



VISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**PROCEEDING ON
ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY MANAGED NATURAL
RESOURCE REVITALIZING GADA SYSTEM'S RITUAL BYLAWS
DECLARATIONS AND RATIFICATION FOR WORJA-KEMO MICRO
CATCHMENT, OROMIA REGION, ETHIOPIA**

**FACILITATED BY TESFAYE GEDA AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING (PRIVATE FIRM)**

**26 November 2022
BATU ETHIOPIA**

Contents

Backgrounds of VoCDA	2
Chapter one	2
1. Project Area Descriptions	2
Chapter Two.....	4
2. Worja Washgula Community Discussion	4
Chapter three.....	7
3. Kemo Gerbi Community Discussion	7
The Kemo-Gerbi community discussion held for two days from October 05-06/ 2022. The discussion was held at their respective Kemo Gerbi kebeles. In two days discussion totally 47 numbers of people participated in Kemo Gerbi meeting.	7
Chapter four	9
4. Sinkelle Swayness Sanctuary’s Best Experiences Shared and Woreda level Aba Gada Discussion Forum	9
4.1. VoCDA and IDH Field Staffs Experience Sharing Visit to Sinkelle Sanctuary	9
4.2. Woreda level Aba Gada Discussion Forum	10
Chapter five.....	12
5. Final Ratification of in Worja-Kemo Micro Catchment	12
5.1. Meeting agendas and detail discussions	12
5.2. Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority’s Swayness Heart beet Sanctuary onsite best experiences sharing for mass community	13
5.3. Detail discussions, reflections, questions, revitalizing rituals, declarations, decisions, commitments and remarks,	15
Chapter six	21
6. Ratified Ground Rules Decisions, Declaration and Revitalization of Ritual Bylaws to Ensure Sustainability of Community Managed Natural Resources in Worja-Kemo Micro Catchment	21
6.1. Oath:	23

Backgrounds of VoCDA

Vision Community Development Association (VoCDA) is an indigenous secular NGO and has been established in 2003 & it's an Ethiopian Residents Charity Organizations registered with federal CSO agency as local NGO re-registration policy 1113/2019 proclamation with registration No. 0129 and entered in to operational and project agreements with federal and regional concerned bureaus, which is engaged in the promotion of people's self-development focusing on rural and semi-urban poor community who are the most vulnerable to the problems of under development in Urban and rural areas and its major Services of are: Women development/empowerment, Environmental Protection, water for food and hygiene, House hold food Security and Basic education.

On top of community based development, VoCDA has been applying or revitalizing Gada ritual system's through ritual bylaws declaration's and ratification for worja-kemo micro catchment of ensuring sustainability community managed natural resource in the promotion of community based development interventions to contribute to the lasting solution focusing on improving life and strengthening the livelihood basis of the poor and vulnerable Communities with conservation of natural resources and management in the project area. Hence, VoCDA has been working with its partners to ensure sustainability of community managed natural resource revitalizing Gada System's ritual bylaws for Worja-Kemo micro-catchment outsourced this filming and narration for documentation and lesson learning valuable towards ensuring sustainability as the best Practices.

Chapter one

1. Project Area Descriptions and Importance of Revitalizing Gada System Ritual Bylaws

The project area was found in the Worja-Kemo micro catchment central rift valley is dominantly Arsi Oromo and they are located at Adami Tullu Jiddo Kombolcha Woredas, East Shewa Zone in the Oromia region state at the central rift valley of the Ethiopia. The communities or population lives in the Worja-Kemo micro catchment area was based their living on natural resources for income or mainstay for a long period of time through animals rearing, medicinal, belief and religious, administrative and governance to period of emerging agricultural activities. On top of this currently in the locally government led modern agricultures like floriculture and

horticultures are practiced in the locality which has great impacts on the natural resource base of the locality.

Since 2015, IDH in jointly with its key private business companies Castel Winery Plc and Sher Ethiopia co-financing Initiative for Sustainable Landscape Program's various projects of degraded land rehabilitations and improving of community livelihoods implemented by formerly AAU-HoAREC&N and then Self Help Africa.

