

**WOLKITE UNIVERSITY**



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTEMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPEMNT STUDIES**

**ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN’S ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PRORECTION:  
IN THE CASE OF CHEHA WORED, GURAGHE ZONE.**

**BY**

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**A Thesis Submitted to School of Graduate Studies, in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of Master developmental studies in developmental  
planning and management**

**Major Advisor: TAMIRU BERAFE (Asst. Professor)**

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## **TITLE PAGE**

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### **ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN’S ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: IN THE CASE OF CHEHA WOREDA, GURAGHE ZONE.**

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Governance And Development Studies,  
Wolkite University for the Partial fulfillment of the Requirement of the Award of  
Masters of Degree in Developmental Planning and Management

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**BSAP:** Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan

**CEPRS:** Central Ethiopia People Regional State

**CFC:** Chloroform Carbon.

**CSA:** Central Statically Agency

**CWSERSD:** Cheha Woreda Socio-Economic Research & Statistics directorate.

**EEPFE:** Environmental Economics Policy Forum for Ethiopia

**ED:** Environment for Development

**EPA:** Environment Protection Authority

**ES:** Environmental sustainability

**GDP:** Gross Domestic Product.

**GOE:** Government of Ethiopia.

**ISWC:** Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation.

**MDGs:** Millennium Development goals.

**MDFS:** Millennium Development Fact Sheet

**NAPA:** National Adaptation Plan of Action

**NGO:** Non-Governmental organization.

**NSESD:** National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.

**SD:** Sustainable development.

**SWC:** Soil and Water Conservation.

## ABSTRACT

*Today the concern of environmental protection is a common agenda and a serious issue of the world. Particularly, it is the serious problem in developing countries. In Ethiopia, environmental protection is the critical development challenges facing the country. The general objective of this study is to assess the role of women in environmental protection activities in Guraghe Zone Cheha woreda. Besides, this study, intended to examine factors that affect the involvement of women environmental protection activities in the study area and to indicate the level of women involvement in decision making role in environmental sustainability in Cheha woreda. To meet the objective of the study, a mixed-method combining both quantitative and qualitative components were used in the study.*

*To answer the study objectives, a structured questionnaire from 285 respondents' selected using simple random sampling technique and analyzed by statistical software packages; besides, interview, FGD , secondary data analysis were also used as qualitative means. According to the result, the level of women participation in environmental protection activities became in lower level; this was attributed by lack of awareness raising schemes, lack of capable agricultural office staffs that can enhance the role of women in environmental mitigation approaches, limited budget allocation and implementation were also contributing factors as major findings. To create resilient environmental protection and ecological balance; cultural assumptions and myths about women rights should be considered, measures like designing women based environmental strategies, capacity building schemes for women exclusively, integration of environmental mitigation work, networking the issue with organizations and enhancing women decision making role and fair budget allocation for the sector office should be taken into account to enhance the role of women in environmental protection activities in Cheha Woreda.*

**Key words:** environmental protection, Women, Environmental mitigation, Protection, Conservation, Management, Initiatives, Natural Resources, decision making, capacity building, budget allocation

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

The growing human population and rapid technological advancements are straining the Earth's ecosystems and natural resources (Subramanian, 2018).

As Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration asserts, 'environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens. Community participation is considered an effective measure to protect the eco-environment and to improve people's livelihoods in protected areas. However, it has not received enough attention at the practical level in most developing countries, and it is unclear how important it is in stimulating locals' pro-environmental behaviors to achieve eco-environmental protection goals.

Recent studies have shown that one in four women worldwide or about 620 million women rate their lives positively enough to be considered 'thriving' and have shown that women in Nigeria play a crucial role due to their active involvement in conservation activities and management of the environment. However, they are viewed as insignificant partners and not accorded due attention and many women-related economic and social activities depend on environmental resources.

Yet, women are denied access to effective and sustainable use of forest resources, and they have limited or no control over land, capital and labor. Women therefore suffer numerous limitations accordingly. As a result of widespread mistreatment and overt discrimination in all dimensions of women lives, women lack significant autonomy. The central preoccupation of this review is to explore key role of women in environmental conservation and discuss the current challenges and opportunities for the future. Equipped with the right tools, the massive and growing generation of women in Africa, particularly, Nigeria has the potential to drive development, achieve global goals and transform the continent's future along with their own."

It is therefore recommended that for sustainable development to take its roots, access and ownership of natural resources should be enhanced for all gender particularly women, people living with disabilities, marginalized and minority groups. Unless women efforts are recognised, we might likely be pushing towards planetary limits and without vibrant women movement, the

Sustainable Development Goals are dead in the water thereby leading to the brink of a global disaster.(Hamilton & A. Macintosh,2008)

The establishment of conservancies has allowed for the safeguarding of wildlife corridors across Africa, and connected protected areas with one another. They also created opportunities for many at the community level. Rural women who had since time immemorial assumed the role of the guardians of natural resources, however, have not been able to fully reap these benefits because they are not the recognized owners of the land. Held back by traditional gender roles, they have not been given the opportunity to engage in the governance of conservancies. (Isha Gunwal, 2019)

Most women in sub-Saharan Africa have traditional responsibilities as food growers, water and fuel gatherers, and caregivers. The gender-specific division of labor in rural agricultural societies means that environmental degradation caused by climate change as well as unplanned development affects women the most. (Zhang, 2015)

Women have an integral relation with the environment. Therefore, women are essential for any measure aimed at environmental protection and sustainable development. In fact, women have contributed greatly to the conservation movements in the past. Traditionally women were kept away from the powers of decision making. Their unequal access to education and lack of decision-making authority at all levels has lowered their position in the society. As a result, it has had adverse effects on income, nutrition, health, social support networks and domestic knowledge (Isha Gunwal, 2019)

Therefore, this particular study was conducted to assess the role of women in environmental protection activities which are critical for environmental sustainability.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Worldwide, the rural poor face a multitude of threats to their welfare and livelihoods. Access to land and basic resources like water, fuel wood and food can be challenging to attain for rural households. Women, however, bear a disproportionate share of this burden and suffer severely from natural resource scarcity. With little access to alternative sources of income, women often rely on forests to sustain themselves and their families. Fuel wood is especially critical for rural women; approximately 2.5 billion people in the developing world cook with biomass, a number predicted to increase despite steady decreases in total forest cover.

Our nation is confronted with old and new environmental challenges that require strategic investigation and better integration between the health, ecologic, economic, and social sciences (Samet, 2017).

As a result of their extensive engagement with the environment, rural Ethiopian women have an active body of knowledge in protecting the environment and natural resources (Shambel, 2012). However, rural Ethiopian women often lack the resources that they need to cope with changing landscape and decreased natural resource accessibility. They are politically, economically and institutionally constrained and this limits the extent to which their environmental knowledge can be applied to develop and utilize the forest resources in a sustainable manner (Shambel, 2012)

As a result of widespread mistreatment and overt discrimination in all dimensions of women lives, women lack significant autonomy. The central preoccupation of this review is to explore the key role of women in environmental conservation and discuss the current challenges and opportunities for the future. (Ecology and conservation science,2019).

A lot of studies on women and environment have shown that women is very close to nature and they are significant actors in natural resource management and they are major contributors to environmental rehabilitation and conservation. The Interdependence of women with nature can be evolved because; women are having base and skills for natural resource management, they are better managers for natural resources, they have sensitiveness towards Environmental and they have high ecological consciousness (Dunk leman, 1997)

Women have always played a significant role in the environmental protection. Furthermore, women can help control population explosion which has been one of the major factors in environments dreadful conditions. Women are in the best position to make maximum in family planning (Roger ,2018)

Women are responsible for the cleanliness of the household, on which depends the health and wealth of the family members. With proper education and training one can minimize the experiences and incidences of most of the water, food and airborne disease (Bhatt, 2016)

Traditionally women were kept away from the powers of decision making. Their unequal access to education and lack of decision-making authority at all levels has lowered their position in the society. As a result, it has had adverse effects on income, nutrition, health, social support networks and domestic knowledge. Practically being close to nature, women are always able to

realize environmental issues better. Since women are the prospective users of the facilities, it is necessary to consider their views planning to save the environment and implementing projects for the same issues (Bhatt, 2016)

If desertification, deforestation, and afforestation are not stopped, food security, floods, starvation, malnutrition, and diseases like malaria will put the county in a catastrophic state. Charcoal overuse and deforestation-related air pollution increase disease risk. There were limited studies on the participation of women in environmental protection, conservation, and management in sub-Saharan County, Ethiopia.

This led to this study's objective; to examine the role of women in environmental protection, conservation, and management in Guraghe zone Cheha woreda. According to Cheha woreda agricultural office data compiled in 2014, from the entire total population of women, only 18.3% population took part in green initiatives in the summer session; in environmental protection activities; the number should be increased; denying this productive sector in securing environmental protection will have adverse effect in preservation and management of the environment.

As per the secondary data captured by the researcher, women involvement in environmental protection activities were incomparable to the men's involvement, although there were serious environmental challenges took place in the area; the prevalence of solid waste in the farm land, degradation of lands, deforestation, overgrazing, water pollution with climate change phenomena (Researcher's observation)

Therefore, in the study area it is clearly observed that women involvement in environmental initiatives organized and decision-making role in keeping the environment are highly at critical condition. To this end, this particular study was conducted to assess the role of women in environmental protection in Cheha woreda most particularly; it is focused on assessment of women's role on the environmental protection activities of soil, air and water in the target area.

### **1.3. Objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1. General Objective**

The general objective of this study was to assess the role of women in environmental protection activities in Guraghe Zone, Cheha woreda.

#### **1.3.2. Specific objectives**

1. To examine factors that effects the involvement of women's participation in environmental protection activities.
2. To indicate the level of women's involvement in decision making role in environmental sustainability.
3. To point out alternatives for balanced gender participation of women in the area to keep ecological balance.
4. To identify the existing social and cultural challenges in ensuring gender equitable environmental protection initiatives

### **1.4. Research Question**

The following research questions were raised to examine the extent of the role of women in environmental protection activities:

1. What is the extent of women participation in environmental protection activities in the selected area?
2. Does government policy suit and motivate women's participation in environmental protection activities in this target area?
3. What other cultural factors influence women's involvement in environmental protection activities?
4. In which environmental issues do women participate most to sustain environmental protection?

### **1.5. Significance of the study**

Being an empirical study, this study will contribute to the empirical literature of environmental sustainability research in Ethiopia. It assists decision makers to identify problems encountered

and to take appropriate intervention strategies to enhance the role of women in culminating possible environmental protection activities. In addition to this, understanding the impact of the environmental disasters is a crucial issue for designing and implementing appropriate environmental policies and strategies, as well as technology interventions. Therefore, the outcome of this study serves as a source of additional information which may be of significant use to policy makers and planners during the designing and implementation of Sustainable environmental goals, technology, strategies and the concerned body in the Cheha woreda.

### **1.6. Scope of the study**

This study was conducted in Cheha district which is found in Guraghe zone, CEPRS. This study was dealt with the assessment of women's role in environmental protection activities. The study was delimited to only 3 kebeles from the total 42 kebeles found in the district, women in the selected kebeles, rural agriculture extension office workers, agriculture office workers and woreda administrators of Cheha woreda in the Guraghe zone of CEPRS participated in this study. The study was limited to assessing the role of women in environmental protection activities in water, air and soil, in Guraghe zone Cheha Woreda.

### **1.7. Limitation and Scope of the study**

It is hard to imagine for a study of this kind could possibly be without limits. The fact that this study is planned to be conducted in Cheha Woreda, one of the district in Guraghe zone, raises the key question of representation for a bigger image. Hence, it is probable that the result may not necessarily represent the reality for the entire districts of Guraghe zone. Even though the issue of women's role is extremely different; the study would only be limited to assess the role of women in environmental protection activities and to identify the major factors and its possible interventions. The study was also limited only in Guraghe Zone Cheha Woreda women and sectorial staffs working in the area.

