



PRESS RELEASE ON WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

The anniversary of World Wildlife Day was celebrated worldwide and in Ethiopia for the first time.

On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session in Geneva, the United Nations highlighted the intrinsic values of wildlife and its various contributions, including ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic, to sustainable development and human-well-being, by devoting March 3 as ‘World Wildlife Day’. The Assembly in its resolution marks the day with the adoption of the CITES document, an international agreement between Governments of 176 Member States, and ensured that international trade does not threaten the species’ survival.

“The Day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime, which has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts,” said CITES Secretary-General John Scanlon, who helped to bring the resolution creating the Day to the General Assembly.

“We invite all member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system as well as all other interested organizations and individuals – from airports to museums to schools – to get involved in this global celebration of wildlife,” he added.



**WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY
3 MARCH**



World Wildlife Day provides an opportunity to:

- celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora;
- raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that wildlife provides to people; and
- raise awareness of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime, which has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

Marking the issue as the most pressing agenda, high level government representatives, conservation partners and Multi-sectoral Taskforce Members of Awash National Park celebrated the day at West Harerghe Zone, Chiro Town by renewing our promises of Rescuing Awash National Park and the relic Elephants at Babile Elephant Sanctuary. As a side event to this, we Ethiopians commemorated two other national issues: Victory of Adwa 116th Anniversary and 3rd Round Awash Park-Wereda Multi-sectoral Protected Areas Management Taskforce Workshop. The occasion was attended by more than 125 participants from high level down to the community that include H.E. Fetiha Yusuf, Chair of the Standing Committee of the Culture, Tourism and Mass Media Affaires of the Parliament; Ato Dawud Mume, Director General of Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and other representatives from Federal and Regional States, 3 Zone and 4 Wereda/District Administrators, sector heads and representatives, 17 Kebele/Village Chairpersons, community elders, conservation NGOs and development agents. The event was organized through the collaboration of EWCA, SDPASE, FZS, PHEEC and WSD.



Participants of the anniversary of World Wildlife Day at Chiro Town, March 2, 2014.

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