However, for Worja-Kemo micro catchment in the central rift Valley of Ethiopia ensuring sustainability of the natural resources conservation and utilization in communities managed and inclusion perspective remained under achieved in responding to key performance indicator and impressed IDH to seek dedicated locally emergent, familiarity with social content and context experience and implementing with holistic approaches awarded Vision of community Development Association a one year project for ensuring of community managed natural resources at the Worja-Kemo micro catchment in the central rift valley of Ethiopia's and whereby this report focused on the results achieved by projects for this specific expected outputs.

Accordingly, the VoCDA by its experience, Excellency, commitment, promise, desire, strong collaboration and partnership with local community and local government and with different stakeholders has realizing project of Ensuring sustainable protection and utilization of Worja-Kemo micro catchment in the central rift valley of Ethiopia funded by IDH and Sher Ethiopia Flower Farm in collaboration with Worja Washgula and Kemo Gerbi kebele of all community members and Adami Tulu Jiddo Kombolcha District Government Agriculture and Natural Resource Office and others pertinent offices.

1.1. Importance of Revitalizing Gada System Ritual Bylaws for ensuring of community managed natural resources sustainability in Worja-Kemo Micro catchment and vicinity

United Nations envisaged in the 2030 SDG's Agenda: ensuring the sustainable of natural resources conservation and management by participation of community through revitalizing Gada system's ritual bylaws declarations and ratification for worja-kemo micro catchment and need to be transformative and entails that resource management encompasses and enables "balanced, integrated and indivisible" approach to the process of recovering value and progression and converting that value into sustainable prosperity despite the fact that projects will retain an operational function within this eco-system, sustainability that balances the needs

of people and planet in a new Nash-like environmental-economic equilibrium, with equitably-distributed prosperity as the outcome, cannot be achieved unless natural resources are seen as naturally “integrated and indivisible” rather than disaggregated as commodities.

Hence, VoCDA has been working with its partners to ensure sustainability of community managed natural resource revitalizing Gada System’s ritual bylaws for Worja-Kemo Micro-catchment in the central rift valley of our country outsourced this filming and narration for documentation and lesson learning valuable towards ensuring sustainability as the best Practices. The objective of the documentary was to document the work of Worja-Kemo micro catchment areas while ritual of the Gadaa system bylaws ratification and community dialogues processes, produce proceedings, bylaws and others related activities in the form of films and proceeding/narration form.

The range of the work under these proceedings encompasses the thematic area of mountain Worja protection activities through ritual by laws development in the two kebeles and supported with best practices shared from EWCA’s Sinkelle Swayne’s Hartebeests Sanctuary’s expert and Aba-Gada. Furthering the proceeding would cover the acts and process of ritual laws development and account of the community conversations.

Chapter Two

2. Worja Washgula Community Discussion

The worja-washgula community’s discussion held for two days from October 03-04/2022. The discussion was held at their respective in Worja Washgula a kebeles. In the discussion forum in total 47 numbers of people participated in rounds in Worja-Washgula Kebele’s meeting.

Earlier of the dialogue, the VoCDA, IDH and Batu Town Administration Experts appealed on the development efforts made by government and non-government for the last years to rehabilitate the degraded land from awareness creation to millions of various trees plantation and protection through salary based guarding of the closure area and challenges encountered and lessons gained for Worja-Washgula Community Aba Gadaa accepted and showing we should have been told earlier but we acknowledged you for sharing of your agenda to be handled by Gada system in one side and the usual government regulations another side.



Fig.Shown the community and concerned stakeholder discussion at Worja-Washgula kebeles

Accordingly, in Gada system, at Oromo culture the dialogue opened by blessing of the local elders and Aba Gadaa elders and Hadha Sinke briefing of the agenda for the participants:

Ensuring natural resource management, conservation and sustainability, Revitalizing traditional natural resource conservation strengthening sustainability, and;

Legalizing, delineating and designating Conservation of rehabilitated Worja-Kemo Micro catchment

2.2. Worja Community Detailed Discussions and Decisions

Ensuring natural resource management, conservation and sustainability: During past years in Southern parts of the Ethiopia, especially Borena area and Central rift valley of the southern parts of Ethiopia, drought affected a million of Livestock. Had there been good management of the natural resources by community would have used natural resources such as grasses to save the lives of their livestock. There were conflicts of interest from neighboring community from Worja Washgula Kebeles competing for cattle grazing and collection of firewood.

