

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Enhanced Management and Enforcement of Ethiopia's Protected Areas Estate



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OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Gambela National Park, Omo National Park and Babilie Elephant Sanctuary; Gambela, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Regions

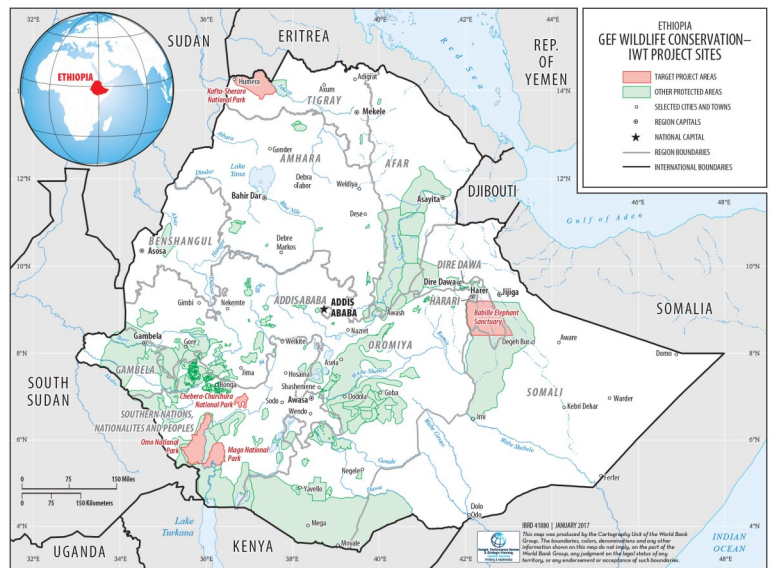
Species Focus: Elephants and big cats

Total Project Cost: US \$7.3 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC); Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

Two of Africa's eight global biodiversity hotspots are found in Ethiopia; a country recognized as a center of agro-biodiversity. This rich biodiversity is however under threat due to overharvesting of natural resources, clearing of forests for agricultural activities, subsistence hunting, limited awareness of the importance of conservation, and illegal wildlife trafficking of protected fauna and flora. Furthermore and despite recent progress related to land-use policies, implementation and enforcement of laws to combat these threats remain inadequate. As a result and as reported by the IUCN, five mammal species are critically endangered (Ethiopian Amphibious Rat, Haremma Shrew, Somali Wild Ass, Eastern Black Rhinoceros, Walia Ibex), eight are endangered, and 27 others are vulnerable.

Ethiopia has already taken measures to protect its biodiversity, including establishing a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP) and becoming a signatory of the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI), established in 2014 as a partnership-based and results-oriented initiative aiming for the conservation of African elephants and their habitats.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Ethiopia project aims to build Ethiopia's capacity for biodiversity conservation through increased effectiveness of protected area management and implementation of measures to reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and poaching. The main project's components are:

- Protected area management and biodiversity conservation
- Implementation of anti-trafficking measures
- Landscape approach to forest and agro-biodiversity conservation

PROJECT FOCUS

- Development of protected area management plans, support initial implementations, building management capacities and operational systems
- Integrated Landscape management (value chains for forestry and agro-biodiversity products, microcredit schemes for local communities, agreements for access/use of natural resources)
- Strengthen law enforcement and IWT legislation (international cooperation, strengthen national IWT committee and task forces and Environmental crime unit, management system for confiscated wildlife products & live animals)
- Information campaign to increase public knowledge and responsiveness

