

Jeedala Gazette

ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

March 2010 | Editor: Zegeye Kibret, Dinsho, Bale Mountains, Ethiopia



Wolf with pup © Martin Harvey

Monitoring the Ethiopian wolf – the breeding season begins

In our last newsletter we reported on a rabies outbreak amongst the wolf population in West Morebawa. The disease spread from the domestic dog population in the area to a number of wolf packs, and EWCP was forced to vaccinate the wolves in Sanetti to prevent the disease from spreading. Here we report on our post-vaccination monitoring.

EWCP has a full-time monitoring team who monitor the number of wolves in each pack, camping out in the field and following the wolves every day. If there are disease outbreaks, we want to catch them as early as possible to avoid them spreading. We also monitor breeding success and have life histories for many packs and

individuals so that we can learn from long-term research. This helps to guide our conservation actions.

Following on from the recent Ethiopian wolf rabies vaccinations during May and June 2009, the EWCP monitoring team has had repeated visits to Sanetti where we were vaccinating. All wolves except one have been observed since they were vaccinated. This is a very positive outcome. Our monitors also inform us that in Morebawa, where the outbreak started, at least one adult male and female wolf survived in most of the packs, which will help to ensure that these packs are able to breed and recover their numbers. And we are happy to report that the breeding season is well under way in Bale, with pups already sighted at the dens for the first time in both Web Valley and Sanetti.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the March 2010 issue of the Jeedala Gazette. Our programme is progressing with its activities to save the wolves and their Afroalpine habitat in Bale, Arsi, and the five northern populations.

This is done by addressing problems of competition for space with humans and domestic animals, vaccination against canine diseases such as rabies, surveying the population in the seven remaining Afroalpine habitat patches scattered throughout Ethiopia, and educating children and the local communities within wolf range. We hope that the resulting conservation effort will in time help to raise Ethiopian wolf numbers and will assist us all to conserve our unique Afroalpine ecosystem and its wildlife.

In this issue, you will find information on the survival of our vaccinated wolves in the Web Valley and Sanetti Plateau, a report on an EWCP staff member who took part in a course in Namibia, and the school education programme and club activities for environmental protection and conservation. Since the last issue, we have also had events such as the World Rabies Day in Dinsho and Arsi Wolf Day. We also meet with the new Dinsho Woreda Administrator on our guest page.

We are pleased to become tri-lingual with this issue, as we publish our first article in Amharic. This will help EWCP to reach more people throughout Ethiopia. Please enjoy reading this issue and feel free to make suggestions or comments, while helping to support the conservation of the wolves.

Together we can make a difference.

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LETTERS

Dear Editor

I have read all the gazettes from the very beginning and I think it's a good newsletter. It is educational and I would say that it is the first of its kind in the history of the BMNP for educating about specific species conservation efforts, the park and other biological resources that everyone must understand in order to benefit local conservation.

*Adissu Asefa
BMNP Biologist*

Dear Editor

First of all I would like to thank you for sending us such an informative Jeedala Gazette. I am writing this letter to report that our club, called the Furtu Hareenna, have planted 1600 indigenous trees as part of our community and school education. We are also planning to cultivate more seedlings on our new nursery site and transplant in to the nature area that we have recently received. Thank you for all your help.

*Ibrahim Abdurazak
Tourism Officer and club leader; Angetu*

Dear Editor

I find the Jeedala Gazette a very useful material to learn about the park and the exceptional efforts of the EWCP to help save the Ethiopian wolves. It is also good material as a reference. Please make it bigger and continue your good endeavors.

*Tesfaye Olika
Dinsho Woreda Agriculture and RD Head*

Dear Editor

I know about EWCP and its work to save the Ethiopian wolves from extinction by addressing and giving solutions to the ever increasing threats facing the wolves, and trying to stop the spread of rabies. This is mostly from reading your gazette and I use the Gazette as a reference for my future career in conservation. Please make sure that the gazette is delivered on time. It is my favourite conservation newsletter of my local area.

