Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

Annual Report – April 2004-March 2005

Prepared by Claudio Sillero, July 2005

Executive Summary

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) works to ensure the long term survival of the rare and threatened Ethiopian wolf and its Afroalpine habitat. Last year provided a watershed for EWCP: It was our 10th anniversary, a new Field Co-ordinator was recruited, a new five-year work plan was submitted to the authorities, and an agreement was reached for collaboration with the Frankfurt Zoological Society on Afroalpine habitat conservation. More important, the wolf population in Bale, which was threatened by a rabies epidemic in 2003, started showing signs of recovery thanks to an emergency vaccination campaign implemented by EWCP followed by a good breeding season. Our wolf monitoring, education and vaccination teams carried regular activities ably and research activities continued as planned, with a highlight in March when a workshop on future research and monitoring needs took place in Bale. Activities of our team in North Ethiopia have been temporarily discontinued, until the new FZS project starts in full later in 2005. Professor James Malcolm, an old friend of Ethiopia who has devoted 30 years to promoting the plight of the wolves, has taken residence in Bale, from where he will coordinate EWCP field activities. A new website www.ethiopianwolf.org has been developed and will be operational shortly. This report provides some background to the EWCP and summarizes the activities implemented during the last 12 months.

Background

The Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) is a very rare carnivore found only in a handful of mountain enclaves in Ethiopia. With less than 500 remaining individuals the species is listed as Endangered by IUCN and is considered the rarest canid in the world. The Afroalpine ecosystem, where the wolves are the chief predator, are home to the majority of the endemic fauna and flora of the country. Ethiopian wolves are ultimately limited by the shrinking habitat due to increasing grazing and subsistence agriculture, and are threatened by disease, persecution, road kills and hybridization.

Attention to the plight of the Ethiopian wolf was first brought up in the 1960s. Subsequently, Professor James Malcolm, current EWCP Field Coordinator, visited Bale several times since 1974 specifically to survey the area to make estimates of the number of Ethiopian wolves, and has continued to champion the plight of this species outside Ethiopia since. The Bale Mountains Research Project, set up in 1983, collected the first population information on the species and lobbied to establish a research team to assess the conservation needs of the Ethiopian wolf. As a result, Claudio Sillero of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford, initiated the Ethiopian Wolf Project in Bale in 1988, which became the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) in 1995. The EWCP is chiefly funded by the Born Free Foundation, UK, and generous donations from Wildlife Conservation Network as well as other organisations.

The overall goal of the EWCP is the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf and its Afro-alpine habitat. A closely linked aspiration of the EWCP is to promote the protection of Afroalpine natural resources that are central to the social and economic well being of local communities.

Our working strategy is centred on the following objectives:

- To assess, address and counteract threats to the survival of Ethiopian wolves.
- To secure the conservation of Afroalpine biodiversity and ecological processes.
- To strengthen Ethiopia's environmental sector, particularly biodiversity conservation.

Since its inception the EWCP has contributed to the conservation of Ethiopian wolves in the Bale Mountains and elsewhere through monitoring, research, education, disease control, and support to protected areas. The conservation initiative resulted from several years of intensive research in wolf ecology and behaviour in 1988-1992 and the realization of the critical status of the remaining Ethiopian wolf populations, with the immediate threat of disease being brought to attention by the rabies epidemics affecting Bale in 1992 and 2003.

Much of the EWCP's work revolves around predicting, analysing and counteracting threats to the Ethiopian wolf and the Afroalpine habitats in which the wolves and their prey live. In doing so, the work of EWCP has strengthened the image of Ethiopian wolves as a *flagship* for the conservation of all Afroalpine species and of the valuable natural resources this ecosystem provides to the surrounding communities. If the Ethiopian wolf is to persist into the indefinite future, the Afroalpine areas in which it lives require immediate protection.

