



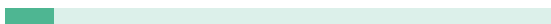
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## **EWCP Update April 2002**



### **EWCP held as standard**

At the Biological Society of Ethiopia meeting in February, the theme of which was conservation, it was generally agreed that the EWCP leads as the outstanding example of a conservation project within the country. This followed the presentation on the EWCP by Zelealem Tefera.



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## Introduction

This update fills a gap of some months. The past few months have been busy for the EWCP, both in Oxford and in Ethiopia. I believe that we are moving into an exciting phase of the EWCP's history. First, we will have two DPhil students, Lucy Tallents and Deborah Randall, starting work in earnest in the next few months. Their work will significantly expand our understanding of the biology of the Ethiopian wolf. Second, our drive to expand the activities of the EWCP to areas beyond Bale are proving successful. The process has been consolidated by Karen Laurenson's efforts to secure funding, particularly

for the disease-prevention aspects of our work. Karen has secured a three-year pledge of funding from Frankfurt Zoological Society. Third, some of the groundwork that has been laid of the past year is beginning to show glimmers of fruition. This update touches on these things, but the annual report, due in two months' time, will report fully on all our activities.

Stuart Williams

EWCP Co-ordinator

Dinsho, Ethiopia



## Monitoring, Research & Researchers

*The 2001/02 monitoring of the breeding season in Bale is coming to a close. Preliminary results suggest that there have been many pups in Web but there may be a low recruitment in Sanetti.*

### 2001/02 Breeding season

The breeding season of 2001/02 is drawing to a close.

The pups in the Web valley and on the Sanetti plateau have been born. On the Sanetti plateau, the data on the emerged pups have yet to be collected (the monitoring team is collecting these data as this is written). The survival of this cohort of pups will be subjected to great scrutiny forming, as they do, the

first data point for Lucy Tallents' DPhil.

In the north, Abiot (alias Fekadu) and Wolde are both working in North and South Wollo, respectively. They are now in place in these areas on a permanent basis. Their task is to monitor the wolf populations. This is more difficult than it sounds and the data are coming in very slowly. Funding dependent, we may make the move to attach radio-

**Table 1.** The pack compositions (to March 2002) in the areas monitored in the Bale Mountains National Park (where F = female, M = male and U = unknown sex). Note that most pups on the Sanetti plateau had not yet emerged.

Pack	Adults			Subadults			Pups			Total
	F	M	U	F	M	U	F	M	U	
<i>Web</i>										
Darkeena	2	3			1	1		1	4	12
Doda	1	1			1		1	1	2	7
Fincha	1	2								3
Kotera	2	4		1	1		1	1	3	13
Megiti	3	5	1					2	5	16
Mulamu	1	3	1		2	1			4	12
Sodota	1	2			1				4	8
Gaysay	1	1	2		1				3	8
<i>Sanetti</i>										
Nyala	1	3		1	1					6
BBC	1	2			1	1				5
Garba Guraja	1	2			1				4	8
Quarry	1	3	1		1	1				7
Tullu Deemtu			4							4
Koromi	No sign found during one day's survey									
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>109</b>

*Lucy Tallents has begun her DPhil work which will focus on reproductive suppression and pup survival.*

collars to a few individuals within these areas. This will increase the efficacy of their work immeasurably.

Finally, on the wolf monitoring, we are at present searching for a person who will be based permanently in the Simien Mountains. Our first candidate was rejected.

#### DPhil students - Lucy Tallents & Deborah Randall

Lucy arrived in Ethiopia in November 2001 to begin her time as a probationary student with the EWCP. Over the past few months, Lucy has honed the focus of her work to come. She has been in the field trying out techniques to assess which will work. Now her thoughts are now more or less complete. In brief, she will examine the factors that affect 1) the number of females that breed in each pack, and 2) the number of pups that survive per pack per breeding season. This, therefore, includes an examination of the mechanisms of breeding suppression – which can occur through either 1) suppression of endocrine

*Deborah Randall will also be starting her DPhil in the coming months although the subject of her work is yet to be clear.*

cycles and/or 2) suppression of reproductive behaviour (Packard *et al.*, 1985). The survival of pups will be related to ecological and behavioural variates, including alloparental behaviour by pack members.

