



# *executive report*

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# 2004

*Submitted to the  
Eighth General Assembly of the Society  
Addis Ababa, March 2005*

## *Message from the Chairman of the Board of Director*

Year 2004 was a year of better move towards Lem Ethiopia's Goal. It was a year of many successes in building civil society coalition for environment and development and the achievement of our strategic objectives. It was also a year of many lessons learned. The Society is grateful to the communities, schools involved in its programs, and donors who have made it possible for us to drive our mission objectives to fruition. Special thanks goes to members of our Society, Packard Foundation, and Embassies of Finland and Japan who have devoted their time, expertise and finance to help communities meet their aspirations of sustainable livelihoods.

Subsequent to the decision of the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, its strategic plan (year 2003-2005) has been reviewed & extended to year 2006 and finalised by the Board of Directors. To implement its strategic plan effectively, the Society assembled three task forces. The task forces consist of members of Board of Directors and other founding members based on their professional experience and commitment.

- (1) Advocacy, awareness generation and lobby
- (2) Sustainable livelihoods
- (3) Membership drive, resource mobilisation and management

In accordance with the 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic plan and the annual operational plan all ongoing activities have been implemented. Among the major activities were environmental awareness development through schools and promotion of appropriate technologies through model site establishment and high-level colloquium organisation on environmental hot spots. Both activities are focussing on sustainable livelihoods and advocacy. Total revenue for different projects was Birr 996240 (about USD 117205) & total expenditure during the year was Birr 727629 (USD 85603) where management cost is closer to 11%. This does not include the financial & technical contribution of committed members.

An increased awareness of our weaknesses has led us to question the nature of our partnership; providing significant impetus for change in our network development consciousness and practice. As a result, we are increasingly paying attention to the question of development - people nexus. By publishing our strategic plan, we have taken a first bold step in gearing individual groups and networks into action, and generating the momentum required for a true process of collaborative development. Let this stand as a testimony to our open invitation to government, business, NGOs, and civil society organisations of our commitment to contribute to the development of communities of practice in environment and development.

**Costantinos Berhe Tesfu  
Chairman of the Board of Directors**

<u>(Alphabetical listing)</u>
1. Aklog La'ake
2. Abraham Zeleke
3. Asrat Bekele
4. Askale Binega
5. Beletu mengistu
6. Bekele Bayisa
7. Dr. Berhe T, Costantinos
8. Berhane Mewa
9. Daniel G/Wold
10. Dr. Desta Mebratu
11. Dr. Ermiyas Bekele
12. Gedeon Asfaw
13. Prof. Gebre Emanuel Teka
14. Girma Sime
15. HE Pres Girma W Giorgis
16. Kelly Seyfu Yohannes
17. Kifle Lema
18. Mehari Ma'asho
19. Mengesha Workneh
20. Mulugeta Amha
21. Prof. Shibiru Tedla
22. Worku Damena
23. Welde Kidan Nerie
24. Dr. Yonas Tegegn
<b>Distinguished Member of Lem and the Board of Directors</b>
HE President Girma Wolde Giorgis
<b>Chairman of the Board</b>
Dr Berhe Tesfu, Costantinos
Executive Director a.i. Moges Worku
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8 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Founding Members will be held March 19 <sup>th</sup> 2005

**LEM THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA**

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**EXECUTIVE REPORT 2004**

**Presented to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly**

**1. Major Activities**

**1.1. Phased out Activities**

**Part I Physical Activities**

**a) Towards a People-Based Environment & Population Integrated Development**

**Project:-**This project has been 10 high schools (5 from Orimia-W,S,W Shoa and Jimma Zones and 5 from Amhara N.Shoa, S.Wollo and Orimia Zones) and their feeding primary schools in their vicinity. The main objective of this project was to develop environmental awareness with regard to the interrelationship between population, environment & development supported by alternative/appropriate technologies against existing natural resources utilisation problems. Accordingly more than 350 individuals (male & female-teacher, students, farmers, & government experts) were directly involved in different components of the project. Among the success stories of this project are the establishment of local community environmental associations initiated by school environmental education & protection club members of the project schools e.g. Hollota & Shoa Robit, promotion of appropriate technologies e.g. Jimma & Hollota high schools. Due to its significant records funding agencies as well as different Woredas showed interest for the project to continue in different Woredas. Delegates of Packard Foundation have visited Hollota high school and surround community environmental groups several times. Their comments and suggestion were encouraging. This project was carried out by the support provided by Packard Foundation for the last 3 years (2002-2004).

