

ETHIOPIAN WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY  
(EWNHS)



EWNHS

Africa NGO-Government Partnership for Sustainable Biodiversity Action Project

## National IBA Conservation Strategy

**VOLUME II : Proceedings of Workshop**

9 - 11 October 2002, IBCR, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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## Acronyms

Agric.	Agriculture, Agricultural
ARRA	Authority for Refugees & Returnees Affairs
Ass.	Association, Associations
BLIS	BirdLife International Secretariat
CBO	Community Based Organisation
EARO	Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organisation
EELPA	Ethiopian Electric and Light Power Authority
EHT	Ethiopian Heritage Trust
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
ESTC	Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission
EWCO	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation
EWNHS	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society
IBA	Important Bird Area
IBCR	Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research
IES	Institute of Ethiopian Studies
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFA	Ministry of Federal Affairs
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoM	Ministry of Mines
Mts.	Mountains
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MW	Mengistu Wondafrash
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NIBACS	National Important Bird Area Conservation Strategy
NLC	National Liaison Committee
SSG	Site Support Group
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region
YD	Yilma Dellelegn

## Workshop Programme

### National Important Bird Areas Conservation Strategy Workshop

9 - 11 October 2002

IBCR Conference Room, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Day one: 09-10-2002		
Time	Activity	Person in charge
0830 - 0915	Registration of workshop participants	Workshop Organizers
0915 - 0925	Introduction of the workshop	Ato Yilma Dellelegn (YD)
0925 - 0935	Keynote Address	Dr. Girma Balcha, Deputy Director, IBCR
0935 - 1005	Briefing on activities of EWNHS	Ato Kinfe Abebe, Executive Director
1005 - 1025	T e a B r e a k	Workshop Organizers
1025 - 1040	Programme outline	YD
1040 - 1135	Icebreaker [information, self-introduction, expectations and concerns (fears)]	Ato Mengistu Wondafrash (MW)
1135 - 1200	National & Global Strategies for Conservation of Biodiversity	YD
1200 - 1245	An Overview of IBA process	MW
1245 - 1415	L u n c h	
1415 - 1450	Issues and challenges of conserving IBAs	MW
1450 - 1520	Background on NIBACS	YD
1520- 1550	The NIBACS development process	MW
1550 - 1610	T e a B r e a k	
1610 - 1650	<b>Stakeholders Involvement -concept</b> Who has stakes in NIBACS? Who drives the NIBACS? Who should participate in the NIBACS development? Who owns the NIBACS?	YD
1650 - 1720	- Reading Assignments on Themes - Settling Expenses for participants coming Wildlife Ranger from Regions	MW
Day Two: 10-10-2002		
0830 - 0840	Recap of day one activities	MW

0840 - 0925	-Define the: Goal, Long-term objectives, Immediate objectives and Themes of NIBACS	MW/YD Four Groups (use flip chart)
0925 - 1000	Group presentations & discussions (4 groups)	YD Group Raporteurs
1000 - 1015	Prioritize Themes in order of importance (Make use of cards)	MW
1015 - 1030	T e a B r e a k	
1030 - 1130	Group work on 2 themes	One theme/two groups
1130 - 1230	Group presentations on 2 themes & discussion	YD Group Raporteurs
1230 - 1400	L u n c h	
1400 - 1600	Group work on 4 themes	One theme/group
1600 - 1620	T e a B r e a k	
1620 - 1720	Group presentations on 4 themes & discussion	MW Group Raporteurs
<b>Day Three: 11-10-2002</b>		
0830 - 0840	Recap of day two activities	MW
0840 - 1025	Group work on 4 themes	One theme/group
1025 - 1040	T e a B r e a k	
1040 - 1230	Group presentations on 4 themes & discussion	YD Group Raporteurs
1230 - 1400	L u n c h	
1400 - 1500	<b>Listing stakeholders</b> Who are stakeholders in NIBACS? - Who are the direct relevant stakeholders? - Who should implement NIBACS?	YD
1500 - 1600	<b>Responsibilities</b> Who owns NIBACS? - Who drives NIBACS? - Who is responsible for endorsement and incorporation of NIBACS into existing policy documents?	MW
1600 - 1620	T e a B r e a k	
1620 -1640	Workshop Summation/wrap up	YD
1640 - 1645	Workshop Evaluation	MW
1645 - 1655	Issuance of Certificates	Ato Kinfe Abebe
1655 - 1705	Closing Remarks (Acknowledgements)	Ato Kinfe Abebe

## **Objectives & Out Puts of the Workshop**

The overall goal of the workshop being to develop systematic and holistic guideline for the long-term conservation of IBAs at national level, it has been anticipated to attain the following specific objectives:

1. To raise awareness of stakeholders on the concept and need of conservation of IBAs
2. To clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the conservation of IBAs.
3. To establish partnership for future conservation of IBAs
4. To recommend mechanisms that help stakeholders build capacities to play roles in conservation of IBAs
5. To identify key issues/themes concerning conservation of IBAs in Ethiopia.
6. To develop a framework with goal, objectives, actions and mechanisms for conserving IBAs in the long-term.
7. To put mechanisms in place that would help the NIBACS document to be integrated into existing biodiversity conservation schemes and become a national strategy.

## **Workshop Outputs**

1. List of concerned stakeholders for conservation of IBAs in Ethiopia
3. Awareness of stakeholders raised on the concept and need of conservation of IBAs
4. The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in conservation of IBAs clarified and documented
4. Actions for conservation of IBAs identified and prioritized.
5. A framework with goal, objectives, actions and mechanisms for conserving IBAs over a long period of time.

6. A strategic proposal that identifies how the NIBACS document can best be endorsed and integrated into existing biodiversity conservation strategies.

### **List of Resource Persons**

- Facilitators/ Rapporteurs:
  - Yilma Dellelegn (Consultant)
  - Mengistu Wondafrash (IBA Project Manager)
- Keynote address - Head of IBCR
- Opening and closing remarks - Executive Director of EWNHS

## **Summary of Workshop process**

The NIBACS workshop, which was run for three days (9-11 Oct 2002) has addressed 30 various activities grouped under 12 Sessions (4 sessions/day). A brief summary of what took place at each session was the following:

### **Day one: 09-10-2002**

#### **Session 1**

1. Workshop participants registered, giving account of personal details in a form provided to them. See list of participants came up of this process.
2. In connection with his welcome address, Ato Yilma Dellelegn introduced the workshop by indicating briefly the purpose and expected out puts of the NIBACS workshop and participating stakeholders.
3. A keynote address on the need of biodiversity conservation and guidance on the deliberation of the workshop was given by Dr. Girma Balcha, Deputy Director of IBCR.
4. Ato Kinfe Abebe, Executive Director of EWNHS, deliberated on the mission, current activities and future plans of the Society.

#### **Session 2**

5. Outline of the workshop programme for the three days was discussed so that participants will be clear of what is expected of them and the workshop - YD.
6. Once participants were clear with the whole process of the workshop, it was time for 'Icebreaker' session. Participants were led through to introduce themselves (their names, profession, organization they work for and their position in the organization, and what they do in their spare time). The participants were also asked what they expect to attain from the workshop and their concerns (fears). The Expectations and concerns were posted on wall the whole time as control for the workshop organizers to work towards attaining the former and avoid the latter - MW.
7. As general background, a highlight on National & Global Strategies for Conservation of Biodiversity was given - YD

8. IBAs are central to this workshop. An Overview of IBA process in general and its progress in Ethiopia in particular has been presented for the benefit of those participants who are not much exposed to the subject - MW.

### **Session 3**

9. Issues and challenges of conserving IBAs and other biodiversity have been discussed and the option of prioritisation process emphasized. The national workshop conducted to prioritize IBAs for conservation action was tabled as demonstration and proceedings of the same distributed to participants - MW.

10. Getting slowly into the crux of the workshop, YD briefed the participants on the concept of NIBACS. The presentation dealt on what NIBACS and its guiding principles are and the rationale & main functions of NIBACS.

11. As NIBACS is quite a new concept, its development process varies according to circumstances within each country that opt to develop the same. The general framework & basic components of NIBACS and the stages being followed by EWNHS in developing NIBACS have been explained to workshop participants - MW.

### **Session 4**

12 In principle, NIBACS is participatory and its development calls for involvement of stakeholders. But who has stakes in NIBACS? Who should participate in the NIBACS development? Who should be driving the process of NIBACS development? Who owns the NIBACS? These are a few of the major issues that need to be borne in mind when planning development of NIBACS and hence were flagged up at this stage so that participants would be aware of addressing these issues in the course of the workshop - YD

13. The draft NIBACS document developed by workshop organizers, includes ten thematic areas or building blocks of NIBACS. The themes are the bases for all the forthcoming discussions and hence participants need to be well familiar with them. To that end, the themes were introduced and participants were kindly asked to read carefully the workshop material provided - MW.

