



# Annual Report

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*Securing a future for Ethiopian wolves and the Afroalpine ecosystem  
for everyone and for generations to come*



*Our vision is to secure Ethiopian wolf populations and habitats across their present distribution, and to extend the species range, stressing its role as a flagship for the conservation of the Afroalpine ecosystem on which present and future generations of Ethiopians also depend.*

► Claudio and Ato Kumara in Dinsho

After two exceptional years with many ups and downs, we have been thrilled by how the peoples of Ethiopia, and the wolves, have coped with adversity. With the return of peace and normality we have resumed our work across key wolf populations. Together with our Ethiopian partners we continue to pull all our strength to fight the threats to Ethiopian wolves and their Afroalpine habitat through awareness, habitat protection, supporting livelihoods, and science-led approaches to managing disease. This report covers the last two years of our work.

Sustainable conservation is a long-term game, and only through committed efforts and dedication the necessary trust and common ground between the needs of people and wildlife can be found. This was highlighted by a fortuitous event. Despite heavy disruptions to our ability to move and work, we achieved a world-first in the rescue and rehabilitation of an Ethiopian wolf in Simien. It was gut-wrenching to be so far away from our colleagues throughout the operation to save Terefe, the injured wolf, but their success is testament to their perseverance. This phenomenal achievement brought together people across organisations, united by their love for wildlife, and created a unique outreach opportunity with some of the Simien Mountains' communities, truly a much-needed spark of hope in such a difficult time.

For those of us kept away from Ethiopia by travel restrictions it has also been very hard. During those long months we dearly missed the highlands and our friends. As we return, the future is on our minds. Over the last three decades EWCP has truly been our life's work and we are working hard to plan a sustainable future for the programme.

All this would not be possible without the wonderful encouragement we get from our donors and allies worldwide, and we thank you all warmly for your amazing support. We are as determined as ever, no matter the challenge, to do our utmost to ensure a future for Ethiopian wolves and their Afroalpine home.

We remain confident that with your continued assistance and the hard toil of our Ethiopian counterparts we can secure a future for the rare and endangered Ethiopian wolves. Thank you!

Prof Claudio Sillero  
Founder and Director

# HIGHLIGHTS

- The big picture: an update of wolf status across their range, with detail of our focal packs. The contribution of a single female from Tarura pack to population recruitment over a decade highlights the immense value of long-term monitoring. [Page 4.](#)
- The Afroalpine carnivore community: There are at least 13 carnivore species present in the Bale Mountains, we look at how they are distributed according to altitude. [Page 8.](#)
- Once we were able to resume community work, 44 communities were reached by our disease awareness campaigns in and around Bale Mountains; 6,564 dogs were vaccinated (reaching 94% coverage). [Page 9.](#)
- One Health derives benefits to people, their animals and wildlife: Seventeen wolf packs were vaccinated against rabies orally, with 558 vaccines delivered; 4 packs received a rabies injection in response to a limited outbreak; 4 packs were vaccinated against CDV; 32 wolves were captured in 4 packs to measure immune response. [Page 10.](#)
- Our new field lab-wildlife clinic in Dinsho, customized out of a shipping container, provides a much-needed facility to sort out and store samples, and to treat injured animals. [Page 12.](#)
- Biodiversity Friendly Futures: 165 households benefitted from alternative livelihoods and reduced pressure on natural resources; 2,140kg of Highland Honey sold for over \$15,000; 478 grass bundles harvested from Guassa Gardens sold for \$4,112; 20 women in 4 cooperatives sold 904 fuel-saving stoves earning \$5,175. [Page 14.](#)
- A population revival in Delanta serves as a field lab of how future conservation translocations may result from only a small number of founders. [Page 16.](#)
- The Lucky Survivor: An update on the whereabouts of Terefe, the value of our community links and what we can achieve together through our love of the wolves. [Page 17.](#)
- Living With Wolves is our concept for a new initiative using principles from behavioural and social sciences to address old and emerging threats to the wolves, with benefits for all. [Page 18.](#)
- Disease Alert Network: how a rapid response to a call for help kept a community safe from rabies. [Page 19.](#)

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) is a partnership between the University of Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA). EWCP operates under agreements between the WildCRU and EWCA, Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) and Amhara's Environment, Forest and Wildlife Protection and Development Authority (EFWPDA), and with the support and cooperation of local authorities across Ethiopia. It is chiefly funded by the Wildlife Conservation Network and the Born Free Foundation.



# MONITORING & RESEARCH

Understanding animal behaviour and what makes populations tick is a cornerstone for the successful conservation of endangered species.

***In the last two years:*** 92 wolf packs monitored; over 3,600 man-days observing wolves across 6 wolf populations in 28 sites; more than 4,000 sightings of wolves or groups of wolves; 190 records of threats (fire, new crops, new settlements, harvesting, livestock predation)

***Team:*** Monitoring Officers Alo Hussein, Getachew Assefa and Mengistu Birhan, 14 Monitors and 16 Wolf Ambassadors deployed across Ethiopia; Research Officer Dr Girma Eshete

## The big picture: wolf news from across their range

Monitoring populations of endangered species is essential to conservation. It promptly detects threats to the survival of small populations and helps to assess and predict their effects as well as that of any conservation intervention. In the last two years, with great effort, EWCP teams monitored 34 Ethiopian wolf packs in 6 populations across Ethiopia, counting 182 individual wolves with high confidence in the breeding season 2020-2021. This corresponds to around half of the global population of this endangered species, a significant achievement and unparalleled among any other endangered carnivore. Another 67 packs are estimated to occupy the rest of the habitat, leading to an overall estimate of 450 adult or subadult wolves across all Ethiopia in 2020-2022.

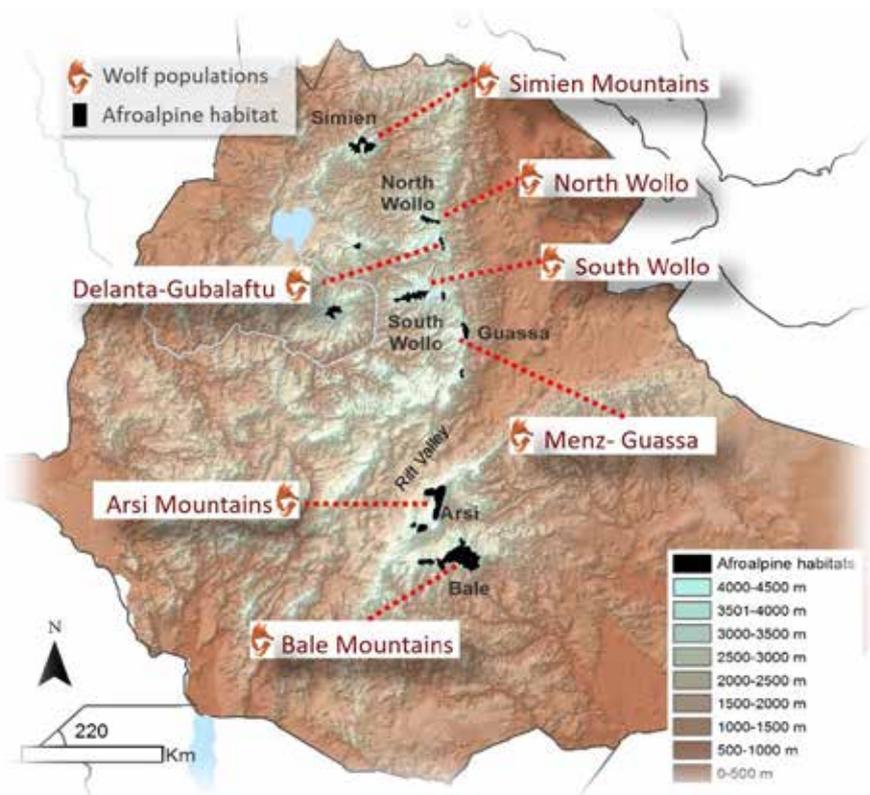
Fortunately, mortality has been limited in this period, with only a handful of dead animals found, including an isolated case of a wolf killed by rabies in Menz-Guassa (North Shoa) and a small rabies outbreak in Bale. The decline in disease cases may be the result of the immunity acquired by many wolves from SAG2 oral vaccinations. Oral rabies vaccines have been delivered to packs in Bale, Arsi, Menz-Guassa, Delanta and North Wollo over the last two years.

