

MR NEGUSU AKLILU

Director, Forum for Environment, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia



Mr Negusu Aklilu is Director of the Forum for Environment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has been working as an environmental campaigner for the last 15 years and has played a leading role in advocating for environmental rights in Ethiopia, including the rights of farmers. He led the successful campaign to save an elephant sanctuary from encroachment by a foreign firm and two campaigns in the run-up to the Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2010. One is the African Climate Appeal, a politico-moral appeal by key African environmental activists initiated by Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai. The other campaign, America, Take the Lead Now, produced a petition signed by about 2 million Ethiopians to the US government. Currently, Negusu co-chairs the Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change (ECSNCC), comprising about 60 organizations. He is a representative of civil society organizations in Ethiopia's National Environment Council. He has authored a number of articles on a range of environmental issues and serves as editor of a local environmental magazine, as well as co-editor of the Ethiopian Environment Review. Some of his other initiatives in Ethiopia include the national Green Award Program, the annual Ethiopian Environment Review, and the new local Green Tax initiative. He was voted one of the 25 most influential Ethiopians in 2009/2010 by *Addis Neger*, Ethiopian newspaper. He is trained in biology and ecology and later in Environmental Diplomacy at a UNEP/ University of Geneva post-graduate course.