## Day Two: 10-10-2002

### Session 5

14. Recap of day one activities - MW

15. Workshop participants were divided into four working groups and asked to develop the **goal, long-term objectives, immediate objectives** and **themes** of NIBACS. Furthermore, they were asked to update what workshop organizers have already suggested or to come up with totally new definitions and concepts - MW/YD

16. Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 reported back at plenary on **goal, long-term objectives, immediate objectives** and **themes** of NIBACS, respectively. Discussion carried out and consensus reached on the possible goal, objectives and themes of NIBAZCS - YD/Group Raporteurs

17. Making use of cards, participants were asked to prioritize themes in order of importance, giving 1 to the most important theme and 10 to the least one. This was objectively analysed using matrix and came up with a list of themes in order of priority importance to address as an issue - MW.

### Session 6

18. Group work on themes: Groups 1 & 2 worked on **Advocacy** and Groups 3 & 4 on **Capacity building**.

19. Groups reported back their findings on **Advocacy & Capacity building** and this was further developed in discussion at the plenary- YD/Group Raporteurs

### Session 7

20. Group work on themes: Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 worked on **Building partnership, Mobilizing and securing resources, Information management** and **Site Action**, respectively.

### Session 8

21. Groups reported back their findings on the four themes & was followed with discussion - MW/Group Raporteurs

## **Day Three: 11-10-2002**

### **Session 9**

22. Recap of day two activities - MW

23. Group work on themes: Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 worked on **Education and awareness, Setting priorities, Research and Monitoring**, respectively.

### **Session 10**

24. Groups reported back their findings on the four themes & was followed with discussion - YD/Group Raporteurs

### **Session 11**

25. A general list of stakeholders of NIBACS and key stakeholders were identified using a flipchart brainstorming. Furthermore, it has been reached into consensus as who should implement NIBACS - YD.

26. The last flipchart brainstorming exercise deliberated on who owns NIBACS and who should be driving it and identified responsible institutions to follow up the endorsement and incorporation of NIBACS into existing policy documents - MW.

### **Session 12**

27. Workshop Summation - YD

28. Workshop Evaluation - MW

29. Issuance of Certificates - Ato Kinfe Abebe

30. Closing Remarks (Acknowledgements) - Ato Kinfe Abebe

# Presentations by Resource Persons

## Keynote Address

Dr. Girma Balcha  
Deputy Director  
Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research  
Addis Ababa

Dear workshop participants,

First of all and on behalf of the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research, I would like to welcome you all to this workshop.

As most of you are aware of, globally there exists a general consensus amongst scientists, world leaders, environment agencies and donors that the state of the environment is increasingly precipitating from bad to worse. No nation or country in the world can be safe from such aspect of environmental reflection except that degree of impact from place to place. While trends seem to show that some countries are doing better in offering protection and sustainably using their natural resources, the results are relative and the effects are cumulative. It has long been understood that no nation or ecological system stands in isolation from the actions others can or could take in this constantly shrinking earth of ours. The effects of global warming, acid rain, El Nino, the aftermaths of wars and strifes are but few of the examples from a horde of others we hear or experience every day.

In Ethiopia we have been experiencing this downward spiral of the state of the environment for as long as we can remember. Within this framework, components of the environment and the total ecosystem and biodiversity in particular show that the trend concluded by the global consensus is truth beyond doubt. It is a known fact that human related factors are the primary threats leading to the deterioration of ecosystems and biodiversity. Of these, the most critical threat is the ever growing human population and the limited resources on which these populations have to depend on. According to a recent literature people are driving the extinction crises first and foremost. As an example, a recent report by the US National Biological Service says, "If unchecked, human activities will continue to result in an upset balance of species interactions, alteration of ecosystems and extensive habitat loss". According to

IUCN figures, since the year 1600, at least 484 animal and 654 plant species have gone extinct. While it is difficult to speak in strict terms, the rate of extinction has undoubtedly surpassed earlier or known rates at least a century ago. The rates of extinction seen in the last four centuries are estimated to be 500 to 1000 times the rate of expected natural extinction. When we talk about birds specifically, and taking the fossil record into consideration, natural rates of extinction are surpassed more than 1000 times in modern times.

Habitat loss, modification and fragmentation are considered to be the primary cause for the loss of biological diversity. These threats either directly or indirectly culprits for the loss of biodiversity. Together with this primary cause, we see that other issues including persecution, unchecked fires, spread of invasive species, unsustainable methods of resource extraction, and the advance of human technological inventions and their outcomes that includes pollution are heavily eroding the rich biodiversity of the earth.

While one can effortlessly give a discourse on the risks and dangers we are facing as the result of loss of biodiversity, it is not so easy to elucidate the explanation as to how we should protect or what we need to do to conserve the remaining valuable biodiversity all over the globe. The reason for this is evident when we come to understand the diversity of the problems encountered. The cultural, traditional and socioeconomic complexities that surround the core problem of conserving biodiversity are undoubtedly the most challenging factors we have to deal within environmental sciences.

All of us are aware that approaches to conserving biodiversity can be as diverse as the challenges that require our input and ingenuity. Conserving and maintaining biodiversity in its multifarious forms, as opposed to earlier approaches of conserving one or two key species in the wild has become the acceptable method of safeguarding life on earth. One of the methods that support this concept of conserving a wide array of species is the development of an all rounded strategy that looks at biodiversity, that is genes, ecosystems and species at a level that discounts smaller piecemeal approaches. In the last decade or so, nations all over the world have been developing national biodiversity conservation strategies and Ethiopia is known to have started this process. The process of developing national biodiversity strategic action plans calls for the participation of all relevant institutions including those in environment, social sciences and various other associated fields. The work that the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society is doing in close collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations is to be commended in this respect.

As of recent, especially to our country, approaches to conserving biodiversity have taken wings in most interesting ways. The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society has been spearheading the cause of biodiversity conservation by adopting a strategy of using birds as a means to answer the bigger question of conserving biodiversity. The Society has identified more than 70 hotspots (Important Bird Areas) for birds all over the country. Besides the birds, these sites are important on their own because they are rich in other aspects of human endeavour. One of the constraints in the processes of several conservation strategies processes is that soon after the undertaking of preliminary stages, including identification and prioritisation, actions on the ground are not forthcoming. A vital process that can strengthen the position of sites, even before practical conservation action, is the inclusion of their assumed role in national biodiversity action plans.

I am sure through the course of your discussion, you will come to learn of the ingenious ways the Society is working on to conserve biodiversity in the country by using birds. While it will suffice for me to mention that various methods can be applied to conserve biodiversity, as environmental workers, it is vital we appreciate all the viable or workable methods that are being used globally to conserve valuable reserves of biodiversity. The workshop will hopefully be a stage to discuss the elements and processes of taking IBAs and working out a strategy of how they can be included in national biodiversity action plans.

I do hope your deliberations will bear a fruitful result. With this I declare this workshop open.

## **Mission and Activities of the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society**

Ato Kifle Abebe  
Executive Director  
Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society  
Addis Ababa

### **Background**

EWNHS, BirdLife Partner in Ethiopia, is a non-political, non-profit making and membership based environmental indigenous NGO established in 1966. The Society is the oldest organization among NGOs to advocate conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity in Ethiopia.

### **Organizational Structure**

- General Assembly (about 400 members)
- Board of Management (11 persons), elected by General Assembly from among members. The Board members serve on voluntary basis.
- Secretariat composed of 18 staff members and is headed by an Executive Director screened by the Board.

### **Mission Statement:**

Conservation, development and sustainable utilization of the environment, biodiversity and other natural resources of Ethiopia through research, awareness raising and advocacy.

### **Programme Areas**

To achieve its mission, the Society runs several projects, which are categorized under two programme areas.

#### **I. Environmental Education and Awareness Creation Programmes**

- Indoor and Outdoor Activities
- Schools Environmental Education Project

- Environmental Education Support Publication

## **II. Biodiversity Conservation Programmes**

- Important Bird areas Project
- Plant Locally and Nurture Trees (Plant)
- Biodiversity Conservation in Ancient Church and Monastery Yards

### **Strategic Objectives**

The strategic objectives of the Society have been drawn in accordance with the above major programme areas of the Society.