In addition to Lucy, Deborah Randall has also been taken on as a DPhil student with the EWCP. While Lucy's funding is secure from the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Deborah has secured funds for her fees (probably the most difficult part of funding a DPhil). A small amount for her stipend has been secured but she has yet to secure funding for her fieldwork. This will undoubtedly take some of her efforts in the next few months.

Deborah and Lucy will spend the next few weeks finalising their thesis plans. Up to Lucy's departure back to the UK, it was evident that there was an overlap in their interests. These need to be teased apart. At some point, we will also need to think what additional information can be gleaned from the two of them working in the field in parallel. One thing is clear: the products that result from this period of research on the Ethiopian wolf will far outweigh the simple sum of two people's work.

#### Domestic dog ecology

The work that Anagaw Atickem has completed to



*Anagaw Atickem's work on domestic dog ecology has shown that pastoral people in Afroalpine ecosystems rely on dogs not just to protect their livestock, but to clean villages of all edible refuse and human faeces.*

date has produced some fascinating results. As you may recall, Anagaw is an MSc student from the University of Addis Ababa. He is carrying out his field project with us and has proven to be a dynamic, dedicated fieldworker. Anagaw has been examining the ecology of domestic dogs in the Web valley – one of the areas with the highest densities of Ethiopian wolf. The aims of his work have been, first, to examine the feeding ecology of the dogs, with the specific aim to determine the extent to which they and the Ethiopian wolves may compete for food. Second, he has been examining the use of space by the dogs to determine the rate and nature of their interactions with wolves and with other dogs. This will tell us which dogs may be most important in the transmission of disease - and, therefore, those that need to be most accurately targeted in vaccination campaigns.

The preliminary results of Anagaw's study has shown us that, as we originally suspected, people do not keep dogs for the sole purpose of guarding their livestock. This is the tale that they will tell one if and when asked. They have an arguably more important role. This is to act as mobile refuse and sanitary units. They keep the villages clean of all edible rub-

bish, particularly the husks of the barley which is the main food item for the people during the period from January – March each year. They also clean up most if not all human faeces.

This work is incomplete, primarily because it has given us a snapshot of the activities of the dogs from November – present. This has left a time window in the year which may prove more important – the rainy season. There are a number of reasons why the rainy season may be more important: 1) it is the time when the wolves are mating, and the rate and nature of dog-wolf interactions are likely to change, 2) it is the time when the densities of dogs becomes much higher, with the arrival of the seasonal pastoral people, their livestock and dogs, and 3) it is the time when food may become limiting for the dogs (based on the results to date with dogs eating the highly abundant barley husks following the harvest). If food is limiting, we predict that they will expand their ranges and diets - and may then compete with the wolves. In order to answer these uncertainties, dependent on funding, it is more than likely that we will take Anagaw on as a research assistant for the coming year.

There is also the possibility that our work on

*Through Dr Alessia Ortolani, the EWCP may carry out further work into domestic dog reproductive ecology. How this works in this substantially modifies population remains unclear.*

the domestic dogs will broaden. Dr Alessia Ortolani, working under Ray Coppinger, will be assessing Bale as a potential area to study the reproductive biology of semi-feral dogs. Whether the reproductive biology of the Bale population is of any general relevance remains to be seen. The study will have to be taken in the context of a population, first, in which the sex-ratio is heavily skewed towards males because it is managed by the people to be so, and, second, in which about 50% of the animals have been sterilised by the EWCP. If the study does seem applicable - following a short visit by Alessia in May - June this year - we will work out how the work relates to the EWCP.

#### Domestic livestock ecology

In the coming months, we will also be working with a student from the University of Basel, Switzerland. Agneta Heuman will be coming to Bale to carry out her MSc thesis. Under our guidance, she will be examining the relationship between the domestic livestock and the mountain nyala. In particular, she will be examining the habitat use by and foraging behaviour of these species. The study will contribute to the overall conservation strategy for the Bale Mountains National Park. I predict that the data will

*Through Agneta Heuman, the EWCP will be examining the potential for competition between domestic livestock and mountain nyala within the Afroalpine ecosystem.*

be used to persuade the local pastoral people that there is limited or no overlap between the cattle (the livestock species of greatest concern) and the nyala. At present the people drive nyalas away from areas used by cattle, in particular, because of perceived competition.