Few of the meeting participants commented the need of the guards to protect the area day and night. The community residents of Worja-Washgula kebeles have to contribute for payment of the guards to take care of the public works done during summer season. There need also direction and guidance from Aba Gada Hadha Sinke, with the participation of all community members include; women, youth and local elders.



Fig.Shown the local elder's discussion at Worja-Washgula kebeles

From Women participants mentioned that the causes and consequences of the problems complexity affecting the natural resources in the Worja mountain in the rehabilitated degraded site challenging sustainability mainly arising from the community surrounding the site. The guarding by itself became root causes of the corruption. The guards by themselves were taking commission from others and looting the communal resources for a long time. The solutions are not need to recruit guards as one has to gourd own homestead and those we have to regard the site as our own homestead and sustain life. In these ways we will agree and accepted to take care and take corrective action.

In addition to community guarding the promotion of the community and nature based tourism (Ecotourism) is very important. The guarding of the area by individuals selected from the community are not safely protecting for relying on blood relatives.

Revitalizing traditional natural resource conservation strengthening sustainability: The Gadaa elders explained as no one from governments' and non –government have made a call to Aba Gadaa and Hadha Sinke and religious elders for collaboration, bypassing and no sharing of information but driven by government's structures top down and few community group talkative members for development interventions. The Gada system's Gada elders were forgotten in all aspect from preliminary assessment to exit of the community development projects and programs.

Now, today it's the first time call among the acknowledged the initiation for consultation, participation and revitalizing traditional cultural by Gada System to sought solutions for ensuring of the sustainability of natural resources conservation and management by community participation on the development effort undertaken with huge investment at Worja-Kemo Micro Catchment and we declare that we must give due attention for law enforcement of both Gada system and government for protection, wise use and ensure resource sustainability.

Legalizing, delineating and designating Conservation of rehabilitated Worja-Kemo Micro catchment: The agendas belong to our community on convertible of the rehabilitated Worja-Kemo rehabilitated degraded hilly area's vegetation and Acacia wood on the farm land and in these way every members of the community give own comment, suggestion and questions and then reach on consensus. The past history shows no documented local community based bylaws in place. There were loose bylaws developed prone for corruption and lead the development in to failure.

Cultural the Acacia wood land especially the older one with trunks are office of Abba Gada the so called '' Dhaddacha'' or the local court. The community members also have belief in Waka, the God used to pray being under the shade of Acacia tree's during rainy season and dry season. Other than these, the Acacia trees are the place for sorrow such as funeral, sad and emergency or happiness weeding, celebration events in the community.

Truly, huge works done for the development of the Worja-Kemo micro catchment of the rehabilitation of the degraded land and enhancing of the community livelihoods but what remain action based legitimate regulations linking with traditional indigenous local community through revitalization of the Gada Systems.

Accordingly, as solutions, as per the Gada system, the local community decaled by Gada elders decisions for the actions against rules and laws:

- One/those who entered cattle should be fined 300 ETB
- One/those who cut live tree 2000 ETB
- One/those who release cattle unintentionally 50 ETB
- Trans cattle no fine
- One/those who take or bribe the Gada elders concurred and fine accordingly take oxen
- One/those who entered goats and sheep 500 ETB
- One/those who kill and hunt wild life 5000 ETB accordingly these fines will be collected by government receipt legally.

Chapter three

3. Kemo Gerbi Community Discussion

The Kemo-Gerbi community discussion held for two days from October 05-06/ 2022. The discussion was held at their respective Kemo Gerbi kebeles. In two days discussion totally 47 numbers of people participated in Kemo Gerbi meeting.

In similar way with Worja Washgula kebele community consultation conducted community discussion, consultation, and dialogues and reached on consensus. The major agendas were ensuring of utilization in sustainable way, how to revitalize Arsi Oromo rituals the indigenous traditional Gada systems and legitimate designation of the enclosure legally and strengthening ecotourism activities in the site.



Fig. Shown the community and concerned stakeholder discussion at Kemo-Gerbi kebeles

Accordingly, the based their Agenda to conserve the natural resources of Worja mountain the set the Aba Gada and elders led the discussions elaborating the Kemo Gerbi Community in the Arsi Oromo linkage with natural resources especially the Forest and other wild life for there are a hate of against nature in the community.

There were more destruction of natural resources in the Worja-Kemo micro catchments by human being for charcoal and fuel wood for self-business interest and over grazing by cattle, goats and camels. The action against these deforested of trees especially the acacia trees, olea and others rules in the community exist since 16th century. The current generations neglected about the traditional nature protection and values are not fighting wrong doings.