- Raise awareness of members and non-members on the need to conserve the environment and sustainable utilization of natural resources of the country
- Conduct and promote environmental education in schools and communities
- Conduct and promote research initiatives on biodiversity
- Site action at key and threatened biodiversity sites
- Dissemination of information to stakeholders (e.g. conservation related organizations, educational institutions, communities, etc.)
- Advocate the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources
- Conduct monitoring activities at selected IBA sites
- Promote the planting of indigenous tree species
- Assess the current status of biodiversity in the sacred lands (ancient churches and monasteries) and evaluate its contribution towards conserving the wider biodiversity of the country

### **A. Indoor and Outdoor Activities**

- Indoor Activities - lecture, seminars, workshops, panel discussions, lectures, film and slide shows, etc.
- Outdoor activities - field trips, excursions, tours

### **B. Plant Locally and Nurture Trees (PLANT)**

- Promotes the planting of indigenous trees
- Raise and distribute a variety of seedlings of indigenous tree species
- Provide nursery tools, equipment, assorted tree seeds and technical advice to schools, organizations and individuals on developing nurseries

### **C. Environmental Education Support Publication (EESP) and School's Environmental Education Project (SEEP)**

- Production and distribution of a range of thematic environmental education materials (so far over 91,000 copies of 13 different Readers in two national languages have been produced);
- Establishing of Nature Clubs at schools and other sectors; (so far, 38 in Addis Ababa and 123 in seven Regions)
- Support production of School-based Club Newsletters. Thus far, 22 schools in Addis Ababa and 72 schools in Regions have produced publications with the provision of stationery and technical support from the Society;
- Conduct environmental workshops;
- Arrange film and slide shows;
- Organize field trips, seminars, and workshops for students and teachers (about 171 field trips have been arranged so far); and

#### **D. Biodiversity Conservation of Ancient Church and Monastery Yards in Ethiopia**

- Strengthen the capacity of Ethiopian institutions through training, expert advice and enhanced networking
- Conduct rapid biodiversity assessment
- Carry out biodiversity inventory in selected sacred-land sites (Churches and Monasteries)
- Develop action plans for conservation of biodiversity at sacred lands
- Disseminate findings/outcomes of the project.

#### **E. The Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Project**

Conducting applied research in biodiversity using birds as indicators of environmental richness and or crisis. See more in section on '**An Overview of Important Bird area (IBA) Concept**'

# National and Global Strategies for Conservation of Biodiversity

Yilma D. Abebe

Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society

Addis Ababa

## What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is defined as the variety and variability of life on earth. While variety denotes the array of organisms from one celled Amoeba to Whales and gigantic Sequoias, variability is the genetic diversity within species inhabiting our planet earth. Biodiversity can be understood from three hierarchical categories:

- ◆ Genetic diversity - looks at genetic variation within species.
- ◆ Species diversity - looks at the variety within organisms.
- ◆ Ecosystem diversity - looks at diversity within communities and biomes.

The importance of biodiversity in our lives has emphasized in areas of food, shelter, medicine, clothing, culture, arts and science. It would be impossible to think of fulfillment of life where the strands in the web of life have been removed or recklessly used. Even though biodiversity and its uses are known to a lesser or greater extent, the strategy for their sustained use is still not clear.

## Conservation of Biodiversity

Conservation of biodiversity means maintaining the variety of species and genetic resources as well as the environment in which different species coexist and are interlinked. Conservation of biodiversity is a total approach towards conserving the earth's rich but depleting life forms and ecosystems.

## Where do you find Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is found all over the globe but it is not distributed equally over the countries of the world. Compared to other regions of the world, the tropics are the richest in biodiversity. Brazil, Indonesia and Madagascar have 55% of the world's mammals. Tropical America has nearly 85,000 flowering plant species. Tropical and sub-tropical Africa has 35,000 flowering plants. Oceanic islands are particularly rich in endemic species. Relating all this to our own situation, we come to see that Ethiopia's biodiversity is not well documented. But it is

known to be very large. Ethiopia has 6500-7000 seed plants (Angiosperms), 255 mammal species and at least 850 species of birds.

### Why do we need to save Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is linked to our daily lives in many ways. Biodiversity is what we eat and drink, what we clothe, what we shelter ourselves in and also what we take as prescription when we become sick. The need to save biodiversity is better understood if its values are appreciated.

- ◆ **Biodiversity offers survival options to livelihoods:** The food, medicine and energy needs in life all have natural bases and this is directly linked to the maintenance of life on earth.
- ◆ **Biodiversity is the basis for the world's life support systems:** This refers to the recycling of nutrients and water, natural systems that mitigate natural and man-made disasters, systems that provide protection of watersheds and those that combat the spread of deserts etc.
- ◆ **Biodiversity offers a basis for economies:** Major economies including agriculture, tourism, commerce, recreation and forestry rely totally or to a greater extent on the well being of biodiversity.
- ◆ **Biodiversity has ethical implications:** Humans have a moral responsibility to conserve life. Beyond the physical needs man aspires to live in a harmonious relationship with nature. Ethical perspective of biodiversity means respect to life and self-awareness in the universe.
- ◆ **Biodiversity is a living laboratory of genes, species and ecosystems:** The development of natural sciences and an increasing number of social sciences are dependent on observable systems of the planet. Since the dawn of civilisation, oral and written knowledge of life on earth, philosophies and environmental awareness draw upon the rich and diverse biodiversity of the earth.

### How Do We Conserve Biodiversity?

Biodiversity can be conserved using various approaches and strategies. These approaches and strategies are seen from various scales.

Approaches to conserving biodiversity:

Genetic - conservation of geographical races and maintaining gene flow.

Species - conservation of key, rare and endemic organisms

Ecosystem - conservation of sites, biomes and zones with importance to a wide variety to organisms.

Strategies to conserving biodiversity:

Strategies to conserving biodiversity can be seen at two levels, national and global. National strategies are further divided into in situ and ex situ conservation. In situ conservation implies the conservation of biodiversity at original place or site. It thus includes conservation work in protected areas, biosphere reserves and habitat restoration activities. Ex situ includes conservation (including preservation) of genetic matter and uses botanic gardens, zoos and gene banks where particularly living tissue of plants is kept.

Global strategies include policy guidance for national level conservation, conventions and agreements (examples are World Heritage, Ramsar, CITIES, ITTA and AEWA). Conventions, treaties and agreements act as commitment statements between nations (could be bi-lateral or multi-lateral) to act on specific issues (conservation of endangered species, migrant species, ecosystems such as wetlands, control of trade, etc.). Global strategies also include the production and implementation of action plans for specific concerns. An example of a global action plan is the "tropical forestry action plan".

## **An Overview of Important Bird Area (IBA) Concept**

Mengistu Wondafrash  
Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society  
Addis Ababa

### **What are IBAs?**

IBAs stands for Important Bird Area and in the real sense IBAs are sites. IBAs can be typified by wetlands, lakes, seashores, grasslands, scrublands, forests, mountains, rocky areas and other habitats.

All sites cannot be a definite IBA because an IBA should fulfil a number of requirements before it can be designated by this name. A site will be designated as an IBA if it is exceptionally important for the conservation of birds at global, regional and national level. In other words, IBAs are hotspots for birds; IBAs are selected using objective, bird-based criteria applied with common sense. It is advantageous to use existing protected area networks and these are taken for granted.

The main purpose of the IBA programme is to identify, document and protect sites critical for the conservation of birds.

### **Who Drives the IBA Process?**

The IBA process is the initiative of the BirdLife International Secretariat (BLIS). BLIS is a worldwide partnership of conservation NGOs, represented in over 100 countries. BLIS is the leading authority that advocates for the conservation of globally threatened bird species (species at risk), habitats and ecosystems of greatest importance to avian diversity, world's most important sites for birds, and the diversity of all life on the planet and development of human welfare.

Local BirdLife partner NGOs in each country implement IBA programmes. In Ethiopia, the BirdLife partner is EWNHS.

### **Designation of IBAs**

IBAs are selected using standardised and internationally agreed criteria developed by BLIS. To qualify as IBAs, sites must regularly hold significant numbers of globally threatened bird species (36 species for Ethiopia), species with world distribution range of 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> or less (13 species for Ethiopia),

species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome. Biome species in Ethiopia include Afrotropical Highland Biome (48 species), Sudan-Guinea Biome (18 species), Somali-Masai Biome (100 species) and Sahel Biome (8 species). IBAs are also selected on the basis of concentration of species confined to a particular habitat type notably wetlands.

### Historical Background of the IBA Program

The IBA programme started in Europe in 1985 and directory of IBAs for Europe was completed in 1989. The work that begun in Europe extended to the Middle East and a consecutive directory was produced for this region in 1994. This programme has been running in Africa since 1993 and in a recent publication produced in 2001, Africa is now known to have 1228 sites designated as IBAs. This African IBA directory has a chapter on Ethiopian IBAs (pp 291-336). The 1228 IBA sites have been selected from 58 African countries and associated islands.

National IBA programs are undertaken by local conservation NGOs in all participating countries and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society is driving the IBA process in Ethiopia.

### The IBA Programme in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian programme started in 1995 and is implemented by EWNHS in collaboration with EWCO and BLIS. To date, a total 73 IBA sites have been identified.

Table 1. Summary of IBAs by Regions

No.	Name of Regions	Number of IBAs
1	Addis Ababa Adm. Region	2
2	Afar Regional State	5
3	Amhara National Regional State	12
4	Gambella Regional State	2
5	Oromiya Regional State	38
6	Somalia Regional State	2
7	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State	11
8	Tigray Regional State	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>76*</b>

\* Three IBAs are shared among four Regional States, hence is the number 76.

Table 2. Summary of IBAs by major habitat types

Major Habitat Types	Number of IBA Sites
Wetlands	29
Bush/scrub	16
Forest	16
Others	12
Total	73

In the designation of IBAs existing protected areas are taken for granted as IBAs. Ethiopia in this sense already has:

- Nine National Parks
- Three Wildlife Reserves
- Three Sanctuaries
- Three Controlled Hunting Areas
- 15 National Priority Forests

The importance of IBAs is understood better when we realise that they are habitats for Ethiopia's endemic and globally threatened species, flyways and wintering grounds for Palearctic and intra-African migrants. IBAs are innovative tools for the conservation of biodiversity and used to reinforce existing protected area networks. The first phase of the IBA work was completed in 1996 with the production of a publication entitled: Important Bird Areas in Ethiopia: A First Inventory.

