



## **Project Launching Workshop Report**

### **The Trans-boundary Conservation Project in the Boma-Gambela Landscape 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024**

**At Golden Tulip Hotel Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



**June 2024  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



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## 1. Introduction

The workshop for launching the Trans-boundary Conservation Project in the Boma-Gambela landscape was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024, at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The overarching objective of this project is to strengthen governance concerning natural resources and communities within the Boma-Gambela landscape. The project is supported by the EU-funded Biodiversity Management Program (BMP). The workshop was attended by IGAD/HAWEN member states, the IGAD Secretariat, EU Delegations from South Sudan and Addis Ababa, UNODC, APN, CMS, CCF, IFAW, Legal Atlas, and the Regional Environment Office at the US Embassy in Addis Ababa. (List attached)

## 2. Workshop objectives

The primary objective of the workshop is to officially launch the Trans-boundary Conservation Project in the Boma-Gambela landscape.

The workshop also aimed to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Establishing systems and protocols for transboundary collaboration in the Boma-Gambela landscape.
- Develop Wildlife law enforcement and management frameworks to manage crossborder wildlife trafficking.
- Facilitate operationalization of regional platform Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement network (HAWEN) by developing capacity through recruitment of assistant program coordinator and allocation of financial resources to run regional platforms.

## 3. Opening session

**Dr. Eshete Dejen**, Program Manager for the Sustainable Environment Protection Unit at the IGAD Secretariat, delivered a warm welcome to attendees at the launching workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He introduced the EU-funded Biodiversity Management Programme (BMP), aimed at enhancing regional cooperation in conservation within the Horn of Africa region. The overarching goal of the BMP is to uplift livelihoods in biodiversity-rich ecosystems through sustainable management of transboundary land and seascapes. Dr. Eshete emphasized the significance of the



Boma-Gambela landscape, situated across the South Sudan-Ethiopia border. The landscape is globally renowned for its diverse wildlife and rare species, making it a significant area of interest for conservation efforts.

Dr. Eshete further emphasized the need for Ethiopia and South Sudan collaboration to conserve this remarkable landscape. Dr. Eshete also highlighted that insights gained from this project would be applied to address similar issues in other member states. Finally, Dr. Eshete thanked the European Union for its financial support to IGAD member states and the Secretariat. He also extended appreciation to the government of Ethiopia for hosting this important workshop.

**Mr. Gabriel O. Leonte**, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation South Sudan, made a remark at the workshop. He emphasized climate change as a predominant global challenge, highlighting the European Union's commitment to address this challenge through sustainability and biodiversity conservation efforts. Specifically, Mr. Gabriel praised the Boma-Gambela Trans-boundary landscape conservation project for its potential to enhance biodiversity management and livelihoods in the Horn of Africa. The project aims to implement effective land use regulations and resource management practices in the IGAD region.

Mr. Leonte concluded his remark by expressing gratitude to IGAD member states and all workshop participants for their ongoing dedication to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management.

**Col. Lona Lanurit Darius**, Director of the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism in South Sudan and the current Chair of HAWEN also made a remark during the workshop. She emphasized the pressing need for cross-border collaboration to address biodiversity challenges in the Horn of Africa region, that is why HAWEN has been established. Col. Lona further emphasized the significance of cross-border collaboration for South Sudan, noting that many of its wildlife protected areas are situated along borders. She described the benefits South Sudan has derived from the Boma-Gambela trans-boundary conservation project's first phase, implemented in collaboration with relevant authorities and APN. Finally, she expressed gratitude to the IGAD secretariat all partners and stakeholders involved in project implementation, and acknowledged the European Union for its funding support.

**Mr. Kumara Wakjira**, Director General of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, officially opened the workshop as the Guest of Honor, acknowledging its significance. He highlighted the Horn of Africa's region is globally renowned for its abundant biodiversity and strategic location, noting the various threats impacting the region's biodiversity. He emphasized the priority of strengthening cross-border



collaboration to address conservation challenges, highlighting the critical role of operationalizing HAWEN.