*Solomon Tekle
Vice Public Communication Officer; Dinsbo Woreda*



Fun and games at Arsi Wolf Day © A. Stewart

Arsi Wolf Day

On the 6th of December we celebrated our 2nd Arsi Wolf Day at the Huruta School. The aim of Wolf Day is to celebrate the afroalpine and the Ethiopian wolf through games, environmental debates and art competitions. More than 500 students from the Environmental Clubs of eight different schools took part in the festivities. Our Arsi Education Officer, Dejene Deme, assisted by our community outreach officer, Asheber Anbessa, and the principal and teachers from the host school all made sure the day ran very smoothly. The Zonal Vice Head of Natural Resources and Land Use Management, Berhanu Jima, opened the day, stating that “we need to protect our wolves, they are our heritage, and thanks to EWCP for assisting this to happen here in Arsi.” There were environmental debates, art competitions, football and volleyball matches, and various races. The standard of work produced by the students from all the schools attending was excellent, and the fun and games of the day were enjoyed by all. Huruta School dominated in the awards ceremony, taking first prize for the football, debating and sprints. Their environmental club was also presented with the award for best EE club of 2009, which is a wonderful achievement.

Dinsho Wolf Day will be celebrated on the 7th of March this year.

Attending Training Courses in Namibia

In June last year, Mustafa Dule was sent by EWCP on a two-week training course on Predator and Livestock Management, held by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia. The course was attended by 20 participants from countries such as India, Kenya, Iran and Botswana, who learnt how to deal with human-wildlife conflict situations and find solutions to prevent this conflict. Participants also gained much experience through meeting many conservationists from different countries, and exchanging ideas and knowledge. Musti has recently been appointed as EWCP's Community Liaison Officer in Bale, while continuing to help the monitoring team. We hope that Musti will put the knowledge and experience he gained from attending this course to good use in Bale.

In addition, Leta Edea, our Bale Vet officer, and Dejene Deme, the Arsi education officer, have both received their degrees in Wildlife Management, and Education Planning and Management respectively. Congratulations to both of them!

Ethiopian Wolf Conservation in the Amhara Region

By Fekadu Lema

Environmental Education should play an important role in developing a society that is aware of and concerned about the environment and associated problems relating to sustainable development.

In the north of Ethiopia, EWCP works with the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) to educate school children and community members about the Ethiopian wolf and the importance and benefits of afroalpine conservation.

Recently a team of FZS and EWCP staff went to visit some of the wolf habitat in the north. We spent five days camped in Abuna Yoseph, an area in North Wollo where we estimate there to be a population of approximately 20 wolves, and then another five days in the Simien Mountains National Park, where the second largest population of Ethiopian wolves is found. Abuna Yoseph does not lie within a protected area, and the effects of rapid human expansion can be very easily seen. Cattle and goats graze high into the afroalpine, and we encountered barley fields at over 4000m asl!

In Simien we were faced with a similar situation, with a growing human presence and agriculture expansion seen both within and surrounding the Park. We spent time in both areas visiting the local communities and schools and talking to people about their impressions of the wolves and conservation. The local people living within the National Park were positive about the wolves, realizing their value and the benefits they could bring as a tourist attraction. In Abuna Yoseph, the communities expressed their desire to see the wolves survive, and the challenge for us lies in balancing the needs of a rapidly growing human population in the afroalpine with the increasingly urgent need to conserve these areas.

EWCP and FZS will continue to work together to increase environmental awareness amongst the communities in the north to ensure the protection of the Ethiopian wolf and its habitat.

The Simien Mountains © A. Stewart



“The protection of the park is the duty of every local person in order to save it for the coming generations”.



Our guest for this issue is the new Dinsho Woreda Administrator, **Obbo Hussein Hiko**. Here we interview him for the *Jeedala Gazette*, and find out how he feels about conservation.

DINSHO WOREDA Interview

Q. What is your view about the conservation of the wolves and the park as a whole?

A. The Ethiopian wolf is an endemic species found only in Ethiopia and nowhere else in the world. They are unique and endangered. If they are not protected, their future survival will be in doubt. I know that the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme is struggling to save them from extinction and it is important that we all need to help to save them together with EWCP.

Q. What values or benefits do you think BMNP has for local people?

A. We benefit from the park and its natural resources in many ways. We receive economical benefits from the flow of international visitors, which is vital for our country. Conservation projects and NGOs working here have created job opportunities for local people. Schools have been built and other community developments have been given to us because of the existence of the park and wildlife.

