



© Gregoire Dubois, Ethiopian wolf, Ethiopia

8.7 Ethiopia

Protected and conserved areas in Ethiopia⁵²

Ethiopia has 104 protected areas covering 200,074 km² of land (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019h).

Located in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is a relatively large landlocked country with a wide diversity of topography, parental bedrocks and climates. This topographic diversity, across a 4,620-meter altitude span, has resulted in wide variations in rainfall, humidity, temperature and soils, which qualifies it to harbour six of the world's major terrestrial biomes (alpine, coniferous forests, deciduous forest, tropical rain forest, savanna and desert) and nine distinct ecosystem types.

International funding under different forms of international trade mechanisms for climate change mitigation, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and REDD+, helps to finance the protection of the four Ethiopian national parks, one of the wildlife sanctuaries and three of the community conservation areas.

A major challenge in Ethiopia is the absence of legal status of most protected areas. The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority created in 2008 manages only 13 National Parks, wildlife reserves

and sanctuaries. The rest are managed by regional authorities, rural communities and the private sector, and are inadequately protected, particularly wetland and freshwater ecosystems. There is a need to increase the coverage of formally protected areas, with due attention to their ecosystem representation as well as effectiveness in terms of management.

Transboundary protected and conserved areas

Ethiopia includes part of the Boma-Gambella Landscape and the Lower Awash-Lake Abbé Landscape transboundary conservation areas.

Policy context

A comprehensive report on legislation and policy related to protected area management, governance, and equity was undertaken by the BIOPAMA programme. It identified 29 relevant laws and policies in Ethiopia (Tessema, 2019).

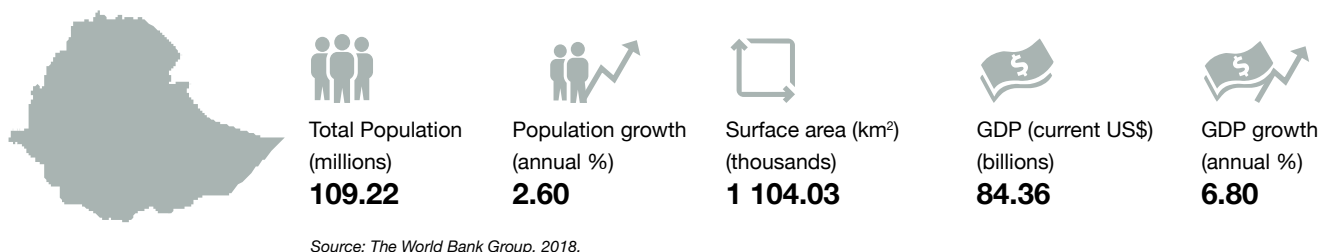
Key species⁵³

Ethiopia is home to an estimated 6,000 species of higher plants 10% of which are endemic. The country has 284 species of wild mammals and 861 species of birds.

⁵² The section draws on information contained in Ethiopia's Sixth National Report to the CBD (Republic of Ethiopia & Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, 2014) and its Second NBSAP (Republic of Ethiopia, 2019).

⁵³ The section draws on information contained in Ethiopia's Fifth and Sixth National Reports to the CBD and its Second NBSAP (Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia & Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, 2014; 2015; Republic of Ethiopia, 2019).

Figure 8.13 Ethiopia Summary

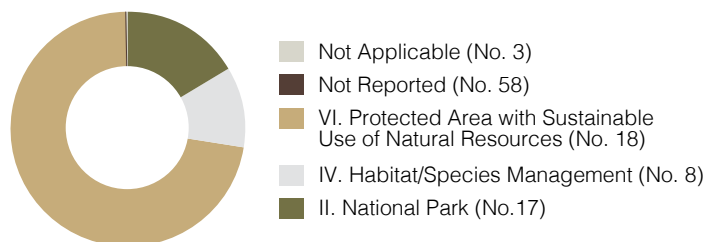


Area Protected:

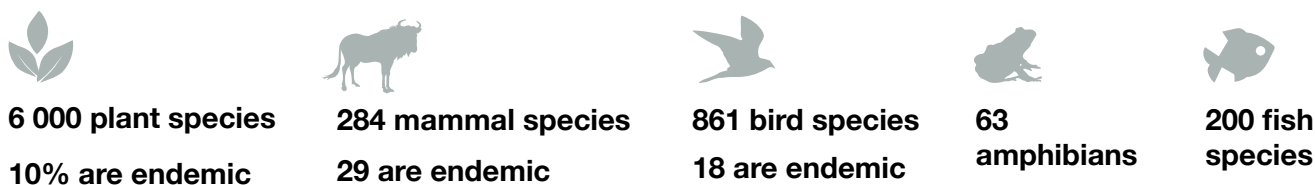
104 protected areas covering **200 074 km²** of land

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, (2019h)

Protected and conserved areas in Ethiopia in IUCN Management Categories



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019h).



Coverage of protected areas in Ethiopia

Type of protected area	Area protected or conserved*	Area protected or conserved**
Terrestrial and inland water	17.62%	14.00%

* WDPA dataset ** From National Report on Biodiversity
Source: Republic of Ethiopia (2019); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019h).

Protected and conserved areas designated as global sites of importance in Ethiopia

Global designation	No. of sites
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	5
UNESCO World Heritage Sites (natural or mixed)	1

Source: Ramsar (2019); UNESCO (2019a, 2019b).