The most pressing threats to the wolves are:
- **Habitat loss and fragmentation** - due to high-altitude subsistence agriculture, overgrazing and road construction
- **Diseases** - particularly rabies transmitted by domestic dogs, which decimated wolves in Bale in 1991 and 2003
- **Conflicts with humans** - poisoning and persecution in reprisal for livestock losses, road kills
- **Hybridisation with domestic dogs**

The Ethiopian Highlands

The importance of the Afroalpine ecosystem cannot be overemphasised. Many of the endemic plants and animals that have been described for Ethiopia are specifically associated with this ecosystem, and exposed to common threats. Thus, the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf and the Afroalpine habitats has a profound knock-on effect on the conservation of many other Afroalpine endemics and near endemics. The EWCP has had an active role in strengthening and consolidating protected areas in Ethiopia and the traditional systems of sustainable use of Afroalpine resources. EWCP contributes to the conservation of Afroalpine habitat and biodiversity not only by direct presence and actions, but significantly by attracting international attention on the plight of Afroalpine biodiversity conservation and leverage for funds.

Modus operandae

Although the achievements of the EWCP in the last 10 years have outperformed our modest objectives, the presence of the programme is still critical for the foreseeable future to continue to counteract the persistent threats to the Afroalpine habitats and the wolves. Due to small population sizes and the nature of the endangering factors threatening the Ethiopian wolf, it may necessary to manage the species in perpetuity. The majority of the threats to

the wolves we have identified still persist. This was most recently and acutely illustrated by the recent outbreak of rabies in Bale that killed over 75% of a single wolf sub-population.

The long-term vision of EWCP is to seek sustainable solutions to the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf and the Afroalpine ecosystem, in order to address particular aspects of the most serious threats affecting their populations. All extant populations are small and isolated, at high risk of extinction from demographic and environmental stochasticity and possibly inbreeding.

One of the key features of the EWCP is that it is a relatively small programme. This has significantly contributed to the effectiveness of its work, something that is desirable to maintain. However, we also recognise that our programme cannot always be the sole executor for the achievement of these goals. We therefore propose that the EWCP maintain a central role in monitoring and protecting the populations of Ethiopian wolves, while acting as a catalyst and playing a facilitator role for other conservation initiatives. We adhere to our *2020 Vision*, which sets a timeline by which we hope capacity-building and increased environmental awareness will enable Ethiopian nationals to take over the implementation of most of the conservation actions required to secure the long term survival of Ethiopian wolves. We are aware, however, that funding from more affluent countries will still be required to make this vision possible.

Predicted outcomes

Ultimately, the success of this initiative would be equated with stable or increasing wolf populations and numbers across the Ethiopian highlands, but ideally the project should deliver quantifiable outputs, measurable for each module. Those are evaluated at the end of each five-year phase (see 2000-2004 Achievements Report). An adaptive management approach is followed, to ensure that the project goals and activities are rectified whenever necessary to reflect its successes and shortcomings.

There are some problems with listing achievements in the field of conservation. First, conservation programmes in developing countries, in working to build the capacity of local institutions and people, and changing the attitudes and behaviour of local communities, must work in long timeframes to have significant impacts. Second, we do not run a 'controlled experiment' in our interventions. Therefore, we do not leave 'control' areas in which no activities take place: there are so few wolves and so few areas with wolves that we act in all areas. As a consequence, we have few direct measures to determine the direct success of our activities. Changes could, arguably, have occurred even in our absence – particularly those that happen over long periods of time. However, the test – to withdraw the programme for an extended period to see if there is any difference in our absence – is unimaginable. We can say that in our absence, the threats to the Ethiopian wolf would be more acute. Overall, we can say that, despite the threats to their survival, the Ethiopian wolf remains in its habitat! There are, however, various achievements and milestones of the EWCP since its inception. Mostly they are indirect measures of success.

EWCP Activities in the last 12 months

1. Capacity building of Ethiopian institutions and people (C)

Objective: *To increase the capacity of Ethiopia in the field of ecology, biodiversity conservation and protected area management.*

Activities:

C1 – Employment, training and recruitment of EWCP staff
C2 – Partnerships with national and local institutions
C3 – Student training
C4 – Transfer of knowledge

Update:

We continue to work to build the environmental capacity in the country, through training of Ethiopian nationals in all aspects of natural resource management, and wildlife and ecosystem conservation, development of partnerships, and transfer of skills and knowledge.

