

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Wildlife Development, Protection and Utilization  
Policy and Strategy

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## **Introduction**

Ethiopia is endowed with several precious and endemic wildlife resources. These resources have a great potential in the accelerating the country's development efforts. However, the country has not drawn the expected economic benefits from the sector.

The main threats of the country's wildlife include, among others, destruction of the habitat of the wild animals due to illegal land expansion activities, unbalanced population growth, illegal settlement and hunting.

The government has attached due attention to formulate wildlife development and protection strategy in tune with the objective reality of the country and the existing international natural resources development and protection principles in order to contain the worsening extinction of wild animals and to enable the country draw the maximum benefit from the sub-sector ( in the form of tourism, live animals and products trade, sport hunting and etc.).

Accordingly, it has become essential to issue viable policies and strategies to properly protect and develop the country's wildlife resources, preserve the endemic wildlife and the natural resources for posterity, support the country's economy from the income obtained from wildlife resources development, avert the looming danger on the nation's wild life resources, establish a participatory and sustainable wildlife development and put into effect the international wildlife conventions and agreements.

The policy and strategy has five major sections dealing with wildlife development and protection, utilization of wildlife resources, participation of the society and investors in the sector and the information network that should be established to render awareness-raising education to the general public.

## **II. Objectives of the policy**

The major objective of the policy is to create an enabling environment whereby the country's wildlife and their habitat are protected and developed in a sustainable manner and enable the sector to play an important role in the economic development of the country.

The specific objectives of the policy include the following:

1. Properly preserving, developing and administering the country's wildlife resources and enabling the sector to contribute its share in the nation building process;
2. Protecting the wildlife resources and their habitat, maintaining the balance of nature and transfer the same to the next generation in accordance with the international wildlife conventions and agreements to which the country is a signatory.

## **III. Policies and Strategies**

### **1. Wildlife resources development and protection**

#### **1.1 Administering wildlife reserves**

- 1.1.1 Efforts would be made to give legal identity to national parks and other wildlife reserves and administer them pursuant to international standards and principles through the participation of the public at large.

#### Strategies

- A. Identifying national parks and other wildlife protection places (such as wildlife reserves, shelters and game hunting areas) and giving them legal identity;
- B. Formulating, amending and effecting a participatory wildlife management plan based on relevant international principles;

- C. Reducing the rate of development activities planned to be carried out in wildlife reserves that would affect the survival of the wild animals;
  - D. Issuing proclamations, regulations and directives to put into force the administration and management plans.
- 1.1.2 Efforts would be made to properly administer wild animals outside reserve parks by conducting a study on the number and distribution of wildlife resources.

Strategies

- A. Surveying wildlife habitats outside reserve parks and facilitating conditions to upgrade them to reserves whenever necessary;
  - B. Issuing and enforcing rules and directives instrumental to administer wild animals outside reserve parks in their respective habitats;
  - C. Enabling the society to own, develop and be beneficiaries of wild animal habitats outside reserve parks.
- 1.1.3 Strengthening reserve parks established along the border of neighboring countries pursuant to international wildlife conservation conventions and opening new reserves.

Strategies

- A. Strengthening reserve parks established along the border of neighboring countries;
- B. Joining hands with neighboring countries to establish new wildlife reserve parks in border areas, where such facilities are not available;
- C. Establishing reserve parks with a view to circumventing the fleeing of wild animals to neighboring countries.

**1.2 Conserving wild animals, which are endemic to the country and are on the verge of extinction.**

A special protection and conservation would be made to wild animals, which are endemic to the country and are on the verge of extinction.

### Strategies

- A. Relevant studies would be conducted on the type, bio diversity, species, number and distribution of endemic animals to the country;
- B. Studies would also be made to identify the root causes for the extinction of the country's endemic wild animals and appropriate measures would be taken to address the problem (83 68 account number of Sami)
- C. Facilitating favorable conditions to transfer extinct wild animals to a suitable reserve parks, where they would be well taken care of.

