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ProjectsAbroad

FERENGE

ETHIOPIA

The Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad Ethiopia

November 2011 Issue No.42



One of the Volunteers visits at Blune Nile – North of Ethiopia

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Welcome to the November 2011 Projects Abroad Ethiopia newsletter. This newsletter aims to inform all our volunteers with news and information about the latest happenings in Projects Abroad Ethiopia, and the country in general.

We would like to thank all the people who have volunteered with us – we really appreciate all the valuable time and great help you gave at the different placements. We would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who decided to choose Ethiopia for volunteering through Projects Abroad.

Enjoy reading this issue and I hope that you will find something that you like. Thanks to our volunteers who have shared their stories and photos with us.

We encourage everyone to join us in making the newsletter interesting and exciting by sending in your own written articles and pictures of your experiences here with us. Your stories and pictures will help others to understand and learn about Ethiopia. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact:



bikesegnhailleul@projects-abroad.org

Enjoy!!!!

Walia Ibex

The habitat of the Walia Ibex is the High Semyen, Ethiopia's dramatic high mountain terrain. The mountain massif is a broad plateau, cut off on the north and west by this enormous single



crag over 60 km (40 miles) long and 1,000-1,500 metres (3000-5000 ft.) high. To the south the table slopes gently down to 2,200 metres (7,000 ft.) divided by deep gorges 1,000 metres deep and taking two days

to cross. Time has not yet been sufficient to soften the contours of the crags and buttresses of hardened basalt. As far as the eye can see looking north from the escarpment, the fused volcanic cores stand starkly defying the elements. Overhead stretches the vast dome of a sky of the deepest blue, which spreads downwards as clear as sapphire to the mauve of the horizon.

The terrain which the Walia inhabits is from 2,300- 4,000 metres (7,500-13,500 ft.) but chiefly above 2,500 and below 3,000 (8,000-9,500ft.). The tiny remnant population which remains is now confined to a range of about twenty miles of the highest and steepest bays and buttresses of the northern escarpment. They are already extinct in all other parts of their range which once stretched from Byeda along the escarpment to Geech and AdisGey.

The narrow vertical range which they tend to occupy today would seem to be the result of persistent hunting. They have become extremely wary and shy and chosen to be unable to get from top or bottom. With protection maybe they will once again emerge on to the plateau.

Mountain sheep and goats have feet that are specially adapted for living in mountainous terrain. Their hooves have sharp edges and the undersides are concave, enabling them to adhere somewhat like suction cups. To watch even the youngest and smallest of the Walia kids gambolling about on slanted rocky ledges in a cliff face of terrifying steepness, a 500 metre drop only inches away, makes one catch one's breathe with anxiety. They never fall.

The males and the females both have horns, but the males' are bigger. Curving back in a graceful arc to the withers they sometimes attain a length of over 110 cm. The females are smaller in body and lighter in colour with shorter thinner horns. They live in small parties of two to half a dozen and the big old males often live alone except during the mating season. Because of the rarity of the animal, it is not often possible to observe a large male and one feels privileged to do so. The magnificent horns and striking colouration make it an unforgettable sight.

They are sturdily built animals standing about a metre high at the shoulder and weighing up to



120 kg. Their beautiful chocolate to chestnut brown coats shade to greyish brown round the muzzle, paler grey around the eyes, lower flanks, legs and rump, and pale grey or white on the belly and inside of the legs. There is a black stripe down the outside of the legs and a white garter on each fetlock broken in the hind legs by a black streak into the cleft of the hoof. Mature males sport an elegant black beard. The tail is short with a brush-like tuft of black hairs.

You can usually observe them when they come out on to the rocky ledges to sun themselves in the morning and evening. Little herds of females and young are not uncommon or even single females with a kid at foot. Sometimes you will see a yearling group of young males which can be distinguished by their paler greyer colour and the thickness of their small short

horns. They eat grass and herbs, but prefer to browse rather than graze, standing up on their hind legs like domestic goats to reach the tender shoots of giant heath. There is no shortage of food, as inside the forest of heath there is abundant forage of herbs and sweet soft grasses. They tend not to drink although water is plentiful; it is assumed that they get sufficient moisture from the green stuff on which they feed. They usually lie up in caves or thickets during the day, although this is not an infallible rule and I have observed them at

lunchtime - a group of youngsters playing in the sun.