C1 – Employment, training and recruitment of EWCP staff: In Bale and Arsi we continue to employ Ethiopian staff in the Field Monitoring, Education and Veterinary Teams, and those involved with project infrastructure maintenance. The personnel trained in the last few years by EWCP in North Ethiopia are now contracted by FZS in their habitat protection project.

In the last 12 months EWCP has trained its staff and counterparts in a) wildlife population monitoring, particularly wolf monitoring b) rodent monitoring, c) veterinary skills, d) environmental education and dissemination techniques, e) post mortem techniques, f) use of computers, and data entry and management, g) construction and building maintenance, and h) project administration. Training takes place in the field on an ongoing basis.

C2 –Partnerships with national and local institutions: We seek mutual support and assistance among national institutions and individuals operating in and around Afroalpine ranges in the areas of nature conservation, education, research, tourism and development, and try to assist them to fulfil their role in conservation.

Our partners at national level are:
- the Wildlife Conservation Department
- Institute for Biodiversity Conservation
- Addis Ababa University
- WildCODE - Wildlife Conservation and Environmental Development Association of Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Wildlife Natural History Society
- Dubub University
- Austrian Development Cooperation
- GTZ/IMFP Dodolla-Adaba WAJIB Project

At regional level:
- Ministry of Agriculture, Oromiya Regional State
- Ministry of Agriculture, Amhara National Regional State
- Bale Mountains National Park (scouts and technical officers)
- Simien Mountains National Park (scouts and technical officers)

At local level:
- Woreda (Agricultural and Rural Development Office)
- Local schools (teachers and Nature Clubs)
- Nyala Guides Association in Bale

C3 – Student training: We continue to assist with the formation of young Ethiopian field biologists by planning, facilitating and partly funding Diploma, B.Sc. and graduate level

research in collaboration with Addis Ababa University, Wondo Genet Forestry College and BMNP. In BMNP we provide logistic support at the Research Building for all students and researchers working in Bale. This includes academic input, IT support, library, field equipment, horses, field camps, and technical know-how. We also help with funding for specific research projects.

C4 – Transfer of knowledge: In addition to providing training to our staff, we use more formal channels for the dissemination of the knowledge derived from its various activities to other stakeholders, including training on monitoring techniques. In March we held, in collaboration with MBNP and FZS, an international workshop on research and monitoring priorities for Bale Mountains, attended by a blend of 60 experienced and young scientists.

Whenever possible our staff is actively involved in the dissemination of their skills and information derived from their work. Local communities are updated annually on project findings and developments, during public meetings organized at local schools, and Woreda meetings, particularly on matters related to direct threats to wolves (e.g., reporting a rabies epizootics, poisoning events, resistance to vaccination), conservation and use of local natural resources, and any new developments (e.g., new EWCP staff, new project activities in their area). Students conducting research in association with EWCP give at least one presentation of their work to a relevant audience. Opportunistically, international biologists and conservationists visiting or collaborating with EWCP participate actively of at least one dissemination activity while in Ethiopia.

Our staff, students and collaborating scientists produce a steady flow of scientific publications. These and our annual reports are made widely available among partners and through the new website www.ethiopianwolf.org.

2. Monitoring wolf populations, habitats and human activities (M)

Objective: Monitor and assess wolf demographic trends with a focus on Bale and other selected critical populations, measuring levels of livestock (dogs and grazing stock), persecution and habitat loss affecting wolf status.

Activities

M1 - Wolf monitoring in Bale and other populations
M2 – Disease monitoring
M3 - Monitoring of human use of Afro-alpine resources
M4 – Measure habitat loss and fragmentation across Ethiopian wolf ranges
M5 – Monitoring rodent prey

Update

Wolf monitoring activities have continued in focal areas of BMNP in Web Valley, Sanetti Plateau and Morebawa on a monthly basis. Overall 1,100 man-days were spent in monitoring activities during the last 12 months. All radio-collared and earmarked wolves, which had been vaccinated in Morebawa and Sanetti areas, were closely monitored for up to one year after the intervention. Packs in Web Valley were also monitored continuously for changes in pack structure, size, composition and territory boundaries as the population recovers from the 2003 rabies outbreak.

