

April 2014

Annual Report

Prepared by Eric Bedin, Jorgelina Marino,
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A letter from our Founder & Director

The last 12 months have gone without any major emergency to report. This is how I like it! Most wolf packs bred successfully, and juveniles were conspicuous everywhere by the end of the dry season. Although rabies was sporadically reported in domestic dogs living near wolf enclaves, fortunately it did not reach the wolves. All in all, a good year to consolidate the work and conservation achievements of our teams and partners across the six mountain enclaves where Ethiopian wolves live.

We take a long-term view, and the national action plan for Ethiopian wolf conservation continues to provide an ambitious and challenging blueprint for our work. While the task ahead is clear, some of the key players involved will necessarily change with time. Our good friend Ato Ewnetu Bilata has left the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority after a relatively short but very dynamic term in office, and Ato Dawud Mame has been appointed as the new Director General. Anne-Marie Stewart and Chris Gordon have relocated to Nairobi, and Eric Bedin started as EWCP Field coordinator in January. We wish the leavers a bright future, and open our arms to welcome Ato Dawud and Eric.

In addition to our key monitoring and disease management components we are increasingly aware of the importance of education and awareness. Thus, we are determined to firmly establish the wolves as a flagship for Afroalpine biodiversity, chiefly in the Ethiopian highlands but also internationally. More locally, we promote conservation practices that deliver value to the farming



► © A.L. Harrington

communities sharing the land with the wolves. An immediate priority for EWCP is to work with regional government agencies equipping and delivering effective protection for a handful of new protected areas.

EWCP activities are informed by sound science, and we combine collaborations with world leading colleagues, capacity building of future Ethiopian conservationists, and data capture and handling using a smart android platform. How we communicate the aims and activities of the EWCP is also important, and so we have developed a new logo and associated graphics for the EWCP, started a Facebook page and are currently renovating our website www.ethiopianwolf.org.

It is through our donors and supporters that the work of the EWCP Team keeps going, and I would like to thank them for their amazing support. The Born Free Foundation in the UK, the Wildlife Conservation Network in the USA, and many other donors then channel their donations through them, continue to provide the much needed support EWCP requires to protect the endangered Ethiopian wolves and the Afroalpine habitats they live in.

Dr Claudio Sillero
Founder and Director

Our Vision

To secure viable and ecologically functioning Ethiopian wolf populations and habitats across their present distribution, to extend the species presence to suitable ranges, and to emphasise its role as a flagship for the conservation and sustainable use of the Afroalpine ecosystem and biodiversity, on which present and future generations of Ethiopians also depend.



Executive Summary

This annual report summarizes the activities and achievements of EWCP between April 2013 and March 2014 and brings news of EWCP donors and staff, among them the arrival of a new Field Coordinator, Eric Bedin. This was an exceptionally good year for Ethiopian wolves in the Bale Mountains, as sustained levels of high survival and reproduction brought numbers back to the levels preceding the last outbreaks of rabies and canine distemper. The downside of high-density levels is the increased risk of wolves acquiring diseases from domestic dogs, so the monitoring and veterinary teams in Bale have been particularly alert. Dog vaccinations targeted villages around core wolf habitat, vaccinating an impressive 3,905 dogs. Permits have been secured to continue to test oral rabies vaccines in wolves as well as a canine distemper virus vaccine. The education and community outreach teams provided crucial support for the vaccination campaigns, and also intensified their work in local schools, adding a field visit to the Bale Mountains for students from Arsi and the first Wolf Day in Adaba, town close a wolf population. Wolf Days were also celebrated in Robe (Bale), Degelu (Arsi), and Aksta (South Wollo) and EWCP participated of several other environmental events.

More funding and new initiatives contributed to a very productive year for EWCP in wolf

populations outside Bale. The monitoring network has grown with the addition of three new Wolf Ambassadors (nine in total) and collaborations with protected areas staff from Arsi Mountains, Borena Syaint and Simien Mountains National Parks. To facilitate rapid responses to emerging problems, a Threat Reporting System was tested in two areas. The innovative approach to our education and outreach work included working more intensively with fewer 'model' schools, experience-sharing visits to protected Afroalpine areas, and the 'Fuel Saving Project', in collaboration with German NGO GIZ, to promote the use and local production of fuel saving stoves in areas where firewood collection is a major cause of habitat degradation for Ethiopian wolves.

Research and capacity building are pillars of EWCP work. This year financial and academic support was provided for six students, including EWCP Veterinary Officer, and several scientists. Ongoing research is focusing on land use impacts upon rodent prey and on the biology of giant molerats. To handle the ever larger datasets, and to improve the efficiency of all our monitoring and research activities, we are collecting our data digitally with the final version of our customized Android app, run on Nexus tablets, that can download data directly to the EWCP database.

A letter from the Species Survival Commission

The Ethiopian wolf, listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List, is recognised as the rarest canid in the world. With fewer than 500 surviving individuals, it is Africa's most threatened carnivore. Teetering on the edge of extinction, it almost certainly would have succumbed to disease, hybridisation, and habitat loss were it not for the ongoing work of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme and other dedicated Ethiopian conservationists.

The Strategic Plan for Ethiopian Wolf Conservation was elaborated in 2011 with active participation of the SSC and the Canid Specialist Group. Indeed, it was one of the first strategic plans resulting from the application of SSC's new guidelines on *Strategic Planning for Species Conservation*. It offers a blueprint for the conservation of the Ethiopian Highlands' flagship species. The work outlined in this important publication can be traced back to the late 1980s. Since then the EWCP, a partnership between the University of Oxford and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, has worked together with other conservation partners to build the programme, pioneering new research and field techniques, and gradually expanding the work beyond the Bale Mountains National Park to incorporate all six extant populations.

Although I have never been fortunate to see the Ethiopian wolf I am struck by the many photos I have seen of the animal – a strikingly beautiful species in a magnificent landscape.



► Simon Stuart ©IUCN SSC

However, despite the successes of those working towards its conservation to date, there are growing threats that could not have been anticipated back in the 1980s. In particular, the human population, living by subsistence means, is increasing and moving higher up the mountains, encroaching ever further into Afroalpine habitat. These people do not have many alternatives to meet their essential needs, and already many highland endemics are being affected by unsustainable farming and harvesting activities. And increasing human populations bring with them a more immediate threat in the guise of their domestic dogs that transmit deadly diseases to the wolves. The future of the Ethiopian wolf, as with so many species, is going to depend on reconciling the needs of people and nature, and ensuring economic development and conservation do not undermine each other. *The Strategic Plan for Ethiopian Wolf Conservation*, and its associated National Action Plan, addresses these new challenges, and I am hopeful that it will achieve further success, not only for the Ethiopian wolf, but also for the surrounding human communities.

Dr Simon Stuart
Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission



EWCP Monitoring

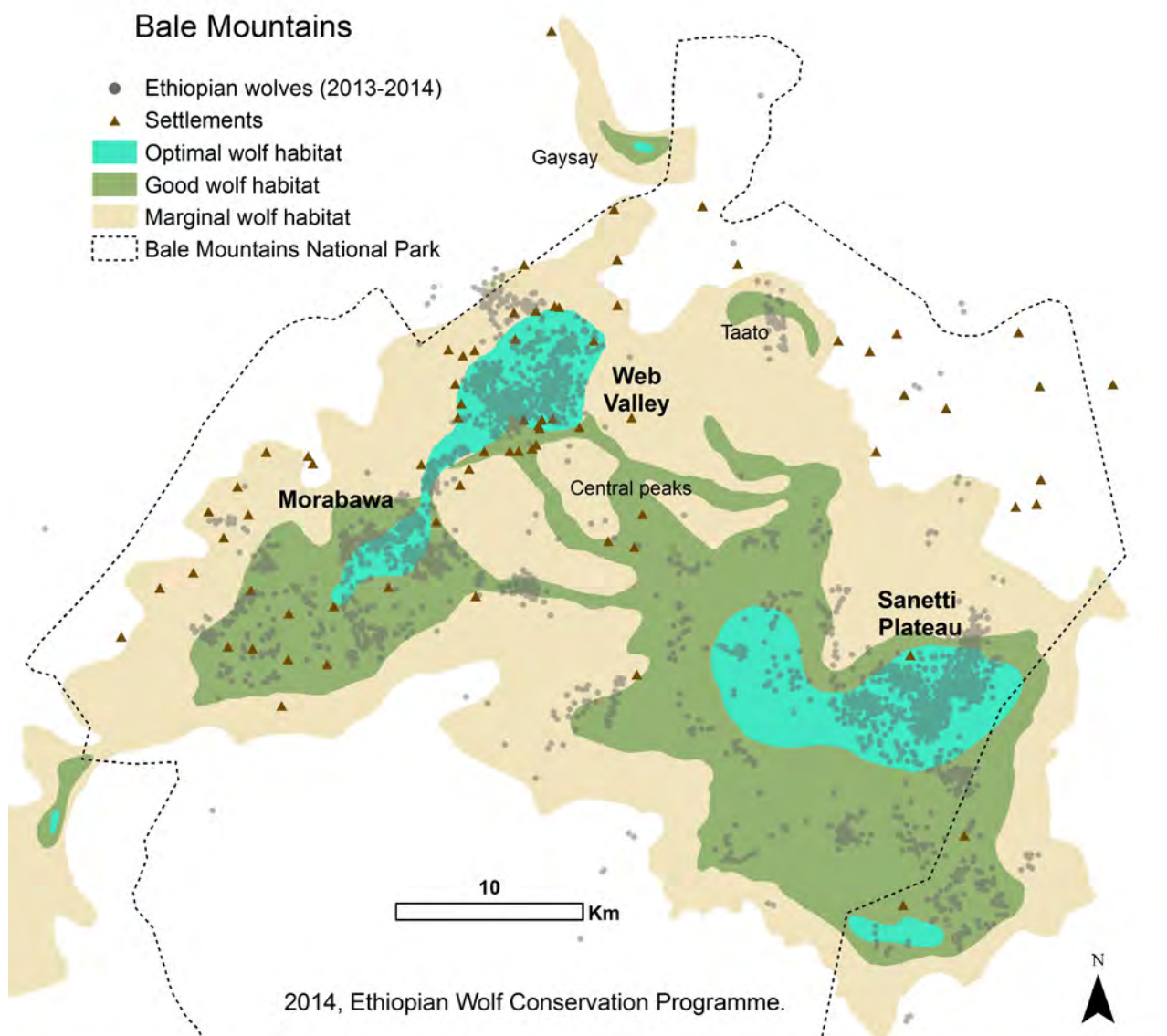
Objective: To monitor and assess Ethiopian wolf demographic trends with a focus on the Bale Mountains and other selected critical populations, as well as measuring levels of livestock (grazing stock and domestic dogs), persecution and habitat loss affecting wolf status. The team also records all new settlements and crop planting in protected areas.

