



Assessment of Tourism Facilities, Opportunities  
and Challenges in the Bale Mountains National  
Park, Ethiopia

Geremew Mebratu Demissie

A thesis submitted to the College of Development  
Studies in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Masters of Arts in Tourism and  
Development Program

Centre for Environment and Development Studies  
Tourism and Development Program

Addis Ababa University

May, 2016

Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa University  
Center for Environment and Development Studies  
Tourism and Development Program

Assessment of Tourism Facilities, Opportunities  
and Challenges in the Bale Mountains National,  
Ethiopia

Geremew Mebratu Demissie

Approved by Board of Examiners

Name	Date	Signature
Advisor <u>Dr. Kassaye Begashaw</u>	_____	_____
Examiner _____	_____	_____
Examiner _____	_____	_____

# Abstract

Ethiopia has a lot of Tourism attractions which includes all types (natural, man-made and cultural). Regardless of the attractions availability, in the country, tourism development is low due to the tourism facilities under development. Bale Mountains National Park which endowed with miracles natural attractions also lacks expected tourism development and contributes minimum amount to the country's economy due to government's low investment towards providing sufficient tourism facilities. The challenge herein is not merely providing the necessary facilities to sustain tourism activities but rather a pro-active approach towards establishing and subsequently maintaining the facilities at its optimal level. The aim of this paper therefore is to identify critical aspects that need to be in place to further enhance the Bale Mountains National Park tourism development.

Thus, this research examine practices in tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development, identifies gaps, analyzes the current infrastructures, services and promotion of the park and recommends a framework for identifying, prioritizing, and funding tourism-specific infrastructures, services and promotions of the destination tourism development. If the park management and other concerned bodies implement the result of this research with the utilization of the opportunities, tourism facilities will get progress.

**Key words:** Tourism, Infrastructure, Service and Promotion

# Acknowledgement

My deep gratitude is for my advisor Dr Kassaye Begashaw who has been advising me since my thesis proposal. Dr Kassaye's concrete and very helpful guidance has made me to think broad concerning my research. Without his advice it was difficult to success; I would like to thank him again.

I would like thank my wife Yehualashet Mamo for her strong moral to get this success. My appreciation is for all who had given me moral while I was on training and thesis work. I have special thank for my elder and beloved brother Zerihun Mebratu who passed away while I was on progress of this thesis work; let me make this thesis for his memory.

# Table of Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Abstract -----	i
Acknowledgement -----	ii
List of Figures -----	vi
List of Tables -----	vi
List of pictures -----	vii
List of Maps -----	viii
Abbreviations and Acronyms -----	ix
<b>Chapter One</b> -----	<b>1</b>
1. Introduction -----	1
1.1. Background of the Research -----	1
1.2. Statement of Problems -----	4
1.3. Objectives of the Research -----	5
1.3.1. General -----	5
1.3.2. Specific -----	5
1.4. Research Questions -----	5
1.5. Significance of the Research -----	6
1.6. Limitations of the Research -----	6
1.7. Scope of the Research -----	6

<b>Chapter Two</b> -----	7
2. Review of Literature -----	7
2.1. Theoretical Literature on Tourism Facilities -----	7
2.2. Literature on the Global context (Tourism Facilities) -----	9
2.3. Literature on the Ethiopia Tourism Facilities -----	12
2.4. Literature on the BMNP Tourism Facilities -----	15
2.5. Conceptual Framework -----	19
<b>Chapter Three</b> -----	20
3. The Study Area and Methodology -----	20
3.1. The Study Area -----	20
3.1.1. Geographic Location and Climate -----	20
3.1.2. Tourism Attractions -----	22
3.1.3. The Community -----	26
3.1.4. Visitors and Revenue Generated -----	28
3.1.5. Tourism Facilities -----	30
3.1.6. Management -----	31
3.2. The Research Methodology -----	34
3.2.1. Data Sources -----	34
3.2.2. Sampling Technique -----	34
3.2.3. Data Collection Tools -----	37
3.2.4. Data analysis Methods -----	39