The data that Agneta will collect will be available to the EWCP and will be useful particularly for Lucy Tallents' examination of the ecological factors affecting pup survival.

#### Wolf in the Hurri hills

Northern Kenya is arid: from the flat sands of the Chalbi Desert one climbs through a moonscape of the lava desert to the Hurri Hills, just to the south of the Kenya-Ethiopia border. The Hurris themselves are the remnants of many volcanic craters, now covered in grass, some rare aloes and scattered *Erythrina* trees. At only 1,500m above mean sea level, they differ dramatically from the Afroalpine ecosystem where one would normally expect to find the Ethiopian wolf.

Recently, I was travelling from Kenya back to Ethiopia - thinking that I was more in Grevy's zebra habitat than that of the Ethiopian wolf, when I met an arid-lands ecologist who has been working in the

*Over the past few months, we have received various reports of wolf sightings in 'uncharacteristic' habitats. We are following these leads.*

area for just under 30 years. He recalled seeing an Ethiopian wolf stalking a flock helmeted guinea fowls on the Hurri Hills some 15 years ago. At first he did not recognise it as being an Ethiopian wolf, but it was confirmed as such when he was shown a photograph of an Ethiopian wolf a short time later.

This tale led me to recall another told by another excellent naturalist of wolf sightings in "uncharacteristic" habitats in Ethiopia of about 2,000m.

These are but anecdotes, interesting in the fact that the Hurri Hills are startlingly remote - some 450km - from the nearest Afroalpine habitat known today to harbour Ethiopian wolves. Yet with so few wolves known to survive today, these threads are worth pursuing. We, in the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme, will be seeking information on further sightings of wolves in such areas. We might then begin to understand what these wolves were doing in these areas and whether there is any possibility that there may be more still surviving out there.

#### [Wolf reports to the west of the Bale massif](#)

In our efforts to gather further information about wolf distribution, we have another unconfirmed anecdote. This time it is from the hills to the west of the Bale massif. These hills are also low lying - they peak

at about 2,000 metres asl. The peaks are also grasslands surrounded by woodlands. Much closer to home, members of the EWCP team will be investigating this report in June - July this year.

#### [Miscellany - wolves chase hyaenas](#)

In the accumulation of interesting anecdotes and stories of wolves (in other words, low incidence occurrences that make interesting reading but they do not happen frequently enough to be incorporated into testable scientific hypotheses), two wolves were recently seen chasing off a spotted hyaena. The dispute was not over food, but apparently space. There could be no doubt, though, that if food and a number of hyaenas were involved, the interaction would be strongly reversed in the other direction.

#### [Miscellany - wolves steal food from raptors](#)

Another anecdote, although this apparently occurs more often than, say, wolves seeing off hyaenas. It has been reported on a number of occasions in the past few months (pertinently ever since Simon Thirgood and I have been talking about trying to establish the interspecific links between the species living in the Afroalpine ecosystem) that when raptors dive on prey, wolves in the vicinity will often move to investigate. On occasion, they will attempt to steal

*Wolves were sighted chasing off hyaenas. Wolves have also been observed to steal food from raptors.*

the food item from the raptor, sometimes with success. While quantification of wolf-hyaena interactions would probably not yield many observations,

wolf-raptor interactions may be more interesting given the potential for competition between them.



## Disease & the Vaccination Campaign

*Recent rabies outbreaks in Delanta, North Wollo and in the Gojera and Hora-Soba areas in Bale have been dealt with.*

### Rabies outbreaks near wolf ranges

Our efforts to vaccinate domestic dogs in and surrounding wolf ranges have been spurred on by two recent outbreaks of rabies. The first was in the Delanta in North Wollo. This has been dealt with by our team in the north. Working with the veterinarians from the Agricultural Bureau, we have vaccinated as many dogs as possible in the kebeles surrounding the Delanta range. We shall now be carrying out a rapid assessment to determine how complete the vaccination coverage was - and, thus, whether there is a need for further efforts.