The wolves in Web bred exceptionally early this year (October) with 20 pups emerging from dens in five out of seven packs. Pack compositions and reproduction in Sanetti and Morebawa are currently being compiled from the monitoring data. Pups there emerged late (April-May) this breeding season. Elsewhere in Bale monitoring activities continued in Chafa Delacha (East Sanetti), Central Peaks, Raffu (West Sanetti) and Gaysay Valley, although with fewer and less frequent visits by the monitoring team to these areas. EWCP's knowledge of packs in these areas has increased substantially in the last two years; this has been facilitated in large part by the enlargement of the monitoring team from five people to nine permanent staff following the rabies outbreak and intervention. This growth in the number of trained staff has enabled EWCP to allocate intense monitoring to the core areas of Web, Sanetti and Morebawa while also expanding into new areas where new packs are still being discovered.

Elsewhere, the wolf teams visited Arsi Mountains twice and enumerated all known wolf packs there. The North Ethiopia team, based in Woldya, continued to survey and monitor all known wolf populations north of the Rift Valley, with detailed data on number of packs, individuals and reports of reproduction in all sites. The work in North Ethiopia has been temporarily discontinued due to organisational reasons. While up to now the EWCP was working independently there, we have now reached an agreement with a new Frankfurt Zoological Society project. Coordinated by EWCP's long-term associate and friend, Dr Zelealem Tefera, the new project will focus on conservation of Afroalpine habitats in all the areas where wolves live. FZS will provide logistics and personnel to enable EWCP to continue with its monitoring, education and dog vaccination activities.

We are currently reviewing our long-term monitoring plans and are considering new surveying and analysis techniques to quantify annual variation and be able to detect important demographic changes that may indicate disease epidemics. Our ecologist, Dr Jorgelina Marino, is analyzing a large data set from North Ethiopia and is measuring habitat loss and fragmentation across Ethiopian wolf ranges with the use of GIS techniques.

3. Disease control and prevention (D)

Objectives: *EWCP applies a multi-pronged approach to reduce the threat that diseases pose to the survival of the Ethiopian wolf, with the following objectives: i) assess prevalence and threat of canid pathogens to wolves, ii) gathering information in health status, diseases and causes of mortality; iii) investigate a vaccination scheme to protect Ethiopian wolves in Bale; iv) prevent disease transmission from domestic dogs; and v) improve disease monitoring practices in Ethiopia.*

Activities:

D1 - Oral vaccination of Ethiopian wolves
D2 – Vaccination of domestic dogs

Update:

Plans to research and develop methodologies for oral vaccination are gathering pace. During the last 12 months we have applied for permission to carry out vaccination trials, and experiments on bait acceptance by wolves undertaken. Field trials should start shortly.

Dog vaccination campaigns within and surrounding wolf ranges in BMNP are central to our work in Bale, and we have a vaccination team working full time in the field. To date some 30,000 dogs have been vaccinated in Bale alone, and a small campaign was undertaken in

North Ethiopia. Our goal is to achieve vaccination coverage of 70% of dogs annually in prioritised areas of Bale, and expand the vaccination campaigns to other critical wolf populations.

Long-term vaccination data (1999 to 2005) has been compiled into an Access database for detailed analysis. Similarly, data from interview surveys conducted to assess dog vaccination coverage in villages during the rabies outbreak have been analysed with the assistance of students from Dinsho secondary school, which received computer training in exchange. From analysis of the vaccination and interview data we will examine how the efficiency and effectiveness of the dog vaccination campaign might be improved.

4. Community education (E)

Objective: *The EWCP's education programme seeks to involve local communities in the protection of Afro-alpine 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.*

Activities:

E1 - Development of an education strategy
E2 – Community education and conservation education at schools
E3 – Road signs

Update:

Community education is an area of pivotal importance for the long term conservation of the Afroalpine and a EWCP priority. In the last 12 months we worked with an environmental education expert, Million Belay, to develop an education strategy on the basis of a reprisal of the success of current approaches in Bale. The process took in the results from a country-wide assessment carried out by EWCP of the attitudes of local communities to wildlife and the Afroalpine ecosystem, and the Ethiopian wolf in particular. The review also evaluated the education work that we have been carrying out in BMNP over the past eight years.