Mr. Kumara further explained that linking and jointly managing adjacent wildlife protected areas along common borders ensure ecosystem connectivity and biodiversity preservation. In this regard, the DG welcomed the Boma-Gambela transboundary landscape conservation project, recognizing its potential benefits for both Ethiopia and South Sudan. He also noted that lessons from this project can be utilized to address similar challenges in other member states. Finally, Mr. Kumara thanked the IGAD Secretariat for organizing the workshop and partners for their technical and financial support. Specifically, he acknowledged the European Union for its financial backing of the Boma-Gambella landscape trans-boundary conservation project.

Following the opening remarks, participants engaged in introductions to familiarize themselves with each other. Subsequently, Dr. Eshete from IGAD provided a concise overview of the workshop agenda, itemizing each component for discussion. (Agenda attached in Annex 1))

## 4. Presentations and Discussion session

Three presentations have been delivered during the launching workshop.

### 4.1 Presentation on **Highlight of the IGAD Region**, presented by Dr. Eshete Dejen (IGAD representative)

Dr. Eshete Dejen, the Program Manager for Sustainable Environment Protection in IGAD, provided a comprehensive overview of IGAD and its Secretariat during his presentation. He explained IGAD's identity as a Regional Economic Community committed to fostering transformation towards sustainable development, resilience, and stability within the IGAD Region. Dr. Eshete emphasized the strategic advantages of the region, including its size, ecological diversity, abundant resources, and cultural integration, which collectively bolster IGAD's potential for regional development.

Furthermore, he highlighted IGAD's operational framework, explaining how it functions and interacts with its member states to address regional challenges effectively. He underscored the role of various divisions within IGAD, such as agriculture and environment, economic cooperation and regional integration, health and social development, peace and security, and corporate development services. These divisions work synergistically under the IGAD Executive Secretary to tackle diverse issues pertinent to regional development and cooperation.



#### 4.2 Presentation on Trans-boundary Conservation project in the Boma-Gambela Landscape, presented by Dr. Mike Fay (APN representative)

Dr. Mike Fay, SSD Landscape Coordinator, briefly stated that the African Parks operates with a clear vision to secure and appreciate 30% of Africa's unique landscapes and remarkable wildlife. Their mission, honed over two decades, positions them as a leading conservation NGO, striving for ecological, social, and financial sustainability across a diverse portfolio of protected areas. He further stated that, by 2030, their objective is to manage 30 well-maintained parks, covering a total of 30 million hectares. Currently, African Parks manages 22 parks spanning 12 African nations, encompassing 20 million hectares.

Dr. Mike also explained that in the Boma-Gambela landscape, African Parks collaborates on transboundary conservation initiatives. Their objectives include enhancing governance, establishing collaborative management frameworks, improving capacity for conservation and wildlife management, engaging in landscape-level planning, facilitating scientific collaboration, enforcing laws, and ensuring local communities benefit from conservation efforts. This holistic approach underscores African Parks' commitment to preserving Africa's natural heritage while empowering local communities and fostering regional cooperation.

#### 4.3 Presentation on the Project Background, presented by Dr. Eshete Dejen (IGAD representative)

Dr. Eshete, briefly presented about the current project. He mentioned the Boma-Gambela landscape presents a unique opportunity for transboundary conservation efforts between South Sudan and Ethiopia. Given its rich biodiversity and the seasonal migration patterns of various species. He also mentioned that collaboration between the authorities and stakeholders of both countries is essential for the survival of these ecosystems and the species within them. Initiatives like the EU-funded Biodiversity Management Project (BMP), piloted by the IGAD in Djibouti, have laid the foundation for transboundary collaboration. He also mentioned the second phase of this effort, supported by the EU, aims to further enhance governance for natural resources and people in the Boma-Gambela landscape.

He further, explained that the implementation of the current project involves collaboration between IGAD at the regional level, and the African Parks Network (APN) at the national level, with support from the EU Delegation in South Sudan and Djibouti, as well as wildlife authorities in both Ethiopia and South Sudan. This multi-



stakeholder approach ensures that the project can leverage diverse expertise and resources to achieve its objectives effectively.

Dr. Eshete’s presentation also highlighted about governance structure. The project governance structure proposed by the EU Delegation and accepted by IGAD outlines a clear framework for effective management and oversight. At the regional level, IGAD will oversee the project, while the African Parks Network (APN) will implement it at the national level. The steering committee, comprising representatives from APN, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), EU Delegation, and IGAD, will lead, evaluate, and guide project implementation. This committee will convene annually to review progress and address challenges.