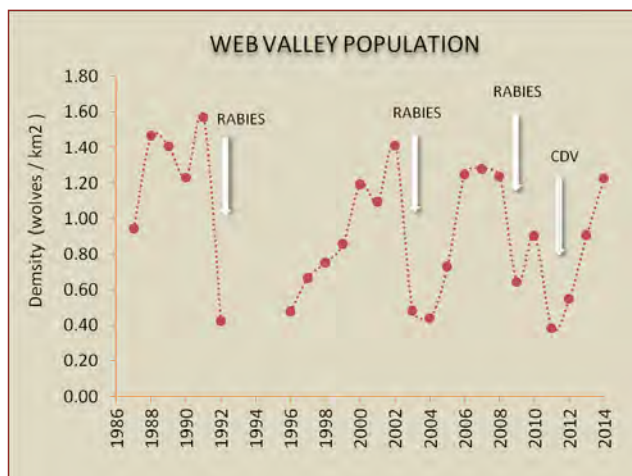
On the raise of Ethiopian wolf numbers in Bale – a word of caution

By Jorgelina Marino

Another year of intense monitoring passed and the work of the Wolf Monitors provided, yet again, an exceptionally detailed picture of the lives of many wolf families in the Bale Mountains National Park. Close observations of selected

focal packs over the breeding season (October to March) permit to establish with certainty the age and sex composition of packs and the breeding success (see box). When compared with that from the previous season, this allows us to know if the populations increased, decreased or remained stable. Not only that, but such intense level of observations also reveals the more rare occurrences such as packs going extinct or new ones being created.





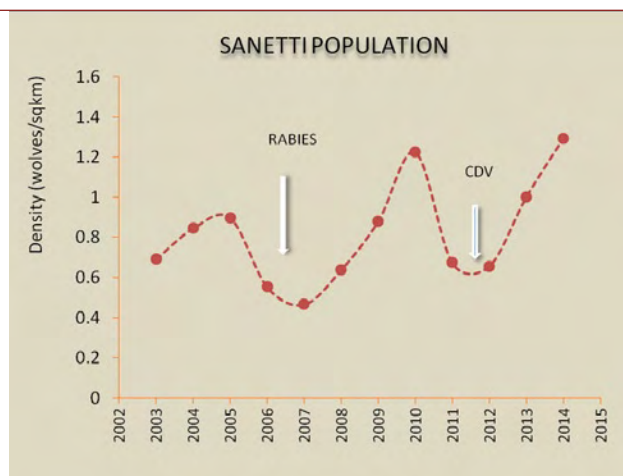
Web Valley

Population size	54 wolves (>1 year old)
Population increase	12%
Average pack size	9.6 wolves
Pup survival (to 1 year)	100%
Total reproduction	20 pups
Average litter size	4 pups

Pack composition summary

	Pack size	adults	subadults	Pups
Alando	8	7	1	4
Bowman	12	6	6	2
Mackenna	10	6	4	4
Megity	13	6	7	5
Tarura	11	11		5
	54			20

► **BOX:** Demography of Bale populations



Sanetti

Population size	75 wolves (>1 year old)
Population increase	29%
Average pack size	9.4 wolves
Pup survival (to 1 year)	84%
Total reproduction	18 pups
Average litter size	2.6 pups

Pack composition summary

	Pack Size	adults	subadults	Pups
Bagadasa	13	10	3	2
Garba Guracha	9	9		2
Batu	11	6	5	6
BBC	7	5	2	4
New pack	9	5	4	4
Quarry	10	8	2	0
Dumal	7	7		?
	66			18

Six Wolf Monitors have been following 20 *focal* wolf packs in three core areas: Web Valley, Sanetti Plateau, and East Morabawa. They made in total 44 trips and recorded over 4,500 wolf sightings. During the rainy season they visited other areas of Bale and monitored 33 packs peripheral to the core areas.

This information is reflected in the new data point added to the series of population estimates for the Bale wolf population, dating back to 1983 (see box). We observed a dramatic annual increase, propelled by a second consecutive year of good survival (over 90% of the pups born last year survived to one year of age). As a result, populations are now back to the high density levels predating the last disease outbreaks. In the three core areas combined, wolf numbers increased from 123 to 160 adult and subadults

(over one year old). In addition, a new breeding unit was formed in Sanetti (see Packs' news). Overall, reproduction was exceptionally high this year, with 14 out of 20 focal packs breeding and litter sizes well above the historical average.

There are good reasons to be optimistic. If this high survival persists for another year wolf numbers will rise above the highest population peak ever recorded! But past experience taught us not to be complacent. As the time series shows, population crashes have followed peaks, and there is no reason to believe that disease won't strike again. Indeed, we continue to find many domestic dogs roaming and foraging in wolf habitat across Bale. These are times for the monitors to be super-alert, looking for early indications of disease outbreaks. The sooner we react to these threats, the highest the efficacy of any subsequent intervention.

Packs' news

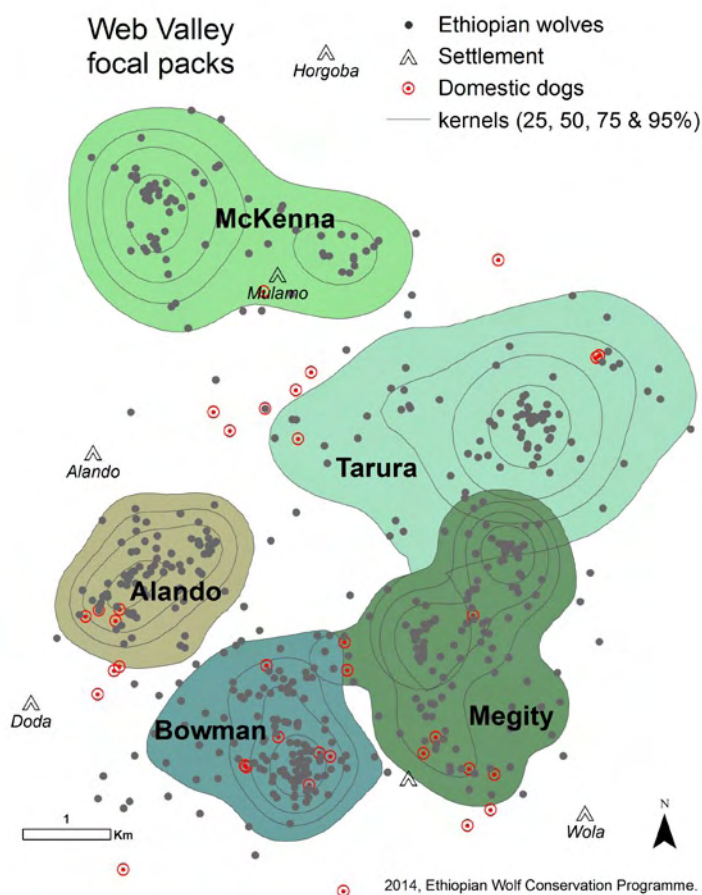
By Alo Hussein

After working as a park scout for a while in 1998 I started monitoring wolves in the company of Claudio. Since then, I have watched many wolf packs in the Bale Mountains, their breeding success and the survival of juveniles. Some years have been good, but some others very bad, like in 2009 and 2010 when successive disease outbreaks ripped off nearly half of the packs we were monitoring.

This breeding season, as the previous one, has been particularly good for wolves in Bale. Reproductive success and the survival of juveniles have been the greatest I have ever observed, and many packs are now very big and their territories are large. We were therefore not surprised when the BBC pack in the Sanetti plateau split up. The pack gained its name after a BBC team filmed them in 1987 and has been monitored for over 25 years. Early in the breeding season this pack was composed by an impressive 16 adult wolves and secession seemed inevitable. Soon a group of BBC wolves was observed using new areas around the core territory, and eventually two females



► Head Monitor Alo Hussein searching for wolves in the Web Valley ©EWCP/Eric Bedin



gave birth to pups in different dens. By early April, the *old* BBC pack and its twin-counterpart counted with nine and seven adults respectively, plus a total of eight pups! As a result, smaller packs nearby have been pushed at the periphery of the optimal habitat, and now Nyala, decimated by the last outbreak, is rarely seen. We welcome suggestions to name our newest pack. Any sponsor willing to take up this unique opportunity?

In the Web Valley, Meggity is also becoming a mega pack, composed by 13 animals plus five pups. The huge territory they use may allow for the group to split in the next breeding season, but nature will decide. Other packs are increasingly disturbed by the proximity to herding settlements, which prosper along the valley walls, such as Alando village and Mulamu, sitting between McKenna and Tarura packs.

