
DIR30S2\1059

Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

Environmental degradation in the Ethiopian highlands perpetuates poverty among local communities depending on natural resources. To break this loop, locally desired and suitable livelihoods are needed. This project supports sustainable livelihoods, such as cultivation of native “guassa” grasses and production of highland honey, and participatory processes to strengthen traditional governance and capacity for co-management of natural resources in Community Conservation Areas. Thus, local livelihoods will be improved, and Afroalpine grasslands protected, including endemic small mammals and endangered Ethiopian wolves.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

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🔗 [DI Stage 2 Marino cover letter 24Nov23 v2](#)

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What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR29S1\1123

Ref DIR30S1\1303

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 2

Polar-alpine

Biome 3

Tropical-subtropical forests

Conservation Action 1

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Conservation Action 2

Institutional Development

Conservation Action 3

Species Management

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 3

Human intrusions & disturbance (recreation, war)

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

Environmental degradation in the Ethiopian highlands perpetuates poverty among local communities depending on natural resources. To break this loop, locally desired and suitable livelihoods are needed. This project supports sustainable livelihoods, such as cultivation of native “guassa” grasses and production of highland honey, and participatory processes to strengthen traditional governance and capacity for co-management of natural resources in Community Conservation Areas. Thus, local livelihoods will be improved, and Afroalpine grasslands protected, including endemic small mammals and endangered Ethiopian wolves.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Ethiopia	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

- Yes
 No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2024	31 March 2027	3 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Amount:	£191,331.00	£216,026.00	£183,527.00	£ 590,884.00

Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

- Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q10. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

Q11. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with multi-dimensional poverty.

In the northern highlands of Ethiopia, both endemic wildlife and farming communities rely on Afroalpine natural resources for survival. They provide communities with water, fodder, firewood for cooking, heating, lighting, and building materials. In these highly populated lands, agriculture encroachment, excessive grazing and natural resource extraction threatens local livelihoods and the iconic Ethiopian wolf *Canis simensis* [1,2].

These drivers of degradation are rooted in marginalisation and poverty, reduced soil fertility and land shortages [3,4]. Despite government intervention, degradation and food insecurity progress at increasing rates in the Amhara National Regional State [5], with many households unable to make a living from their small plots and herds (4). With degradation and livelihoods closely interlinked [6], livelihood diversification is needed to provide different income-generating activities [5,7,8].

This project is supported by livelihood pilots conducted by Oxford's Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) in North and South Wollo. These comprised cultivation of native "guassa" grass (*Festuca* spp.) in degraded agriculture land, providing protection against soil erosion, income from commercialisation of the cultivated grass, and more sustainable access to the wild grasses within conservation areas; and honey production from *Erica* stands, a source of food and income. The pilots demonstrated the high value of these products in local markets, successful buy-in from local communities willing to diversify their livelihoods, and their potential for protection and restoration of Afroalpine habitats [9,10].

Both schemes are inspired by traditional practices of honey production and guassa cultivation. Traditional supervisory bodies and bylaws also evolved organically in some localities during the pilots, assisting coordination of livelihoods implementation and communal protection of *Erica* forests and guassa grasslands [9]. Traditional community decision-making structures also address resource degradation in Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) in Amhara [11,12,13], but changes in co-management are weakening the role of communities and community councils in regulating access to natural resources [14,15,16].

Alternative livelihoods and stronger local decision-making institutions can reduce environmental degradation threatening biodiversity and long-term food security in the Ethiopian highlands. These model livelihoods and best practices are of global relevance for community-led conservation in high mountain ecosystems sharing many natural and cultural characteristics.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

The project contributes to the Convention on Biological Diversity by reducing pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use in Afroalpine areas of Ethiopia (Goal B); improving status of biodiversity, safeguarding Afroalpine ecosystems, species such as the Ethiopian wolf and high altitude grasslands of *Festuca* spp. (Goal C); helping communities engage in sustainable uses of natural resources, with enhanced benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services (Goal D); and supporting community-based approaches and traditional practices (Goal E).

The project contributes towards Target 2.1 of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development to end hunger by 2030 and ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round by supporting the uptake of sustainable and traditional honey production, and with increased income through the commercialisation of honey and grass products with strong local markets. Target 12.2 aims to achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. Our project will help to reduce unsustainable natural resource use by supplementing its use with alternative, culturally acceptable livelihood activities. Target 15.5 aims to take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. Our project will restore and promote sustainable use of Afroalpine areas; halt and potentially reverse land degradation in mountains; ensure the conservation of high mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity, and act to protect the rare and endangered Ethiopian wolf, an iconic Afroalpine flagship.

Nationally, the project supports the National Action Plan for Ethiopian Wolf Conservation, particularly GOAL 3: Afroalpine habitats protected from further degradation, conserved, and restored; it also addresses priorities in the Ethiopian National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP), specifically the need to focus on livelihoods and food security of farmers and pastoralists who depend on natural resources, highlighting the importance of Ethiopian wolf for national biodiversity, a priority for species conservation in the country.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- how you have reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by evidence that it will be effective, and justifying why you expect it will be successful in this context.

- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP), in collaboration with ICCS and national experts, leverages over 30 years of experience in Ethiopian conservation. Our esteemed Programme is dedicated to fostering positive relations between communities, regional governments, Woredas, and Kebeles, leading to more efficient co-management in protected areas and enhancing sustainable livelihoods in Afroalpine habitats.