The Walia's story is not yet ended. In 1963 it was classified by the IUCN as in danger of extinction. In that year the total number remaining alive was estimated at less than 200, probably 150.

Indiscriminate

hunting and destruction of habitat by local people had combined to drive the few remaining animals on to the vertical cliff sides for survival (only four adult males have been taken since 1956 by legitimate shooting). Fortunately before the end came the Ethiopian Government recognized the danger and, in 1965, drew up plans to establish a national park to protect both the habitat and its fauna, and the park was gazetted the same year. It was found that numbers had remained steady for two years, indicating that with protection they might increase fairly rapidly. Guards were appointed from Geech to Mietgogo to curb local poaching and illegal cultivation and burning of habitat. In the past fifteen years, numbers have increased steadily, as the females are still ready and willing to breed in the caves in the cliff face.

At the present time, not less than 10% of the cliff surface is composed of broad edges or green gullies in which Walia can feed. Brown estimates that this amount of land space can support a population of two or three thousand. The Walia has no natural enemies apart possibly from the occasional bird of prey, and thus with complete protection from Man they could be expected to recover their numbers and to double the present population in ten years.

Source: selamta

Bits and pieces of information of the happenings in Ethiopia.

WHAT IS HAPPENING



All of us (staff) attended a talent show competition programme of the kids organized by our volunteers working at OPRIFS (Organization for prevention, rehabilitation and integration of female street children), specially Alexander Gross and prize sponsored by Projects Abroad through Alex. Sami (Projects Abroad Ethiopia Director) was a judge of the competition it was very nice programme, some other volunteers also invited to the

show, three of the volunteers sing a song for the kids by playing guitar the children were so happy.

Festival for children at Kidanmihret Orphanage was organized by volunteers – Kristina was playing a major role in the organization of this party and she had invited all volunteers working other placement and Projects Abroad Ethiopia office staff; it was a wonderful party.

A group of volunteers did travel to different parts of Ethiopia; they enjoyed visiting the country a lot.





Volunteers organized a goodbye party for Kristina and John at a restaurant and it was wonderful for them to socialize by themselves.

The office organized a visit to Fistula Hospital, which is a charitable hospital working on Fistula problems – most of our volunteers from Australia are excited about the visit.



We had a monthly volunteers' dinner at Cultural Restaurant. It was good and there was live Ethiopian cultural music and some volunteers tried Ethiopian cultural dancing on stage – lots of fun.



Volunteers and staff members participated in the 2011 CBE Ethiopian Run International 10k; this run is organized by Ethiopian great run every year. It was an exciting experience.

Donation

David Savage, a Care volunteer from Australia, donated footballs, books, toy cars and toy Koala to his placement – A HOPE Ethiopia Child Development Center.

PROJECTS ABROAD ETHIOPIA OFFICE EVENT PROGRAMME - NOVEMBER 2011

DATE	TIME	PLACE	PROGRAMME	DESCRIPTION	EVENT IN CHARGE
Saturday, November 5	7:00 pm - 11:00 pm	2000 Habesha Traditional Restaurant	Volunteers dinner	All volunteers get together for dinner and Watch Ethiopian traditional Dance	Sami and Bikeseegn
Saturday, November 12	03:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Edna mall Cinema Hall	Watching English Cinema	There will be an English Movie and get together all volunteers	Bikeseegn
Sunday, November 13	1 :00 pm – 3:30 pm	KidanMihret orphanage	Festival for children at the orphanage	There will be a festival for children at the orphanage organized by one our volunteer called Kristina	Kristina
Friday, November 18	2:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Projects Abroad Ethiopia office	Workshop for Care and Teaching volunteers	Workshop will be organized for Teaching and Care volunteers.	Bikeseegn
Saturday, November 19	10:30 am – 2: 00 pm	Addis Ababa University	A Visit of Ethnographic Museum.	Visit of Ethnographic Museum at Addis Ababa University – Ethnographic collection.	Bikeseegn
Friday, November 25	2:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Projects Abroad Ethiopia office	Workshop for Care and Teaching volunteers	Workshop will be organized for Teaching and Care volunteers.	Bikeseegn
Saturday, November 26	09:30 am - 02:00 pm	Evangelical Theological Collage , Sar Bet	NGO market and hand craft event	Fantastic opportunity to see and buy a wide variety of Ethiopian souvenirs. There is a huge variety of beautiful fabrics, scarves, bags, jewelleries of all sorts and styles, baskets, woven plates and dishes, wooden arts, pottery in every style with lovely decoration and much, much more.	Bikeseegn
Sunday, November 27	7:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Meskel square	2011 CBE Ethiopian Run International 10 k	Volunteers and staff will participate on 2011 CBE Ethiopian Run International 10 k; this run is organized by Ethiopian great run every year.	Sami and Bikeseegn