Q. How do the woreda and the local community participate to save endangered species?

A. Our woreda has supported conservation for many years. We have initiated an awareness programme at the community level, integrated with the conservation organi-

zations, and we support the EWCP vet team whenever they need help to vaccinate dogs in the village.

Q. What measures could you suggest to prevent or stop rabies?

A. Rabies is a very serious issue and it is a very risky disease. We need to work on community education to stop the disease and we must think of limiting the number of dogs in communities. We are currently planning meetings to this effect.

Q. What do you suggest to prevent habitat loss and the expansion of farmland?

A. Habitat damage and expansion of farmland is amongst the most serious threats faced by the National Park. I would suggest that there must be a boundary between agriculture and natural habitat or forest. It also needs our commitment to stop habitat damage using policies and laws.

Q. Are there any other things you would like to add?

A. Congratulations to EWCP for passing through many challenges to help save our unique living heritage, the Ethiopian wolf. We will offer you all the support needed from us. Finally, I would say that the protection of the park is the duty of every local person in order to save it for the coming generations!

Keessuummaan keenya kan maxxanfama kanaa bulchaa aanaa Diinshoo obbo Hussen Hiikoo ti mee wajjin turaa.

Duraan dursee waa'ee Jeedala fardaa fi qbbeenya Paarkii Biyyoolessa Gaarreewan Baalee kunuunsuu irrattii yaada qabdan akkamittii ibsitan?

Jeedalli fardaa bineensa marartuu fi biyya keenya qofa keessatti argamti. Biyya keenyaafis taanaan akka ijoo tokkootti qabeenya jirtu yammuu taatu sababa adda addatiin caraa baduu fi jiraachuu jiddutti argamti. Kanaafuu qabeenya carraa gaaffii jala jiru kana baraaruuf hundi keenyaa humnaa fi beekumsa qabnu hundaan dhaabata sagantaa eegumsa Jeedala fardaa (EWCP) wajjiin qindooftnee kunuunsuuf qophii ta'uu ibsa. Akka walii galaatti qabeenya paarkii biyyoolessa gaarreewwan Baalee qabeenya nama tokkoo ykn dhaabbata tokkoo qofa waan hin taaneef qabeenya lammii hundaa waan ta'eef kunuunsuu keessatti gahee nurraa eeggamu gumaahuu qabna.

Bu'aan qabeenya uumamaa ykn kununsaa isanii maal fa'a?

Qabeenyi uumamaa fi paarkiin bu'aa baay'ee nuuf kenna. Bu'aan akka fakkeenyaati tuquu barbaadu gama diinagdee biyyatiitiin yoo ilaale daaw'atoota biyya alaa irraa galiin argamu dinagdee biyya keenyaatiif gahee guddaa qaba. Daaw'attoonni biyyoota adda addaallee akka dhufan yammuu taasisu nutis sababa kanaan addunyaan akka wal qunnamnu karaa bane jira. Namootni daaw'iif dhufanis addaa keenya baranii adunyaan akka beeku ni taasisu. Kara biraatin immoo qaamoni kunuunsaaf dhufanii fi NGO n adda addaa namoota naannoo qaxaruun, mana barumsaa ijaaruun deeggarsa nuuf godhuun sababa jireenya paarkiiti fi bineensota bosonaa kan akka Jeedala fardaatiin ta'uun ifa dha. Pirojaktiin kununsaa fkn kan akka EWCP caraa hojii hojattota naanootif bane kunuunsa irratti hirmaachisuunis bu'aa isa biraati.

Kunuunsa bineensota marartuu kanaaf hirmaanaan aanaa fi ummataa maal fakkaata?

Hirmaannaa aanaa yoo ilaallee kanaan dura hubannoo ummata naannoo qabeenya uumamaaf

qabu cimsuu irratti yammuu dalaguu qaama dhimmi ilaalu fi NGO wajjin qindominaan yammuu sochoonu keessattuu immoo duula talaalii EWCPn kennuu irrattii deegarsa barbaachisaa ta'e garee talaaliitiif gochaa jirra. Qabeenyi kunis abbummaan kan ummataa ta'uus ni barsiifna. Haata'u malee hubannoo fi beekumsa akka cimuu barumsii fi sochiin kun jabaatee itti fufuu qaba.

