

## Review Article

# The Role of Forest Ecosystems for Carbon Sequestration and Poverty Alleviation in Ethiopia

**Abirham Cherinet and Tamiru Lemi** 

*Ethiopian Forestry Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Correspondence should be addressed to Tamiru Lemi; lemitam671@gmail.com

Received 18 August 2022; Revised 1 August 2023; Accepted 8 August 2023; Published 18 August 2023

Academic Editor: Ranjeet Kumar Mishra

Copyright © 2023 Abirham Cherinet and Tamiru Lemi. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

The objective of the review was to examine and document the contributions of forests in Ethiopia to both climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation. A comprehensive analysis was conducted, encompassing several research articles from reputable journals and international report papers. The findings of the review reveal that Chilimo-Gaji forest exhibited the highest levels of above- and belowground biomass carbon sequestration, while the Egdu forest area demonstrated the highest soil organic carbon content. The variations in carbon sequestration capacity among forest areas can be attributed to several factors, including forest density, variation in diameter at breast height (DBH) among trees, tree height classes, altitude, slope, and aspect, which significantly influence carbon concentration. Furthermore, discrepancies in the application of allometric models to estimate forest biomass also contribute to these variations. In addition to their role in climate change mitigation, forests play an invaluable role in poverty alleviation, particularly in developing countries. Ethiopia has implemented various afforestation strategies to enhance the contribution of forest ecosystems to climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation.

## 1. Introduction

Forest is the most important part of terrestrial ecosystems and the largest carbon pool [1, 2]. It plays a significant role in mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis [3]. Approximately 2.3 Gt of carbon is absorbed by terrestrial ecosystems [4]. Tropical forests, which account for about 60% of the global forest cover [5, 6], contribute a significant carbon pool compared to other biomes [7]. These forests store an estimated 229 Pg C [8] to 263 Pg C in aboveground biomass [5].

The forest ecosystem has played a significant role in maintaining ecosystem functioning in Ethiopia. According to Moges et al. [9], the aboveground biomass of forest resources in Ethiopia sequesters approximately 2.76 billion tons of carbon. The authors also reported that Ethiopia's high forests contribute the largest carbon stock. However, deforestation and forest degradation are increasing at an alarming rate [10]. Anthropogenic activities such as deforestation, urbanization, agriculture, transportation, and

energy production serve as the largest source of greenhouse gases [11, 12]. According to the IPCC [13] report, cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from anthropogenic factors between 1750 and 2011 amounted to 2040 ± 310 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>. Deforestation alone accounts for approximately 70% of total emissions [4]. Moreover, tropical deforestation has contributed to an estimated annual carbon emission of 1-2 billion tons [14].

Despite carbon sequestration, forest resources are used to reduce poverty [15, 16], specifically in developing countries [17–23]. Thus, international donors such as World Bank Group are advocating forest-based poverty alleviation strategies [24]. Moreover, the economic contribution of the forest investment contributes to this goal [22]. The forest sector contributes about US \$75–100 billion annually to different infrastructure projects such as water, road, and hospital construction [25]. Approximately 20% of the global population relies on forests and forest products to support some portion of their livelihoods [26, 27]. The majority of the population living near forests in developing countries

remains below the poverty line [28]. As a result, forest products such as gum and resin, firewood, charcoal, and construction materials serve as the major source of income in Ethiopia [20, 21, 29–31]. Similarly, about 93% of total household energy consumption comes from forest biomass [32]. Forest products support the livelihoods of households through subsistence and cash income [19–21, 31, 33–35].

However, various fragmented efforts are dedicated to disseminating information regarding the contribution of forest ecosystems to carbon sequestration and livelihood improvement. Compiling the fragmented works on forest ecosystem services is essential for the sustainable management of natural forests. The aim of this review, therefore, was to determine the contributions of the forest ecosystem to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as the improvement of community livelihoods. It is also important to provide necessary information related to the ecosystem services of forest to policymakers, forestry experts, and planners for management intervention.

## 2. Materials

In order to review and procure information on forest carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation, and the roles of forests for poverty alleviation in Ethiopia, a literature search was carried out using Web of Science, Google Scholar, Research Gate, as well as reports from the Ethiopian Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. From the collected papers, the most relevant articles were selected based on their publication years and reputable journals such as Springer, Elsevier, Forests, Hindawi, and Taylor and Francis publishing group. Unpublished documents such as theses, report, and the Global Forest Survey were used to manipulate this review.

The literature searches were conducted using key search terms that are comprised of biomass, forest ecosystem, poverty alleviation, carbon sequestration potential, above- and belowground biomass, climate change, Ethiopia, and natural forest by using databases from 2011 to 2021. The key words were selected based on the scope of the study. The selection of relevant studies included in this study is based on year of publication, relevance, and reputable journal. Theses, dissertations, reports, and other unpublished documents were excluded to ensure the quality of the review. A total of 74 studies were obtained from different databases. Screening was conducted based on the relevance, their title, abstract, and keyword assessment. About 14 studies were unpublished documents and excluded from further screening. Finally, only 16 studies were selected for final screening, and the others were removed based on exclusion criteria.

## 3. Results and Discussion

*3.1. The Role of Forests for Climate Change Mitigation.* According to the IPCC, climate change mitigation refers to the interventions conducted by human beings to minimize the adverse impact of climate change on the social,

ecological, and the economy. Activities such as reducing the number of particulates in the atmosphere and addressing other sources of pollutants are crucial in mitigating the impact of climate change. These activities play a vital role in reducing or maintaining greenhouse gases concentration in the environment. Therefore, forest ecosystems are important elements in mitigating climate change globally.

International conferences and reports have emphasized the contribution of forest ecosystems in combating the impacts of climate change, especially in developing countries; for instance, reports such as the FAO [36], UNFCCC [37], the Kyoto Protocol [38], and Watson et al. [39]. Highlight the role of forests in climate change mitigation through the preservation and expansion of carbon stocks within forests.

Forests serve as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and storing it in trees and soil. This carbon sequestration function of forests aids in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Deforestation and forest degradation are significant contributors to global emissions, accounting for around 10–15% of total greenhouse gas emissions [5]. Conserving and restoring forests not only mitigate emissions but also safeguard and enhance biodiversity, bolstering the resilience of ecosystems. In addition, forests offer a sustainable and renewable source of wood and biomass products that can be used as alternatives to fossil fuels and materials with higher carbon footprints [13]. Forests also play a crucial role in helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change by providing shade, reducing heat island effects in urban areas, and serving as windbreaks that protect against extreme weather events.

