

## C.7. Bale Mountains Conservation Project, Ethiopia

### Project Area:

Bale Mountains National Park, Oromia National Regional State, Ethiopia.

### Status:

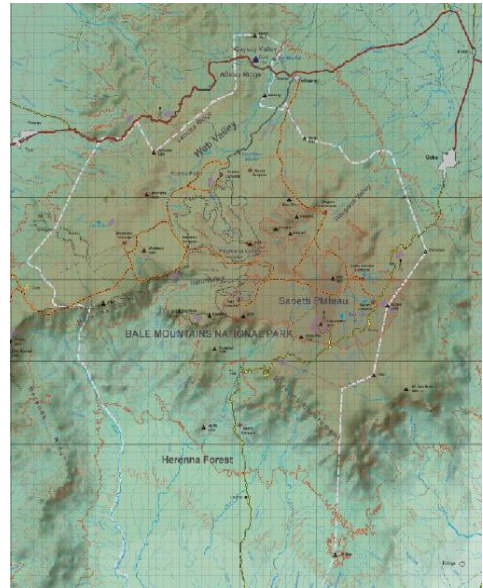
National Park, IUCN Category II, established 1970, but never clearly gazetted and managed as a multiple land-use area.

**Geographical Location:** South-central Ethiopia

**Size:** BMNP, 2200 km<sup>2</sup>; Mena-Angetu National Forest Priority Area, 1800 km<sup>2</sup>

### Project Partners:

Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development; Wildlife Conservation Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; FARM-Africa/SOS Sahel; MELCA Mahiber; Institute of Biodiversity Conservation, Ethiopia through their Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants Project, Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme



**Description:** Largest area of afroalpine habitat on the continent, with grasslands, wetlands, alpine heath and montane woodlands in the Ethiopian montane ecoregion. The afroalpine supports many endemic mammals and birds. Large tropical forest below southern escarpment, the second largest in Ethiopia with wild coffee, economically important medicinal plants, and endemic mammals, birds, amphibians and plants. Serves as a water catchment supplying perennial water year to ~12 million people in the lowlands.

### Justification in terms of FZS Strategy:

*FZS Priority biomes:* Montane, Tropical forest

#### *Globally threatened and rare species*

Ethiopian wolf, Mountain nyala (~60% global population of both),  
Giant mole rat (all global population),  
African wild dog, amphibians,  
*Juniper procerus*

#### *Centre of endemism*

Very high levels of endemism amongst mammals (26% of species and 2% are Bale endemics), birds (57% of Ethiopian endemics), herps and plants (12% are Ethiopian endemics)



### International recognition

Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot (Conservation International)

Endemic Bird Area (Birdlife International)

Class 1 Conservation Intervention Priority (High biodiversity and high threat) WWF.

### History of Project:

The Bale Mountains National Park is suffering from decades of underinvestment and unmanaged use of its natural resources. The recent marked increase in this unrestricted and unsustainable use, particularly of wood and grazing, is destroying the environment and vital ecological processes. The Oromia Authorities have few resources, whether financial or technical to effectively manage the park. In 2004, FZS committed to at least 10 years of investment to reverse the decline of the outstanding biodiversity and natural resources of the Bale Mountains and thus also safeguard the ecosystem services for downstream users.



**Additional Funding:** St. Louis Zoo for Mountain Nyala monitoring and protection

### Goal of Project:

To improve the conservation status of the Bale Mountains in Ethiopia.

## Project Logframe 2004-2007

### FZS-Africa Objective 1: Protected area operations

FZS Outputs	BMCP Activities
1.1 Operational procedures strengthened	i. Strategic plan for scout patrolling, enforcement and community extension work
1.2 Adaptive management systems designed and introduced	i. Patrol reporting procedure established ii. Database on patrolling and law enforcement established
1.3 Resource protection operations effective and management feedback provided	i. Rations provided for patrolling scouts ii. Scout patrolling equipment provided (tents, uniforms, etc) iii. Horses and riding equipment provided iv. Scout training in patrolling, enforcement, community liaison and extension work v. Secure agreement with management authority for employment of more scouts
1.4 Tourism management supported	i. Models for tourism investment investigated, chosen and implemented ii. Zones tourism management implemented iii. Local guides association strengthened and supported with training and equipment

1.5 Infrastructure in support of effective operations improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Park offices and store renovated and equipped</li> <li>ii. Park entrance gate replaced and tourist reception area built</li> <li>iii. New accommodation for senior park staff built</li> <li>iv. Scout outposts and accommodation renovated and equipped</li> <li>v. Horse stables renovated</li> <li>vi. Communications set up and maintained, including phone and internal radio network to connect HQ, Hareenna forest and afroalpine areas</li> <li>vii. IT computer network and outside link set up at HQ</li> <li>viii. Boundaries agreed with local communities</li> <li>ix. Boundary demarcation carried out</li> </ul>
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### FZS-Africa Objective 2: Policies, plans and awareness

