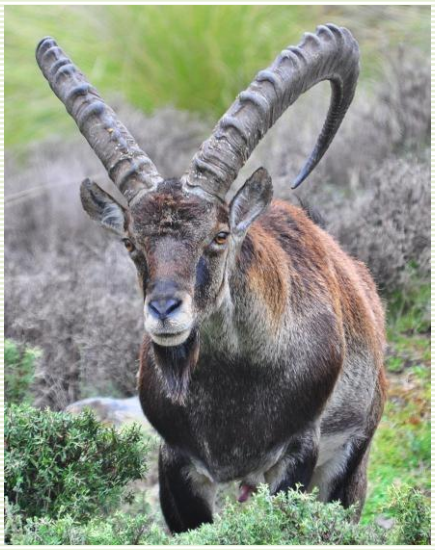

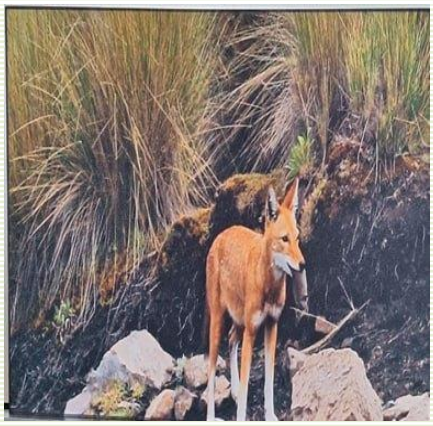

ETHIOPIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (EWCA)

State Conservation Report of Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP)

World Natural Heritage Site

December, 2024

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Name of World Heritage Property:

Simien National Park (Ethiopia)

State Party:

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia – Ethiopian Wildlife ConservationAuthority

Identification Number:

N 9

Response to the World Heritage Committee's Decisions adopted during the **45th** session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 10-25 September 2023, 7B.73)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report on the state of conservation of the Simien Mountains National Park a World Heritage property responds to the World Heritage Committee's decision 45 COM 7B.73 that held at the 45th session of the Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2023. The Ethiopian government is fully committed for protection and conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property. All of the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring Mission and requests of the World Heritage Committee 2023; have been considered in the General Management Plan and other subsequent strategic plans and being implemented in collaboration with stakeholders. Our Key conservation partners German Development Bank (KfW) continued supporting the management of the property through the implementing agent African Wildlife foundation (AWF) in SMNP.

The General Management Plan of the park is under implementation since 2020. The GMP has fully considered the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its buffer zone. Specific key species Monitoring protocols (Walia Ibex, Ethiopian wolf, and Gelada monkey) had been developed and integrated in monitoring and evaluation plan of the GMP which is now under implementation. Efforts have been taken to have well-defined steps to make sure that the monitoring result of key species census and related data collection are governed by certain quality control, fixed procedure and team composition. The tourism Management Plan had been developed and now helps to guide environmentally friendly tourism management of the park. Besides, other frameworks including Environmental Social Management Frame work, Social Process Framework, Law Enforcement Standard and Infrastructure Master Plan are being developed by the support of international and national consultants. These frameworks are expected to ensure the proper implementation of the GMP of the park.

As part of UNESCO's emergency assistance fund implementation for the 2019 fire incidence it was possible to Procure fire equipment, organize integrated fire management training for experts of the park. Integrated fire management plan, establishment of community-based fire brigade, Strong attention has been given from the state party and conservation partners (KfW and AWF) to support the relocated Gich community through sustainable livelihood improvement initiatives. The implementation of the first livelihood improvement project has been progressing well and brings promising outcomes.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STATE PARTY AS PER WHC DECISION ON COM 45TH 7B.81

3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party, with the support of its partners, in Responding to past Committee decisions and the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, including the finalization and implementation of the 2020-2030 General Management Plan (GMP), the monitoring protocols for Ethiopian wolf, Walia ibex and Gelada, and a fire management plan;

Progress made by state party and partner in responding past committee decisions and 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, this includes including the finalization and implementation of the 2020-2030 General Management Plan (GMP) which is fully under implementation, the monitoring protocols for Ethiopian wolf, Walia ibex and Gelada Monkey (monitoring protocol already developed 2021 and under proper implementation) and a fire management plan (and this also under implementation for the last 3 years and brings significant impact of the Simien and its surrounding community).