We will engage with local communities in four project sites in North Wollo and South Wollo Zones, organised in cluster/watersheds from 15 Kebeles (local peasant associations), based on high rates of environmental degradation, poverty, and our existing strong relationships and successful pilot studies in these areas. These communities demonstrated a desire for alternative sustainable livelihoods, namely guassa and honey production.

A) Evidence-Based Approach:

1. Tradition and Technology Integration: Building on the "Guassa takala" and "Asta mar" schemes, our project integrates traditional grassland management and beekeeping practices with modern techniques. Our pilots have shown potential for significant local interest and benefits—economically, socially, and environmentally. Innovations include cultivating guassa in previously degraded agricultural fields, introducing modern transitional beehives in Erica forests, and encouraging the formation of small cooperatives ("budins" in Amharic) and committees.

2. Strengthening Stakeholder Relationships: Our project underscores the importance of participatory processes, engaging stakeholders in planning and implementing livelihood activities. We aim to address historical power imbalances, particularly in resource management in the Abuna Yosef Community Conservation Area and Borena Sayint Worehimenu National Park, to improve outcomes for communities and the environment.

B) Activities:

1. Sustainable Livelihoods

Improved design of livelihood activities: Utilizing scenario-based interviews, we will understand community needs and preferences, particularly focusing on guassa and honey production. This approach will ensure that our activities are locally appropriate, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive.

Implementing evidence-based livelihood activities: Insights from pilot studies and new research will guide the design and implementation of guassa and honey production projects. These projects will be closely linked to poverty alleviation and conservation efforts, with community agreements developed to ensure fair benefit sharing and communal efforts to reduce illegal resource harvesting.

Guassa Takala and honey production support: Communities will identify degraded agriculture plots and communal areas suitable for guassa cultivation, and the project will encourage local families to form small cooperatives for this purpose. The project will provide essential coordination, training, and resources. Similarly, for honey production, we will assist households in establishing hives in Erica forests, providing modern beehives, equipment, and training.

Guassa nurseries: Recognizing the growing demand for guassa propagules, we will establish guassa nurseries, particularly led by women. This innovative approach will be supported with necessary resources, including land access, training, equipment, and infrastructure.

2. Governance and Capacity Building:

Listening events: To enhance community ownership of land and resources in protected areas, we will organize community-led listening events with government representatives. These events are designed to promote better co-management and address conservation challenges collaboratively.

Community monitoring: Training will be provided to scouts and community guards for monitoring wildlife and illegal resource use. This training will incorporate simple, standard field methods, enhanced by local knowledge and basic field equipment.

Supporting community councils: Regular meetings of the Community Conservation Area Councils and Advisory Committees will be supported, both financially and with expertise.

These councils are vital for facilitating community voices and interaction with government departments.

Customized workshops: A series of tailored workshops will cover topics like micro-enterprises, beekeeping, and carbon sequestration. Practical experience-sharing trips will be also organised involving farmers, CCA delegates, and academics.

Peer-to-Peer capacity building: About 20 community members involved in the guassa and honey projects will receive advanced training to become community trainers. This strategy ensures knowledge transfer, project sustainability, and broader community engagement.

3. Dissemination of best practices:

An end-of-project workshop, webinars, and scientific publications will be used to share lessons learned, reflect on achievements, and plan for future engagements. This includes developing technical guidelines for sustainable livelihoods in Afroalpine ecosystems and publishing a case study for global challenges in other highland ecosystems.

C) Project Management and Risk Mitigation:

Project Coordination: EWCP will lead project coordination, monitor emerging risks, and ensure adaptive management. ICCS will provide technical support, particularly for social research components.

Risk management: Regular field visits, stakeholder meetings, and progress assessments will be integral for early problem identification and resolution. Solutions will be developed collaboratively with stakeholders, ensuring adaptability and responsiveness.

Governance structure: A clear governance structure will be established, defining roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. Project management tools will be utilized for efficient coordination, tracking progress, and ensuring accountability.

Q15. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

Enhancing local capacity: Dinkenesh Ethiopia, an emerging indigenous NGO and our primary local partner, will significantly benefit from this project. Originating with strategic support from EWCP and staffed by founding

members from EWCP with prior experience implementing conservation efforts, Dinkeneshe Ethiopia is poised for growth. They will receive extensive guidance from the University of Oxford team on financial management, impact measurement, reporting and understanding of social dynamics. This collaboration will enable them to arise as conservation leaders in their country.

Conservation area development: We will enhance the capacity of Community Conservation Areas (CCA) through specialised training for community guards and experts, emphasising community-led monitoring and co-management and supporting community council-level processes. In particular, we will promote the active participation of women, thereby addressing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations. Experienced social scientists and conservationists from Ethiopia and Oxford will provide expertise on natural resource governance .

Local government empowerment: Local government bodies responsible for land use, women affairs and animal production will receive targeted technical training in aspects of sustainable honey production, nature-based tourism and finances. They will be actively involved in project implementation, including membership in livelihood committees. These experiences will equip them with the skills necessary to replicate similar initiatives led by local governments in the future.

Community benefits and economic diversification: The project offers incentives and support local communities to diversify their household economies, enabling them to leverage traditional knowledge into profitable enterprises.

