

FACTSHEET

PROJECT: PRESERVATION OF MAZE NATIONAL PARK (MZNP) AND ITS WATERSHED IN ETHIOPIA

AT A GLANCE

Goal: Ensure the long-term integrity of Maze National Park for the benefit of Nature and communities

Specific Objectives:

Component 1: Have a functional park that achieves its conservation objectives, whereas Maze National Park is functional and achieves its conservation objectives.

Component 2: Promote an inclusive natural resource governance system and the development of alternative livelihoods to reduce the unsustainable use of the park's natural resources. A win-win approach regarding natural resources management exists between communities and the park

Component 3: Ensure sustainable water flow in the park's rivers, where the water flow is ensured and sufficient.

Component 4: Project Management, where the project is effective and efficient.

Donor: The Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Duration: August 2023- August 2028

Total Funding: € 5 million

Beneficiaries:

Direct Beneficiaries Total: 67,5000
Women: 34,425 Men: 33,075

Indirect Beneficiaries Total: 631,711
Women: 313,240 Men: 318,471

Implementing Partners:

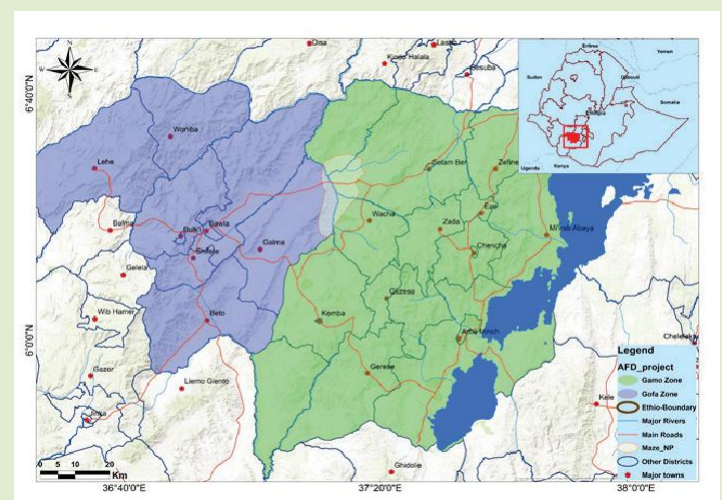
| South Ethiopia Regional Bureau of Culture and Tourism, Bureau of Agriculture, and Bureau of Water
| Maze National Park.

BACKGROUND

Maze National Park is one of the few parks in Ethiopia with no human settlements and is relatively well conserved. It is home to approximately 2,000 endemic and endangered Swayne's hartebeest. The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority considers the park an important site in the South Ethiopia Region, as it forms part of a corridor connecting Chebera Churchura National Park, Omo and Mago National Parks, and Nech Sar National Park.

Despite its significance, the long-term integrity of Maze National Park is threatened by several pressures. The park faces high population pressure, with 67,500 inhabitants living nearby, and the surrounding communities rely heavily on its resources. Water levels in the park's rivers are decreasing due to drought, degradation of the Maze River watershed, and uncontrolled water use for irrigation. Additionally, intensive land use and high population pressure have accelerated land degradation and deforestation in this fragile, steep environment. Since this sensitive ecosystem supports rural livelihoods, ongoing land degradation increases the vulnerability of local communities.

Geographic Focus: The park spans 20,000 hectares, covering 17 Kebeles in five Woredas of the Gamo and Gofa zones.



APPROACH

The project is guided by HRF's t core strategic pillars: High-Level Advocacy to engage key stakeholders and decision-makers in promoting sustainable biodiversity conservation; Capability Building to strengthen the skills and conservation knowledge of local communities, institutions, and government bodies; and Joint Model Initiatives to design and implement scalable alternative livelihood projects, focusing on nature-based tourism. The project also adopts a win-win approach by establishing the Maze National Park Community Development Facility. This facility will provide small-scale development projects to communities in exchange for their efforts to protect the park, thus alleviating pressure on the protected area.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- | Renovate park buildings, construct outposts and observation towers, and install signage.
- | Provide essential vehicles, monitoring equipment, operational tools, and administrative supplies.
- | Create tire track roads and install speed limit signs to reduce impacts.
- | Provide technical assistance and training to park staff.
- | Develop communication, tourism, and sustainable finance strategies.
- | Conduct biodiversity assessments, develop monitoring systems, and update the management plan.
- | Raise community awareness and implement environmental education programs.
- | Establish community governance committees and engage communities in resource use.
- | Conduct an agrarian diagnosis and identify farming diversification activities.
- | Support communities in developing alternative livelihoods and establishing a community development facility.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- | Maze National Park is functional and operational
- | Maze National Park management is based on solid knowledge of its biodiversity and ecosystems
- | The major pressure of fire on the park is reduced and controlled
- | An inclusive natural resource governance system is in place with communities, and agreements on the use of the park's natural resources are developed
- | Alternative livelihoods are developed and reduce the unsustainable use of the natural resources of the park and its surroundings
- | Soils are conserved and restored in Maze catchment
- | Water uses are efficient and shared



Discussion held with Park's surrounding beneficiary community on livelihood issues