4. Takes note of the confirmation that the GMP fully considers the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and that targets have been developed for species and to maintain the natural beauty and landscapes of the property, requests the State Party to submit a copy of the GMP to the World Heritage Centre, and urges the State Party to ensure that the protection of the OUV of the property, under both criteria (vii) and (x), is fully taken into account in the implementation of the GMP

2.1. The General Management Plan-GMP (2020-2030) Implementation and the OUVs

The 2020-2030 General Management Plan (GMP) of the world heritage property has been under full implementation since the year 2020. The GMP developed targeting to protect and develop the outstanding universal values (OUVs) including the diverse species (primarily the endemic endangered and threatened fauna and flora and their natural habitats) as well as to maintain the natural beauty of the landscapes with in and around the property. All the six inclusive management objectives of the GMP are properly implemented for the benefit of protecting the Endemic mammals, the biodiversity at all level, the Ecosystem integrity and maintenance, mitigating and adapting Climate change to the wildlife and for communities, to insure sustainable use local community though tourism and to keep maintained the scenic beauty of the landscape. In general,

the six management objectives of the GMP are implemented under 181 management actions for the protection and management of the OUV of the property, under both criteria (vii) and (x) is fully taken into account.

5. While also welcoming the results of the monitoring of the Ethiopian wolf, which show populations are stable, notes with concern the recorded 13% decrease of the Walia ibex population and requests the State Party to conduct further research to identify the causes for this decline and take appropriate actions to address these;

2.2. Population status and trend

Using a constant methodology annual population count, state party and partners conducted wet and dry season census for both Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf by FY22/23 and special population re-count and cause assessment for Walia ibex population decline conducted in FY23/24, respectively. To estimate the population size of the Ethiopian Wolf in the park, total count method was used as it is an appropriate method for medium to large sized animals (Norton-Griffths, 1978; Sutherland, 1996). Thus, population censuses were carried out by classifying the area into six different census sites. Depending on the size and physical features of the area, each census site has divided into different counting blocks.

2.3. Monitoring of the Ethiopian Wolf:

A team of over 85 SMNP Park rangers, SMNP experts, and Ethiopian wolf project team spent 5 days in the Park completing the census. Data collection will be made through direct observation. Observation will be assisted by binoculars by walking along the parts of the block. Each block was counted twice over two days during the early morning and late afternoon. These data were collated and analyzed to eliminate duplicate counts of individual groups moving between neighboring blocks.

Table 1: Counting blocks in different census site

S. No	Census sites	Number of blocks for Ethiopian Wolf	Remarks

1	Gich-Aynameda	7	One new block included (Simien lodge)
2	Chennek	4	
3	SebatMinch	8	
4	Arquazye	8	
5	Ras dejen (Beyeda side)	10	One new block included (Guayint)
6	Ras dejen (Mizma and Sabra side)	8	
7	**Total**	**45**	

The total numbers of Ethiopian wolves observed from this census were 80. Out of the total; 32.5% adult male, 23.75% adult female, 1.50% sub adult male, 2.50% sub adult female, 36.25% un-known sex, and 3.75% were constituted pups (Fig 1). The present survey indicated that, Ras Dejen- Beyeda side has constituted 32.5% followed by Gich (20%). However, observation from Ras Dejen Mizma- Sabira side and Chennek (6.25% and 5%, respectively) during this survey was low relatively with other census sites (Fig 1).

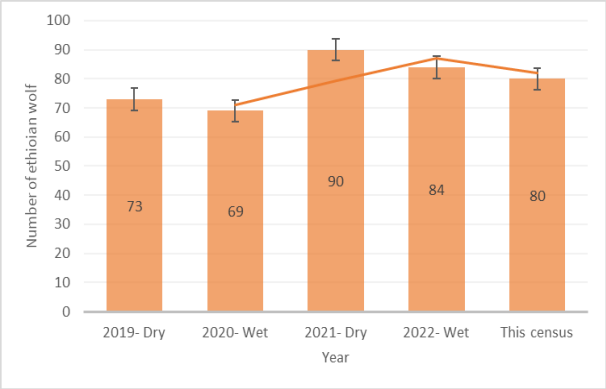

Figure1. Population trend from 2019 to 2024

From this census, the population of Ethiopian wolf looks stable but with 4 individual decrements from last year AWF_SMNP, 2023 (which was 84). This is because of some issues of retaliatory killing reported at beyeda years.

Table 2: Wolf population per stations

Stations	Adult Male	Adult Female	Sub-adult Male	Sub-adult Female	Un-known sex	Pups	Total
Gich-Aynameda	6	4	0	0	6	0	16
Chennek	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
SebatMinch	5	1	0	0	9	0	15
Arquazye	5	2	0	1	5	1	14
Ras dejen (Beyeda side)	8	9	1	1	5	2	26
Ras dejen (Mizma and Sabra side)	0	1	0	0	4	0	5
Total	26	19	1	2	29	3	80

2.4. Monitoring of the Gelada population:

The population of Gelada Monkey looks increasing from the 2019 census which is greater than 18,000 (AWF, 2019 dry) from time to time. It is because Gelada related threats are decreased and this brave species also strong survivor of any disturbance un like Walia and Wolves. Because of these and better information we collect, we decided not to do annual census for Gelada and to focus resource wise to Walia and wolves. But normal monitoring and law enforcement practices are highly implemented in all three habitats.

