African Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation (ACE-Climate SABC)

Project name/Title	African Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation, Haramaya University, Ethiopia
Donor/funding organization	 World Bank
Name(s) of partner institution(s)[Name and logo of partner organization/ University and country]	Purdue University (USA), Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Makerere University (Uganda), Lilongwe University (Malawi), Nelson Mandella University of Science and Technology (Tanzania), Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Oromia Agricultural Research Institute, Oda Bultum University, Bule Hora University
Lead institution	Haramaya University
Duration (Start year - end year)	October 2016 –December 2021
Total budget (in USD, Use current exchange rate if other currencies)	6,0000,000
Annual Budget (in USD)	1,100,000
Contribution of HU, if applicable	Several supports both in cash (though not quantified) and in kind
Name and address (telephone and email) of project coordinator (Center Leader)	Prof. Nigussie Dechassa, Center Leader (+251255500320; Email. nigussiedachassa@gmail.com)
Name and address (telephone and email) of other project members (if any)	Dr. Bobe Bedadi , Deputy Center Leader/PI (+251913908396; Email bobedadi2009@gmail.com); Dr. Kibebew kibret, Dr. Tesfaye Lemma, Dr. Wassu Mohammed, Dr. Lemma Wogi, Dr. Mitiku Eshetu, Dr. Yoseph Tadesse, Dr. Yesihak Yusuf
Number of project staff	9
College and school/department hosting the project (if any)	College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
Project overall goal and specific objectives:	The general objective of the 'Haramaya University Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation' will be to

	improve the quality of postgraduate education and research in eastern and southern Africa to foster enhanced capacity to adapt and mitigate effects of climate change and weather variability, and ensure biodiversity conservation more effectively in the region.
	Specific objectives: • Produce skilled MSc and PhD graduates in 'climate smart agriculture and biodiversity conservation' that are enabled to address current and emerging developmental challenges. • Generate new knowledge and quality research outputs as well as promote technological innovations to address national and regional development challenges. • Enhance knowledge, skills and scholarship and research culture of faculty and technical personnel at universities to lead a more effective, result-oriented, and high quality post-graduate training with cutting edge research. • Upgrade teaching and research facilities (laboratories, ICT services, greenhouses, lath houses, meteorological stations, research farms, etc.). • Strengthen national, regional, and international collaborations and partnerships to enhance exchange of science and technology skills, experience, and expertise. • Foster specialization in specific areas of excellence and collaboration with emerging higher education institutions. • Establish a program for continued funding to sustain high quality postgraduate training and cutting edge research in climate smart agriculture and biodiversity conservation in the region.
Target beneficiaries of the project:	PhD and MSc candidates from the Eastern and Southern Africa Region and the entire Africa as well; staff members of Haramaya University and partner institutions; all institutions and organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa dealing with Climate change, Agriculture and Biodiversity issues
Any additional information (Remark)	This is a regional project designed to train PhD and MSc students from African nations. The project consists of two new MSc programs (namely, MSc in Climate Smart Agriculture, and MSc in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management) and one new PhD Program (PhD in Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation).Three existing regional programs namely, Agrometeorology and Natural Risk Management, Agricultural Information and Communication Management, and Agricultural and Applied Economics will also be embraced in the project. The following are the major expected outputs of the project: ‣ Thirty (30) PhDs and eighty (80) MSc, of which about 75% will be from national and 25 % from the region. Overall, at least 20% will be females to ensure gender equity. ‣ Twelve (12) short courses relevant to the needs of the region developed.

	▸ Ten (10) capacity building workshops conducted.
	▸ Thirteen (13) retooling workshops to build capacity of University teaching and technical staff
	▸ Four (4) retooling workshops to build capacity of University administrative/finance staff.
	▸ Ten (10) collaborative joint research projects with partners implemented.
	▸ Teaching and research facilities procured, installed and commissioned
	▸ ICT infrastructure of the ACE enhanced.
	▸ One hundred and two (102) national and sixty six (66) regional, of which 30% females, completed short term training.
	▸ At least eighty (80) publications published in peer-reviewed journals (60) and peer reviewed conference proceedings (20).
	▸ Forty (40) academic staff, of which 10 % females, trained in a private sector company, regional or local institutions relevant to their field of studies.
	▸ About 20 climate smart agriculture and biodiversity technologies generated and disseminated
	▸ Three academic programs accredited at national, regional and international levels.