<b>Chapter Four</b> -----	40
4. Data Analysis and Discussions -----	40
4.1. Tourism Facilities Development -----	40
4.1.1. Tourism Infrastructures Development -----	40
4.1.2. Eco-tourism Associations and their Services	
Development -----	52
4.1.3. Tourism Promotions Development -----	62
4.2. Government Roles to Develop BMNP Tourism Facilities -----	66
4.3. Government Policy that Support BMNP Tourism Development	68
4.4. Opportunities and Challenges of BMNP Tourism Facilities	
Development -----	70
4.4.1. Opportunities -----	70
4.4.2. Challenges -----	76
<b>Chapter Five</b> -----	81
5. Conclusion and Recommendations -----	81
5.1. Conclusion -----	81
5.2. Recommendations -----	85
References -----	89
<b>Appendices</b> -----	92
Appendix 1: Interview Questions -----	92
Appendix 2: Basic Information about Key Informants -----	94
Appendix 3: Focus Group Discussion Questions -----	97
Appendix 4: Questionnaires for Tourists Survey -----	99

Appendix 5: Questionnaires for Households Survey -----	106
Appendix 6: Ethiopia endemic mammals found in the BMNP ---	110
Appendix 7: Ethiopia endemic birds found in the BMNP -----	112
Appendix 8: Reptiles in the BMNP -----	113
Appendix 9: Amphibians in the BMNP -----	114
Appendix 10: Fish in the BMNP -----	115
Appendix 11: BMNP endemic plants -----	115
Appendix 12: Mountains in the BMNP -----	117
Appendix 13: Rivers in the BMNP -----	118
Appendix 14: Basic information about BMNP staffs -----	119
Appendix 15: Basic information about tourists -----	121
Appendix 16: Basic information about households -----	122
Appendix 17: Trekking Routes in the Bale Mountains National Park	122

### **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Research -----	19
Figure 2: BMNP Ecotourism Associations' Benefit -----	27
Figure 3: BMNP Visitors Flow -----	28
Figure 4: BMNP Revenue from Tourism -----	29
Figure 5: BMNP Management Hierarchy -----	32

### **List of Tables**

Table 1: Description of BMNP Adjacent Woredas -----	20
Table 2: Sampling Description for Key Informants Interview --	35
Table 3: Sampling Description for Focus Group Discussion ---	35

Table 4: Sampling Description for Tourists Survey -----	35
Table 5: Sampling Description for Households Survey -----	36
Table 6: Rule of Population Sampling -----	36
Table 7: Dinsho and Bale Mountain Lodges Services Evaluation by Tourists -----	47
Table 8: Tourists' Campsites in the BMNP -----	51
Table 9: BMNP Tourists' Campsites Services Evaluation by Tourists	52
Table 10: BMNP ETA's Services Evaluation by Tourists -----	53
Table 11: BMNP Promotions and Website Operation Evaluation by Tourists -----	63
Table 12: Greeting/Welcoming and Availability of Information & Services Evaluation by Tourists during Arrival of Tourists at the BMNP Gate -----	64

### **List of Pictures**

Picture 1: Workshop on Tourism Day -----	18
Picture 2: Some Birds in the BMNP -----	22
Picture 3: Large Endemic Mammals in the BMNP -----	23
Picture 4: Some Plants in BMNP -----	24
Picture 5: Some Landscapes in the BMNP -----	25
Picture 6: Some Water Bodies in the BMNP -----	26
Picture 7: Focus Group Discussion with ETA Members -----	38
Picture 8: Dinsho Eco-lodge -----	48
Picture 9: Bale Mountain Eco-lodge -----	49
Picture 10: Sodota Tourists' Campsite -----	50

Picture 11: BMNP Reception and Nyala Guides Office -----	54
Picture 12: Porters Loading Horse on the Way Trekking to Sodota --	56
Picture 13: Kerensa Horse Renters and Borofa Porters Associations' Office -----	57
Picture 14: Bare Handicraft Association -----	59
Picture 15: Walinjiregna Firewood Provider Association -----	60
Picture 16: Coffee Provider Association at BMNP HQs -----	61
Picture 17: Museum at BMNP HQs Construction a Head -----	65
Picture 18: Sof Omar Caves -----	73
Picture 19: Dire Sheik Hussein -----	75
Picture 20: Some Illegal Activities -----	80
Picture 21: Key informants interview -----	96