2.5. Monitoring of the Walia Ibex:

Based on the physical features and coverage of the area, different counting blocks were designed from each census site.

Table 3 Counting blocks in different census sites

No	Clusters	Census sites	Number of blocks for Walia ibex	Remarks
1	Cluster 1	Buiyit Ras	3	One observation point at Meflekiaw
2		Sankaber	2	
3		Adarmaz	5	
4		Gich	6	
5		Dirni	7	
6		Muchila	6	
7	Cluster 2	Chennek	9	One observation point at Meflekiaw
8		Sebat Minch	14	
9	Total		**52**	

In April 2024, a team of about 60 persons which includes SMNP rangers, SMNP, EWCA, AWF, and local guides, and Dr. Paul (volunteer to assist and look for technical issues that require improvement) spent 8 days (from April 26- May 2/2024) in the Park to complete the census. Counting was done consecutively starting from Cluster one in all blocks walking on foot. Before the actual data collection period, a one-day orientation was given to all the participants- about how they collect the data as well as other important points used to count the species and block arrangements. Conducting a census in the late afternoon and early morning provides the best opportunities to see the Walia Ibex. The census was carried out in 2 clusters for 2 days in each blocks with in these clusters at the early morning and late afternoon when Walia Ibex is active and starts to move and from overnight roosting sites in caves, and gorges into open habitats for feeding and other activity patterns. Therefore, all censuses were carried out simultaneously early in the morning from 0600 H to 1000 H and late afternoon from 1500 to 1830(Desalegn Ejigu, 2013) for 2 days This count represents a dry season survey that considers the limitations of total count (i.e. the observer may be unable to detect all individuals). Three hundred six (306) individuals of Walia Ibex were recorded from this survey across the census sites in the park (Table 4).

Adult individuals were the first largest proportion in terms of their number and sub-adults were the second largest proportion. Young individuals showed the least proportion in terms of their number counted in this season (Table 1). Of the total individuals counted in all blocks of the range, 20.59% constituted adult males, 42.86% adult females, 13.73% sub-adult males, 2.94% sub-adult females and 15.03% constituted both yearlings and juveniles. However, 4.90% of the total individuals were not categorized in any age and sex as the observer unable to identify

.

Table 4. Walia Ibex sex and age structure in the park ach cluster and block.

Station	Age and sex categories							
	Adult Male	Sub- adult male	Adult Female	Sub-adult Female	Yearling	Juvenile	Unidentified	Total
Buiyit Ras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sankaber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Gich	3	3	13	5	1	2	2	29
Chennek	12	4	16	1	5	4	3	45
Sebat Minch	45	33	94	3	17	6	16	214
Dirni	1	2	7	0	1	1	1	13
Muchila	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	4
Adarmaz	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	63	42	131	9	24	15	22	**306**

The distribution of Walia ibex in SMNP extends from the highland parts of the park (from Sankaber to Sebat Minch) and lowland parts of the park from Dirni to Adarmaz, which is 94.4 km^2 of the total area (the home range depicted by Desalegn Ejigu, 2013). The density of Walia ibex was higher in Sebat Minch and Chennek compared to the other census sites. The Walia Ibex is highly distributed in Sebat Minch areas, about 70% of the observed individuals are in this area (Fig 1). The number of individuals observed in each census site for Walia ibex are given in Table 1 and Fig 1. In addition, according to Table 1 Chennek and Sebat Minch possess a significant number of Adult males and adult females than other age and sex categories. Furthermore, Fig 2 indicates that the density is higher in SebatMinch areas followed by Chennek in comparison with other census sites.

In another way, no observations in 24 blocks, but the team recorded a maximum of 60 with an average of six individual observations during this survey. However, during the previous (AWF-SMNP, 2023) count, the team didn't observe Walia individuals in 13 blocks but recorded an average of 6.25 individuals with a maximum of 46 individuals.