*3.2. Forest Carbon Emissions and Sequestration.* Carbon sequestration involves the long-term storage of carbon in various terrestrial ecosystems, such as plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean. According to the IPCC [13] report, the gross annual emissions were estimated to be between 8.4 and 10.3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>eq. The report also stated that these emissions, which contribute approximately 8% of the world's total carbon emissions, amount to 4.1 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr. Forest fire, peat fire, and peat decay, raised net emission by 11% [13]. Furthermore, the increasing demand for fuel wood as an energy source has also led to a rise in net emissions [40].

Between 1990 and 2007, temperate forests sequestered carbon at an average rate of 2.6 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr, while boreal forests sequestered at a rate of 1.8 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr [5]. The Global Carbon Project reported that global forests remove approximately 10.6 ± 2.9 GtCO<sub>2</sub> per year from the atmosphere, which represents around 29% of annual anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel burning, cement manufacturing, and deforestation [41]. Ethiopia has a potential forest carbon stock of approximately 168 Mt-C, as reported by Brown [42]. In addition, at the national level, Gibbs et al. [11] reported a carbon stock of 867 Mt-C.

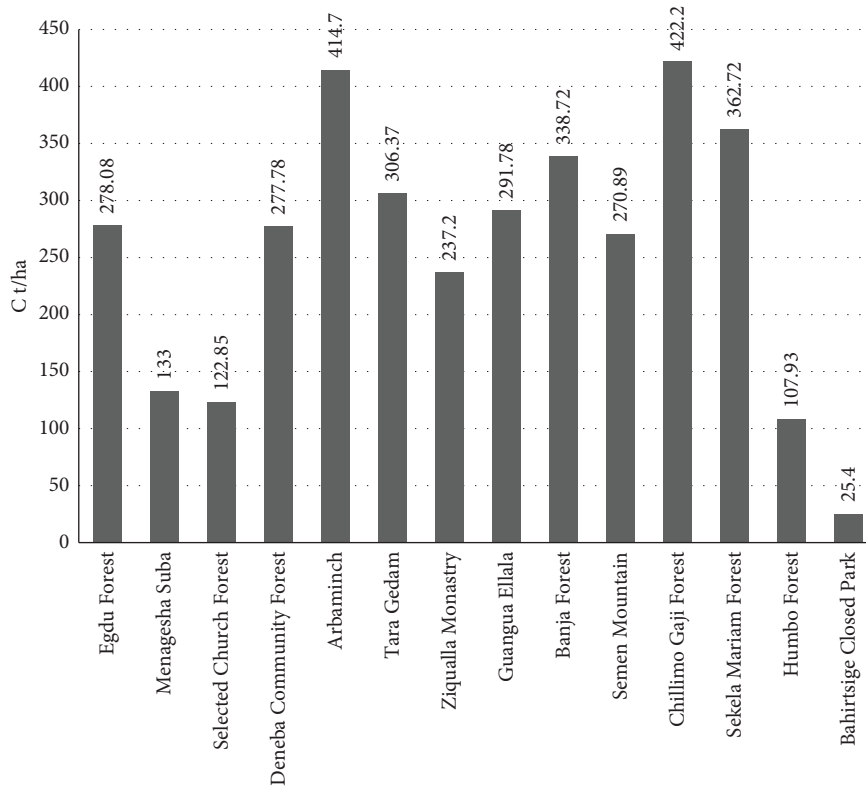


FIGURE 1: Aboveground carbon stocks in tons ha<sup>-1</sup> of different forest areas in Ethiopia. Source: generated by analyzing secondary data.

**3.3. Aboveground Biomass Carbon (AGC) Stock of Different Forests in Ethiopia.** When conducting the review, we obtained information on aboveground carbon stock for fourteen forest systems in Ethiopia (Figure 1). This stock was estimated using a generic equation developed by Chave et al. [43] and Brown et al. [44] (Figure 2). Figure 1 provides a summary of the forest systems and their respective aboveground biomass carbon stocks. Most of these forests are found in dry Afromontane forests, which rank as the second most diversified vegetation type in Ethiopia. Among the forest systems, the Chilimo-Gaji dry Afromontane forest accumulated the highest carbon stock, followed by the Arba Minch groundwater forest. Conversely, the Bahirtsige closed park exhibited the lowest carbon stock per hectare. Thus, management intervention is crucial to enhancing the carbon sequestration potential of this forest.

A study conducted by Ewunetie et al. [45] revealed that the mean aboveground biomass and carbon stock in trees and shrub species of the Sekela Mariam forest were estimated to be  $725.45 \pm 442.11 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$  and  $362.72 \pm 221.06 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ , respectively. Siraj [46] used the MacDicken [47] formula to estimate the carbon stock potential of Chilimo-Gaji forest, and the result showed that the total carbon stocks of the study area were about  $422.2 \text{ t-C ha}^{-1}$ . In addition, the aboveground biomass carbon content of Egdu forest was  $278.08 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$  [48], Menagesha Suba forest was  $133 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$  [49], Church forest was  $122.85 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$  [50], the Humbo forest was  $30.77 \text{ tons ha}^{-1}$  [51], and the mean aboveground biomass carbon of woody plants of Arba Minch groundwater forest was  $414.70 \text{ tons ha}^{-1}$  [52]. In comparison, the mean

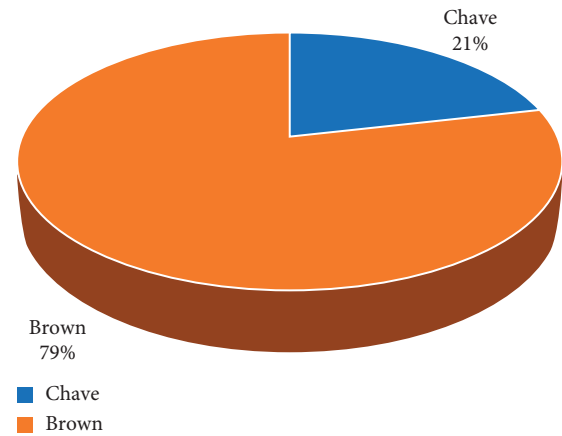


FIGURE 2: Biomass models used to estimate aboveground biomass of the forest in Ethiopia. Source: generated by analyzing secondary data.

