

## ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

*Publisher and Editor: Zegeye Kibret, Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia*



### The Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP)

The Bale Mountains National Park is one of the nine National Parks in Ethiopia. But, BMNP harbors more unique and diverse fauna and flora than the other parks as well as its magnificent landscapes and moreover, the international, national and regional value of the Bale Mountains National Park is incalculable as human communities, both local and far beyond its boundaries are dependent on ecological processes within the Bale massif, and because of the importance of the area for the conservation of biodiversity. If the Bale mountains is not conserved or the conservation effort is not successful and people continue to exploit the resource in unsustainable ways, more species of mammals could go extinct than for any other area of the same size on earth.

Endangered species need priority for protection and conservation in the park and the Ethiopian wolf is one of the most endangered species in which half of the total world population exists in BMNP. So we all have to exert our maximum efforts for its conservation.

## Facts

- The giant mole rat, which is strictly endemic to Bale, can weigh up to one kg.
- 4 mammals species (Bale mon key, giant mole rat, Bale hyrax and Haremma shrew) , 1 bird species (Bale Parisoma) 34 plant species, 2 chameleon species and 4 frog species are strictly endemic to Bale. No where else in the world!
- Ethiopian wolves sleep out in the open even in the snow or during cold nights of -15 de gree Celsius protected by their thick fur.
- The road to Sanneti is the high est all weather road in Africa.
- Rabies epidemics killed 3/4 of all the wolf population in the web valley in 2003 and 2/3 of all the wolves in Bale in 1991/92.
- It is estimated that tropical for est are being cut down at the rate of equivalent to 200 foot ball pitches every minute.



*Giant lobelia in the web valley, BMNP*

## EDITORIAL PAGE

Dear readers,

It is great and interesting to hear from some of you that you have very much enjoyed reading EWCP's first newsletter. I put some of the readers' letters in this issue under your letters column so that the rest of you would read what they have written and I hope that you will write anything you want to concerning the newsletter, environment, your club, conservation or the park etc... Some of the best letters will appear in the next issue. The support of teachers in the schools, who lead the nature club in encouraging club members in the participation of contests, practicing instruction under action columns of each news letter and writing club activities reports is very important. When writing club activity report please include, in your list some thing that you would like to do but you can't. This is not to get an immediate response that I can help, but only to understand what every club wants to contribute to the environment and conservation of Bale Mountains and to find out how to do it and your priorities.

Our main focuses are creating awareness among all of you and local communities about Bale Mountains National Park, its fauna & flora, its magnificent landscapes, and particularly the critically endangered Ethiopian wolf and how to help them from extinction.

We all have lots and lots to know about BMNP in which we all are linked in various aspects in our daily life every second.

I don't know when it will happen but I would definitely, like to take the clubs of primary and secondary Schools around the park to its different vegetation zones you can understand all its ecological processes and their significance. Once you understand its values, then we know you strive for its existence because you understand it.

Finally, I would advise you to keep asking your parents, friends & teachers or read or to visit the museum in Dinsho so that you can know and understand more about your environment and the park.

Thank you very much indeed and see you next!



Zegeye Kibret

P.O. Box 215, Bale, Robe,  
E-mail: zegeye124@yahoo.com

## Letters

Dear publisher,  
I got the newsletter one of the best educational approaches together with various methods you use to give environmental education. Above all, I was much interested in your presentation of 'Facts' and the news in titled ' following the track of wolves' was an exciting one. I think it is one a vivid consequences of your and your projects hard work.

*Tamirat Shiferaw*  
*Dinsho primary school*  
(Teacher)

Dear Zegeye,  
It was great to send your newsletter. It is very professional. It was great to hear how the Ethiopian wolf conservation programme is going.

Best wishes!  
*Ian May,*  
*GIS specialist*  
*Cambridge, England*

Dear Zegeye,  
We received the 1st issue of the EWCP newsletter. The newsletter looks great and contains very good and interesting information. I am sure it will have an important positive impact on the projects environmental education efforts, and on the people's awareness of the project activities well done!

*Jorgelina Marino*

*Wolf Researcher*  
*Oxford, England*

Dear Publisher,  
First of all I would like to say congratulations for producing EWCP's first newsletter. It is really a wonderful idea and thing to have to make use of. I would say it is one of the many steps to aware about our resource and get hints, whenever we take glance to read and it keeps reminding us and make us proud of our environment and unique heritages. Your newsletter gives invaluable knowledge to the clubs too. I have one suggestion for you. Please have a club page so that others would get encouraged.