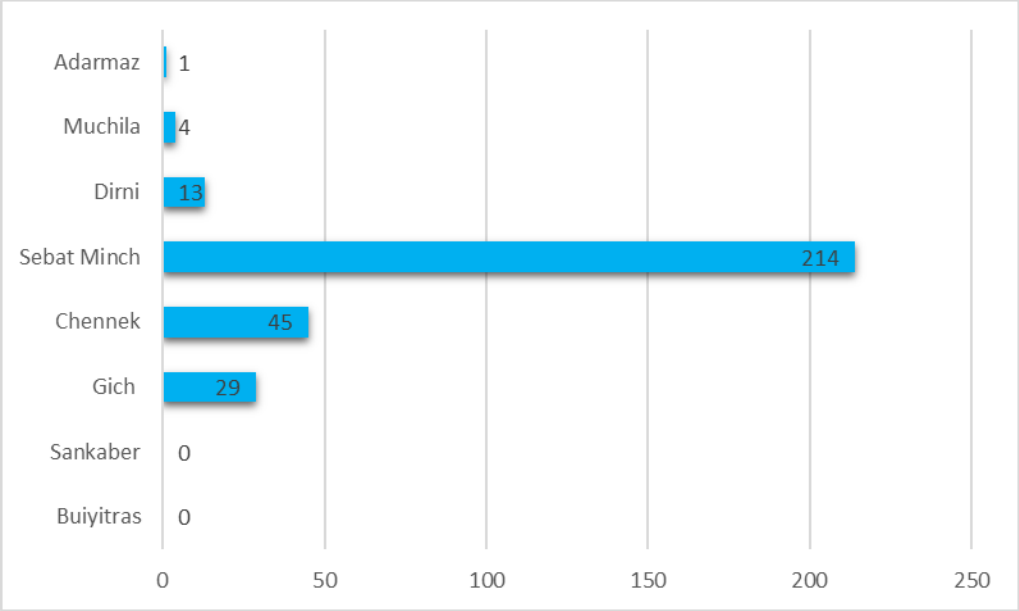

Figure 2: Distribution of Walia ibex across census site

- ✓ *Population status and trends*

As indicated in Table 4 and Fig 3, the population of Walia ibex is declining from the previous years' censuses. This population decline has been recorded due to different reasons (reassessment, 2023). This survey indicates that a population decrement of about 4.07% from the 2023 dry season survey (reassessment), variation in population estimation in this season might be associated with a continued failure in law enforcement as a result of local instability.

In another way, population distribution is higher in SebatMinch and Chennek like previous counts (Fig, 4). However, Walia population has decreased in all stations except in SebatMinch and Gich. For instance, the population in Adarmaz (66.67%) followed by Dirni decreased by 58.06% and Muchila (55.56%). Similarly, 47.06% decrement was observed in Chennek areas. All previous survey indicates an observation of Walia individuals in all blocks except Buitras; however, no individuals were recorded in Sankaber by this dry season survey.

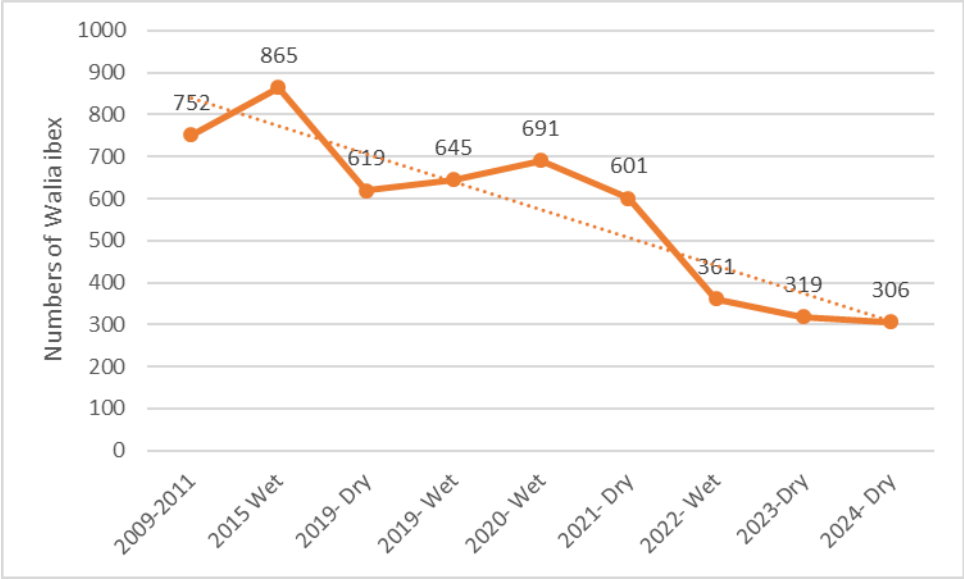

Figure 3. Population trend from 2009-2024

- ✓ Walia population decline:

The study shows that most of the respondents (65.1%) perceived the Walia ibex population trend as decreasing, however, 21% of respondents perceived that the population is increased due to the protection of the park and habitat quality improvement (Fig, 1). Focus group discussions conducted in three woredas (Debark, Janamora and Adarkay) revealed that the number of wild animals particularly that of Walia has decreased a lot through the last three to five years. For instance, a discussant in Agdamia described that it had been common to encounter many wild animals like Walias, Bushbucks, and klipspringers three to five years ago when traveling from a place called Ambaber through Drni to Tiruwata. Similarly, these species were also commonly seen in Muchila as strong protection was there during that period. The respondents stated that poaching is the main reason for the decline (26.9%) followed by habitat degradation and all indicated reasons (prey predator relation, local migrations, habitat degradations) contributed (10.8%) (Fig, 2). In addition, poaching has chosen together with habitat degradation and all other contributing factors (22%). Some of the respondents highlighted that predators (4.3%) mainly leopards have contributed to the population decline. However, some respondents understood the population decline (7%) but they were unable to indicate which cause contributed to the decrement of Walia Ibex population.

Discussants also believe poaching is the major cause of the population decline followed by habitat degradation. Some of the discussants in Janamora woreda emphasized the contribution of drought and Leopard predation also the cause of the Walia ibex population decline. But as the drought was stayed for short periods of time, for this reason, it couldn't be the major reason for the population decline; rather it (drought) enforces the Walia ibex to shift their habitat which have suitable environment for foraging. In addition to this Desalegn Ejigu et al (2017) reported (believed) that Walia Ibex change its distribution in response to human and livestock disturbances, and the presence of predators in the previous habitat range, Even though the prey- predation is mentioned by the respondents as the cause for population.

- ✓ Causes of population decline

The assessment shows the Walia Ibex population declined for the last three to five years. Poaching is driving many species toward extinction throughout protected areas of globe, and as a result, lowering poaching pressure is a conservation priority. In the same manner the impact of the northern conflict and COVID 19 pandemic mentioned as a great contributing factor and to initiate hunting which is believed to be the main underlying cause for Walia population decline. Fire, droughts and predators are also reported as less contributing factor for the decline of Walia population by the local community.

Rangers are at the frontline of conservation practice and protected area management globally, in the sense that they are directly involved in the practical implementation of interventions to protect wildlife. Their engagement in park-community relations and protecting nature including antipoaching and law enforcement operations is significant. Thus, success of conservation management in many contexts is closely tied to the performance and meaningful engagement of rangers.

Therefore, improving the ranger's capacity through various mechanisms is essential to ensure the well-being of wildlife populations in the park. Managing anthropogenic threats (poaching) to wildlife often depends on cultural, social and economic contexts, and there is no single solution that is likely to be appropriate for all regions (McNeely etal., 1994). Hence, the solutions to tackle the threats should consult with the local communities and valuing the social norms and incorporate conservation traditions to devise adaptive strategies.

In conclusion, strengthening law enforcement, awareness creation, collaboration with both the

Community in and around the park and other stakeholders were the major recommendations given by the respondents. Based on the results of the present assessment, the following points are recommended for effective conservation of the Walia Ibex in the SMNP.

- ✓ Actions undertaking

Further investigation that focuses on poaching were under follow up, improving patrolling quality to increase detection probability of poaching, mapping poaching pressure is vital for identifying and implementing effective anti-poaching measure for that state part start strengthening property managers and rangers by logistics together with partners (KFW/AWF), State part working to provide technical training for rangers, experts, police and local militias how to detect the poachers in the park and to strength Intelligence works. And National recovery action plan under development with all content of it for better and holistic approach.

6. Further requests the State Party to continue monitoring the Ethiopian wolf, Walia ibex and Gelada through a long-term approach that informs the ongoing protection and management of the species, seeking advice from the IUCN Species Survival Commission as needed;

2.6. Seeking IUCN advice regarding monitoring of Ethiopian wolf, Walia ibex and Gelada

The state party tried to modify all methods and approaches of monitoring and doing continues species monitoring (mainly from 2019) and brings promising result. But, in order to have international advice and so as to find solution for curtail challenges state party facing on Walia population decline; state part seeks international advice and support from the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

7. Noting that no Tourism Management Plan was appended, also requests the State Party to provide clarification regarding the request to develop a Tourism Management Plan to guide the monitoring and management of proposed tourism developments and impacts from increased visitors;

2.7. Tourism Development Plan:

The state Party have Tourism management plan (draft) and using it for the last 3 years as tourism management guides on the following four distinct thematic areas and these well addressed the issue of tourism development as well as proper visitor's management.