### **List of Maps**

Map 1: BMNP Boundary -----	21
Map 2: Vehicle Roads and Trekking Routes Development in the BMNP -----	43

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

BMNP	Bale Mountains National Park
FZS-BMCP	Frankfurt Zoological Society-Bale Mountains Conservation Project
EWCP	Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program
EWCA	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority
EWCO	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization
MoCT	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
ETA	Ecotourism Associations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization
IUNC	International Union for Conservation of Nature
BMNPDP	Bale Mountains National Park Development Project
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
FDRoE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
MoED	Ministry of Economic Development
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
ILO	International Labor Organization
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
ETO	Ethiopian Tourism Organization

# Chapter one

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the Research

Tourism Development is wider issue internationally and in Ethiopia related to the industry covering attractions, the government: policy, capacity and manpower building up requirements. It has been identified as one of the key sectors propelling the country's economic growth and the ultimate beneficiaries of the sector development is the country people (MoED, 2011 – 2016).

The sector plays a crucial role for national economies throughout the world. A basic requirement for dealing with tourism development is the creation of good infrastructures, services and promotions. The sector is sensitive because it is service deliver sector for guests and generation of revenue from tourists. Thus, great care and quality service in all directions require for better development of a destination (Tourismos, 2012).

International tourism receipts doubled in sub-Saharan Africa in the last two decades from 1994, and continued its growth as it was projected. Africa has a larger share of world tourism than of global exports. Thus, is easy to see why tourism is increasingly seen as a priority sector in many African countries. Infrastructures, services and promotions core areas for the development of tourism not only in Africa but also throughout world (SNV, 2007).

In Ethiopia, tourism is at its infancy stage which is accompanied with multiple problems such as low infrastructures (roads, trekking routes, electricity, pure water etc), insufficient service of accommodations and low promotions (MoCT, 2014). Particularly the country many protected areas lack tourism specific facilities which makes the destination so as to not accommodate significant number of visitors (MoCT, 2013).

Bale Mountains National Park is outstanding tourism destination area with gifted biodiversity, hydrology and landscapes. The park tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development are also important for: tourism development of the destination, the adjacent community benefit from the sector and development of the national level tourism. The park stunning biodiversity, landscapes and water bodies give the area an outstanding beauty and attract domestic and international tourists. Regardless of its high tourism potentials the park tourism development is not the expected due to multiple problems among which insufficient and lack of tourism infrastructures, inadequate services and promotions gaps are the majors. All concerned bodies have been making their attempt for the progress of the tourism development of the park but still did not achieve the required goal (BMNP Office, 2007 – 2017).

Administration and awareness gaps of the park wardens and experts, inadequate budget allocation, lack of scientific research on the area and political influences are main causes of under development for BMNP tourism particularly tourism infrastructures, services deliver and promotions development. The surrounding communities share benefits from the park tourism activities; but the

underdevelopment of tourism facilities lead to minimum benefit of the community. Limitations of infrastructures, lack of quality services and promotions have direct negative impact on the park tourism development and undermine tourists' experience of the stunning landscapes and biodiversity of Bale Mountains National Park (Gezahegn Bedasa, 2015).

This research may have contribution to have significant number of tourists in the Bale Mountains National Park solving tourism specific infrastructures, services and promotions problems. The destination tourism development is nothing without development of tourism specific infrastructures, services and promotions.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Tourism industry is a booming industry that enriches knowledge, brings socio-cultural development and economic growth. But, there are lots of problems faced by tourists during their tour due to poor and low standard tourist facilities. These facilities are trekking and vehicle roads, campsites basic facilities such as mountain huts, toilet, kitchen etc, lodges, guiding and promotions. Bale Mountains National Park tourists flow and tourism development is in its infancy stage. The Park represents an important attractive destination for many tourists with its high tourism potentials that still considered the destination as the country prototype; but, the low level facilities undermines tourists experience in the destination. In addition, poor policy formulation and its low implementation made the destination not to develop.