More alarmingly, we have had an outbreak of rabies in the Hora-Soba and Gojera areas near to Dinsho in Bale. This should be the area of the country in which we have the best vaccination coverage! We have been looking into the matter. It seems that all the people claimed no knowledge of the dog and whence it came. Before it was killed by the people (which was before our veterinary team could get there), it managed to bite three people and a small number of livestock.

We are reacting to these outbreaks as strongly as possible. Indeed, they have given us the opportunity to enforce some of the outstanding issues sur-

rounding the vaccination campaign and the lack of compliance among the local people. As such, we have been in discussion with the local authorities, all of who support our suggestion that having unvaccinated dogs in critical areas is unacceptable. With them, we hope to increase the coverage, primarily through increased compliance among the local people.

### Disease incidence and dog density assessment

In addition to these outbreaks of rabies, we are now going through the process of assessing each wolf range throughout the country to prioritize them for future vaccination campaigns. Deresse Dejene, the programme's counterpart from the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO), is carrying out this assessment. The aim will be to determine the dog ownership in areas within and surrounding the wolf ranges and the incidence of rabies (as determined by the people's quantification of the numbers of rabies cases and their description of the symptoms of the disease). Once prioritized, we aim to start vaccinating dogs in areas beyond Bale.

*A countrywide assessment of the incidence of disease and the density of dogs is underway to facilitate prioritization of areas for vaccination campaigns.*

## Education Campaign & Training

*EWCP held as standard by which other conservation projects in Ethiopia should be measured at recent Biological Society of Ethiopia meetings in Addis Ababa.*

### Biological Society of Ethiopia meeting 2002

Zealelem Tefera presented the work of the EWCP at the recent Biological Society of Ethiopia meeting in Addis Ababa. The theme of the meeting was conservation in the country. The work of the EWCP was singled out by the participants of the meeting as being the most dynamic and successful conservation programme in the country today. Our work was held as the standard by which all others should be compared, pale as they do at present.

### Zegeye Kibret draws away from the EWCP

Zegeye Kibret, the Bale Education Officer, has been slowly drawing away from the EWCP's work. With a few other people, most notably Hana Kifle, the BMNP ex-Warden, and Efrem Legesse, the BMNP ex-accountant, he has started up an animal welfare association – one of the first in Ethiopia! This has taken up some of his time, but, at present, he is bidding his time with the programme (possibly until the association, known as the Homeless Animal Protection Society, has sufficient funding to provide him with a salary). He is still involved in useful tasks although it is apparent that his energy and commitment to school visits and education have noticeably waned.

*Wolf Day 2002 is another success - albeit another very wet day!*

### Wolf Day 2002

Zegeye did, however, commit himself to organising what was another successful Wolf Day. Wolf Day took place on 3 March this year. We arranged it a little earlier in the year in the hope that we would increase the chances that it would take place in sunshine. After a period of 48 days (the previous rainfall was a drizzle on 14 January), it poured with rain on the day. Despite the rain, the crowds arrive and the Day was proclaimed a success. The horses raced, the football and volleyball were won, the young men ran, the raffle prizes claimed.

### Attitudes assessment

For what may be his final months with the programme, Zegeye will be carrying out a thorough assessment of the attitudes of the people in Bale. The questionnaire aims to determine the success of the EWCP's education campaign in the area to date. This assessment falls in parallel with that being carried out by Deresse Dejene in the north of Ethiopia. Thus, by the end of June, we should have countrywide coverage and will be in an excellent situation 1) to respond to changes in the attitudes of people in Bale and 2) to design an education campaign for each wolf range, tailored to the specific needs of each.

*We recovered the first road-kill for some time from the Adaba-Dinsho road. The driver of the vehicle was not found.*

### Wolf road-kill

The first road-kill for a few years was collected from the main Adaba-Dinsho road, some 18km west of Dinsho. This is an area in which few wolves are sighted. The habitat is *Erica* moorland that has become stunted through sustained heavy browsing by domestic livestock. The wolf was a sub-adult female, possibly dispersing from the Web valley.

