



PROTECTING LAKE HAWASSA PARTNERSHIP (PLH) 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-catchment area.



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



Gully in the Shalla district

STEWARDSHIP FOR SHARED BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Natural resources stewardship means that all users of natural resources take responsibility for the shared resources nobody owns but everybody relies on. Forming partnerships, public sector, private companies and civil society work together on eye-level to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.

Natural resources stewardship promotes collective action for sustainable management of common natural resources around Lake Hawassa.

PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Protecting Lake Hawassa (PLH) partnership was established in 2018 with the aim of mitigating the environmental and social risks affecting Lake Hawassa. PLH drives and facilitates multi-stakeholder engagement from private, public sector and civil society to safeguard the lake and its ecosystem, ensuring sustainable economic growth in Hawassa City and the sub-catchment. The partnership engages in different activities aimed at ecosystem protection, livelihood diversification of communities and awareness raising about natural resources stewardship.



Duration	2018-ongoing
Partners	<p>Government Institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Hawassa City Administration – Environment Protection, Forest and Climate Change Office (EPO) Hawassa University (HU) Rift Valley Lakes Basin Administration Office Sidama Region Environment Protection Forest and Climate Change Agency Sidama Region Agricultural and Natural Resources Bureau Sidama Region Livestock, Husbandry and Fishery Bureau Hawassa Zuria Woreda Agricultural and Natural Resources Office Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) <p>Private Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PVH Corp. Haile Resort Coba Impact Manufacturing PLC Fruit Hawassa PLC Solid waste collectors associations <p>Civil Society Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliation of Friends of Lake Hawassa (AFLaH) Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) Southern Ethiopia People Development Association (SEPDA) Water Witness International (WWI)
Objective	Protect Lake Hawassa from environmental and social risks, preserving its ecosystem services and safeguarding sustainable development.
Partner contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPO: € 10.500 PVH: € 375.000 Haile resort: € 5.000 Hawassa University: € 26.000

It focuses on waste management in Hawassa City and afforestation and soil erosion control in the rural areas surrounding the lake. The partnership also supports Hawassa Industrial Park in the implementation of the Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard (AWS).

PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

- More than 3.000 jobs created/safeguarded
- Investment worth over EUR 36 million created/safeguarded

Solid and Liquid Waste Management:

Reduced pollution of the lake from pollutants such as plastics and heavy metals through:

- Collection and baling of 1.2 tons of PET per day
- Rehabilitation of a constructed wetland filtering pollutants before entering the lake

Afforestation and Soil Erosion Control:

- Reduced siltation of the lake during rainy season by trapping 15.000m³ of silt through conservation structures
- Over 450 ha of degraded farm and grazing land rehabilitated
- Over 776 ha of land covered with vegetation
- Increased farmers' income and reduced over-reliance on agriculture through livelihood diversification, e.g. apiculture, fruit trees, poultry

Community and stakeholder engagement:

- Pupils at 27 schools sensitized about proper waste disposal and recycling
- More than 700 waste collectors trained in integrated solid waste management



"If communities and their livelihoods are not a substantial part of solutions, activities are destined to fail. Under the partnership, all stakeholders take decisions jointly. Strong local-scale systems of social-ecological governance increase the likelihood that the protection of Lake Hawassa will be successful."

Dr. Daniel Woldemichael, Association of Friends of Lake Hawassa

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- 3.000 students and staff at nine schools provided with access to hand washing facilities and knowledge on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard implementation at Hawassa Industrial Park

- Implementation plan for AWS certification developed
- More than 3.000 workers trained on WASH practices and six hand washing facilities constructed

Improved water supply in Hawassa City

- 81.000 inhabitants have access to potable water through rehabilitation of two boreholes



"We used to have flood problems in this area, it gets into our homes and washes away everything. It also damages our crops. After the conservation structures are installed and trees are planted, I am getting a better harvest from my farm."
Birhanesh Ermias, farmer, about soil erosion control measures

ABOUT NATURES

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