

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Your visit to the Bale Mountains can have a positive impact on the local environment and on local residents. Be prepared for majestic scenery, friendly people and unique wildlife. Embrace adventure with this **ONE PARK** and its **MANY WORLDS**.



ESCAPE

The Bale Mountains offer a perfect escape from busy city life. Bale offers some of Ethiopia's best trekking, horse riding, bird watching, wildlife viewing, trout fishing and scenic drives. It is a paradise for any nature enthusiast.



DISCOVER

Keep an eye out for Bale's Unique Five:

- Ethiopian Wolf
- Mountain Nyala
- Bale Monkey
- Giant Mole Rat
- Menelik's Bushbuck



ENCOUNTER

As you travel through the park, you may have a chance to spot over 300 species of birds, as well as Bohor Reedbuck, Klipspringer, Serval, Starck's Hare, Giant Forest Hog, African Wild Dog and Lion.



EXPLORE

- Trek to the volcanic fields of Rafu
- Walk through bamboo forests
- Swim beneath waterfalls
- Journey underground in the beautiful limestone Sof Umar caves
- See Gasuray Gorge

→ For more information on lodges, camps, and attractions, visit: www.balemountains.org

TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK TO CONSERVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WHILE SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN LIVELIHOODS

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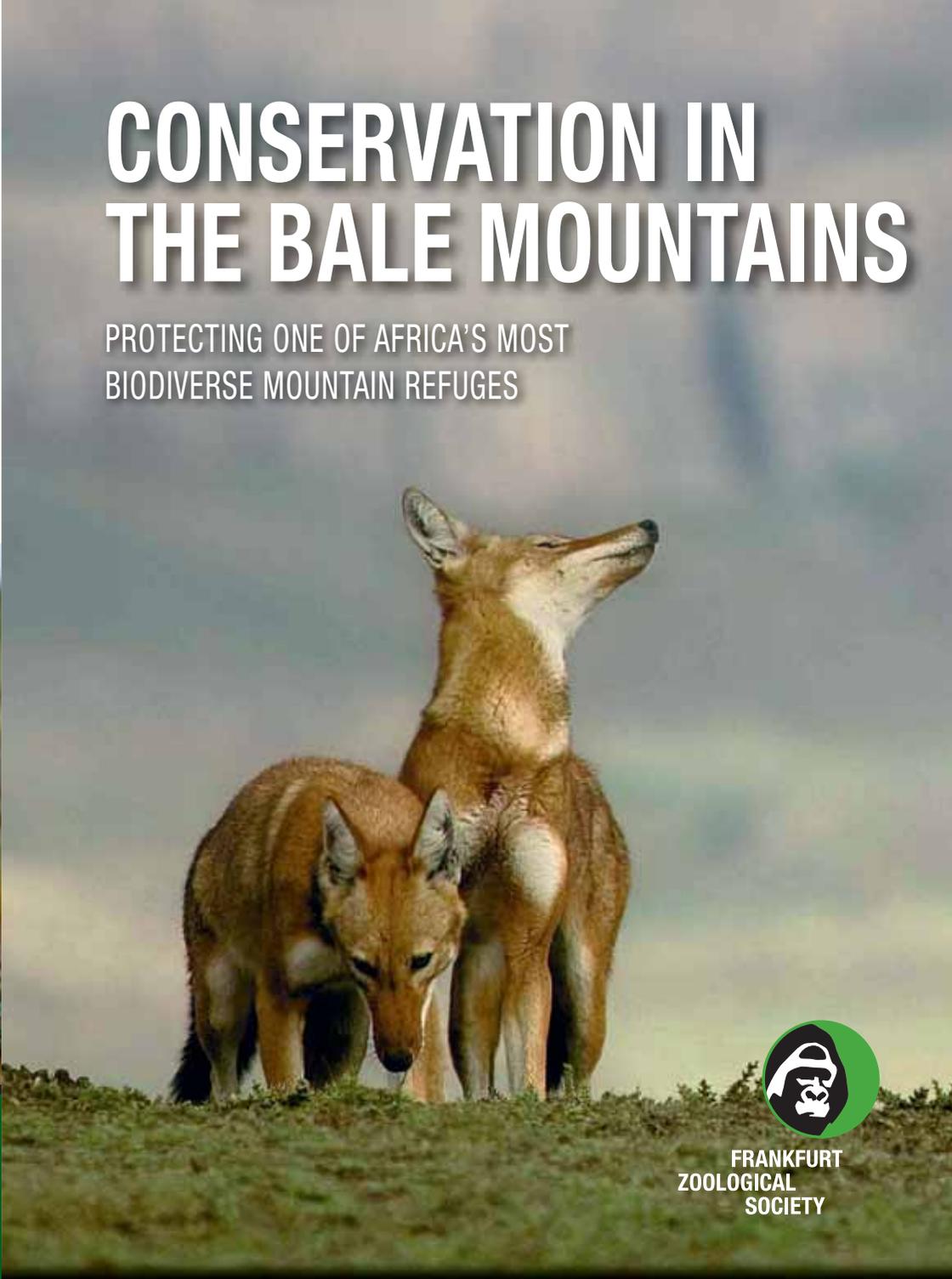