Dhukkuba saree balleessuuf maal gochuu qabna?

Dhukkuba saree maraattee balleessuuf dhimmi kun qaama mootummaa wajjin fallii kennamu malee baay'ee yaachisaa dha. Hawaasa barsiisuuf mariin godhamuu qaba. Lakkoofsi sarootaa akka xiqqaatu qaama dhimmi ilaalu wajjiin mari'achuuf karoora qabannee jirra. Kunis kan yeroon itti kennamuu miti. Ogeesota aanaa keenyaa kan dhimmi kun ilaalchisu hunda dhukkuba kana salphisuuf ni hirmaachisna.

Qonna babal'ataa jiru haala kamiin salphisuu qabna?

Waa'een mancaasa gaaraa fi babal'inna qonnaa gaafii hunda keenyaati. Manca'isni kallattii adda addaatiin rakkoo fidaa jira. Qabeenya uumamaa fi Paarkii Biyyoolessa Gaarreewan Baalee irratti miidhaa hangana hin jedhamne geessaa jira. Kanaa fuu dangaan qonnaa fi bosonaa addaan bahuu qaba.

Dhaamsi dabalataan dabarsuuf barbaaddan yoo jiraate nuuf ibsaa?

Dhaamsi ani dabarsuu barbaadu Sagantaa Eegumsa Jeedala Fardaa (EWCPn) qabeenya mararuu biyya keenya qofa keessatti argamtufii baduu geete tana kunuunsuu isaatiif maqaa aanaa keenyaatiin galata guddaa isiniif galcha. Rakkoo keessa baatanii as gahuu keessaniin бага gammadan jechaa nutis qarqaarsa barbaachisaa ta'e hunda akka isiniif kenninu isinis osoo hin hifatin akka itti nuuf fufatanii fi bineensota bosonaa keenyaa fi Paarkii Biyyoolessa Gaarreewan Baalee dhalootaaf akka dabarsinu jechaa dhaamsa kiyya as irratti xummura.



SCHOOL & CLUB PAGE

The Bale Beauty Nature Club has received two awards: one as a Role Model Club for Conservation and Environmental Protection, and the other as the Best Performing Youth Club. Ayub Suleyman, the club head, received the gold medal and certificate from the Federal Republic President of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. Ismael Kewiti, the vice chairperson, also received a bronze medal and certificate in Ambo in November. A huge congratulations to the club!

The EWCP Dinsho Sports Centre is being used by the local youth and school clubs, according to Dessalegn Hailu, from the Woreda Youth and Sports Office. He reports that they have football training four days a week. We hope this will improve the standard of sport at the annual Dinsho Wolf Day, as well as helping to nurture the best athletes from the Bale area. Recently, the woreda youth and sport office received a donation of 10 balls from ICS (International Community School) in Addis with the facilitation of EWCP.

There was recently an art competition for the Dinsho Primary and Secondary Schools, and Sanetti Primary School in Goba. The winners were exhibited at the Arsi Wolf Day celebration. Winners of best drawings were Zelalem Lema and Foad Abubakar from Dinsho High School, Indalkachew Alemayehu from Sanetti Primary School, and Abdurazak Aman from Dinsho Primary School

FACTS

- Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) in the north of Ethiopia is home to many endemic species, such as the gelada baboon, walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf.
- The highest mountain in Ethiopia, Ras Dasben, is found in the SMNP.
- The SMNP has been a World Heritage Site since 1978, which means it is an area of exceptional natural beauty that is important for conserving threatened species.
- The Park receives approximately 4500 visitors a year.

ACTION

Keep good records about your dog. What is your dog's name? How old is your dog? Has it been vaccinated by EWCP? That way when the vet team come to your house it will be easy for them to know your dog and its history. Look after your dog by making sure it has food and water and a dry place to sleep. If your dog is well looked after it will be strong and healthy, and it will work harder to guard your livestock and your property. Dogs that are fed properly will also not hunt wildlife.

ANIMAL PAGE

THE AFRICAN LION *Panthera leo*

The lion is a member of the cat family. Other members of this family include cheetahs and leopards. The African lion exists in several populations in Ethiopia, including the Harenna Forest of the Bale Mountains National Park.