AGC stock of the Chilimo-Gaji forest area was greater than the mean AGC stock of all other forest areas.

The carbon sequestration potential of woody tree species varied depending on soil conditions, water availability, altitude, and slope gradients. For example, a research conducted by Wodajo et al. [53] showed that the aboveground biomass (ABG) carbon stock density of Gara-Mukhtar forest, West Hararghe zone of Eastern Ethiopia ranged from  $102.13 \pm 31.16$  to  $214.73 \pm 54.73 \text{ t-C ha}^{-1}$  in the higher and lower altitudinal gradients, respectively. Environmental variability influenced the variation in tree diameter at breast

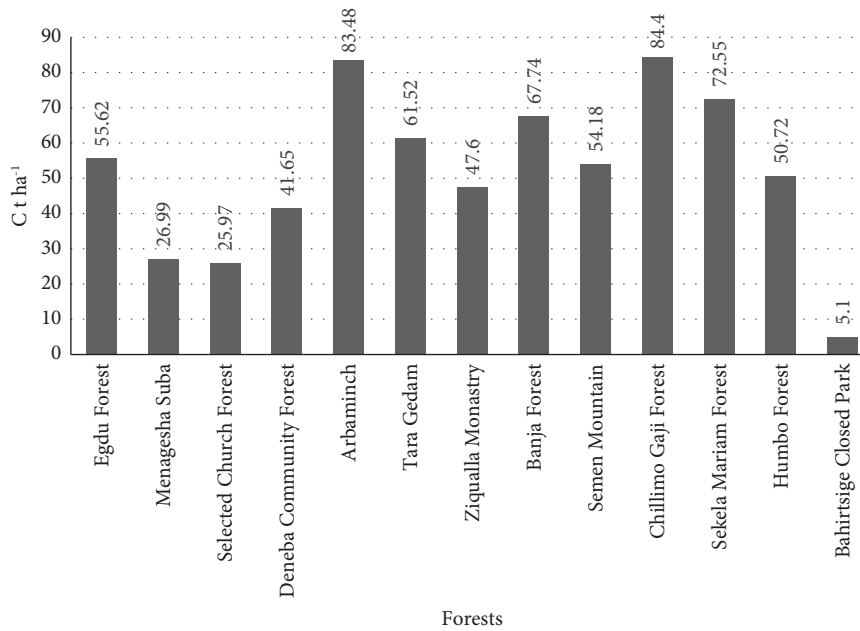


FIGURE 3: Comparison of belowground carbon stocks in tons per hectare of different forest areas. Source: generated by analyzing secondary data.

height (DBH), height classes of trees and shrubs, and density of trees. Furthermore, the choice of allometric model used to estimate forest biomass could also contribute to the variation in biomass among trees [54]. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that there is a decreasing trend in mean above- and belowground biomass carbon with increasing altitude. This trend may be attributed to the absence of the tallest trees with the maximum DBH in higher elevation gradients.

**3.4. Belowground Biomass Carbon (BGC) Sequestration.** Belowground carbon (BGC) of different forest types is summarized in Figure 3. BGC is an important carbon pool for many vegetation types and land use systems, accounting for about 20% of the total biomass [55]. The highest BGC content was recorded in Chilimo-Gaji forest and Arba Minch groundwater forest compared with other forests. A low amount of biomass carbon was found to be sequestered in Bahirtsige closed park. Consequently, the mean belowground biomass and carbon stock in tree and shrub species of Sekela Mariam Forest were estimated to be  $145.11 \pm 88.32$  and  $72.55 \pm 44.16 \text{ t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ , respectively, resulting in the sequestration of  $266.28 \pm 162.24 \text{ t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  of  $\text{CO}_2\text{eq}$ . The study conducted by Adugna and Soromessa [48] and Sahle [49] revealed that the belowground carbon (BGC) content of Egdu and Menagesha Suba forests were  $55.62 \text{ ha}^{-1}$  and  $26.99 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ , respectively. The variation observed in BGC could be attributed to the variation in aboveground carbon (AGC) within the study area, as the belowground biomass of trees and shrubs is influenced by the root-to-shoot ratio of aboveground biomass. In addition, variations in belowground and aboveground biomass carbon stock may be due to differences in estimation methods and personal error.

**3.5. Soil Organic Carbon (SOC).** Figure 4 presents a summary of soil organic carbon levels across various types of forests. All the research reported in this document utilized the Pearson et al. [56] formula to calculate the soil carbon stock. According to Pearson et al., the soil organic carbon (SOC) content was determined by multiplying the bulk density with the depth of the sample and the percentage of carbon concentration. Based on this methodology, the carbon concentration in Tara Gedam Forest was found to be  $274.32 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  [57], while the lowland area of Simien Mountains National Park registered  $242.5 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  of carbon [58]. The Egdu forest area soil exhibited a high soil carbon content, estimated at approximately  $277.56 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  [48], whereas the Banja forest had a soil carbon content of  $230.82 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  [59].

Topographic factors such as altitude, slope, and aspect are known to regulate carbon storage in forest ecosystems [60, 61]. Consistent with this notion, the average total soil carbon stock density of Gara-Mukhtar forest in West Hararge ranged from  $58.03 \pm 7.56$  to  $156.13 \pm 45.64$  tons of carbon per hectare ( $\text{C ha}^{-1}$ ) in the lower and higher altitudinal classes, respectively [53]. In addition to altitudinal differences, carbon storage potential also varies with different land use types [62]. According to research conducted by Mekuria and Aynekulu [63] and Bikila et al. [64], it has been established that restoring rangeland soils and ecosystems with permanent vegetation holds considerable potential for sequestering soil carbon. Supporting this argument, the mean values of soil organic carbon within regions of protected natural vegetation were  $16.60 \pm 4.45 \text{ ton}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ , whereas communal grazing lands recorded  $13.76 \pm 4.76 \text{ ton}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  (authors not provided).