The low level facilities, which are infrastructures, services and promotions May be results of government bodies lack of commitment, inadequate budget allocation for the sector development and bureaucratic & lazy administration of the destination. This has led to the under benefit of local communities, private sectors and the country as a whole. Therefore it is necessary to manage and plan every aspect relating to the development of tourism infrastructures, services and promotions to alleviate negative consequences that directly affect the facilities.

## **1.3. Objectives**

### **1.3.1. General**

The general objective of the study is to explore the competitiveness and growth of Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities development.

### **1.3.2. Specific**

- To identify existing and new tourism infrastructures, services and promotions and ways of their development
- To identify opportunities and challenges that affect development of tourism facilities in the Bale Mountains National Park.
- To assess federal and regional government roles on the development of Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities.
- To identify the policy and legal framework gaps to develop the destination tourism facilities (infrastructures, services and promotions)

## **1.4. Research Questions**

- How Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities will get improvement?
- How will the local community involve in the park tourism facilities development?
- Who are the main actors to curb the challenges of the development and use the opportunities?
- What are the roles of federal and regional government on the development of the park for tourism?
- Which federal and regional policies help and against to develop the park tourism?

## **1.5. Significance of the Research**

This research helps anybody who wants to undertake further research to investigate additional problems regarding tourism facilities development of BMNP and who wants to do related research in the park and around. It also helps the park management and concerned bodies to draft strategies and make policy regarding tourism facilities development of the park. The community is beneficiary from the park tourism activities if the findings are implemented; that means if this research analysis get acceptance and implemented to participate wide community in the sector.

## **1.6. Limitations of the Research**

Even though I did the research on the one of the park priority area for research I got minimum amount of budget from the project in the park (FZS-BMCP). Time is very important to cover whole parts of the research area with detail information; but the time I had was not sufficient. It was also too difficult to get reference materials which had done on the Bale Mountains National Park tourism specific facilities.

## **1.7. Scope of the Research**

The scope of this study is identifying existed and required Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities and analyzing gaps with what will be done to develop the destination tourism. Accordingly, vehicle and foot (trekking) routes, ecolodges, campsites basic facilities which includes: mountain huts, rest rooms and kitchen, ecotourism associations and promotion ways and means of addressing to target market development are the study area.

# Chapter Two

## 2. Review of Literature

### 2.1. Theoretical Literature on Tourism Facilities

Theoretically, in tourism industry, international tourism development requires the development of tourism specific infrastructures, services and promotions. Direct revenue derived from tourism is an important source of foreign exchanges for many countries and includes taxation revenue, which can be a significant part of government revenues in many countries, particularly small economies which greatly depend upon tourism. Wason (1998) identified forty (40) different taxes, which are, in practice, imposed on the tourism industry to boost government revenue through improving the sector facilities (**infrastructures, services and promotions**).

Among East Africa countries, Kenya is one of them which provide an example of a third world country that has embraced tourism as an important strategy for socio-economic development (Akama, 1999). This depended exclusively on agriculture for its foreign exchange earnings and economic development at the time it attained independence in 1963. However, as the prices of agriculture commodities fell on the world market, Kenya turned to the development of tourism as an alternative source of foreign exchange earnings, job creation and economic growth. At current time, Kenya is focusing on tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development to be better competitive in tourism sector with developed countries. In the work by Akama (1999) the evolutionary trends of Kenya tourism have been studied and aligned to the Butler's Resort Cycle as an analytical tool.

Tourism facilities which include campgrounds, picnic sites, trails, buildings, visitor centers, staging areas, water and sewer systems, and all other infrastructures supports park visitor experiences. To enhance the development of the facilities government, local communities, partners & stakeholders of destinations etc should play their role for better experience of visitors. Throughout world both developed and developing countries have limitations in tourism sector regarding tourism specific infrastructure, service and promotion. Thus, we need to solve insufficiency and lack of the areas development (Alberta, 1991).