### **Regional IBA Project in Africa**

This is what is called in other words the "African NGO-Government Partnership for Sustainable Biodiversity Action Project". The regional IBA project marks the second phase of the IBA programme in Ethiopia. This project is being implemented in ten African countries since 1998. It will officially phase out end of 2002. The ten African countries involved in this project are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.

The project scales up past achievements in the IBA programme including activities where new sites were surveyed, revisits made and data consolidated, threatened species studied, prioritisation for conservation carried out, site actions plans developed for two sites, and NIBACS developed.

The regional project seeks to conserve biodiversity in the IBA process through:

- strengthening NGO-Government partnership
- building capacities of local and national Governments and NGOs
- developing new innovations for achieving sustainable conservation:
  - Site Support Groups (SSGs)
  - National Liaison Committee (NLC)
  - National IBA Conservation Strategy (NIBACS)

### **Site Action Model**

Steps generally followed when implementing an IBA project in a given country include the following four overlapping stages:

*1. **Start-up:** including consultation and establishment of national partnerships and agreements*

- Identify local national conservation NGO (BL Partner)
- Recruitment staff, including National Co-ordinator
- Induction training for staff
- Identify resource persons/institutions holding relevant data/information
- Consultation with experts/Institutions holding relevant data
- Establishment of national partnerships and agreements

*2. **Identification/survey:** data collection, field survey, production of IBA directory and database*

- Literature searches/review
- Site selection and survey planning workshop
- Training on Survey Techniques and Bird Identification
- Target and organise surveys

- Collate and analyse data
- Compile site accounts and produce maps
- Establish/maintain a computer database
- Production of a national directory in appropriate language

***3. Action planning: including planning of action at individual IBAs and advocacy programme development***

- Prioritise IBA sites for conservation action
- Prepare action plan for priority IBAs
- Solicit funds from conservation collaborators (Funding Agencies) - by developing project proposals
- Start on-the-ground conservation activities in collaboration with stakeholders

***4. Fully-developed national site conservation programme***

- Establishment of Partnerships with Government, NGOs, CBOs, SSGs, etc. followed by NIBACS development
- Building Capacities of partners (training, awareness raising, etc.)
- Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation
- Advocacy/Lobbying

## **Issues and Challenges of Conserving IBAs**

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Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society  
Addis Ababa

### **Issues in conserving biodiversity**

The main issues that require addressing are the following.

- There is too much biodiversity to conserve
- There is a problem of not knowing what to conserve
- Biodiversity & environment destructive practices are increasing at an alarming rate
- There are limited resources or options for conservation.

### **Challenge of conserving biodiversity**

Conservation presents a challenge whereby it is impractical to save all biodiversity due to unavailability of resources for conservation. The option that is available is to target limited resources for conservation to save components of biodiversity in most urgent need of conservation attention. This can be done by prioritising biodiversity for conservation action. As components of biodiversity, IBA conservation can be addressed by the actions we take for other components.

### **Prioritization of Ethiopia's IBAs**

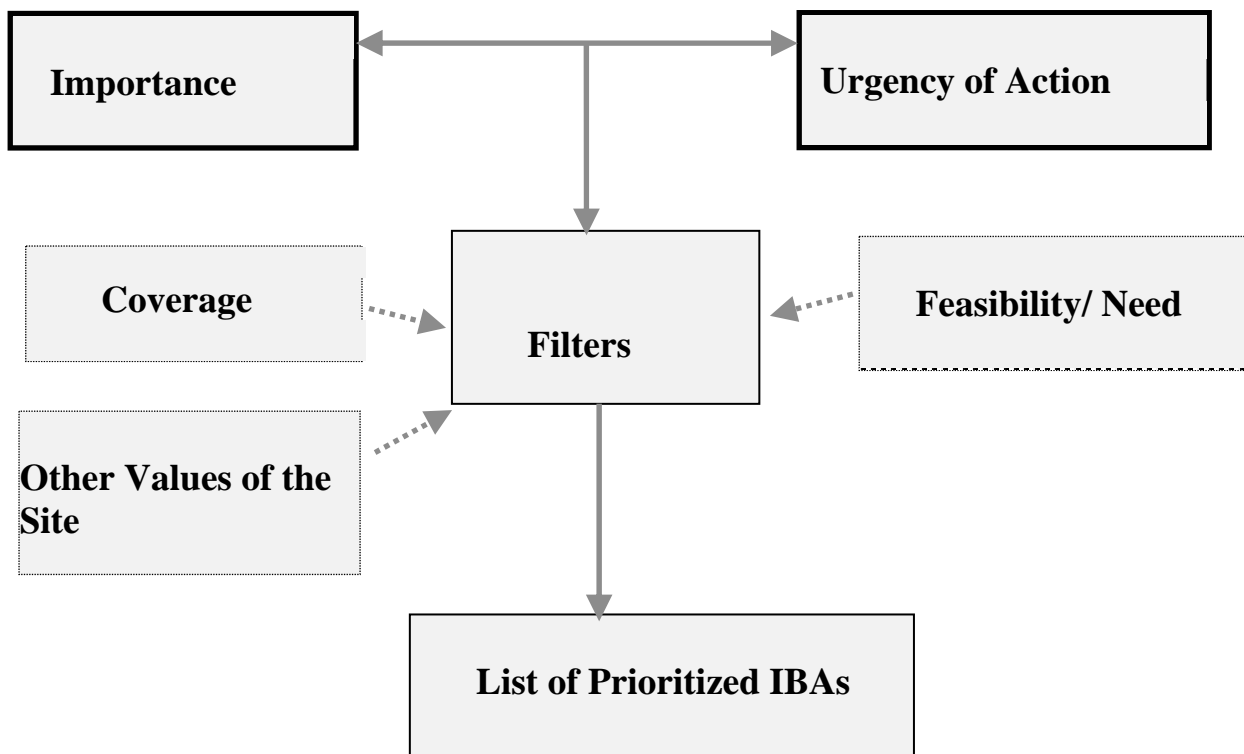
All 73 IBA sites in Ethiopia are priorities in themselves. But with limited resources to conserve them all, it is necessary to prioritise a few amongst all the priorities. With this in mind, EWNHS carried out a prioritisation of IBAs in a workshop organised at national level

The criteria used were:

- Importance for Biodiversity (birds and other biodiversity) and
- Urgency of Action (threats the sites face)

- Filters (Coverage, Feasibility and other values of the sites)

FIGURE 1. THE FRAMEWORK (MODEL) FOR THE PRIORITISATION OF ETHIOPIAN IBAS



## Priority Matrix

A matrix was used to show sites in the prioritised list of IBAs in relation to other sites. This allowed comparisons to be made and clustering.

Table 3. Priority matrix of prioritised IBAs

Threats	Biological Importance				
	5	4	3	2	1
4	o o o a	o o o o a	o o o o o o o a	o o o b	o c
3		o o o o o a	o o o o o o o o b	o o o o o o o o o o o o b	o c
2			o o o o o o o o o o o o c	o o o o o o o o o o o o o c	o o c
1			o o c		o c

- The darkest shaded boxes (a) show all those sites with highest level of threat and biological importance (total 19 sites, 26% of total IBAs) - Critical (Critically Threatened)
- The lighter shaded boxes (b) show sites with intermediate levels of threat and importance (total 23 sites, 32% of total IBAs) - Urgent (Severely Threatened)
- Lightest shaded boxes (c) are sites with lower biological importance and threat (total 31 sites, 42% of total IBAs) - High (Moderately Threatened)

Table 4. Distribution of IBAs in Regional States versus classes of IBAs as ranked for conservation actions

Regional States of Ethiopia	Number of IBAs			
	Critical	Urgent	High	Total
Addis Ababa Administration	-	2	-	2
Afar Regional State	2	1	2	5 <sup>1</sup>
Amhara National Regional State	5	5	2	12
Gambella Regional State	1	1	-	2
Oromia Regional State	10	12	16	38 <sup>2</sup>
Somali Regional State	1	1	-	2
Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State	1	3	7	11
Tigray Regional State	-	-	4	4
Total	20 (one site shared)	25 (two sites shared)	31	76*

\* Three out of 76 IBA sites are shared among four regional States as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Afar shares one IBA site with Amhara and another with Oromia Regions

<sup>2</sup> Oromia shares one IBA site with Afar and another with Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional States

### Proposed actions at prioritized IBAs

Table 5. Activities at Critical sites

N o.	Activity
1	Form site support groups
2	Habitat rehabilitation
3	Advocacy
4	Conservation/Development projects
5	Intensifying research on biodiversity assessment
6	Designation and gazettement of sites
7	Active management at sites
8	Habitat restoration
9	Site exchange groups/info exchange
10	Lease land

11	Lobby for gazettelement
12	Start activities on the ground
13	Stakeholder analysis

Table 6. Activities at critical & urgent sites

No	Activity
1	Benefit sharing
2	Training
3	Assist with EWCO's capacity to manage PAs
4	Promote local people's involvement in the conservation of sites
5	Train bird and nature guides to support eco-tourism

Table 7. Activities at all sites

No	Activity
1	Awareness and education
2	Monitoring
3	Develop policies
4	Law enforcement
5	Enforce water policy
6	Enforce conservation
7	Networking with concerned bodies
8	Establish bird watching clubs
9	Bridge information gaps
10	Suggest national/regional birds to promote conservation
12	Bridge information gaps

## **Definition and Need of NIBACS**

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### **Definition of NIBACS**

NIBACS can be defined in terms of participatory processes and the development of a framework.