Our Education Team continued with its campaign in Bale and we are expanding gradually into other critical wolf populations. The campaign targets governments, local authorities, farmers and school children within and surrounding wolf ranges, hopefully increasing awareness of the Ethiopian people, including mountain residents, in the rationale for conservation of the Afroalpine ecosystem and its wildlife, particularly the Afroalpine resources on which highlands people's livelihoods depend such as water, pastures, firewood and building materials. An additional aim is to reverse adverse conditions for wildlife due to human persecution and habitat exploitation.

As part of the campaign the Education and Community Liaison Officers visit people on a house-to-house basis, promoting domestic dog vaccination and good dog husbandry, people's appreciation of the need to protect Ethiopian wolves, and the aims of the programme. We arrange meetings with village leaders and local authorities and strive to help people in Bale make the linkage between the benefits that the programme provides (e.g., employment, largest organisation in the economy of Dinsho and surrounding areas; emergency hospital trips for people from the local communities; Wolf Day, tourism revenue and employment, etc) and the persistence of the Ethiopian wolf and the ecosystem on which it is dependent.

Similarly, the Education Team visits local schools in vicinities of wolf ranges and distributes educational materials. Students and teachers visits are regularly invited to the park and receive environmental education input revolving around Ethiopian wolves and their conservation. Once a year we organize the annual "Wolf Day" in the outskirts of Dinsho, a sport day attended by elementary and secondary school students from around BMNP, which last March was attended by 1,500 people. We also support the "Ethiopian wolf" football team, which trains in Dinsho and competes regionally.

EWCP maintains road signs in all roads crossing wolf habitat, warning drivers of Ethiopian wolves crossing the road. Several signs were replaced in the last 12 months due to wear.

5. Habitat protection (H)

Objective: To protect areas of Afro-alpine ecosystem in Ethiopia, particularly where wolves are found, so that exploitation of natural resources is maintained at sustainable levels.

Activities:
EWCP promotes the long-term conservation of the Afro-alpine ecosystem through protected area infrastructure support and the development of community-based sustainable use strategies. Rather than undertaking this ambitious objective single-handed the EWCP role has been to leverage the establishment of such projects and work with relevant organisations to obtain funds (and has managed to leverage millions of dollars worth in projects for BMNP). EWCP works closely with other organizations, and in the last 12 months it has developed a memorandum of understanding with Frankfurt Zoological Society to collaborate in two Afroalpine habitat protection projects. These are: i) infrastructure support for BMNP; and ii) monitoring the effectiveness of the local system of habitat protection in Guassa Menz and other areas of North Ethiopia and implementation of its Management Plan.

In Arsi EWCP is developing links with the authorities to establish some habitat protection in the area, investigate the feasibility of patrolling and controls on grazing and firewood collection in prime wolf and nyala habitat.

6. Develop Eco-Tourism (T) [CAP Action 17.19]

Objective: To promote the development of wildlife-based tourism as a source of income for local communities in Afro-alpine areas.

Activities:
EWCP continues to advertise widely, both in Ethiopia and internationally, to raise the recognition of Bale as tourism/trekking destination, seeking to develop facilities that will provide an alternative source of income for the local communities. During last year EWCP has erected two trekking camps, in Web and Sanetti. Both are already operational, and EWCP is responsible for their maintenance and security. The camps are used by EWCP Field Teams and other researchers and park guards working in the area. EWCP will endorse further development of tourist infrastructure, provided that it is community-based and uses environmentally-sound building materials and services.