Hence the Gada elders by Gada system should teach and preach about fine against nature and wrong doing. It is the second time the trial of vitalizing the nature protection through ritual development but failed to be practical. Historically, there were gazelles, Swayne's and Lion as the famous wildlife in the area. With this discussion there need more emphasis to make the regulation practical and action led as women participants mentioned.

The charcoal production, fuel wood, pods cutting, a tree with stump and destroying of the gabion wire check dams constructed in the Worja rehabilitated land are commonly practicing by illegal people and to aware them the cause of deforestation of this natural resources in our daily life and there should be fine to protect them as per the bylaw and regulation.

By discussing in detail the community agreed to protect the Worja-Kemo micro catchment through ritual bylaws and regulations. On the other hand, regarding the site designation and legalization the community suggested there importance of tourism and other non-timber product business like honey production and other promotion.

Accordingly, the community reaches on consensus that to fine against wrong doing as:

- One/those that cut live trees fine 500ETB

- One/those enter cattle 50ETB/cow
- One/those enter goat and sheep 50ETB/ listings supported by legal regulations.

Chapter four

4. Sinkelle Swayness Sanctuary’s Best Experiences Shared and Woreda level Aba Gada Discussion Forum

4.1. VoCDA and IDH Field Staffs Experience Sharing Visit to Sinkelle Sanctuary

VoCDA has made arrangement and facilitated one day visit for its Project staff and IDH field staff to Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority Sinkelle Swayness Heart Beet Sanctuary’s. Accordingly, the VoCDA prepared programs of visit the team members met with rounded during his visit the protected areas, made physical observation of the natural resource, grasses, trees and wildlife and topography of the area the attachment with local community asking Mr. Gemechu and Aba Gada Kabeto for clarity. During the debriefing they told us the secret behind their strong management and about their success history.

According to Ato Gemechu Leta , when he announced the their experience of Sinkelle Sanctuary, not only the protected areas and their wildlife but also the workers of the park area belong to the community’s Arsi Oromo Hambentu clan abundant in the local area.



Fig. shown VoCDA project staff and visit Sinkelle Sanctuary Park

He also explained as the community around protected area will always responsible to solve whatever the problems happens in the protected areas. There are more than 3000 youth organized into association generating income from grass selling by cutting.

Aba Gada Kabeto elaborated about their success history, challenges and systematic management of the community participatory protected area conservation as making community discussion and

consultation priority transparently in accordance with Gada Systems 16 century rituals. He also mentioned that more partners have been getting and sharing experiences from them.



Fig. Shown the community neighbors and home borders at Swayness Sanctuary Park

Finally, the during the discussion agreed to on their travelling and host them to share their experiences for Aba Gada, Hadha Sinke, religious leaders, government officials and non-government technical person and officials for revitalization of Gada Systems indigenous technical knowledge Worja-Kemo Micro Catchment rituals to ensure natural resource conservation.

4.2. Woreda level Aba Gada Discussion Forum

Following the experiences sharing visit of Aba Gada and Sinkelle Sanctuary with Ethiopia wildlife conservation authority/EWCA Protected Area General Manager and Uta-Wayu Aba Gada, Hadha Sinke, Worja-Washgula Aba Gada, Kemo-Gerbi Aba Gada and Hadha Sinke, local elders youths women all community members of Worja-Kemo-Gerbi and other concerned gov't body and different stakeholders, VoCDA arranged one and half day meeting in Batu town prior to starting with blessing of the Batu Area Aba Gada elders, Worja-Washgula and Kemo-Gerbi kebele Aba Gada, elders and Hadha Sinke and government workers from Agriculture and Natural Resource office, Environmental Protection Offices and non-government workers attended meeting.

Accordance to the Aba Gada and local elders from both kebeles provided an update on the ritual bylaws developed for the conservation of natural resources in the Worja-Kemo micro catchment developed by each kebele and agreed upon agenda with their community and requested for law enforcement and declaration for the wide community.