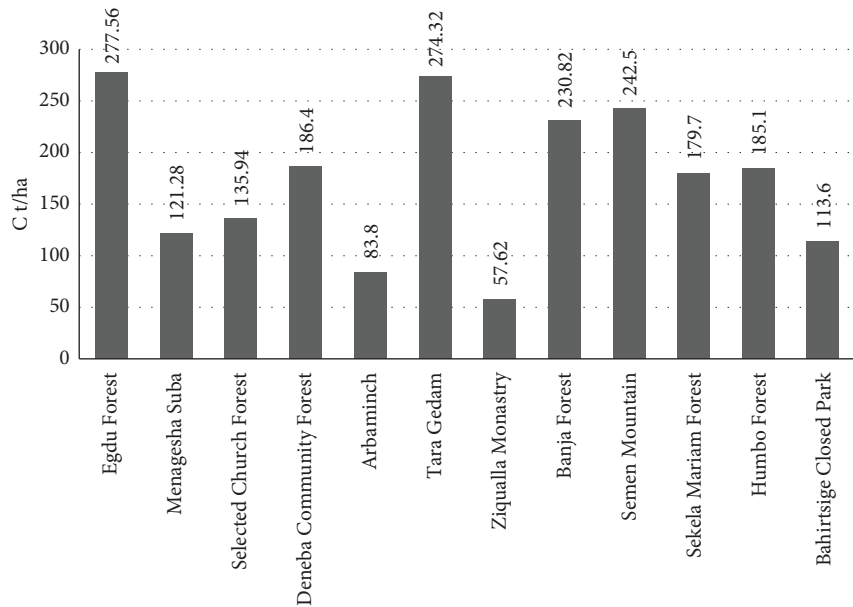


FIGURE 4: Comparison of soil organic carbon stocks in tons per hectare of different forest areas. Source: generated by analyzing secondary data.

Gedefaw et al. [57] discovered that the slope of the study area significantly influenced the litter carbon and soil organic carbon (SOC) in Tara Gedam Afromontane Forest of Ethiopia. On the contrary, the effects of slope on Banja Forest carbon stocks were minimal, and the relationships were insignificant for all carbon pools. These findings align with similar studies conducted in the Apennine Beech Forest in Italy [65] and the Danaba Community Forest in Ethiopia [66].

**3.6. Litter Fall Biomass Carbon.** The term leaf litter refers to all dead organic surface material on top of the mineral soil. The litter fall carbon is determined by multiplying the oven-dried biomass of the leaves with the carbon fraction measured in the laboratory. As indicated in Table 1, the highest amount litter carbon was observed in Humbo forest, amounting to  $17.85 \text{ t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  [51]. The research conducted by Girma et al. [67] and Sahle [49], revealed that Ziqualla monastery and Menagesha Suba forests had litter fall carbon contents of  $6.49$  and  $5.26 \text{ t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  of carbon, respectively. The variation in these values can be attributed to the small difference between the fresh weight and oven-dry weight of the litter subsamples, which occurred due to the dry air conditions at the time.

**3.7. Role of Forests in Rural Livelihoods.** According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature report [25], globally, 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. Forests are used for generating income and meeting subsistence needs through various forest products. Forests also contribute to improving the livelihoods of communities by providing safety nets, supporting current consumption, and offering potential pathway out of poverty [70]. The global value of goods and services provided by

TABLE 1: Comparison of carbon stocks in tons  $\text{ha}^{-1}$  in different forest areas.

Study place	AGC	BGC	LC	SOC	Sources
Egdu forest	278.08	55.62	3.47	277.56	[48]
Menagesha Suba	133	26.99	5.26	121.28	[49]
Selected church forest	122.85	25.97	4.95	135.94	Tura 2011
Deneba community forest	277.78	41.65	1.06	186.40	[66]
Arbaminch	414.70	83.48	1.28	83.80	[52]
Tara Gedam	306.37	61.52	0.90	274.32	[57]
Ziqualla Monastery	237.20	47.60	6.49	57.62	[67]
Guangua Ellala	291.78	*	*	*	[68]
Banja forest	338.72	67.74	2.58	230.82	[59]
Semen mountain	270.89	54.18	0.019	242.5	[58]
Chilimo-Gaji forest	422.2	84.4	*	*	[46]
Sekela Mariam forest	362.72	72.55	2.01	179.7	[45]
Humbo forest	107.93	50.72	17.85	185.1	[51]
Bahirtsige closed park	25.4	5.1	5.17	113.6	[69]

\*Not addressed by the study. AGC: aboveground carbon, BGC: belowground carbon, LC: litter fall carbon, and SOC: soil organic carbon. Source: generated by analyzing secondary data.

forests is estimated to be between US \$75–100 billion per year [25]. In developing countries forests play an important role in generating income for the households [24, 71, 72]. For instance, in Ethiopia, gum and resin production provides income not only for drought-prone areas but also for the national and regional economies on a large scale [20, 30, 73].

The African Miombo forest provides for over 100 million people in both urban and rural areas [74]. The plantations surrounding Chilimo forest are used as a source of income, fuel, construction materials, and farming tools [75]. The total income generated from forest resources in Ethiopia during the period of 2012–2013 was estimated to be USD 16.7

billion, which accounts for 12.86% of the country's GDP [76].

More specifically, scholars have made efforts to quantify the common contribution of forest resources to household income in various regions of Ethiopia. For instance, Mamo et al. [72], Asfaw et al. [77], and Yemiru et al. [18] estimated that approximately 39%, 32.6%, and 34% of the communities' total income, respectively, is generated from forest in Dendi District, the range of mountains, and the Bale Highlands. Consequently, Worku et al. [29] reported that 34.8% of income in the Liben Zone and 35.2% in the Afdher Zone were generated from forest resources. This income mainly comes from the sale of gum and resins, firewood and charcoal, construction wood, medicinal plants, and forest food. In comparison to other forest types, dry forests contribute 26% to the total subsistence income of households in the Liben Zone and 18% in the Afdher Zone.

*3.8. The Role of Forests for Poverty Alleviation.* In Ethiopia, over 85% of the population relies on rainfed agriculture, including traditional crop and livestock production [78]. As a result, this sector is more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The frequent occurrence of drought and other extreme events in the past few decades has led to increasing starvation and migration in Ethiopia as people search for food.