Even in the absence of major outbreaks, recent trends in wolf populations are variable. While some populations are increasing, others are stable or decreasing. There are many threats to wolf populations across the country, some of which are universal, and others more concentrated in certain populations. A key component of EWCP

monitoring is assessing these threats, including recording information in the field with standard protocols. Livestock grazing and other natural resource uses (including harvesting of guassa and Erica) remain a large threat to almost all populations. Agricultural expansion and new settlements are also reducing the amount of habitat available to wolves in some localities. Indirectly, this encroachment into their habitat also disrupts foraging and prey availability for the wolves, with byproduct problems including disruption from humans, dogs, and disease. All of these threats need to be monitored, studied and mitigated, using education, vaccination, sustainable economic models, and other conservation strategies, to ensure the ongoing survival of the Ethiopian wolf.

While formal habitat protection and work by EWCP and partners are increasingly able to address these problems, this status review highlights the extent and severity of some of the challenges ahead. Some specific priorities for the protection of Ethiopian wolves have emerged, including:

- a) enhance habitat protection in Delanta-Gubalaftu (South Wollo), to stop habitat loss and secure the survival of this new population;
- b) help resolve conflicts between local communities and the government in South Wollo, in order to re-establish traditional management systems of guassa grassland that were in place in the park extension up until last year;
- c) control the risk posed by growing numbers of domestic dogs within wolf habitat in the Bale Mountains.



► Ethiopian wolves survive in 7 isolated populations in the highest mountains. The one in the Bale Mountains is the largest, with around 300 wolves.

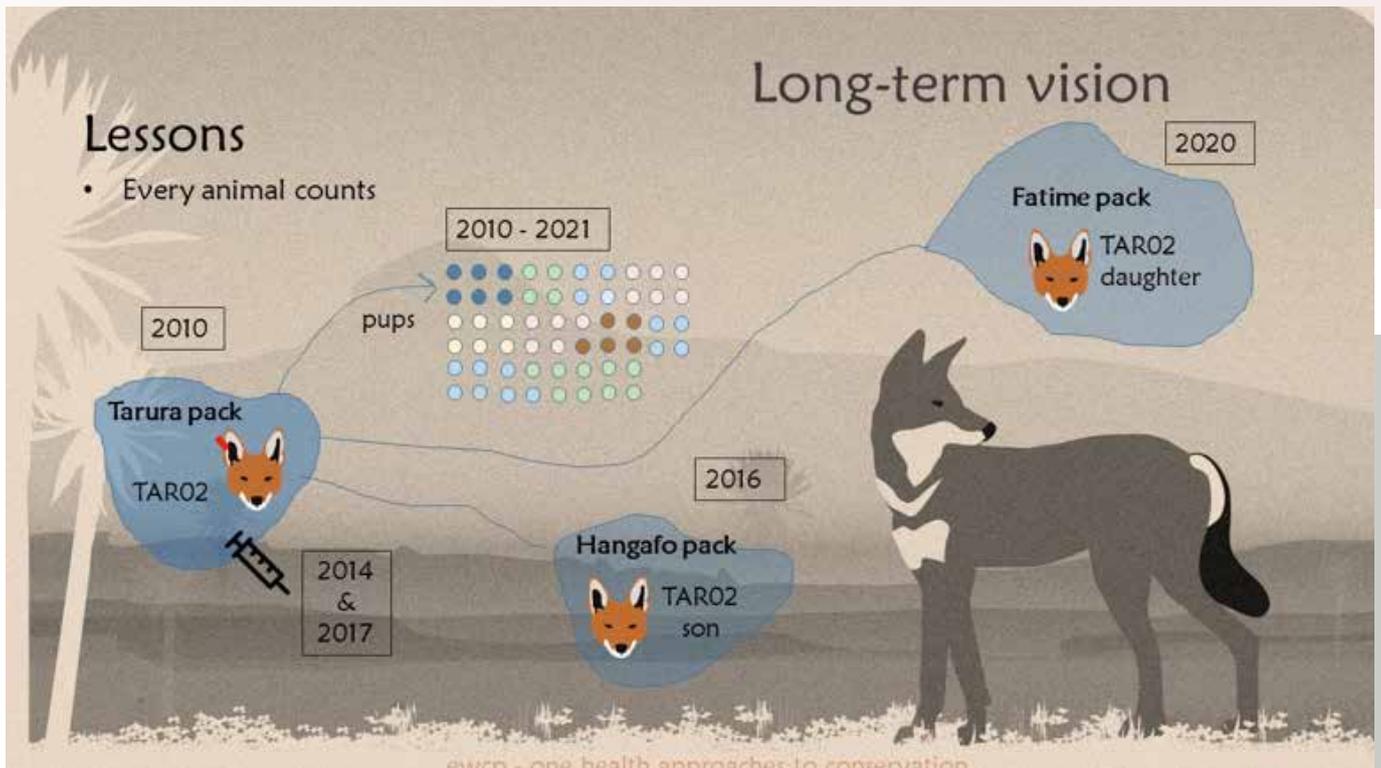
Bale Mountains 2020-2021					Bale Mountains 2021-2022				
pack	group size	adults	subadults	pups	pack	group size	adults	subadults	pups
<b>Web Valley</b>					<b>Web Valley</b>				
Alando	2	2		4	*Alando	4	2	2	3
Bowman	8	4	4	4	Bowman	8	4	4	5
Fatime	2	2		5	*Fatime	5	2	3	
Habale	4	4		4	Habale	3	3		
Hangafo	10	5	5	4	*Hangafo	5	4	1	4
Mckenna	9	5	4	5	Mckenna	10	6	4	5
Megity	9	4	5	5	Megity	8	8		7
Tarura	11	6	5	4	*Tarura	6	4	2	
	<b>55</b>			<b>35</b>		<b>49</b>			<b>24</b>
<b>Sanetti Plateau</b>					<b>Sanetti Plateau</b>				
Bagadasa	9	4	5	6	Bagadasa	8	6	2	4
Batu	6	4	2	4	Batu	7	4	3	5
BBC	7	3	4	1	BBC	5	5		5
BBC2	7	3	4	2	BBC2	5	5		
Garba Gurracha	8	4	4	6	Garba Gurracha	10	6	4	4
	<b>37</b>			<b>19</b>		<b>35</b>			<b>18</b>
<b>East Morabawa</b>					<b>East Morabawa</b>				
Genale	7	3	4	4	Fulbana	8	4	3	
Fulbana	4	2	2	4	Gata	7	4		2
Gata	5	2	3	4	Genale	5	4	4	2
Huke	7	4	3		Huke	5	7		
Osole	6	2	4	3	Osole	10	3	2	3
Weshema	8	5	3		Weshema	4	4		2
	<b>37</b>			<b>15</b>		<b>39</b>			<b>9</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129</b>			<b>69</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>			<b>51</b>