We have no information about the vehicle or driver. Of course, the EWCP staff in Bale are dismissive of such drivers, slating them as ignorant. They say that local drivers may actually make an effort to kill the wolves on road because, just as a

black cat crossing one's path can be good (or bad, depending to whom one speaks) luck in Europe, wolves crossing one's path are considered bad luck here in Bale.

### GIS training for EWCO

As part of our commitment to training in Ethiopia, we have undertaken to train the personnel within the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO) to use the digitising tablet and GIS software that they own. Ian May, who has visited Ethiopia on a number of occasions, has the experience and time to come to Ethiopia to train the people in EWCO. He will be coming to Ethiopia in June/July to spend about



*Through Ian May, we will be providing the EWCO with training in the use of their GIS software and digitising equipment.*

six weeks on the training.

The training will be comprised of two facets. First, he will demonstrate the utility of the GIS software to various selected people through the organisation. The aim of this is to give them an idea of the capabilities of the software and for what it is useful. Second, Ian will work with two selected people who will, effectively, become the GIS officers for the organisation. He will teach them how to digitise maps, how to construct maps from the digitised data (using both the data they digitise themselves and those that are freely available, e.g., off the Internet). He will also demonstrate the analytical powers of software such as ArcView with the biological data analytical add-ins.

It is hoped that through this training, 1) EWCO will be able to produce maps for their work as the federal body with the mandate for wildlife conservation and the management of various protected areas, and 2) they will be able to use the hardware that was donated to them by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) but which has remained unused since it was set up in the EWCO offices. Finally, they should be in a stronger position to make management decisions based on analysis of geo-

graphical information.

#### ICS visit to Bale

In what is becoming an annual event, the students of the 8th grade from the International Community School (ICS) in Addis Ababa visited the Bale Mountains. As with last year, they spent two days with the wolf monitoring team on the Sanetti plateau. They had the misfortune only of experiencing the snow and sleet of which the Sanetti plateau is capable.

#### Hospital visits

Occasional trips to transfer critically ill people from the local community to Goba hospital have been made in the past few months. Whereas towards the end of last calendar year, these trips seemed to be occurring fairly frequently, at present, there are very few. Despite doing these hospital runs for some time, it was only the most recent that seemed to have a significant impact on how the local community perceives the EWCP. This trip was made because a small boy fell off a cliff, tearing off a chunk of his thigh muscle. He was taken to the local clinic where they attempted to stem the flow of blood and suture the leg. We were then asked to take the much weakened boy to Goba. He died some thirty minutes

after he arrived at the hospital. Despite this - or perhaps because of it - the local community realises that we are willing to help them.

#### Wereda & kebele relations

Our relationship with the local authorities continues to be good. Interestingly, it took two complaints from us to provoke a recent round of talks with them. The first was about the continual breaking of the water supply to the Headquarters area. This was followed by the rabies outbreak in Gojera, and our efforts to secure their support and assistance in increasing the compliance of the local people.

These two factors have led to a series of meetings that have now culminated in us arranging a one-day meeting for local authorities to allow us to describe to them what it is we do and some of the problems that we face in doing this. The aim of the meeting is to facilitate their assistance in solving these problems.

One thing will be made clear. The responsibility to conserve the Ethiopian wolf is not solely ours. While we might represent the importance that the international community places on the wolf, and while the permissions given to us by the federal and regional governments represent the importance they,

in turn, place on the wolf, there can be no doubt that without the support of the local authorities the communities from which they come, we will be fighting an uphill battle. Therefore, we aim to make it clear that the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf is our joint responsibility.

#### Book Aid application

After submitting an application to Book Aid, UK, to expand the library in Dinsho has been successful. Sometime in the next few months, they will send a shipment of books to their partner in Ethiopia, the British Council. The books will cover the subjects of natural resources management, wildlife ecology & management, environmental science, and botany. This will contribute to the library at Dinsho unique stature as arguably having the best natural resources collection in the country.