### **1.8. Organization of the study**

The organization of the study is structured as follows. The first chapter deals about background of the study as well as objective and statement of the problem, the Second Chapter reviews the theoretical as well as empirical literature and identifies the research gaps which are not yet

studied or investigated, chapter three presents the study area, data collection methods, and the method of the data analysis, chapter four discussed the findings of the research. Finally, Chapter five put concluding remarks and forward some policy implications/Recommendations for future interventions of the problem identified.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical concepts**

##### **2.1.1 Definition of environmental protection**

As C. Hamilton & A. Macintosh, defined the concept of environmental protection can be seen as the prevention of unwanted changes to ecosystems and their Constituent parts. This includes, the protection of ecosystems and their constituent parts from changes associated with human activities; and the prevention of unwanted natural changes ecosystems and their constituent parts. (Hamilton & A. Macintosh,2008)

One issue associated with this definition is whether ‘eco-systems and their constituent parts’ include humans and communities, or whether environmental protection is only concerned with the protection of natural capital. From an ecological perspective, humans are regarded as an integral part of the ecosystem. Separating humanity from the natural environment can therefore be seen as artificial. While this is true, the phrase environmental protection is not used to refer to measures that are designed to regulate or mediate direct interaction between people. For example, laws prohibiting assault are not regarded as environmental protection measures. Environmental protection is concerned with the relationship between people and the natural environment rather than the relationships between people and communities (Hamilton et,al,2008)

##### **2.1.2 Role of Women in environment**

The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women, as they not only constitute nearly half of its population, but also positively influence the growth of remaining half of the population. (Renu, Dr. Baljit, 2010)

In the spite of comprising 50 percent of the population on the globe, Women were not given equal status with men. A major part this sentiment can be attributed to gender role socialization that operates in the every society. This differential socialization raises boys and girls for different roles on to account, women plays multiplicity of roles that for exceed those of her counterparts. In the context of environment women have had a close relationship with nature from the beginning. Looking at their culture, social practices and customs, we find that women, especially

women from tribal areas, have always been conscious of environmental protection. It is often said that women are closer to nature than men. (Aditya SK, 2016)

Women play a critical role in managing natural resources on family and community levels and are most affected by environmental degradation. In communities around the world, women manage water, sources for fuel, and food, as well as both forests and agricultural terrain. The basic needs of the people are purified water, clean air and sanitation around the houses.

The role of women in the conservation and promotion of the environment has been defined by different scholars. According to Karl Marx 'Any major social change cannot be done without women.' According to Kofi Annan, the future of this planet depends on women. RIO Declaration assumes that women have an important role in environmental management and development. Full participation of women is essential for sustainable development. The first Lady of Rwanda (2000) Mrs. Jeannette Kagame has said that women and girls are capable of bringing about significant change to their environment, despite obstacles that stand in the way of their advancement. Even today if women do small farming in their homes that is also their way of environmental protection. In this, they decorate nature with a little effort and preserve the environment.

Women, particularly those living in rural areas or mountain areas have a special relationship with the environment. These rural women tend to have a closer relationship with land and other natural resources, which promotes a new culture of respectful use and preservation of natural resources and the environment, ensuring that the next generations can meet their needs. (Kanhiya, 2016)

Women have always played a significant role in the environmental protection. With adequate environmental education and awareness women can conserve energy resources with more efficiently. Everyone knows that women are responsible for the cleanliness of the household, on which depends the health and wealth of the family members. With proper education and training one can minimize the experiences and incidences of most of the water, food and airborne diseases.

### 2.1.3 Concept of sustainability

Whether one considers sustainability to exist as a three-legged table consisting of the environment, the economy, and society, or as a dualistic relationship between human beings and the ecosystem they inhabit, there should at least be agreement that ensuring the provision of clean air, clean water, and clean and productive land is foundational to a responsible socioeconomic system.

Examining, for a moment, the three-legged model, the question might be raised, Do these legs provide equal support or is there some associated hierarchy of values among them? It is apparent that, without a sustainably productive environment to provide a resource foundation, it would be difficult or impossible to imagine having a sustainable society. (National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development,2013)

Similarly, a sustainable economy depends upon a sustainable flow of material, energy, and environmental resources. Without it, economic systems will fail. However, a sustainable environment need not be dependent on the existence of either society or economy and, as evidenced in the wild, can stand alone as a sustainable system. As the only piece of the puzzle that can actually stand by itself, it should be the model to emulate, and indeed there have been attempts to do so.(NSESD,2013)

According to ecosystem and human well-being, the human species, while buffered against environmental changes by culture and technology, is fundamentally dependent on the flow of ecosystem services.” Such services include:

- Provisioning services, the products obtained from ecosystems, including food, fiber, genetic resources, biochemical, natural medicines, pharmaceuticals, ornamental resources, fresh water, and all forms of energy resources;
- Regulating services, the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes, including air quality regulation, water purification and waste treatment, pest regulation, disease regulation, climate regulation, water regulation, erosion regulation, pollination, and natural hazard regulation;
- Supporting services, including soil formation, photosynthesis, primary production, nutrient cycling and dispersal, seed dispersal, and water cycling; and

- Cultural services, the nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experiences (“Ecosystems and Human Well-Being 2022”)

If it can be agreed that a sustainable environment is a necessary prerequisite to a sustainable socioeconomic system, then it also should make sense that the actions we take to remove threats to and foster environmental sustainability should contribute to such a system. While ecosystems range “from those that are relatively undisturbed, such as natural forests, to landscapes with mixed patterns of human use, to ecosystems intensively managed and modified by humans, such as agricultural land and urban areas,” the “environmental” focus proposed here delineates the portion of that range where there exists significant patterns of human use (“Ecosystems and Human Well-Being 2022”).

#### **2.1.4 Sustainability and Development**

Sustainable development (SD) should integrate social, environmental, and economic sustainability and use these three to start to make development sustainable. The moment the term development is introduced, however, the discussion becomes quite different and more ambiguous. This paper is not focused on sustainable development, here assumed to be development that is socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable, or "development without throughput growth beyond environmental carrying capacity and which is socially sustainable". (NSES, 2013)

World Wildlife Fund’s definition of sustainable development is similar: "Improvement in the quality of human life within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems." These definitions need to have the social aspects clarified, but they are less ambiguous than the Brundtland definition: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Brundtland Commission Report 2021).

#### **2.1.5 Definition of environmental sustainability**

A general definition of “environmental sustainability” can now be crafted in recognition of these linkages between human well-being and ecosystems and, in particular, “ecosystem services.”

Broadly speaking, this concept of “environmental sustainability” might be seen as adding depth to a portion of the meaning of the most common definition of sustainable development, i.e., “meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs,” by taking on the general definition “meeting the resource and services needs of current and future generations without compromising the health of the ecosystems that provide them,” (“Our Common Future”).

The most commonly accepted definition of sustainable development is found in the Brundtland Commission Report, *Our Common Future*, which defines sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Commission Report 2021).

Although sustainable development serves as the stated objective of many development initiatives, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), ecosystems worldwide are deteriorating. A summary of the report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment by its Board entitled, *Living Beyond Our Means: Natural Assets and Human Well-being*, identified the failure to value ecosystem services as a major contributing cause to this problem.

As part of the solution, the Assessment proposes that the economic background to decision making be changed so that policy making and planning take into account the full value of ecosystem services, market and non-market. To achieve this, a framework is needed that is quantitative and comprehensive with respect to the environment, and can be reliably integrated with economic accounts used for decision-making (Sachs et al. 2005).

Others attempt to capture its use for those working in agriculture (Harwood) or in the various functional units of business organizations (Morelli et al., “Sustainable Consumption”) Not surprisingly, environmental managers have identified “environmental sustainability” as a concept that has a professional meaning for them,” (Morelli and Lockwood, 2011).

### **2.1.6 What makes an issue a sustainability issue?**

A sustainability issue arises whenever a valued system, object, process or attribute is under threat. The existence of the valued system, object, process or attribute could be threatened or its quality could be threatened with serious decline. In other words, there is a sustainability issue

whenever there is something that is valued that faces the risk of not being maintained. (Sachs et al. 2005).

Whenever there is a strong sense of urgency, there is always a sustainability issue involved. This urgency could relate to something that already exists or to an understood potential. For example, biodiversity might be threatened with extinction or the chance to realize the potential of a human being might be threatened, for example, if they remain in poverty or their lives are threatened by violence or disease. (The latter would usually be thought of as being social sustainability issues.). (Morelli and Lockwood,2011).

### **2.1.7 Connection between environmental sustainability and social or economic sustainability.**

According to Goodland, R., since humans depend in countless ways on the physical environment (both natural and human constructed) sustaining desired environmental conditions directly contributes to the sustaining of people and human societies, that is, to social sustainability. The viability of the economy clearly depends on environmental resources and service flows so economic sustainability depends on environmental sustainability.

More generally it can be seen that sustainability in one domain can be necessary for sustainability in another. Sustainability requirements can be mapped to show complex dependencies across domains. We classify sustainability issues into separate domains, not because the sustainability issues are unrelated, but for reasons of convenience and tradition, for example, to allow specializations to develop in R&D and administration, to break up complex whole into mentally manageable chunks, to reflect historical connections, etc.(NSES,2013)

### **2.1.8 The need for environmental sustainability program.**

The physical environment is powerfully affected by and is made up of evolving systems - ecological systems, societies and economies. These evolving systems will create changes in some aspects of the physical environment and will prevent or resist changes in other aspects. So an environmental sustainability program could never aim to sustain or maintain absolutely every component and attribute of the entire physical environment. (Morelli, John, and Kelley Lockwood,2011)

Any environmental sustainability program must start out by being clear about what it is hoped will be maintained in the physical environment and what can be allowed to change or what will be made to change. Precisely what people set out to sustain within the physical environment will depend on their value judgments, needs, skills and technology and available resources to support the action program and the current state and the dynamics of the physical environment.

We cannot assume that we automatically know what should be sustained (and what should not) in the physical environment just because there is an environmental sustainability program operating. We need to work the answer out explicitly. (Mebratu, D.1998)

### **2.1.9 The time for environmental sustainability**

Approaching sustainability is urgent. Consider that if release were halted today of all substances that damage the ozone shield, the ozone shield may need as much as one century to return to pre-CFC effectiveness. Every passing year means sustainability has to be achieved for an additional 100 million people. Though environmental sources and sinks have been providing humanity with their services for the last million years, and until recently have seemed vast and resilient, we have at last begun to exceed them and to damage them worldwide.

Where environmental services are substitutable, the substitution achieved has been marginal. Most natural capital or environmental services cannot be substituted for, and their self-regenerating properties are slow and cannot be significantly hastened. (Morelli, John, and Kelley Lockwood,2011)

That is why environmental sustainability has time urgency. Much of the resistance to accepting the necessity of a sustainability approach is that politicians have considered the consequences of doing so-controlling consumerism and waste, halting human population growth, and probably reducing population size, and relying on renewable energy-to be politically unacceptable. These are all felt to be politically damaging, so they are not put forward as much-needed societal goals. Instead, society calls for incremental progress in such disparate areas as enforcing the 'polluter pays' principle, support of women's reproductive health, educating girls, or clean technology. Important though these goals are, they are not enough, yet no one calls for the. (Mebratu, D.1998)

### **2.1.10 The time for environmental sustainability**

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### **3.1 .Empirical literatures**

The result of a study by Leone (2019) in Nepal indicates that increased female participation in the Executive Committees of Community (ECC) and Forest User Groups leads to a considerable reduction in the extraction of firewood. This finding implies that the gender composition of collective action institutions plays a significant role in their effectiveness in countries with common property resources.

A study by Kings (2017) also highlights that a significant proportion of rural women in South Asia (around 70%) and Africa (over 60%) are engaged in farming. The study predicts that environmental degradation and climate change will lead to a significant decline in yields of rain-fed crops in certain African countries. Furthermore, households, where women have land

ownership rights, have been reported to have higher crop yields and increased food security. With land ownership, women have the right to make decisions on the use of the land, including what crops to plant and how to farm them, and they are better positioned to manage and protect the environment.

Raimi et al. (2019) conducted a study to evaluate the involvement of women in environmental conservation and development in Nigeria. They discovered that with adequate support, the vast and increasing number of women in Africa, specifically Nigeria, has the capability to foster development, accomplish worldwide objectives, and change the future of the continent as well as their future. The research suggested that to establish sustainable development, it is necessary to improve the accessibility and ownership of natural resources for all genders, especially for women, individuals with disabilities, marginalized communities, and minority groups.