7. Population Management (P)

Objectives: *To manage dog-wolf hybrid animals in order to prevent their reproduction with minimum social disruption; to manage small wolf populations as a metapopulation, allowing reintroductions to areas where wolves became extinct in recent times or intervention when populations are threatened by demographic stochasticity.*

Activities:
P1 – Manage dog-wolf hybrids
P2 – Metapopulation management

Update:
Dog-wolf hybrids have been present in the Web Valley sporadically since they were first observed in 1989. Dog-wolf hybrids occur when female wolves and male dogs mate. If the fertile hybrids remain within the wolf population, the dog genes may spread to threaten the genetic integrity of the wolf population. To date two hybrid animals have been caught and sterilized. At the moment we do not know of any hybrid (although reports from Mt Guna are currently being investigated). EWCP has a management protocol to screen DNA samples from any putative dog-wolf hybrid. Dog-wolf hybrids will be captured and sterilized as soon as they are positively identified, and subsequently monitored post intervention.

We have been working on models based on strong demographic and genetic data that will help us develop predictions for the eventual active management of Ethiopian wolf populations to ensure their genetic and demographic integrity, and viability. These would include eventual reintroduction to areas where they have become extinct, such as Mt Choke, or to supplement small populations.

8. Research (R)

Objective: *the 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 Afro-alpine ecosystem.*

Activities:
R1 –Trophic interactions of Ethiopian wolves (ongoing)
R2 – Mating systems, demography & genetics (ongoing)
R3 – Ecological and behavioural regulation of pup survival (ongoing)
R4 – Feasibility of oral vaccination of Ethiopian wolves (ongoing)

Update:
Excellence in research has been the foundation of EWCP since its inception, and has greatly contributed to the success of the programme. Most of the main activities of the programme contain a research component, either at the stage of developing a conservation tool, to predict its feasibility, or later to assess the impact of its implementation. Under this heading we consider research projects that focus on specific problems and are not part of the every day project activities.

R1 –Trophic interactions of Ethiopian wolves (ongoing): Studies of wolf demography, social organization and behaviour under different conditions of prey abundance, richness and distribution across Ethiopia.

R2 – Mating systems, demography & genetics (ongoing): The effects of mating system, social structure and disease outbreaks on population genetic variation are being determined in the Bale Mountains. We are undertaking analysis of parentage of pups to determine individual reproductive success and the effect of extra-pack paternity on relatedness and genetic variation. The results will be used to develop a predictive model on the ecological and social determinants of population genetic variation. This is pertinent because of the size and degree of isolation of some wolf populations and their potential for loss of genetic variation over time.

R3 – Ecological and behavioural regulation of pup survival (ongoing): Factors affecting pup survival are being determined in the Bale Mountains population. The parameters being assessed include variation in pack size and composition, magnitude and type of human pressures, domestic livestock and dog densities, habitat quality and rodent densities. A key feature of the work is how pack structure, and foraging success affect pup survival. The contribution of helpers to pup survival is also being investigated.

R4 – Feasibility of oral vaccination of Ethiopian wolves (ongoing): Testing different vaccines and means of delivery and evaluating the feasibility of oral vaccines as a preventive management tool. Permission for importing vaccines and approving the field trial are advanced and experimentation should start soon.

9. Project administration

Activities:

A1 - Management of the EWCP
A2 – Coordination of Ethiopian wolf conservation
A3 – Financial sustainability of the EWCP

Update:

Professor James Malcolm has taken over as EWCP's new Field Coordinator. James' experience with Ethiopian wolves spans 30 years; since 1975 he has visited Ethiopia regularly to study the wolves, mountain nyala and other highland wildlife, and was instrumental in raising awareness on the plight of the wolves which eventually led to the establishment of the EWCP. Originally from Britain, James graduated from Oxford and received a PhD from Harvard for his work on African wild dogs in Serengeti. He is on extended sabbatical from Redlands University in California. James replaces former Coordinator Dr Stuart Williams, who continues to work in the conservation sector in Ethiopia.

Claudio Sillero is EWCP's Director, a non-stipendiary position based in Oxford. He represents WildCRU and Born Free Foundation before the Government of Ethiopia, undertakes fund-raising and speaks for EWCP in international forums as required. The Director and Field Co-ordinator liaise with EWCP's international sponsors.

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Committee, meeting twice a year in Addis Ababa and hosted by WCD and EWCP, is comprised of key stakeholders and decision-makers within Ethiopia. The Committee assesses the progress of the Programme and advises on its direction.