- ✓ Product Development priorities are:

  To develop the product in the core areas of the Property (Sankaber to Chenek corridor). Elements of this include re-developing the existing campsites through a private sector concession, adding new campsites is this area, and further development of the main trail, To encourage more Lodge development outside of the Park (at Buffer areas). And to add, in the longer term, new trails and campsites.

- ✓ Visitor Services priorities are:

  To improve communications with visitors – via a more comprehensive website, and a refurbished Park Office with maps and information. In the longer term, developing a Visitor Welcome Centre at the gateway to the Park would be desirable

  - ➢ To re-focus Scouts to become Park rangers with a wider Park orientated remit,
  - ➢ To improve the quality of Guides and Cooks and make them more visitor and Park focused through training and registration.

- ✓ Community Tourism Development priorities are:

  - ➢ To develop a Community Levy (through the increased admission charge) which would fund initiatives to promote community development
  - ➢ To encourage the development of local, authentic experiences and support a successful local tourism industry.

8. Notes with appreciation the cancellation of a number of lodge investment requests inside the property, however, notes with significant concern the continued construction of tourism infrastructure inside the property, and urges again the State Party not to continue these developments in their current locations before assessing the impacts of each project on the OUV, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit these Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to the World Heritage Centre for review before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

2.8. Lodge Development inside the park:

The approved tourism management plan of SMNP also advised to have eco-lodges outside the boundary of the property. State party also played great role to manage any additional lodge investment needs and request to be entertain outside the park in the buffer zone. A number of lodge investment requests inside the property had been cancelled to significantly reduce the predictable negative impacts on the OUVs of the property. Currently, it is accepted that any development intervention (like tourism infrastructures and other risk activities) subjected to pass the Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF) developed to be used in the management of protected areas in the country. Besides, bigger investments like eco-lodge development require having acceptable environmental impact assessment (EIA). Considers that the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) of the proposed lodges do not sufficiently consider the OUV of the property in their respective site selection or project design, and therefore urges the State Party not to permit these developments to proceed in their current locations and also requests the State Party to submit EIAs for all proposed lodges, ensuring they are in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and in particular consider their visual impact on the property;

All lodges which get official permission from the state part have their own respective EIA. All the required steps had been fulfilled by the responsible authorities before the official handover of the land for investment. There are some lodge investments requests which were cancelled even after they got permission and develop the required EIA by the state party due to the possible adverse negative impacts of the investments on the OUVs and considering the recommendations of stakeholders

9. Also recalling the high impacts of the 2019 fires on the OUV of the property, also welcomes the implementation of a fire management strategy, however, reiterates its request for the State Party to provide further information on the affected area and impact on the OUV, to monitor the recovery of vegetation, and to submit the fire management strategy to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;

2.9. Fire Management plan implementation status:

The 2019 fire incident impact the key wildlife some way and mainly highly affect the habitat. State party and partners did practical activities (Habitat rehabilitation, grazing management, continues monitoring and follow up, training for stakeholders and expert), more than 25,000 indigenous seedlings planted each year (for the last 4 years) on the degraded areas. The habitat was highly rehabilitated, improved and quality increased even more from before 2019 fire. Training undertaken annually, fire 15 fire brigade members established and material (firefighting equipment) supported to all side of the hotspot kebele.

Table 4. List of participants

Site	Woreda	Kebeles	Number of participants	Rangers	Total
Sankaber	Debark	8	24	7	31
Mekane-Birhan	Janamora	5	15	3	18
Overall participants		13	39	10	49

Table 5. List of kebeles and outposts Participated in the training

S. N	Woredas	Kebeles	Outposts
1	Debark	Dib Bahir	Dib Bahir
2		Zebena	Limalimo
3		Debir	
4		Adsgie	Sankaber
5		Miligebsa	Kella
6		A/Tsion	Sankaber
7		Abergina	Gich
8		ArginJona	Chennek
13		Barna	Sebat Minch

14	Janamora	Sakiba	
15		Dibil	T/Sefer
16		Lori	
17		Atigeba	Gultu

Figure 4: fire brigade training

10. Also takes note of the continued implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy and the resulting reduction in livestock grazing, and further requests the State Party to continue addressing any grazing pressure;

2.10. Habitat rehabilitation and management

Taking consideration of the severity of the negative ecological impacts of anthropogenic pressures, especially livestock grazing on SMNP ecosystem, the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy (GPRS) was developed by AWF in 2015 to reduce grazing pressure in the park and its surroundings through measures that harmonize grazing and conservation needs. Then, significant efforts are being made to implement the GPRS in collaboration with the local community and stakeholders to reduce grazing pressure through the formation of no grazing and sustainable resource use zones, intensive awareness raising village conferences with the park neighboring community, restricting significant amount of land from free grazing, improving resource protection and law enforcement. This GPRS implementation and monitoring is the basic habitat monitoring assessment in the Simien Mountains.