Two hours away on horse-back, in Morebawa, something unusual happened. In the Osole pack, two females bred in the same den, within one month



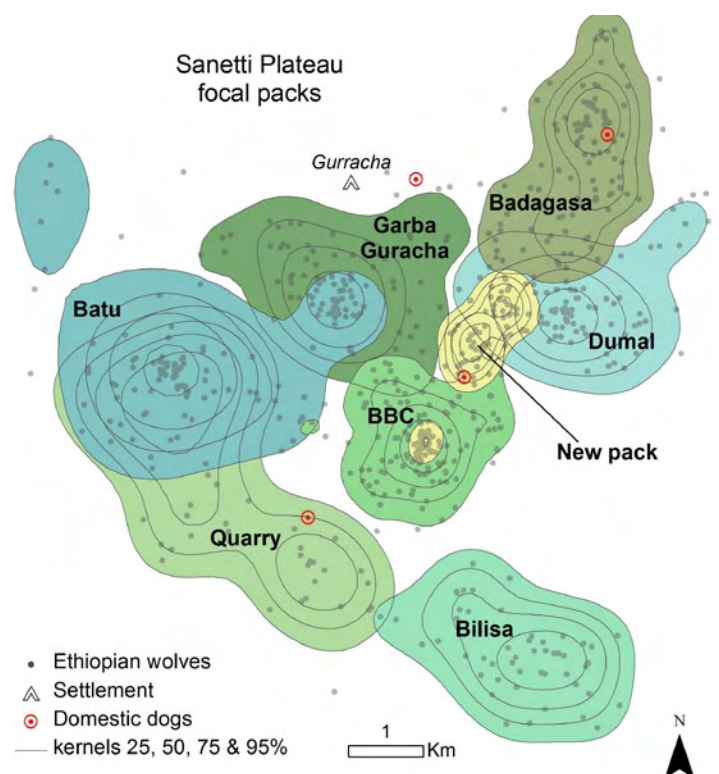
survival of juveniles

► Five month-old Meggity juvenile contemplating the vastness of its territory ©EWCP/Eric Bedin

of each other. It was exciting to see a litter of mixed ages, with four pups from the dominant female and two from the subordinate. All are now fully grown juveniles. This is only the second time that such a level of tolerance between the alpha and subordinate females has been observed since EWCP monitoring records began.



► Sanetti Team ©EWCP/Jorgelina Marino



2014, Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme.

'Other populations': Collaborations and the Wolf Ambassador initiative begin to give fruits

By Jorgelina Marino and Gebeyehu Rksta

The Bale Mountains harbour the largest wolf population and, logically, is at the centre of EWCP operations. For our work outside Bale, a different monitoring strategy is required, as the close observation of focal packs there is not feasible. Not only due to financial constraints, but also because the low density and elusive behaviour of the wolves render them difficult to follow. For instance, the social gatherings that provide the most valuable opportunities to observe large groups in Bale, are much rarer elsewhere.

With just one Monitoring Officer and one Education Officer for the whole of North Ethiopia, there were naturally long periods without monitoring activity in any given population. In response to this challenge, more funding and new strategies have been pursued, which are now giving their fruits. One is the *Wolf Ambassador* initiative started in 2011, which is boosting our monitoring capacity in North Ethiopia,

and is radically changing the way we communicate and exchange information with local communities and governments. In addition, EWCP has been actively supporting wildlife monitoring within newly-protected Afroalpine areas.

This is a summary of our monitoring work in the 'other populations':

Arsi Mountains EWCP Wolf Monitors from Bale visited Arsi for three weeks in July 2013, and worked together with six guards from the Arsi Mountains National Park. They located all but one of the nine packs known to inhabit these mountains, and encountered 38 wolves, including one sub-adult and five juveniles. The results were comparable to those from 2012, and confirmed the isolation of a single pack in Mt Kaka, the extinction of Meraro pack in Galama, and the threat of human encroachment along the Chalalaka corridor.



► Wolves were recently killed in Simien to commercialize their skins, used to adorn saddles. Thanks to the investigation that ensued, the culprits have been jailed ©EWCP/Fekadu Lemma



Wolf Ambassador initiative

► *Wolf Ambassador and Monitoring Officer interviewing local women that were collecting 'charranfe' bushes in the Borena Sayint National Park in South Wollo (October 2013) ©EWCP/Jorgelina Marino*

Guassa-Menz Our partner the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) implements wolf monitoring here as part of their work with the Guassa Community Conservation area. This population continues to recover from the outbreak of canine distemper that it suffered in 2010 and enjoys good protection as part of the Guassa-Community Conservation Area.

South Wollo EWCP implemented a comprehensive survey in and around Borena Sayint National Park (BSNP), involving EWCP Wolf Monitors and experts from the park and the regional government. Wolf counts were lower than those recorded by park staff in 2012, and our new estimate is of around 50 wolves (over one year old). The BSNP has potential to sustain an important wolf population, but the threats of habitat loss and fragmentation are significant.

North Wollo FZS, in collaboration with EWCP, implements wolf monitoring in the Abuna Yosef

Community Conservation Area (AYCCA). Regular wolf observations indicate a stable population but our Wolf Ambassador in Aboi Gara reported a rabies outbreak among dogs in villages directly neighbouring wolf habitat. EWCP responded by providing rapid advice to the relevant government office.

Simien Mountains – The Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) is one of our priority areas in North Ethiopia. The North Ethiopia Monitoring Officer regularly follows six packs in the SMNP in the neighbourhood of Ras Dejen - at 4,533m asl the tallest peak in Ethiopia. This year, however, monitoring intensity was lower to enable the monitor to do course work for his MSc. Nevertheless, EWCP was actively involved informing and raising awareness of the problem of wolf persecution affecting this population. The SMNP and the police have finally identified and punished the culprits of killing wolves to commercialize their skin.

All together, better monitoring and more awareness

By Jorgelina Marino and Gebeyehu Rskay

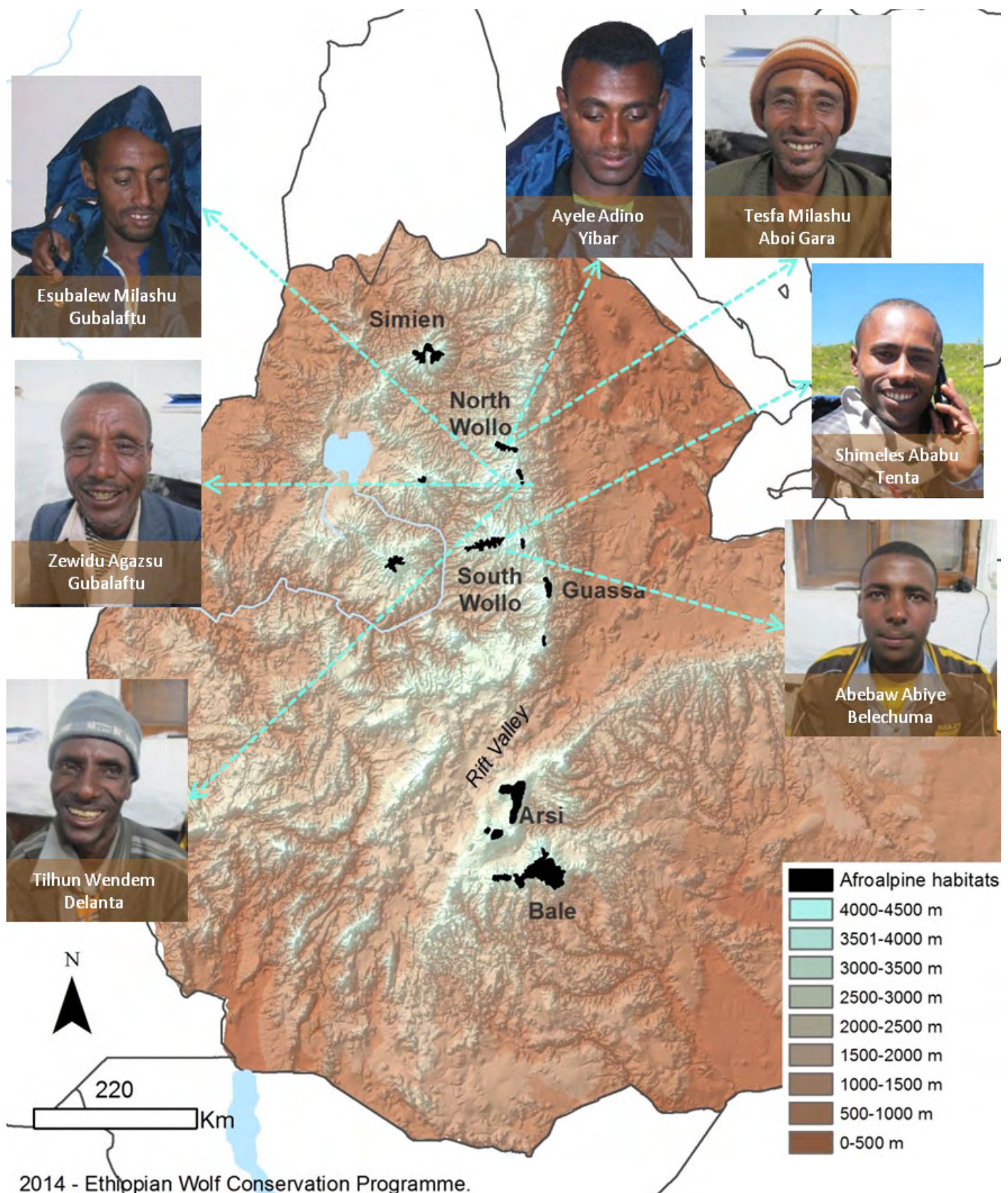
The Wolf Ambassadors are our eyes and ears in the most remote wolf populations, and they are the link between EWCP, the local governments and communities, and the protected area managers. This year the number of Wolf Ambassadors increased to nine. A new Wolf Ambassador was designated for the Yibar region in North Wollo, following our routine participatory approach. He will work closely with our first Wolf Ambassador, from the neighbouring Aboi Gara range. In April two Wolf Ambassadors were selected in the Simien Mountains, from among candidates proposed by the communities and with the participation of staff from the Simien Mountains National Park. Together with the other five Wolf Ambassadors, they have achieved much this year! These are some success stories.