► Over several months spanning the wolves breeding season, EWCP monitors in the Bale Mountains keep tabs on 19 focal packs, delivering the exceptional information shown on this table, which in turn informs all our disease control activities. \*Packs known to be affected by the latest outbreak in the Web Valley

Northern populations 2020-2021				
pack	group size	adults	subadults	pups
<b>Menz-Guassa</b>				
Regreg	2	2		
Sefed Meda	4	4		
Chichira Meda	4	4		
Berie Ginbar	4	4		3
Atse Wuha	3	2		2
	17			5
<b>Delanta population</b>				
Addis Tesfa	8	2	6	3
	8			3
<b>North Wollo</b>				
Rim Gedel	5	5		4
Qey Gedel	3	2	1	4
Aboi Gara	2	2		
	10			8
<b>Simien Mountains</b>				
Gich	3	3		3
Aynameda	2	2		3
Chenek	3	2	1	3
Kechemo Buhait	5	4	1	3
Sebat Minch	3	2	1	
Terefe	2	2		
	18			12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>			<b>28</b>

► EWCP monitors have also followed closely 15 packs in the Amhara region, documenting breeding in at least 9 of these.

► The value of monitoring. That is how we learnt of the prolific contribution of a single female (TAR02) from the Web Valley's Tarura pack to population recruitment over a decade.





## The Afroalpine carnivore community

Always being present on the ground while monitoring wolves brings additional benefits including the many opportunistic sightings of other wildlife. EWCP staff, researchers, and protected area staff contribute many records to the wildlife sightings database, most remarkably in the Bale Mountains, where our monitoring effort goes back to the 1980s. Simply by plotting the frequency of these records we can have an idea of how other species are distributed and their relative abundance.

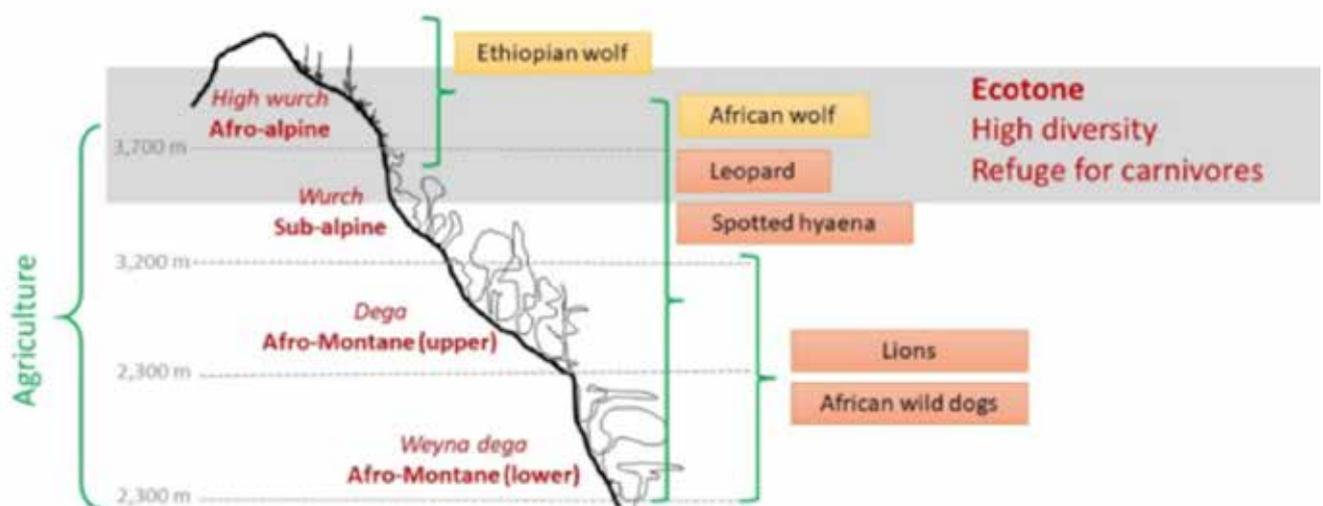
Recently, we looked at the carnivore community in Bale, with at least 13 carnivore species present, and how they are distributed according to altitude.

Climate determines three broad altitudinal belts in the Ethiopian highlands: the Afro-alpine, sub-alpine and Afro-montane zones. Most people live in the fertile highlands of the Weyna Dega (warm temperate) and Dega (temperate) zones. The Afroalpine areas are colder and less favourable for agriculture. The ecotones between belts usually sustain higher diversity, including Afroalpine endemics like the Ethiopian wolf, but are also home to other carnivores. Due to agricultural encroachment, the Afroalpine and sub-alpine areas are becoming refuges for other carnivores, that are more generalist and generally have wider altitudinal distributions.



► In addition to the four large carnivores found in the highland belts, we have recorded caracal, serval cat, honey badger, African civet, banded mongoose, Egyptian mongoose and white-tailed mongoose. Most of them extend lower down to the dega and weyna-dega, where lions and African wild dogs are also found.

### Highland belts & carnivores



## Research Collaborations

**Addis Ababa University** - African wolf ecology and competition - genetics

**Animal & Plant Health Agency** - GOV.UK - Immune response to CDV vaccine

**Antwerp University, Belgium** - Large Carnivore Survey of Ethiopia

**Ethiopian Public Health Institute** - Rabies diagnostics in wolves and dogs

**Jimma University** - African wolf ecology and competition

**Madawalabu University** - Socio ecological conditions for wolf reintroductions

**Oslo University** - NORPART partnership

**Phillip University Marburg, Germany** - Climate monitoring in the Bale Mountains

**Rollins College, USA** - Measuring cortisol in claws and hair to assess stress in wolves

**Royal Veterinary College, UK** - One Health and long-term trends

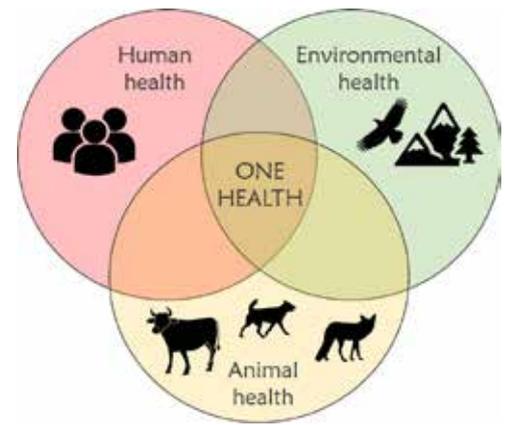
**Stanford University, USA** - Ethiopian wolf genomics

**University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic** - Giant molerat physiology and ecology



# ONE HEALTH

Managing diseases, with benefits for people, domestic animals and wildlife



▶ Using camera traps we monitor the uptake of oral vaccine baits by Ethiopian wolves.

## ***In the last two years:***

52 communities reached by disease awareness campaigns in and around Bale Mountains National park, where 6,564 dogs were vaccinated (reaching 94% coverage); 19 packs orally vaccinated against rabies, 626 vaccines delivered, 79% consumed; 3 packs vaccinated against CDV; 30 wolves captured in 4 packs to measure immune response; 15 wolves captured in 4 packs to contain a rabies outbreak in Web valley.