Major portions of land inside the park have been set aside as no and low grazing zone almost 82.07%, in most parts of the park. The vegetation recovery in the aforementioned areas is

promising and wildlife species like Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other antelopes have started expanding their habitat, mainly observation of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf in Sebatminch area is frequent abundantly.

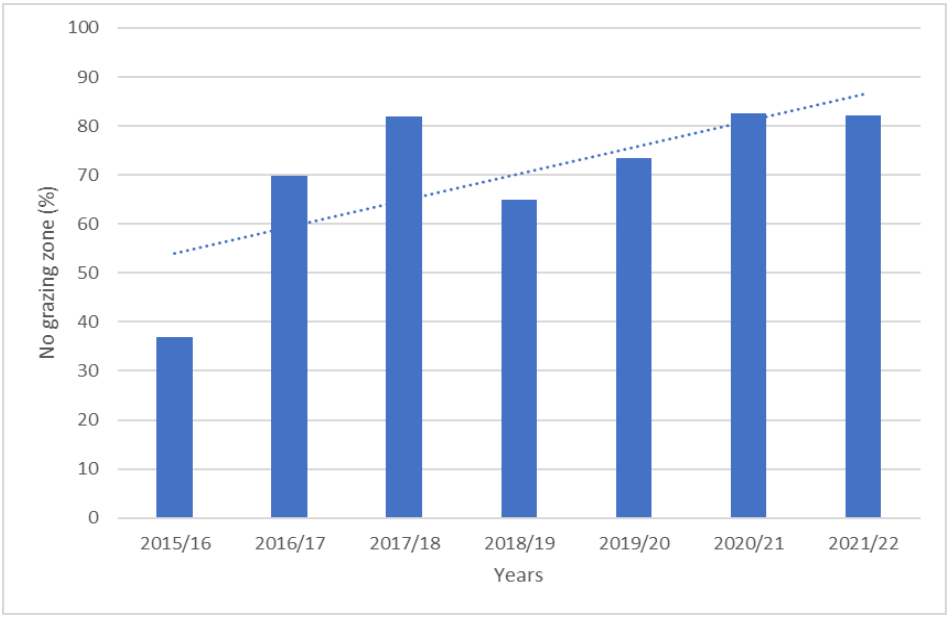

Figure 5: grazing status

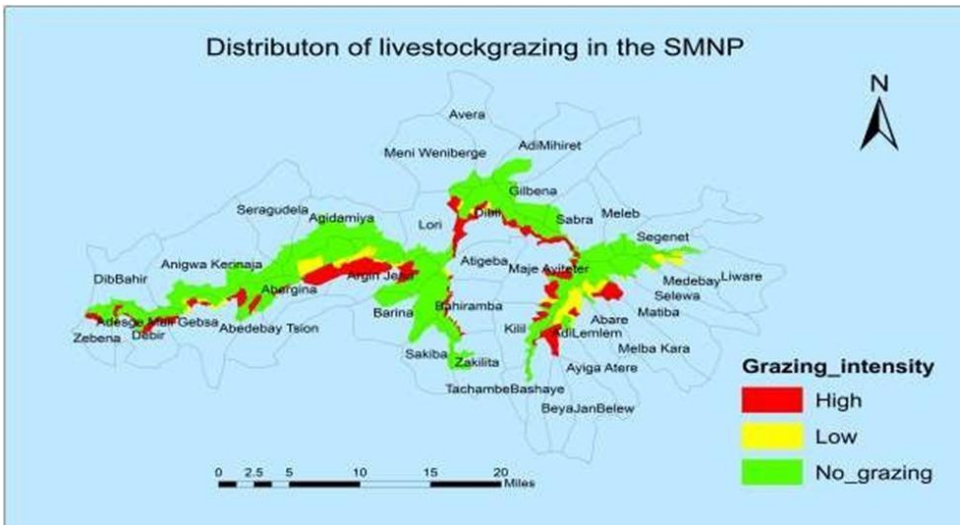

Figure 6. Distribution of livestock grazing across adjacent kebeles

2.11. Plantation and management of indigenous seedlings

The Simien Mountains National Park office has been organized an annual plantation program. This has been a continuous activity of the park with other stakeholders. Yearly, the park office has planted over 25,000 indigenous seedlings together with African Wildlife Foundation.