In contrast, between 2010/11 and 2015/16, about 5.3 million people were lifted out of poverty [24]. Nonetheless, there are still over 22 million people living below the national poverty level [79]. The government of Ethiopia has developed various strategies and plans to reduce poverty and improve living conditions, such as the millennium development goal, sustainable development goal, GTP 1, and GTP 2.

The forest sector is a significant component in reducing poverty and improving the livelihoods of local communities. However, the sustainable utilization of forest resources must be considered to ensure their long-term sustainability. Forests also play an important role in reducing income inequality and alleviating poverty in rural communities [19, 34].

According to reports from MEFCC [80], Ethiopian forests generate approximately USD 16.7 billion in economic benefits annually, contributing around 12.9% to the country's GDP. In addition, a report by UNEP [81] highlights that forest ecosystems generate an income of USD 2.34 billion. FAO [36] emphasizes that forests and woodlands have even greater importance, both biologically and socioeconomically, in arid lands compared to other areas. In Africa's drylands, rangelands, agroforestry, parklands, and trees outside forests are essential components that significantly impact the livelihoods of local communities.

A study by Worku et al. [29] found that excluding forest income from annual income increases the number of households living below the poverty level from 41.05% to 65.45%. Furthermore, the income earned from selling gum and resin reduces poverty occurrence by 23%–48% in the dry lands of eastern Africa [21]. The authors also state that gum

and resin incomes contribute to reducing income inequality among households within rural communities.

Overall, in addition to the role of forest ecosystem for carbon sequestration, the forest sectors play a vital role to reduce poverty and contributing to a more robust national economy of the country. About 90% of people living in extreme poverty depend on forests for their livelihoods [82]. Moreover, the forest sectors also play an indispensable role in creating job opportunities and reducing unemployment. For instance, the Ethiopian forest sector has created about eight types of forest-related employment services [83].

*3.9. Afforestation Strategies in Ethiopia.* Ethiopia has implemented a range of afforestation strategies with the aim of enhancing the role of forest ecosystems in mitigating climate change, alleviating poverty, addressing environmental challenges, and promoting sustainable development. Some of the key afforestation strategies in Ethiopia include:

The Ethiopian Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy which aims to build a climate-resilient and green economy by implementing large-scale afforestation and reforestation programs. It focuses on increasing forest coverage and improving land management practices to mitigate climate change and enhance ecosystem services. The National Afforestation Program is another strategy to restore forest ecosystem. This program aims to restore degraded lands, increase forest cover, and promote sustainable forest management [84]. Participatory forest management: This strategy encourages communities to actively participate in tree planting, forest protection, and sustainable utilization of forest resources [85]. Farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR): FMNR is a community-led approach that involves the systematic regrowth and management of trees on degraded lands. It promotes the regeneration of indigenous tree species, agroforestry practices, and sustainable land management techniques [86]. Sustainable land management (SLM): SLM approaches in Ethiopia focus on rehabilitating degraded lands, combating desertification, and promoting sustainable agriculture [87].

*3.10. Constraints and Future Prospects of the Review.* To evaluate the significance of forest ecosystems in addressing climate change and enhancing community well-being in various regions of Ethiopia, a comprehensive examination was conducted. Forest resources play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and enhancing the resilience of neighboring communities. It is imperative to minimize deforestation resulting from land use changes to optimize the forest's capacity for carbon sequestration. Employing sustainable approaches to forest management and utilization, implementing integrated fire management practices, ensuring forest health and vitality, promoting biodiversity conservation, and effectively managing protected areas and wildlife all contribute to climate change mitigation by facilitating the absorption of carbon from the surrounding environment.

In addition to addressing climate change, forests play a crucial role in improving the well-being of nearby communities. The rural population, particularly those with low incomes, rely on forest resources for both sustenance and income generation. Forests have thus significantly contributed to poverty reduction by providing economic opportunities for the local community. However, it is essential to manage the utilization of forest resources carefully to ensure their long-term sustainability.

To enhance the forest's function in terms of climate change mitigation and poverty reduction, it is necessary to restore degraded forests through activities such as reforestation, area enclosure, participatory forest management, and community involvement. These measures help to increase the forest's ability to mitigate climate change and provide livelihood benefits to the community.

Assessing the role of forests in climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation is crucial for convincing policymakers. It requires conducting thorough studies to determine the economic importance of forests. However, gathering sufficient information for our specific area of interest proved challenging. We tried to incorporate all available research on the role of forest ecosystems in climate change mitigation. This review serves to identify gaps in this area for future researchers and provides valuable input for policymakers in developing forest management strategies.

Considering the global significance of climate change, it is crucial to prioritize mitigation measures. Inclusive research involving forest research organizations, academia, and other stakeholders is essential for the development of comprehensive forest management strategies. This review serves as a fundamental reference for future endeavors concerning forest ecosystem services across Ethiopia.

#### 4. Conclusions

This review has an implication to compile different fragmented work on the role of forest ecosystem for carbon sequestration and poverty alleviation. It is also important to highlight the limitations of different research work. Moreover, we understand from this review that the productivity of the different forest in Ethiopia is getting decline. This could be because of deforestation and forest degradation due to anthropogenic activities. This review also emphasized that forest products provide different services like food, construction material, fuel wood, furniture, and an income source for the community. Besides, forests have an essential role for reserving carbon. Thus, quantifying the amount of carbon sequestered in different forest types is essential to forest managers, policymakers and other stakeholders for implementing different management interventions. Accordingly, the summary of the carbon sequestration potential of each forest is an important input for management interventions.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that improving carbon sequestration potential and creating other means of income for the local community nearby the forest are imperative to ensure the sustainability of natural forests.

#### Abbreviations

IPCC:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
UNDP:	United Nations Development Program
WBG:	World Bank Group
WB:	World Bank
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
FAO:	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
MEFCC:	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
GDP:	Gross domestic product
USD:	United States Dollar
NMA:	National Metrology Agency
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GTP:	Growth and transformation plan.

#### Data Availability

The data supporting this review are from previously reported studies, which have been cited.

#### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

#### Acknowledgments

All researchers who conducted the studies selected to conduct the review were acknowledged for their valuable work.