*We remain committed to maintaining good relations with the local authorities, culminating with a meeting with all local leaders later in April.*

## Protected Areas & Tourism

*EWCP remains committed to strengthening protected areas, particularly the Bale Mountains*

*National Park - which is the stronghold for the Ethiopian wolf. We are working with the Oromiya government, who have the mandate to manage the park, in whichever way we can, including trying to secure funding for the future of the park and advising them on the management of the park and its tourism.*

Among our other activities for the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf, we remain committed to supporting and strengthening the protected areas. We are particularly interested in trying to secure the Bale Mountains National Park - which harbours *the* key population of Ethiopian wolves.

### Oromiya promotes the environment

In an encouraging move, the Regional State of Oromiya has recently promoted the importance that it attributes to the environment. The head of the Oromiya Natural Resource Development and Environmental Protection Authority (ONRDEPA) has been given a seat in the Oromiya cabinet. Previously, the environment fell under the umbrella of the Agricultural Bureau. In addition, the leaders of the ONRDEPA, Mohammednur Abachebsa and Tsegaye Tadesse are committed to working with organisations such as the EWCP. However, the number of people in the Oromiya government in the field of wildlife conservation remains alarmingly low: I have been told that only three people in the Oromiya government are any sort of training in this field.

### BMNP long-term funding

Our main effort to secure the BMNP has been to

attempt to set up an endowment trust fund that will ensure that it receives funding in perpetuity. The rationale underpinning this is that without funding, any sort of development strategy or management plan will not be viable - and thus not implemented - without a sound financial basis. We have received much support, both within the donor community (who are essentially prepared to put forward the funds required to establish the fund - which I estimate will need a down payment of between \$ 9 - 11 million) and the Ethiopian government (particularly the Regional State of Oromiya who have the mandate of the managing the park). While to date we have produced the document relating to this (an initial project proposal), there is a need for a final project document. The Belgian Cooperation has offered to fund the study and consultancy that would result in this document (using the terms of reference for the study which were, again, produced by us). The study has been accepted by the federal Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and the Regional State of Oromiya . All that apparently remains is a meeting between MoFED and Oromiya. This may happen at the end of April. If all is agreed, then we will have taken the first small but significant

*The possibility that Dinsbo Lodge at the Headquarters of the BMNP may be put to private management moves slowly forward. The Oromiya government says it thinks it is a good idea.*

step towards the endowment trust fund.

#### Oromiya asks for advice

We are also working with the ONRDEPA on the management of the BMNP. The WWF-DGIS has in its plans to update the management plan of the

#### Privatisation of Dinsbo Lodge

Putting the management and operation of Dinsbo Lodge to a private company is still being talked about and may be slowly, tentatively taking steps forward. We remain a strong advocate of this move and are



BMNP (but careful consideration will have to be given to sustainable solutions in the absence of secured funding for its implementation). However, with the ONRDEPA, we are looking for interim solutions for the park's management. As a result of this collaboration, I submitted to the ONRDEPA the outline of an incremental management scenario that may form the basis on which to build.

assisting the Oromiya Natural Resources Development & Environmental Protection Authority (ONRDEPA) in whichever way we can. To date, this has meant that we have produced draft advertisements and a draft contract that could be used as the basis for the future contract between the ONRDEPA and the private manager. There is hesitation on the side of the ONRDEPA as they wish to see their interests protected. I hope that the draft contract we

*We have brought forward the possibility of constructing and furnishing a new Visitor's Education Centre for the BMNP. Proposals to fund this have been submitted to the donor community in Addis Ababa.*

have submitted to them will more than amply demonstrate that they have nothing to lose in the move; indeed, I believe that they will only gain by it.

### Trekking routes in BMNP

In our efforts to improve the infrastructure of the park for tourists, we have been trying to explore the routes within the park that would appeal most to tourists. We have now explored most of the park and have found and described the routes and the campsites that people can use. The descriptions of these routes will be published as soon as possible and will be available for tourists. They will then have the information which will allow them to decide where to go in the park - rather than being short-changed by guides that are inexplicably not fully committed to their customers.