## ***Team:***

*Vet Team Leader* Muktar Abute and *Vet Team Officer* Haji Usman, *Community Team Leader* Mustafa Dule, *Vet Officers* Kebede Wolde and Abubaker Hussein, *Vet Assistants* Kassim Kedir and Mama Abdi

## Integrated disease management

Our overarching goal is to prevent Ethiopian wolf populations from going extinct through the implementation of an integrated disease management strategy, with One Health benefits. This is achieved through continuous wolf population and habitat monitoring, awareness to local communities as disease front-line actors (through our Disease Alert Network) and vaccination of dogs and wolves to reduce the threats.

Due to the Covid19 crisis restrictions on people gatherings and movement were put in place, reducing our ability to implement many of our activities. Despite these unpredictable and unavoidable events, monitoring and vaccination activities were implemented successfully within the prevailing time and movement constraints. Disease surveillance and monitoring of wolf populations continued almost as planned despite restrictions. This was possible through the implementation of a tight Covid19 field protocol, developed by EWCP and approved by our partner the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA).

Dog vaccination and community awareness activities were suspended until the end of 2020, but we were

able to restart efficiently in early 2021 with increased effort. The number of dog vaccinations attained was remarkable considering the limited period of implementation. During the remaining time, the vet teams were relocated to monitoring, maintenance of the vet stores and equipment, and processing biological samples and updating the samples database.

A key success during 2020 and early 2021 was the implementation of oral vaccination campaigns in four wolf populations (reaching 14 packs) in Arsi Region and Amhara Region in the northern highlands of Ethiopia, and the continuation of oral vaccination in Bale (reaching 5 packs). The protection resulting from oral vaccination coverage was evidenced once more with the limited impact a rabies outbreak detected in Web Valley in December 2021; the immune response from oral vaccination was swiftly complemented by a rapid capture and inoculation intervention and the outbreak petered away.

Going forward our key priority will involve building further collaborations with government agencies and donors, so that the battle to eradicate, or at least reduce, the impact of rabies in rural Ethiopia can be won.

Bale rabies outbreak							
Date found	Type	Area	Location	Species	Post mortem	Tested for rabies	Tested for CDV
24 Nov 2021	carcass	Bale	Web Valley	wolf	yes	positive	negative
17 Dec 2021	carcass	Bale	Web Valley	wolf	yes	positive	negative
24 Dec 2021	sick	Bale	Web Valley	wolf	NA		
27 Dec 2021	sick	Bale	Web Valley	wolf	NA		
2 Jan 2022	carcass	Bale	Dinsho	dog	yes	positive	negative
12 Jan 2022	carcass	Bale	Web Valley	wolf	no		
16 Feb 2022	carcass	Adaba	Washa	dog	yes	positive	negative

► Rabies cases detected in Bale during recent outbreak. This was seemingly contained in space and severity as a consequence of previous oral vaccination. See also pack composition table above.

## EWCP Field lab at work

It's been a long project, but we got there in the end! Work on the main structure started in 2020, at Born Free's Ensessa Kotteh Wildlife Rescue Sanctuary near Addis, where under Bereket Girma supervision a shipping container was customised and kitted out. Once installed in the Bale Mountains National Park HQ in Dinsho, it was completed by a protective roof, supplied with water, waste and mains, and a back-up to protect it from the vagaries of power supply in Bale. Since early 2022, all vaccines and biological samples are stored securely in the lab. Relocation of all our samples was hard work, but a great opportunity to fully record and cross-check ancient data with a modern database.

The new field lab is a valuable resource to enhance the capacity of local vets to carry out post-mortem examinations, and learn to collect, prepare and preserve biological samples. We are also able to do some analysis, such as testing the efficacy of Rapid Antigen kits in the early detection of rabies in-situ, and cross-checking them with the diagnostics carried out by our partners in EPHI and APHA.



► Our new field lab-wildlife clinic, customized out of a shipping container, provides a much-needed facility to sort out and store samples, and to treat injured animals.

The new lab, along with the nearby meeting room and residential facilities, currently being refurbished by EWCP, will facilitate further training and teaching opportunities for One Health community in Ethiopia.

## Collaboration with BeWild Aid



EWCP welcomes the arrival of BeWild Aid. A non-profit nature conservation organisation recently established in Ethiopia by Jorge Soares. BeWild provides effective veterinary care for wild animals, and works closely with local professionals, building capacity and empowering future conservationists. Jorge and his Ethiopian colleagues responded swiftly and reached the Bale Mountains to help the EWCP team treat a wolf from Tarura pack in the Bale Mountains that had been seriously injured, saving its life. In another occasion, they teamed up to rescue a leopard that had been caught in a poachers trap. Sadly, this time it was too late to save a life. With situations like these where animals are injured having the expertise and rapid response that BeWild can offer can make a difference between life and death. EWCP is also assisting BeWild contributing lectures to its online training course.

# Uptake of baits in oral rabies vaccination

Synopsis of Jessica Chalkley's work



► Non-target species that may occasionally take baits.



Effective disease control is vital in mitigating devastating disease outbreaks among threatened wild animals living in proximity to domestic animal reservoir populations. Since 2018 EWCP has carried out oral vaccinations of the wolves to control the spread of rabies, using camera traps to assess the likelihood of wolves picking up the baits. Analysis of images from 580 bait stations across five wolf populations helped confirm what species took up the bait in 416 instances. Of those, the wolves were the main bait consumers (46%), with peak uptake occurring soon after bait deployment in the evening. Uptake by non-target species was almost exclusively diurnal, and predominantly by rodents, birds of prey and domestic dogs (41%). Location and vegetation type influenced bait uptake by the wolves, and interference competition in areas of high dog density reduced wolf uptake. It was lower particularly nearer to human settlements where dogs were more active during the day. The main lesson learnt from this study was that we should prioritise bait placement in areas of low dog density, or further from settlements, and remove the baits during the day to reduce non-target bait uptake.

# Disease awareness for highland communities

With support from IUCN Save Our Species, we have produced and distributed leaflets and posters to highland communities. These resources, printed in Amharic and Afaan Oromo languages with key messages on reducing the spread of disease and protecting people, livestock and wildlife. are helping raise awareness of the health risks of rabies and canine distemper. These resources aim to increase uptake of vaccinations for domestic dogs and promote behaviours that will reduce incidence of disease, such as keeping dogs at home and reporting sick animals, protecting people, livestock and wolves.



# BIODIVERSITY FRIENDLY FUTURES

Building a future where wolves and people in the Afroalpine highlands coexist



## **Team:**

*Team Leaders* Girma Eshete, Fekadu Lema; *Community officers* Misrak Seyoum and Mengistu Birhan

***In the last two years:*** 165 households benefitted financially from alternative livelihoods and reduced pressure on natural resources; “Highland Honey”: 74 honey producers sold 2,140kg for over \$15,000; “Guassa Gardens”: 71 households harvested 478 grass bundles and sold 445 for \$4,112; “Saving Fuel, Saving Wolves”: 20 women in 4 cooperatives produced and sold 904 fuel-saving stoves earning \$5,175; Community-based management: 41 kebeles continued managing grasslands within a national park.

With support from the IUCN Save our Species African Wildlife initiative we have expanded our Biodiversity Friendly Futures project to promote alternative livelihoods and community-based resource management systems, with direct conservation and economic impacts in four mountain ranges with Ethiopian wolf populations in north Ethiopia: Borena Sayint Worehimenu National Park (BSWNP), Abune Yosef Community Conservation Area (ACCA), Guna Community Conservation Area (GCCA) and Delanta. The launch of the project coincided with the arrival of Covid-19 and armed conflict. With gatherings of people not allowed for most of 2020 and 2021, most activities planned were delayed. However, we were able to build a strong foundation for the project; new staff were recruited and trained, stakeholders identified, pilot livelihoods assessed and livelihood protocols updated.

