

National & International Importance of Bird & Wildlife Protection in Oromia, Ethiopia



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INTRODUCTION



Ethiopia is the country that possess of Africans:

- most outstanding wildlife and scenic resources,
- The source of BLUE NILE
- The origin of LUCY
- The land of Natural & Cultural Diversity

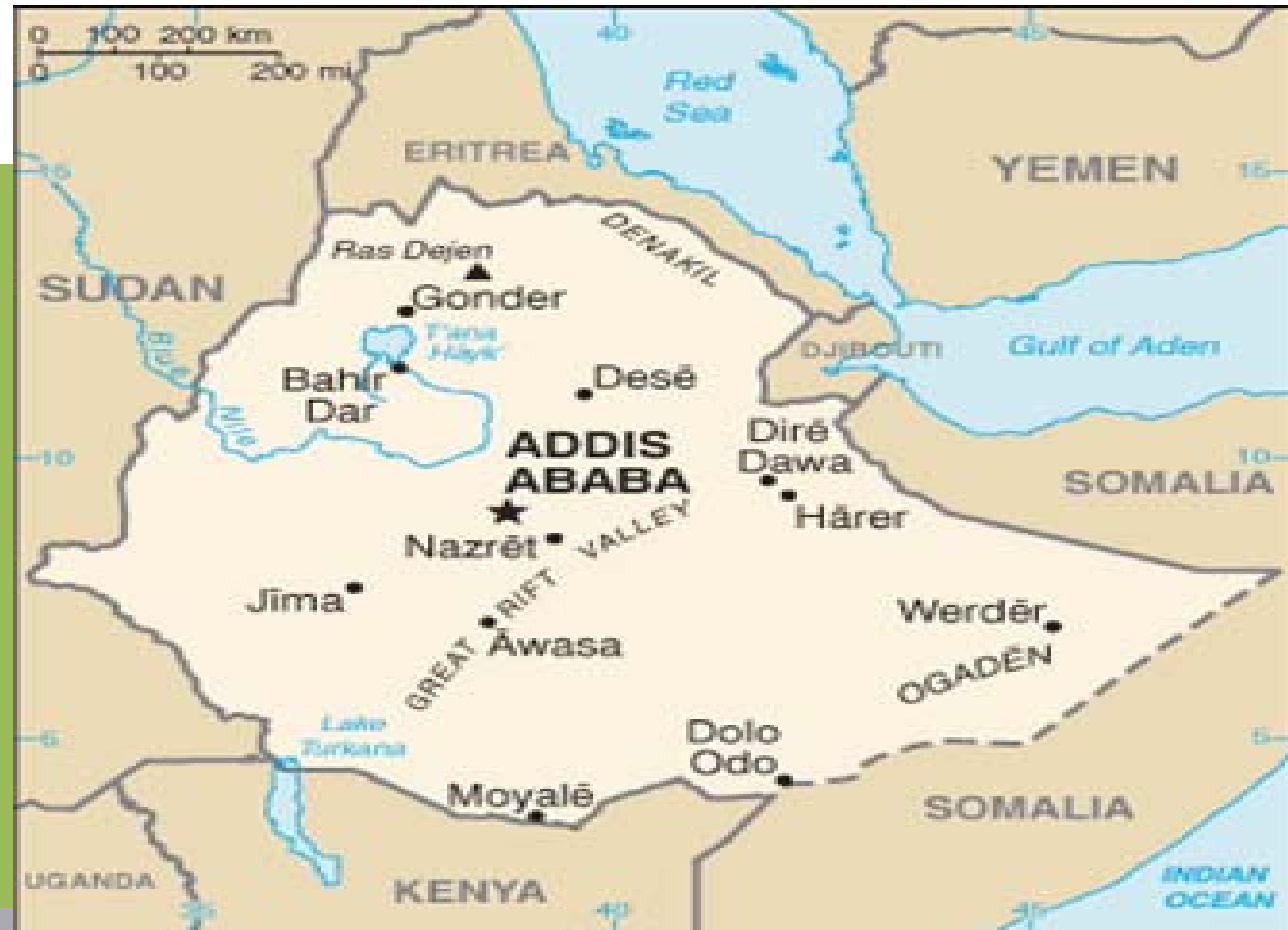




INTRODUCTION ctd



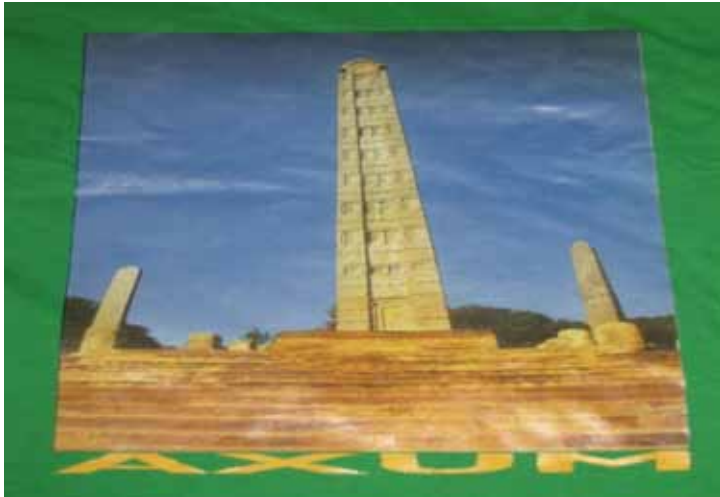
□ **Covering
1.12 million
sq.km
surface area
bordered
by FIVE
countries in the
Horn of Africa**





INTRODUCTION ctd

- ❑ the land where Coffee Arabica & the culture of coffee drinking is initially originated,
- ❑ One of the **12 Origin of Diversity in the World**,
- ❑ Home to eight of the **WHS** as the AXUM OBELISK



and many more on waiting list for inscription on the basis of their outstanding merits





- ❑ The Country's topography vary from **116mt** Below Sea Level to **4620mt** Above Sea Level [*at Mt. Ras Dejen, Africa's Second Roof*], contain a combination of *Cultural, Historical & Natural Wealth*,
- ❑ It is the Country its physical diversity is so striking that it is possible to move from desert through savannah & forest to **the largest Afro-alpine area in existence** within a single day,
- ❑ The physical diversity has given rise to a high diversity in species, with a large portion being endemic, either confined to the country, or occupying only within the Horn
- ❑ The combination of unique environments & species, the spectacular scenic beauty, and the fascinating culture and history of the country are probably unparalleled elsewhere in Africa, ***like 13 Months of SUNSHINE***



- ❑ The Country is known as a land of Great Ecological Diversity,
- ❑ Studies show that the country is known to be home to the following Species and Endemics:

GROUP	NO of Species	No of Endemic Species
MAMMALS	277	31
BIRDS	862	16
REPTILES	201	9
AMPHIBIANS	64	30
FISH	150	4
PLANTS	6500 - 7000	12%



Protected Areas & System In Ethiopia

☐ Two Conservation System: National & Regional

Conservation Category	Country	Oromia
National Parks	16	5
Wildlife Sanctuaries	4	4
Controlled Hunting Areas	18	12
Open Hunting Areas	6	6
Wildlife Reserves	8	3
Priority Forest Areas	58	37



In General,

Ethiopia is a rich Country in its wildlife resources including many endemics nationally & internationally worth for Conservation.



Alexander's Oriole (*Oriolus alexanderi*) (H5)



Yellow-bellied Parrot (*Paroquetus kassidus*) (H5)



Bottom right: Prager's Rail (*Rougetius rougeti*) (H5)



Harwood's Francolin (*Francolinus harwoodi*) (H5)



White-collared Pigeon (*Columba arbutus*) (H5)



Wattled Ibis (*Bostrychia corniculata*) (H5)

Some of the 16 Endemic Bird Spp. the Country is gifted with



Oromia National Regional State & its Wildlife Resource Potential:



- ❑ Ethiopia flows a Federal System composed of nine National Regional States & two Administrative Cities ,
- ❑ Oromia National Regional State is one of the NINE Regional States .
- ❑ Covering some **367,400km²** in area, stands for some **31 %** of the Country's Surface ,
- ❑ Its topography vary from some 500mt to 4377mt *asl* at the peak of the second Largest Mountain from the Country.
- ❑ It holds the largest portion of the Ethiopian Rift Valley Lakes Chain /Ziway, Langano, Abijata, Shalla/



- ❑ In addition, there are also a number of small lakes that holds a large flock of bird diversity. The following is a typical example from one of the Seven Lakes Surrounding Debre Zeit Town. It is also where the hundred of thousand Common Cranes from Europe rest during their migration time as the Marabou Stork below.