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CONSERVATION IN THE BALE MOUNTAINS

PROTECTING ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST BIODIVERSE MOUNTAIN REFUGES



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Coverphoto: Delphin Ruche

MAKING CONSERVATION COUNT



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BALE MOUNTAINS.

THE CONSERVATION PROJECT.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES.

The Bale Mountains are Ethiopia's best-kept secret. It has been estimated that the Bale Mountains are home to more locally endemic species of mammals than any other area of equivalent size on the planet. The range of habitats is vast – from the Hareenna forest containing an afro-montane cloud forest, to the juniper woodlands. The mountains host over 300 species of birds, and a number of species including the endemic Ethiopian Wolf.

Apart from wildlife, the area also provides and regulates water flow for millions of downstream users in Ethiopia and Somalia. In addition, thousands of people are dependant on its forest products, grazing and soil for livestock and farming. Resource use is escalating and causing environmental degradation and deforestation. There is a critical need to support the conservation of these mountains both to ensure the long-term sustainability of these natural-resource dependent livelihoods and for Bale's unique wildlife.

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) works with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) to help protect the Bale Mountains National Park as well as with the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) and local Government to conserve natural habitats and support sustainable livelihoods in the wider ecosystem. Growing human pressure from grazing, firewood collection and encroachment poses a threat to the natural ecological processes of the area. FZS is investing financial and technical expertise to reverse the decline of the out-

standing biodiversity and natural resources of the Bale Mountains and ultimately safeguard the ecosystem services for residents.

The Bale Mountains Conservation Project provides park support to the Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP) by supporting park operations and ecological management, promoting sustainable natural resource use, developing ecotourism and working with communities on educational outreach and alternative livelihoods.

PARK SUPPORT

FZS provides direct support to the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority to support the conservation of Bale Mountains National Park. FZS provides field and office equipment to the BMNP, regular rations to the BMNP ranger force, fuel and maintenance for Park vehicles, implementation of a ranger-based monitoring system, initiation of an ecological monitoring programme and overall improvement of the Park's management and tourism-related infrastructure.

PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT

The extensive and previously pristine afro-montane forests of the whole Bale massif have been rapidly degraded and destroyed over the last decade. Participatory Forest Management (PFM) promotes fair partnerships between people living in and around forests by transferring ownership to communities with government support. FZS supports PFM in the Bale Mountains to both create a buffer zone around the Park and to empower people to responsibly manage their natural resources. In doing so, the communities and the environment reap benefits as unsustainable use is brought under control.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

FZS recognises that protected areas are not islands, but part of a larger landscape that often incorporates a diverse and dynamic range of land use types, socio-economic activities, and cultural practices. Developing alternative and conservation-compatible livelihoods in communities associated with the Park is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources. FZS is providing training and start up support for local handcraft producing artisans, beekeepers, highland fruit and forage producers, as well as the production of fuel-efficient stoves and fuel briquettes. Local schoolchildren are also brought to the Park to learn about Bale's natural and cultural diversity from community elders.



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