*Ayub Suleyman*  
*Leader*  
*Bale Beauty Nature Club, Goba*

### From the editor

Dear Ayub,  
Thank you! This first step of ours will take us all to success if we all take the same pace. So, we all need to go ahead for the same goals, which benefit us all on our planet. I will absolutely have a club page as I already mentioned in 1st issue.

Please keep ahead and stay in touch!!!



A wolf picture from Diredawa National Cultural Biodiversity Exhibition and Celebration produced by Holeta School, Showa.

# EWCP News

## Born Free supports Dinsho primary school

The Born Free Foundation Global Friends Programme has provided a grant of \$2000 for Dinsho Primary School. The grant was spent in building a girls' toilet, two flagpoles and 30 desks. The current EWCP Coordinator professor James Malcolm, and the education officer, (your editor), have presented the donation to the school at the start of the new aca-



Loading off desks from the truck to Dinsho primary school

demical year in September 2005. The school children have welcomed us with traditional dancing and treated us with traditional Oromo food. "EWCP and Born Free are not only the foundation to protect our unique heritage, the Ethiopian Wolf, but also a grand and pioneer supporters of our poor school and children" spoken the head master Abduljalil Abda, to the local people and school community.

## The Youth Club

The Bale Beauty Youth Club has received its legal certificate for the next one year after two years of its establishment. In July 2004 the club has planted 4000 exotic seedlings around Goba. "This year we are going to get a land from Goba Town Council and our club members are ready to plant indigenous trees such as *Hagenia abyssinica* and *juniperus procera* and also to educate the people to care for their environment and protect the existing forest and make it expand." Said Ayub Suleyman, the club chair person.

Another youth nature club has also established and made its first meeting in Dinsho. The club members have designed to implement environmental education and activities based on environmental protections. "We have to support this club to get encouraged and will have satellite clubs in other town to do similar activities." The park education officer Abdurahiman Wario told us at the meeting.

## National Celebration

A National Cultural Biodiversity Exhibition and Celebration was held at Dire-dawa last September. Twenty-one different schools from all over the country brought their cultural tools and drawings displayed for the exhibition. Opened by his Excellency President Girma Woldegiorgis, the three days celebration was so col-

orful and inspiring.

Three schools has brought a sketch of the Ethiopian wolf for the exhibition and one school from Tigray has read a nice poem about the mountain nyala and Ethiopian wolf. Foreign people from Ghana, Benin, Kenya, South Africa and England participated and later visited Bale Mountains National Park. The tour to Bale was guided by myself and Abdurahiman Wariyo. There was an evaluation workshop held at Dinsho lodge with the facilitation of Million Belay The, Director of Melca Mahiber.

## Robe Teachers College

A bilateral agreement has made between the EWCP and park office with the Teachers College in Robe for a monthly environmental protection and conservation education for its nature club members. List of activities and a schedule has already been designed. Every month one day an instructor from EWCP or the park will give the presentation based on the selected topics. The first lecture in titled "the Bale Mountains and the need for its conservation" is given on the 26th of October 2005 by EWCP education Officer for 200 club members with the help of the park educator Abdurahiman Wario.

### Obituary

We deeply regret for the sudden death of Ato Fekadu Garede, the warden of BMNP, who passed away on the 25th of November 2005. We convey our heart felt condolences to his family, his staff, his friends and his beloved ones on behalf of the EWCP team.

