



## Studying the Interaction between Livestock and Wildlife in Awash National Park, Eastern Ethiopia

Project name/Title	<b>Studying the interaction between livestock and wildlife in Awash National Park, Eastern Ethiopia</b>	
Donor/funding organization	International Foundation for Science (IFS)  INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE <a href="http://www.ifs.se/">www.ifs.se/</a>	
Name(s) of partner institution(s)[Name and logo of partner organization/ University and country]	Haramaya University  <a href="http://www.haramaya.edu.et/">www.haramaya.edu.et/</a>	
Lead institution	Haramaya University	
Duration (Start year - end year)	30/12/2014	30/12/2017
Total budget (in USD, Use current exchange rate if other currencies)	10,250	
Annual Budget (in USD)	Not specified per annum	
Contribution of HU, if applicable	Management and facilitation of budget and other resources	
Name and address (telephone and email) of project coordinator/PI from HU	Yihew Biru (PhD Student) +251911-02-26-65; Email: <a href="mailto:asse.biru@gmail.com">asse.biru@gmail.com</a>	
Name and address (telephone and email) of other project members (if any)	Dr. Tessema Zewdu +251915-74-06-04; mail: <a href="mailto:tessemaz@yahoo.com">tessemaz@yahoo.com</a> Dr. Mengistu Urge +251945-38-85-85; mail: <a href="mailto:urgetta@yahoo.com">urgetta@yahoo.com</a>	
Number of project staff	3	
College and school/department hosting the project (if any)	College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences	
Project overall goal and specific objectives:	Ethiopia is endowed with both wildlife and domestic livestock species. Despite the huge livestock and wildlife resources, the country is not generating income as expected and the poor livestock holders are living under extreme poverty. Most of the wildlife is maintained within	

	<p>protected areas such as national parks, but, they are facing problems like deforestation, settlement, charcoal production and overgrazing (by livestock encroachment), as a result most of the endemic fauna and flora are threatened. Awash National Park (ANP), is mainly designed for the conservation of oryx, Gravy's zebra, and the diverse avian fauna. The park is located in the Eastern lowland bordering the Oromiya and Afar Regions, in which pastoralists from both regions are living with their large population of camel, cattle, and small ruminants along side wildlife populations around the park.</p> <p>The savanna woodland type ecosystem of the park is suitable for their livestock and hence there is a claim that the livestock are always competing with wild herbivores for food, water, and shelter. The situation is expected to be more serious during the longer drought seasons where the pastoralists trek their animals into wildlife core areas of the park, resulting conflict between wildlife rangers and armed pastoralists. In few cases of such conflicting situations loss of human life was recorded in addition to the overall perturbation of the ecosystem.</p> <p>Therefore, the general objective of this study is aimed in studying the interaction between livestock and wildlife around Awash National Park (ANP), Ethiopia. Specifically it tries to characterize feed preference and nutrient quality of plants browsed and grazed by domestic and wild herbivores, modeling feed resource budget across seasons so that proper rehabilitation of the most important plant species can be maintained.</p>
<p>Target beneficiaries of the project:</p>	<p>It helps to promote sound land use strategy where the livelihood of pastoralists can be improved by resolving the competing claims for resource use. Finally this project tries to design optimum management option so that sustainable resource use by livestock and wildlife can be achieved so that both animal productivity and wildlife conservation can be optimized in the area.</p> <p>Therefore, the direct beneficiaries of this research are the local pastoral, agro-pastoral communities who are in resource use conflict with the park and those members of the wildlife management authorities of the park.</p>