

Sustainable Highland Rivers Management in Ethiopia | LARIMA

A partnership between Ethiopia and Austria

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Ethiopian Highland rivers are important sources of water for Ethiopia and neighbouring countries. Over the past decades, water quality and quantity have been showing signs of deterioration caused by various development activities in these highlands. Unless mitigation actions are taken in the near future, the problem could grow to be destructive for the aquatic system and the dependent human population. Developing awareness of the essential nexus «land-water-people» is a way to promote river health and to initialise monitoring systems that inform decision-makers.

The LARIMA project will help to build human capacity in aquatic bio-monitoring and to generate knowledge about the linkages between socio-economic development and aquatic ecosystem services. The existing research facilities of EIAR-NFALRC and Ambo University will be improved for training programs. We believe that the project will enhance educational curricula and inform biological surface water monitoring tools. Stakeholders can use these tools to monitor river health, with the long-term goal to reduce water related/borne diseases. Thus it will help to sustainably preserve ecosystem services and improve livelihood in general.

A multi-disciplinary team specialized in natural sciences and social sciences focuses on an intense exchange of knowledge (e.g. scientists – water managers / residents ...), including sharing experiences on lessons learned in water management. The involvement of Ethiopian socio-economic experts will facilitate the implementation of results on the longer term and speed up dissemination to a wider group of stakeholders.

Additionally, the project aims at providing baseline freshwater biodiversity data for future uses beyond the project period.

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Partner Institution

Ambo University (Geda Kebede Oncho)
National Fishery and Other Aquatic Life
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Project Duration

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