A volunteer giving a prize to the girls at OPRIFS for winning the Talent Show



Talent Show winners showing their prize at OPRIFS



Volunteers having a snack



Group of Volunteers on their social



One of the Volunteers visits at
Blune Nile–North of Ethiopia



Traditional Boat riding at
lake Tana

For the students, by the students

By Kristina Fried – Journalism Volunteer from USA



Every year for the past four years Hill Side School has conducted a charity week in which money is raised by the student body in order to help those less fortunate. And this year was no different. Hill Side's Elementary School campus managed to raise over two thousand Birr, all of which is going to help finance the tuition of children who cannot afford an education on their own. In addition to the money they raised through games and sales, the students also personally

donated clothing to children living in orphanages.

The headmaster of Hill Side's Elementary School campus, Nathnael Abay, has been the heart and soul of this operation, explaining that charity week was initiated as a way to donate learning itself to those who need it most. "This is a private school," explained Abay, "the families sending their kids here are better off [than most]. We want to help the many kids who do not get a chance to learn."

As well as achieving this goal, charity week also provides valuable life lessons for the students of Hill Side. The students are involved in every aspect of charity week, from raising awareness about poverty and a lack of education to organizing activities to knowing how and to what end the money is spent. When asked about the role of the students in terms of physically giving to others, Abay said, "We take forty to fifty students every year to the orphanage where they themselves give." This means that the students have an opportunity to see what life is like beyond the safe haven of Hill Side. Ideally, of course, all 516 students of the elementary school campus would go to the orphanage; unfortunately this is not possible at the moment due to time and chaperoning constraints.

However, even students that do not get to go to the orphanage have a chance to participate actively in charity week. In the words of one teacher "the students are highly active, leading the games and collecting money." They learn to work together and to deal with responsibility, skills that will be extremely valuable in later life.

The students seem to have enjoyed charity week. In the inimitable words of a year seven student, "It was a very cool charity week." The upper school students, especially years seven and eight, organized games such as basketball, bowling and jumping numbers, which the lower school then

played, paying one to two Birr for each game. The students also sold sweets and had a dancing room in which traditional Ethiopian music was played and students could pay one Birr to dance. The most lucrative game was the Danger Zone. This 'game' consisted of a rectangle drawn on the ground with

chalk, and, in the middle, is a skull and crossbones. The concept was that whenever some hapless child stepped into the Danger Zone they would have to pay fifty cents. Seeing as Danger Zones were everywhere, they proved to be big money-makers. One student commented with a laugh, "By mistake I went into the Danger Zone and had to pay fifty cents for charity!"

The students also had an awareness program which took place the week prior to charity week. This was organized by the teachers and served to educate the students as to the reasons behind charity week and also to get them involved in the process of setting up the after-school games and sales. The teachers themselves were very involved in charity week and were headed by a committee of nine. It was their job to collect the money from the students running the games as well as



to remind the students every morning to bring money with which to play the games. The teachers were also in charge of making sure clothing was brought in by students to give to the children in the orphanage.

Of course, parents played a role in charity week as well, even if they stayed in the wings. The money that children brought to donate came from the parents, and "one mother came and gave us two hundred Birr," enthused Abay. When all three campuses of Hill Side school with all the students and parents, all of which participate in their own charity week, are taken into account, the scope for helping those in need is great.



Everyone seems to view this year's charity week as a great success. "We did what we wanted to do," commented one of the teachers at Hill Side Elementary School, "both in terms of helping others and educating the students as to our goals." The students also deemed the week a success. "We are helping [others] to learn, and in turn charity week helped us to be polite and willing to give a hand," said one upper school student about the week.

Another described the week as being "interesting and inspiring", and urges to "not think twice to give a hand."

ABOUT ETHIOPIA

Location

Horn of Africa.

Time

GMT + 3.

Calendar

Ethiopia uses the Julian calendar. This year is now 2002. Their New Year (Enkutatash) is on 11 September. Most Western countries now use the Gregorian Calendar.

Area

1,133,380 sq km (437,600 sq miles).

Population

82.5 million (2008).