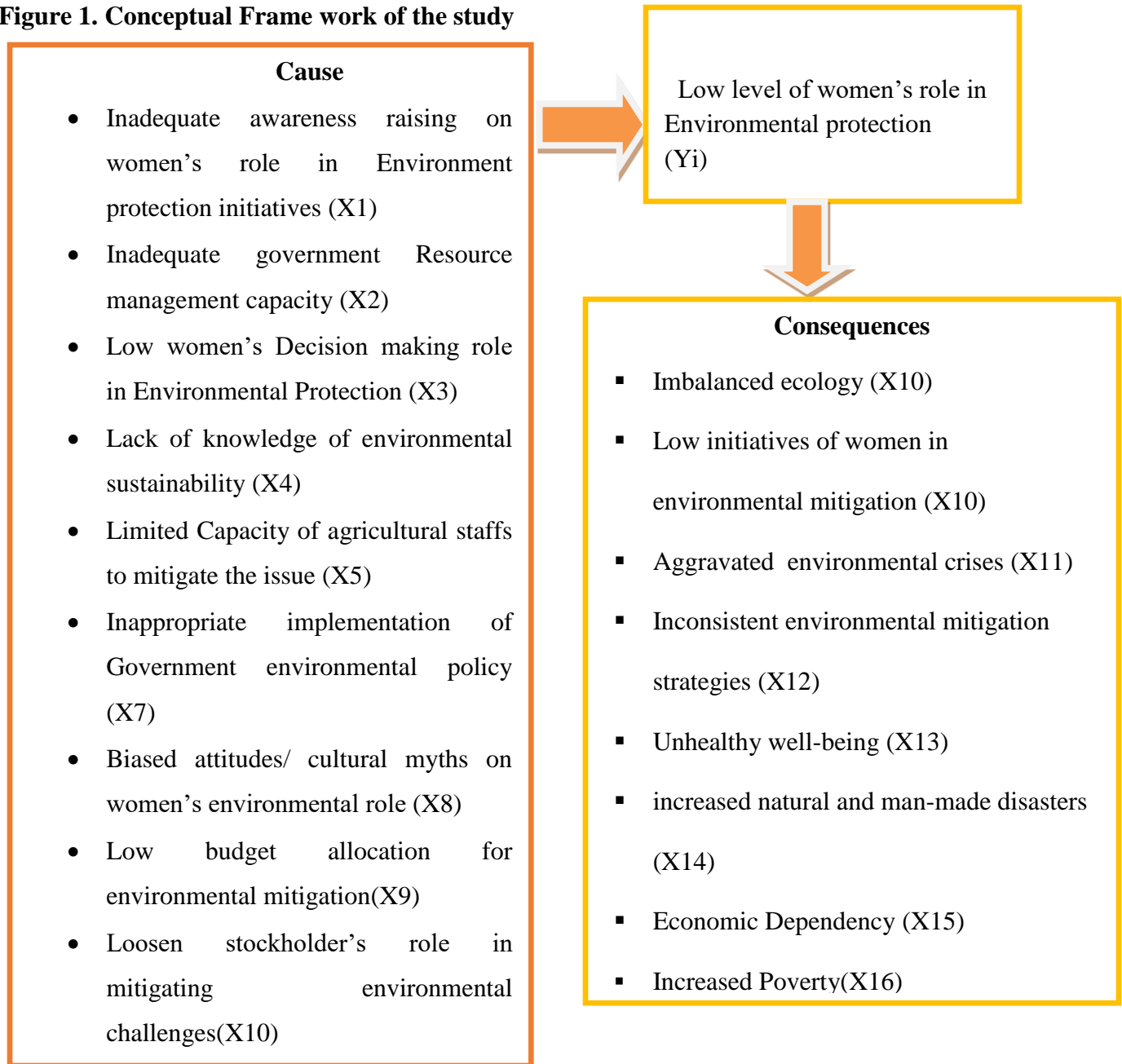
In Kenya, Sawe (2020) in Nandi County, examined the contribution of women's organizations to environmental conservation. The primary objective of the study was to determine how cultural practices, gender policy, resource mobilization, and socio-economic factors affected environmental conservation. The study's outcomes revealed that environmental conservation is influenced by culture, gender policy, resource mobilization, and socio-economic factors. The study's ultimate conclusion is that socio-economic factors have the most significant impact on environmental conservation when compared to other factors. This implies that the social and economic empowerment of women enables them to play an active role in environmental conservation efforts.

Grillos (2018) conducted a quasi-experimental research study that assessed the involvement of women in environmental decision-making. The intervention under investigation was designed to enhance drought preparedness in northern Kenyan pastoralist communities by empowering women at both the household and community levels. The study's findings showed that, in terms of community-level impacts, there was an increase in women's political consciousness and involvement in formal decision-making processes, although such participation did not lead to significant results. Conversely, at the household level, the intervention had a significant and positive impact on the adoption of measures to prepare for drought.

### 3.2 Conceptual Framework

In general the literatures presented above are written more about environmental protection and some cause that affect its sustainability. they are written based on the systematic random sampling literature review and using the model likelihood ratio of the main causes affecting status and having positive impact on the decision to start anew venture were examined .

**Figure 1. Conceptual Frame work of the study**



**Source:** Author development (2024)

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

#### 3.1 Description of the study area

Cheha woreda is one of the woreda in Guraghe zone. The woreda exists at the center of the zone and shares common values and cultures with other districts; it is bordered by Gummer in the east, Ezha in the south, Enor woreda in the south and Abeshege in the North West. The town of the woreda (Emdeber) is found 30km far from the zone town (Wolkite),185km far from Addis Ababa and 289km far from Hawassa (Cheha Woreda Socio-Economic Research & Statistics directorate,2021)

The mean maximum and minimum temperature is 25-and 18 degree respectively. The Woreda receives a rainfall between 900-1200mm, (woreda administration office). Elevation in this woreda ranges from 1200 to 2600 meters above sea level. There are three [7] permanent rivers in the woreda the so called; Gotam, Gogeb, Metrekat, Megecha, Wabe, Wunike, Gibe and Kecher and other seasonal streams. Majority of the climatic condition of this area is Weyena Dega and Kolla (CWSERSD,2021)

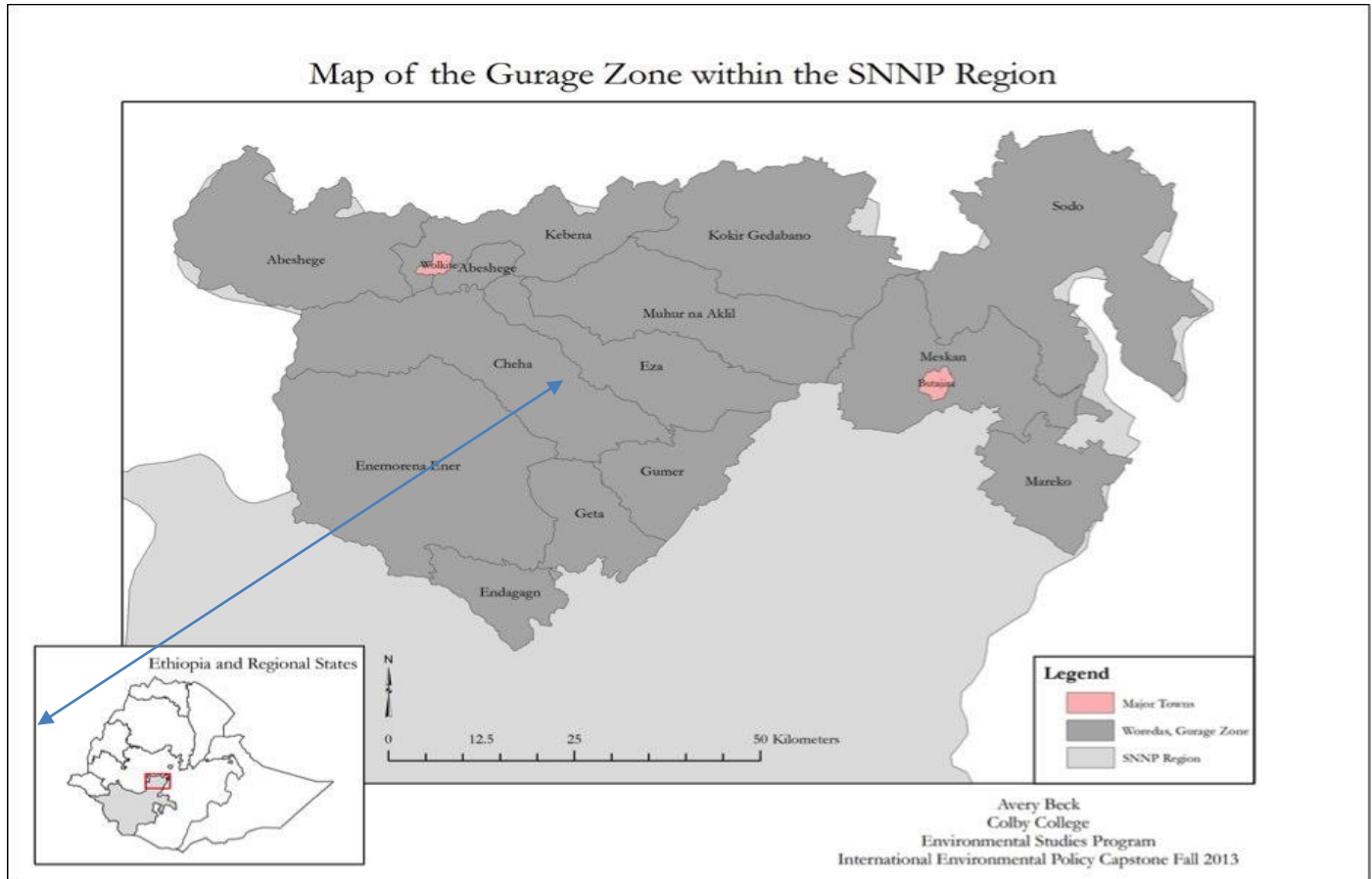
Both Keremt rains and Belg rains is important in this area, and are essential for the cultivation of Teff, Wheat, Barley, Bean, coffee Pea, Chat, maize, sorghum, Enset and vegetables, Belg rainfall is also important for the cultivation of short - cycle crops, of which the most important is vegetables (CWSERSD,2021)

The total land area of the Woreda is 57315 hectares, the land use in the woreda is ,33.13% for perennial crops ,30.90% annual crops ,2.71% for grazing land ,8% occupied by forest including private forest and the rest 0.18% degraded land (CWSERSD,2021)

Gibe Rift Valley Park is the only park in the woreda covering 360km<sup>2</sup>, there are endemic animal and birds; mountain Neyala, mantled Gureza, lion, crocodile, cape bushbuck, common warthog, partridge squirrels were among some in the park. (Woreda Statistics office) Beside the park; the natural heritages include Weredene falls, Luke hot water, Oger natural and Zharam forest (CWSERSD,2021)

The total population of the woreda is 127,692 from this population 61,760(48.3%) are men and 65,931(51.6%) are women. According to the census information from the total population 5.75 are urban and the others 94.25% are rural dwellers (CWSERSD,2021)

**Figure 2: Administrative map of study area**



Source;- Web. colby.edu,2013

## 3.2 Research Design and Approach

### 3.2.1 Research Design

A research design refers to the plan and the schedule of work, or a process of creating an empirical test to support or reject a knowledge claim (Best, 2006). In this study, a descriptive survey research design was employed to narrate the result of data captured on the level of women participation and other factors. Because the major objective of this study was to assess the roles of women in ensuring environmental sustainability, as it exists at present, it was also relevant to

gather detailed information concerning the current practices of principals. Moreover, descriptive research design made possible the prediction of the future based on findings on prevailing conditions.

Similarly, Cohn & Manion (2002), described that descriptive survey research design as it helps to gather data at a particular point in time with the intention of describing the nature of the existing condition or identifying standards against which existing conditions can be compared or determining the relationship that exists between specific events. In addition, Seyoum & Ayalew (1989) also agreed that descriptive survey design of research would employ both quantitative and qualitative methods because it is a descriptive survey in design, which is analytical, and it is more appropriate for gathering several kinds of data in a broad size to achieve the objectives of the study.

### **3.2.1 Research Approach**

To meet the objective of the study, a mixed-method combining both quantitative and qualitative components were used in the study.

According to Gay & Airasian (2000), qualitative research is best used to discover topics and relationships, at the case level quantitative research is best used to validate those themes and relationships in samples and populations.

The reason is that researchers used a mixed-method approach is to capture broaden understanding by incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods to use one approach to better explain or build on the results from the other approaches. To this end, the qualitative approach was used to incorporate into the study to validate and triangulate the quantitative data.

In general, quantitative research was used to understand the causal or correlational relationship between variables through testing hypotheses. In this study, the researcher used random sample technique in this case the quantitative research approach was preferable to collect data from large population; in this study the women comprised the largest population sample, whereas qualitative research was preferable to understand a phenomenon within a real-world context through the use of interviews and observation. In this study, purposive sampling was used to select sample respondents therefore qualitative approach will correspond.