**b) Godino Potable Water Supply Project:-** The main objective of this project has been promotion of solar energy technology through demonstration. Initiated by our former staff Mr. Fekadu Aleka, and signed a partnership agreement in promoting solar technology with 'Active Partnership with the Southern Hemisphere was among the successful projects of year 2004. This project was implemented in Ada'a Liben Woreda Godino village targeting the supply of potable water at a distance of not more than 100 meters for each villagers. . Other than the supply of the water it has reduced the burden of women & children travel more than a kilometre and raping of girls and women. A number of authorities from Oromia region has visited the project and requested for further partnership to expand the technology for different purposes such as irrigation and electrification.

**c) Ambo Mud Technology Project;-** This project is actually called "Improving livelihood security of women through modern mud house training & construction. The project has enabled for 10 extended households, whose total family members are 59, to have their own moderate houses to live in. Two members of each family were given a training and then let them to fully participate during the construction. Thus, we proved that we have at least an alternative in addressing forestry resources conservation and housing problems. This project was funded by Embassy of Japan. The outcome of the mid-term & terminal evaluation of the above projects (a-c) were encouraging and impressing. It showed our real position in the efforts made by

different development practitioners and government though we did our tasks with very limited resources.

- d) Initiating High Level Colloquium:-** Three important high level colloquium that fostered Lem Ethiopia's publicity were organised in 2004. These are on Introduction to Zero Emission Research Initiatives, Socio-economic challenges faced by poverty, HIV/AIDS and famine and enhancing the role of religious institutions towards improving the environmental sanitation of Addis Ababa. The former and the last were organised by Lem Ethiopia itself where H.E. President Girma and Dr Costantinos Berhe –President of Lem Ethiopia, covered all costs. The middle one in collaboration with Forum International For Ethiopians Living the Diaspora & other organisations. This initiative has opened a good opportunity for future advocacy and other development programs for the Society.
- e) Youth for Development:-** This was a project implemented in Bole sub –city by involving volunteers from universities, colleges and high schools - school environmental education & protection club members. These volunteer students were involved in establishing a park at a place where previously used to dump household waste & waste from service giving institutions in Bole sub-city Kebele 15 in front of Lem Hotel along the way from Urael church to Megegnagna. Other than involving students in such volunteer activities experience sharing opportunity to students who came from different higher learning institutions. Its socio-economic contribution to the sub-city and for the youth is significant. U.S. A. Embassy funded this project.
- f) Advocacy & Lobbing:-** This an area Lem Ethiopia is expected to play significant role towards its goals. Now there is a good start with special commitment by Dr. Costantinos Berhe and H.E. President Girma W/Ghiorgis. Lem Ethiopia's Founding members should replicate this too. Theme identification/focus areas & resource mobilisation strategies should be reviewed by the General Assembly.
- g) Advisory Role:-** Bole Medahne Alem church requested Lem Ethiopia's advise to beautify its compounds in environmentally friendly way. Thus, Lem Ethiopia's founding members Dr. Costantions, Dr. Ermias, Ato Aklog and Ato W/Kidan have made significant technical contribution in the name of the Society and it has been a good record for Lem Ethiopia.
- h) Networking & Partnership :-** Lem Ethiopia is a member of a number of networks and similarly is getting into partnership with Gos, NGOs (local & international) civil societies (local & abroad) and embassies in Ethiopia. Among which Addis Ababa city administration departments involved in similar areas, Federal EPA, Oromia Regional State-Agriculture, Education, & Water Bureaux, Sustainable Land Use Forum, Forum for Environment, Packard Foundation, Finland Embassy, Japan Embassy, American Embassy, a number of civil societies in Welmera Woreda-Oromia & Qewet Woreda –Amhara regions, Active Partnership with the Southern Hemisphere-Germany, People to People in USA, etc. Along with these Board Members & other have been involved in a number of national, international & regional committees/task forces on behalf of the Society and contribute their share.

## **Part II Financial Expenditures**

**Budget Utilisation:** With minimal resources managed effectively and efficiently it has been made possible Lem Ethiopia to be operational. Though the limitation in resources is there the overall performance physical & financial is very good. Accounts were audited timely and year 2004 is updated by chartered accountant called Aweke Gebre Selasie & Company. The outcomes are positive in all aspects. Here we would like to mention that without unlimited all rounded support of Dr. Costantinos Berhe, President of Lem Ethiopia, it was difficult for the Society to reach where it is

now. Other members of Board of Directors and founding members have done their best though constrained by other different commitments. It is difficult to measure all their contributions in terms of money. It is too much. The following are the income and expenditures of year 2004.