#### **NIBACS as a participatory process:**

NIBACS is a participatory process to achieve practical IBA conservation on the ground, manifested as a document, developed in a participatory way and approved by the owners.

#### **NIBACS as a basis for a framework:**

NIBACS is a framework containing goals, objectives, priorities and mechanisms for IBA conservation that guide all key players to the key priorities and actions needed and definition of their roles.

### **Beginnings of NIBACS**

NIBACS as a process was first initiated by the African NGO-Government partnership for sustainable biodiversity action project. The project is an offshoot of the first phase of the IBA work in Africa. Its main aims are to:

- ◆ Enhance biodiversity and natural environment conservation in Africa through partnerships in IBAs
- ◆ Enhance conservation network of key biodiversity sites throughout Africa
- ◆ Strengthen NGO-Government collaboration for effective biodiversity conservation.
- ◆ Develop cadre of national conservationists in Africa.

- ◆ Create strong financially sustainable partnerships and local constituencies.

NIBACS was initiated because the work of IBA conservation in Africa required streamlining in goals, effort, capacity and mechanisms from partners for effective work.

### **Aim of NIBACS**

The aim of NIBACS is to provide a clear focus at a national level for plans and tools and building consensus for conserving action by stakeholders.

### **Why is NIBACS needed?**

The main reason why NIBACS is needed is to find a solution to the various approaches adopted by various countries to conserve their biodiversity. This lack of holistic approach is observed because all countries have their own systems in place that are governed by social, economic and political conditions prevailing. As a result, different countries have different strategies and activities for conserving biodiversity. It is also known that there are no clear guidelines for prioritising IBAs for conservation. NIBACS can be a solution, which provides a guideline for IBA conservation work with the aim of forming other links with other national biodiversity policies and strategies i.e. NBSAP.

Beyond this, NIBACS also assists in:

- ◆ Providing a framework for national IBA conservation programmes.
- ◆ Identifying the main stakeholders and what their roles should be.
- ◆ Identifying objectives of National IBA programmes.
- ◆ Building consensus on prioritised required actions.

### **How does NIBACS work?**

While initial start-up can vary from country to country, NIBACS in the end should be able to address the following steps in its development.

- ◆ Setting up of institutional framework.
- ◆ Site identification and survey plus inventory compilation.
- ◆ Setting priorities and implementing advocacy, monitoring and action for key sites and

- ◆ Establishing a sustainable management cycle.

In conclusion, the process of NIBACS and its linkage to other national biodiversity conservation programmes will ensure that IBAs are conserved in the long-term.

## **The NIBACS Development Process**

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Addis Ababa

### **Approach**

The approach used to develop NIBACS varies from country to country. Past examples have used a single or a combination of the following.

- BirdLife Partner, NGO & NLC together
- Ad hoc committee drawn from different conservation institutions

The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society has made use of its own experts primarily but also worked by consulting key stakeholders, NLC members and three partner government institutions, namely EPA, EWCO and IBCR, individuals knowledgeable on the subject and experience shared by other BirdLife partners.

### **Stages in the development of NIBACS**

The following are key steps that are required if the process is to be as transparent and participatory as possible.

- Develop Background Document and Draft NIBACS
- Get the above documents commented upon
- Hold national NIBACS Workshop involving as many stakeholders as possible
- Complete the Strategy
- Seek endorsement and final approval

## **Basic Components of the NIBACS development process**

- Goal
- Objectives (Long-term and Immediate)
- Priorities (Issues that need to be addressed)
- Activities (actions)
- Implementation mechanisms (how)
- Institutional roles and responsibilities (what)
- Endorsement and/or approval (the modality)

## **Resources required to develop NIBACS**

- Information and Data (Literatures)
- Skills (expertise)
- Capacity (human resource, finance, time)
- Enabling atmosphere (government support, policies, strategies, international conventions, etc.)

# Results of Brainstorming Exercises & Group Work Presentations

N.B.

All the group work and brainstorming exercises are based on the previously prepared NIBACS Background Document (Volume I), which was used as a resource material for the workshop. What have been amended and corrected during group work reports were done in reference to this document.

## Group Work I

Workshop participants were divided into four working groups and asked to develop the *goal, long-term objectives, immediate objectives* and *themes* of NIBACS. Furthermore, they were asked to update what the workshop organizers have already suggested or to come up with totally new definitions and concepts. A short account of the outcomes of this exercise will follow.

### Group I. - Goal of NIBACS

To ensure long-term (sustainable) conservation of IBAs so as to obtain economic, environmental and social benefits for the society.

### Group 2 - Long-term Objectives of NIBACS

1. To raise awareness of stakeholders on the concept and need of conservation of IBAs.
2. To establish sustainable partnerships for future conservation of IBAs.
3. To establish sustainable capacity building programmes to relevant stakeholders.
4. To develop a framework with goal objectives, actions and mechanisms for conserving IBAs.
5. To put mechanisms in place that would help the NIBACS document to be integrated into existing biodiversity conservation schemes and become national strategy.
6. To monitor the deterioration in conservation status of IBAs in Ethiopia.

### Group 3 - Immediate Objectives

7. To create awareness of stakeholders on the concept and need of conservation of IBAs.

8. To clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the conservation of IBAs.
9. To establish partnerships with relevant bodies.
10. To identify key issues/themes concerning conservation of IBAs in Ethiopia
11. To develop a general framework for conservation of IBAs.

#### **Group 4 - Themes**

While the NIBACS is a process for realising the conservation and eventual sustainable use of IBAs in the country, positive conservation can come about through a pragmatic approach that addresses the major issues in the well being of these sites. To achieve this, the organisers suggested ten themes that supported the issues for the better conservation of these sites. The ten themes are *site action, research, monitoring, advocacy, education and awareness raising, information management, mobilising and securing resources, setting priorities for action, and building partnerships*. While these are the main themes, a theme under the heading "cross-cutting issues" listed points that are considerations in the development of the ten above themes.

On top of what has been previously indicated in the draft strategy document provided as workshop input paper, group 4 suggested "*sustainable use of IBA resources*", as additional but was rejected on discussion. The main reason was that sustainable utilization was a principle that was inherent in conservation of resources and thus was embodied in the other themes. There would be no form of utilization without conservation. The plenary accepted the ten themes unanimously as important aspects in the development and implementation of the strategy.

#### **Card Brainstorming**

Once the ten themes were adopted, the participants were led through card brainstorming to prioritize the themes. The aim was to give participants a sense of which theme was to come before another in the order of implementation.

Participants were asked to rank all the ten themes on cards according to their own subjective opinion, assigning 1 for the highest priority and 10 for the least. The cards were collected and the information transferred onto a table. The table was analyzed in the plenary and a ranking of 1-10 assigned to each of the theme. As a result of this exercise, the following list was achieved written in descending order of priority

1. Advocacy
2. Capacity Building
3. Building partnerships
4. Education and Awareness
5. Mobilising and Securing Resources
6. Setting Priorities
7. Information management
8. Research
9. Site Action
10. Monitoring

Though the above exercise involved each participant on his/her own and collected the subjective opinion of each person and the method employed was free from bias, the fact that it was an opinion of several other opinions (similar to an average of averages), the final result was not satisfactory. At least three participants were not comfortable with the results and the whole group asked the organisers to work on the themes, come up with a realistic list and put it up for discussion by the participants. Using this initiative, the organisers made a list using a more objective approach. The method was to think of activities that in common sense would precede another. Using this method, the following list was drawn:

1. Setting priorities
2. Education and awareness raising
3. Building partnerships
4. Mobilizing and Securing Resources
5. Capacity building
6. Site action
7. Research
8. Information management
9. Advocacy
10. Monitoring

## **Group work II**

Prioritising of themes was followed by group work exercises. Four groups were formed to further discuss the workability, changes, and additions or deletions of the themes. Groups discussed themes for the larger part of the workshop time (two days) and came up with the following changes to the original presented themes by the organisers.

Table 9. Theme allocation by group

Groups	Themes
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Building Partnerships</li> <li>• Education and Awareness Raising</li> </ul>
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Mobilising and Securing Resources</li> <li>• Setting Priorities</li> </ul>
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Management</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Capacity Building</li> </ul>
IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Action</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Capacity Building</li> </ul>

## Group presentations

### Group I: Advocacy

#### *Objectives:*

General comment: change the sequence of bullets by bringing the last bullet to the beginning.