► *Wolf pups playing 'tug-of-war' with rodent.*



► *Guard and expert from Borena Sayint National Park, conducting wolf counts in well-protected areas with tall grasslands and erica trees ©EWCP/Jorgelina Marino*

- A reporting network is evolved, involving Wolf Ambassadors, community guards and protected area staff. For example, the Wolf Ambassador in Aboi Gara reported a rabies outbreak among domestic dogs in the local village, to which EWCP rapidly reacted with an advisory role that facilitated the government's intervention.
- A Threat Reporting System was piloted in two areas, to record events of new and/or illegal encroachment, fires, harvest of natural resources, wolf mortality, wildlife diseases, and livestock predation by wild carnivores. Standard protocols and datasheets in Amharic were developed and training is ongoing. EWCP, Wolf Ambassadors and park scouts are collaborating to implement this reporting system in Borena Sayint National Park and Simien Mountains National Park
- The Wolf Ambassadors from Delanta detected problems with the construction of a new road traversing the wolf habitat, the arrival of more livestock herds to graze in this small Afroalpine range, and the persistent threat of illegal encroachment. They transmitted their concerns to the local government, which is now considering the designation of a protected area, and has enrolled two community guards already. One of the Wolf ambassadors is a local leader (Kebele chairman).
- In South Wollo the Wolf has Ambassador alerts the Borena Sayint National Park of plans to establish of a commercial sheep farm within wolf habitat, and of illegal encroachment in areas away from the park's regular patrolling route.



► *Distribution of remnant ranges of Afroalpine ecosystem in Ethiopia, and Wolf Ambassadors representing EWCP in the more remote populations.*

Disease control and prevention

Objectives: a multi-pronged approach to reduce the threat that diseases pose to the survival of the Ethiopian wolf, with the following objectives: i) assess the prevalence and threat of canid pathogens to wolves, ii) gather information on health status, diseases and causes of mortality; iii) investigate a vaccination scheme to protect Ethiopian wolves; iv) prevent disease transmission from domestic dogs.

Diminishing the rabies threat in and around Bale Mountains

by Muktar Abute

Rabies is the most immediate threat for Ethiopian wolves in the BMNP. Domestic dogs are ever present and central to the community life - each herder will own dogs to protect livestock against predators at night, mostly from spotted hyaenas. Unfortunately dogs are disease carriers, and represent nearly an "infinite" reservoir for rabies. Since the establishment of regular wolf monitoring by EWCP, outbreaks were documented in 1990, 2003 and 2009, when the affected populations crashed - nearly 75% of the wolves died and some packs disappeared. As an example, since the last pack living in the Gaysay grasslands near Dinsho was obliterated during the last outbreak, no wolf has settled there. Rabies outbreaks may also reduce genetic diversity, representing a long-term threat and concern.

EWCP, in coordination with EWCA, has been implementing rabies dog vaccination campaigns in and around BMNP for nearly 20 years. The purpose is to decrease the risk of a rabies outbreak within the dog reservoir, even though dog vaccination by itself is not sufficient to fully protect the wolves against this deadly disease. Our Vet team, composed by a veterinarian, a dog catcher and an assistant, is working tirelessly - typically 20 days per month all year round - to cover the largest possible area around the wolf habitat. During these field campaigns the Vet team, often accompanied by our Community Liaison Officer and Education Officer, works to raise awareness and spreads the message among community leaders.

Between April 2013 and March 2014, the team vaccinated 3,854 dogs. As usual, some communities were very cooperative and helpful, while others were reluctant and suspicious of our intentions. The number of dogs vaccinated during a session was clearly correlated to the presence of our education staff. In Garamba and Hora Soba villages, where EWCP is well known due to the vicinity of EWCP and BMNP headquarters (and the home of some of our team!), some 700 dogs were vaccinated during March 2014 alone. In May 2013, a month after an awareness campaign launched out at the annual Wolf Day in Adaba, and with the cooperation of the local population, we vaccinated nearly 600 dogs in 20 days. Both really striking results, taken into account that these dogs are hard to catch...

Over the last two years, some 4,200 dogs were protected against disease in the vicinity of the BMNP. Our Vet team will concentrate for



► Dog vaccination in the Web Valley © Rory Matthews

the incoming months on seasonal “corridors”, through which dogs potentially enter the BMNP accompanying their owners and their livestock.

Vet training in North Ethiopia

by Leta Edea

In December 2013 the EWCP North Ethiopia team paved the way for a Vet team from Bale to conduct vaccination and post-mortem training in Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Area and in the Simien Mountains National Park. EWCP carried out these activities in collaboration with FZS, which provided financial and logistical support. The EWCP Veterinary Officer, assisted by a dog catcher, spent 10 days training 11 local vets from four woredas on vaccination of domestic dogs against rabies. EWCP donated 3,000 vaccine doses, dog poles, syringes, disinfectant, and other disposables. Additionally, they trained the local vets on conducting post mortems following standard international protocols as practiced by EWCP. These skills will be useful to perform post-mortem examinations on any dead wolves or other wildlife. This hands-on capacity building of local technical staff will have a tremendous effect on allowing faster detection of disease outbreaks. Today any carcass found can be investigated and appropriate action taken to mitigate further wolf mortality. Similarly, rabies prevention and the detection of disease outbreaks will positively impact on human and livestock health as demonstrated by a EWCP funded study of the impact of vaccination on village livelihoods in Bale (Yilma 2009).

Yilma, A. 2009. The impact of vaccinating dogs against rabies and its prevention in human, livestock and dogs in selected Peasant Associations of Bale Zone. A thesis submitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine, Mekele University, Ethiopia.

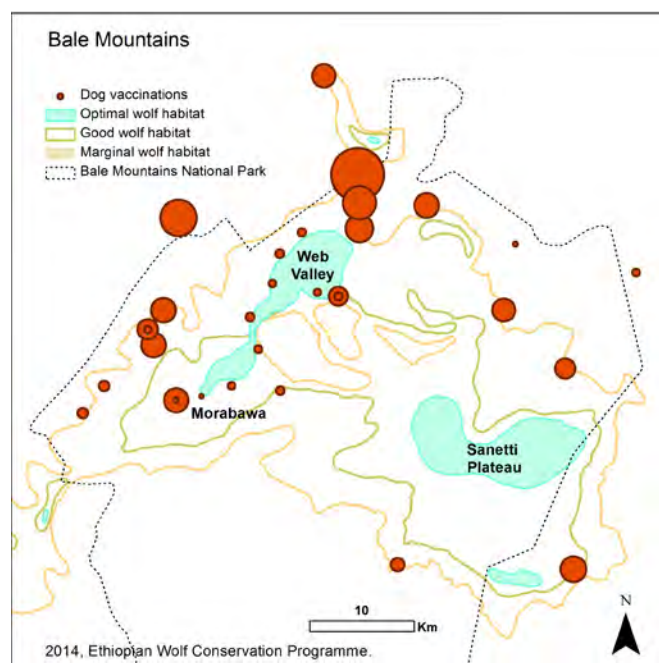
Oral vaccination as a tool to prevent rabies in wolves

By Eric Bedin

Recently we piloted an oral vaccine against rabies as a proactive management tool to control such a lethal threat. This approach, once we deploy it as a regular practice, will deliver better wolf protection and human health and financial benefits. The



► Vaccinating the wolves



► Location of villages vaccinated around wolf habitat in the Bale Mountains

original study carried out by Chris Gordon and Leta Edea on a pack of wolves in Bale showed promising results. EWCP is now rolling out a larger trial on several wolf packs in Web and Sanetti, and is also planning to test a vaccine against Canine Distemper Virus in another pack.

With disease being such a significant threat to small wolf populations, with up to three out of four wolves succumbing to an outbreak, and with demographic effects felt for years to come, this development could not come soon enough. We are confident that oral rabies vaccination will provide the most realistic, cost-effective and non-invasive approach to providing effective protection to the wolf population against this lethal disease.

Community education and outreach

Objective: The EWCP education campaign seeks to involve local communities in the protection of Afroalpine natural resources; continue with the development of a conservation education and extension campaign at school and community levels in Bale and other critical wolf areas.

Saving fuel, saving wolves

By Fekadu Lema

Most Ethiopians still rely on traditional forms of energy, such as firewood, unwittingly causing deforestation, soil erosion and creating health problems. For the people in the northern highlands the main source of energy is a bush locally known as 'charranfe'. Many Afroalpine landscapes in North Ethiopia are dominated by Charranfe heaths, offering important habitat for rodents and wolves.

After registering alarming levels of firewood extraction in threatened wolf populations, EWCP started the Fuel Saving Project in two areas: Delanta-Gubalaftu in Wollo and Mt Guna in Gondar. With funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and in collaboration with the Energy Coordination Office of GIZ (a German NGO), our team conducted socio-economic assessments, broad consultations with local stakeholders, and awareness campaigns. As part of this initiative, EWCP incorporated Shilmat Admassu as an Education and Outreach Assistant, with experience in forestry, food security and community-based conservation. Shilmat recently visited the Bale Mountains to meet the rest of the EWCP team.