Title	Income			Source	Expenditure	
	03 BBF	Transferred	Total		Project	Overhead
Environment and Population Integrated Development Project	10988	276976	287964	The David & Lucile P. Foundation	178219	46922
Low cost mud-house construction Project	184050	--	184050	Japan Embassy	166054*	17996
Godino Potable Water supply	--	263518	263518	Active Partnership	224697	--
Promotion of Biogas	29920	--	29920	Finland Embassy	25158	4762
Waste Management Master Plan Dev.		197278	197278	Finland Embassy	--	--
SEEP Members initiative	--	33398	33398	Embassy of USA/Self-help pr.	29048	4350
Membership (F. members & schools)	--	112	112	Founding members & schools	--	--
Miscellaneous			30500	Ambo training centre service	25423*	5000
<b>Total</b>	<b>224958</b>	<b>771282</b>	<b>996240</b>		<b>648599</b>	<b>79030</b>

**NB.** Refer audit Report year 2004 for details. SEEP = school environmental education & protection club. The \* indicate the additional resource committed to Ambo project from the service charges generated by the centre.

## 1.2 Planned Activities (2005/07)

- a) **Towards a People-Based Environment and Population Integrated Project:** This project is going to be continued for the coming 2 years period in 12 Woredas of Oromia region- W.Shoa Zone funded by SIDA – Sustainable Land Use Forum program (total budget Eth. Birr 474,000 out of which 10% is management cost), and 5 Woredas of S.W.Shoa Zone & Jimma Zone Funded by Packard Foundation (total budget Birr 425,000 out of which 20% is management cost). The target Woredas and schools are different from the previous ones. No change in objectives from the previous similar projects. But there is a change of strategy and approach based on the lessons learnt for the last 3 years. That is schools are to be used as entry points while the focus is more on young development oriented farmers and young women in rural areas. This project gives emphasis to replicable demonstration site establishments. Similar other project proposals are submitted to different funding agencies for 10 Woredas of Amhara Region
- b) **Waste Management Mater Plan Development Initiation for Jimma town:-** This is a project to share our past experiences in city waste management through capitalising our past strength and incorporating new & innovative ideas. We were requested by Jimma town mayor through official communiqué and encouraged to contribute our share. Our usual partner Embassy of Finland has funded Birr 197,000 out of which 10% is management cost. The main objective of the project is to develop waste management master plan guide in collaboration with the municipality, Jimma University and private sector in Jimma town. It is an eighteen months project starting from December 2004. Our role is more of facilitation.
- c) **Promotion of Appropriate Technologies:-** This initiation will be continued in newly established settlement areas in W. Shoa Zone through training of rural community members and establishment of demonstration sites. The main components of the project will be solar technology for irrigation & drinking water supplies, biogas technology & mud technology. For these projects yet resources are no earmarked. But civil societies in Germany and Japan Embassy have shown interest to support the initiation. With regard to funding it is not yet finalised.
- d) **Environmental Policy Advocacy:-**This was planned for year 2003/04. Due to resources constraint it wasn't possible to exercise it to the level required.

### ☞ Advocacy targeting parliamentarians:

1. Identification of critical policy issues related to natural resources conservation and realisation of sustainable livelihoods/development up to May 2005,

2. Selection of best audiences within the parliament – up to end of Dec. 2005
3. Opening dialogue with the selected audiences using different media channels Jan. 2006-June 2006
4. Continue the dialogue with selected regional parliaments July-Nov. 2006
5. Evaluate activities - December 2006.
6. Advocacy targeting local authorities and communities on systematic implementation of the Environmental Policy of Ethiopia July 2005-Oct. 2005
7. Media tools (Radio, TV, Newsletters publications, etc.): - Buy air time to transmit selected issue dialogue and electronic media July 2005-Nov. 2005

***The way forward:  
Networking to create communities of practice***

The environment and development network faces many limitations in the sphere of institutional development. As networkers, we have yet to establish a clear and coherent voice regionally on issues, which are crucial to our work, or to the interest of the communities we profess to serve. This contravenes the ideals, standards, and rules of effective networking management process. It also encourages well-meaning individuals to alienate themselves from the process, rather participate in it and work to improve it. Having weighed these challenges carefully, we are determined to address the following issues that have hitherto hampered good networking

1. We have on several occasions raised the question as to whether we have so far been effective in promoting and institutionalising empowerment among the people we profess to serve through lived experiences gained within the continent.
2. It is also argued that we do not show sufficient awareness of the difficult socio-political choices facing us if we are to become more involved in addressing the development challenges of sustainable livelihood insecurity and poverty.
3. These difficulties are further compounded by the poor relationship existing between and among ourselves. There is too much readiness for uncoordinated and unilateral action without meaningful and adequate understanding, let alone agreement, on critical issues with other organisations and constituencies.