Misrak Seyum joined us as Community Officer and visited all of sites and led in-situ assessments of alternative livelihoods. Two Wolf Monitors for BSWNP and one Wolf Ambassador for ACCA joined the team, completing our network of monitors and local ambassadors operating across project sites.

We identified all stakeholders with an interest or influence on Afroalpine conservation across the Amhara

National Regional State, from federal to grass-root levels including governments, civil organizations, NGOs, protected area managers, researchers, traditional institutions and local community leaders. The pilots revealed socio-economic benefits from these alternative livelihoods as well as evidence of improved protection of natural resources as a result. Misrak's experience has been instrumental - We analysed data from guassa growers in Delanta and interviewed additional Highland Honey beneficiaries and cooperatives of fuel-saving stove producers in BSWNP. The assessments allowed us to understand people's experiences, to identify shortcomings in implementation and assess interest for further engagement.

We supported Community Councils meetings in AYCCA and BSWNP and evaluated the status of Afroalpine conservation and management systems in these areas. In BSWNP, communities are abandoning their traditional Guassa management system because of a new conflict with park management; addressing this issue is a priority. In Delanta, field surveys in Angot Woreda revealed a pressing conflict over access to land and resources. We reported to our partners in the Environment Forest & Wildlife Development and Conservation Authority, and discussed a proposal to resolve these issues with the creation of a community-based protected area.

## Biodiversity Friendly Futures: Are our alternative livelihoods initiatives working?

*Synopsis of Ayesha Wijesekera work*

Despite being a common tool for conservation, the effectiveness of alternative livelihood initiatives in meeting their conservation goals and delivering well-being benefits to local communities is largely unknown. Barriers to evaluation are lack of funding and expertise, and an over-emphasis on implementation, with little uniformity in what it is measured. Using a framework for alternative livelihoods evaluation in conservation we looked at two EWCP initiatives, engaging communities in growing a native *Festuca* grass ("Guassa Gardens") and beekeeping near Erica forests ("Highland Honey") to reduce pressure upon natural resources in Ethiopian wolf habitats. From descriptive indicators derived from survey data we found that, based on outputs and uptake indicators, Guassa Gardens were successful, and identified factors explaining harvesting success. Highland Honey successfully delivered some outputs, but uptake was low, with only half of participants harvesting any honey. This was largely explained by differences in training, while income from selling honey varied with the district in which participants lived. To improve future evaluation we will endeavour to collect baseline data on damaging behaviours and well-being and to measure ecological impacts.

We are looking forward to continuing this work and doing better, inspired by the **2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services** ([https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes\\_global\\_assessment\\_report\\_summary\\_for\\_policymakers\\_en.pdf](https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers_en.pdf)), revealing that trends in habitat loss and deterioration have been less severe, or avoided in areas held or managed by indigenous peoples and local communities.

# CONSERVATION TRANSLOCATIONS

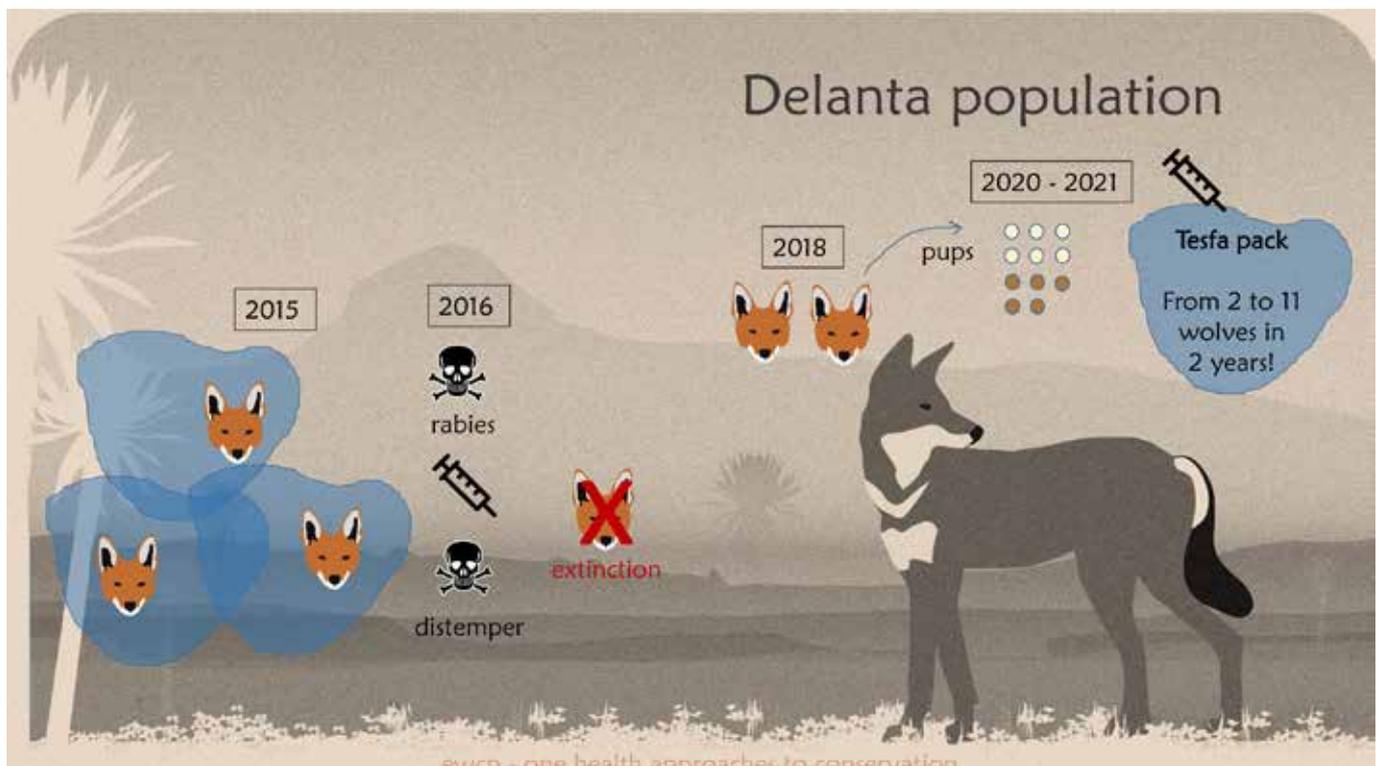
## Assisting movement of wolves to boost declining populations and recreate old ones

On their mountaintops, the last Ethiopian wolf populations are, at their own peril, disconnected from each other. Assisting the movement of wolves, to replicate the natural dispersal that once kept them interlinked will help build the resilience of these populations. This is the goal of EWCP's 'Conservation Translocations', a project we have been developing in the last couple years. We made good progress assessing the feasibility and risks of bringing the wolves back to Gaysay on the fringes of Bale Mountains National Park. This small heaven of grasslands and *Artemisia* heaths, where majestic mountain nyalas reign, was inhabited by wolves up until 2010. Here we report on some lessons learnt from incidental observations of a natural recolonisation we witnessed in the small Delanta range in south Wollo. We also take a look at how following rehabilitation, Terefe was able to start a new family in the fringes of Simien Mountains National Park.