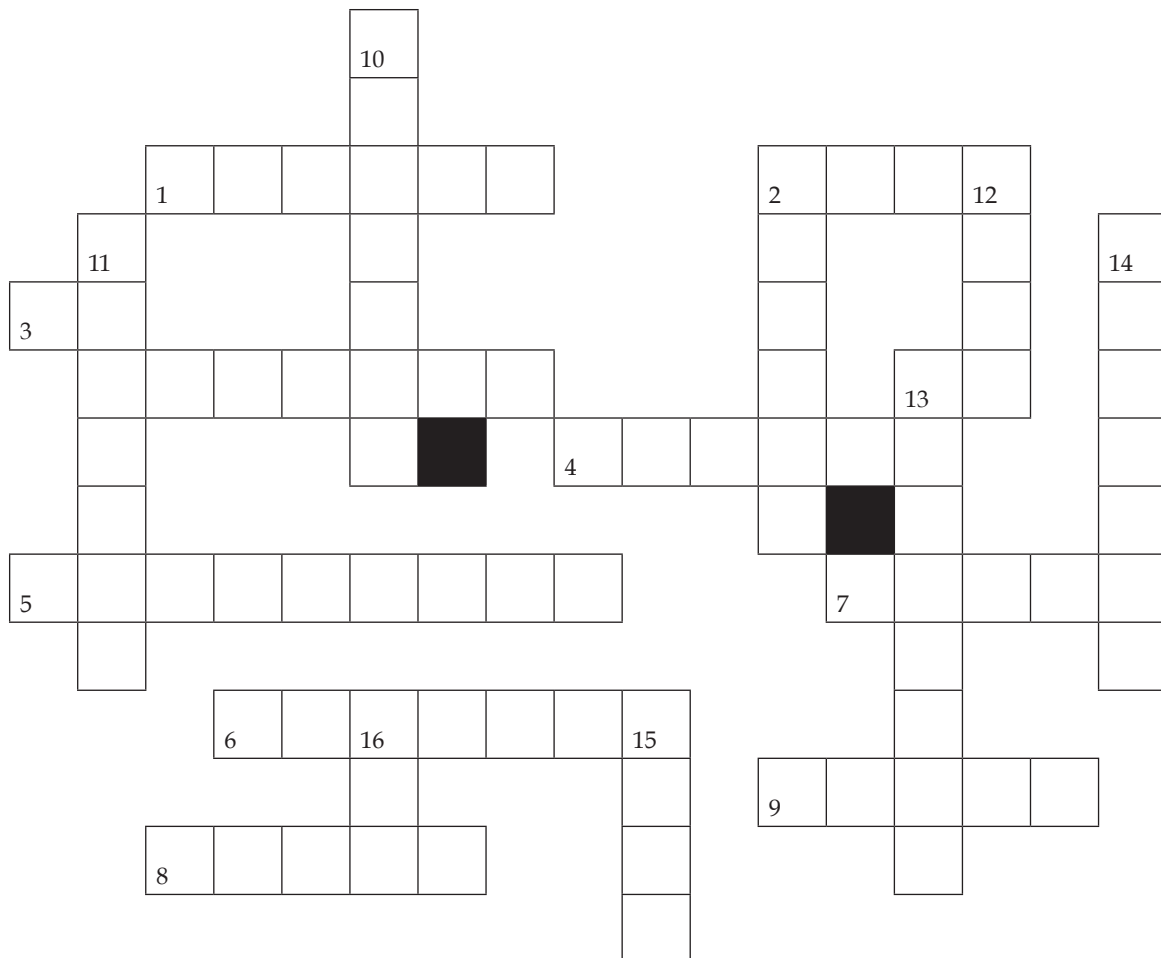


May his soul rest in peace!

# COMPETITION

## Crossword

This issue competition must be send to us before February 28, 2006. I hope you enjoy it. Good luck!!!!!!



### Across

1. This monkey has a head like a dog and canine teeth like a leopard and lives in Bale. (6)
2. What does an ornithologist study? (4)
3. EWCP and its team work to \_\_\_\_\_ the Ethiopian wolf. (8)
4. The dense concentration of trees. (6)
5. Lacking of knowledge. Some people kill wild animals because of their.... (9)
6. A disease, which is a major threat to the Ethiopian wolves. (6)
7. A copious natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea. (5)
8. It is a colorless, a tasteless, odourless universal solvent. Basic for life. (5)
9. Hmans can only----- in the presence of nature. (5)
13. Short hand for example (2)

### Down

2. An area surrounding protected areas. (6)
10. One of the big cats found in Bale Mountain National Park. (7)
11. The study of organism in relation to one another and to their surrounding. (7).
12. Droppings that help as fertilizer. (4)
13. An African country having 80% of the continent's Afroalpine. (8)
14. A place where people grow seedlings. (7)
15. The loose material overlying the earth's crust. (4)
16. Can make honey. (3)



## Guest speakers

*Research Title:- Human Activities in the Catchments Areas and the Impacts on the Physical Hydrological Processes of the Bale Mountain National Park, Southeastern Ethiopia*

“From the 12 major rivers/drainage basins (of Ethiopia) the total annual runoff has been estimated at about 110 billion cubic meters (Bm<sup>3</sup>), equivalent to an average continuous flow of some 3500 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Surprisingly 80% of this water actually leaves Ethiopia and flows in to the neighboring countries”

### *Ministry of Water Resources*

Earth is the water planet, as a matter of fact that over 70% of the Earth’s surface is covered with water, and fresh water comprises less than 1% of the global water volume. The tiny volume of fresh water nature available for us is fast becoming a world crisis due to huge impacts from the human beings on the ecohydrology.

