

PROTECTING LAKE HAWASSA (PLH) PARTNERSHIP

Joint solutions for resilient economic growth

Lake Hawassa historically played a central role in the economic development of the Sidama, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's (SNNP) Regions in Ethiopia, sustaining a diversity of rural and urban livelihoods. In recent years, urban and industrial park development, population growth, land degradation and improper waste management have taken a significant toll on the ecosystem and water quality of Lake Hawassa and its sub-basin area.

STRENGTHENING STEWARDSHIP FOR SHARED BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Natural resources are vital for our existence. We share these resources not only among individuals, communities, businesses and governments but also with other species and the future generation. A risk on natural resources is a risk for all. The natural resources stewardship approach promotes collective action for sustainable management of these common resources. As such, we bring stakeholders from the public and private sector together with communities, to jointly address shared risk of natural resources, safeguarding present and future wellbeing and economic development.

PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The PLH partnership was established in 2018 with the aim of mitigating the environmental and social pressures affecting Lake Hawassa. PLH drives and facilitates multi-stakeholder engagement from private, public sector and civil society to safeguard the lake and its ecosystem and ensure sustainable economic growth in Hawassa City and the catchment. The partnership engages in different activities aimed at ecosystem protection, livelihood diversification of communities and awareness raising about natural resources stewardship. It focuses on waste management in Hawassa City and afforestation and soil erosion control in the rural areas surrounding the lake. The partnership also focuses on support to Hawassa Industrial Park in the implementation of International Water Stewardship standards (AWS).



Farmers implementing a low cost, local knowledge approach to soil erosion control on their farmland



Duration	2018-2022
Partners	<p>Government institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) Hawassa University (HU) Rift Valley Lakes Basin Development Office (RVLBDO) Hawassa City Administration Sidama Environment Protection and Forest Bureau (SEPFB) Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) West Arsi zone, Oromia Region <p>Private Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PVH Haile Resort Coba Impact manufacturing PLC Solid waste collector's associations <p>Civil Society Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIFA Onlus Affiliation of Friends of Lake Hawassa (AFLaH) Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
Objective	Protect Lake Hawassa from environmental and social risks, preserving its ecosystem services and safeguarding current and future sustainable development.

PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)

- Reduced pollution of the lake from pollutants such as plastics and heavy metals
- 1,2 tons of PET collected and baled daily

Afforestation and Soil Erosion Control (ASEC)

- Reduced siltation of the lake
- Over 300 ha of degraded farm and grazing land rehabilitated
- Over 50 ha of exposed land covered with vegetation to prevent soil erosion
- Increased farmers' income through diversification (apiculture, poultry)

Community and stakeholder engagement (CASE)

- Pupils at 27 schools are sensitized about proper waste disposal and recycling
- Six-month radio show to raise community awareness on environmental protection

WASH Support to Hawassa City

- 81,000 inhabitants have access to potable water through the rehabilitation of 2 boreholes

AWS implementation

- IPDC approved implementation plan to guide Hawassa Industrial Park in AWS certification

Overall results

- More than 2,000 jobs created/safeguarded
- Investment worth over EUR 36 million created/safeguarded



"These beehives are supporting us greatly. With the additional income I get from selling honey, I'm able to send my kids to school" Ayelech Samo, female farmer in Hawassa Zuria district who received a modern beehive

"We are very happy. This project, using different restoration methods, has helped our land to be fertile again. In addition, we do not have any problems anymore caused by flooding" Matego Welkiso, farmer in Hawassa Zuria district, about soil erosion control measures



Rehabilitation of Amora Gedel constructed wetland to reduce pollutants entering Lake Hawassa

ABOUT NATURES

The partnership is part of the Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS), a multi-stakeholder programme funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union (EU) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The programme enables private-public-civil society partnerships to sustainably manage the natural resources they need for improved livelihoods and continued economic development. NatuReS is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which is a trusted partner within the international community of natural resource stewardship practitioners.

It is currently active in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and South-Africa. NatuReS is a continuation of the International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP), which was active from 2013 to 2019. The predecessor programme has reached more than 2.7 million people with more than 180 partners in 38 partnerships and leveraged private sector investments of EUR 15 million.

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