### **3.2.3 Data sources**

To achieve the objectives of the study and to strengthen the findings of the research, the relevant data for the study should be gathered from both primary and secondary sources.

#### **3.2.3.1 Primary Sources**

In this study, primary data sources were employed to obtain reliable information about the study. The major primary sources of data were the sample women in the selected kebeles of the district, rural agricultural extension office workers, government office staffs, and woreda officials through questionnaires, interviews, and focused group discussions. These sources helped researchers to acquire first-hand information and to draw inferences.

#### **3.2.3.2 Secondary Sources**

The secondary sources of data was statistical data, and other internal and external documents, Strategic and annual plans, feedbacks and reports, annual environmental achievement results, and quarter report were used for analysis about the practice for checking the existing reality and particular research questions and to strengthen the data obtained through questionnaires, interview, and focus group discussion.

#### **3.2.4 Sample size**

According to McMillan & Schumacher (1993) choosing a site is a negotiated process to obtain the freedom of access that is suitable for the research problem and accessible for the researcher in terms of time-mobility, skills, and resources. This study was conducted in the Guraghe zone, Cheha woreda. The zone is one of the fourteenth zones in CEPRS, is situated in the southern part of the region, and has 14 woreda and 2 town administrations. The study was conducted on 3 sampled kebeles from the entire 23 kebeles in the woreda. The study focused on woman's involvement in environmental protection activities because they constitute the highest population group in the society.

To determine the sample size, sample size determination formula of Tara Yamane (1967) is used. This formula was used because it was relatively easy to compute the appropriate sample size. According to him the sample size for finite population could be computed as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n: signifies the sample size

N: signifies the selected population from three selected kebeles

e: signifies the margin error,

**Therefore:**

$$n = 1992 / (1 + 1992(0.05)^2)$$

$$n = 1992 / (1 + 1992(0.0025))$$

$$n = 1992 / (1 + 5.98)$$

$$n = 1992 / 6.98$$

$$n = 285$$

#### **3.2.4.1 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques**

To obtain reliable data for the study, various sampling techniques were employed. According to Yalew (2004) among the total population, 10-30% can fulfill the sample sizes. Therefore, from the 1,735(100%) Average women population in each kebele of the woreda, 229(80.35%) was selected by stratified sampling techniques from three kebeles based on the geographical location from the entire 23 kebeles existed in the woreda; the women were selected by simple random sampling method. This technique is advisable to subdivide the population into smaller homogeneous groups to get a more accurate representation (Khan, 2012). In addition, as Cohn & Manion (2002) described its utilization allows each element to have an equal non-zero chance of being selected.

Accordingly, from 62(100%) agriculture office workers, 18 (6.3%) using purposive sampling technique was selected and from 153(100%) rural agricultural extension office workers, 26(9.2%) using simple random sampling technique and from 42(100%) government office workers, 12(4.21%) were selected using purposive sampling technique since both are few in numbers but have a direct relation and attachment to the community.

From the total of 285 respondents 35 respondents were also selected to triangulate the results in quantitative means. The result obtained from questionnaire needed to be cross examined by interview ,past document reviews and focused group discussions.

**Table: 1 Summary of Population, Sample Size & Sampling Techniques of the Study**

No.	Items	Population	Sample will take		Sampling techniques
			No.	%	
1	Woreda Administration staffs/government officials	42	12	4.21	Purposive sampling
2	Women in the selected kebeles	1,735	229	80.35	Stratified sampling
3	Woreda Agricultural office workers	62	18	6.31	Purposive sampling
4	Rural agricultural extension office workers	153	26	9.12	Simple random sampling
<b>Total</b>		1,992	285	100	

### 3.3 Data Collection Instruments

In this study, questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, and documentary analysis were used to collect information regarding the practice of women to ensure environmental sustainability. This integration of responses helped the researcher to avoid the threat of bias that might induce quantitatively.

(Dooley, 2004) stated that the integration of instruments serves as a means of enlightening phenomena from multiple angles and helps the researcher to reveal better-detailed evidence of the study.

#### 3.3.1 Questionnaire

According to Gall (2000), Questionnaires can be defined as a written document that has exact questions of all individuals in the sample group, and which respondents can answer at their convenience. Questionnaires as means of data collection tool are believed to be better to get a

large amount of data from a large number of respondents in a relatively shorter time with minimum cost.

This Instrument was prepared aimed to indicate the level of women's involvement in decision making, to point out alternatives for balanced gender participation of women in the area and to identify the existing social & cultural challenges women face in ensuring gender equitable environmental protection activities.

This study used questionnaires to collect data from government office staffs, women in the district, and agricultural extension workers. Hence, open-ended and close-ended questionnaires were prepared in the Amharic language and were administered to all respondents with the assumption that they can understand the language.

To collect data from the respondents; 285 questionnaires were distributed for the selected respondents from the total sample size based on their number as indicated in sample size table. The researcher will use more close-ended questionnaires because it is the most frequently used instrument in descriptive survey research and is convenient to relieve reliable and adequate information from a large number of respondents

Therefore, for close-ended question items, Likert's scale was employed, because Likert's scale is mostly used in survey research and is easy to construct. Also, it is a simple way to describe opinions, suggestions, and frequency of respondents and it provides more freedom to respondents. The scale consists of five scales: 5- strongly agree, 4-agree, 3- undecided, 2- disagree, and 1- strongly disagree.

For the integrated and smooth works of activities in the research the animator was used in the collection of the questionnaire; he will be responsible in managing the questionnaires to all respondents.

### **3.3.2 Interview**

In this study, a semi-structured interview was used jointly with other tools to examine factors that affect the involvement of women's participation in environmental protection activities. The interview was conducted in Amharic to make communication easier and to avoid ambiguity for each of the interviewees. To get more information from the respondent, 35(one fourth of the total sample) respondents were interviewed. A semi-structured interview was designed to gather data from woreda administrators and agricultural office staffs. The selection of interviewees was

based on their position to effectively describe the reality in the study area and they can have detailed information about ensuring environmental sustainability. The interview guide questions were set for respondents, which targeted to obtain, related to the basic research questions. Finally, interview notes were taken, summarized, and translated into English. To incorporate these interviews, the researcher engaged in document analysis to triangulate the data.

### **3.3.3 Focus Groups Discussion**

Focus group discussion is defined as a group of individuals selected and assembled by researchers to discuss and comment on, from personal experience, the topic that is the subject of the research (Gibbs, 2002). They can be used to ascertain attitudes, knowledge, feelings, perceptions, ideas, and beliefs of participants' personal experiences. As (Gibbs 2002:499) suggests, researches can play an important role which includes providing a clear purpose, helping people, to fill out the case, and facilitating interaction allowed participants to reveal their attitudes and perceptions. To indicate the level of women's involvement in decision making role in environmental sustainability and cross examine the data collected; four focused group discussions with women in the kebeles were conducted with the target groups. During FGD each group consisting 8-10 participants were selected from selected Kebeles and government offices.

### **3.3.4 Document Review**

For this study, the following documents were analyzed: the organization' vision, mission, and values statements, visual recorded data, statistical data, and other internal and external documents. Strategic and annual plans, feedbacks and reports, annual institute achievement results, and quarter report.

### **3.4 Procedures of Data Collection**

To answer the basic research question raised, the researcher went through a series of data gathering procedures. The expected relevant data was gathered by using questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussion, and documentary analysis. In doing so, having a letter of authorization from woreda administrative office: we directly went to three sample selected kebeles and administrative for consent. After agreeing with the concerned participants, the researchers introduced their objectives and purposes. After this, to collect the data from the sample respondents convenient time and place was chosen to place them freely and maximize the quality of response and degree of return. Before giving the questionnaire to the participants the

researcher, provided orientation to make clear the objectives of the research. Then, the questionnaires were dispatched according to the schedule with the respondent groups. Then the questionnaires were administered to sample governmental staffs, women, agricultural office staffs and rural agricultural extension office staffs within selected areas. The participants were allowed to give their answers to each item independently. They were closely assisted and supervised by researcher.

Finally, the questionnaires were collected back. The interview was conducted with the selected respondents; next, came the focus group discussion, after their consent will be proved to lesson communication barriers during in-depth discussion and the relevant document was analyzed.

### **3.5 Data Analysis**

To analyze the collected data, both quantitative and qualitative techniques of data analysis was applied in this research. The characteristics of respondents were analyzed by using frequency and percentage and the main data was analyzed by using mean score with standard deviation quantitatively. The scores of each item was statistically organized and processed into STATA 11.1 (Statistically Data analysis) software program and excel sheet.

The overall median scores were used to interpret data gathered through questionnaires. On the other hand, the data obtained from the document analysis, unstructured interview, and focus group discussion was interpreted by qualitatively by narration. The qualitative analysis was done as follows. First, organized and noting down the different categories was used to assess what types of themes may come through the instruments to collect data regarding the research questions. Then, transcribed and coded the data to make the analysis easy. In addition, the result was translated with the quantitative findings. Finally, the findings were concluded and suggested recommendations for the further intervention.

### **3.6 Validity and Reliability**

Validity in mixed research type refers to the degree to which explanations of phenomena match realities of the world and reliability refers to the consistency of the researcher's interactive style, data recording, data analysis, and interpretation of participants' meanings from the data Mcmillan & Schumacher (1993:385-391). Therefore, checking the validity of and reliability of data

collecting instruments before providing them to the actual study subjects was the core activity to assure the quality of data (Yalew, E., 2004).

To ensure the validity of instruments, initially, the instrument was prepared by researchers and developed under the close guidance of an advisor, who provided his inputs for the validity of the instruments. To further check, researchers used the pilot testing of the instruments. A pilot study was conducted before the final administration of the questionnaires with all respondents. The pilot test was conducted to secure the reliability of the instruments with the objectives of checking whether or not the items enclosed in the instruments can enable the researcher to gather relevant information. After engaged in this process we carried on the actual data collection process for the study in the wider community.

To check the validity and reliability of the instruments, a pre-test was done on twenty-five respondents. Then the prepared questionnaires were distributed and the result of the pilot testing was computed by the STATA software program. According to the findings of the pilot test, items that properly responded maintained the objective intended to achieve whereas incorrectly responded or poor questions were improved. Based on respondents' responses, additional, omission, and (or) modification of questions were undertaken. Finally, in the actual field study, the improved questionnaires were distributed to the sample subjects, and enough time was given to fill in the necessary information.

### **3.7 THE PILOT TEST RESULT**

The pilot phase of the study was conducted in the Yeseme and Yerezeb kebele of Cheha woreda. These two kebeles were selected because of easy access from the town and facilities in terms of transport and communication and because in many respects the characteristics of these kebeles are similar to that of the other kebeles in the woreda.

A total of 21 women from the two kebeles and 9 government officials and rural agricultural extension staffs participated in the pilot phase. Selection procedures were based on convenience, but care was taken to ensure that the participants were selected to represent the various dimensions that are important to the study in terms of age, gender, professional experience, qualifications, and geographical location.

The purpose of the pilot phase was fourfold, namely:

- To gain an in-depth understanding examines factors that influencing the involvement of women's participation in environmental protection activities in the study area.
- To use the information above to identify key variables impacting on women's participation in environmental protection activities;
- To develop instruments for measuring these key variables, and
- To pilot test the different data collection instruments.

The preliminary hypotheses that had been developed on the basis of the literature review for the study were refined as a result of the information and insight gained during the pilot phase. These hypotheses were subsequently tested on a representative sample of women's and government office staffs in the data collection phase of the study.

### **3.7.1 Pilot Procedures and Activities**

Various techniques were used in the pilot phase to gain a more in-depth understanding of the level of women participation in environmental protection activities in the study area. This included conducting interviews with key informants, conducting focus groups with women and government officials and staffs, and conducting various open and close-response questionnaires with sample respondents.

Interviews were initially conducted with Government staff in woreda office who has key responsibilities in the area of agriculture and environmental protection. Interviews took place, among women in the two kebeles, these interviews yielded essential background and contextual information on on-going initiatives, major policy decisions, and on the perception that decision-makers and agricultural specialists have of the role that women can play in the keeping environmental balance.