Enabling resilience in the Ethiopian Highlands: Ethiopia, a main recipient of humanitarian aid in sub-Saharan Africa, primarily in the form of food aid, faces challenges in developing long-term resilience against food shortages. This project introduces sustainable livelihood models that aim to enhance the capacity and resilience of vulnerable households in pastoralist areas of the Ethiopian highlands.

Q16. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

From past experiences we learnt that it can be difficult for women to commit their time to alternative livelihoods when their daily chores and livelihood activities are already overstretched. Furthermore, some jobs in the highlands, such as agriculture and herding are traditionally done by men. We will assess the impact of these barriers for women engagement through the baseline surveys, and specifically through the scenario-based interviews, which will explicitly ask about gender barriers to participate in certain activities, so that the resulting alternatives are offered in such a way so as to remove these barriers as much as possible.

In the Ethiopian highlands, women do not traditionally occupy positions of leadership. Women are a minority in protected area community councils, and there are no kebele “chairwomen”. We will ensure that 30% of participants in the project are female, and ensure that each livelihood committee includes at least one woman. We will make sure women have the opportunity to express their views freely and wherever possible; women will be supported into leadership positions and financially supported to attend council meetings. We will recruit a woman for the social scientist role in this project.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction, and links between them, that this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who exactly will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

This project aims to reduce environmental degradation and poverty in the Ethiopian highlands.

By the end of this project, we expect biodiversity gains and reduced erosion in Erica vegetation and “guassa” grasslands, increased income and more resilient livelihoods. These will benefit communities bordering natural Afroalpine land in four mountain ranges in Amhara: Abuna Yosef, Aboi Gara and Delanta in North Wollo, and across the highlands of South Wollo. The direct beneficiaries will be families involved in honey production and guassa cultivation, totalling 550 households. Ecological restoration will affect 10 Erica remnants and 10 clusters of degraded land in the agricultural edge. Indirectly, environmental impacts will benefit all families living within Afroalpine proximity. Ethiopian wolves will re-use marginal land previously devoid of sufficient rodent prey.

Longer term, we expect a shift from local economies that overexploit natural resources, to sustainable livelihoods that increase wellbeing and add value to Afroalpine resources, promoting their protection. Local and traditional institutions will be stronger and less dependent on high-level political decisions, and better prepared to deliver biodiversity conservation and equal sharing of its benefits.

As evidence of success builds up, we foresee more communities in more Afroalpine areas embracing this new approach. Alongside, more Ethiopian conservationists and researchers will raise to the challenge.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project’s expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

Our target is the Afroalpine ecosystem and the services it provides to local communities and beyond. Habitat degradation is primarily driven by expansion of subsistence agriculture. Most new land allocated for food production is of marginal value and erodes rapidly; it is then abandoned and used for grazing, furthering degradation. When demonstrable livelihood benefits using environmentally-friendly practices such as guassa cultivation are obtained, communities and governments will move towards these practices instead. This project will not take away land dedicated to food production but will restore degraded land previously used for cultivation or grazing.

Communities have no access to electricity or gas, and harvest firewood from natural Erica and charranfe (*Euryops* spp) as fuel, causing further degradation. Honey production will bring renewed value to existing Erica patches, thus more protection, and raise the profile of alternative sources of firewood and fuel-saving stoves.

The recent erosion of relations between CCAs and the regional government has resulted in some communities feeling disempowered, with negative consequences for sustainable use of resources, such as those resulting from illegal grazing and harvesting. Working to improve understanding, and strengthening the communities decision-making power, increases their sense of stewardship over these resources, and results in greater.

Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q19a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

Inherently, alternative livelihoods take time to establish and depend on changes in markets and other factors affecting unsustainable practices. The livelihoods promoted by this project are rooted in traditional practices, and are bound to revive and persist, considering that there are strong local markets for guassa and honey, both important for peoples' subsistence.

The pilots demonstrated that benefits of guassa-growing and honey production were sustained benefits beyond the lifetime of the previous project (3 years). To disseminate knowledge and ensure its persistence, the project will invest in technical manuals, an end-of-project meeting, scientific publications, and activities such as "peer-to-peer" capacity building, "guassa takala demonstrations" and experience sharing trips across areas and stakeholders.

Q19b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

Landscape scaling: We will scale up by leveraging additional funding, building on our successes, and incorporating soil carbon credits. Utilizing the expertise and knowledge developed, local governments and communities can replicate sustainable livelihoods and co-management practices in other Afroalpine regions with similar ecological and socioeconomic conditions.





Replication scaling: Integrating traditional practices into profitable enterprises has potential for replication in areas with existing traditional knowledge, strong grassroots institutions, and initial support.

Systems change scaling: Successful co-management practices can be incorporated into protected area management plans, influencing land-use policies to favour sustainable livelihoods over environmentally damaging high-elevation agriculture.

Capacitation scaling: The project will enhance Dinkenesh Ethiopia's capacity in Afroalpine conservation and fundraising. Combined with enhanced capacities of CCAs, local governments and farmers will catalyse change.

