

Report on CRGE Forum’s Engagement in 2016EFY (July 2023 – June 2024)

1. Executive Summary

The CRGE Forum Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting, held in February 2024, focused on Ethiopia's climate governance progress, the outcomes of COP28, and preparations for COP29. The meeting identified key achievements, such as recognizing gaps in the CRGE implementation, advancing plans for new climate policies, and strengthening Ethiopia’s climate governance structures. In the same vein, the 1st meeting endorsed the revised TOR of the CRGE Forum and Annual Work Plan (AWP) of the Forum. Notably, the Forestry Task Force (FTF) meeting took place in April 2024, while other planned meetings, including the second TWG meeting, the high-level meeting, and sessions for the International Engagement and Climate Finance Task Force and MRV Task Force, were not organized as initially scheduled. The forum also highlighted critical challenges, including resource mobilization, the need for capacity building, and engaging the private sector in climate initiatives. In the reporting period, the CRGE forum members engaged in several on climate action dialogues.

2. Background:

The Climate Resilience Green Economy (CRGE) Forum is one of the Sector Working Group (SWG) under the Development Partners Group (DPG) established to facilitate development aid related engagements between the development partners and the government of Ethiopia. The Forum is meant to serve as a coordination platform for ensuring aid effectiveness, resource mobilization and sustainability of development partnership.

The CRGE Forum was established in January 2018 and has a management structure composed of two entities, a High-Level Group (HLG) responsible for oversight & strategic guidance and a Technical Working Group (TWG) responsible for providing technical support to the HLG on ways of improving harmonization of donor support to CRGE sectors. The members of the HLG include GoE’s Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD), Ministry of Finance, relevant climate partners and Ambassadors of relevant partners and chaired by the Minister of MoPD. The second entity, the TWG is composed of the government’s CRGE sectors, and development partners. The TWG is chaired by the State Minister, MoPD and co-chaired by development partners (Norway and UK).

Under the TWG three task forces have also constituted on selected thematic areas including Forestry, MRV and Climate. The TF is meant to provide a discussion platform among members on specific thematic areas on issues of relevance and inform the TWG. The forum has been running until it was interrupted around mid-2021 during COVID. Following a series of discussions among DPG members, the forum was re-initiated on 20th February 2024, in a

meeting held at UNDP, in the presence of the state minister for Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD), development partners and other relevant institutions. During the re-launching meeting, a revised/updated ToR and a workplan for the TWG was briefly discussed and approved. The revised TWG ToR included three TFs, namely Forestry, MRV and International Engagement and Climate Finance. The workplan for the TWG does also include an engagement plan for the three TFs. The HLG meets once a year and the TWG meets quarterly.

The report covers the CRGE Forum’s engagement in the last one-year 2016EFY (2023/2024).

3. The CRGE Forum Achievements:

- CRGE Forum members contributed to the preparation of Ethiopian COP28 Engagement and for high-level and successful COP 28 events. The Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) has led the overall national Engagement in the COP28 that took place in Dubai, UAE, from November 30 to December 12, 2023. In the event, Ethiopia has actively participated in all its forms: Leaders' Climate Action Summit, Parliamentarian meeting, Ministerial Roundtables, Technical climate negotiations, Bilateral meetings, organized various side events and exhibitions. CRGE Forum members facilitated joint events during COP28 Ethiopia engagement.

- On 03 July 2024, CRGE Forum members participated in the NDC Implementation Plan a high - level launching event.

Members of the CRGE Forum were invited by the MOPD and other stakeholders for various activities of the NDC planning and implementation. One of key engagements of them was attending the high-level launching event of the NDC Implementation Plan in June 2024 and shared their commitments to support its implementation during the panel discussions of the event.



- On 13 August 2024, CRGE Forum members participated in a High-Level Panel Discussion hosted by the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) on the Outcomes of the Green Legacy on responding to the pressing challenges of climate Change.
- In August 2024, the CRGE Forum members participated in Ethiopia’s Green Legacy initiative seedling planting campaign. In the planting campaign forum members had collaborated and participated on the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) seedling planting.
- Digital communication platform is also established by DPG secretariat to support on better communication and harmonizing resource mobilization.

- On 20 February 2024, the CRGE Forum TWG chaired by the State Minister of MoPD and Cochaired by Norwegian Embassy and UK held meeting. The TWG and Task forces meeting discussed the details below.

4. Key Activities and Topics Discussed in the Meeting

4.1. CRGE Forum TWG Meeting

The CRGE Forum TWG meeting was held on 20th February 2024 that was chaired by Ministry of Planning and Development, H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mekonen, Chair of the CRGE Forum TWG, and co-chaired by British Embassy, Ms. Nina Hissen and Royal Norwegian Embassy, Ms. Live Jacob Sydness. In the meeting the forum members discussed in agendas mentioned below.