One focus group discussion was conducted; involving a total of 3 males and 7 female participants was organized in one of the kebele locations. The areas were selected to indicate level of women involvement in environmental protection and other factors that affect their involvement. The discussions took between 20 and 30 minutes and were held in an open space outside. Participants for the focus group were selected by the researcher on the basis of a prior specification of the desired demographic characteristics (age, gender, experience level, and level of training). In this manner it was possible to obtain and verify responses from participants with different backgrounds and characteristics. The group was deliberately kept small so as to facilitate open discussion.

The purpose of the focus groups was to explore the role of government to enhance women's role in keeping environmental sustainability, to indicate the level of women's role in mitigating environmental challenges, to point out cultural and social barriers to fully implementing their role, women's own exposure to and experience with environmental protection initiatives, and their understanding of the impact of environmental degradation.

The information generated during the focus groups was essential in developing questionnaire items for key variables in the data collection phase of the study. In addition, the insights gained during the focus group discussions are, at various points in the discussion of the results of the study, contrasted with the results from the survey.

Participants were told at the outset of the focus group discussion that the purpose of the focus groups was to gain an in-depth understanding of the reality of women's role in environmental protection, that the information provided would be confidential and that they should feel free to discuss any personal experience that they had. A topic guide was used for the subsequent line of questioning (see Appendix B).

#### **Item development for key variables**

The final part of the pilot phase consisted of developing/selecting items for each of the variables in the study. These variables are listed below.

- The role of government in enhancing women's participation in environmental protection activities – predicted variable
- Overall attitude toward involving in environmental initiatives – predictor variable
- Perceived social norms and culture which affect women's role in environmental protection – predictor variable
- Contributions of stockholders in keeping ecological balance – predictor variable
- Attitude functions towards enhancing women's decision making role for environmental sustainability– predictor variable
- Capacity & management of government staffs/ agriculturalists /environmentalists – predictor variable
- Acceptable budget allocation – predictor variable
- Factors affecting women's role in keeping environment – predictor variable.

For most of the variables - items were generated by combining questions from existing scales with the items generated on the basis of the focus group discussions. Items were tested in one of

the questionnaires mentioned above, and a selection of items to be included in the final questionnaire which was administered in the data collection phase was made, on the basis of an assessment of internal consistency and reliability

## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Descriptive Analysis

In this section, both the descriptive and empirical results of the study were presented and discussed. The descriptive analysis was presented in numerical presentations. In this chapter it tried to analyze the assessment of women’s role in environmental protection in the case of Cheha worda Guraghe zone of CEPRS. The data are analyzed using the STATA

**Table 2. General Background of the Respondents**

Variables	Categories	Frequency (%)
Gender	male(0)	56 (19.65%)
	female(1)	229(80.35%)
Marital status	Married(0)	125(41.44%)
	Unmarried (1)	75(35.09%)
	Divorced(2)	44(15.44%)
	Widowed(3)	40(14.04%)
Age	18-24 years(0)	92(32.28%)
	25-35 (1)	114(40.00%)
	36-45(2)	45(15.79%)
	Above 45 years(3)	34(11.93%)
Duration of Stay in the worda	Less than 5 years(0)	68(23.86%)
	Between 5 to 10 years(1)	75(26.32%)
	Between 10 to 15 years (2)	100(35.09%)
	More than 20 years (3)	42(14.74%)
Educational Level	Below grade 8(0)	134(47.02%)
	Completed grade 10(1)	109(38.25%)
	Diploma (2)	30(10.53 %)
	Degree (3)	12(4.21%)

Initially, a single table was formed to show the respondents general background. Accordingly, it implies that women were intentionally included and are greater than men counterpart; in fact, the study ultimately focused on the women’s role in environmental protection in the study area. In this table, most of the women included under the study are married; as far as the relationship

between marital status and women's role in environmental protection is concerned, the percentage was higher for married and unmarried respondents who were aged in between 25-35 than divorced and widowed respondents in the study area. The above table also illustrated that most of the participants stayed in the woreda for more than 15 years. The educational level of the participants mostly grouped under below grade ten even though there is educational level difference in the women's role in environmental protection of Cheha Woreda Guraghe zone, they are much influenced by their educational level with women's participation in environmental protection.

**Table 3. Government office capacity in facilitating women's involvement in environmental protection**

No	Description	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
		Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)
1	The office has made sufficient awareness creation for women only in the woreda	42(14.74%)	50(17.54%)	55(19.30%)	91(31.93%)	47(16.49%)
2	There are capable and adequate staff who can motivate stockholders to participate	40(14.04%)	38(13.33%)	46(16.14%)	73(25.61%)	88(30.88%)
3	There is enough budget for environmental mitigation activities	43(15.09%)	50(17.54%)	54(18.95%)	90(31.58%)	48(16.84%)
4	The awareness raisings on environmental protection made were successful	44(15.44%)	41(14.39%)	77(27.02%)	62(21.75%)	61(21.40%)
5	There is an integrated work in the worda to mitigate the issue in sustainable way	39(13.68%)	79(27.72%)	73(25.61%)	42(14.74%)	52(18.25%)
6	There is an improved women's role in environmental protection activities	59(20.70%)	29(10.18%)	56(19.65%)	99(34.74%)	42(14.74%)
7	Other offices are adequately involving in environmental protection activities	40(14.04%)	78(27.37%)	77(27.02%)	42(14.74%)	48(16.84%)
8	Higher governments official are involving in	47(16.49%)	66(23.16%)	49(17.19%)	59(20.70%)	64(22.46%)

environmental protection initiatives encourage others	%)	%)	%)	%)	
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The above table3 revealed that the government office did not made sufficient awareness creation for women only in the woreda to enhance women’s role in environmental protection and mitigate the existing challenges, this was also supplemented that most of the respondents tended to reply strongly disagreed that there are capable and adequate staff that can motivate women to actively take part in environmental mitigation opportunities.

Not only the availability of staffs in the government office there is no enough budget for environmental mitigation activities to enhance women’s role in environmental protection. This affected lack of awareness raisings initiatives on environmental protection in order to enhance women’s role in keeping environmental balance and resilience although there was an integrated work in the worda to mitigate the issue in sustainable way.

In contrary, the table shows that in the government office there was no improved women’s role in environmental protection activities to enhance women’s role in environmental protection although government officers were adequately involving in environmental protection activities to enhance and motivate women to enhance their efforts in mitigating environmental issues in the study area.

**Table 4. Level of women’s involvement for environmental sustainability**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>
Degree of Environmental Protection activities by stockholders in comparison	Women in the Woreda	28(9.82%)
	Men in the Woreda	65(22.81%)
	Sectors staffs	54(18.95%)
	Non-Governmental organizations	51(17.89%)
	Youths in the Woreda	55(19.30%)
	Others	32(11.23%)
Do women Adequately involve	Yes	111(38.95%)
	No	174(61.05%)

Factor for inefficient participation	Lack of coordination at woreda level	64(22.46%)
	Government motivation techniques	76(26.67%)
	Community willingness to involve	40(14.04%)
	Absence of rule and regulations	20(7.02%)
	Women's participation in environmental protection	51(17.89%)
	Others	34(11.93%)

In Table 4, regarding level of women's involvement in environmental protection activities men in the woreda were higher in comparison to women counterpart and they were not adequately involved in environmental protection initiatives in this woreda due to different prevailing challenges they encountered and affected women's participation.

Most of the respondents indicated that government commitment in coordinating women's role in environmental mitigation and ways of planned motivational techniques for women exclusively were also aggravating factor for inefficient participation of women but lack of coordination at woreda level and government motivation techniques are intensified factors that contributed for inefficient participation of women in the woreda.

There are different impending factors that restrict women from engaging in environmental conservation activities. These include gender-based violence, stereotypes, social service inaccessibility, gender roles, and lack of resources. These factors have been restricting women from taking part in environmental protection activities and have damaging effect on the environment (WHO, 2019).

**Table 5. Contribution of stockholder in keeping ecological balance through integrated efforts of stockholder in the area**

List of stockholder and level of participation	Very High	High	Medium	Low
	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)
Women in the Woreda	51(17.89%)	65(22.81%)	104(36.49%)	65(22.81%)
Men in the Woreda	78(27.37%)	127(44.56%)	47(16.49%)	33(11.58%)
Sectors staffs	96(33.68%)	103(36.14%)	53(18.60%)	33(11.58%)

Non-Governmental organizations	144(50.53%)	69(24.21%)	39(13.68%)	33(11.58%)
Youths in the Woreda	94(32.98%)	93(32.63%)	54(18.95%)	44(15.44%)
Others	91(31.93%)	82(28.77%)	54(18.95%)	58(20.35%)

As shown in table, 5 regarding the rate of contribution and involvement of the governments bodies in mitigating the existing environmental protection interventions (waste management organizing, environmental protection campaigns tree, plantation in sustaining green legacy soil conservation or reducing desertification) in the area, from the total 285 respondents, 65% of the respondent replied that women in the woreda were involved in medium level as key stockholder to keep ecological balance through integrated efforts of stockholder; in contrary, men in the woreda were highly evolved in protecting the environment in comparison to their women counterpart.

It was also noted that government office staffs, youths (organized groups and school students) and Non-Governmental organizations working in the woreda also took part in various initiatives organized aiming to contribute their effort for environmental sustainability. Therefore, women role in keeping the environmental balance remained at low level in comparison to other sectors.

Analogously, Principle 23 of the Rio Declaration (1992) declared that the environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected. Thus, gender should be integrated into environmental sustainability efforts. Accordingly, women should be part of the solution since they are eco-friendly and indispensable in soil preservation, resource management, pollution fortification and environmental administration (World Bank, 2012; Manjunath, 2015).\

**Table 6. level of Women’s participation in areas environmental protection**

List of environmental protection intervention area and level of women’s involvement	Very High	High	Medium	Low
	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)
Planting trees	49(17.19%)	85(29.82%)	59(20.70%)	92(32.28%)
Soil Conservation	79(27.72%)	58(20.35%)	117(41.05%)	31(10.88%)
Solid waste management	48(16.84%)	81(28.42%)	64(22.46%)	92(32.28%)
Seeding preparation	26(9.12%)	73(25.61%)	54(18.95%)	132(46.32%)

Water bodies conservation	85(29.82%)	103(36.14%)	48(16.84%)	49(17.19%)
Flora/forest safeguarding	65(22.81%)	74(25.96%)	81(28.42%)	65(22.81%)

The above table illustrated that women's participation in the environmental protection activities in planting trees was low, in soil conservation is medium, in solid waste management was in low level, in seeding preparation was low, in water bodies' conservation was in low level, in in flora/forest consecution is in medium level in the study woreda.

**Table 7. Woreda government's Commitment of policy Implementation & gaps in environmental protection**

Variables	Categories	Frequency (%)
Do the local government officers are committed Environmental Policy implementation commitment	Yes	147(51.58%)
	No	138(48.42%)

From the total 285 respondents were also asked in the survey data 147(51.58%) respondents accept policy implementation commitment was strong enough to contribute for sustainable environmental protection and the remaining 138(48.42%) are not accept policy gaps was strong enough to contribute for sustainable environmental protection. This shows that policy gaps is strong enough to contribute for sustainable environmental protection that means women's role in environmental protection of Cheha Woreda Guraghe zone, they are much influenced by policy gaps to women's participate in environmental protection.

**Table 8. Women's awareness on environmental issues**

Variables	Categories	Frequency (%)
Received any environmental protection awareness	Yes	94(32.98%)
	No	191(67.02%)
Equal opportunities with men to participate in environmental mitigation	Yes	90(31.58%)
	No	195(68.42%)

Judgment	Yes	104(36.49%)
	No	181(63.51%)

From the total 285 respondents were also asked in the survey date 94(32.98%) respondents received any environmental protection awareness raising from the concerned government bodies others and the remaining 191(67.02%) are not received any environmental protection awareness raising from the concerned government bodies others. This shows that more respondents in the study area not received any environmental protection awareness raising from the concerned government bodies others that means there is environmental protection awareness gap in the study area.

From the total 285 respondents in the survey date 90(31.58%) respondents accept there is equal opportunity with men to participate environmental mitigation activities and the remaining 195(68.42%) are not accept there is equal opportunity with men to participate environmental mitigation activities. This shows that more respondents in the study area not accept there is equal opportunity with men to participate environmental mitigation activities that means there is unequal opportunity with men to participate environmental mitigation activities in the study area due to different reason.

From the total 285 respondents in the survey date 104(36.49%) respondents judges women’s participate in environmental protection activities and the remaining 181(63.51%) are not judges women’s participate in environmental protection activities. This shows that more respondents in the study area not judges women’s participate in environmental protection activities that means women’s are not participate in environmental protection activities in there locality due to different reason.