Challenges to Scaling: These include limited financial resources, local resistance to change, and policy constraints. Addressing them requires proactive stakeholder engagement, and flexible, adaptive project management.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

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-  [Supporting documentation Stage 2](#)
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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>Risk of local partner been inefficient with accounting. Delays in fund transfers.</p>	minor	possible	minor	Close control and oversight of transfer of funds, expenditure accounting and auditing by Oxford partners.	none
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Close control and oversight of transfer of funds, expenditure accounting and auditing by Oxford partners.</p>	minor	unlikely	minor	Partners will sign MOUs and comply with the UK Government human rights obligations and values. The project will not work with children or vulnerable adults. All work will be preceded by a process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent and this process will be revisited periodically.	minor
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Due to financial motivation farmers start cultivating guassa in wild areas inside conservation areas, as opposed to degraded unproductive land.</p> <p>People harvest and sell guassa and honey, but do not reduce pressure over resources. Conservation agreements are not respected due to lack of commitment to abide by the by-laws.</p>	medium	possible	minor	Land use planning authorities involved in project from the beginning. Community monitoring alert of illegal activities. Conservation agreements are discussed and agreed in a participatory way, with buy-in from communities and local authorities. Regular conversations and local meetings identify these risks at an early stage; conservation agreements revised if necessary.	minor
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>Recurrent political conflicts in the region due to ethnic tensions, with sides incurring in armed conflict, sometimes leading to a state of emergency, when all activities involving meetings of groups of people are prohibited and travel disrupted.</p>	high	possible	high	Adaptive management; moving project activities to alternative Afroalpine areas, e.g. Guassa Menz Community Conservation Area. Take proactive measures to ensure safety of project staff, project materials, and adapting work plans.	medium

Risk 5	Women do not engage with the project, or stop their involvement, because they cannot sustain their commitment due to conflict with other domestic and family activities.	medium	unlikely	medium	A initial scenario interviews exercise is designed to detect barriers to women involvement and weighting their interest. Where and when women are most likely to engage will be detected and guide selection of localities and participants. Solutions to overcome barriers identified early on and actions proposed to minimise them.	low
Risk 6	Unusual weather, unpredictable onset of rainy seasons, and droughts, could affected honey and guassa production and the implementation timetable - timing of planting and transfers of bee colonies.	medium	possible	medium	Adaptive management and flexibility in the implementation of project activities. Additional support to communities to motivate them to overcome the short-term weather limitations, with a view in the longer-term benefits.	low

Q21. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

No


Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

 [BCF Workplan Template 2023-24_Jorgelina Marino v5](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q23. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E.

Socio-Economic and Governance Monitoring: We will conduct socio-economic surveys within communities engaged in sustainable livelihoods, and assess attitudes, satisfaction, and knowledge in natural resource governance. While the full impact of livelihood changes and attitudes/behaviour shift may only be evident post-project, interim monitoring will occur through regular visits and progress assessments. This will include evaluating the progression of livelihood activities, adherence levels, and agreed compliance. As a participatory project, any emerging issues will be addressed collaboratively, with solutions sought in partnership with stakeholders. Council meetings and livelihood committees will serve as platforms for timely information sharing and problem solving throughout the project.

Biodiversity and ecological monitoring: Our focus will be on monitoring the Ethiopian wolf, small mammals, conditions of Erica stands and soil health in guassa plots. This includes assessing the carbon content in soil to evaluate its carbon sequestration potential. Community monitoring will track illegal resource use and adherence to conservation and co-management agreements, with findings discussed at council meetings. Quarterly reports will be shared among partners.

Wildlife monitoring and co-management: We will closely monitor wildlife, particularly for signs of increased human-wildlife conflict. An expected rise in wolf and rodent populations, potentially attracted by the restored guassa grasslands, will be carefully recorded. Our response involves raising awareness and developing solutions to mitigate conflicts and promote coexistence, providing or facilitating support as needed.

Total project budget for M&E (£) (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Total project budget for M&E (%) (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	[REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	198

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q24. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

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Impact:

More resilient ecosystems and livelihoods in the Ethiopian highlands as local economies shift from overutilization to sustainable uses of natural resources, with enhanced social equality and revived community-led governance systems.

Outcome:

Sustainable livelihoods and increased capacity for local governance of natural resources, resulting in reduced multi-dimensional poverty in 550 households, and declining biodiversity losses and agriculture encroachment in the Amhara highlands.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Sustainable livelihood cooperatives formed and livelihoods implemented, with poverty alleviation benefits.

Output 2:

Communities, protected area councils, local and regional governments with better capacity for conservation and co-management, with strengthened natural resource governance and biodiversity benefits.

Output 3:

Best practice disseminated and increased capability and capacity for scaling up.

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

1.1 Introductory project meeting.

Livelihood scenarios:

1.2 Develop and pilot scenarios questionnaires

1.3 Conduct scenarios interviews and socio-economic baseline survey across the 4 sites

1.4 Results of scenarios interviews shared and adjusted with stakeholders across the 4 sites.

Guassa Takala:

1.5 Convene guassa committees; draft conservation agreements. (sites)

1.6 Form guassa groups or budins; select beneficiaries; identify and measure land for cultivation.

1.7 Guassa planting; in-situ training (supported by best practice g1.1 Introductory project meeting.

Livelihood scenarios:

1.2 Develop and pilot scenarios questionnaires

1.3 Conduct scenarios interviews and socio-economic baseline survey across the 4 sites

1.4 Results of scenarios interviews shared and adjusted with stakeholders across the 4 sites.

Guassa Takala:

- 1.5 Convene guassa committees; draft conservation agreements. (sites)
- 1.6 Form guassa groups or budins; select beneficiaries; identify and measure land for cultivation.
- 1.7 Guassa planting; in-situ training (supported by best practice guideline document).
- 1.8 Meetings of guassa committees and supervisory visits.