### **1.3 Protecting wild animals from disasters**

A wildlife resources conservation mechanism would be put in place in a bid to protect wild animals from various disasters.

### Strategies

- A. A pre-warning system would be introduced to protect wild animals from natural and artificial disasters;
- B. A pre-warning forecasting system would be effected through the participation of all concerned bodies to protect wild animals from natural and manmade disasters;
- C. A pre-warning information network would be installed to protect wild animals around border areas from natural and manmade disasters;
- D. Establishing trust fund to avoid disasters on wild animals. Informing the problem to all concerned international organizations if it is beyond the local capacity.

### **1.4 Expanding wildlife health services**

Introducing an integrated system to prevent and control diseases that affect wild animals inside and outside reserve parks.

### Strategies

- A. Conducting health study in wildlife reserve parks and gathering the necessary data;
- B. Identifying and supervising wild animals that host diseases and communicate them to others; distinguishing the nature of the disease and building disease prevention and controlling capacity;
- C. Establishing veterinary stations at central wildlife reserve parks and equipping the stations with the necessary materials, manpower, veterinary science technology and finance.

### **1.5 Controlling the movement of wild animals and their products**

A mechanism would be put in place to properly handle and control the movement of wild animals and their products.

### Strategies

- A. Installing checking-points in border areas to prevent the illegal movement and export of wild animals and their products;
- B. Ensuring that the hunting of wild animals as well as their movement fulfill the relevant international wildlife safety standards;
- C. Conducting the trading of extinct wild animals according to local and international laws;
- D. Making sure that the necessary quarantine procedure is in place in trading wild animals and their products locally and internationally.

### **1.6 Controlling dangerous wild animals**

The necessary measures would be taken when wild animals inflict harm against human beings, domestic animals or standing crops.

### Strategy

Studying the type and extent of the damage caused by wild animals and formulating viable mechanisms to address the problem.

## **2. Utilization of wildlife resources**

### **2.1 Identifying the benefits of wild animals**

2.1.1 Efforts would be made to identify the benefits of the wild animals in the country.

#### Strategies

- A. Conducting wild animals census to know the number of wild animals in the country and design a feasible and sustainable utilization strategy;
  - B. Supervising the sport hunting inside and outside reserve parks to make sure that the game would not affect the distribution of the wild animals;
- 2.1.2 The wildlife resources of the country would be properly used for sustainable tourism, hunting, trade, breeding and food.

### Strategy

Preparing and distributing up-to-date directives and information to enhance the economic advantages of wildlife resources;

### **2.2 Encouraging and expanding eco-tourism**

Eco-tourism activities would be carried out in reserve parks without causing damage to natural and wild life resources.

#### Strategies

- A. Creating a viable working system to enhance eco-tourism activities in line with internationally accepted standards;
- B. Expanding development infrastructures that help to expand and promote eco-tourism;

- C. Issuing and enforcing laws, rules and directives to stave off the adverse effects of eco-tourism on the habitat of wild animals.

### **2.3 Promoting wildlife and wildlife products market**

- 2.3.1 Producing quality wild animals products to raise their demand in the local and foreign markets and increase the income obtained from such trading activities.

#### Strategies

- A. Preparing and enforcing experience and knowledge packages helpful in maintaining the quality of wildlife products supplied to local and foreign markets;
  - B. Exerting efforts to promote local markets to step up the demand of the wildlife products and the income obtained thereof;
  - C. Issuing directives to supply quality wildlife animals and products to markets.
- 2.3.2 International laws and conventions concerning wildlife trade activities would be ensured.

#### Strategies

- A. International laws and conventions concerning wildlife trade activities would be implemented taking into account the interest of the country;
- B. Drawing useful experience from countries, which are successful in wildlife products trade and implementing the experience based on the objective reality of the country.