Wildlife Resource Richness of OROMIA

- ❑ The Region is known as a land of Great Ecological Diversity,
- ❑ More than **75%** Mammals & Birds species of the country are known from the Region,

GROUP	COUNTRY	OROMIA	ENDEMIC	OROMIA	%
Mammals	277	>235	31	>23	76.4
Bird	862	713	16	14	84.5
TOTAL	1139	948	47	39	





❑ The oldest park from the Continent Africa, **Menagesha-Suba State Forest Park** / some 500 years old / is known from the Region.

- ❑ At very close proximity to the Capital, Addis Ababa, it is home to more than 30 mammals and 200 bird species, including many endemics.
- ❑ It is one of the few remaining highland protected forest from the Country.





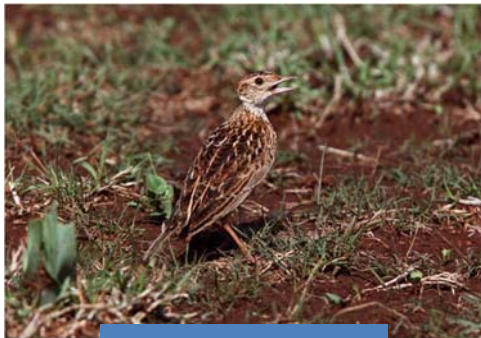
Few Examples:

- ❑ 70 per cent of the Country's High Forest is from the Region,
- ❑ Birds are Bioindicators of *Healthy Environment* and out of the 73 Important Bird Areas identified for the country, 37 [$>50\%$] are known from the Region,
- ❑ Nine of them are nominated as Biodiversity Hotspots





Four of the 14 Endemic Bird spp for the Region are **EXCLUSIVE ENDEMIC**.



Liben Lark



PR Turaco

WT Swallow



AB CROW



PR a C





Of these, four the **Liben Lark** is Critically Endangered Species.



- ❑ *The Four Exclusive Endemic Birds are globally threatened and there must be a global concern to Save them.*
- ❑ *The British Bird Watching Fair dedicated the 2010 Bird Fair to support these birds under the Theme of the Year:*
“Saving the Southern Ethiopia’s Threatened Endemic Birds”





❑ The project lasts for the coming three years, during which among other research works the Biological Status and threat will be exhaustively accessed and action plan for further management will be developed for the four species separately.





The Bale Mountains National Park from Region, both Biologically & Ecologically similar to the Arsi Highlands Park under establishment by OFWE, is home to 1650 plant species, of 177 are endemic, 337 of them are medicinal plants and 24 species are exclusive endemic to the park.



BALE MONKEY: EXCLUSIVE ENDEMIC TO THE AFRO-ALPINE HABITATS OF BALE MOUNTAINS AND ENTIRELY DEPENDS ON BAMBOO FOREST FOR ITS FOOD.



Abijata-Shalla Lakes National Park from the Region is home to 436 bird species, of which 144 spp. are WATER BIRDS

As result
known as Bird
Reserve



the first candidate for Ramsar Site, for which the convention is in process and will be ratified soon



The Region is also Endowed with Unique Wildlife as the **ETHIOPIAN WOLF**, the Rarest Canid of the World



More than 50% of the World Population is known from the Region



The Region is also gifted with **Exclusive Endemic Mammals** as:



Mountain Nyala

The Most Handsome Antelope, Endemic to Ethiopia & Exclusive to OROMIA



GIANT MOLERAT

Exclusive Endemic to the Afro-alpine Habitat & Staple diet for the rarest Canid of the World





The Region is also known for its Potential Wildlife Resources of Trophy spp.