Fig.Shown Aba Gada Wayu & EWCA experts share their skill with Aba Gada Uta at Batu Town

As per the invitation made for them the two Aba Gada elders members from EWCA Sinkelle Sanctuary with EWCA Protected Area General Manager Mr. Gemechu Leta have joined the meeting and presented their experiences, challenges, opportunities, threats and lessons on Swayness Heert beet habitat conservation through community based participatory approach. The meeting participants asked questions for clarity by which they have managed to respond satisfactory answers.



Fig.Shown when Uta Aba Gada of the dialogue with both kebeles Aba Gada at Batu town

Accordingly the Batu Area Aba Gada Sisay Kawo based on the existing bylaws presented consolidated draft of the bylaw for enforcing and revitalizing of the rituals for ensuring of the community managed natural resources uses, protection and sustainability.



Fig. Shown when Aba Gada Uta decided Gada for NRs at Batu Two for participants

Chapter five

5. Final Ratification of in Worja-Kemo Micro Catchment

During the General Assemble of Aba Gada Revitalizing Rituals, Ratification and Declaration, VoCDA workout target outputs mass community meeting in which more than 250 number of community members participated in the general assembly on ensuring of the community managed natural resources protection, utilization and sustainability for Worja-Kemo micro catchment central rift valley of Ethiopia called by Aba Gada, Hadha Sinke and local elders discussion on natural resource management challenges with causes and consequences hindering sustainability, cascade of EWCA Sinkelle Swayne's Heartbeats' Sanctuary's and revitalizing bylaws declaration and rituals oaths by Worja-Washgula and Kemo Gerbi Community Aba Gada and Hadha Sinke community leaders and kebele chairmen.

5.1. Meeting agendas and detail discussions

The meeting was opened by blessing speeches made by the three members of Gada elders. Accordingly, the Batu Area Gada elders presented the current natural resource problems magnitudes, causes and consequences, factors affecting sustainability appreciating the development efforts by government and non-government organizations.

According to Aba Gada, since 16 century the Worja and Kemo community in Arsi Oromo leading its life depending on the natural resources and meeting basic necessity like foods, clothes and shelters for these reasons there have been strong linkage between human beings and nature trending from generation to generation. Similarly, for the governance and administration the

community against wrong doings affecting human life and happenings such as ceremonial events like wedding, arbitration, conflict resolution and praying to his God ‘‘Waqa’’, the sorrow in time of emergency funerals the community directly depends on natural resources like soil, water, trees, wind and wildlife.

However, in generally think globally and act locally in particular areas of Worja-Kemo micro catchment because of human anthropogenic causes and weak legitimate governance and ritual bylaws the status, magnitudes and consequences worsening for the natural resource degradations are increasing at alarming rate forcing the community to over exploit natural resources mainly deforestation to meets immediate and needs questioning the need of the future generation saying these provided direction the for solving of problems by ritual bylaw revitalizing community managed natural resources valuable and the promising for ensuring sustainability.

5.2. Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority’s Swayness Heart beet Sanctuary onsite best experiences sharing for mass community

The Aba Gada elders and General Manager Mr. Gemechu Leta from EWCA Sinkelle Swayne’s Heart beet Sanctuary shared their experiences for the Uta-Wayu Aba Gada, Hadha Sinke, Worja-Washgula and Kemo-Gerbi Aba Gada and local elder’s women, youth of the all community of Worja-Kemo micro catchment and different stakeholder of the participated in the campaign or meeting.

According to the EWCA’s experts launched for stakeholders’ mainly surrounding local community and others the practices to conserve the habitat’s 54sq.m area of lands covered by grasses and bushes and acacia trees established in 1974. E.C. during reign of Dergue regime used to have strong management in which local community could hardly participate.



Fig. Shown when EWCA Experts presented their experience for Worja-Kemo areas community

However, after the fall of the Dergue regime the community destroyed forest and killed wildlife especially Swayness Heart beet known by its delicious meet made butchery opened in the local town let the level of eradicating wildlife species decreasing from thousand to 70 and 30 individuals and extinctions.

Understanding these problems the Aba Gada, local elders and local communities with own addressed the issues according to its procedural cultural rituals (*koottaa dhufee*) of Arsi Oromoo society and have been concluded that the during problem identification on the protected area of the wildlife habitat were the most dominant tribe called Hambentu and other remaining tribes were also contributing for destruction of the natural resources. After these, the general assembly on wide community requested shall we leave as it was or alleviate the natural resource degradation.

