

Country Profile: Ethiopia



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OVERVIEW

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

Project Sites: Omo National Park, Mago National Park, Chebera Chuchura National Park, Babille Elephant Sanctuary and Kafta Shiraro National Park

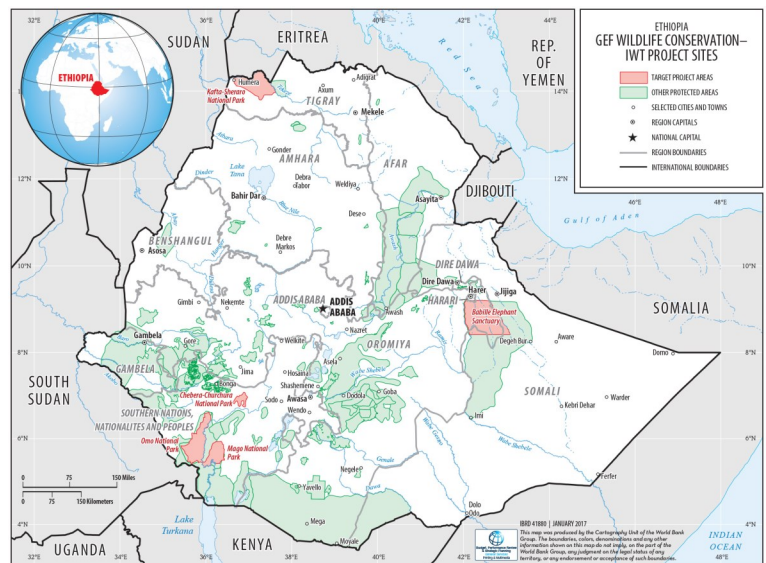
Species Focus: Elephants and big cats

Total Project Cost: \$7.3 million

Executing Partner: 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. Ethiopia is recognized as a center of agro-biodiversity, yet this rich biodiversity is currently under threat from various sources. The IUCN reports that 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. Major threats to Ethiopia's biodiversity relate to increasing pressure through overharvesting of natural resources, clearing of forests for agricultural activities, subsistence hunting, limited awareness of the importance of conservation, and illegal wildlife trafficking in protected fauna and flora. Furthermore, despite recent progress relating to land-use policies, implementation and enforcement to combat threats remain inadequate.

Ethiopia has already taken measures to protect its biodiversity, including establishing a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP). Ethiopia is a signatory to meet the aims of the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) and participated at the London IWT Declaration in February 2014 and the Kasane March 2015.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Ethiopia project aims to build capacity for biodiversity conservation through increased effectiveness of protected area management and anti-trafficking measures.

The project components are:

1. Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation
2. Implementation of Anti-trafficking measures
3. Landscape approaches to forest and agro-biodiversity conservation
4. Knowledge management and M&E