The topic of my research concerns “The impacts of human activities on the physical hydrological processes of Bale Mountain National Park”. Water is of great conservation significance for the Bale Moun-

tain National Park. Nevertheless, the research I have been conducting since the establishment of the park is focused on the animals and plants found in the park, despite the fact that the water resources of

increase on these highlands create alterations on the flow of the rivers and have large effects on the life the lowlanders where water is the critical resource.

After I received field training by Dr

**Mohammed Nur Jemal is an ecologist working in the park and a counterpart for EWCP in the park. He graduated from Debu University. He is currently doing his masters on the hydrology of Bale Mountains National Park and he says the following about hydrology.**

the park are affected by and affects the existence of other biological resources of the area, and particularly human beings living in and around the park.

My research is a new concern in the area and aimed at understanding some of the factors exerting pressure on the water resources, and to illustrate the changes in the flow and quality of water in the rivers. The Bale Mountains because of its nature, play a crucial role in the formation of Oro graphic rainfall. The water that precipitates on this landmass finally ends up in a river system.

### **Fincha Habera water fall**

The rivers and streams originate from this area form two major drainage systems, the Wabe Shebele and Genele basins, both of which have various economical and ecological values in and outside the country. Millions of human population live in absolute poverty and depend on the water from this area for domestic as well as agricultural uses. In addition, land pressures due to population

Eric Wolanski, a scientist from Australian Institute of Marine Science, I’m conducting further studies on the issues mentioned above. The training program was arranged by Frunkfurt Zoological Society, Bale Mountains Conservation Project, with the goal to extend the ecological monitoring, which at this time remains limited.

Thus, my study has dual purpose, one is to establish database of water monitoring for the park, and to analyze my results for a MSc degree.

My project is a detailed description of the variations in discharge and quality of the rivers in response to wet and dry seasons in relation to human activities in the catchment areas.



*Fincha Habera water fall*

## Do it now!

Tourism is very important our country, people and the park. So we need to have more tourists every year. But, some children all over Ethiopia shout ‘ferengi’ and it really upset the foreign visitors. If you were shouting like that stop it and make other children stop saying ‘ferengi’ or “you!” Instead say **Hello** or **welcome to Bale!**

# Animal Page

Ethiopia, and its unique heritage in the highlands.

The Ethiopian wolf *Canis simensis*

Ethiopia is a country in Africa having 80% of land above 3000 M. above sea level. The highlands of Ethiopia are divided by the Great Rift Valley and separated by large areas of lowland, creating discontinuous tracts of mountain peaks. The fragmented nature of Ethiopia's landscape, coupled with a large altitudinal and latitudinal range, makes Ethiopia a diverse country and home to habitats, including the largest area of Afroalpine vegetation in world. These Afroalpine areas are home to several endemic species. Among these, the Ethiopian wolves are the most familiar and most endangered mammals.

The Ethiopian wolves survive in only a few isolated Afroalpine areas in Ethiopia. Currently, it is estimated that there are less than 450 adult wolves left in Ethiopia, making the Ethiopian wolf one of the rarest of the world's 36 canid species, which the family *Candidae* includes dogs, wolves, jackals and foxes.

Several factors seriously threaten the survival of the species, including increasing human pressure for high altitude grazing and agriculture, direct persecution, loss of genetic variation, hybridization with domestic dogs and infectious diseases such as rabies. The Ethiopian wolves are the only wolves of Africa and in which more than half of the total population exist in

Bale Mountains National Park. These unique animals are listed on the red list of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as a Critically endangered species.

Dr. Claudio Sillero Zubiri is an Argentinian citizen who came to Bale in the late 80s and made a PhD studies on the behavior & ecology of the Ethiopian wolves.

pian wolves.

This pioneer scientist for the Ethiopian wolves has not just left the animals as they were. His passion to the animals compelled him to conserve the animals and established the Ethiopian wolf conservation programme and his teams involved in his programme come from the local community.