### A field lab for future translocations?

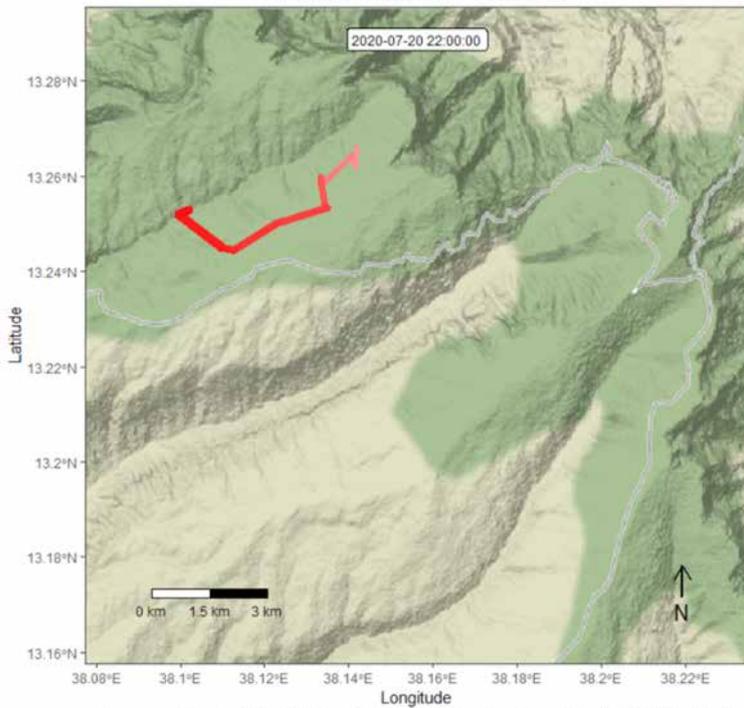
Delanta has an outstanding Afroalpine area, where the Addis Tesfa (New Hope in Amharic) pack has settled following a locally extinction six years ago. The pack has bred for three consecutive years and we recently confirmed the presence of at least seven wolves. To add to the excitement, we have heard reports of a pair of wolves seen in a habitat patch to the south. Are these Addis Tesfa dispersers starting a new family? We hope so! Our monitors will check this out and collect samples to elucidate the origins of this new population from genetics.

Considering the small size of this Afroalpine range, and how with only a couple animals that presumably arrived from further south a pack may be formed and thrive, gives us some understanding of how future translocation efforts may shape up.



► The fall and raise of wolves in Delanta. There are now seven adults, and a third litter was born in early 2022.

### Ethiopian Wolf, Simien Mountains



The movements of Terefe the Ethiopian wolf in the Simien Mountains. Green indicates the National Park. Data from the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

► Click this link ([https://www.ethiopianwolf.org/app/images/Terefe\\_ANIMATION.mp4](https://www.ethiopianwolf.org/app/images/Terefe_ANIMATION.mp4)) to follow Terefe, from the day he was released in his natal territory until establishing near Shehano village, after months of exploration across the Simien massif

### Terefe the lucky survivor

Recently we saw a world first for Ethiopian wolves in the story of Terefe, who became the only known wolf to be rescued and nursed back to health, overcoming a broken femur to go on to begin a new life.

In May 2020 Simien Mountains National Park scouts informed EWCP of a seriously injured wolf found under a bridge close to Ayenameda outpost. The wolf was transported to the camp, where he received veterinary care under the close attention of Getachew Assfaw, EWCP Simien Team Leader.

Close examination revealed that the wound was the result of a gunshot - shootings of Ethiopian wolves and other highland wildlife are very rare, but this was nonetheless an upsetting discovery for all involved. His injuries were treated, antibiotics administered, and a safe place prepared to house him at the outpost, close to his natal range.

Terefe turned out to be a fighter, and made an extraordinary recovery. After 5 weeks his wound had healed, his body condition improved and his eagerness to leave apparent in his vocalisations! A plan was carefully drawn up and his release date set, with the hope of him returning to his pack.



► Legend: Getachew Assefa and the Simien Mountains team, monitoring the territory of Terefe, the wolf rescued after a gunshot. The new pack bred this year for the first time!

Terefe's release back into the wild as the first ever Ethiopian wolf to be looked after and nursed back to health went without a hitch, and after a coordinated operation he set off into his natal pack's territory, fitted with a new Lotek satellite collar to gather data on his movements.

Although we were delighted to witness a happy reunion with two of his pack mates, Terefe was soon roaming far beyond his home territory, eventually settling by himself near Shehano village where he has since been based. An EWCP visit in September confirmed that Terefe was doing well in his new environment, and staff took the opportunity to share his story with local villagers. A community guard, Ato Chilot Wagaye, has lent a valuable hand in spreading awareness and assuaging concerns of shepherds, as well as keeping an eye on Terefe in our absence.

A few months passed until Chilot contacted us in January with exciting news – for the first time since leaving Ayenameda, another wolf had joined Terefe! Simien monitors eagerly set out to confirm the sighting and were pleased to report that his new companion was female and the pair were happily running and playing together. This news has been extremely welcome – we are hopeful that this could be the beginning of a new pack, a fantastic outcome and happy ending to a story that started so sadly.

None of this would have been possible were it not for the tireless dedication and passion of our staff on the ground, and the hard work of our colleagues at the Simien Mountains National Park, Debark Woreda Veterinary Clinic, and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority. Terefe's story is a great example of the value of our community links and what we can achieve together through our love of the wolves. We will be watching Terefe's future with optimism.

# LIVING WITH WOLVES

## Strategy for change: Living with Wolves

Our brains do not like change very much. When it comes to changing our own behaviour for the good of the environment, we are all too aware of how challenging this can be. Not surprisingly, behavioural change and social marketing are tools that conservationists are increasingly using to instil change. During a recent strategic planning exercise, their relevance to EWCP became apparent, inspiring our concept for the Living with Wolves project.

As the lives of people and wolves become more closely intertwined, conflicts are emerging that were not addressed efficiently by our more traditional awareness and education campaigns. For example, shepherds (typically children) repeatedly chase wolves away and in doing so interfere with their time-consuming foraging, as well as access to shelter and breeding sites; shepherds block dens with stones, tourists get increasingly close to denning sites to see pups and, occasionally, wolves are poisoned, run over, or hunted for their skins (a rare but potentially serious threat). Other forms of disturbance also arise from competition with, and disease transmission by, domestic dogs, due to poor dog husbandry and health care; open rubbish bins in tourist areas attract these animals, creating hotspots for disease transmission and aggressive interactions.

A common thread across these issues is the need to change specific behaviours in specific groups of people, to ensure that wolves survive and breed the best they can. With this goal in mind, we are developing behaviour-centred approaches supported by experts and tools from behavioural and social science. We will listen, to understand the motivations and barriers to behaviour change in the target groups, and then design approaches to promote the desired behaviour.

We are looking forward to starting several campaigns, such as *Wolf Friendly Tourism*, *Shepherd Wolf Guardians*, *Happy Dogs-Happy Wolves* and *Keeping Livestock Safe*.

► Children look after their herds, and are the ones most likely to interact with wolves © Jorgelina Marino



## Disease Alert Network: keeping communities safe

In November 2021, an incident involving an Ethiopian wolf was reported by the chairman of Garamba Dima kebele (in the fringes of the Web Valley, some 150m from the park boundary) and within two hours EWCP and staff from the Bale Mountains National Park management rushed to the scene. A wolf in poor condition and displaying abnormal behaviour had been fighting with some village dogs, entered a household and was confined there. A girl was inside and just had time to escape before having any contact with the animal. Her father locked the wolf inside the house and alerted the chairman. EWCP veterinary team and a Park expert reached the settlement, where wolves are rarely recorded, suspecting the animal was ill. Poor condition, difficulty to move the hindlegs, salivation and self-biting all pointed to the neuronal disorders associated with rabies.