## 5. Project concerned Countries Side Meeting

Based on the guidance from IGAD’s representative (Dr. Eshete), project concerned countries, Ethiopia and South Sudan, along with representatives from APN and the EU Delegation South Sudan, convened a small-group meeting to discuss the project. EU chaired the side meeting.



Representatives of Ethiopia expressed their positive opinion towards the project, by highlighting points for consideration such as project implementation and the signing of agreements with South Sudan and APN. They also emphasized the need for effective communication channels and governance structures. The side meeting addressed governance concerns, proposing establishment of steering committees



comprising relevant authorities from both countries, and agreed on the appointment of two focal points from each Nation.

Representatives of South Sudan shared their experience working with APN at national level. They also emphasized the importance of government legislation to overcome challenges such as relocation of communities from protected areas and industrial extraction and other threats.

To learn from South Sudan's experience and APN's expertise, the Ethiopian representatives raised several questions during the side meeting, including what was the detailed process South Sudan went through when it started implementing the project? What challenges did South Sudan face during the initial stages of project implementation? What methods has South Sudan employed to manage communities living within the project's targeted protected areas? Requested South Sudan to share some results obtained from the project implementation, Does African Parks Network (APN) have experience in implementing similar transboundary projects?

In response to Ethiopia's questions, South Sudan representatives mentioned several activities undertaken during the project implementation phase, including:

- Conducting extensive consultations with stakeholders.
- Signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the APN.
- Establishing a steering committee tasked with overseeing project implementation.
- Briefing local communities on the project objectives.

With regard to challenges emanates from communities living within the project sites, South Sudan acknowledged facing challenges from communities residing within project sites but emphasized compliance with national laws to address them. It was also noted that the African Parks Network possesses extensive global project implementation experiences; but their familiarity with transboundary projects is limited.

During the side meeting, Ethiopia and South Sudan reached agreements on the following points:

- Acknowledged the project's mutual benefits and importance.
- Agreed to collaborate in the implementation of the project.
- Agreed to establish a strong governance structure, including steering committees at regional and national levels and a technical team at site level.
- Planned to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with APN as well.
- Committed to develop a comprehensive action plan for implementing the project.
- Emphasized the necessity of a clear reporting system and effective communication channels.
- Agreed to appoint two focal points for the steering committee from each country.
- It was agreed that APN would provide the current project documents to Ethiopia.



## 6. Conclusion & the way forward

The workshop on the Trans-boundary Conservation Project in the Boma-Gambela landscape marked a significant milestone in regional collaboration and biodiversity conservation efforts. The key presentations by Dr. Eshete Dejen from IGAD, Dr. Mike Fay from APN, and discussions during the plenary and side meeting underscored the importance of effective governance structures, communication channels, etc. for effective cross-border collaboration.

The proposed project governance structure includes establishment of steering committees at regional and national levels, and technical teams at site levels. Overall, the workshop served as a platform for fruitful discussions, knowledge sharing, and consensus-building, laying the groundwork for effective transboundary conservation efforts and enhancing regional cooperation in biodiversity management. Ethiopia welcomed the project and collaborate with South Sudan and all other partners and stakeholders for the implementation of the project.

### **Key Recommendations from the workshop are as follows:**

- ✓ Acknowledge the mutual benefits and importance of the Boma-Gambela landscape conservation project.
- ✓ Ethiopia and South Sudan should plan to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaborating in the implementation of the project.
- ✓ They should create a robust governance structure, including regional and national steering committees, and a site-level technical team for effective implementation of the project.
- ✓ Similarly, Ethiopia and APN should plan to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for implementing the project.
- ✓ Develop a detailed action plan for project implementation.
- ✓ Develop a clear reporting system.
- ✓ Establish effective communication channels.
- ✓ Should engage local communities and other stakeholders in implementing the project.

These recommendations highlight the workshop's outcomes, focusing on cooperation, governance, planning, and communication strategies crucial for the successful implementation of the transboundary conservation project in the Boma-Gambela landscape.