### **2.4 Utilization of income secured from wildlife resources development**

The income secured from wildlife resources would be used for the benefit of the local people, wildlife development and conservation endeavors as well as for the growth of the national economy.

### Strategies

- A. Participating the local people in wildlife development and conservation activities and diverting part of the income earned from such efforts to various development endeavors being undertaken in the locality;
- B. Some of the income obtained from wildlife reserve parks would be used for the development and conservation of wildlife habitats;
- C. Creating job opportunities to people residing around wildlife reserve parks.

### 3. Participation of Investors

Encouraging investors to actively participate in the development, conservation and utilization of wildlife resources.

Investors would be provided with the necessary support to engage in the development and administration of wildlife reserve parks as well as in modern wildlife utilization and export endeavors.

### Strategies

- A. Enabling investors to own reserve parks through lease or concession so that they would involve in the development, conservation and utilization of wildlife resources;
- B. Offering the necessary assistance and information to investors so that they would produce quality wildlife products;
- C. Preparing packages that help investors to supply quality wildlife products and rendering training and technical support on the implementation of the packages.

### **4. Conducting wildlife study, education and training**

#### 4.1 Consolidating studies on wildlife resources

- 4.1.1 Relevant studies would be carried out to conserve, protect, develop and utilize the habitats of wild animals.

### Strategies

- A. Studying and identifying the wild animals and their habitats inside and outside reserve parks;
- B. Gathering information on the habitats of wild animals;
- C. Studying the health of wild animals, which are being reared, and improving their handling system.

4.1.2 Enhancing, improving and widely implementing useful local wildlife development, protection and utilization knowledge and experiences.

### Strategies

Identifying, enhancing, improving and widely implementing useful local wildlife development, protection and utilization knowledge and experiences.

4.1.3 Bolstering relations and information exchanges with pertinent bodies, giving due emphasis for the enhancement of suitable wildlife development and conservation technologies.

### Strategies

- A. Importing and locally implementing suitable wildlife development and conservation technologies;
- B. Devising controlling mechanisms to avert the accident that could be caused in the course of technological transfer.

## **4.2 Education and Training**

4.2.1 Consecutive education and training would be offered to raise the awareness of the society on wildlife development, conservation and utilization.

### Strategy

- A. Organizing educational programs to raise the public awareness on the socio-economic importance of wildlife resources;

- B. Educating the society to be well informed of the damage that could be caused by wild animals and take the necessary measures when they happen;
- C. Undertaking prevention activities to avert in advance the damages that could be caused by wild animals;
- D. Helping concerned private and government offices to be aware of the national and international laws, rules and regulations on the trading of wildlife and their products.

4.2.2 Manpower capacity building would be made to effectively guide and administer the development, conservation and utilization of wild animals.

Strategies

- A. Creating adequate capacity to produce a skilled manpower in the field of wildlife development, protection and utilization;
- B. Incorporating courses on wildlife development, protection and utilization in the syllabus of the country's schools.

## **5. Information on Wildlife resources**

Creating information network on wildlife reserve parks

5.1 Installing an information network to gather, compile and disseminate information on wildlife development, protection and utilization.

Strategies

- A. Establishing and effecting information network on wildlife development, protection and utilization;
- B. Analyzing information and supplying the same according to the category and demand of the beneficiaries.

5.2 Efforts shall be made to base wildlife information exchanging system on local and international information network.

### Strategies

- A. Beneficiaries would get information and new technologies on wildlife from various information sources;
- B. Standard information exchange methods would be designed and effected to carry out information exchange in an integrated manager.

## **IV. Implementation of policies**

1. Based on this policy and strategy regional states can prepare their own wildlife reserve parks development, conservation and utilization policies and strategies.
2. The government would put in place the necessary infrastructures to effect this wildlife development and conservation policy and strategy; it formulates various programs and projects, issues proclamations, regulations and directives and ensure their implementation.
3. This wildlife resources development and conservation policy and strategy can be amended whenever necessary in light of its socio-economic impact.