



New roles of CSOs for Inclusive Development

CSO's in sustainable development in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, civil society organizations (CSOs) have played an important role in advancing sustainable development by raising public awareness, developing their own capacity, and engaging with the state. However, these organizations face a number of legal, financial, social and other structural barriers that limit their effectiveness and reach. In this research project, we explore how CSOs have advanced the sustainable development agenda in Ethiopia and examine the various obstacles they face. The aim of the research is to enhance scientific knowledge about the work and experiences of Ethiopian CSOs working in the environment sector and to explore how CSOs are helping realize sustainable development in Ethiopia. The research will provide a better understanding of the work and activities of CSOs in supporting sustainable development by raising public awareness through the dissemination of research outputs and supporting the capacity building of CSOs, research institutions, organs of justice, and government officials.

Main question	How have CSOs advanced the sustainable development agenda in Ethiopia and what are the various obstacles they face?
Consortium led by	Prof Dr J Verschuuren (Tilburg University)
Consortium	Tilburg University, Mekelle University Ethiopia
Country focus	Ethiopia
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a literature review to develop a normative framework reflecting best international practice on CSO engagement • Test the impact of Ethiopia's laws against the normative framework provided by the literature review, primary legal sources (Ethiopian legislation), interviews with CSO staff in various parts of Ethiopia, and focus group discussions with stakeholders • Compile research-based proposals for legal change • Create critical public awareness through the dissemination of research outputs and by sponsoring capacity building training for CSOs, as well as the organs of justice, by the Mekelle University LLM programme on Natural Resources Governance, its Natural Resource Laws Center and Legal Aid Center • Compile a final research report on the legal environment within which CSOs operate and on the impact this legal environment should have on the policies and actions of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and northern CSOs • Jointly write a major scientific journal article with the entire research team • Inform the wider audience on the progress of the project through regular blogs on the Tilburg University environmental law blog site • Reach out in Ethiopia through policy briefs and laymen's publications, as well as publications in the Mekelle University Law Journal, Proceedings of the Natural Resource Law Center, and other community outreaches and media outlets