- ❑ Of the 54 Huntible Trophy Animals species from the Country, 47 species are found in the Region
- ❑ Oromia is the only Region that sell three species for Trophy Hunting from the World such as:



Mountain Nyala

Menelik's Bushbuck



The Bleeding Heart Baboon





The Region is also Endowed with tremendous Potential Wildlife Areas:

Dati-Welel Park, under establishment is:



- ❑ Known for its huge population of Buffalo & Hippo,**
- ❑ It is the richest habitat for the Sudan-Giunea Biome assemblage in the Country (One of the 4 Biomes from the Country).**



Dera- Dilfekar Greater Kudu Sanctuary

❑ Only 20sq. Km in area
in the Savanna Bush Land
is home to 25 Larger
Mammals and >190 Bird
Species, including

Greater & Lesser Kudus

❑ It one of the Four Block of
ARSI Highlands Park
under establishment.





Yabelo Wildlife Area & its vicinity in the south-western corner of the Region under development to a park status is known for its:

- ❑ Being home to ***FOUR Endemic, Threatened and Range-restricted bird spp.***



- ❑ It is wildlife area where one can see both ***Burch ell's & Gravy's Zebra in Combination*** in the typical savannah bush land



- ❑ ***The Borana Plain itself has a Cultural & Spiritual significance to the BORANA People who have lived there for Millennia.***





Abyssinian Catbird – one of the finest Singer of all the Birds of Africa- is one of the **the commonest & abundant ENDEMIC** from the Region

Mount Yerer, one of the oldest nominated priority forest area from the Region is where one can proof the **stance of Klipspringer by its hoof tips** as mentioned in literatures at a very close proximity & good population



Abyssinian Catbird *Parophasma galinieri* (HS)





Biosphere Site



- ❑ Yayu Forest, which is registered by UNESCO as one of the World's Biosphere Reserve in last August, is the first of its kind from the country and known from the Region,
- ❑ It is known to be home to wild coffee for genetic stock in addition to its biodiversity resources.



Current Conservation Status in Oromia

- ❑ Until very recently, Natural resources in general and Wildlife in particular was not paid due attention of the Government,
- ❑ The Sector was run under the Ministry of Agriculture,
- ❑ Currently, due attention of the Government is paid for the Sector than ever,
- ❑ As a result, the Government was established an autonomous body at the Federal Level at the Status of Authority,
- ❑ Similarly, in Oromia, the Government has established an Autonomous Public Enterprise [**Oromia Forest & Wildlife Enterprise , OFWE,**] to wisely manage and develop the Faunal & Floral Resources within the Regional State under one umbrella in 2009.



Conservation Strategy

- ❑ **OFWE** currently works to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the faunal and floral resources of the National Regional State under one umbrella.
- ❑ Intensively working to identify Potential Wildlife Areas and designate for conservation upgrade,
- ❑ In doing so, over the coming 5 years time, it is planned to designate one additional WCA per year.
- ❑ By doing so, it will increase the current 1.8% ratio of wildlife protected area to 3.1% by the end of the 5 year DTP of the Gov.





- ❑ Since the inception of OFWE in mid 2009 , ***THREE Potential Wildlife Areas*** are identified and under development to a full-fledged PARK STATUS.
- ❑ This effort is after a Four decades gap since the last National Park from the region, Abijata-Shalla Lakes National Park, was designated in 1970.
- ❑ ***To keep up the momentum at its accelerated pace, the young Visionary Public Enterprise aspire all its Partners support in one or the other way to strengthen its endeavor & achieve its mission.***





Why Bird & Wildlife Conservation in OROMIA is **SO** significant?

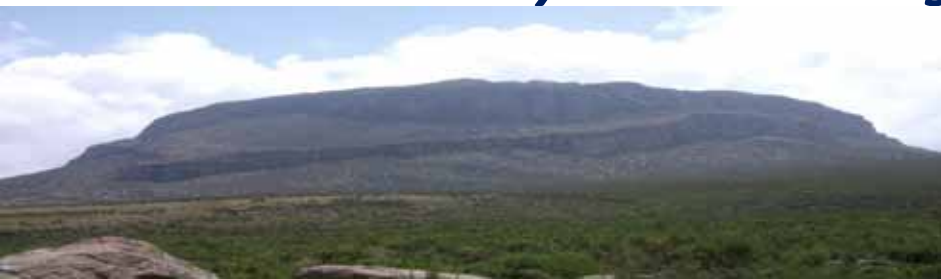
Because, it is:

- ❑ home for the Lion's share of the Country's faunal & floral resources, including a large portion of **EXCLUSIVE endemics**,
- ❑ It has a tremendous destination potential for the Scientific and Conservation Community of the World than any Region of the Country,,
- ❑ Many of them are put under threat of Extinction, and we have rescue them from not to be so,





- ❑ The Region is home to many Globally Unique and threatened species, including a significant number of Rare species as:
 - ✓ the Ethiopian Wolf
 - ✓ the Giant Mole Rat,
 - ✓ the Bale Monkey,
 - ✓ the Liben Lark and many more,
- ❑ ***Most of the PAs in the Highland, for Example the Arsi Highland Park forms the water shed that sustain the livelihood of millions of people in the lower stream and contributes to the transboundary rivers crossing the frontier of the Country***





❑ Holds TWO of the 21 Endemic Bird Areas of Africa, **the Central & Southern Ethiopian Highlands**, with 4 and 5 Endemic Bird Species, resp.

All have less than 50,000 sq.km. home range and GREAT POTENTIAL for AVIAN TOURISM



Blue-winged Goose *Cyanochen cyanoptera* (HS)



Bottom right: Rouget's Rail *Rougetius rougetii* (HS)



Spot-breasted Plover *Vanellus melanocephalus* (HS)





Why ctd

- ❑ The rich endemic spp. of the region are not only the natural heritage of the region, but also the world communities' heritage at large,
- ❑ The **FOUR EXCLUSIVE ENDEMIC** bird species from the Region are GLOBALLY THREATENED, without effective conservation measure put in place timely, they will soon go to EXTINCTION! If so, it would be shame for all of us!!





❑ The Region's PAs are the place that could offer unsurpassed opportunity for its :

- ✓ Mountain Hiking,
- ✓ Horse Trekking,
- ✓ Scenic Driving,
- ✓ Seeing the rarest & endemic fauna as the Ethiopian Wolf and Price Ruspoli's Turaco
- ✓ Above all its spectacular scenery of LANDSCAPE.



Thus;

❑ The tremendous Faunal & Floral Resources within the Region have multi-dimensional:

- *Biological,*
- *Ecological,*
- *Educational,*
- *Scientific,*
- *Heritage, etc values both at the Regional and National Level as well, and even beyond in many cases*





Supportive Legislations

Political Commitment of the Government

- ❑ *Natural Resources & Environmental Concerns are among the Issues **BOLDLY** covered in both the Federal & Regional States Constitutions,*
 - ❑ *These are supported by up-dated Policy & strategy, and Proclamation and Regulation put in place,*
 - ❑ *The Country is also a signatory to a number of INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS such as:*
 - *CITES, which came into effect 1988*
 - *AEWA,*
 - *WMB Convention*
 - *CBD*
 - *The Ramsar Declarations [in due time]*
- etc*

*All are incorporated into the
CONSTITUTION*





Challenges

- Habitat Degradation/loss
- Population Pressure
- Climate Change
- Overgrazing /Large Livestock population
- Lack of trained & Skilled Man Power





Habitat Degradation

- As known, more than 85% of the country's population depends on Agricultural related activities for livelihood.
- The Agricultural activities is undertaken by old method, rather than to be Intensified it is very extensive demanding the large portion of the natural habitat to the conversion of Agricultural land,
- As a result, high shrinkage of the Natural Habitat and Wilderness areas to Agricultural Land Conversion, that ends with the loss of natural habitat and the species within.

Overgrazing

- Ethiopia is known for its large livestock population, ranking FIRST from Africa, and about TENTH from the World. Similarly, these high population of Livestock is highly contributing to the deterioration of the natural habitat and its diversity.



Lack of Trained & Skilled Manpower:

- ***Until very recently, there was no any higher education institution delivering training on wildlife.***
- ***It was also not easy / priority for the government to send abroad and train for many resources.***
- ***Among other things, shortage of Financial Material shortage, lack of trained and skilled manpower is one of the challenge for wildlife Conservation sector in the country.***

CONCLUSION



*The
conservation efforts
made towards Wildlife Resources in
OROMIA has a tremendous **Regional**,
National & **International** Significance
for both the Conservation and Scientific
Community at Large .*



**I THANK YOU
ALL !!**