Specific comments:

Bullet 1...management, policy or legislation. This should be modified to read as ...awareness, policy or legislation for proper management of IBAs.

Bullet 2: to stimulate other players in the conservation of IBAs

#### *Actions:*

Bullet 1: modify to read as "identify problems associated with the conservation of IBAs for which...

Bullet 3: modify to read as "identify and stimulate other players to be partners in the conservation of IBAs.

Bullet 5: Split in to two bullets as follows:

- Assess the existence of enabling policy framework and legislation relevant to conservation of IBAs.
- Investigate gaps in the existing policy and legislation and stimulate the appropriate bodies to fill these gaps by taking note of the obligations...

### ***Implementation Mechanism:***

General Comment: The implementation mechanisms do not entertain most of the anticipated actions.

Specific Comments:

Bullet 1: should be modified to read as "through advocacy and identify options to strengthen the advocacy programme.

Bullet 2: should be modified to read as "use all the relevant ...IBAs and make them available to national level..."

Bullet 3: the term get across should be replaced by convey.

### **Group 1: Education and Awareness Raising**

#### ***Objectives:***

Change to read as "to achieve behavioral and attitudinal changes towards conservation of IBAs".

#### ***Actions:***

Bullet 1: change to read as ... due to lack of education and awareness.

Bullet 2: change to read as " identify the group and create awareness in the need to conserve IBAs.

Bullet 3: change to read as "set up efficient information and communication system at all IBAs.

***Implementation Mechanism:***

Bullet 1: change to read as "...conduct training needs assessment by way of brainstorming to identify the problems and target groups".

Bullet 2: change to read as "prepare relevant materials for the awareness campaign".

Bullet 5: change to read as "ensure regular information flow by following up and strengthening environmental education units.

Bullet 6: add an extra bullet that reads "establish information communication media".

**Group 1: Building Partnerships**

***Actions:***

Bullet 1: modify to read as "conduct a stakeholder...key partners that positively and negatively affect the conservation of IBAs".

Bullet 4: modify to read as "clarify the legal and policy framework and seek modalities for institutional collaboration.

***Implementation Mechanism:***

Bullet 2: modify to read as "build partnerships at all levels".

Bullet 4: modify to read as "create appropriate alliances".

Bullet 8: change to read as "develop system to adapt to changes in the project".

**Group 2: Mobilizing and Securing Resources**

***Definition:***

Availability and rational allocation of resources is vital to undertake any kind of IBA conservation initiative...

***Objectives:***

Change to read as "ensure human, material and information resources as well as logistical...

***Actions:***

Bullet 1: change to read as " identify resource requirements for IBA conservation in Ethiopia.

Bullet 2: change to read as "create strong fund raising mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of IBA conservation programmes.

Bullet 3: change to read as "Encourage income-generating initiatives by Government, NGOs, private agencies and site-adjacent communities.

Bullet 4: change to read as "Build capacity of partners at all levels in order to effectively make use of resources.

***Implementation:***

Bullet 2: change to read as "develop strategy to build capacity..."

**Group 2: Advocacy**

***Objectives:***

Bullet 1: add "sustainable utilization" so that it reads as " to achieve improved IBA conservation and sustainable utilization through...

Bullet 2: modify to read as "to stimulate other players in the conservation of IBAs".

Bullet 3: modify to read as "to advocate government to incorporate the concept and process of IBAs in its policies and legislation. Place this bullet at the top and bring bullet 1 to this position.

***Actions:***

Bullet 1: modify to read as " identify problems associated to IBAs for which advocacy is a remedy.

Bullet 3: define "other players" and change "involved" with partners.

Bullet 5: change "investigate the existence and gaps" with "investigate the existence of gaps". Another alternative is to read the paragraph as "investigate gaps in the existing policy and legislation.

Change "...conservation of IBAs and take note of the obligations..." with "...conservation of IBAs and advocate obligations..."

### ***Implementation:***

Restate the whole paragraph.

## **Group 2: Setting Priorities**

Introduction:

Change to read as "It involves the rationale and the standard framework for prioritising (criteria and methodology). It also involves proposing actions and assessing..."

Objectives:

Bullet 2 should come before Bullet 1.

Both bullets should start the sentence with a "To".

Change Bullet 1 to read as "...where most demonstrable positive impact will be achieved.

Actions:

Bullet 5 should come up to read as the first Bullet.

Bullet 4 is an implementation mechanism and should come under the next topic.

Implementation Mechanism:

Bullet 1: modify to read as "...priority category is made available at EWNHS.

Bullet 3: modify to read as "Determine timeframe of what actions to take at which IBA.

## **Group 3: Information Management**

***Objectives:***

- ◆ To assess information needs and design mechanisms of gathering information and data.
- ◆ To identify and fill data gaps.

***Action:***

Bullet 2: modify to read as "create hard copies and prepare databases on species...on all IBAs.

***Implementation:***

Bullet 3: modify to read as "organise national trainings for partners to use information technology for effective conservation of IBAs."

**Group 3: Research**

***Objectives:***

Bullet 2: modify to read as "to determine the conservation status of globally important birds of Ethiopia at a national level.

Bullet 3: modify to read as "to identify and fill the research gaps for conservation of Ethiopia's IBAs.

***Actions:***

Bullet 1: modify to read as "undertake research to determine the conservation status of IBAs.

Bullet 2: modify to read as "carry out research to determine the conservation status of globally important birds of Ethiopia.

***Implementation:***

Bullet 1: modify to read as "identify key conservation problems requiring research at IBAs".

**Group 3 and 4: Capacity Building**

***Objectives:***

Bullet 1: clarification is needed on the term institution. The sentence should be modified to read as "to put in place necessary institutions, skills, logistical requirements, and infrastructure to implement planned activities".

Bullet 2: incorporate "promote indigenous knowledge" in to the sentence.

Bullet 3: training should also include other groups besides government employees.

Bullet 4: restate the whole paragraph.

***Actions:***

Bullet 5: change the phrase "running research" by "conducting research".

Bullet 6: this has the same idea as bullet 1. Not necessary.

***Implementation:***

Revise all ideas under each bullet so that they address points raised in "Actions". As an example, training is not included in the implementation mechanism.

Bullet 1: The sentence requires slight modification.

Bullet 2: Transfer the paragraph to "capacity building" theme.

Bullet 3: point under this refers to how to disseminate the results of the research.

Bullet 4: This is a post - project follow up and doesn't apply to research.

**Recommendations:**

1. Research should refer more to ecological research.
2. Investigate scientific knowledge related to conservation by referring to relevant literature, press etc..

**Group 4: Site Action**

The group has noted that there generally is:

1. Redundancy and mix up of ideas
2. Sustainable use of IBA resources is an important issue that has not been addressed under this theme.
3. The first and second objectives of the theme are similar.
4. The third objective should match with the action point on number 3.

***Objectives:***

Merge bullet 1 and 2 to read as "to conserve biodiversity and where appropriate restore all sites identified as IBAs in Ethiopia".

Bullet 3: modify to read as "to produce and implement site management plans at all IBAs designated as critically threatened".

***Action:***

Bullet 3: modify to read as "develop site action plans for all IBAs".

Add a new bullet that reads " submit the objectives and list of IBAs to the House of Representatives for approval".

**Group 4: Monitoring**

***Definition:***

The points listed, as significance of monitoring should come under the objectives.

***Objectives:***

Bullet 2: modify to read as "to assess the overall conservation status of IBAs so that appropriate action can be taken".

***Implementation:***

This needs to be revised so that it clearly defines the mechanism of implementation under this theme.