Finally agreed and decided to conserve on community managed natural resources revitalizing ritual bylaws. Some of the common ground rules are:

- The habitat of Swayness Heart beet shall be free from intervention and we shall conserve the natural resources,
- The government management approach harmed us not wildlife lived for a long time before we come in to being so we shall stop killing wild animals,
- The Swayness Heart beet shall be nominated as the member of the oldest and dominant tribe surrounding the habitat must be protected and for one Swayness Heart beet killed must be equivalent with one human life and we shall allocate one hundred Cows for one Swayness Heart beet killed
- We shall allocate compensation (*gumaa*) for deforestation for the house of Swayness Heart beet burnt out,

The above decisions changed to practicality 5,400 Hectares of land protected from human and livestock intervention according to the speech of expert from EWCA.

The outcomes of the outputs were:

- The increasing of number of Swayness Heart beet from 30 to 70,
- When the Swayness Heart beet come out of sanctuary to get water and fail down the community will take to their home for night stay and send back to its habitat,
- In the sanctuary over 14 million Birr income generated from the selling of the grass serving us the source of income for the local community selling for the lodges and resorts

in town has been using grass for thatch house construction located in central part of the country different e.g. Bishoftu.

- During drought season forage grasses have been sent to drought affected areas like Borena and others and the sanctuary has been serving as the tourist attraction site and centre of sharing best practices.

Finally, they suggested that, such best practices available with them might help conservation of other places like Worja-Kemo micro catchment as excellent inputs for ensuring of community managed natural resources sustainability supporting the local community livelihoods and benefits extended to enhancing economic development of the country.

5.3. Detail discussions, reflections, questions, revitalizing rituals, declarations, decisions, commitments and remarks,

The Aba Gada from Worja Washgula and Kemo Gerbi kebeles said that long time ago there were abundant population of lions, tigers, gazelles including Swayness Heart beet used to live in the Worja chained hills but disappeared due to destruction of natural resources by our community.



Fig. Shown the Aba Gada of Worja Washgula presented areas Vegetation covers of Worja-Kemo

As we observing now in our areas when there are no forests there are no livestock life, no rain and the life of human being could hardly exist. According's in the Gada system at Uta-Wayu level to the providing justification and the importance of revitalization of rituals decisions and declarations by our Aba Gada in order to save our land resource from destructions describing the detailed ground rules developed by both communities the Wayu Aba Gada called for strong bylaw enforcement by Uta-Wayu Aba Gada jointly. They have also called the wide community, women and youths to obey ground rules declarations and decisions and be committed to protect their natural environment.

The VoCDA's, Project coordinator Mr. Nego Denbo said that the major thematic areas of their organization is to conserve the natural resources of environmental protection related to Worja-Kemo micro catchment in the central rift valley at Oromia region development government, many non-government organization and community made huge investment interventions.

He said that though huge investment was made observed drought strike cattle, natural environment is highly deteriorating and food gap case load increasing due to discontinuation of interventions when GO and NGO stop intervention.

Finally he pointed that in his speech as VoCDA made different community consultation and they also found that there was need revitalization of traditional Arsi Oromo community ritual bylaw for community managed natural resources and other different stake holder and concerned gov't body should have strength the ways the ensuring of sustainability community managed natural resource revitalizing Gada system's ritual bylaws declarations and ratification for worja-kemo micro catchment. Their organization has been strongly working on promoting of non-timber forest product like apiculture farm, providing fuel saving stoves and promoting ecotourism business and designating the site to make tourist destiny.



Fig. Shown when the VoCDA's project coordinator pointed out his ideas for participants

The Executive Director of VoCDA Mr. Dessisa Kabeta pointed that this revitalized ritual bylaws for community managed natural resources not only used by Worja Washgula and Kemo Gerbi Kebele today's presented in persons and hearing these declaration but also should be used this trend and experience for all kebeles of the woreda's since it's the decisions made at Uta-Wayu Aba Gada's level and pleased to share these declaration and decisions for others.



Fig. Shown when the VoCDA's Executive director pointed out his ideas for participants

He also said that during earlier period the elders used to shepherd cattle with Swayness Heart beet now days we missed all due to deforestation and destruction of their natural resources from our habitat. Compound fencing, house construction will not somehow destroy the forest but the charcoal productions, fuel wood and pods selling this resources for business destroyed to the level of extinction including the related natural resource basis.