### Visitor's Education Centre


Although the construction and furnishing of a Visitor's Education Centre was not a priority on our agenda, interest in it came fortuitously. In response to this chance, we produced a proposal that has been submitted to the Swedish International Cooperation Agency and the Embassy of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects. The outcome of the submissions has yet to be heard but if it comes

through, we shall be in a position to construct and furnish a fully updated Education Centre. Clearly, this would mean that the present Museum would be then left to researchers working in the BMNP and to continue holding the library which, even at present, may be unique in Ethiopia.

### Patrolling scouts

Finally, in the incremental management scenario discussed briefly above, there are two perceived immediate needs for the BMNP. The first is to expand the area covered by scout patrols. At present, patrolling, if it occurs at all, does so in the Gaysay area alone. While this has allowed the wildlife populations in Gaysay to continue to thrive, all other areas of the park are completely neglected. There is, therefore, an immediate need for scouts to cover all areas of the park. Second, there is a need to determine what steps the scouts can take if and when they find people breaking the regulations of the park. This has required (and still requires further) investigation of the legal status of the park. While the park has not been gazetted, it exists by the powers invested in the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO) in the early 1970s to designate protected areas. At this time, it was designated as a National

*We have also been instrumental in seeking funding to increase the patrolling by park scouts as part of an bid to improve the BMNP management.*



Park. However, it still remains unclear what are the recognised regulations of the park - and therefore, what authority do the scouts have to prevent exploitation of the park's resources. It seems that they can make arrests for the killing of animals, but may be limited in what they can do about the exploitation of other resources. Finally, if the scouts are to increase their patrolling, there is a need for them to be suitably equipped to do so.

As a result of the above immediate needs, I have developed and submitted a proposal to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to directly fund these activities, including: 1) funding for scout per diems and incentives to allow them to carry out their field based activities, 2) training for the scouts in the legal issues surrounding their work, and 3) funding to purchase necessary field equipment to allow them to carry out their tasks in the field.

## Miscellany

*After a period of some years, we have reinstalled storage raingauges in key areas of the park.*

### Rain gauges

After a gap of some years, we have now re-established storage raingauges in three key places - Dinsho, the Web valley and the Sanetti plateau. The raingauge in Dinsho will be used to calibrate the weather monitor that is also now installed there. The raingauges will give us monthly data on the rainfall in the Bale Mountains.

### Water & sewerage works

We have had to revamp much of the water infrastructure in the Headquarters area. The focus of the work was, of course, the Research Buildings at which the EWCP has its base. In our efforts, we unearthed a serious sewerage blockage. This led to almost the entire sewerage system of the Research Buildings being dug up, cleared and reinstalled. Since then, all flows well.

### Trough construction

Among the other small construction jobs has been to build a simple trough for the EWCP horses. This should help prevent them fighting over barley and should reduce the amount of wastage.

### Eucalyptus trees in horse camp

We have also planted numerous Eucalyptus trees around the horse camp - primarily as some shelter

against the wind and rain.

### EWCP staff children group

Every Friday morning, all the staff's children between the ages 2 - 5 now come up to the research buildings where they have a preschool play group organised by Sophie. They relish this period to play with Gabriel's toys and run around in areas which previously were considered as very much off-limits. They are taught basic things: numbers, colours, shapes, songs (and therefore language), geography. The staff are also keen that their children broaden their horizons to beyond the parochial view expounded by schools within the country.

### Julie in heat

Julie, the EWCP mare, is in oestrus for the second time. However, she has scuppered all our best wishes to breed mules for the future for the programme by refusing all the best donkeys of the area. But she has been flirting with the horse stallions and now we are choosing one to father a foal.

### Hut and toilet in Sanetti repaired

We have made some repairs to the EWCP hut in Sanetti. The walls were crumbling and much of the thatch had been blown away - rendering it ineffective as a shelter against the cold of the plateau. Simi-

*The children of the EWCP staff enjoy a preschool playgroup each Friday and the EWCP mare comes into oestrus but refuses all donkeys in our attempt to breed mules!*

*The infrastructure on the Sanetti plateau gets marginally better ... and the Hilux remains grounded with more engine problems.*

larly, Lucy's modesty got the better of her and now the long-drop on the Sanetti plateau now has walls!