We successfully organized an initial stakeholder meeting, coordinated field visits and demonstrations, and are now busy establishing a micro-enterprise for a selected member of the community in Delanta-Gubalaftu, who will produce fuel saving stoves locally. The stoves they will produce can reduce firewood consumption by half, and have been tested by GIZ in the Ethiopian highlands. We are very excited with this project and starting all over again in order to establish a second producer in Mt Guna this year.



► Local women collect 'charranfe', the main source of firewood in Afroalpine areas north of the Rift Valley
© EWCP/Jorgelina Marino



► Meeting with stakeholders in Woldia to introduce the Fuel Saving project and demonstrate the fuel saving stoves
© EWCP/Fekadu Lema

Nature Clubs and highland conservation

by Fekadu Lema and Zegeye Kibret

One of the key objectives of EWCP is to raise awareness of the critical status of Ethiopian wolves and of the fragile Afroalpine habitats, among the communities living in or close to wolf range. To date EWCP has established or strengthened 35 School Nature Clubs throughout the Ethiopian highlands, in Bale, Arsi, South Wollo, North Wollo and the Simien mountains.

The threats faced by the wolves and other wildlife are different in each area, and therefore Nature Club activities vary to respond to them specifically. This year some Nature Clubs promoted seedling and planting of indigenous tree species, others planted *Eucalyptus* for firewood and building, managed 'Guassa' grasslands for wise nature resource, while other club created a small library. Most importantly, these activities helped

to spread the conservation message to teachers and students, and through them to the community as a whole. Children, typically enthusiastic and eager to learn, are our key target. They are the future resource users and the crucial link to reach their families with new pro-environment ideas.

Nature Clubs also supported Environmental Education Training Programmes with topics that included environmental degradation, deforestation, erosion, loss of habitat, climate change and possible responses or mitigation. The ultimate aim was helping the community to understand how humans interact with, and impact on, the environment. Understanding these natural and social contexts can make communities change their behaviour and attitude towards the place where they live, to secure the future of the Afroalpine riches, including the emblematic Ethiopian wolf.

► *Planting native trees in a school of Mt Guna*
©EWCP/Fekadu Lema



Wolf Day in Aksta

by Fekadu Lema

This one only the second time that EWCP organizes a Wolf Day in the northern highlands of Ethiopia. The Wolf Day event was created 18 years ago in Dinsho in the Bale Mountains, and since then EWCP hosted it annually. Now the Wolf Day takes place in other two areas, namely Arsi and North Ethiopia. The purpose is to bring people together for a celebration of Ethiopian wolves and their Afroalpine habitats, through sport events, quizzes, poems and plays linked to the wolves and the environment. By reaching a large audience, EWCP increases awareness in the local communities living in and around Ethiopian wolves, as students spread the message out to relatives and elders, whose unsustainable use of nature's resource use impacts the future of the wolf.

This year Wolf Day took place in Aksta, in the Legambo woreda of South Wollo, one of four areas where EWCP works tirelessly in North Ethiopia to protect the remnant wolves. The event was attended by Aksta Technical & Vocational Education Training Centre (TVET), Aksta Secondary School and Delel and Birhan Tesfa Primary Schools. We were delighted to see more than 2,500 people attending the event, which was filmed by a TVET team.

In addition to students and teachers, also religious leaders, elders, woreda chairmen, government officials were also present. Their participation in Wolf Day was very important, as they are influent players within their communities and can play an active role in wildlife protection and sustainable resource use. Awareness of wolf biology and the impact of cattle grazing and firewood collection on the environment were the key themes throughout the day, as we tried to make the day both fun and educative. A very poignant moment of the celebration was when a religious leader expressed his wish for: *'long live the donors who help us to make a better place for the wolves and for us'*.



► Volley-ball game during Wolf Day in Aksta
©EWCP/Fekadu Lema



► EWCP team in Aksta ©EWCP/Fekadu Lema



Wolf Day in Aksta

Community outreach events

Adaba Wolf Day (Bale). The first Wolf Day in Adaba was celebrated in April 2013. This was the first time the show left the Dinsho Wolf Stadium to reach other communities. Adaba is a very important for the protection of wolf habitats in the nearby Web Valley and Somkaro-Korduro range.

Teacher's Workshop, Dinsho (Bale). Bale's Education Officer organised a Teacher's Workshop in Dinsho with 30 Nature Club heads, directors from 15 schools, and representatives from the Dinsho Woreda Education Office. Ato Aschalew Gashaw, BMNP Chief Warden, and Ato Addisu Tsegaye, BMNP sociologist, talked about the Park and its values. Over two days, the teachers learned about Afroalpine biodiversity, the benefit of conserving the wolves and their habitat, and the problems faced by wildlife in Bale. They had an overview of the causes of habitat degradation and how this impacts on people's livelihoods.

World Environmental Day, Woldia (North Wollo). EWCP participated of these celebrations with activities that included discussions with stakeholders, poems and quizzes related to environmental protection.

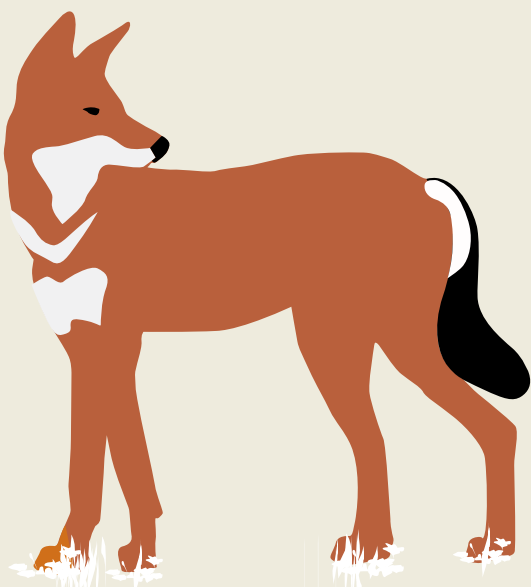
Arsi experience-sharing tour. Bale and Arsi Education Officers organised an experience-sharing trip to Bale for Nature Club Ambassadors from the Arsi Mountains. Twenty-three ambassadors visited the Bale Mountains for three days, spending time in the Park Headquarters, the Sanetti Plateau and visiting Bale Beauty Nature Club.

Experience-sharing tour to Guassa Community Conservation Area. North Ethiopia Education Officer and its regional counterpart organized a trip to this model conservation area with community leaders, forest guards, woreda partners and women from Aboi Gara, Gidan and Delanta-Gubalafto in North Wollo.

Goba Rabies Day (Bale). EWCP partnered with the *Global Alliance for Rabies Control* to support World Rabies Day in Bale for a sixth consecutive year. We gathered in Gamataja School, in a village adjacent to Ethiopian wolf strongholds, where some 400 students prepared poems, a quiz and posters with ingenious mottos and slogans. In her speech Dr Tigist Belete from the Goba Animal Agency, sent a clear message: 'help us to help save all of us, especially to save the endangered Ethiopian wolf from the brink of extinction'.

Degelu Wolf Day (Arsi). The 5th Wolf Day in Arsi was attended by the people of Degelu woreda, plus the students of four target schools adjacent to wolf habitat. There were football and volleyball matches, 100m and 200m races, all sprinkled with environmental awareness messages focusing on the wolves and the Afroalpine habitats. The EWCP Field Coordinator praised the school for the great organization, and School Director Husein Kelu talked about the mission of EWCP to save this wild carnivore unique to our country.

Goba Wolf Day (Bale). The 18th Bale Wolf Day was organized in Goba Stadium with the participation of four village schools close to wolf habitat. The event was structured as per usual with athletics, football and ball competitions. At the same time conservation drawings were exhibited and judged. The local government supported the event and lent the use of the stadium, helping the day to be a great success, with nearly 2,000 people attending. Beauty Bale Nature Club, the region's first and formerly supported by St Louis Zoo, was invited to present an exhibition on their achievements and future expectations.



Dinsho Nature Club visits the Sanetti Plateau

In May 2013 I led a trip for Dinsho High School Nature Club to the Sanetti Plateau, the largest such plateau in Africa. Fifty students and 10 teachers participated, and I was invaluablely assisted by the Nature Club Head Teacher and School Director.



by Zegeye Kibret

We started as soon as the sun rose over the Bale Mountains ridges, to reach the highest all-weather road in Africa bright and early. The idea was to put in practice, and in sightings!, what geography and biology teachers and myself taught at school during the year. Traversing the *Roof of Africa* gave us the opportunity to talk about environmental and conservation issues as the road left agriculture fields into the windy highlands. The stops were carefully programmed to cover topics such as altitude and vegetation, endemism, wise use of nature resources and flagship species. Once on the Sanetti plateau itself, we spotted the bright red coats of two wolves and were lucky to observe two six-month-old juveniles playing with a female baby-sitter. Both observations at a close range from the comfort of the bus! For most students this was the first time they ever saw a wolf, other than in pictures, and the image will stay forever imprinted in their memories.

Later we reached Tulu Deemtu, the highest peak in southern Ethiopia at 4,377m *asl*, where the cold rain, wind and mist did not deter the enthusiasm of the group. Between the clouds and the raging rain, we were able to see the vastness of the plateau and the ridges plunging dramatically to the lowlands. On the way back, after a long awaited lunch, we collected rubbish from the road side, doing our bit to keep the plateau clean. Leaving behind the clouds and wind, we visited the Bale Beauty Nature Club in Goba and walked the trail in their nature reserve, funded by St Louis Zoo and EWCP.