## **4.2 FGD qualitative Analysis**

During the discussion all the four groups’ participants have suggested that although there was less participation of women in environmental safeguarding activities, they said that women did not equally participate in all activities with men. There are certain campaigns made in their respective kebeles in the summer for tree planation. However, the participation of women is not that much significant; they discussed that women are only liable to house hold activities and

some economic affairs; like purchasing food items in market and taking care of children at home. They told as most of the activities mentioned in the question are the activities most often carried out by the men counterpart.

All the four groups mentioned the major challenges they faced not to able you participate in environmental protection activities in the study area; burden of household activities, cultural assumptions (most believes that women are more to function at home than in external issues), low decision making opportunity; this is also the role men are supposed to undertake in all areas. However, few women reflected that women themselves do not want to actively engage themselves in decision making process in all communal issues; they are more suppressed by the men.

All the four groups suggested the following areas for future interventions and create resilient environment with the active involvement of women in the area; first they suggested continual awareness raising opportunities by professional; this could enhance areas of mitigation, second point they stressed was, working on cultural myths that challenge women not to be front runners and equally contributing for the community during sharing tasks and decision making role. Thirdly, they suggested that government motivation for the women group to take part in environmental protection initiatives should be capacitated using effective strategies. Another point they forwarded their own commitment; once the opportunity is ensured, they needed to benefit from the chance given.

### **4.3 Interview qualitative analysis**

Nearly all the interviewees told that although there were certain challenging situations even from the government side, continuous attempts have been made to capacitate women participate in the environmental protection Initiatives. They frankly revealed that there should be aggressive intervention works should be made to enhance. The cultural patriarchal rule and myths in the area highly affected their significant contribution in the Woreda. However, there has been observed an improved involvement of women in some environmental mitigation activities in the town part of the woreda and the rural part needs an unwavering attempt to create sustainable ecology in the area. This was also cross examined in the document analysis of previous reports and minuetts of the agricultural office monthly staff meeting.

Regarding women's equal opportunity to take part in the environmental safeguarding activities should be considered because they told that there are factors that seriously affect their engagement and contribution in environmental mitigations. This needs more attention of capacity building scheme for women in the rural part in particular, continual discussion on the right of women should be considered and budget allocation for this critical area needs attention.

## **4.2 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1.1 Women's role in environmental protection**

Men and women experience the environment differently. Women and men should be agents in environmental management including equal participation in decision making and policy processes. (Sisay Demise, 2019).

The result showed women's' participating existed in lower level although their contribution in environmental protection activity became decisive in the study area; there were contributing factor emanating from lack of gender equitable facilitation, budget allocation for awareness raising schemes, staffs commitment and coordination in motivating exclusively women; and socio- cultural assumptions hindered the credible participation of women and resulted to low level of women role in the study area. This finding also compliments as stated in WHO wellbeing report, the different impending factors that restrict women from engaging in environmental conservation activities. These include gender- based violence, stereotypes, social service inaccessibility, gender roles, and lack of resources. These factors have been restricting women from taking part in environmental protection activities and have damaging effect on the environment (WHO, 2019).

### **4.1.2 Context of Government Facilitation**

It is substantial that the government facilitation in capacitating stockholders with relevant awareness is critical in improving the existing environmental protection initiatives in every corner of the country to sensitize the impact of environmental challenges with in the woreda. However, the existing reality depicted that government contribution in propagating sufficient awareness to enhance women's role, employing capable staffs to motivate environmental protection stockholders have its own adverse impact in the implementation of collaborative effort

in minimizing the impact of global environmental crises. The lack of awareness and capable staff that can scale up the motivation to involve in the environmental activities of women in the area scenario is observed in lower potential.

It is not only the impact of awareness but also the budget allocation to adopt integrated environmental interventions in the study woreda. For sustainable environmental mitigations budget allocation of the government can make an earmarking impact in resolving the existing environmental challenges this coherently can hamper the environmental protection initiatives targeting to involve women in particular with strategies to alleviate the miserable challenges through awareness sensitization alternatives in the woreda to make the intervention more integrated. It is vital that to ensure feasible change in environmental integration of the stockholders; governments strategy, staffs and budget allocation can move forward or backward the momentum of change in mitigating environmental adversities.

In the woreda the study area we could track that the women's' role has not been improved due to the above mentioned interwoven challenges that concern the government in leadership , financial potentials and capacity of staff who can address the critical environmental issues in the Woreda.

#### **4.1.3 NGO and power dynamics**

Although other Non- Governmental Institutions are working on the issue in the Woreda, the systematized strategies in involving on mitigation and collaboration on the issues. NGOs and government institutions engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector, to promote participatory decision-making and inclusive environmental governance by leveraging their respective strengths and resources, local and international NGOs can work together effectively to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in the region.

#### **4.1.4 Women VS decision making role**

According to Rao (2012) and UNEP (2016), environmental sustainability involves making decisions and taking action that are in the interests of protecting the natural world with particular emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life. These days,

environmental sustainability is a topical issue that receives plenty of attention from the media, different governmental departments, academicians, researchers and stakeholders.

Environmental decision making at all levels should include women. Women can be policy managers, policymakers, policy implementers, policy evaluators, policy planners, policy designers, policy promulgators. Etc. women can play multi-dimensional role in safeguarding environment

Women are under-represented in decision-making positions worldwide. However, gender equality and diversity are recognized to have beneficial effects on organizations, institutions and the overall economy. It is highly crucial that women should be placed at the center of decision making in every environmental activities. With enhanced women decision making role; the intensity of intervention maximizes and ensures the impact of alleviation of the environmental probable impacts on soil, water, flora and fauna. It is known that the men domination in decision making exist in this patriarchal societies like Cheha Woreda. Although the population of women is higher their contribution in environmental decision making capacity underlines the extent of integrated environmental intervention.

Women in the developing world are usually in charge of managing and protecting their families' resources. They spend most of their time maintaining forests, wetlands, and farms and obtaining and storing food, firewood, water, and livestock feed. They provide food for the majority of people, especially in rural areas.

#### **4.1.4 Women VS ecological balance effort**

Educating men and women is vital to economic growth and sustainable development. Raising the literacy rates of women is one of the most effective investments for increasing female productivity. Reducing gender inequality gaps in education is essential to reducing poverty, accelerating economic development and environmental sustainability. But most women are not in a position to get access to education and information. So, this is one of the factors that affect women's direct participation in ecological administration (Bannerjee, 1991; Catalyst,2007).

It is imperative that women's role in environmental protection activities immensely make impact in sustaining ecological balance. The basic problems and management skills at the household

level, in addition to women working in various environmental disciplines, give them expertise in championing sustainable initiatives to drive ecological balance in the globe. Although women are vulnerable to economic and ecological impact of environment, it is always advantageous to involve them in the systematic approach for environmental balance in each society. The domination of men in various social, economic and political sectors; it is likely that they cannot maintain their effort in attaining environmental sustainability. It is when the women equally share their contribution in mitigating and contributing for environmental balance.

Societal roles and expectations often place gender in different positions of vulnerability; and women frequently face systemic discrimination, limited access to resources, and unequal participation in decision-making processes. These structural inequalities exacerbate their susceptibility to the negative impacts of environmental crises.

#### **4.1.5 Women and environmental interventions area.**

For sustainable environmental management approach women are required to engage actively in planting trees, soil conservation activities, solid waste management, seedling preparation water bodies' conservation the concerned stockholders attention makes feasible impact in keeping the diversified environmental mitigation strategies. Adopting women based environmental safeguarding initiatives highly advances the ecological balance and fosters the attempts in overall environmental sustainability. Women's empowerment through the adoption of sensible mitigation strategies also makes economic sense. Women empowerment can contribute to reduce the negative adverse welfare implications of short-term coping responses that were intensified by lack of gender based environmental interventions.

#### **4.1.5 Policy and environmental protection**

Closing the policy gap requires governments to become catalytic collaborators and active implementers on the ground. This requires efforts of partnering with other government offices, institutions, and the private sector to strategically set policies and drive initiatives that catalyze progress on climate goals while promoting equitable growth and sustainable development. It also means reinventing internal processes to become more effective partners within the ecosystem.

Through the implementation of environment responsive and all gender inclusive policy with sufficient capacity building scheme and budget allocation; the existing environmental issues could be minimized. The policy implementation plays pivotal role from the national level to local kebeles. The policy which ensures the equal opportunity of involvement can foster the realities and environmental aspirations; the environment we wish to have in this era. Policy designing and implementation has a potential to direct the involvement of all equally to realize integrated results.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Women & environment conservation is a decisive issue which is being debated today. Since time immemorial, women have been a part of this environment & its conservation. Women can play a vital role in conserving environment. Ecological balance is an important aspect of new approach to nation's development, and women's concern with local ecological stakeholder ship is vital to women empowerment process.

Women contribute significantly to protecting and restoring the environment as they have extensive traditional and modern knowledge of their surroundings. Women are often in charge of caring for and protecting natural resources within their households and communities. They are significantly impacted by environmental destruction and degradation since it eliminates their means of subsistence. Women's contributions to household activities are undeniable, but their contributions to other fields, such as social, political, economic, etc., are not prioritized. Women's participation in environmental protection has helped societies cultivate the responsibility essential for maintaining a healthy relationship between human needs and the Earth's resources to ensure a sustainable future.

This chapter reviews and summarizes findings from selected case studies; discuss their implications in the study and forward recommendations in areas where the researcher observe possible gaps.

#### **5.2 CONCLUSION**

This study concludes that only a small proportion of the women have been involved in environmental conservation initiatives in the community since the initiatives are unavailable. The few that have been involved have been through annual tree planation campaign, planting trees, Napier grass on terraces, and sweet potatoes to reduce erosions. Women in the village have not been empowered with environmental management skills through capacity building. Most women are not involved in training programs but the few who have received the training have applied the skills they learn from the training programs. The training includes establishing tree nurseries, water reuse and adoption of green cooking energies.

The role of women in every society in creating resilient environment is pivotal for future sustainability and should be managed by with their fullest involvement to attain communal benefits of the ecology. They have direct connection with the surrounding nature. They frequently interact with natural resources such as land, water, forests, and wildlife because of their traditional gender roles. Their deep connection with nature and commitment to nurturing the environment for future generations make them powerful agents of change. However these experiences have been hampered by various factors and change the dynamics of ecological conservation balance with in the community.

In this study , the role of women in environmental protection activities in Cheha Woreda, Guraghe Zone, is critical give attention for facilitation commitment, integration of activity with other institutions, involvement of women in decision making role to keep environmental balance, diversifying environmental mitigation areas, capacity of government office in implementing policy require special focus to create gender sensitive and resilient environments to promote sustainable development, and create a brighter future for generations to come to live in welcoming environment.

### **5.3 RECOMMENDATION**

The results obtained from this study are of great concern to policy makers and environmentalists because of the negative effects of less involvement of the greatest portion of the population segment in the woreda. Based on the findings of the study, the following points are recommended to enhance the role of women in environmental protection activities and create resilient environment in the Woreda.

- There is a need to create equitable awareness for women exclusively to educate and empower them to make them responsible. The awareness should include the need and importance of environmental perseveration, conservation and management and decision making role. They should be educated on ways to conserve the environment and be mobilized to plant more trees.
- The study recommends that NGOs and organizations that train on climate change should ensure that they include a large portion of women. Involving women in such training is advantageous in that women can be able to tell their stories and their own experiences

which will pass on skills and experiences to other women. Women should be trained in climate-smart agriculture.

- The participation of women in environmental conservation and management requires funding. The woreda government should set aside a kit for women groups to ensure that the women are trained and can implement the skills they have been trained on.
- There is a need for collaborative management of the environment and should be based on a shared vision among collaborators as they develop a shared understanding of the need to conserve forests.
- Since, low involvement of women is one of the problems which exist in the woreda which directly affect the ecology in the study. So, the government is responsible to reduce these problems by creating conducive environment and planning workable Women environment based strategies to ensure women's right to take part in all environmental initiatives.
- Based on the findings, the recommendations forwarded are that the woreda government should strengthen agricultural staffs capacity building schemes which will enable the women to acquire adequate awareness for the community, reduce cultural assumptions and myths that prohibit women not to contribute their effort for environmental mitigation approaches , develop systems on how to distribute budget for the sector to culminate the impact of environmental degradations.
- Regarding exposure to mass media as one variable, the government or concerned bodies should make the coverage of mass media in uniform way in order to all youth are equally get information from mass media to get employment opportunity.
- The Government and the concerned stockholders (individual, institutions and organizations) should support efforts in enhancing the awareness of women about the importance of involving in environmental practices as a key stockholders and enable women and the society to bring attitude change by organizing awareness sensitization program in community based events.
- The woreda Agriculture office should encourage women to increase their environmental engagement and decision making to mitigate environmental challenges particularly in the rural part of Cheha woreda. Having higher ownership and involvement increases the chance of contributing their effort in this multidisciplinary approach.