FZS Outputs	BMCP Activities
2.1 National Wildlife legislation, policies and PA systems plans reviewed and revised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Lobbying to refine New Protected Area System Plan for Ethiopia</li> <li>ii. Legal framework for BMNP clarified</li> <li>iii. Full legal gazettelement supported</li> <li>iv. World Heritage Site listing facilitated</li> </ul>
2.2 Conservation advocacy carried out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Lobbying with Federal and Regional Government agencies to improve status and management and finances of BMNP and environmental awareness</li> <li>ii. Experience trips for government decision makers conducted</li> </ul>
2.3 Public awareness activities conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Support MELCA to develop and implement an environmental education and cultural biodiversity programs for the local youth in Bale Mountains</li> <li>ii. Develop proposal for the construction of an education centre at BMNP, identify sources of funding and submit funding proposals</li> </ul>
2.5 Site-specific participative planning supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Workshop to evaluate planning efforts to date and lay out planning process for a new BMNP GMP</li> <li>ii. Finance and participate in approved planning process</li> <li>iii. Produce GMP for BMNP</li> </ul>

### FZS-Africa Objective 3: Community Conservation

FZS Outputs	BMCP Activities
3.1 Support for developing policy and procedures for community based natural resource management (CBNRM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Secure funding and undertake assessment project investigating cultural ecology, indigenous resource use, structures for park-community dialogue and benefit sharing with local communities in and around BMNP</li> <li>ii. Establish park-community dialogue mechanisms through outside intermediaries, park scouts &amp; local authorities</li> </ul>
3.2 Natural resource use and needs understood and community management plans development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Collaborate and actively participate with all initiatives that develop NRM plans.</li> <li>ii. Begin negotiations with local communities to secure fragile biodiversity areas, including boundary re-demarcation and zonation</li> </ul>
3.4 Community-based patrolling and monitoring systems developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Investigate and implement options for community scout patrolling based on zonation of use</li> </ul>
3.5 Conservation-compatible development activities supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Facilitate conservation-compatible development with suitable development agencies</li> </ul>

#### FZS-Africa Objective 4: Knowledge.

FZS Outputs	BMCP Activities
4.1 Strategic ecosystem health monitoring plan developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Symposium and workshop for key stakeholders (park experts, external researchers, etc ) to develop a research and monitoring strategy for the National Park</li> <li>ii. Develop, with key stakeholders, an ecosystem monitoring plan for the Bale Mountains</li> <li>iii. Implement monitoring plan as part of GMP</li> </ul>
4.2 Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Remote sensing data collated and database established</li> <li>ii. Watershed monitoring implemented</li> <li>iii. Facilitate monitoring plan</li> </ul>
4.3 GIS-based monitoring tools developed for adaptive management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. GIS centre and databases established at park HQ</li> <li>ii. Park experts trained in GIS use, querying and interpretation</li> </ul>
4.4 Applied research on priority issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Strategic research plan developed for BMNP</li> <li>ii. Partnerships with research institutions in Ethiopia and internationally developed to implement plan</li> <li>iii. Facilitate research activities in the BMNP</li> <li>iv. Critical research funded and carried out</li> </ul>
4.5 Ranger-based monitoring developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Train park experts and scouts in research and monitoring protocols, in collaboration with partner organisations</li> </ul>
4.6 Threatened species research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Logistical and technical support provided to Ethiopian wolf and other research and conservation projects as appropriate</li> <li>ii. Specific monitoring of mountain nyala implemented</li> </ul>
4.8 Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Special issue of <i>Walia</i> (Journal of Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society) produced to include research and monitoring strategic plans</li> </ul>

#### FZS-Africa Objective 5: Sustainable financing

FZS Outputs	BMCP Activities
5.1 Ecosystem services understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Research into costing of ecosystem services facilitated and supported</li> </ul>
5.2 Sustainable financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Options for sustainable financing of BMNP investigated and relevant models facilitated</li> </ul>

#### FZS-Africa Objective 6: Special programmes

FZS Outputs	BMCP Activities
6.2 Invasive species control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Invasive species in park headquarters area removed and used where possible</li> <li>ii. Habitat restoration carried out</li> </ul>

6.6 Tourism development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Local guides association strengthened, through training, equipment provision, code of conduct development etc</li> <li>ii. Trekking facilities within BMNP developed: campsites, mountain huts, maps and guidebooks</li> <li>iii. Develop strategic plan for tourism within/around the BMNP as part of GMP process – including privatisation</li> <li>iv. Facilitate promotion of BMNP within national and international tourism sector</li> </ul>
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**FZS-Africa Objective 7: Human resources**

FZS Outputs	BMCP Activities
7.1 Short and long term training opportunities	i. Project management training provided to project staff
7.2 <i>In-situ</i> training opportunities	i. International and national trainers brought to BMNP for in situ training when needs identified
7.3 South-south exchange programmes	i. Study visits for BMNP and OBARD staff to protected areas in other African countries supported (South Africa, Tanzania)

