugs for livestock? Cash , free , credit , cash +free

2.10. Do you think the vet service available around your village/kebele sufficient?

\_\_\_\_\_ No  Yes

## 3. Economy

3.1. What is the major income source for the family? agriculture , livestock  
 \_\_\_\_\_ production , fattening , palm tree material , fire wood , petty trade   
 \_\_\_\_\_ agriculture + livestock , livestock + agriculture + fire wood ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ agriculture + fire wood

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3.2. Do you have any credit and saving institution in your village? Yes  No

3.3. If yes, are you among the beneficiaries of the service? Yes  No

## 4. Conservation

4.1. Do you practice conservation practices in your own land/ communal land?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes , No

3.2. Did the project provide support/inputs for conservation practices? Yes  No

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4.3. How is the concern of the community for the park comparing before and after  
 ACDP implementation? good , no change , no idea

4.4. Do you think the Village Conservation Committee contributes to control the

expansion of farming and residence of the community within the park area?

no contribution  , big  , minor  , no idea

4.5. What is your opinion regarding wildlife mix and their number before and after ACDP implementation?

Increased: wild pig & monkey  , Oryx & wild goat  , all

Decreased

No change

No idea

4.6. Do you get any benefit from the park?

Yes  , No

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## 5. Water

5.1. What is the major source of water for your family?

River: Permanent river  , seasonal river

Irrigation canal

Unprotected spring

Protected spring

Pipe water

Cistern irrigation + canal cistern

River + cistern

River + irrigation canal

Lake + cistern

Lake

5.2. Is there water structures constructed by the project in your village/kebele?

Yes  No

6.3 How long do you travel to get water for human consumption before the ACDP implementation?

<30 minute  , 0.5-1hour  , >1-2 hours  , >2-3 hours  , >3hours

6.4 How long do you travel to get water for human consumption after the ACDP implementation?

<30 minute  , 0.5-1hour  , >1-2 hours  , >2-3 hours  , >3hours

6.5 Who operate and maintain these facilities?

community  , the project  , government  , no idea

6.6. Are the facilities working properly through out all seasons? Yes  No

6.7 . What are the major sources of drinking water for animals?

River  , pond  , springs  , cistern  , irrigation canal

irrigation canal + pond  , river + pond

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## 7. Training

7.1. Did you attend training held by the project?

Yes  No

7.2. If yes, in what subject did you trained?

Conservation

Livestock feed management

Veterinary services

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- 
- 
- Business development/ Income generating
- Skill training
- Conservation + livestock food
- Conservation + livestock food + vet service
- 8. Extension**
- 8.1. Did you attend training held by the project?
- Yes  , No
- 8.2.If yes, in what area?
- Conservation
- Livestock feed management
- Veterinary services
- Business development/ Income generating
- Skill training
- Hand tools provision
- Conservation + livestock food
- Conservation + livestock food + vet service

## **Annex 5. Awash Conservation and Development Project (Phase II)**

### **Final Evaluation – The Checklist for Qualitative methodology**

#### **5.1 Focus Group Discussion (Elders & Men)**

1. Wereda, Kebele, and Village
2. What values have ACDP II to the community?
3. Is there any community institution that is responsible to coordinate and follow up the ACDP II intervention?
4. What specifically is the role of community institutions in conservation and development activities?

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5. Does the community participate in the formulation of sustainable natural resource conservation management plan of the ANP?
6. What is the role of the community in protecting ANP?
7. What attitudes does the community have towards the ANP?
8. What is the responsibility of the ANP towards the community?
9. What are the benefits of financing and protecting the ANP to the community?
10. In what areas of the ANP administration does the park and the community cooperates?
11. What change do you observe for the natural resource conservation, biodiversity, and tourism in ANP?
12. What regulation implemented by the Village Conservation Committee to protect the ANP?
13. Do you think that the Village Conservation Committee effort and regulation protect the ANP?
14. What relations build between the Village Conservation Committee and Awash National Park Administration?
15. What is your opinion regarding wildlife mix and their number before and after ACDP II?
16. What are the strength and weakness of the VCC?
17. Would you have any more idea concerning ACDP II intervention?

## **5.2. Checklist for stakeholders Interview**

1. Wereda
2. Name of the sector office
3. Title of the interviewee
4. How was the work relation between the ACDP II and your office?
5. How do you explain the contribution of your office to the effective implementation of ACDP II?
6. What is the contribution of the project / ACDP II towards protecting the biodiversity and natural resource conservation of ANP?

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7. What strategy did the project follow?

- in community capacity building
- promoting income diversification
- in promoting women decision making
- establishing and organizing social service giving institutions

8. Do you observe change in ANP conservation, wildlife mix and tourist attraction

after ACDP II intervention?

9. How do you explain the relationship between community conservation committee

and ACDP II?

10. How do you explain the participation of the community for the preparation of sustainable natural resource conservation plan for ANP?

11. Would you have any more idea concerning ACDP II intervention?

**5.3. Checklist for Women Group Discussion**

1. Wereda, Kebele, and Village
2. What is your understanding in ACDP II intervention around your village?
3. What are women focused activities undertaken by the project?
4. Is there any community institution that represents women's interest?
5. How do you explain the participation of women in ACDP II intervention?
6. What benefit women have from the ANP?

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7. How do you explain women's decision making in ACDP II?
  8. How do explain the effort made by ACDP II to address women problems?
  9. How is the participation of women in the natural resource conservation activities?
  10. How do women benefit from the saving and credit service in your village?
  11. From where did you get the seed capital to establish the saving and credit groups?
  12. What favorable conditions are there for the sustainable function of the saving and credit groups?