According to the energy displayed and the slogans shouted on the way back to Dinsho ('Protect the wolves', 'Stop disease' and 'Thanks to EWCP') I got the impression that the young environmentalists enjoyed the trip. We reached Dinsho late in the evening with a feeling of excitement and grown motivation for our wonderful Bale Mountains.

Research and Capacity Building

Objective: EWCP relies on strong science to inform and develop conservation actions towards the completion of its main objective: to assess, address and counteract threats to the survival of Ethiopian wolves and their Afroalpine ecosystem. EWCP is committed to building capacity in Ethiopia in the ecology and biodiversity conservation field, both within our organisation and the Ethiopian conservation community in general.

Hope for wolves in the new Borena Sayint National Park

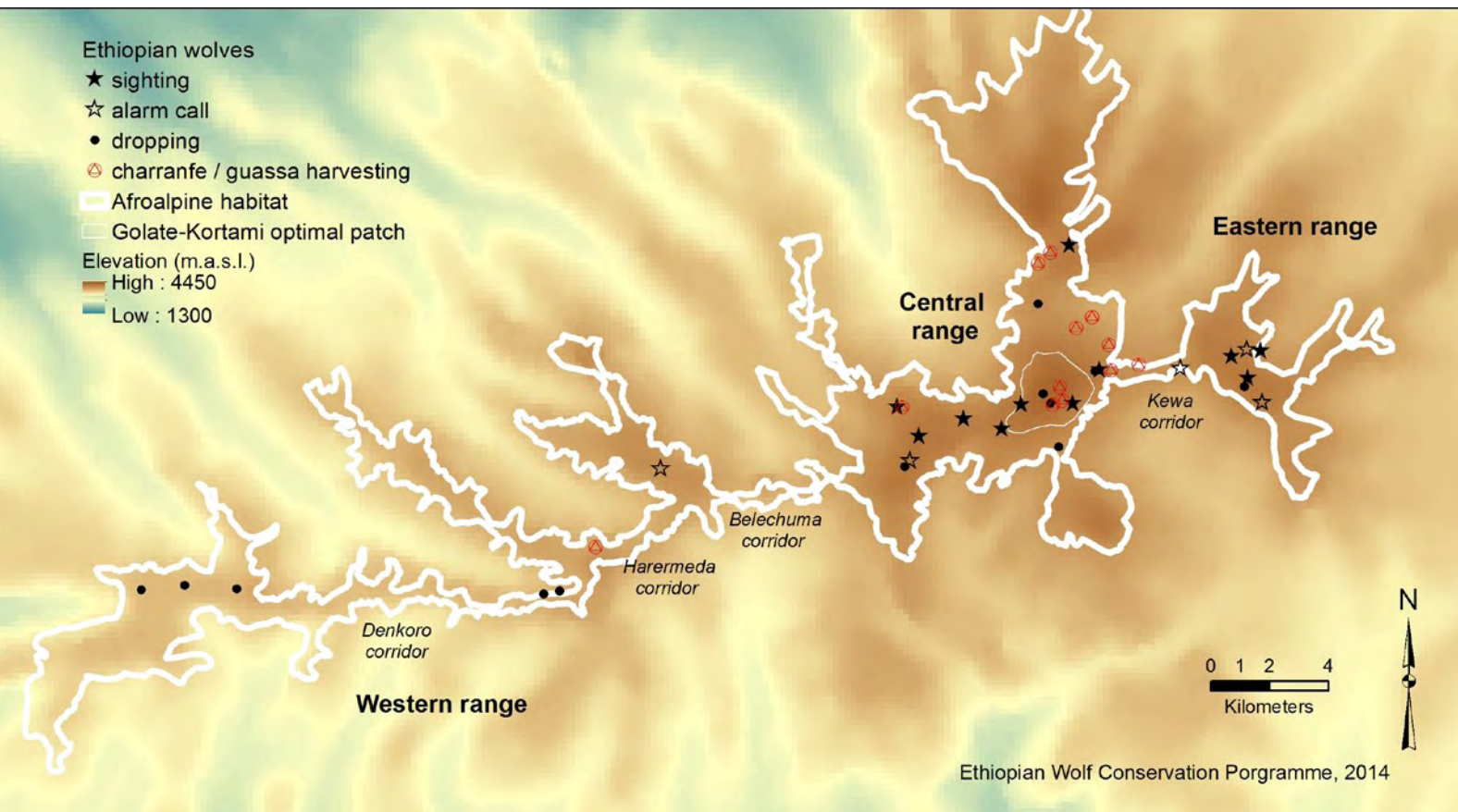
By Jorgelina Marino & Gebeyehu Rskay

Away from the traditional tourism route, the highlands of South Wollo are amongst the most remote and less studied. Thanks to centuries of protection they preserve one of the last relicts of continuous natural habitats, from the high Afroalpine grasslands and Erica forests, to the biodiversity-rich montane forests and lowlands beyond. And the good news is that the existing Denkoro Forest Reserve was recently expanded into the Borena Sayint National Park (BSNP), which

now encompasses all Afroalpine habitats and the wolves they sustain.

In October 2013 we conducted a comprehensive survey in collaboration with the BSNP, involving EWCP staff from Bale and North Ethiopia, including the two local, young and enthusiastic, Wolf Ambassadors. In teams of two we walked 83km over five days and sighted 14 wolves of a vibrant red.

► South Wollo highlands, showing the current extent of agriculture (mapped with help from recent satellite images) and all wolf sightings during the field survey





The BSNP has an abundant prey base that could sustain some 50 wolves, more than what we had predicted a decade ago. But there is no room for complacency. Habitat loss and fragmentation are significant, as agriculture carves out the increasingly narrow habitat corridors, and uncontrolled firewood extraction degrades wolf habitat. Newly built roads with increasing traffic run along corridors and ridge tops.

The survey helped cementing EWCP's relationship with BSNP, and for the coming year we plan further training and equipment for park experts, research on land use impacts, and the development of a resources management strategy to ensure that wolves and people can continue to share these remote mountains.



► *Top: The team coming down from the mountains after five days of hard work monitoring wolves and their habitats*
©EWCP

► *South Wollo camp at 4100m* ©EWCP

► *Right: South Wollo geladas*
©EWCP/ Marino



Ethiopian wolves in a changing landscape

by Girma Eshete



► Girma Eshete trapping and marking rodents for subsequent release ©EWCP/Anteneh Girma



► Anteneh Girma weighing trapped rodent ©EWCP/Girma Eshete

I spent part of 2013 in Oxford (UK) and Leiden (The Netherlands) Universities studying and developing research ideas for my doctoral these entitled "*Ecology of the Ethiopian wolf in a changing landscape: Human carnivore interactions in Afroalpine ecosystems of Ethiopia*". My doctoral research is co-supervised by Prof Hans de longh at Leiden and Dr Jorgelina Marino in Oxford, and is an opportunity that resulted from my Diploma studies in Oxford in 2012. In view of the persisting human impacts upon natural resources and the vulnerability of Ethiopian wolf populations to habitat loss I focus on ecological and social studies of the interface between wolves, their prey, and local people. My work takes place in the Afroalpine ranges of North Ethiopia, where human density is high and wolf populations are most vulnerable. Ultimately, my aim is to understand the ecological relationships linking them, how these are affected by land uses such as

livestock grazing and firewood extraction, and the concomitant impact on wolf populations.

In order to reveal the effect of livestock grazing upon rodent abundance and richness, we are carrying out live rodent trapping in Borena Saynt National Park taking into account variations in topography, vegetation and soil in areas under different grazing pressures. We are also looking at the diet and foraging ecology of the wolves under different scenarios of prey availability and human disturbance, and at people's livelihoods, attitudes and conflicts with wildlife by interviewing local people. It is my expectation that my research will contribute to understand the ecological and sociological relationships between plants, animals and people in tropical mountain environments, where natural resources are central to local livelihoods. It will also contribute to on-going monitoring and research work, conducted by EWCP.

Ethiopian wolves' favourite prey



Giant molerats – habitat engineers in the highlands of Bale

By Jan Šklíba, Matěj Lövy, Ema Hrouzková and Tereza Vlasatá

The giant molerat, *Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*, is a threatened and very localized Bale Mountains endemic. A member of the root-rat family Spalacidae, giant molerats are a key element of this Afroalpine ecosystem whose dynamic burrowing has an important role in the ecological succession of Afroalpine meadows. They occur at high density, offering sustenance to Ethiopian wolves (its favourite prey) and many other carnivores and raptors. Until now our knowledge of the giant molerat biology and its ecological role has been limited and this collaboration between our team at the University of south Bohemia in the Czech Republic and EWCP is unveiling many interesting information on this amazing animals.

We recently carried out two field campaigns in Bale (onset and peak of the dry season), focusing on the activity patterns, ecology, population genetics and communication of molerats. Altogether 27 individuals were fitted with radio-collars and their position and activity status recorded hourly in 2-day sessions. A data set of 288 radio-fixes per individual was obtained from 19 individuals. Although individual home-ranges were usually small, several long-distance relocations were recorded, one as far as 450m. Molerats showed a unimodal daily activity, probably determined by the temperature cycle. As many as six molerats out of 27 radio-tracked were predated during 150 days of monitoring,



► Giant molerat sporting a VHF radio-collar © Jan Šklíba

one of them by a steppe eagle, the other five by wolves. Ecological parameters were recorded both within molerat territories and at random points, and a large impact of rats on plant biomass and soil properties was evidenced. Molerats were able to survive even in territories where food supply was extremely reduced during the dry season. Only small food stores were found in excavated molerat nests. Tissue samples were collected from more than 120 molerats live-captured for a study on population genetics, parentage and mating system. Freshly captured individuals were also involved in a communication study, with the behaviour of 30 molerats video-recorded in order to obtain repertoire of acoustic signals. Molerats utilize head drumming as a means of seismic communication, and we were able to record it using seismological equipment.