It 13 years since Dr. Claudio started his PhD in the, cold and rugged mountains of Bale. He is still the working for the conservation of the Ethiopian wolves and their

most suitable and very fragile Afroalpine habitat. The EWCP team who are still working so hard to conserve the animals have been implementing community education, dog vaccination, monitoring, patrolling and research in the Ethiopian wolf range. The ongoing of the programme is a must, in order to save these beautiful and ecologically very significant animals from of extinction. The ecology & behavior of the Ethiopian wolf will appear on the next issue under animal page column.

*The EWCP is funded by the Born Free Foundation UK. It is a joint long-term project under the agreement between Ethiopian Wild life Conservation department Oromiyaa & Amhara Regional Governments, the IUCN canid specialist group & Oxford University. For more write to: EWCP, p.o.box 215, Bale Robe, Ethiopia*

Visit: [www.ethiopianwolf.org](http://www.ethiopianwolf.org)

# Club Page

## No time to waste

Elegant animal,  
That I'm always proud,  
Happy and smile,  
Indeed when I see in wild.  
Our heritage and part of our culture,  
Pride the world,  
Incalculable gift of nature,  
Above us all live in highland  
Nationwide, not elsewhere,  
We remember they were many,  
One is not easy to see today.  
Learn why they become fewer,  
For no time left to stand and stare.

Worku Abera,  
Gofingira primary school

## Hersho school

The nature club members of Hersho primary school has reported that they have planted seedlings of the typical Indigenous trees. They have planted 165 *Juniperus procera* and 395 *Hagenia abyssinica*.

**Well done!!!** I hope that you'll continue this great job and look after the seedlings you've planted until they grow well.

# Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee

Paarkiin Gaarreen Baalee bara 1962 bineensota marartuu biyya keenya keessatti qofa argaman kunuunsuuf dhaabbate. Naannoon kun bineensota marartuu kannan ala eegumsaa fi jireenyabaay'ee ta'aniif barbaachisaa dha. Akka fakkeenyaatti paarkiin gaarreen Baalee madda bishaanii ta'uu isaatiin baay'ee bu'aa qabeessa fi barbaachisaa dha. Yeroo hundaa roobni baddaa irratti rooba. Kunis gaarreen duummessa walitti harkisanii erga qabbaneessanii booda akka gad roobu waan godhaniif roobni gaara irratti roobee madda burqaa adda addaa ta'uu dhaan walitti erga yaa'anii booda laga uumuun gaara irraa yaa'anii biqilootaa fi beeladootaa naannoo nuti jiraannuutti dhangala'uun bishaan ni dhiyeessuu.

Gaarren immoo biqiloota baay'ee waan qabaniif bishaan ni harkisan biyyeenis haxaa'amee akka hin deemne ni gargaaran. Lafti kunis baay'ee waan hin qotaminiif biyyeen isaa gabbataa dha. Mukkeenii fi biqiloota naannoo kanatti argaman yoo balleesine immoo roobni ni dhabama. Biyyeenis gabbachuu hin danda'u. Yeroo kana naannoon gaarreen Baalee rakkinna irra bu'a.

Paarkiin gaarreen Baalee bineensotaa fi biqiloota isa keessatti argamaniifis bu'aa guddaa qaba. It-oophiyaan bineensotaa fi biqiloota

biyya birootti hin argamne baay'ee qabdi. Isaanis afaan Ingiliffaatiin 'Endemic' jedhamu.

Bineensotabiyyattii keessaatti argaman keessaa walakkaa ol kan ta'an Baaleetti argamu.

Sababni isaatis Baalee keessatti teesuma lafa adda addaa kan eessattu hin argamnetu jira. Waan kana ta'eef biqiloonillee kan adda addaa tu achi qofatti murtaahani argamantu jiru.

Bineensonni akaakuu adda addaa immoo iddoo jireenyaa isaaniif mijaa'aa ta'e qofa keessatti jiiraatu. Iddoon jireenyaas qilleensa baramaa (climate), biqiloota, nyataa fi kkf hunaa of keessaa qaba. Akka kakkeenyaatti yoo ilaalle bineensi naannoo qorraa jiraatu bineensa naannoo hoo'aa jiraatu wajjiin tokkoo miti.