While many proposals for remedial action have been formulated, real commitment to collaborative processes at the inter-organisational level has always been limited. Mobilising the action required has also remained a daunting challenge, as many practical and structural constraints militate against commitment by individual groups to inter-organisational initiatives nationally and regionally.

An increased awareness of this problem, has led us to question the nature of the relationship which has existed between ourselves; providing significant impetus for change in our network development consciousness and practice. This, we hope, would be a major opening for the mutual incorporation of strategies and process in a more dynamic and complex articulation of professional work. As a result, we are increasingly paying attention to the question of development - people nexus. By publishing our strategic plan, we have taken a first bold step in gearing individual groups and networks into action, and generating the momentum required for a true process of collaborative development of Lem. We foresee a need for periodic review of this process to encourage Lem to open up forums for such initiatives, as they pave the way towards consensus and alliances for empowerment. Let this stand as a testimony to our open invitation to governments, business, NGOs, and civil society organisations of our commitment to contribute to the ethical standards of networking.

The main objective of such a collaborative effort is the development of an organic network that will cement the Lem ideals in every Lem network, members, facilitators, networkers, community of persons and institutions we network with. It is a statement of institutional principles and ethics for practice, designed as a reference document for all Lem Networks and practitioners, to enhance the forests, trees and people nexus at the intra-organisational and inter-organisational levels. It encourages qualitative improvement in our relationship

- contributing to on-going efforts by Lem Networks and practitioners commitment to the use of high standard of networking management practices;

- encouraging Lem Networks and practitioners to develop a collective capacity for advocacy, so as to effectively articulate the needs of the constituencies we serve;
- *servicing as a guide document for improving the partnership between professionals and practitioners and our collaborators, by setting out institutional modalities aimed at enhancing the present pattern of pluralistic networking as an instrument of multi-track communication;*
- back up the establishment and operation of an effective process of institutional strengthening and horizontal linkages among network partners ;

This should ideally foster a genuine commitment on the part both of Lem networks and practitioners and our partners to a locally-driven approach to the challenges of the nexus, and help in focussing the attention of resources to improving the human environment by eradicating the grinding poverty witnessed in many quarters today. Still the following programme objective will help us achieve this important networking agenda

1. **Share knowledge systems, tools, technology, and adaptive strategies that people had developed on their own** long before donors, NGOs, and political powers came into being. The outputs are: (1) an interactive continental database on institutions, publications, case studies, and planned activities set up. (2) National programmes take lead in capitalising on the wealth of information generated in national programmes and develop Lem disciplines through out the African Network
2. **Design programmes to overcome cultural and language barrier by institutionalising cost-effective but determined capacities** that would enable easier communications. The outputs here is training needs analysis and identification of trainees and training packages and modalities in language lessons for all regions identified.
3. **Initiate immediate advocacy networking, research collaboration, and interregional consultation** activities on all existing information in national Lem activities. The outputs are: (1) Compiled listing (however irregular) of all existing publications, institutions, on-going activities in all Lem networks. (2) Governments, IFI, donors, multinationals sensitised on key issues affecting marginalisation of local communities in plans that they have not participated in their formulation. (3) Interregional co-operation and consultation improved through exchange visits to study specific issues and formalising relationship between network collaborators.
4. **Develop information communication mechanisms** on key initiatives a view to co-ordinate activities that reinforce each other for a meaningful. The outputs are: (1) tracks, channels and levels of communications identified. (2) clear designations of tracks of co-operation, dependency, services and conflict, where one may arise, among interregional network stakeholders identified.

As a minimum goal, we in the Lem network accept professional networking management as a specific but dynamic body of knowledge. We see our networking structure within the context of relationships that are established both by the 'voluntary contracts' between Lem partners, participating institutions and more importantly the nodes and "reporting" chains within the network management. The Lem organisational structure of networking needs to be developed without due regard to grassroots networking to perform the tasks defined by its strategy in the best possible manner. These include the relationships in the allocation of authority and responsibility, the reporting relationships, and the mechanisms for integrating the different components of the NW project.

In asserting to an enabling nexus for organisational process, we, as Lem Networkers and practitioners, must commit ourselves to clearly demonstrate our professionalism; with our testament of commitment to excellence, prudence in our modes of communication, transparency in our operational relationships, accountability to all stakeholders and predictability of their actions. We need to demonstrate their commitment to empowerment, taking trouble to mention some of the areas in which our intended work would enhance such a process. Networks should endeavour to promote participation and as a system-wide input to networking management development, African Lem Networks and practitioners should actively support and mobilise all collaborative efforts possible for the establishment of acceptable standards of networking management systems in Africa's fledgling environment sector and popular organisations such as in our respective constituencies.