The decision to humanly euthanise the wolf was taken with a heavy heart and our suspicion confirmed by the lab in Addis Ababa a few days later. While this is a sad story, there is nothing that can be done once the lethal rabies virus takes hold. But thanks to the rapid response, with the community not hesitating to contact us straight away, the risk of people being bitten was averted.

### Of dogs and wolves

*Synopsis of Naomi Hawrylak's work*

Free ranging domestic dogs are ubiquitous across the globe, yet very little is understood about the disturbance they cause to wildlife, particularly when they may interact with wild carnivores in protected areas. To understand interactions between dogs and Ethiopian wolves we used EWCP long-term dataset of wildlife sightings in the Bale Mountains over more than 30 years. We investigated the frequency of wolf-dog encounters, the behaviour of wolves and dogs, and who instigated any encounters. The frequency of wolf-dog encounters was dependent on the time of day, with encounters most likely to occur between



► Villages like this one are common in the fringes of wolf range, illustrating the relevance of our Living with Wolves initiative.



► ©Daniel Rosenberg

12:00 and 13:00h, peak wolf foraging time. Aggressive encounters were more common than expected, accounting for 60% of all recorded encounters, with both wolves and dogs responsible for instigating these behaviours. Whenever one species was numerically superior over the other, it was likely to behave more aggressively or instigate the aggressive encounter. This study found compelling evidence for disturbance and harassment caused by domestic dogs and stressed the need to manage the abundance and behaviour of dogs in the Bale Mountains National Park, particularly during prime wolf foraging hours.

# ewcpc NEWS & OUTPUTS



In collaboration with EWCP photographer Adrien Lesaffre has produced a luscious photobook, from several years of observing the wolves in Bale Mountains. 'Ky kebero' (Amharic for Ethiopian wolf) combines Adrien's passion with the beauty and charisma of the wolves, and features a foreword from Claudio. Profits from each sale go towards EWCP's vaccination efforts and directly support Ethiopian wolf conservation.

## First evidence for Ethiopian wolf captivity?

A surprise find in the collection of stamp-collector Graham Scott, a 1964 veterinary document suggests a young wolf was taken into captivity and prepared for export to France. With no further evidence, it remains a mystery what happened next.

<https://www.ethiopianwolf.org/news/first-evidence-for-ethiopian-wolf-captivity->

## Virtual presentations are a real success

A highlight of any normal year is the Wildlife Conservation Expo, hosted by our sponsor WCN, where conservationists gather to share their stories. As with many events, last year the Expo moved online with great success and we connected with an audience around the globe to present EWCP's work.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBxhouOGTsvMrU4M\\_W9RVk3Tsdn0GSPsO](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBxhouOGTsvMrU4M_W9RVk3Tsdn0GSPsO)



## Dangerous roads

This year sadly saw another wolf death from road traffic – every wolf counts, and the Living with Wolves project is urgently needed after this year's delays.



## Endangered Brew

Ethiopian wolves have their own wheat beer! Courtesy of Endangered Brew in the UK. Each purchase supports EWCP work. [www.endangeredbrewing.com](http://www.endangeredbrewing.com)



## Growing social media channels

Advancing ever further into the 21st century, we recently hit 1,300 followers on Twitter. We have 9,000 followers in Facebook. Our newly revamped Instagram is also catching up quickly (1,500 followers), reaching new audiences online and raising international awareness of the wolves.

## Majestic wattle cranes

A pair of wattle cranes spotted by our vet team in Gaysay grasslands in Bale. To our knowledge this is the first record of these beautiful birds in Gaysay at 3,000m. On average only eight pairs breed in Bale every year, among swamp sedges in the Web Valley, Sanetti and Morebawa between 3,400 and 4,100m asl.



## New Wolf Ambassador

Born and raised in the South Wollo highlands, close to wolf range, Zeru Melaku is a new Wolf Ambassador. He has known the wolves all his life and is happy to be able engage in his new role with his community promoting wolf conservation activities in their area.

## Road works in Fincha

The final climb in the dirt track accessing Web Valley is a steep, rocky slope which, after years of disrepair, was becoming tricky even for our sturdy Land rovers, putting vehicles and people at risk. Last February we hired a local team to fix the road by the Fincha Habera waterfall, and also supported the Gojera community finishing a dirt track to Dinsho, also routinely used by park vehicles.

## Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Think Thank

Congratulations to Girma Eshete, who has joined this think tank involving many prestigious wildlife experts that discuss the opportunities and challenges facing wildlife in Ethiopia.



## A new endemic chameleon

A new species of chameleon *Trioceros wolfgangboehmei*, endemic to the Bale Mountains (and one we are very familiar with from the forest edges around Dinsho!), has been scientifically described, adding to Bale's sky-high total of unique wildlife. <https://phys.org/news/2021-03-chameleon-bale-region-ethiopia.html>

► ©Thore Koppetsch

## Popular articles & news

WCN blog, July 2022. [Returning to the field.](#)

BBC Wildlife, February 2022. [The race to save a wolf by Marielle van Uitert.](#)

Mongabay article, December 2021. [As Ethiopia's war rages, a 400-year-old conservation site is scarred by battle.](#)

Kate on Conservation, October 2021. [World's rarest wolves: ghosts of the mountains.](#)

Terre Sauvage, September 2021. [Force du vivant: La force du clan by Adrien Lesaffre.](#)

Toronto Star article, September 2021. [Capturing images of beautiful exotic species at risk reminds Canadians of what to protect back home.](#)

WCN blog, August 2021. [Terefe the lucky survivor.](#)

Ethiopian Herald, August 2021. [Ethiopia: The significance of protecting biodiversity.](#)

Menafn, January 2021 (repost of 2017 piece by the Conversation). [Battling to save the Ethiopian wolf Africa's rarest carnivore.](#)

Swarovski Optik Blog, 2020. [Ethiopian wolf: Roaming the roof of Africa.](#)

WCN blog, March 2020. [Recovering grasslands, recovering wolves.](#)

The Times blog, March 2020. [Walking among the last of the wolf packs in Ethiopia.](#)



# Scientific Publications

Atickem A, Klapproth M, Fischer, M et al. 2022. Home range and habitat selection of female mountain nyalas (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*) in the human-dominated landscape of the Ethiopian Highlands. *Mammalian Biology* 102:155-162 doi:10.1007/s42991-021-00216-0

Atickem A and Stenseth NC. 2022. The role of rodents in the conservation of endangered species in the Ethiopian highlands. *Therya* 13:73-77 doi:10.12933/therya-22-1185

Krofel M, Hatlauf J, Bogdanowicz W, Campbell LAD, Godinho R, Jhala YV, Kitchener AC, Koepfli KP, Moehlman P, Senn H, Sillero-Zubiri C, Viranta S, Werhahn G and Alvares F. 2021. Towards resolving taxonomic uncertainties in wolf, dog and jackal lineages of Africa, Eurasia and Australasia. *Journal of Zoology* 00:1-14. doi:10.1111/jzo.12946

Hrouzková E, Bernasová E and J. Šklíba. 2020. Eavesdropping on a heterospecific alarm call in the giant root-rat (*Tachyorytes macrocephalus*), an important prey of the Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*). *Journal of Ethology* 38:121-124. doi:10.1007/s10164-019-00618-1

Šklíba J, Vlasatá T, Lövy M, Hrouzková E, Meheretu Y., Sillero Zubiri C and Šumbera R. 2020. The giant that makes do with little: small and easy to leave home ranges found in the giant root rat. *Journal of Zoology* 310:64-70. doi:10.1111/jzo.12729

Mekonnen A, Fashing PJ, Chapman CA, Venkataraman VV, and Stenseth NC. 2022. The value of flagship and umbrella species for restoration and sustainable development: Bale monkeys and bamboo forest in Ethiopia. *Journal for Nature Conservation* Vol 65 126117

# Theses

Fedlu Abdella. June 2020. Social-ecological dynamics of seasonal movements and settlements of agro-pastoralists in the Afroalpine ecosystem of Bale Mountains National Park, Southeast Ethiopia. MA in Environment and Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

Tariku Mekonnen Gutema. 2020. Behavioral ecology of the African wolf (*Canis lupaster*) and its implication for Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) conservation in the Ethiopian Highlands. PhD thesis. University of Oslo, Norway.