Akkaataa teessuma lafaa tiin paarkiin gaarreen Baalee bakka gurguddoo sadi'itti qoodamuu danda'a. Isaanis:-

1. Lafa marga kaabaa
2. Baddaa diilalaa'aa
3. Bosona haranaati

Lafa marga kaabaatti bineensota adda addaa keesumattu kan marga dheedan ni argina fkf. Gadamsa baddaa, Borofa, Karkaroo, Weenii fi kkf

Margi nyaata isaanii yammuu ta'u bosonni gaara keessaa immoo balaa irraa isaan ittisa. Naannoon lafa marga kaabaa kun Geesse jedhamee yaamama.

Adadaduma gara gaaraa ol deemaa dhufneen baay'inni biqilootaa xiqqaachaa fi gabaabachaa dhufa. Lafa baddaa diilalaa'aa yammuu

geennu handaaraa bal'aa margaa fi xuuqqaa (helichrysum) dhaan haguugamee argina. Lafti kun lafa baddaa diilalaa'aa (AfroAlpine) yammuu jedhamu lafti kun arAfrikaa keessaa bal'innaan tokkooffaa dha. Harma hosiftoonni naannoo kanatti argaman baay'inni isaanii sanyii hantuutaa, Tuqaa, Hileesaa fi Jeedala fardaa ti. Allaattiwwa hantuuta adaman kan akka Cookkissaa, Risaa fi Faaximee fa'a samii irra yammuu balali'an arguun salphaa fi gammachiisaa dha. Simbirroonni sanyii muraasa ta'an iardii Awrooppaa fi Eeshiyaa irraa dhufanii yeroo ni dabarfatan.

Lafa baddaa diilalaa'aa irraa yoo gad buunu bosona Harannaa arganna. Bosonni Harannaa bosona rukkaa paarkii gara kibbaatti yammuu argamu lafa paarkii gaarreen Baalee walakka ni haguuga. Bineensonni gurguddoon foon nyaatan kan akka leencaa, yeyyii fi qeerensaa; akkasumas kan marga dheedan kan akka borofaa booyee fi daruucaa (giant forest hog) kana malees sanyii sinbirrootaa hedduu bosona kana keessatti argama. Bunni uumamaan biqiles Haranna keesstti ni argama.

## Jeedala fardaa (Ethiopian wolf)

Jeedalooni fardaa biyya keenya qofa keessatti yammuu argaman hoomaan guddichi bineensota kanaa iddoo lafa margaa baddaa diilalaa'aa paarkii gaarreen Baalee keessatti argamu.

# Jeedalli fardaa maal fakkaatti?

Jeedalli fardaa hanguma saree manaa yammuu gahu akka salphaatti addan baafachuu ni dandeenya. Bifti diimaa dha. Funyaan isaa dheeraa dha eegeen immoo dab-basaa rukkaa bifa adii fi gurraacha ta'e qaba.

Nyaatni jeedala fardaa tuqaa guddichaa fi hantuuta sanyii akaakuu adda addaa ti. Margi naannoo sanaanii gabaabaa waan ta'eef soorata isaanii keessattu tuqaa guddicha akka salphaatti arganii qabuu ni danda'u.

Ammaaf waa'ee jeedala fardaa

maxxansaa kanaaf as irratti haa dhaabnu. Maxxansaa itti aanu irratti haala jireenyaa fi wal hormaata isaanii isiniif dhiyeessa. Ammaaf nagaatti!

## Baddaa diilalaa'aa

Akkuma mata duree paarkii gaarreen Baalee jedhu jalatti ibsametti teesumti lafa adda addaa irratti kan hundaa'e dha. Olka'insi lafaa sirrii grbaa irra meetira 1500 hanga 4377 gidduuti argama. Tulluun inni guddaan Tulluu diimtuu yammuu jedhamu Itoophiyaa keessaa

sadarkaa lammaffaa ta'uun tulluu Raas Daashanitti aanee argama.

Lafti diriiraan baddaa diilalaa'aa paarkii keessatti argamu Saannate, Sulula Weeb, Moorabaawwaa fi gaarreen giddu galeessaa bal'inna 1000 km2 kan ta'e qabatee argama. Lafa margaa baddaa diilalaa'aa irratti biqiltuun argamu baay'ee gabaabaa yammuu ta'an Taruuraan biyya keenya qofa keessatti argamu hanga meetira torbaa ol dheerata.

Bineensonni naannoo kanatti argamanis Tuqaa, hantuuta gosa adda addaa allaattiiwwanii fi bineensa marartuu ardii irraa baduu geette jeedala fardaa fa'a.



### SAGANTAA EEGUMSA JEEDALA FARDA ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