Rehabilitation of degraded lands through plantations is at the frontline of natural resource management in Ethiopia. Environmental factors play vital roles in the successful plantation and survival of tree seedlings. Plantations have been faced with various challenges mainly attributed to the poor survival rate of tree seedlings. Hence, the objectives were to assess relative seedling performance (survival and growth). Survival count is checking the existence of planted seedlings in the field. Therefore, the survival rate of the whole area is = 88% The dead seedling is 12% The reason for a successful survival rate particularly in comparison with the previous year are.

- ✓ Cultivation and weed removal conducted, Securing guards to protect from Geladas and livestock grazing, Less mass mobilization during the plantation campaign and revision of seedling plantation for the seedlings that have been planted through mass mobilization It is a great success; therefore, it is recommended to conduct cultivation and watering in the required months and protection also suggest to be continued.

11. Appreciates the continued support of the State Party and partners to support sustainable livelihoods of the relocated Gich community and other local communities, and encourages the State Party and partners to continue these efforts;

2.12. Livelihood improvement activities

In collaboration with Partners (AWF/KFW), The state party has been continuously working to support the relocated Gich community on sustainable livelihood improvement initiatives for all 252HH. The sustainable livelihood programs designed in two phases (LRP I & LRP II). Phase one were implemented and benefited 37 households (with bakery, milling and sewing Projects).

LRP II programs started to benefit 215 HHs this year and it is in good progress so far. It designed in 12 kinds of livelihood projects for about 23 associations.

Table 2 shows feasible program components

Sn	Livelihood Project	No. of Business Associations
1	Bakery (Bread & Cake	2

	Manufacturing) Enterprise	
2	Grain & Chili Milling Enterprise	3
3	Laundry Service Enterprise	1
4	Block Production Enterprise	1
5	Sheep Fattening Enterprise	2
6	Vegetable and Fruit Seller Enterprise	1
7	Grain Distribution Enterprise	3
8	Building Materials Distribution Enterprise	2
9	Coffee Distribution Enterprise	2
10	Dairy Farming Enterprise	3
11	Shower Service Enterprise	2
12	Girt Processing Enterprise	1
Total	12 projects	23 associations

- ✓ Land securing within Debark Two for all 23 business enterprises (more than 4600 meter squire)
- ✓ Beneficiary training under going
- ✓ Legalization of enterprises (licensing and certification) by the government undergoing
- ✓ Together with the Town trade license office, we gave awareness training on creating the benefits of a trade license and its related management for all legalized and trained enterprise members
- ✓ Site plan preparation, shed Design, and bill of quantity development (planned to end of December and fully completed)
- ✓ Procurement of machinery and shed construction for all business association will come next.

12. Also notes with appreciation the actions taken towards developing a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification for the entire Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) and the intention to simultaneously formalize the buffer zone for the property and harmonize the names of the SMNP and the property, and also requests the State Party to finalize this process, requesting technical advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as needed;

2.13. New Nomination Dossier preparation, Buffer Zone and Naming of the Property

It is recall that the significant boundary modification of the property subjected the state party to submit new nomination dossier to UNESCO and establish the required buffer zone for the property. This would help the newly added natural ecosystems to be recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site. The state party has requested financial support to UNESCO to accomplish the tasks required for the development of new Nomination dossier and establishment of buffer zone for the property. Currently, UNESCO approved the project and budget requested for the work. EWCA has officially delegated GITEC Biodiversity project for the management of the UNESCO finance. Currently EWCA and GITEC consult prepared the required work plan and seclude for the project assignment and make ready to submit to UNESCO. As per the plan the nomination dossier preparation and buffer zone establishment activities of the Siemn National Park will be managed in the first six months of the year 2025. .

13. Noting that progress is underway to complete the alternative road aiming at reducing disturbance of the existing main road in important afro-alpine habitats following further delays, also urges again the State Party to complete this project and to submit the EIA for the part of the new road crossing the SMNP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as possible;

2.14. Road and power transmission realignment project

The new road construction undertaken by the federal government has been going very well and 75% completed. State part keep following that and helping all side for its successful completion. On top of that, state party working on securing the studded EIA from the concerned organization

and to report for WHC. But, the power transmission re-alignment project didn't start and no progress from last year report.

3. Other Conservation issues

No current conservation issues identified by the state parties for consideration

4. Any other development intervention in and around the property which may affect the Outstanding Universal value

Most of them are in the world heritage center decisions and recommendation and responded above including the road realignment, lodge development in and around the park.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party is willing if the full State Conservation Report of Simen National Park is uploaded on the world Heritage center's state of conservation information system http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc) for the public access

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