The Agriculture office of Batu town Administration delegate said that currently the government have given especial attention for forest development and calling the community to protect its own forest resources and mentioned as they are working jointly with rural district; Adami Tulu Jiddo Kombolcha District on forest development. He acknowledged VoCDA and Uta-Wayu Aba Gada for revitalizing of these rituals for ensuring of community managed natural resources and conservation and have taken commitment and promising to cascade and aware for wide community.

According to the Agriculture and Natural Resource Office of Adami Tulu Jiddo Kombolcha District, for more than a decade their office jointly with various non-government organizations we have been working in Worja-Kemo micro catchment development invested huge resources with millions of expenses but remain behind achieving of expected results. But now, after interventions by VoCDA in the context of traditional local community's indigenous approach establishing of different associations we able to observe and local community has been benefiting feeling the sense of ownership which is promising and a good indication for ensuring of sustainability and surely minimized the burden and pressure from our office.



Fig. Shown Batu town court Office pointed out on ritual bylaws declarations and ratification

The Batu town Court Office delegated person said that in his speech by the saying from our ancient elders when Italy concur Ethiopia for colony most of the community's life saved by moving in to forest but now a days the wildlife lost habitat and migrated to other places.



Fig. Shown when Hadha sinke on ritual bylaws declarations and ratification of the areas

The Swayness Heart beet used to live in this local area but left us and migrated to West Arsi zone Siraro area. This decision is very important beside the decision the law of the country fine for deforestation is 5-10 years prison. For these reason we will follow up the applicability of this revitalized rituals declaration decision and commitment for ensuring of the community managed natural resources conservation and sustainability.



Fig. Shown Batu town Justice Office pointed out on ritual bylaws declarations and ratification

The IDH Ethiopia Country office delegated person said that in his speech pointed out that in this place for long time we, the government and different non-government organizations have been investing huge resources to rehabilitate degraded land and improve livelihoods of the community but remain below achieving of expected results.

These area experiences complex problems for it are naturally fragile in such away the eroded soil directly flow and enter into Dembal Lake which has been resulting in siltation and Invasive species like water hyacinth's influencing aquatic resources harming Tilapia Fish species population to the level of extinction and rainfall become decreased and temperature will increased years to years and high drought occurrence and seasonal changes becoming common experience.



Fig. Shown when IDH representative pointed out his ideas for participants on ritual bylaws declarations and ratification

However, this time IDH hope when seen community motivation and areas vegetation covers the sustainability of community managed natural resources can be ensured for we are having Aba Gada's, Hadha Sinke, youths, women, religious leaders, government official, from court, from respective sectors and EWCA's Swayne's Heartbeats Sanctuary to Share us best practices and VoCDA commitment strongly workout to find solutions in holistic approach in collaborations with local community revitalizing rituals differently from others. We also belief that the declared decisions and commitment made for natural resource base will surely mediate us with our creature God.

Therefore, IDH thank VoCDA for their dedication and commitment for successfully facilitating and arranging of these huge public events and meet the target set by the project activities in the Worja-Kemo micro catchment in the central rift valley of Ethiopia.

Finally, IDH pleased and called again for Aba Gada, Hadha Sinke and all of the local community, youths, women mothers and local elders to take care of your natural environment and keep these revitalized ritual bylaws and regulations as per your commitment and become example for others.

According to women participants opinions this decision, declaration and commitment is very important for all of us to conserve the natural resources by community participation for the Worja Mountain. Truly, as indicated it's we and our children who destroyed the forest resources and we did not benefited cost rather incurred cost lost. For these reasons women have declared that they have appreciated and accepted the decision with the one sound.



Fig. Shown women participation during on ritual bylaws declarations & ratification of the areas

Batu town Justice Office opinion: Consequently that we specified that the life of mankind is forest. When there is no forest we cannot live on the land, there is on cattle and agricultural production. The indigenous mother trees and Eucalyptus are different.

According to rule of law, if one cut mother trees fine 5-10 years of prison this is stated in the law of land in addition to this ritual bylaws. So, let's protect forest regarding like our soul.



Fig. Shown Batu town Justice Office representative on ritual bylaws declarations & ratification

Questions raised by participants on decision: this decision is very good to safe our forest but this decision stating that not to cut trees so how we can fence compound and build our houses? For this question the Aba Gada's responded that we are not saying do not construct a house and fence your compound but when we say don't cut tree; as per the ground rules and standard not

to cut from trunk root if done violate ground rules. We are fully objecting the destruction of trees for charcoal making and selling.