## 7. Annexes

### Annex 1: Agenda of the workshop

<b>3 June 2024: Launching of Boma-Gambella Project</b>		
09:00 – 10:00	Welcoming Remark	- IGAD Director, AED
	Opening Statements	- EU Delegation Rep. - African Parks Network Rep. - South Sudan Government Rep. (Current HAWEN Chair)
	Official Opening	- Ethiopia Government Rep. (Guest of Honor)
10:00 – 10:30	Workshop Objectives and Background on the Establishment of HAWEN	IGAD
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Health break</b>	
11:00 – 13:00	- Boma-Gambella/Regional Component of IGAD - Boma-Gambella/Transboundary Collaboration between Gambella National Park and Boma National Park APN	-SEPU, PM-IGAD -APN Coordinator
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:00 – 17:00	- Project Governance and Establishment of SC - Discussion - Adoption of Governance	-IGAD -APN
17:00	<b>Health break/ End of day 1</b>	



**Funded by  
the European Union**



## Annex 2: List of participants of the workshop

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### Launching of the Boma-Gambella IGAD Project June 3, 2024 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

##### Djibouti

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
1.	Hassan Moussa Rayaleh	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	<a href="mailto:moussarayale@gmail.com">moussarayale@gmail.com</a>		3-6 June
2.	Abdi-fatah Abdillahi Doubad	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	<a href="mailto:abdifatah093@hotmail.com">abdifatah093@hotmail.com</a>		3-6 June

##### Ethiopia

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
1.	Kumara Wakjira Gemed (Guest of Honor)	Director General of EWCA Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority	<a href="mailto:kumewak@yahoo.com">kumewak@yahoo.com</a>		3rd June for the Opening
2.	Daniel Assefa Zinabu	Head of Wildlife Law Enforcement Desk ECWA	<a href="mailto:zdanielassefa@gmail.com">zdanielassefa@gmail.com</a>		3-6 June
3.	Fitsum Girma	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Transboundary rivers and resources Department	<a href="mailto:fitsum.girma@mfa.gov.et">fitsum.girma@mfa.gov.et</a>	+251 99 188 2655	3-6 June
4.	Dr Fanuel Kebede	Lead Researcher, Wildlife Ecologist, EWCA	<a href="mailto:Fanuel.kebede@gmail.com">Fanuel.kebede@gmail.com</a>		3-6 June
5.	Zerihun Mengesha	Ethiopian Environmental Authority	<a href="mailto:zerihun.mengesha@epa.gov.et">zerihun.mengesha@epa.gov.et</a>		3-6 June

##### Kenya

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
6.	Eric Mwenda	Assistant Director Wildlife Service State Department for Wildlife Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife	<a href="mailto:ericmwenda40@gmail.com">ericmwenda40@gmail.com</a>		3-6 June
7.	Martha Wangeci	Foreign Service Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Diaspora Affairs	<a href="mailto:hornafrica2019@gmail.com">hornafrica2019@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wmartha116@gmail.com">wmartha116@gmail.com</a>		3-6 June

##### Somalia

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
8.	MAHAD MOHAMED ABUKAR	Foreign Service Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mogadishu	<a href="mailto:Mahadshooli@gmail.com">Mahadshooli@gmail.com</a>		4-6 June

##### South Sudan

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
9.	Col Lona Lanurit	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and	<a href="mailto:Lonagore2005@gmail.com">Lonagore2005@gmail.com</a>		3-6



	<b>Darius</b>	Tourism / Director	<a href="#">com</a>		June
10.	<b>Akuot Asunta Nyang</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs IGAD focal Person	<a href="mailto:asunta.michelle.am28@gmail.com">asunta.michelle.am28@gmail.com</a>		3-6 June

#### Sudan

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
11.	<b>Major General Esamaldin Gabir Hagggar Talib</b>	Ministry of Interior -Wildlife Conservation Forces	<a href="mailto:wildlife_sudan33@yahoo.com">wildlife_sudan33@yahoo.com</a>		3-5 June
12.	<b>Col. Anwar Hamad Jawed</b>	Ministry of Interior -Wildlife Conservation Forces	<a href="mailto:anwar71.ah@gmail.com">anwar71.ah@gmail.com</a>		3-5 June

#### Uganda

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
	<b>Julius Innocent Quinoscars</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign Service Officer	<a href="mailto:innocentquino@gmail.com">innocentquino@gmail.com</a> cc: <a href="mailto:juliusjkivuna@gmail.com">juliusjkivuna@gmail.com</a>		Could not participate
	<b>Mag. John Okot Emitchell</b>	Uganda Wildlife Authority Head of Investigations Unit	<a href="mailto:John.emitchell@wildlife.go.ug">John.emitchell@wildlife.go.ug</a>		Could not participate