- In order to increase the social networks; working along with other institutions for collaborative effort, educating women to bring change in their social communication habits using public and private media, encourage them to use and access internet, mobile telephone; participate in women related activities.

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## **Appendix A: Questionnaire**

**Questionnaire to Be Filled By government officers (part 1) and selected women in Cheha  
Woreda (part 2)**

**Wolkite University**

**College Of Social Science and Humanities**

**Department of Governance and Development Studies**

**Dear Respondents,**

My name is Kumelachew Woldegebriel. I am a prospective Master of Art Student in Governance and development studies in Wolkite University School of Social Science and Humanity.

The objective of this questionnaire is to collect the necessary and relevant first-hand information that may be useful to conduct a thesis regarding **“The assessment of Women’s Role in Environmental Protection: A case of Cheha Woreda Guraghe zone, CEPRS”** which will be used to prepare a thesis required for my MA degree. The study focuses specifically on the role of women in environmental protection activities in the study Woreda. Therefore, your response in this regard helps a lot to undertake the study.

The result of this survey will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be strictly used for academic purpose only. The researcher thus appreciates in advance your cooperation and sparing your valuable time in filling this questionnaire.

**I thank you for your passionate cooperation!**

## General Instructions

- ✚ You are not required to write your name
- ✚ For the questions you are asked to choose among the alternatives, please choose and encircle the letter of your choice
- ✚ For the open ended type questions, please put your correct answers on the space provided in a neat and readable hand writings.
- ✚ You are kindly required to provide the correct answers for all questions

### Household survey questionnaire

**Research Title:-** The assessment of women's Role in environmental protection: A case of Cheha Woreda Guraghe zone, SNNPR Region

Please put (x) mark in front of the alternative you thought as an answer.

#### Part I. General Background of the respondent

1. Sex

- a) Male       b) Female

2. Marital Status

- A) Married     B) Unmarried     C) Divorced     D) Widowed

3. Age Category

- A) 18 - 24 years       B) 25 - 35       C) 36 - 45       D) Above 45 years

3. How long did you stay in the area?

- A) Less than 5 years       B) between 5 to 10 years   
C) More than 20 years       D) between 10 to 15 years

4. Educational level

- A) Below grade 8      B) completed grade 10      C) Diploma      b) degree

5. Your current position \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part II. Question Related to Facilitation of Government Office to Enhance Women's Role in Environmental Protection.

**6. Facilitation of government office to enhance women’s role in environmental protection.**

Please tick one box to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree

**SA**=strongly agree; **A**=Agree; **N**=Neutral; **DA**=Disagree; **SDA**=Strongly Disagree

No	Description	SA	A	N	DA	SDA
6.1	The office has made sufficient awareness creation for women only in the Woreda					
6.2	There are capable & adequate staff who can motivate stockholders to participate					
6.3	There is enough budget for environmental mitigation activities					
6.4	The awareness raisings on environmental protection made were successful					
6.5	There is an integrated work in the Woreda to mitigate the issue in sustainable way.					
6.6	There is an improved women’s role in environmental protection activities					
6.7	Other offices are adequately involving in environmental protection activities					
6.8	Higher government officials are involving in environmental protection initiatives to encourage others					

**7. Questions related to Women’s involvement in decision making role for environmental sustainability**

7.1 Who is more contributing in the environmental protection activities in your Woreda? (Select only two)

- Women in Woreda
- Men in the Woreda
- Sector staffs
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Youths in the Woreda
- Others

7.2 Do you think, women have adequately involved in environmental protection initiatives in

your Woreda?

Yes

No

7.3 If your answer to the above question is **No** what do you think is the main problems (You can select two factors) which affect the women's participation

- House hold burden
- Reluctance of women themselves to participate
- Men's domination in decision making
- Cultural myths/factors
- Problems related to lack of government office motivation & encouragement
- Lack of integrated awareness for the concerned bodies
- Absence of favorable time
- Other

7.4 What do you think is the source of the above mentioned contributing factor for inefficient participation of women based on your observation/experience?

- Lack of coordination at the Woreda level
- Government motivational techniques
- Community willingness to involve
- Absence of rules and regulations which enforce participation
- Women's participation in environmental protection
- Other

**8. Questions related to contribution of stockholders to keep ecological balance through integrated efforts of stockholders in the area.**

8.1 Rate the contribution & involvement of the following government bodies in improving the existing environmental protection interventions(waste management, organizing environmental protection campaigns, tree plantations, in sustaining green legacy, soil conservation or reducing desertification ) last year as **VH**= Very High **H**=High **M**=Medium **L**=Low

No	List of stockholders	VH	H	M	L
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8.1	Women in Woreda				
8.2.	Men in the Woreda				
8.3	Sector staffs				
8.4	Non-Governmental Organizations				
8.5	Youths in the Woreda				
8.6	Others				

8.2 in order to improve involvement of women in the environmental protection campaign in the Woreda, what do you suggest to attain the objective? (You can tick more than one )

1. Working with other stockholders
2. Creating continual awareness for all
3. Encourage target participants
4. Capacitating the agricultural sector staff
5. Establishing responsibility for each sector
6. Intervening the challenges that affect involvement
7. Enforcing policy implementation

8.3 Rate the degree of women's participation in the environmental protection activities as indicated in the table as

**VH**= Very High    **H**=High    **M**=Medium    **L**=Low in your Woreda

No	List of environmental protection intervention areas	VH	H	M	L
7.1	Planting trees				
7.2	Soil conservation				
7.3	Solid waste management				
7.4	Seedling preparation				
7.5	Water bodies conservation				
7.6	Flora /forest conservation				

9. What were the major administrative challenges which directly affected women's involvement in environmental protection activities in your Woreda?

(List three major defining challenges)

- 1-----
- 2-----
- 3-----

10. As you are working in concerned government sector in the issue, what would you suggest the solution to enhance women's participation in your Woreda?

- 1-----
- 2-----
- 3-----

### 11 Questions related to policy gaps in environmental protection

11.1 Do you think that the environmental policy is strong enough to contribute for sustainable environmental protection?

Yes  No

11.2 If your answer for the above question is **No**, what can be done to improve the existing condition? (tick two possible answer/s)

- Policy revision in major intervention area
- Consultation of the stockholders in policy formulation
- Include community responsibility in the policy document
- Assigning responsibility for the stockholders
- Motivate NGOs to contribute their impact on the issue
- Assigning responsibility & working in integration with other sectors

### PART THREE: Separate questions for selected women only

13. Have you received any environmental protection awareness raising from the concerned government bodies or others?

Yes  No

14. If you have received, in which area did they give the awareness?

- In soil erosion
- Climate change
- Water pollution
- Plantation of trees
- Women's participation in environmental protection
- Other

15. Do you think that you have equal opportunity with men to participate in environmental

mitigation activities?

Yes  No

16. If yes, what do you think is the main reason?

- House hold burden
- Reluctance of women themselves to participate
- Men's domination in decision making
- Cultural myths/factors
- Problems related to lack of government policy implementation
- Lack of awareness
- Others

17. Based on your judgment, do you think women participate in environmental protection activities in your locality?

Yes  No

18. If your answer is yes, in which environmental protection activities were you involved most?

- In soil conservation
- Tree plantation
- Water bodies' conservation
- Seedling preparation
- Other

19. In which type of environmental protection activities did you participate last year in your Woreda? (List only three areas)

- 1-----
- 2-----
- 3-----

20. What were the major challenges women encountered in participating environmental protection activities in your localities (list three major challenges)

- 1-----
- 2-----
- 3-----

21. What do you suggest as major solutions to enable women involve actively in order alleviating the contributing factors for environmental challenges?

1-----

2-----

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

## **Appendix B: FGD points**

1. How do you participate in environmental protection activities in your kebele?(clearly defining the ways they can take part; like soil conservation, water bodies conservation, waste management, seedling preparation, tree planation,...)
2. What are the various challenges that prohibit women in your kebele not to participate in the various environmental initiatives?
3. To make women right to participate in environmental safeguarding activities more in your woreda, what should be done?

### **Appendix C: Interview questions**

1. How do you describe the role of women in environmental protection activities in your Woreda?
2. Do you think women are equally participating in all environmental initiatives in your Woreda? If not why?
3. As concerned government official/ expert, what do you suggest as best solution to enable women participate more in environmental protection activities in your Woreda

## Appendix D: Amharic Questionnaire

በቸሃ ወረዳ የመንግሥት ባለስልጣናት (ክፍል 1) እና በተመረጡ የወረዳው ሴቶች (ክፍል 2) የሚሞላ የፁሁፍ መጠይቅ

ወልቂጤ ዩኒቨርሲቲ

የማኅበራዊ ሳይንስ እና የሰብአዊነት ኮሌጅ

የአስተዳደር እና ልማት ጥናቶች ክፍል

ውድ ምላሽ ሰጪዎች፣

እኔ የዚህ ጥናት አድራጊ ቁምላቸው ወልደገብርኤል እባላለሁ። በወልቂጤ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የማኅበራዊ ሳይንስ እና የሰብአዊነት ትምህርት ቤት በአስተዳደር እና በልማት ጥናት የሁለተኛ ዲግሪ ተማሪ ነኝ።

የዚህ መጠይቅ ዓላማ “በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ላይ የሴቶች ሚና ግምገማ በቸሃ ወረዳ ጉራጌ ዞን ማእከላዊ ኢትዮጵያ ክልል ውስጥ ” በሚመለከት ጥናታዊ ጽሑፍ ለማካሄድ አስፈላጊ የሆኑትን መረጃዎችን ለሁለተኛ ዲግሪዬ የሚያስፈልግ ጥናታዊ ጽሑፍ ለማዘጋጀት ነው። ጥናቱ በተለይ በተደረገበት ወረዳ ሴቶች በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራ ላይ ያላቸው ሚና ላይ ያተኮረ ነው። ስለዚህ በዚህ ረገድ የሚሰጡት ምላሽ ጥናቱን ለማካሄድ በጣም ይረዳል።

የዚህ ዳሰሳ ውጤት በከፍተኛ ምስጢራዊነቱ የተጠበቀ እና በጥብቅ ለትምህርት ዓላማ ብቻ ጥቅም ላይ ይውላል። ስለዚህ ይህንን ጥናት ለማድረግ ይህን መጠይቅ ለመሙላት ለምታደርጉት ትብብር እና ለምትሰጡት ውድ ጊዜያችሁ አመሰግናለሁ።

ስለ ጥልቅ ትብብርዎ አመሰግናለሁ!

**አጠቃላይ መመሪያዎች**

- ✚ ስም መጻፍ አይጠበቅም።
- ✚ እባክዎ ከአማራጮች መካከል እንድትመርጡ ለሚጠይቀው የመረጡትን ፊደል ያክብቡ ወይም (x) ምልክት ያድርጉ
- ✚ ለክፍት ዓይነት ጥያቄዎች እባክትን ትክክለኛ መልሶችዎን በንጹሕ እና ሊነበብ በሚችል የእጅ ጽሑፍ ላይ ባለው ቦታ ላይ ያስቀምጡ።
- ✚ ለሁሉም ጥያቄዎች ትክክለኛውን መልስ እንድትሰጡ በአክብሮት እጠይቃለሁ።

**የጥናት ርዕስ:- ማእከላዊ ኢትዮጵያ ህዝቦች ክልል የቸሃ ወረዳ ጉራጌ ዞን በአካባቢ ጥበቃ የሴቶች ሚና ዙሪያ የተደረገ ግምገማ**

እባክትን ለመልስ ካሰቡት አማራጭ ፊት ለፊት (x) ምልክት ያድርጉ።

**ክፍል 1. የተጠሪ አጠቃላይ ዳራ**

1. ጾታ

- a) ወንድ                       b) ሴት

2. የጋብቻ ሁኔታ

- A. ያገባ     B) ያላገባ                       C) የተፋታ     D) ባል/ሚስት የሞተባት

3. የእድሜ ምድብ

- A) ከ18-24 ዓመት     B) ከ25-35     C) ከ36-45     D) ከ45 በላይ

4. በአካባቢው ምን ያክል ጊዜ ቆይተዋል?