# Flipchart Brainstorming Sessions

## List of Stakeholders in the NIBACS

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</li> <li>2. Local communities around IBAs</li> <li>3. Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO)</li> <li>4. Regional Agriculture and Natural Resources Bureaux</li> <li>5. Investment Bureau</li> <li>6. Road Authority/Transport Organisations</li> <li>7. Waterworks (MoWR)</li> <li>8. Tourism Commission</li> <li>9. Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR)</li> <li>10. Environmental Protection Authority</li> <li>11. Professional Associations</li> <li>12. Ministry of Defence</li> <li>13. Privatisation Agency</li> <li>14. Investors</li> <li>15. Authority for Refugees &amp; Returnees Affairs (ARRA)</li> <li>16. Universities and Colleges</li> <li>17. Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission (ESTC)</li> <li>18. Educational Institutions/Ministry of Education (MoE)</li> <li>19. Pastoralists</li> <li>20. Agro-pastoralists</li> <li>21. Ministry of Mines</li> <li>22. Clan leaders</li> <li>23. NGOs (site-based Environmental NGOs)</li> <li>24. Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organisation</li> <li>25. Environment Protection and Land</li> <li>26. Administration Bureaux (in four regions)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26. Environmental Clubs</li> <li>27. Religious groups</li> <li>28. Policy makers</li> <li>29. Ethiopian Electric and Light Power Authority (EELPA)</li> <li>30. Ethiopian Heritage Trust (EHT)</li> <li>31. Ministry of Urban Development</li> <li>32. Industries</li> <li>33. Ethiopian Airlines/Civil Aviation</li> <li>34. State Farms</li> <li>35. Media</li> <li>36. National Liaison Committee (NLC)</li> <li>37. Donors</li> <li>38. Planning offices (federal and regional level)</li> <li>39. Ministry of Rural Development (regional bureaux)</li> <li>40. Ministry of Rural Infrastructure (regional bureaux)</li> <li>41. Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA)</li> <li>42. Site-based CBOs</li> <li>43. Site Support Groups (SSGs)</li> <li>44. Ministry of Justice</li> <li>45. Inputs organisations</li> <li>46. Tour and travel agencies)</li> <li>47. Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>48. Ministry of Health</li> <li>49. Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES)</li> <li>50. Ministry of Culture (MoC)</li> <li>51. Meteorology</li> </ol>
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## **Possible Direct Participators in the NIBACS process**

1. MoA
2. EWCO
3. IBCR
4. EARO
5. EPA
6. Universities and Colleges
7. ESTC
8. Site-based NGOs
9. Site-based CBOs
10. Environmental Protection and Land Administration Bureaux
11. National Liaison Committee
12. Donors
13. Relevant Regional Institutions
14. SSGs

## **Who should be responsible for the NIBACS?**

1. IBCR
2. EWCO
3. EPA
4. MoA
5. EWNHS

## **Who should implement the Strategy?**

1. Regional Agricultural/Natural Resources Bureaux
2. EWCO
3. EWNHS
4. Higher learning institutions
5. Professional institutions/associations

## **Who Drives the NIBACS?**

Driving is a term associated with the co-ordination and playing the leading role in the process of implementing the conservation strategy on IBAs. Two suggestions came out of the deliberations. Neither was adopted but the decision was left open because the participants felt either could work. In both cases, a highly functional organisation is needed at the top.

**Option I.** EWNHS is the originator of the vision of IBAs in Ethiopia and has been steadily working in the area for a number of years. As a result the Society should maintain a position of co-ordination in the project. The Society is not obligated but can bring in other players into the co-ordination of the project.

**Option II.** EWNHS should lead the process but it should work closely with other agencies. It is therefore necessary to form some kind of Steering Committee where the EWNHS plays the leading role but other organisations and agencies contribute and manage the project as key stakeholders.

### **Workshop Summation**

As a recap of the major activities took place each day were given in the course of the workshop, it was not necessary to repeat the process once again. Instead, a recap of the last day was given and participants were asked to raise any issues that they think are not well addressed. No issue was raised in that direction.

## Evaluation of the Workshop

At the start of the workshop, participants reflected their expectations and fears with regards to the workshop and these were captured in flipcharts. The evaluation session targeted to check whether the expectations were met and the fears avoided. In a consensus reached at the plenary, participants expressed their views that they have been highly satisfied with 5 out of the 14 expectations but were satisfied with 7 of them. Participants were not satisfied at all with one of the expectations and another expectation was found to be non-applicable. Furthermore, participants were highly satisfied for almost all their anticipated fears did not occur in the course of the workshop.

	<b>Expectations</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>U.S</b>	<b>N.A</b>
1	A second draft for NIIBACS will be prepared		✓		
2	Gain knowledge about NIBACS from participants/organisers	✓			
3	Be informed of workshop objectives and accomplishments on ground	✓			
4	Ideas and information needed to design the strategy will be exhausted		✓		
5	NIBACS will be finalised with prioritisation of stakeholders and expected inputs		✓		
6	Implementable strategy		✓		
7	Establish strong networking among stakeholders				✓
8	The first draft document updated (improved)	✓			
9	Understanding of bird conservation strengthened	✓			
10	A sound and viable strategy		✓		
11	A good understanding of national conservation strategy		✓		
12	Knowledge on how to manage IBAs in the regions			✓	
13	Develop the draft as a national document	✓			
14	Plan a practical implementation for the conservation of wildlife		✓		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

HS = Highly Satisfactory; S = Satisfactory; US = Unsatisfactory; NA = Not addressed

	<b>Fears</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>U S</b>	<b>NA</b>
1	Limited time inability of covering all points		✓		
2	Participants not fully represented as a result not getting enough feedback	✓			
3	Workshop may not be effective as many others in the past	✓			
4	Different terms - different back ground - different understanding	✓			
5	Too much to discuss in limited time	✓			
6	Tiring and boring	✓			
7	Outcome may be incomplete		✓		
8	Reluctance from participants	✓			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18*</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\* The total of 18 points for the fears (highly satisfactory) is not a sign of the fulfilment of participants' fears. It is rather a sign that participants were satisfactorily happy that these anticipated fears did not occur in the course of the workshop.

# Annexes

## I. Invitation Letter for Participants

Ref:

Date:

Dear Sirs,

### Re. National Important Bird Areas Conservation Strategy (NIBACS) Workshop

It is a well-known fact that Ethiopia holds in trust a significant amount of the world's biodiversity. However, this biodiversity is at stake from various kinds of threats. While this calls for immediate action to safeguard biodiversity that sustains life and livelihoods, there is undeniably the question of how much, what, and where to conserve remaining biodiversity in the country.

The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society, together with other government and non-government partners, as a main part of its biodiversity conservation work has been able to identify, prioritise and play an important role in the future conservation of "hotspots" for biodiversity in the country. These "hotspots", known commonly as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are sites selected on the basis of avifaunal criteria but have shown that they are similarly important for other biodiversity including plants and mammals.

Important Bird Areas are just one approach to conserving biodiversity at the site level. While there is a global consensus that IBAs can play a significant function in the conservation of biodiversity, there is generally a conceptual question of how IBAs can play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity at all levels. There is also a major question of how IBAs can be usefully integrated into existing conservation strategies and environmental conservation plans.

The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society believes that the best way of approaching these questions is through developing NIBCAS with full involvement of all stakeholder institutions and defining a strategy that shows how IBAs can best be integrated into existing and proposed conservation strategies as a national priority to conserve biodiversity.

In principle, NIBACS should:

- be developed in a highly involving and participatory manner and approved by the owners
- be consistent with other national related strategic plans in the context of policy and legal frameworks such as decentralization
- fit in the existing institutional framework of mandates and ownerships
- not duplicate efforts already in place – but fill the gaps in existing documents/policies
- be achievable and realistic in view of resources
- be in line with the goals of national institutions and government

As stakeholder of the issue at hand, the participation of your organization is considered most important in shaping appropriate actions that benefit the entire IBA network in Ethiopia, which includes 73 sites distributed in all the Regional States. To this end, the EWNHS cordially invites your institution to delegate one participant to a 3 day workshop entitled National Important Bird Area Conservation Strategy Workshop to be held at IBCR Conference Room in Addis Ababa from 9 -11 October 2002.

Let me thank you in advance for the usual cooperation

Yours sincerely,

NOTES:

1. For participants coming from Regions, per diem will be paid as per the scale of the Society and transport costs will be refunded against eligible receipts. Due to budget constraints, please kindly avoid using Airplane and or vehicle from your organization. A transport allowance will be paid for Addis participants.
2. For ease of logistical arrangements, please kindly confirm receipt of this letter and that a participant is coming for the workshop.
3. The venue for the Workshop will be at the Conference Hall of Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR), which is located between the Russian and Kenyan Embassies. Workshop participants are expected to report at the venue on 9 October 2002 at 8:30 am, sharp.
4. Background information and other relevant reading materials will be provided on arrival.
5. For any further information, please contact the workshop organizers indicated below:

Ato Yilma Dellelegn or Ato Mengistu Wondafrash  
Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS)  
P. O. Box 13303  
Tel. 628525/630476  
Fax: 630484  
E-mail: [ewnhs@telecom.net.et](mailto:ewnhs@telecom.net.et)

## II. Invitation Letter for NLC Members & Key stakeholders

### a. NLC Members

Ref: EWNHS/160/2002

Date: 25 September

To .....

Dear .....

### **Re. Comments on the draft National Important Bird Area Conservation Strategy (NIBACS) Workshop background document**

Being a member of the NLC for the IBA project in Ethiopia, it is evident that you are well informed of the current status of IBAs in the country. Although IBAs have been identified, described and prioritised based on standardised and scientific methods, their conservation is still not assured. The Society believes that IBAs can play the maximum beneficial role to the conservation of the country's biodiversity if they are given attention and particularly if they are included as part and parcel of Ethiopia's wider conservation strategies.

To this end, the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society is organising a **National IBA Conservation Strategy Workshop** due to be held from October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002. In addition to all NLC members (see the separate invitation letter), participants have been invited from relevant Gov't and Non-government organisations to take part in the above workshop to develop a strategy for the future conservation of IBAs in Ethiopia.

If it were not for time constraints with each of you, EWNHS understands that NLC should have taken the lead to fully participate in the development of the NIBACS background document. However, as implementer of IBA programme at national scale and Secretary of NLC, EWNHS has taken the liberty of developing a draft NIBACS background document, which is subject to further amendments.