#### Africa Parks Network (APN)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
13.	<b>Martin Rickelton</b>	Regional Operations Manager (Boma/Gambella)	<a href="mailto:Martin@africanparks.org">Martin@africanparks.org</a>		3-5 June
14.	<b>Kenze Ndamukenze</b>	Institutional Funding Manager	<a href="mailto:Naftalih@africanparks.org">Naftalih@africanparks.org</a>		3-5 June
15.	<b>Mike Fay</b>	SSD Landscape Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Mike@africanparks.org">Mike@africanparks.org</a>		3-5 June
16.	<b>Naftali Honig</b>	Head of Strategic Research	<a href="mailto:Naftalih@africanparks.org">Naftalih@africanparks.org</a>		3-5 June

#### Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wilde Animals (CMS) Secretariat

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
17.	<b>Clara Nobbe</b>	Head, Terrestrial Species Unit	<a href="mailto:clara.nobbe@un.org">clara.nobbe@un.org</a>		3-6 June
18.	<b>Amie Figueiredo</b>	Programme Management Officer	<a href="mailto:amie.figueiredo@un.org">amie.figueiredo@un.org</a>		3-6 June

#### Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
	<b>Edwin Brown</b>	Senior Advisor, Illegal Wildlife Trade and Policy	<a href="mailto:edwin@cheetah.org">edwin@cheetah.org</a>		5-6 June

#### Legal Atlas

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
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### UNODC (Nairobi)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
20.	Giovanni Broussard	Regional Coordinator for Africa, Environment Team	giovanni.broussard@un.org		4 June

### USA Embassy Addis Ababa

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
21.	Yeneneh Teka	Regional Environment Specialist Regional Environment Office for East Africa	tekayl@state.gov		4 June
22.	Fernando, Johanna L	Regional Environment Officer	fernandojl@state.gov		4 June

### IFAW (Nairobi)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
23.	James Isiche	Africa Director, IFAW	jisiche@ifaw.org		4 and 6 June
24.	Fetene Buta	IFAW	fbuta@ifaw.org		4-6 June

### EU Delegations

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
1.	Gabriel O. LEONTE	Head of Cooperation, EUD South Sudan	<a href="mailto:Gabriel-octavian.leonte@eeas.europa.eu">Gabriel-octavian.leonte@eeas.europa.eu</a>		3-4 June
2.	Mershe Argaw	EUD Ethiopia	<a href="mailto:Mersha.ARGAW@eeas.europa.eu">Mersha.ARGAW@eeas.europa.eu</a>		3 June

### IGAD Secretariat

No.	Name	Position	Email	Tel	Participation
3.	Dr Eshete Dejen	Program Manager, Sustainable Environment Protection	<a href="mailto:Eshete.dejen@igad.int">Eshete.dejen@igad.int</a>		3-6 June
4.	Caroline Wambui	Ag Legal Advisor	<a href="mailto:Caroline.wambui@igad.int">Caroline.wambui@igad.int</a>		3-6 June
5.	Nejat Abdulrahman	Senior Security analyst ISSP Addis Ababa	<a href="mailto:Nejat.abdulrahman@igad.int">Nejat.abdulrahman@igad.int</a>		3-6 June
6.	Yosef Habte	Project Accountant, Blue Economy	<a href="mailto:Yosef.habte@igad.int">Yosef.habte@igad.int</a>		3-6 June
7.	Iman Mohamoud	Program Assistant, HAWEN	<a href="mailto:Iman.dirir@igad.int">Iman.dirir@igad.int</a>		3-6 June
8.	Tegeste Shimelis	Program Assistant, Agriculture and Environment Division	<a href="mailto:Tegeste.shimelis@igad.int">Tegeste.shimelis@igad.int</a>		3-6 June
9.	Getu Gudisa	Project Accountant	<a href="mailto:Getu.gudisa@igad.int">Getu.gudisa@igad.int</a>		3-6 June
10.	Sougal Omar	Communication Officer	<a href="mailto:Sougal.omar@igad.int">Sougal.omar@igad.int</a>		3-6 June

### Rapporteur

11.	Daniel Pawlos	Rapporteur, Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority	<a href="mailto:danielewca@gmail.com">danielewca@gmail.com</a>		3-6 June
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