- A) ከ5 ዓመት በታች                       B) ከ5-10 መካከል   
 B) C) ከ20 ዓመት በላይ                       D) ከ10-15 መካከል

5. የትምህርት ደረጃ

- A) 8ኛ ክፍል በታች     B) 10 ክፍል ያጠናቀቀ     C) ዲፕሎማ     D) ዲግሪ

6. አሁን ያሉበት የሥራ ቦታ \_\_\_\_\_

**ክፍል 2 የሴቶችን በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ውስጥ ሚና ለማሳደግ የመንግሥት ቢሮን ማመቻቸት ጋር የተያያዘ ጥያቄ**

7. የሴቶችን በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ላይ ያላቸውን ሚና ለማሳደግ የመንግሥት ቢሮ አሰራር ማመቻቸት.

የተስማሙበትን ወይም የማይስማሙበትን መጠን ለማመልከት እባክዎ አንድ ሳጥን ላይ ምልክት ያድርጉ

SA=በጠንካራ ሁኔታ እስማማለሁ; A= እስማማለሁ; N=ገለልተኛ; DA=አልስማማም; SDA=በጠንካራ ሁኔታ አልስማማም

ተ.ቁ	መግለጫ	SA	A	N	DA	SDA
6.1	ጽ/ቤቱ በወረዳው ለሚገኙ ሴቶች ብቻ በቂ ግንዛቤ መፍጠር ችሏል።					
6.2	ባለስራተኛ አካላት በጉዳዩ እንዲሳተፉ የሚያነሳሱ ብቃት ያላቸው እና በቂ ሠራተኞች አሉ።					

6.3	ለአካባቢያዊ ጥበቃ ተግባራት በቂ በጀት አለ					
6.4	በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ላይ የተደረገው የግንዛቤ ማስጨበጫ ሥራ ውጤታማ ነበር።					
6.5	ጉዳዩን በዘላቂነት ለመፍታት በወረዳው የተቀናጀ ሥራ አለ።					
6.6	በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ተግባራት ውስጥ የተሻሻለ የሴቶች ሚና አለ።					
6.7	ሌሎች መሥሪያ ቤቶች በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎች በበቂ ሁኔታ እየተሳተፉ ነው።					
6.8	ከፍተኛ የመንግሥት ባለስልጣናት ሌሎችን ለማበረታታት በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎች ላይ እየተሳተፉ ነው።					

**8. ለአካባቢ ጥበቃ ዘላቂነት ሚና በውሳኔ አሰጣጥ ውስጥ ከሴቶች ተሳትፎ ጋር የተያያዙ ጥያቄዎች**

8.1 በወረዳዎ ውስጥ ባለው የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራ የበለጠ አስተዋፅዖ እያደረገ ያለው ማነው? (ሁለት ብቻ ይምረጡ)

- በወረዳ ውስጥ ያሉ ሴቶች
- በወረዳው ውስጥ ያሉ ወንዶች
- የዘርፉ ሠራተኞች
- መንግሥታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች
- በወረዳው ያሉ ወጣቶች
- ሌሎች

8.2 እርሶ በሚኖሩበት ወረዳ ወይም ቀበሌ ውስጥ ሴቶች በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎች በበቂ ሁኔታ የተሳተፉ ይመስላችኋል?

አዎ  አይደለም

8.3 ከላይ ባለው ጥያቄ መልስዎ አይደለም ከሆነ ይህም የሴቶችን ተሳትፎ የሚገታው ዋና ችግሮች ምን ይመስላችኋል (ሁለት ምክንያቶችን መምረጥ ይችላሉ)

- የቤት ውስጥ የሥራ ጫና
- ሴቶች ራሳቸው ለመሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ አለመሆን
- በውሳኔ አሰጣጥ ውስጥ የወንዶች የበላይነት
- ባሕላዊ አፈ ታሪኮች/ምክንያቶች
- ከመንግሥት መሥሪያ ቤት ተነሳሽነት እና ማበረታቻ እጥረት ጋር የተያያዙ ችግሮች
- ለሚመለከታቸው አካላት የተቀናጀ ግንዛቤ ማነስ
- አመቺ በቂ ጊዜ አለመኖር
- ሌላ

8.4 በእርስዎ ምልክታ/ልምድ በመነሳት በአካባ ጥበቃ ሥራ ላይ የሴቶች ተሳትፎ ውጤታማ ያልሆነው ምክንያት ምንጩ ምን ይመስልዎታል?

- በወረዳ ደረጃ የቅንጅት ጉድለት
- የመንግሥት ማበረታቻ ዘዴዎች
- የማኅበረሰቡ ተሳትፎ ፍላጎት
- ተሳትፎን የሚያስፈጽም ሕጎች እና ደንቦች አለመኖር
- በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ውስጥ የሴቶች ተሳትፎ ዝቅተኛ መሆኑ
- ሌላ

9. በአካባቢው ያሉ ባለአክሲዮኖች የተቀናጁ ጥረቶች ሥነ-ምህዳራዊ ሚዛንን ለመጠበቅ ከባለ አክሲዮኖች አስተዋጽኦ ጋር የተያያዙ ጥያቄዎች

9.1 ባለፈው ዓመት የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎችን (የቆሻሻ አወጋገድ፣ የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ዘመቻዎችን ማድራጀት፣ የዛፍ ተከላ፣ የአረንጓዴ ተግባራት ለማስቀጠል፣ የአፈር ጥበቃ ወይም በረሃማነትን በመቀነስ) ለማሻሻል የሚከተሉትን የመንግሥት አካላት አስተዋዕቅ እና ተሳትፎ V= በጣም ከፍተኛ H=ከፍተኛ M=መካከለኛ L=ዝቅተኛ በማለት ደረጃ ይስጡ

ተ.ቁ	ባለ አክሲዮኖች ዝርዝር	በጣ ከ	ከፍ	መካ	ዝቅ
9.1	በወረዳ ውስጥ ያሉ ሴቶች				
9.2	በወረዳው ውስጥ ያሉ ወንዶች				
9.3	የዘርፉ ሠራተኞች				
9.4	መንግሥታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች				
9.5	በወረዳው ያሉ ወጣቶች				
9.6	ሌሎች				

9.2 በወረዳው ባለው የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ዘመቻ የሴቶችን ተሳትፎ ለማሻሻል ዓላማውን ለማሳካት ምን ይመክራሉ? (ከአንድ በላይ ምልክት ማድረግ ይችላሉ)

1. ከሌሎች ባለአክሲዮኖች ጋር መሥራት
2. ለሁሉም ቀጣይነት ያለው ግንዛቤ መፍጠር
3. የአላማው ተሳታፊዎችን ያበረታቱ
4. የግብርና ዘርፍ ሠራተኞችን ማጎልበት
5. ለእያንዳንዱ ዘርፍ ኃላፊነትን መመሥረት
6. ተሳትፎን በሚነኩ ተግዳሮቶች ጣልቃ መግባት
7. የፖሊሲ ትግበራን ማስፈጸም

**9.3 በሠንጠረዥ ላይ እንደተገለጸው በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ተግባራት ውስጥ የሴቶችን ተሳትፎ ደረጃ ደረጃ ይስጡ**

VH= በጣም ከፍተኛ H=ከፍተኛ M=መካከለኛ L=በወረዳህ ዝቅተኛ

ተ.ቁ	የአካባቢ ጥበቃ የተሳትፎ ዝርዝር ተግባራት	በጣ ከ	ከፍ	መካ	ዝቅ
7.1	ዛፎችን መትከል				
7.2	የአፈር ጥበቃ				
7.3	የደረቅ ቆሻሻ አያያዝ				
7.4	ችግኝ ዝግጅት				
7.5	የውሃ አካላት ስፍራዎች ጥበቃ				
7.6	ዕፅዋት / የደን ጥበቃ				

**10. በወረዳዎ ውስጥ በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎች ላይ የሴቶችን ተሳትፎ በቀጥታ የሚጎዱ ዋና ዋና አስተዳደራዊ ችግሮች ምን ምን ነበሩ?**

(ሦስት ዋና ዋና የሚስተዋሉ ችግሮች ዘርዝር)

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**11. በጉዳዩ ላይ በሚመለከታቸው የመንግሥት ሴክተሮች ውስጥ እየሠሩ እንደመሆኑ መጠን፣ በወረዳችሁ የሴቶችን ተሳትፎ ለማሻሻል ምን መፍትሄ ትጠቁማላችሁ?**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**12. በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ላይ ከፖሊሲ ክፍተቶች ጋር የተያያዙ ጥያቄዎች**

12.1 የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ፖሊሲ ለዘላቂ የአካባቢ ጥበቃ አስተዋፅዖ ለማድረግ ጠንካራ ነው ብለው ያስባሉ?

አዎ  አይደለም

12.2 ከላይ ላለው ጥያቄ የሰጡት መልስ አይደለም ከሆነ፣ ያለውን ሁኔታ ለማሻሻል ምን ማድረግ ይቻላል?

በዋና ጣልቃ ገብነት አካባቢ የፖሊሲ ክለሳ

በፖሊሲ ቀረጻ ውስጥ ባለድርሻ አካትን በስፋት ማማከር

በፖሊሲ ሰነዱ ውስጥ የማኅበረሰብ ኃላፊነትን ማካተት

ለባለድርሻ አካላት ኃላፊነት መስጠት

መንግሥታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች በጉዳዩ ላይ የራሳቸውን አስተዋፅኦ እንዲያበረክቱ ያበረታቱ

ኃላፊነትን መመደብ እና ከሌሎች ዘርፎች ጋር ተቀናጅቶ መሥራት

**ክፍል ሦስት፡ ለተመረጡ ሴቶች ብቻ የተለየ ጥያቄዎች**

13. ከሚመለከታቸው የመንግሥት አካላት ወይም ከሌሎች የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ግንዛቤ ማስጨበጫ ተቀብለዋል?

አዎ

አይ

14. ከተቀበሉ በየትኛው አካባቢ ነው ግንዛቤውን የሰጡት?

በአፈር መሸርሸር

የአየር ንብረት ለውጥ

የውሃ ብክለት

ዛፎችን መትከል

በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ውስጥ የሴቶች ተሳትፎ

ሌሎች

15. በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ተግባራት ላይ ለመሳተፍ ከወንዶች ጋር እኩል እድል እንዳለ ያስባሉ?

አዎ

አይ

16. አዎ ከሆነ፣ ዋናው ምክንያት ምን ይመስሎታል?

የቤት ውስጥ ግዴታዎች

ሴቶች ራሳቸው ለመሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ አለመሆን

በውሳኔ አሰጣጥ ውስጥ የወንዶች የበላይነት

ባሕላዊ አፈ ታሪኮች/ምክንያቶች

ከመንግሥት ፖሊሲ አፈፃፀም እጥረት ጋር የተያያዙ ችግሮች

የግንዛቤ እጥረት

ሌሎች

17. በእርስዎ ውሳኔ ላይ በመመሥረት፣ በአካባቢዎ ባሉ የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎች ውስጥ ሴቶች የሚሳተፉ ይመስላችኋል?

አዎ

አይ

18. መልስዎ አዎ ከሆነ፣ በየትኞቹ የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ተግባራት ላይ እርስዎ የበለጠ የተሳተፉበት?

በአፈር ጥበቃ ውስጥ

የዛፍ መትከል

የውሃ አካላት ጥበቃ

ችግኝ ዝግጅት

ሌላ

19. ባለፈው ዓመት በወረዳችሁ በየትኛው ዓይነት የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራ ተሳትፏችኋል? (ሦስት ቦታዎችን ዘርዝሩ)

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

20. በአካባቢዎ ያሉ የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎችን በመሳተፍ ሴቶች ያጋጠሟቸው ዋና ዋና ፈተናዎች ምን ምን ነበሩ? (ሦስት ዋና ዋና ተግዳሮቶችን ዘርዝሩ)

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

21. በአካባቢ ጥበቃ ሥራዎች ተግዳሮቶች እንዲኖሩ አስተዋፅዖ የሚያደርጉ ሁኔታዎችን ለማቃለል ሴቶች በንቃት እንዲሳተፉ ለማስቻል እንደ ዋና መፍትሄዎች ምን ይጠቁማሉ?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

**ስለ መልካም ትብብርዎ አመሰግናለሁ!**