When cutting yolk for house, it shall be done in the selective month accordingly with blessing of Aba Gada and by the permissions of immediate kebeles leaders and project committee. For these purpose there is ground rules and even the trees on farm land should never be cut at its trunk root and carefully cut the branches of the trees and accordingly decided in this ritual bylaws declaration. In addition to this compound fencing, house construction will not damage the forest but charcoal production, fuel wood and pods selling as elaborated in detail in this discussion.

Chapter six

6. Ratified Ground Rules Decisions, Declaration and Revitalization of Ritual Bylaws to Ensure Sustainability of Community Managed Natural Resources in Worja-Kemo Micro Catchment

The final days of long process of October month community discussion on the natural resource conservation and protection through cultural methods in the Gada system was come to an end on October 20, 2022. On this day many community members, government representatives, donors representatives/IDH & Sher-Ethiopia, Abba-Gada of Uta-Wayu, locality Aba-Gada's and kebeles administrations, professional from Sinkelle Swayne's heartbeat and other invited guest presented. The Gada's altogether ratified and decided to revitalize the following short ritual laws;

- ❖ Act of burning forest: Forest is the habitat of wildlife and the basis for life of mankind to meet basic necessities such as food, shelters, clothes, medicines and place for worship: S/he who burn forest illegally fined by 10 (ten) hove cows, as the Gada decided.
- ❖ Acacia Oerfota (Dhaddacha Ajo/Dambii): It belongs to assembling community it is the place where Aba Gada (Community selected male leader usually elder) mediate and the Hadha Sinke (the Gada Mothers) praise: S/he who cut fined 5 (five) hove cows and provide 1 (one bull) for Gada to end, the Gada decided. And it is the place where worshipping takes place and must be respected and when s/he cut fine is bull and heifer with local honey made juice (dullo).

- ❖ *Ficus sycomorus* (Odaa): During lengthening of the dry period sacrifice and pray for rain and pray for peace and it should be respected. If s/he cut the Odaa fine is 5 hove cows Gada decided.
- ❖ *Cordia Africana* (Wodeessa): When people go to weeding for take with Wodeessa him during marriage and Wodeessa must be respected. If s/he cut the Wodeessa fine is 5 hove cows Gada decided.
- ❖ All other trees not mentioned must be respected and not cutting and fine is 5 hove cows Gada decided.
- ❖ Wildlife (Wild animals): S/he killing of wild animals should be questioned before the law. When commit targeting and killers should be fined the Gada decided.
- ❖ S/he cut branch of and illegally send their animals in to forest enclosed lands and forest must be questioned and fined 2000 (two hundred birr) the Gada decided.
- ❖ Cattle, goats, sheep and other domestic animals illegally entered in the protected area fine is 50 (fifty) birr the Gada decided.
- ❖ When catch up grass theft with cattle in the area closure and released the Gada goes to his home and punish bull for Aba Gada the Gada's decided.

According's to the above decision will be enforced: by Cultural Court in the both Kebele level in addition to resolving of conflict the natural resource and forest protection cases of the Worja hill shall be handled.



Fig. Shown the ratified and decided to revitalize the bylaws of the Aba Gada of Uta-Wayu

When cases of natural resources degradation go beyond the issues shall be handled at Uta-Wayu level and when cases go beyond shall be seen at Siko-Mando level the social hierarchical sequence from lower to higher. The revenue generated from fine should go half for kebele administration and half should go association legally organized on the protected area; the Worja-Kemo micro catchment.

6.1.Oath:

The oaths conducted by Aba Gada with respective kebele Aba Gada and Chairperson:

- When overlooked by seeing with your eye your eye shall be blinded;
- When sensed and passed by deliberately my child shall get mad the Gada rule grounded and decided and completed.
- This oath was undertaken by honey juice ('daadhi').

Finally, the meeting was adjourned by blessing of the Aba Gada and community at large. The ceremony of ritual laws ratification and revitalization process has been completed on 20th of October 2022 at Worja-Kemo micro catchments of central rift valley at the eco-tourism site.



Fig. Shown the oath by community of both kebele by Aba Gada of Uta-Wayu at campaign