Asta Mar: support to existing honey budins

- 1.9 Honey committee meetings; conservation agreements.
- 1.10 Buy and distribute additional bee hives and colonies to existing honey budins.

Asta Mar: new honey budins

- 1.11 Experience sharing trips to existing honey budins
- 1.12 Establish new honey budins in selected Erica patches; select beneficiaries; distribute bee hives; draft agreements.
- 1.13 In-situ training (supported by best practice guideline document); transfer of bee colonies
- 1.14 Meetings of honey committees and supervisory visits.

Guassa nurseries

- 1.15 Identify suitable locations for guassa nurseries
- 1.16 Form guassa nursery cooperatives
- 1.17 Workshop to develop guassa nursery business plan; finance training
- 1.18 Training and guassa planting
- 1.19 Supervisory visits

Governance and co-management in protected areas

- 2.1 Listening events (group discussions) involving communities, protected areas councils and authorities.
- 2.2 Support to regular meetings of protected area councils; project team participation in council meetings
- 2.3 Natural resource management agreements, stakeholder meeting
- 2.4 Training workshop for protected area scouts on field monitoring techniques and conservation more generally
- 2.3 Ongoing local knowledge exchange and training of community scouts on ecological methods for wildlife and resource uses by project monitoring officer and wolf ambassadors

Dissemination, increased capability and capacity for scaling up


- 3.1 Guassa and honey market study and development of business models
- 3.2 Honey production training by Museum of Honey - "training of trainers"
- 3.3 Finance training; cooperatives and micro-credits
- 3.4 "Peer to peer" capacity building (selected Guassa and honey producers disseminate lessons and motivate others)
- 3.5 "Guassa takala demonstrations" in collaboration with local governments
- 3.6 Community-led tourism workshop
- 3.7 Workshop on carbon sequestration for future application in credit schemes –informed by soil carbon study in guassa plots during the project
- 3.8 Webinar hosted by Dinkenesh Ethiopia to disseminate results of sustainable livelihoods and natural resources governance
- 3.9 Closing meeting with key stakeholders


Section 11 - Budget and Funding


Q25. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

 [BCF Budget Marino Ethiopia 22Nov23](#)

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Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q26a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

Development of existing/past activities

Please provide details:

This project builds on work conducted in the past by EWCP piloting sustainable livelihoods, through the implementation of two grants from Fondation Segre, and EU/IUCN SOS African Wildlife. Additionally, several project staff employed by Dinkenesh Ethiopia were involved in those pilots, and have a vast body of experience in sustainable natural resource use and Afroalpine conservation.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project that may duplicate or cut across this proposed project?

No

Q27. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

While the investment requested to implement this project is substantial, the project will reach remote communities with currently receive little or no governmental support. These communities live on the edge, both ecologically and financially, and even small impacts on their economies can make a significant difference to their wellbeing. Their livelihoods are tied to seasonal rains, and as access to their hamlets and fields is restricted at the peak of the rainy season, this puts a realistic limit to travel and complicates logistics and costs. This reflects negatively in the number of households that the project can realistically access. However, if the target households engage fully in sustainable livelihoods, and arrest environmental degradation, the benefits will be immense. For example, guassa cultivation will halt encroachment of unsustainable agriculture and bring about Afroalpine habitat restoration, with benefits for the wolves and the small mammal community, alongside the many benefits they bring for local economies and in halting soil erosion. The benefits are not only for the communities involved, but by protecting key highland ecosystem services such as water, these benefits expand to millions of Ethiopia and beyond.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Initiative funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

Dinkenesh Ethiopia has received a donation pledge from the Wildlife Conservation Network (USA) to purchase a new 4x4 vehicle that will be dedicated to this project. The vehicle will remain available for future conservation activities by Dinkenesh in northern Ethiopia. All materials provided to the livelihood beneficiaries will become their property.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy**: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy**: which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct**: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

The project will embrace Oxford University policy concerning safeguarding, whistleblowing and code of conduct. All partners and staff will be made aware of these standards, what they mean and how they must be adhered to, and that everyone will be held to the same standards as outlined in these codes of conduct.

Q30. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

The University of Oxford's Code of Ethics, emphasizing principles like free prior informed consent, transparency, independence, and partnership, guides the ethical conduct of our activities. This project will adhere to these principles, ensuring ethical considerations shape its design and execution, fostering meaningful collaboration and reciprocal responsibilities. We will hold all partners to the same ethical standards, and introduce staff and partners to the ethical challenges of social research at the start of the project, to discuss and identify possible ethical dilemmas before they arise.

The project's field component will align with the University of Oxford's research ethics procedures. The Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC) oversees the ethical review of research involving human participants and personal data. Our fieldwork protocols will be rigorously reviewed by the Social Sciences and Humanities Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee (SSH IDREC).

Beyond institutional compliance, our project team is dedicated to continuously reflecting on and addressing ethical issues. We commit to not only following but also advancing ethical standards in our work. Given the project's focus on enhancing the wellbeing and voice of marginalized groups, including women, and addressing sensitive issues like illegal resource harvesting and environmental degradation, ongoing transparent consideration of ethical matters is crucial.

Section 13 - British embassy or high commission engagement

Q31. British embassy or high commission engagement


It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies.


Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project.