# Reports

EWCP. 2021. Ethiopian wolf populations: Status review. Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme, Dinsho, Ethiopia.

EWCP. 2022. EWCP Manual: Disease monitoring & vaccination. A brief overview of EWCP's disease surveillance and control. Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme, Dinsho, Ethiopia.

EWCP. 2021 EWCP Monitoring & Database Manual 2021. Detailed description and guidelines for collection and management of EWCP's long-term datasets

EWCP 2021 Alternative methods to monitor wolves in low-density and disturbed populations. An exploration of current limitations to monitoring Ethiopian wolves and of alternatives approaches with new technologies.

EWCP 2021. EWCP alternative livelihoods: sustainability assessment. An assessment of ongoing livelihood initiatives to assess their success and refine protocols.

# Meetings

June 2021. One Health technical working groups (TWG) revitalization workshop, Organised by National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC). Oromia, Adama, Ethiopia.

April 2021. Review meeting on Tourism policy of Ethiopia, organised by Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Bahir Dar.

February 2021. Key stakeholder meeting to discuss about the sustainable conservation of the SMNP, organised by AWF. North Gondar, Debarok.

# Lifetime Donations

## THANK YOU

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

Here we list our major donors:

### *Lifetime donations - Founder's Circle: \$100,000 and above*

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Wildlife Conservation Network  
The Born Free Foundation  
IUCN Save Our Species  
Dry Creek Foundation

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The following individuals and organizations contributed financially to the mission of EWCP in the last three years to 31st March 2022:

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Wendy Crowder and George Wade

We thank all our anonymous donors, and those that gave up to \$500 and are too numerous to list here.

### *Other donors that have given generously in the past include:*

African Wildlife Foundation, Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang, BBC Wildlife Conservation Fund, Bern Thies Foundation, Born Free USA, Bosack & Kruger Foundation, CEPA - Conservation des Espèces et des Populations Animales, Conservation International, The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Environmental Systems Research (ESRI), Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society, Florence and Steven Goldby, Giant Steps Foundation, Houston Zoo, IBREAM, IDEA WILD, IFMP-GTZ project in Adaba-Dodola, International Fund for Animal Welfare, J.R.S. Biodiversity Foundation, John Aspinall Foundation, Journeys by Design, Kuoni Travel, The Lawrence Bowman Family Foundation, Lee and Rebecca Jackrel, Merck MSD Animal Health, Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Morris Animal Foundation, National Geographic Film & Television, National Geographic Society, NHK Enterprises, The Oppenheims, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Richard Scheller and Susan McConnell, Rock & Blues, Saint Louis Zoo, Shumaker Family Foundation, Silverback Films, Sidney Byers Charitable Trust, Spencer Scott Travel, Stephen Gold, Taiwan Council of Agriculture and Forest Bureau, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Viking Films, The Wellcome Trust, The Walt Disney Company, Whitley Fund for Nature, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Society for the Protection of Animals, Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten-und Population, Zoological Society London, Zynga.

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Jorgelina Marino, Science Director, UK  
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Alo Hussein, Monitoring Team Leader  
Getachew Assefa, Simien Team Leader  
Mustafa Dule, Community Team Leader  
Misrak Seyum, Amhara Community Officer  
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Abdi Samune, Bale  
Andualem Ambachew, Simien  
Antannah Girma, Bale  
Dessiew Gelaw, North Wollo

Fayisa Gudata, Arsi  
Hamza Mohamed, Bale  
Ibrahim Muhammed, Bale  
Jejaw Mequanenent, Simien  
Seid Naasiroo, Bale  
Sindew Zewdu, South Wollo  
Sultan Kedir, Bale  
Sultan Washo, Bale  
Talageta Wolde-Selassie, Guassa-Menz

## HQ Team

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Wegayehu Worku, Housekeeper  
Foziya Djemal, Storekeeper  
Tagele Whieb, Logistics, Bahir Dar  
Kamer Tura, HQ Guard  
Nuru Burka, HQ Guard  
Hussein Wakayo, Sodota Camp Guard  
Adishu Sheyemo, Sodota Camp Guard  
Hussein Abdulmanan, Sanetti Camp Guard  
Gobe Ahamed, Sanetti Camp Guard  
Ibrahim Nure, Sanetti Camp Guard  
Jara Kasim, Sanetti Camp Guard  
Kassim Biftu, Horse Manager  
Umer Wally, Stables  
Aklilu Getahun, Stables  
Abduljeber Turke, Stables

## Wolf Ambassadors

Abduraman Kessim, Arsi  
Asrate Asefa, Simien  
Endris Ahimiye, South Wollo  
Esubalew Milashu, Delanta  
Limenew Arega, South Wollo  
Melkamu Signa, Simien  
Mudesir Tikse, Arsi  
Muhamed Abubaker, Arsi  
Shewa Yirga, Guassa-Menz  
Tesfa Milashu, North Wollo  
Tsegaye Wolde, Guassa-Menz  
Wasiye Teshome, South Wollo  
Wubye Deresse, South Wollo  
Zeru Melaku, South Wollo

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Tariku Mekonnen Gutema, Jimma University, Ethiopia  
Tsyon Asfaw, Antwerp University, Belgium  
Zealelem Tefera, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Think Tank

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# Help EWCP

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

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

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

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

## Contact Us

### Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

PO Box 215, Robe, Bale, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 221 190923

[info@ethiopianwolf.org](mailto:info@ethiopianwolf.org)

link to [www.ethiopianwolf.org](http://www.ethiopianwolf.org)

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 [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrTxb\\_1ggzkjuuK1nSRIdUA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrTxb_1ggzkjuuK1nSRIdUA)

Wildlife Conservation Research Unit  
Tubney House, Tubney OX13 5QL, UK  
Tel: +44 1865 611113/100  
[www.wildcru.org](http://www.wildcru.org)

## How to Donate

### In the United Kingdom

Online or cheque donations may be sent via:  
[www.bornfree.org.uk/adopt-a-wolf](http://www.bornfree.org.uk/adopt-a-wolf)

The Born Free Foundation  
Frazer House  
14 Carfax  
Horsham RH12 1ER, UK  
Tel: +44 1403 240170  
[info@bornfree.org.uk](mailto:info@bornfree.org.uk)

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No donation is too small!



*“I am always pondering how even looking after a single wounded wolf in its natural habitat could bring a big change on the attitude of the local people to protect the wild animals in the park.”*

*Getachew Assefa, on Terefe - the lucky survivor.*



©Marielle van Uiter



With the support of IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union