Scout training and monitoring in the new Arsi Mountains National Park

by Alo Hussein

During July 2013 four EWCP Wolf Monitors travelled to the Arsi Mountains for a 20 day expedition. We worked together with the EWCP Arsi Education Officer and Community Liaison Officer, and visited many of the communities living in and around wolf habitat, talking to these people about the importance of Ethiopian wolves, the Afroalpine habitats, and the threats they face.

The Arsi Mountains National Park (AMNP) was established in 2011 under the stewardship of the Orominia Forest Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE).

EWCP has been working closely with OFWE, and six park scouts accompanied our team during this monitoring expedition. We trained the scouts in monitoring techniques, including the use of GPS and binoculars. A similar training is planned in 2014 along our partners in the AMNP. We visited all ten known wolf pack territories, attempting to gather the most accurate pack compositions possible from a rapid survey. At least three packs had bred during the 2012-2013 season. We saw no wolves in Marare pack territory – for a second consecutive year, and fear the pack may have disappeared. We observed a total of 38 wolves, including 32 adults, 1 sub-adult and 5 juveniles. Next monitoring session is planned for July 2014 to gauge breeding success and assess threats to the Arsi wolf population.





EWCP Scholars

Girma Eshete, a PhD student in Leiden and formerly at Mekelle University, works for North Wollo Zone Land Use Planning, and recently joined the EWCP team. Based in North Wollo, Girma has started his fieldwork studying wolves in the context of landscape changes. He has conducted community interviews about perceived livestock predation problems, and involved the park scouts and experts in his work so that they can assist with additional data collection.

Kassaye Wami, from the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), started an MSc course at the Wondo Genet Forestry and Natural Resource College at the end of 2013. He will soon start the field phase of his research, on *"Farmers perception and adaptation strategies toward climate change in the case of Bale Mountains National Park"*.

Gebeyehu Rskay, North Ethiopia Wolf Monitor, is doing a MSc in zoology at Bahir Dar University Topics on Ethiopian wolf behaviour and conflict in a human-dominated landscape. Last March he completed his courses and will soon start field work in Ras Dejen (Simien Mountains).

Addishiwot Fekadu, a BSc student at Addis Ababa University supervised by Professor Afework Bekele, completed her field work in the Web Valley last February. She is currently writing up her thesis on *"The impact of livestock grazing on rodents in the Web Valley of Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia"*.

Muktar Abute, EWCP Vet Officer in Bale, has been studying at the Veterinary Faculty of Debre Zeit University. He attends summer courses and does other courses remotely. All going well Muktar will be awarded his diploma within three years.

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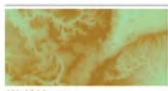
- species overview
- taxonomy and genetics
- distribution and status
- food and foraging behaviour
- reproduction

ethiopian wolf conservation programme

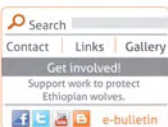
These elegant long legged wolves are only found in a handful of scattered mountains in Ethiopia. Some 500 survive today in small populations, threatened by loss of highland habitats, disease and persecution.



Latests News



Wolf Mapper



Map System Title

©EWCP 2014 - A WWF/CI endevour in partnership with Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and Regional Governments. Charly funded by Biotrop. Under the aegis of IKN/SCC Canal Sponsor Group.

Conserving Ethiopian Wolves

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Digitising EWCP's monitoring work

Since the 1980's biologists have been monitoring Ethiopian wolves across the highlands of Ethiopia and these data has informed our conservation strategies. We are fortunate in that Ethiopian wolves are diurnal, highly social and have relatively small home ranges, which enable us to collect high quality data in the field, making this rare carnivore species one of the best studied carnivores in the world. We collect data on the composition and demography of wolf packs in core and peripheral populations, other wildlife sightings, and vaccination and wildlife capture records. Increasingly, we also collect data on threats to habitat and wildlife. For instance our threat reports record dead animals, fires, attacks on livestock, new buildings and crops occurring within protected areas.

www.ethiopianwolf.org

To improve the efficiency of all our monitoring activities, and to handle the ever larger datasets, EWCP received a grant from the J.R.S. Biodiversity Foundation and established a partnership with WildKnowledge in the UK. The first product of this collaboration is an Android app, run on handheld Google Nexus tablets and phones, to collect all types of field data. Using the tablets and supporting power packs our staff apply customised forms to monitoring wolves, conduct monthly transects, record the vaccination of dogs or wolves, collecting conflict and habitat threats data, and collecting post-mortem information when necessary. The tablets have a built-in GPS and compass, allowing our team to collect all information using one device, while removing the need for paper and minimising human error while transcribing data. The app can download data directly to the EWCP database by accessing the cloud via wi-fi. After repeated field testing the EWCP android app is now in its second operational version, and we are now focussing on securing seamless transfer of the data to our FileMaker database and in visualizing the data in dynamic maps that will in due course be available through

www.ethiopianwolf.org/wolfmapper/



► North Ethiopia monitor with tablet. ©EWCP/Claudio Sillero

Our Team

New Field Coordinator joins EWCP

Last January Eric Bedin joined the EWCP Team as the new Field Coordinator. Originally from the French Pyrenees, and after studies in livestock production and agriculture in France and Tasmania, Eric spent seven years working on the reintroduction of Arabian oryx in Saudi Arabia. This was followed by a stint of four years as the technical adviser of the Gilé National Reserve in Mozambique. Eric has a broad experience on conservation issues, from captive breeding to reintroduction to law enforcement, and is particularly interested in community-based projects. After the vastness of the deserts and the remoteness of the Mozambican forest, his passion for wildlife and the last remaining wilderness naturally led him to join the EWCP and to offer his broad experience to help us conserve one of the rarest canids in the world.



► *Eric Bedin*

Leta Edea departs EWCP to open a vet clinic in Dinsho

Leta, who worked as Research Assistant and Veterinary Officer, left the EWCP team at the end of March. He had been a key member of staff since 1998, where he coordinated our Vet Team. With a scholarship funded through EWCP Leta completed his veterinary diploma at Debre Zeit University, took part on many wolf captures and was an able research assistant in early trials of oral vaccination in wolves and dogs. In his patient and meticulous way he trained several members of staff on dog vaccinations and post-mortem techniques. Leta starts a new venture in Dinsho with the opening of its own veterinary clinic. Without any doubt Dinsho gained a valuable veterinary practitioner. EWCP wishes him full success in his new life and is proud to have given him the opportunity to grow professionally. Leta will never be very far from the wolves and we expect he will remain closely involved in wolf conservation for years to come.

A Community Education and Outreach Assistant for North Ethiopia

While the EWCP develops its activities in the highlands of North Ethiopia, and secured a new grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, new staff was needed to implement varied community activities. In April 2014, Ato Shilmat Admassu joined the northern team based in Bahir Dar as the Community Education and Outreach Assistant. His experience on community-based projects and broad knowledge on wise and substitute natural resource use convinced EWCP that Shilmat was the right candidate to implement community conservation awareness and the fuel saving stoves in Guna and Debalaftu areas.

Selashie Hailu

By Claudio Sillero

A dear friend and colleague passed away in 2013. I first met Ato Selashi in 1987, at the then Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Department in the 5th floor of a cubic building overlooking the Stadium and Abiot Square (now Meskal Square). For a while he was my counterpart, and ably helped me negotiate the convoluted alleys of Ethiopian bureaucracy in many ministerial offices in Addis Ababa. When he eventually retired from his government post Selashie came to work for EWCP as an administrator assistant, and he drove around town getting vital permits and supplies for the field teams. He was a good driver and good company on the road, and seemed to know someone in every town we stopped at. In the last few years he had to deal with poor health and was often in pain, but he was always smiling, cracking jokes which he would wrap with contagious laughter and a mischievous grin. He was great company and a good friend. We will all miss you Selashie.



► *Leta Edea ©A.L. Harrington*

News

EWCA Welcomes New Director General



H.E. Tadelech Dalacho, State Minister of Culture of Tourism Ministry, introduced the new Director General of EWCA Ato Dawud Mume on 11 November 2013. Prior to this appointment Ato Dawud served both in governmental and business organizations, including the Culture and Tourism Bureau of West Hararge Zone. H.E. Tadelech Dalacho stated that 'EWCA should identify challenges in the protected areas in their order of emergency. Those serious problems that hinder PAs to become attractive destination for tourists must be solved this year.' To which the new Director General added that 'identifying exemplary activities and expanding to other protected areas are also vital to accelerate developmental activities in wildlife habitats.' EWCP looks forward to work with Ato Dawud in delivering the national action plan for Ethiopian wolf conservation, and providing every possible support for EWCA.

EWCP opens new offices in Bahir Dar and Assela

In June 2013 EWCP officially opened a branch in north Ethiopia in Bahir Dar. We are thankful to the Culture, Tourism and Parks Development Bureau (CTPDB) of the Amhara National Regional State to have allocated a large office in its building for our use. This is partly a result of the joint interests and intentions of CTPDB and EWCP to cooperate in protecting the Ethiopian wolf and the northern highlands. A very important first step of this collaboration was made a month earlier with the

► Ato Dawud Mume (third from left), in a recent visit to Zimbabwe ©FZS

signature of a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding between CTPDB/ANRS and the EWCP. Bahir Dar is located 565km north from Addis Ababa on the shore of Lake Tana, an ideal base for the north EWCP operations, within 3 hours drive from most work locations. The office is the meeting point for our north team, composed a Community Education and Outreach Officer, a Community Education Assistant, a Wolf Monitor, a Research Assistant and our focal person from the CTPDB. Everyone interested in wolf and Afroalpine conservation is welcomed to visit us at the Culture, Tourism and Parks Development Bureau, room 404, 4th floor, Kebele 16, Bahir Dar.