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [Communications British Embassy in Ethiopia](#)

 26/11/2023

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Jorgelina Marino	Project Leader	30	Unchecked
Stephanie Brittain	Social Research Leader	20	Unchecked
Claudio Sillero	Project Manager and Adviser	30	Unchecked
Girma Eshete	In-country Project Coordinator	50	Unchecked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Fekadu Lema	Community Conservation Leader	100	Unchecked
Misrak Seyom	Livelihoods Leader	100	Unchecked
Dessiew Gelaw	Wildlife Monitoring Officer	100	Unchecked
Social Scientist TBC	In-country Social Science Coordinator	100	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

 [Combined CVs](#)

 27/11/2023

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Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included. The order of the letters must be the same as the order they are presented in below.

Lead partner name:

Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), Biology Department,
Oxford University

Website address:

www.wildcru.org, www.biology.ox.ac.uk

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

WildCRU, through its Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (www.ethiopianwolf.org) has been working in the highlands of Ethiopia for over 30 years. Prof Claudio Sillero and Dr Jorgelina Marino have vast experience and a network of collaborators and stakeholder right across the Ethiopian highlands.

Oxford's Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science (ICCS) expertise lies in the relationship between people and the environment and the use of social science for conservation, with an emphasis on understanding and incorporating ecological knowledge of local people. The ICCS' social research leader will coordinate the social science research of the project and supervise and train a post-doctoral researcher associated to Addis Ababa University.

International/In-country Partner: International

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Dinkenesh Ethiopia

Website address: ethiopianawolf.org/Dinkenesh

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Dinkenesh Ethiopia, is a recently established indigenous NGO. Their objectives are closely aligned with those pursued by this project. Although a new organisation, Dinkenesh personnel (particularly Girma Eshete and Misrak Seyum) are not new to the proposed work. They have been working in North Ethiopia for many years, addressing precisely issues concerning the sustainability of life in the rural highlands. Furthermore, they have a good reputation in the region and are well integrated into the network of development and government agencies. Their ability to network is key to the success of this project.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget: £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes

2. Partner Name: Addis Ababa University

Website address: www.aau.edu.et

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The AAU is the leader university in Ethiopia, and has many reputable professionals in the biodiversity conservation and social sciences disciplines. Oxford , though their EWCP, has been playing an important role building capacity in the Ethiopian highlands over several decades. This project offers an opportunity to work closely with an early career researcher, with benefits beyond the duration of this project.

The budget allocated to Addis Ababa University, for the cost of employing a post-doctoral scientist, will be channelled via Dinkenesh Ethiopia.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget: £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? No

If no, please provide details

We have been in close contact with Dr Bikila W. Dullo, Associate Professor of Ecology and Chairman of the Department of Plant Biology and Biodiversity Management, who has expressed his interest and helped developed impact indicators and research plans. We are still expecting a formal letter of support.

3. Partner Name: No Response

Website address: No Response

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): No Response

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: No Response

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board
(or other management structure): Yes
 No


Have you included a Letter of Support
from this partner? Yes
 No


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

The Amhara National Regional National State, specifically the Environment, Forest and Wildlife Protection and Development Authority, is a key stakeholder. We will continue collaborating closely with them, but as the region will have no budgetary responsibilities, they are not considered partners. We will nevertheless request a letter of support, which we should be able to submit in the coming weeks. Internet communications with the Amhara regions are down at the moment. On the basis of our long-term collaboration, and their involvement with project development, we expect their full support.

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [Combined letters of support](#)

 27/11/2023

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Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
EIDPO038	Claudio Sillero	High Andes Conservation Without Borders
14-028	Claudio Sillero	Conservation of Puna's Andean cats across national borders
30-008	Katrina Davis	Incentive-based mechanisms to support biodiversity and well-being in small-scale fisheries
DARNV017	Stefan Dercon	Testing experimental development economic programmes to protect Virunga's biodiversity
DARNV004 - F010047	Owen T Lewis	Introducing research-informed conservation agreements for forest restoration in Anjouan, Comoros
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q.35 Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.

On behalf of the

Company

of

Biology Department, University of Oxford

I apply for a grant of

£590,884.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.

Checked





Name Philippa King





Position in the organisation Research Funding Specialist, Research Services

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [Ceratification page](#)
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Date 24 November 2023


Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.


 [Oxford University, Financial Statements 2020-21](#)
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 [Oxford University Financial Statements 2021-22](#)
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF


 [Safeguarding_code_of_practice](#)


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Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application:	
• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF. 	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: More resilient ecosystems and livelihoods in the Ethiopian highlands as local economies shift from overutilization to sustainable uses of natural resources, with enhanced social equality and revived community-led governance systems.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Sustainable livelihoods and increased capacity for local governance of natural resources, resulting in reduced multi-dimensional poverty in 550 households, and declining biodiversity losses and agriculture encroachment in the Amhara highlands.</p>	<p>0.1 At least 70% of households that harvested a Guassa or honey product by the end of the project (expected to be ~200 households or 1,200 people, of which 30% women), report at 10% increment in household income, compared to the baseline by Y3Q4 [DI-D16].</p> <p>0.2 At least 90% of households that harvested a Guassa or honey product by the end of the project (expected to be ~200 households or 1,200 people, of which 30% women), will achieve an average of at least 20% improvement in at least one aspect of locally-defined multidimensional poverty scores (including food security, livelihood assets, education, health and energy security) compared to the baseline by Y3Q3. [DI-E02]</p> <p>0.3 Ecosystem degradation avoided in ~60 hectares re-allocated for guassa growing, previously used for crops or grazing and with high levels of environmental degradation by Y3Q4. Milestones: 20ha by Y1, 40ha by Y2, and 60ha by Y3. [DI-E01]</p>	<p>0.1 Survey of households engaged in livelihood schemes before and after project to determine change in household income in Y1Q2 and Y3Q3.</p> <p>0.2 Survey of households engaged in livelihood schemes before and after project to determine changes in multi-dimensional poverty outcomes Y1QX and Y3Q3.</p> <p>0.3 Measurement of the area cultivated with guassa bordering Afroalpine natural habitat throughout the project.</p>	<p>Climatic, political and social stability in Ethiopia – necessary to ensure timely implementation of livelihood activities (which are seasonal) and continued communication with communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Local markets for guassa grasses and Erica honey remain stable or increase (local prices for both commodities have increased over the past years).</p> <p>All parties are positive and commit to agreements for co-management to protected guassa grasslands and Erica forest within protected areas, with benefits for conservation and community wellbeing.</p>