Capital

Addis Ababa. Population: 3.6 million (2007).

Religion

Ethiopian Orthodox (Tewahido) and Coptic Church, mainly in the north, 40%; Islam, mainly in the east and south, 40%. There are also significant animist, Evangelical, Protestant and Roman Catholic communities.

History

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) of incumbent Premier Meles Zenawi won bitterly contested elections in May 2005. The elections this year in 2010 were far more peaceful and delivered Meles his fourth five-

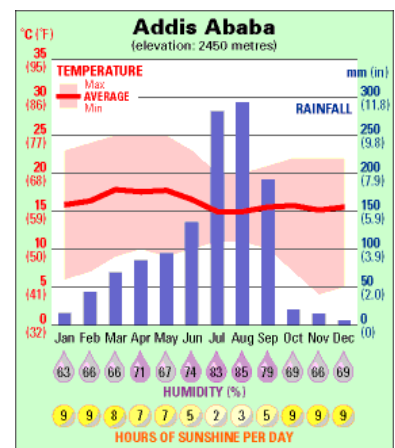
year mandate as prime minister. Ethiopia is currently enjoying a relatively stable political period despite a sharp increase in public support for opposition parties.



Language

Amharic is the official language, although about 80 other native tongues are spoken including Oromo, Somali and Tigrinya. English and Arabic are widely used and some Italian and French is spoken.

ADDIS ABABA CLIMATE



Electricity Supply



Electricity in Ethiopia is 220 volts AC, 50Hz.

Most modern electrical devices will accept input power supplies of 100~240v and 50/60Hz so they should work with a Ethiopian power supply.

Most Ethiopian hotels have 2-PIN round power sockets of various types that will accept the standard Europlug 2-pin plugs. Some places will

also have power adapters that are of Chinese origin and will accept most types of power plugs.

However, it is recommended you bring several 2-PIN round plug adapters to suit your equipment plugs.

ETHIOPIAN MONEY

Ethiopia's currency is called Birr. It's divided into 100 cents in 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, and there are 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 Birr notes.



One Birr note



Five Birr note



Ten Birr note



Hundred Birr note



Fifty Cents



One Cent



Five Cents



Ten Cents

SOCIAL MEDIA - PROJECTS ABROAD ETHIOPIA OFFICE

- ✓ Join our official Facebook Group: Projects Abroad Ethiopia - The Official Group

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/projectsabroad.ethiopia>

- ✓ Read our monthly newsletters

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/ethiopia/newsletters-from-ethiopia/>

- ✓ See what is going on with Projects Abroad! Read our Country Blog!

<http://www.mytripblog.org/pg/groups/2873/Ethiopia>



PRACTICAL INFORMATION ETHIOPIA

AREA

435184 sq.mi

AIRPORTS

Addis-Ababa international airport (Bole airport) is located 5 miles south-east of the capital.

SHOPPING

Fabrics, coffee, religious figurines, silver jewellery, rugs, icons, parchments, old books, ceramics. Shops are open Monday to Friday, from 8.00am to 12.30pm and from 3.30pm to 7.30pm; open Saturdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm and 3.00pm to 7.00pm.

LANGUAGES

There are about 70 languages and 200 dialects spoken in Ethiopia. Amharic, Ethiopia's official language since 1991, Tigrinya in the northern regions, and Orominya are the main languages spoken in Ethiopia. Besides their own language, many Ethiopians speak either English (the language of the higher social class), or Arabic.

RELIGION

45 to 50% of Ethiopians are Muslim (in the east and south). 35 to 40% of the population belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (especially in the north of the country). Others practise African cults such as Animism (about 12%).

CURRENCY

The currency is the Ethiopian Birr (ETB). £1 Sterling = 27.09 ETB.

You can get change at any bank in Ethiopia – if you bring Credit cards (Master and VISA) you can withdraw money from ATM Machines . Banks are open from 8.00am 4:00 , Monday to Friday, and from 9:00am pm from Monday to Staerday . Banks At big Hotels works every day from 8:00 am to 11 :00 pm

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Taxis:white and blue taxis rides are usually very inexpensive, Careful! Rates have to be negotiated before the ride if you are using private taxi

By car: there is the possibility to rent cars in Addis-Ababa car rental agencies. A valid international driving license is required if you want to drive

By plane: Ethiopian Airlines serves more than forty destinations.

ELECTRICITY

Voltage is 220. Adaptor needed.