EWCP has also been allocated an office in Asela by the Oromia Forestry and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) from the Oromia Government. This reflects the increasing EWCP presence in and around the Arsi Mountains National Park, with the clear wish to initiate and support habitat conservation in the AMNP. The opening of the office followed the signature of a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding between OFWE and EWCP in May 2013.



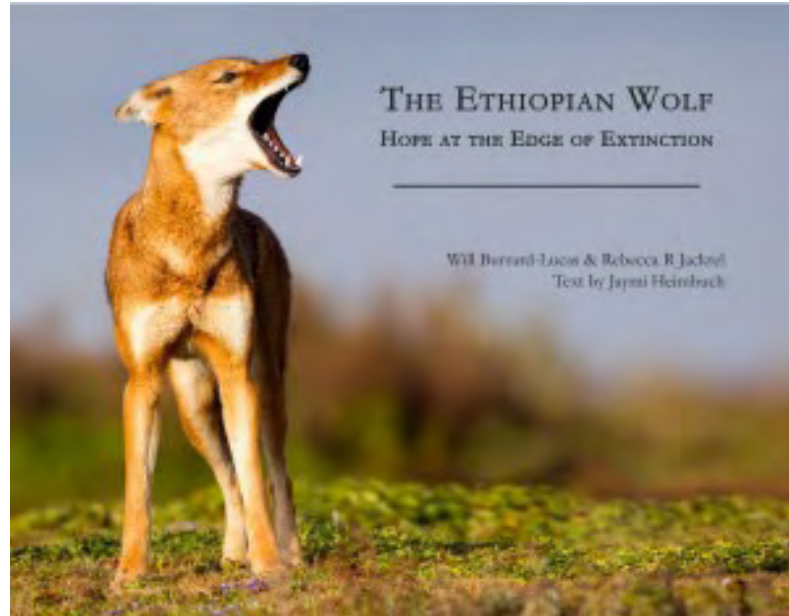
► EWCP office at the Bureau building in Bahir Dar ©EWCP

The Ethiopian wolf: Hope at the edge of extinction

This insightful and gorgeously illustrated book is the result of a partnership between Rebecca and Will and the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme. 50% of profits from every book sold will be donated to EWCP.

*By Will Burrard-Lucas and Rebecca R Jackrel,
text by Jaymi Heimbuch*

The Ethiopian wolf hangs precariously close to extinction with fewer than 450 individuals left on the planet. However, the little-known species also offers us one of the greatest stories of hope for successful conservation today. The problems faced by the wolves for survival are solvable, if we act. Photographers Will Burrard-Lucas and Rebecca R Jackrel travelled to the highlands of Ethiopia to document the lives of these elegant canids and the work the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme is doing to preserve the species for future generations. Witness the intimate pack lives of the wolves, enjoy the beautiful landscapes they call home, and learn how these wolves are becoming a symbol for what can be accomplished by dedicated individuals set on saving a species from extinction. Order now! www.ethiopianwolfproject.com/book



► *The Ethiopian Wolf: Hope at the Edge of Extinction*
(Hardcover, 152 pages)



Help wolves, buy a 'ky kebero' T-shirt

The Ky Kebero online t-shirt store opened in August 2013, administered by volunteer Alyson Baker from New Zealand, and hosted by the custom t-shirt platform Spreadshirt. All proceeds from the store go to EWCP.

Order now! www.ethiopianwolf.spreadshirt.com

Derek Yalden (1940-2013)

By Claudio Sillero

A good friend of Ethiopian mammals has sadly passed away. A world class mammalogist, Derek focussed on the British fauna and rarely travelled abroad. A significant exception was as a zoological advisor to the Great Abbai Expedition in 1968, an attempt to travel by boat down the Blue Nile. He got hooked, and subsequently took part in another five expeditions to the wilder parts of Ethiopia, which significantly advanced the knowledge of Ethiopia's mammals and amphibians. Several species new to science were discovered during those expeditions, including three formally named after him (a frog *Leptopelis yaldeni*, and two rodents *Desmomys yaldeni* and *Otomys yaldeni*). Among over 20 papers on the Ethiopian fauna, Derek published the first behavioural observations of the endemic giant molerat *Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*, the preferred prey of Ethiopian wolves in the Bale Mountains. He had strong links with the University of Addis Ababa and worked closely with several scientists in Ethiopia. His greatest contribution to Ethiopia in my view was a six-part catalogue and taxonomic review of Ethiopian and Eritrean mammals published in the *Monitore Zoologico Italiano*, which is stunning in both its breadth and depth, and continues to be an essential reference.

Monitore zoologico italiano	
ITALIAN JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGY	
PUBBLICATO DALLA UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE CON IL CONTRIBUTO DEL CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	
N. S. SUPPLEMENTO XXI	NO. 4 31105
30 6 1986	
CATALOGUE OF THE MAMMALS OF ETHIOPIA	
6. PERISSODACTYLA, PROBOSCIDEA, HYRACOIDEA, LAGOMORPHA, TUNULIDENTATA, SIRENIA AND CETACEA	
(PUBBLICAZIONI DEL CENTRO DI STUDIO PER LA FAUNISTICA ED ECOLOGIA TROPICALI DEL C.N.R. CCXXXV)	
D.W. YALDEN, M.J. LARGEN and D. KOCK	
Department of Zoology, University of Manchester Merseyside County Museum, Liverpool Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M.	
Received 13 September 1985	
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► Cover of the *Catalogue of the Mammals of Ethiopia*.



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For a complete list of publications see www.ethiopianwolf.org/publications.shtml

Project Administration

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) is a partnership between the University of Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) and the Born Free Foundation, which provides an ideal platform from which to address wildlife conservation. The EWCP operates under the auspices of the IUCN/SSC Canid Specialist Group, and additionally collaborates with the University of Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Debre Zeit, Gonder, and Wondo Genet in Ethiopia, and Universities of Glasgow, Leiden, South Bohemia and the Zoological Society of London, among others.

EWCP operates in Ethiopia under Memoranda of Understanding agreements between the WildCRU and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority

(EWCA) at a federal level, and the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) and Amhara Culture, Tourism and Parks Development Bureau at a regional level. In addition, EWCP works closely with the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the Born Free Foundation Ethiopia (BFFE). EWCP has long established and excellent working relationships with all these organisations. In addition, the Programme seeks the support and cooperation of local authorities for all field activities in all areas.

EWCP has been chiefly funded by the Born Free Foundation since its inception in 1995, with generous donations from the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) since 2002 and ongoing support from FZS.

► *Ethiopian wolf in the Web Valley ©Will Burrard-Lucas*



Our Donors

EWCP is deeply grateful for the support it has received over the programme's life time. We are thankful for every gift, since each contributes to the future of the Ethiopian wolf.

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Here we list our major donors since the Programme began:

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We extend our thanks to our anonymous donors, and those that have given donations under \$500 over the last three years.

Other donors that have given generously in the past include:

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Eric Bedin, Field Coordinator

Jorgelina Marino, Research Coordinator

Edriss Ebu, Programme Manager

Zegeye Kibret, Education Officer/Deputy Manager, Bale

Alo Hussein, Senior Monitoring Officer, Bale

Mustafa Dule, Community Liaison Officer, Bale

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Asheber Anbesa, Community Liaison Officer, Arsi

Fekadu Lema, Education Officer, North Ethiopia

Gebeyehu Rskay, Monitoring Officer, North Ethiopia

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IUCN/SSC Canid Specialist Group

Why Choose EWCP

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme is a WildCRU (University of Oxford) endeavour to help protect these endangered wolves and the Afroalpine habitats they inhabit. It works under an agreement with Ethiopia's Wildlife Conservation Authority and Regional Governments, with the aegis of the IUCN/SSC Canid Specialist Group.

Ethiopian wolves are only found in a handful of scattered mountains in Ethiopia are threatened by loss of highland habitats, disease and persecution. The most threatened carnivore in Africa, and the world's rarest canid, these long-legged charismatic animals need your help.

Informed by sound research, the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme targets the greatest threats to the survival of Ethiopian wolves and their Afroalpine habitat. We promote this charismatic species as a flagship, thereby protecting many of the Ethiopia's highland endemics and natural resources.

If you or your organisation is interested in helping to fund our activities contact us. You can donate to EWCP specifically through the following organisations:

Contact Us

Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

PO Box 215, Robe, Bale, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 221 190923

info@ethiopianwolf.org

www.ethiopianwolf.org

Wildlife Conservation Research Unit

Tubney House, Tubney OX13 5QL, UK

Tel: +44 1865 611113

www.wildcru.org

How to Donate

In the United States

Online or cheque donations (tax deductible) may be sent via:

www.wildnet.org/donate?id=12

Wildlife Conservation Network

209 Mississippi Street

San Francisco, CA 94107 USA

Tel: +1 415 202 6380

donate@wildnet.org

Tax Exempt ID #30-0108469

Please specify the donation is for 'Ethiopian wolves' in the 'Designation' field.

In the United Kingdom

Online or cheque donations may be sent via:

<http://www.bornfree.org.uk/give/>

The Born Free Foundation

3 Grove House

Foundry Lane

Horsham, RH13 5PL

Tel: +44 1403 240170

info@bornfree.org.uk

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