Project Title: Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

	<p>0.4 Drivers of Afroalpine biodiversity loss (e.g. number of households involved in illegal grazing and collection of wild guassa during closed seasons in the CCA, cases of firewood extraction in <i>Erica</i> forests, and new agriculture areas in Afroalpine land) reduced by an average of 20% compared to the baseline by Y3Q4, [DI-D18]</p>	<p>0.4a Type and extent of natural resource uses from yearly surveys of households' report of extraction of natural resources (including wild guassa grasses, <i>Erica</i> firewood) and from community-led monitoring of events of harvest (legal and illegal) every year.</p> <p>0.4b Rate of habitat loss to agriculture over the project's life, compared with average annual conversation rate over the past 10 years (remote sensing).</p>	
<p>Outputs: 1. Sustainable livelihood cooperatives formed and livelihoods implemented, with poverty alleviation benefits.</p>	<p>1.1 460 people from local stakeholder groups (of which 30% women) complete training in grass and honey production by Y3Q3. Milestones: 110 people by Y1, 375 by Y2 and 450 by Y3. [DI-A01].</p> <p>1.2. 90% of the 460 people trained in grass and honey production report that a) have gained new capabilities (skills and knowledge) and b) are applying them 6 or more months after training by Y3Q3. Milestones for 1.2a: 70% of 110 people by Y1, 375 by Y2 and 450 by Y3. [DI-A04].</p>	<p>1.1 Participation records; number of total training-weeks aggregated across all people trained.</p> <p>1.2a Pre and post training questionnaires to determine perceptions of capabilities pre and post training and what new capabilities are applied after training.</p> <p>1.2b End of project survey: Number of people trained in grass and honey production applying these skills at least 6 months after training.</p>	<p>Policy makers and practitioners are receptive to improving co-management practices, research findings and recommendations.</p> <p>Populations of Ethiopian not affected by virus outbreaks during the lifetime of the project</p>

Project Title: Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

	<p>1.3. 70% of sustainable livelihood enterprises established are functioning (e.g. are they still growing and/or harvesting products) at least a year after project establishment. Milestones: 70% of 110 people by Y2, 375 by Y3 [I-A10].</p>	<p>1.3 End of project survey: Number of enterprises established that are functioning at project end from list of enterprises established.</p>	
<p>2. Communities, protected area councils, local and regional governments with better capacity for conservation and co-management, with strengthened natural resource governance and biodiversity benefits.</p>	<p>2.1 Two improved community management agreements available and endorsed - agreements for regulated use of natural resources within the CCAs. In English and Amharic by Y1Q3. [DI-B03]</p> <p>2.2. Representatives of 15 Kebeles (local), 5 Woredas (district), 2 Community Councils (local), 1 Zonal and 1 Regional Authority, of which 20% women, with enhanced awareness and understanding of threats to Afroalpine biodiversity and associated poverty issues compared to the baseline survey by Y3Q3 [DI-A07].</p> <p>2.3 200 people from local communities with increased participation in Livelihood Committees, Community Councils, Advisory Committees and Community Monitoring groups; including at least 60 women, by Y2Q4. Milestones: 50 by Y1, 200 by Y2. [DI-B05]</p>	<p>2.1. Written agreements between communities and governments, endorsed by third party; evidence of their application from Community Monitoring data (if within the life of the project)*</p> <p>2.2 Pre and post project survey of gaps in knowledge, progress towards learning expectations, after project implementation.</p> <p>2.3a Meeting attendees list, including gender breakdown and number/type of decision-makers attending; annually and compared to pre-project reference.</p> <p>2.3b Survey of community-members and government officials to determine perceived change in</p>	<p>Policy makers and practitioners are receptive to improving co-management practices, research findings and recommendations.</p> <p>Populations of Ethiopian wolves not affected by virus outbreaks during the lifetime of the project.</p>