I. Ethiopia's Climate Governance and COP28 Debrief as well as COP29 plan

The meeting included a briefing on Ethiopia's climate governance structure, detailing gaps such as insufficient implementing capacities of NDC, limited Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems, and the need for greater private sector engagement. The forum acknowledged Ethiopia's leadership role at COP28, where the country actively participated in technical negotiations and high-level climate action leaders' summit and endorsed several declarations on sustainable agriculture and food systems, renewable energy, and climate finance. The meeting also reviewed Ethiopia's success in securing a \$600 million wind power project with AMEA Power, alongside pledges exceeding \$85 billion for climate finance globally. As Ethiopia prepares for COP29, the focus will be on lobbying for more climate initiatives, enhancing diplomatic efforts, showcasing Ethiopia's climate actions, and mobilizing stakeholders to access international climate finance.

II. Updated CRGE Forum Terms of Reference and updated CRGE Governance

The updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CRGE Forum were presented and endorsed by the members of the Forum, which reflect Ethiopia's institutional restructuring and updated government policies. The new and/or revitalized CRGE forum structure aims to improve coordination and efficiency through three interconnected entities: **High-Level Group (HLG), Technical Working Group (TWG) and Task Forces (TFs)**. This revised structure is designed to enhance operational efficiency and strengthen international collaborations for climate action. The overall CRGE Governance, presented during the meeting, on the other hand designed in such a way that all stakeholders and partners to interact in one place such as the Ministry of Planning and Development and Ministry of Finance, as appropriate to co-lead the process.

III. Work Plan and Planned Meetings

The CRGE Forum's annual work plan aligns with Ethiopia's financial year (July to June), with the TWG scheduled to meet quarterly. The first meeting was held on 20 February 2024. The annual work plan included a second TWG meeting in May 2024. Additionally, an inter-ministerial CRGE committee meeting was planned for March 2024, followed by a high-level group meeting of the CRGE Forum involving partners and embassies. Unfortunately, due to

various challenges and competing schedules, these meetings were not organized as planned.

4.2 Task Force Engagement

In the reporting period, the Forestry Task force has organized meetings and discussed on the sector priority areas. The IECF task force has also developed TOR and initiating meetings.

I. Previous Engagements, Revised ToR, and Future Plans

The Forestry Task Force (TF) meeting has focused on forestry initiatives and carbon credit generation through REDD+ programs. A presentation outlined TF's activities from 2019 to 2021 and introduced updated Terms of Reference, emphasizing the need for enhanced engagement and a clear roadmap for future actions.

II. Ethiopia's Progress Towards Result-Based Payment for REDD+

Norway has supported Ethiopia's REDD+ program, aligning with the CRGE strategy, through initiatives like the Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) and Bale REDD+. Ethiopia aims to join the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) program to generate high-quality carbon credits. These credits, in line with the Paris Agreement, can be sold within the LEAF coalition, which has raised \$1 billion for forest-based emissions reductions.

III. Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP)

The Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP) is a critical initiative within Ethiopia's broader REDD+ strategy. It focuses on emissions reductions from forested landscapes and the livestock sector in Oromia. The program is structured in two phases, with the first phase running from 2022 to 2024 and the second phase from 2025 to 2029. Monitoring and verification of emissions reductions are a key component of the program, ensuring the accuracy of credit generation and reporting.

IV. Forest Regulation

Ethiopia Forest Development (EFD) presented the February 2024 Forest Regulation, which implements the Forest Proclamation (1065/2018). The regulation covers forest and carbon ownership, benefit distribution from emission reductions, and incentives for forest developers. It aims to promote sustainable forest management and enhance climate resilience.

4. Key Challenges and Gaps

Several challenges were identified during the forum, including:

- **Resource Mobilization:** Limited access to climate finance and inadequate private sector involvement while lack of committed financial support for COP29 preparation.
- **Capacity Gaps:** A need for stronger capacity to develop and implement bankable projects.
- **Coordination Issues:** Weak inter-sectoral and inter-development partners coordination, hindering effective implementation of climate initiatives.
- Limited engagement of CRGE forum members in few of the Task Forces.

- Gaps in maintaining CRGE Forum TWG regular meetings.

5. Way Forward and Next Steps

To address these challenges, the following actions are recommended:

- **Strengthen Capacity:** Enhance training and capacity-building programs for government bodies and private sector actors.
- **Improve Coordination:** Foster better collaboration between sectors and stakeholders to streamline CRGE implementation.
- **Mobilize Resources:** Continue efforts to access international climate finance and engage the private sector in climate action as well as close follow up with development partners to sponsor Ethiopia's engagement COP29.
- Convene quarterly TWG meetings and organize a High-Level Meeting.