### Hilux problems

The Toyota Hilux, Karen Laurenson's vehicle for her Bale Rabies Control Project which we have now inherited, has had a long history of engine problems. These still continue and are proving to be costly. Having done less than 100,000km, it is having its engine rebuilt for the third time. This time, as with the previous two, it seems that the timing belt has been stripped of its teeth because of a build up of dust within its housing. Once lost, there is a sudden catastrophe and the engine, literally, grinds to a halt. With another engine rebuilt for the Hilux not being part of this year's budget, we are having to erode our contingency budget to cover these costs.

### Equipment for the teams

In a huge effort last year, we tried to stimulate interest in the EWCP among field equipment and clothing manufacturers. The aim was, of course, to try to get essential gear donated to the programme. The Born Free Foundation also published an appeal in their magazine, the Wildlife Times. The results were mixed. While the BFF appeal resulted in some 150 fleeces being donated, nobody was interested in do-

nating boots - arguably the most important pieces of kit for working in cold, damp mountain areas.

I was given an explanation for the failure: our appeal followed closely the end of the Foot & Mouth crisis in Britain. Having occurred over the summer, the F & M outbreak caused an unprecedented slump in outdoor activities. With this, there was the slump in outdoor gear sales. This summer, we will try again; our teams are still in need of good footwear.

### EWCP babyboom

The EWCP baby boom continues. Soon, two prominent members of the team will have children. Zelealem Tefera, the EWCP North Ethiopia Project Executant, will be a father for the first time. And Karen Laurenson, tired already of pregnancy, will have a second.

### Grevy's zebra survey

While this update contains news of the EWCP, it is perhaps notable that I am also organising a survey of the Grevy's zebra populations in Ethiopia. There are three known populations of Grevy's zebra in Ethiopia. These are found on the Alledeghi plains north of Awash National Park, to the southeast of Lake Stephanie (alternatively known as Chew Bahir; Chalbi Wildlife Sanctuary) and in the Borana Con-

*With imminent births of the babies of Zelealem Tefera and Karen Laurenson, the EWCP family grows ever larger.*

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trolled Hunting Area. In addition, we will be examining anecdotes that there are further Grevy's zebra in the Webe Shebelle valley, due east of the Bale massif. This population is mentioned in Yalden *et al.* (1976) to fall within the historic distribution of Grevy's zebra, but the population has long been considered extirpated. The people in the local area report, however, that there are indeed zebras (black and white is how they are described!) in the area. The area is far out of the range of plains zebras - and so they should be Grevy's. We will determine whether the anecdotes are true and whether they are Grevy's zebra.

## Proposals

This section is given over to proposals that have been submitted by the EWCP, primarily for funding for our satellite activities.

- Spotted hyaena and serval cat ecology - St Louis Zoo's Field Research For Conservation
- Ethiopian wolf ecology: northern populations - Austrian Development Cooperation
- Bale Ecosystem Project - National Geographic Society, Peregrine Fund, FCO Environment Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society (for two parallel Fellowships)
- Domestic dog ecology - Chicago Zoological Society's Chicago Board of Trade Endangered Species Fund
- EWCP Education campaign - Disney Conser-

vation Award

- Deresse Dejene's MSc stipend and fees - Charlotte Conservation Fellowship of the African Wildlife Foundation
- Bale Mountains National Park Endowment Fund - Belgian Cooperation, UK's DFID, UNDP
- Study for Bale Mountains National Park endowment trust fund - Belgian Cooperation Study & Consultancy Fund
- Visitor's Education Centre - the Swedish International Cooperation Development Agency & the Embassy of Japan's Grants for Grassroots Projects



## Contacts & Supporters

### Contacts

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search for Conservation Program, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Bernd Thies Foundation. Recently, our efforts to expand the library at the Research Buildings at the Headquarters of the Bale Mountains National Park have been successful, with support from Book Aid, UK.

The photographs that appear on pages 3, 5, 9, 12 and 22 of this update do so with the kind permission of Martin Harvey.