Project Title: Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

	<p>2.4 Stabilised or improved (10% increase) Ethiopian wolf population abundance and distribution (extent of habitat used by wolves), within the project sites by Y3Q3. [DI-D04]</p> <p>2.5 Four new stock assessments of Afroalpine species at project sites (high altitude rodents, endemic Starck's hare <i>Lepus starcki</i>, guassa <i>Festuca</i> spp. and <i>Erica</i> spp), using vegetation plots, counts along transects, camera traps, and mapping. [DI-C02]</p>	<p>ability of local decision-making institutions to feed into co-management, after project implementation.</p> <p>2.4a Annual reports from intensive monitoring of Ethiopian wolf populations; identification of packs, their composition and breeding success. By expert EWCP monitors.</p> <p>2.4b Number of community guards who attended training and joined community monitoring activities (measured annually).</p> <p>2.5 Technical reports with reports of field surveys. By the end of the project</p>	
<p>3. Best practice disseminated and increased capability and capacity for scaling up.</p>	<p>3.1 Two best practice guides (community-led guassa cultivation and <i>Erica</i> honey production) published and endorsed; in English and Amharic by Y3Q2. [DI-C01]</p> <p>3.2 One assessment of community alternative livelihoods, use and governance of Afroalpine natural resources (from data collected during scenarios interviews and listening events),</p>	<p>3.1 Guides available to all stakeholder groups (distributed in final workshop) and available on the EWCP, WildCRU and ICCS websites in Ethiopian and English.</p> <p>3.2 Journal submission confirmation email.</p>	<p>Stakeholders are willing to participate in capacity building workshop/training.</p> <p>Policy makers and practitioners are receptive to research findings and recommendations and willing to provide feedback.</p>

Project Title: Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

	<p>submitted to open scientific journal with global outreach by Y3Q1. [DI-C04]</p> <p>3.3. At least 100 people (30% women) from various local stakeholder (farmers, local governments, conservationists, etc.) completing training on at least one of the training workshops to be build capacity for scaling up and sustainability (finances and micro-enterprises, honey production, community-based tourism, carbon sequestration) by Y3Q4. Milestones: 33 trained by Y1Q4, 66 by Y2Q4 and 100 by Y3Q4. [DI-A01]</p> <p>3.4. At least 20 local producers of Guassa and honey disseminate technical knowledge regarding livelihood activities to at least 200 household representatives not included in this project, of which 100 are women.</p> <p>3.5 Webinar hosted by Dinkenesh Ethiopia to disseminate results of sustainable livelihoods and natural resources governance in Y3Q4. Target 30 national and 10 international attendees, 30% women. [DI-C13]</p>	<p>3.3 Meeting attendees list, including gender breakdown and number/type of decision-makers attending.</p> <p>3.4 Records of training and dissemination events (experience sharing trips, “peer to peer” capacity building and “guassa takala demonstrations”), disaggregated by genders of those receiving the training.</p> <p>3.5 Zoom statistics. Attendee gender balance, national/ international balance.</p>	<p>The lessons learnt are useful and generalisable beyond northern Ethiopia.</p> <p>The sustainable management of natural resources continue to be prioritised by traditional management systems and by other actors.</p> <p>Data sufficiently robust for scientific publication in journal with global reach.</p> <p>Attendance to webinar not affected by access to internet in Ethiopia (which can be unreliable)</p>
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Project Title: Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

Activities

1.1 Introductory project meeting.

Livelihood scenarios:

1.2 Develop and pilot scenarios questionnaires

1.3 Conduct scenarios interviews and socio-economic baseline survey across the 4 sites

1.4 Results of scenarios interviews shared and adjusted with stakeholders across the 4 sites.

Guassa Takala:

1.5 Convene guassa committees; draft conservation agreements. (sites)

1.6 Form guassa groups or budins; select beneficiaries; identify and measure land for cultivation.

1.7 Guassa planting; in-situ training (supported by best practice guideline document).

1.8 Meetings of guassa committees and supervisory visits.

Asta Mar: support to existing honey budins

1.9 Honey committee meetings; conservation agreements.

1.10 Buy and distribute additional bee hives and colonies to existing honey budins.

Asta Mar: new honey budins

1.11 Experience sharing trips to existing honey budins

1.12 Establish new honey budins in selected Erica patches; select beneficiaries; distribute bee hives; draft agreements.

1.13 In-situ training (supported by best practice guideline document); transfer of bee colonies

1.14 Meetings of honey committees and supervisory visits.

Guassa nurseries

1.15 Identify suitable locations for guassa nurseries

1.16 Form guassa nursery cooperatives

1.17 Workshop to develop guassa nursery business plan; finance training

1.18 Training and guassa planting

1.19 Supervisory visits

Governance and co-management in protected areas

2.1 Listening events (group discussions) involving communities, protected areas councils and authorities.

Project Title: Afroalpine conservation through sustainable livelihoods and institutions inspired by tradition

- 2.2 Support to regular meetings of protected area councils; project team participation in council meetings
- 2.3 Natural resource management agreements, stakeholder meeting
- 2.4 Training workshop for protected area scouts on field monitoring techniques and conservation more generally
- 2.3 Ongoing local knowledge exchange and training of community scouts on ecological methods for wildlife and resource uses by project monitoring officer and wolf ambassadors
- Dissemination, increased capability and capacity for scaling up**
- 3.1 Guassa and honey market study and development of business models
- 3.2 Honey production training by Museum of Honey - "training of trainers"
- 3.3 Finance training; cooperatives and micro-credits
- 3.4 "Peer to peer" capacity building (selected Guassa and honey producers disseminate lessons and motivate others)
- 3.5 "Guassa takala demonstrations" in collaboration with local governments
- 3.6 Community-led tourism workshop
- 3.7 Workshop on carbon sequestration for future application in credit schemes –informed by soil carbon study in guassa plots during the project
- 3.8 Webinar hosted by Dinkenesh Ethiopia to disseminate results of sustainable livelihoods and natural resources governance
- 3.9 Closing meeting with key stakeholders