A group of international advisers has been set up as the EWCP Coordinator Group, meeting in the UK once or twice a year. Its main objective is to review progress and provide a forum for donors and other partners to participate in developing EWCP strategy.

Partner Organisations

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP), formally established in 1995, operates as a partnership between Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) and Born Free Foundation, which provides an ideal platform from which to address wildlife conservation. Our combined skills and enormous experience in conservation and working with local peoples are complementary. We bring a professional, multi-disciplinary approach to try to resolve the complex range of issues. While WildCRU has been working chiefly on how animal populations tick, and on ways how to ensure their survival, Born Free has traditionally been more concerned with the welfare of individual animals. The EWCP has the auspices of the IUCN/SSC Canid Specialist Group, and collaborates with the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine of Edinburgh University and the Zoological Society of London.

The EWCP operates in Ethiopia under an agreement with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Department (WCD) at a federal level and with the Agricultural Bureaux of the Council of the Regional State of Oromiya and the Amhara National Regional Government at a regional level. EWCP has long established and excellent working relationships with these organisations. In addition, the Programme seeks the support and cooperation of local authorities for all field activities in all areas.

The EWCP is chiefly funded by the Born Free Foundation and generous donations from Wildlife Conservation Network. Additional funds have been received from Frankfurt Zoological Society, The Wellcome Trust, Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, the Morris Animal Foundation, National Geographic Society, St. Louis Zoo, the African Wildlife Foundation, John Aspinall Foundation, Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society, the IFMP-GTZ project in Adaba-Dodola, Conservation International, CEPA, the Wolf Conservation Trust – UK, Bern Thies Foundation, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Fiona McKenzie, a few other organisations and a number of private donors.

Field Team

Field Coordinator
WCD Programme Counterpart
Field Officer, Bale
Field Officer, North Ethiopia
Education Officer, Bale
Community Relations Officer, Bale
Veterinary Officer, Bale
Field Assistant, Bale x 4
Field Assistant, North Ethiopia x 4 (with FZS)
Veterinary Assistant, Bale
Museum Keeper & RB Cleaner, Dinsho
Research Building Store Keeper, Dinsho
Works Manager, Bale
Research Building Guards x 2
Research Camp Guards x 2

Horse Guards x 2
Part-time and casual staff x up to 20

Advisers (Non-Stipendiary)

Dr Claudio Sillero	Founder/Director EWCP; WildCRU/Born Free Foundation
Dr Karen Laurenson	Wildlife Epidemiologist; Frankfurt Zoological Society/University of Edinburgh
Dr Zelealem Tefera	Community Conservation and Protected Areas
Dr Fekadu Shiferaw	EARO Research Team Leader
Dr Stuart Williams	EWCP Coordinator 2000-2004
Prof David Macdonald	Director of WildCRU, Canid Specialist Group
Dr Jorgelina Marino	Ecologist, WildCRU
Ms Dada Gottelli	Geneticist, Institute of Zoology London
Mr Will Travers	Born Free Foundation, Director Campaigns
Mrs Stacey Iverson	Wildlife Conservation Network, Project Manager

Finances

How much does it cost?

The current running costs of EWCP are US$200,000 per year. To this, additional modules could be added:

- $5,000 would pay for the salary and running costs of an additional Education Officer.
- $10,000 would pay for the training of two Ethiopian biologists at Wondo Genet College.
- $20,000 would build an Education and interpretation Centre in the Bale Mountains.
- $30,000 would pay for a much needed new 4x4 truck to replace one of the ageing vehicles.
- $50,000 would pay for four Mountain Camps to promote Trekking in Bale.
- $100,000 would cover the establishment of a permanent education and wolf monitoring teams in the Arsi Mountains.
- $2 million would set up a trust to fund core implementation costs of EWCP objectives in perpetuity.

How can you help?

- Supporting the EWCP through WCN.
- Supporting WCN fundraising events.
- Funding one of the proposed additional modules.
- Enrolling the support of other individuals and charitable organizations in the US.
- Helping us set up a US-based Trust.

Dr Claudio Sillero, Director EWCP
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