#### References

- [1] T. Kuuluvainen and S. Gauthier, "Young and old forest in the boreal: critical stages of ecosystem dynamics and management under global change," *Forest Ecosystems*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 1–15, 2018.
- [2] M. Zhao, J. Yang, N. Zhao et al., "Estimation of China's forest stand biomass carbon sequestration based on the continuous biomass expansion factor model and seven forest inventories from 1977 to 2013," *Forest Ecology and Management*, vol. 448, pp. 528–534, 2019.
- [3] T. Tadesse, "The value of some forest ecosystem services in Ethiopia," in *Proceeding of the a Workshop on Ethiopian Forestry at Crossroads: The Need for a strong Institution. Forum for Environment*, pp. 83–98, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May, 2008.
- [4] T. M. Basuki, P. E. Van Laake, A. K. Skidmore, and Y. A. Hussin, "Allometric equations for estimating the above-ground biomass in tropical lowland Dipterocarp forests," *Forest Ecology and Management*, vol. 257, no. 8, pp. 1684–1694, 2009.
- [5] Y. Pan, R. A. Birdsey, J. Fang et al., "A large and persistent carbon sink in the world's forests," *Science*, vol. 333, no. 6045, pp. 988–993, 2011.
- [6] K. T. Vashum and S. Jayakumar, "Methods to estimate above-ground biomass and carbon stock in natural forests-a review," *Journal of Ecosystem and Ecography*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 1–7, 2012.

- [7] G. Gebeyehu, T. Soromessa, T. Bekele, and D. Teketay, "Species composition, stand structure, and regeneration status of tree species in dry Afromontane forests of Awi Zone, northwestern Ethiopia," *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 199–215, 2019.
- [8] A. G. G. Baccini, W. S. Walker, J. Hackler et al., "Estimated carbon dioxide emissions from tropical deforestation improved by carbon-density maps," *Nature Climate Change*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 182–185, 2012.
- [9] Y. Moges, Z. Eshetu, and S. Nune, *Ethiopian Forest Resources: Status and Future Management Options in View of Access to Carbon Finances*, Ethiopian Climate Research and Networking and United Nations Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2010.
- [10] S. Sloan and J. A. Sayer, "Forest Resources Assessment of 2015 shows positive global trends but forest loss and degradation persist in poor tropical countries," *Forest Ecology and Management*, vol. 352, pp. 134–145, 2015.
- [11] H. K. Gibbs, S. Brown, J. O. Niles, and J. A. Foley, "Monitoring and estimating tropical forest carbon stocks: making REDD a reality," *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 2, no. 4, Article ID 045023, 2007.
- [12] D. J. Wuebbles, "Climate science special report: 4th US national climate assessment, volume I," *World Scientific Encyclopedia of Climate Change: Case Studies of Climate Risk, Action, and Opportunity*, vol. 2, pp. 213–220, 2021.
- [13] Ippcc, "Climate change," *Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2014.
- [14] R. A. Houghton, "Aboveground Forest biomass and the global carbon balance," *Global Change Biology*, vol. 11, no. 6, pp. 945–958, 2005.
- [15] T. Voituriez, K. Morita, T. Giordano, N. Bakkour, and N. Shimizu, "11 financing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development," *Governing Through Goals: Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation*, p. 259, 2017.
- [16] L. Swamy, E. Drazen, W. R. Johnson, and J. J. Bukoski, "The future of tropical forests under the united Nations sustainable development goals," *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, vol. 37, no. 2, pp. 221–256, 2018.
- [17] W. D. Sunderlin, D. Sonya, P. Atie, M. Daniel, A. Arild, and E. Michael, "Why forests are important for global poverty alleviation: a spatial explanation," *Ecology and Society*, vol. 13, no. 2, 2008.
- [18] T. Yemiru, A. Roos, B. M. Campbell, and F. Bohlin, "Forest incomes and poverty alleviation under participatory forest management in the Bale Highlands, Southern Ethiopia," *International Forestry Review*, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 66–77, 2010.
- [19] W. M. Fonta, H. Eme Ichoku, and E. Ayuk, "The distributional impacts of forest income on household welfare in rural Nigeria," *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 1–13, 2011.
- [20] A. Worku, M. Lemenih, M. Fetene, and D. Teketay, "Socio-economic importance of gum and resin resources in the dry woodlands of Borana, southern Ethiopia," *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods*, vol. 20, no. 2-3, pp. 137–155, 2011.
- [21] A. Abteu, J. Pretzsch, L. Secco, T. Mohamad, and T. E. Mohamad, "Contribution of small-scale gum and resin commercialization to local livelihood and rural economic development in the drylands of Eastern Africa," *Forests*, vol. 5, no. 5, pp. 952–977, 2014.
- [22] S. H. Cheng, M. L. Kavita, A. Sofia et al., "A systematic map of evidence on the contribution of forests to poverty alleviation," *Environmental Evidence*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 1–22, 2019.
- [23] C. M. Shackleton and P. Deepa, "Considering the links between non-timber forest products and poverty alleviation," in *Poverty Reduction through Non-timber Forest Products*, pp. 15–28, Springer, Berlin, Germany, 2019.
- [24] World Bank, *World Bank Group Forest Action Plan FY16-20: Overview*, World Bank, Washington, DC, USA, 2016.
- [25] Iucn, *Forests and Climate Change*, IUCN issues briefs, Gland, Switzerland, 2021.
- [26] Wbo, *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 2001.
- [27] Fao (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), *State of the World's Forests: Enhancing the Socioeconomic Benefits from Forests*, Fao (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), Rome, Italy, 2014.
- [28] G. Shepherd, *Rethinking Forest reliance: Findings about Poverty, Livelihood Resilience and Forests from IUCN's "Livelihoods and Landscapes" Strategy*, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, 2012.
- [29] A. Worku, J. Pretzsch, H. Kassa, and E. Auch, "The significance of dry forest income for livelihood resilience: the case of the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the drylands of southeastern Ethiopia," *Forest Policy and Economics*, vol. 41, pp. 51–59, 2014.
- [30] B. Teshome, H. Kassa, Z. Mohammed, and C. Padoch, "Contribution of dry forest products to household income and determinants of forest income levels in the Northwestern and Southern Lowlands of Ethiopia," *Natural Resources*, vol. 06, no. 05, pp. 331–338, 2015.
- [31] D. Fikir, W. Tadesse, and A. Gure, "Economic contribution to local livelihoods and households' dependency on dry land forest products in Hammer District, Southeastern Ethiopia," *International Journal of Financial Research*, vol. 2016, Article ID 5474680, 11 pages, 2016.
- [32] S. Alem, J. Duraisamy, E. Legesse, Y. Seboka, and E. Mitiku, "Wood charcoal supply to Addis Ababa city and its effect on the environment," *Energy and Environment*, vol. 21, no. 6, pp. 601–609, 2010.
- [33] D. R. Brown, P. Dettmann, T. Rinaudo, H. Tefera, and A. Tofu, "Poverty alleviation and environmental restoration using the clean development mechanism: a case study from Humbo, Ethiopia," *Environmental Management*, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 322–333, 2011.
- [34] S. Shackleton, O. Claudio, Delang, and A. Arild, "From subsistence to safety nets and cash income: exploring the diverse values of non-timber forest products for livelihoods and poverty alleviation," in *Non-timber forest Products in the Global Context*, pp. 55–81, Springer, Berlin, Germany, 2011.
- [35] Y. Tesfaye, A. Roos, B. M. Campbell, and F. Bohlin, "Livelihood strategies and the role of forest income in participatory-managed forests of Dodola area in the bale highlands, southern Ethiopia," *Forest Policy and Economics*, vol. 13, no. 4, pp. 258–265, 2011.
- [36] Food and Agricultural organization (FAO), *Key Findings Newest Information and Knowledge about the World's*, Food and Agricultural organization (Fao), Rome, Italy, 2010.
- [37] Unfccc (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), "Adoption of the Paris agreement," 2015, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>.
- [38] Unfccc (United Nation framework convention on Climate Change), "Paris Agreement on climate issues," 1998, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>.