Lions are built for strength. Males are larger than females, weighing up to 249 kg. Lions have coats made of short brown or yellow fur. Male lions are the only cats to have manes, which is long, bushy hair that covers the head and neck. Lions vocalize by roaring. They have a flap of skin in their throats which enables them to roar.

Lions are carnivores. They generally hunt three or four times a week, eating up to 35kg in one meal. After a big meal, they may not eat again for few days. Lions eat anything from rodents to large antelope. Lions usually kill large prey by suffocation, clamping their mouth over the prey's nose and windpipe. Lions limit the number of grazing animals and so keep the ecosystem in balance. The remains of their prey provide food for vultures, jackals, hyenas and many insects.

Lions are the only big cats to live in social groups called a pride. Each pride contains 2 to 6 female lionesses and their cubs. One or more males will take over the pride, mate with females and guard their territory. They will stay with the pride for about two to three years, after which time a younger, stronger male or group of males may take over the pride. Unlike males, lionesses remain in the same pride all their lives. Female lions tend to do most of the hunting for the group.

Lions are one of the "Big Five", which refers to a group of large African mammals which tourists come to Africa especially to see. Like all the African lions, the lions in the Harenna forest are 'vulnerable' to extinction which means that we might lose this very special species if they are not protected.



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የዕብድ ውሻ በሽታ ገዳይ ሲሆን በበሽታው የተለከፈ ውሻ ንክሻ አማካኝነት በቀላሉ ወደ ሰው፣ የቤት ና የዱር እንስሳት ሊተላለፍ ይችላል።

የዕብድ ውሻ በሽታ በወሾች ላይ የሚያሳየው ምልክቶች መካከል ያለምክንያት መናደድ፣ ማድከም፣ ውሃ ለማጠጣት መፈለግ፣ ለሀጭ ማዘረክረክ፣ የኃላ እግሮችን ሽባ ማድረግን እና አጠቃላይ ክሳትን በዋነኝነት መጥቀስ ይቻላል።

በተራራማው ስፍራ የሚኖሩ ሰዎች ከ ክብቶቻቸው ጋር ወሾችን ይዘው ስለሚንቀሳቀሱ ከ ቀይ ቀበሮ ዎች ጋር በመገናኘት በሽታውን ያስተላልፋቸዋል።

የውሻ ባለቤቶች የወሾቻቸውን ጤንነት መጠበቅ እና ከቤት እከባቢ ርቀው እንዳይሄዱ ማድረግ በጣም አስፈላጊ ነው። የእንስሳት ጤና ቡድኑ አባላት ለክትባት ዘመቻ ሲመጡ ከፍተኛ ትብብር እንድታደርጉላቸው ጥረቶችን እናቀርባለን።



SAGANTAA EEGUMSA JEEDALA FARDAA ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAMME Jeedala Gazette Issue 10 March 2010

World Rabies Day in Dinsho

One of the events that EWCP celebrates in partnership with the Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC) is World Rabies Day on the 28th of September. This event aims to raise awareness about the dangers of rabies and ways to prevent the disease. For the third year in a row, the event was hosted by Dinsho Primary School. Some of the school kids marched with banners stating “We are against rabies! Stop rabies”, “Vaccinate your dogs!” and “Help save the Ethiopian wolf”. The demonstrators met with their classmates and teachers in the school grounds, and watched a performance by other pupils on the causes and effects of rabies.

Rabies is transmitted by domestic dogs from the villages surrounding and within the National Park, and is fatal to the wolves. Outbreaks have occurred in 2003, 2008 and most recently in May 2009, and have caused large losses to the wolf population in the Bale Mountains. We hope that the children who are so passionate about getting rid of rabies in Bale will help to spread this message to their families – vaccinating your dogs will help to stop this disease and will save the Ethiopian wolf.



Do you know about EWCP?

The mission of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme is to conserve the endangered Ethiopian wolf and its Afroalpine habitat by addressing the most urgent threats to its long-term survival.

EWCP promotes sustainable solutions for the conservation of Ethiopian wolves by addressing particular aspects of the most serious threats affecting their populations. The work is centred on capacity building, monitoring the wolves and the use of Afroalpine resources, disease prevention and control, community education campaigns, habitat protection support, and population management.

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World Rabies Day demonstration © A. Stewart