The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to kindly request you, the owners of the document, to give comments on the workshop background paper we have enclosed herein. You will notice that the background paper provides information work done up to now on IBAs and the NIBACS process. Part 5 and 6 of the document contain the crucial parts of the discussion and this is where the workshop time will be spent most. Your timely comments are invaluable in developing the document to a higher standard and look forward to hear from you by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002.

Thank you for your input and look forward to see you at the workshop.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. The document we have enclosed is not only meant for inviting your comments but will be used in the ensuing discussions. Please bring the document with you when you come to the workshop.

**b. Key Stakeholders**

Ref: EWNHS/161/2002

Date: 25 September 2002

To: .....

Dear: .....

**Re. Comments on the draft National Important Bird Area Conservation Strategy (NIBACS) Workshop background document**

Being a key stakeholder of the Important Bird Area initiative in Ethiopia, we believe that you are aware of the current work being undertaken by the Society. Although IBAs have been identified, selected and prioritised based on standardised and scientific methods, their conservation is still not assured. The Society believes that IBAs can play the maximum beneficial role to the conservation of the country's biodiversity if they are given attention and particularly if they are included as part and parcel of Ethiopia's wider conservation strategies.

To this end, the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society is organising a **National IBA Conservation Strategy Workshop** due to be held from October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002. We have invited participants from relevant Govt and Non-government organisations to take part in the above workshop to develop a strategy for the future conservation of IBAs in Ethiopia.

Please recall the invitation letter to the workshop already sent to your organization (Ref. EWNHS/159/2002). The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to kindly request you to give comments on the workshop background paper we have enclosed herein. You will notice that the background paper provides information work done up to now on IBAs and the NIBACS process. Part 5 and 6 of the document contain the crucial parts of the discussion and this is where the workshop time will be spent most. Your timely comments are invaluable in developing the document to a higher standard and look forward to hear from you by October 2nd, 2002.

Thank you for your input and look forward to see you at the workshop.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.

The document we have enclosed is not only meant for inviting your comments but will be used in the ensuing discussions. Please bring the document with you when you come to the workshop.

### III. List of NIBACS Workshop Participants

October 9 - 11, 2002, IBCR, Addis Ababa

No.	Names of Trainees	Organisation and Address	Position in Organisation	Remarks
1	Wzt. Azeb Girmai	ENDA-Ethiopia Tel. 512186 E-mail: <a href="mailto:enda-eth@telecom.net.et">enda-eth@telecom.net.et</a>	Country Co-ordinator, ENDA-Ethiopia	Business Administration (B. A.)
2	Wzo. Almaz Beyero	Southern NNPS State Bureau of Agriculture & Natural Resources Development P. O. Box 80 Tel. 06-205984/06-200499 Fax: 06-205716/06-206023	Wildlife Conservation & Development Team Leader	Biologist (B. Sc.)
3	Yirmed Demeke	Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research P. O. Box 32099, Addis Ababa Tel.: 431678 Fax: 627322	Researcher	Zoologist (M. Sc.)
4	Ato Mereid Getachew	Ethiopian Tourism Commission Addis Ababa Tel. 517470 Extension 234 Fax: 513899 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tour_com@telecom.net.et">tour_com@telecom.net.et</a>	Economist	Economics (M. A.)
5	Ato Samuel Negussie	Lem Ethiopia P. O. Box 8632, Addis Ababa Tel. 512982 Fax: 513851	Development Agent	Diploma, Technical School

6	Ato Cherie Enawgaw	DGB – WWF Ethiopia Project/EWCO P. O. Box 386, Addis Ababa Tel. 525521 Fax: 509452 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Chericeenawgaw@yahoo.com">Chericeenawgaw@yahoo.com</a>	Wildlife Expert	Biologist (B.Sc.)
7	Wzo. Almaz Tadesse	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization P. O. Box 386 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel.: 151433 Fax: 514190 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ewco@telecom.net.et">ewco@telecom.net.et</a>	Botanist	Botanist (M. Sc.)
8	Zenebe Tadesse (Dr.)	Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organisation P. O. Box 64, Addis Ababa Tel. 380023	Centre Manager, National Fishery Research	Fishery (Ph.D.)
9	Ato Aramde Fetene	Agricultural Bureau of Gambella Regional State Gambella National Park P. O. Box 46, Gambella Tel. 07-510912	Head, Development & Regulatory Section	Forester (B. Sc.)
10	Ato Abdulreshid Mohammed	Somali Region Livestock, Crop & Natural Resources Bureau P. O. Box 230, Jijiga Tel. 05-750910 Fax: 05-750910	Wildlife Team Leader	Agronomy (B. Sc.)
11	Ato Befekadu Refera	Environmental Protection authority P. O. Box 12760, Addis Ababa Tel. 624758/625970 Fax: 610077 E-mail: <a href="mailto:envpa@telecom.net.et">envpa@telecom.net.et</a>	Mammalian Biodiversity Specialist	Ecological and Systematic Zoology (M. Sc.)
12	Ato Mateos Mekiso	Environmental Protection authority P. O. Box 12760, Addis Ababa	Team Leader	Resources Assessment and Management (M.

		Tel. 624758/625970 Fax: 610077 E-mail: <a href="mailto:envpa@telecom.net.et">envpa@telecom.net.et</a>		Sc.)
13	Ato Biresaw Mahitot	Amhara Regional State Bureau of Agriculture P. O. Box 437, Bahir Dar Tel. 08-201366 Fax: 08-201510	Forestry Senior Expert	Forester (M. Sc.)
14	Ato Wondimagegnehu Shibru	Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission P. O. Box 2490, Addis Ababa Tel. 511344 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Wondimsh@yahoo.com">Wondimsh@yahoo.com</a>	Animal health and production expert	Animal science (B. Sc.)
15	Ato Nega Abrha	Ministry of Water Resources 5744, Addis Ababa Tel. 461138/611111 Fax: 611700	Environmentalist	Biology (B. Sc.)
16	Ato Ermias Admasu	Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research P. O. Box 30726, Addis Ababa Tel.: 612244 – Extension 235 Fax: 627322 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ibcermias@yahoo.com">ibcermias@yahoo.com</a>	Animal ecologist	Zoologist (M. Sc.)
17	Ato Mohammed Abdi	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation P. O. Box 386 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel.: 151426 Fax: 514190 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ewco@telecom.net.et">ewco@telecom.net.et</a>	Wildlife Team Leader	Biology (B. Sc.), Wildlife Ranger (Dip.) and Resource Management (M. Sc.)
18	Ato Teshale Atsebeha	Agricultural Bureau of Tigray Tel. 04-400493 Fax: 04-403710	Wildlife Expert	Forestry (Dip.) and Wildlife Management (Dip.)

19	Ato Negusu Aklilu	Biological Society of Ethiopia P. O. Box 31819, Addis Ababa Tel. 513422/114323 Fax; 552350 E-mail: <a href="mailto:naklilu@yahoo.com">naklilu@yahoo.com</a>	Programme Co-ordinator	Biologist (B. Sc.)
20	Wzt. Sinework Dagnachew	Benishangul – Gumuz National Regional State Bureau of Agriculture P. O. Box 30, Assosa Tel. 07-750920	Wildlife Expert	Biologist (BSc)
21	Ato Tilaye Wube	Addis Ababa University, Department of Biology P. O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa Tel. 114250 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tilayewube@yahoo.com">tilayewube@yahoo.com</a>	Lecturer	Biologist (M. Sc.)
22	Ato Alemayehu Bedada	Oromia Natural Resource Development and Environmental Protection Authority Addis Ababa Tel. 536493	Wildlife Expert	Diploma in General Agriculture & Wildlife Ranger
23	Ato Mateos Erasedo	Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research P. O. Box 30726, Addis Ababa Tel.: 612244 Fax: 617322 E-mail: <a href="mailto:biod-et@telecom.net.et">biod-et@telecom.net.et</a>		Forestry (Dip.) and Resource Management (M. Sc.)
24	Dr. Girma Balcha	Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research P. O. Box 30726, Addis Ababa Tel. 612340/09-206933 Fax: 617322 E-mail: <a href="mailto:biod-et@telecom.net.et">biod-et@telecom.net.et</a>	Deputy Director, IBCR	Biology (B. Sc.) and Plant Physiology (Ph.D.)
25	Ato Kinfe Abebe	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society	Executive Manager, EWNHS	Forestry (B. Sc. & M.

		P. O. Box 13303 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel. 630476 Fax. 630484 E-mail: ewnhs@telecom.net.et		Sc.)
26	Ato Yilma Dellelegn	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society P. O. Box 13303 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel. 628525 Fax. 630484 E-mail: ewnhs@telecom.net.et	Project Officer	Conservation Biologist (M. Sc.)  Facilitator
27	Ato Mengistu Wondafrash	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society P. O. Box 13303 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel. 628525 Fax. 630484 E-mail: ewnhs@telecom.net.et	Biodiversity Conservation Team Leader	Biology (B. Sc.)  Facilitator