- [39] R. T. Watson, I. R. Noble, B. Bolin, N. H. Ravindranath, D. J. Verardo, and D. J. Dokken, *Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry: A Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2000.
- [40] S. Federici, D. Lee, and M. Herold, "Forest mitigation: a permanent contribution to the paris agreement," pp. 1–24, 2017, Technical Report.
- [41] C. Le Quéré, R. Moriarty, R. M. Andrew et al., "Global carbon budget 2015," *Earth System Science Data*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 349–396, 2015.
- [42] S. Brown, *Estimating Biomass and Biomass Change of Tropical Forests: A Primer*, vol. 134, Food and Agriculture Org, Rome, Italy, 1997.
- [43] J. Chave, M. Réjou-Méchain, A. Búrquez et al., "Improved allometric models to estimate the aboveground biomass of tropical trees," *Global Change Biology*, vol. 20, no. 10, pp. 3177–3190, 2014.
- [44] S. Brown, A. J. R. Gillespie, E. Ariel, and Lugo, "Biomass estimation methods for tropical forests with applications to forest inventory data," *Forest Science*, vol. 35, no. 4, pp. 881–902, 1989.
- [45] G. G. Ewunetie, B. A. Miheretu, G. T. Mareke, and T. M. Goitom, "Carbon stock potential of Sekele Mariam forest in Northwestern Ethiopia: an implication for climate change mitigation," *Modeling Earth Systems and Environment*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 351–362, 2021.
- [46] M. Siraj, "Forest carbon stocks in woody plants of Chilimogaji Forest, Ethiopia: implications of managing forests for climate change mitigation," *South African Journal of Botany*, vol. 127, pp. 213–219, 2019.
- [47] K. G. MacDicken, *A Guide to Monitoring Carbon Storage in Forestry and Agroforestry Projects*, Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, Forest Carbon Monitoring Program, Arkansas, AR, USA, 1997.
- [48] F. Adugna and T. Sormessa, "Variation in forest carbon stocks along environmental gradients in Egdu forest of oromiya region, Ethiopia, implications for sustainable forest management," *American Journal of Environmental Protection Special issues, Forest Ecosystem Carbon Stock variation along altitudinal and slope gradient*, vol. 1, no. 6, pp. 1–8, 2017.
- [49] M. Sahle, *Estimating and Mapping of Carbon Stocks Based on Remote Sensing, GIS and Ground Survey in the Menagesha Suba State Forest, Ethiopia*, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, 2011.
- [50] T. T. Tura, M. Argaw, and Z. Eshetu, "Estimation of carbon stock in church forests: implications for managing church forest to help with carbon emission reduction," in *Climate-Smart Technologies: Integrating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Mitigation and Adaptation Responses*, pp. 403–414, Springer, Berlin, Germany, 2013.
- [51] A. Chinasho, T. Soromessa, and E. Bayable, "Carbon stock in woody plants of Humbo forest and its variation along altitudinal gradients: the case of Humbo district, Wolaita zone, southern Ethiopia," *International Journal of Environmental Protection and Policy*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 97–103, 2015.
- [52] W. M. Belay, E. Kelbessa, and T. Soromessa, "Forest carbon stocks in woody plants of Arba Minch ground water forest and its variations along environmental gradients," *Science Technology and Arts Research Journal*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 141–147, 2014.
- [53] A. Wodajo, M. Mohammed, A. Mehari, and Tesfaye, "Carbon stock variation along altitudinal and slope gradients in gara-muktar forest, west hararghe zone, Eastern Ethiopia," *Forestry Research and Engineering: International Journal*, vol. 4, pp. 1–2020, 2020.
- [54] R. D. Lasco, R. F. Sales, R. Estrella et al., "Carbon stock assessment of two agroforestry systems in a tropical forest reserve in the Philippines," *The Philippine Agricultural Scientist*, vol. 84, no. 4, pp. 401–407, 2000.
- [55] R. Ponce-Hernandez, P. Koothalkan, and J. Antoine, *Assessing Carbon Stocks and Modelling Win-Win Scenarios of Carbon Sequestration Through Land-Use Changes*, vol. 1, Food and Agriculture Org, Rome, Italy, 2004.
- [56] T. Pearson, S. Walker, and S. Brown, *Sourcebook for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry Projects*, Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, Forest Carbon Monitoring Program, Arkansas, AR, USA, 2005.
- [57] M. Gedefaw, T. Soromessa, and S. Belliethathan, "Forest carbon stocks in woody plants of Tara Gedam Forest: implication for climate change mitigation," *Science, Technology and Arts Research Journal*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 101–107, 2014.
- [58] T. Y. Simegn, T. Soromessa, and E. Bayable, "Forest carbon stocks in lowland area of Simien Mountains National Park: implication for climate change mitigation," *Science, Technology and Arts Research Journal*, vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 29–36, 2014.
- [59] F. Abere, Y. Belete, A. Kefalew, and T. Soromessa, "Carbon stock of Banja forest in Banja district, Amhara region, Ethiopia: an implication for climate change mitigation," *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, vol. 36, no. 6, pp. 604–622, 2017.
- [60] R. Valencia, R. Condit, H. C. Muller-Landau, C. Hernandez, and H. Navarrete, "Dissecting biomass dynamics in a large Amazonian forest plot," *Journal of Tropical Ecology*, vol. 25, no. 5, pp. 473–482, 2009.
- [61] R. W. McEwan and R. N. Muller, "Spatial and temporal dynamics in canopy dominance of an old-growth central Appalachian Forest," *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, vol. 36, no. 6, pp. 1536–1550, 2006.
- [62] B. Belay, E. Pötzelsberger, and H. Hasenauer, "The carbon sequestration potential of degraded agricultural land in the Amhara region of Ethiopia," *Forests*, vol. 9, no. 8, p. 470, 2018.
- [63] W. Mekuria and E. Aynekulu, "Exclosure land management restores soil properties of degraded communal grazing lands in northern Ethiopia," *Land Degradation and Development*, vol. 24, 2011.
- [64] N. G. Bikila, Z. K. Tessema, and E. G. Abule, "Carbon sequestration potentials of semi-arid rangelands under traditional management practices in Borana, Southern Ethiopia," *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment*, vol. 223, pp. 108–114, 2016.
- [65] A. Bayat, "Carbon stock in an Apennine beech forest," Master's Thesis, University of Twente, 2011.
- [66] N. B. Muluken, S. Teshome, and B. Eyale, "Carbon stock in Adaba-Dodola community forest of Danaba District, West-Arsi zone of Oromia Region, Ethiopia: an implication for climate change mitigation," *Journal of Ecology and the Natural Environment*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 14–22, 2015.
- [67] A. Girma, T. Soromessa, and T. Bekele, "Forest carbon stocks in woody plants of Mount Zequalla Monastery and its variation along altitudinal gradient: implication of managing forests for climate change mitigation," *Science, Technology and Arts Research Journal*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 132–140, 2014.
- [68] A. Ayen, "GIS and remote sensing aboveground tree woody biomass carbon stock estimation. The case of guangua ellala natural state forest," in *Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System*, Amhara Region of Ethiopia:

- A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies of Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, 2015.
- [69] M. Tefera and T. Soromessa, "Carbon stock potentials of woody plant species in Biheretsige and central closed public parks of Addis Ababa and its contribution to climate change mitigation," *Carbon*, vol. 5, p. 13, 2015.
- [70] S. Wunder, J. Börner, G. Shively, and M. Wyman, "Safety nets, gap filling and forests: a global-comparative perspective," *World Development*, vol. 64, pp. S29–S42, 2014.
- [71] B. Babulo, B. Muys, F. Nega et al., "The economic contribution of forest resource use to rural livelihoods in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia," *Forest Policy and Economics*, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 109–117, 2009.
- [72] G. Mamo, E. Sjaastad, and P. Vedeld, "Economic dependence on forest resources: a case from Dendi District, Ethiopia," *Forest Policy and Economics*, vol. 9, no. 8, pp. 916–927, 2007.
- [73] M. Lemenih and H. Kassa, *Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Production and Marketing of Gums and Resins in Ethiopia*, CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia, 2011.
- [74] S. Syampungani, P. W. Chirwa, F. K. Akinnifesi, G. Sileshi, and O. C. Ajayi, "The miombo woodlands at the crossroads: potential threats, sustainable livelihoods, policy gaps and challenges," *Natural Resources Forum*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 150–159, 2009.
- [75] Y. Tesfaye, M. Bekele, H. Kebede, F. Tefera, and H. Kassa, *Enhancing the Role of Forestry in Ethiopia: Strategy for Scaling up Effective forest Management Practices in Oromia with Emphasis on Participatory forest Management*, CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia, 2015.
- [76] R. Smith, K. McDougal, J. Metuzals, C. Ravilious, and A. van Soesbergen, *The Contribution of Forests to National Income in Ethiopia and Linkages with Redd+*, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2016.
- [77] A. Asfaw, M. Lemenih, H. Kassa, and Z. Ewnetu, "Importance, determinants and gender dimensions of forest income in eastern highlands of Ethiopia: the case of communities around Jelo Afromontane forest," *Forest Policy and Economics*, vol. 28, pp. 1–7, 2013.
- [78] National Metrological Agency (M.N.A), *Climate Change National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) of Ethiopia*, National Metrological Agency (M.N.A), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2007.
- [79] U. N. D. P (United Nation Development Program) and Ethiopia, "Ethiopia's progress towards eradicating poverty," *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty*, (United Nation Development Program), Ethiopia, 2018.
- [80] MEFC (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change), *The Contribution of Forests to National Income in Ethiopia and Linkages with REDD+*, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2016.
- [81] United Nation Environmental Program, *Global Gender and Environment Outlook the Critical Issues*, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, 2016.
- [82] United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), *Emissions Gap Report*, <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report>, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, 2020, <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report>.
- [83] Mefcc (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change), *National Forests Sector Development Program, Ethiopia*, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2017.
- [84] M. Kindu, D. Tibebe, D. Nigussie et al., "Understanding land use/land cover dynamics in and surrounding the Ethiopian church forests," *State of the Art in Ethiopian Church Forests and Restoration Options*, pp. 11–30, Springer Nature, Berlin, Germany, 2022.
- [85] W. Mekuria and E. Aynekulu, "Exclosure land management for restoration of the soils in degraded communal grazing lands in northern Ethiopia," *Land Degradation and Development*, vol. 24, no. 6, pp. 528–538, 2013.
- [86] C. Mbow, P. Smith, D. Skole, L. Duguma, and M. Bustamante, "Achieving mitigation and adaptation to climate change through sustainable agroforestry practices in Africa," *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, vol. 6, pp. 8–14, 2014.
- [87] Y. S. Rawat and A. T. Tekleyohannes, "Sustainable forest management and forest products industry development in Ethiopia," *International Forestry Review*, vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 197–218, 2021.