National designations of protected and conserved areas in Ethiopia

National designation	No.	Area (km ²)
Sanctuary	4	11 037
National Park	13	23 672
Wildlife Reserve	8	23 392
National Forest Priority Area	58	44 132
Controlled Hunting Area	18	151 577

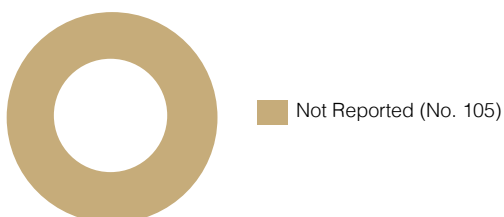
Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019h).

Priority areas for conservation



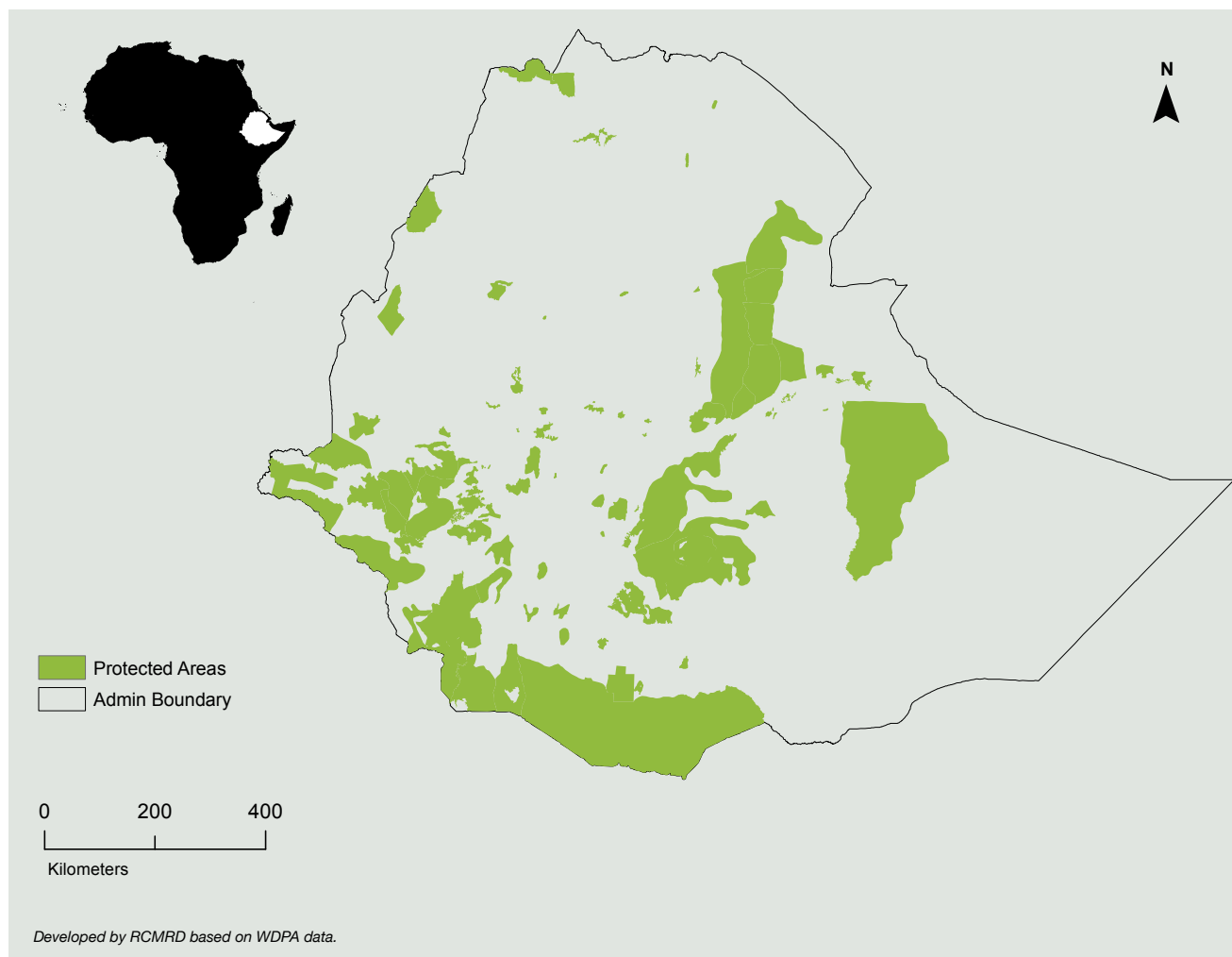
Source: AZE Secretariat (2019); BirdLife International (2019b, 2019c).

Protected and conserved areas in Ethiopia in IUCN Governance Types



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019h).

Figure 8.14 Ethiopia protected areas



Data on other wild animals are lacking, and so far the number of species identified are: 201 reptiles, 200 fishes, 63 amphibians and 1,225 arthropods. Of these faunal resources, 29 wild mammals, 18 birds, 10 reptiles, 40 fishes, 25 amphibians and seven arthropod species are endemic to Ethiopia, such as the Ethiopian Wolf (*Canis simensis*). Ethiopia also has a wide diversity of microbial biodiversity, which is hardly explored.

Pressures and threats⁵⁴

The main direct threats to Ethiopia's biodiversity include: habitat loss and degradation due to expansion of agriculture and settlements and encroachment of invasive species; unsustainable utilisation of biodiversity from overgrazing, overharvesting, and unregulated hunting; proliferation of invasive species; and pollution. Indirect causes of biodiversity loss in the country are demographic change, poverty, and lack of awareness and coordination. Long-term, climate change represents challenges, particularly by shifting growing seasons.

⁵⁴ The section draws on information contained in Ethiopia's Fifth and Sixth National Reports to the CBD and its Second NBSAP (Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia & Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, 2014 & 2015; Republic of Ethiopia, 2019).