Job creation in the Global Travel and Tourism Industry is growing one-and-half times faster than any other sector. The industry is labor intensive and it employs about 200 million people worldwide. In Kenya, it offers employment to well over 138,000 segments in direct employment and 360,000 in indirect. Most of the jobs created in the industry require semi-skilled labor and this has enabled many locals to benefit from employment provided by hotels, lodges and other tourist facilities located in marginalized areas. The motivation to train and employ locals is fuelled by the corporate social responsibility (SNV, 2007).

It must also be ensured that the maximum benefit of tourism is passed on to the community and economic growth is supported through domestic value creation and tourism infrastructure, service and promotion development of a destination. So that we can ensure all direction progress of tourism and can be competitive with other developed heritage places. Including Sri Lanka many countries do not develop their tourism regardless of their tourism attraction potentials (MoED, 2011-2016).

Handcraft sales can be a vital opportunity for community without formal skills to participate in tourism; it helps directly for poverty reduction. A number of

international organizations or NGO initiatives are working on improving quality of crafts and supporting access to local and international markets. Revenue sharing scheme: Projects are initiated by the local governments & Districts. They must impact on social economic development and on the poor including conservation components. The major areas for the conservation and benefit of the community are tourism infrastructure, service and advertisement of tourism attractions of a county (SNV, 2007).

## **2.2. Literature on the Global Context (Tourism Facilities)**

Tourism facilities need for the travel and tourism industry range from physical infrastructures such as ports of entry to modes of transport to urban infrastructures such as access roads, electricity, water supply, sewerage and telecommunication. The sectors related to the travel and tourism industry include airlines, surface transport, accommodation (hotels), and infrastructure and facilitation systems, among others. To harness tourism potential, several efforts are being taken for opening new destinations and exploring niche segments (Martha and Raymond, 2009).

However, infrastructure facilities such as air, rail, road connectivity, and hospitality services at many destinations and the connecting cities are inadequate. Moreover, many tourist circuits depend on roads. Despite numerous efforts to improve road infrastructure, connectivity remains a major problem. There is a greater need for strengthened road and rail network, development of more expressways, and tourist-specific routes to improve connectivity to various locations across different regions (Martha and Raymond, 2009).

Aviation infrastructure is also critical since it is a major mode of entry for inbound tourism. Passenger traffic is expected to increase in the coming years; however infrastructure facilities at airports are cause for concern. Expansion and development of airports at major gateway cities is underway to cater to the increasing passenger traffic. However, in addition, airport facilities at important secondary cities and tourist destinations also need to be improved to be able to handle greater passenger traffic. Amenities available at various tourist locations and en route need to be improved. These include basic amenities such as drinking water, well maintained and clean waiting rooms and toilets, first aid and wayside amenities (to meet the requirement of the tourists travelling to tourist destinations) such as lounge, cafeteria, and parking facilities, among others (SNV, 2007).

Availability of skilled manpower is a major challenge faced by the travel and tourism industry, one of the largest employment generators in many countries. To sustain growth in the travel and tourism industry, trained manpower/ workforce is required at every level managerial, supervisory, skilled or semi-skilled. Challenges faced at each level are different. At mid and senior management levels, the industry faces talent crunch and at the front-line staff level, although human resources are adequate, a boom in other service industries such as banking, retail, airline etc have resulted in shortage of manpower at this level for the travel and tourism industry. High proportion of untrained manpower would adversely affect quality of services offered to the tourists. Attrition, shortage of tourism training infrastructure, qualified trainers, and lack of proper strategies and policies for human resource development also affect the industry. The industry needs to address these problems at the earliest (MoED, 2011-2016).

Marketing and promotion of tourist destination is critical for the industry to achieve its potential. Lack of adequate budgetary support for promotion and marketing, compared with competing tourist destinations, is a major reason for lagging behind a tourist destination. There is a need to develop a unique market position and the brand positioning statement should capture the essence of countries' tourism products: i.e., should be able to convey an image of the product to a potential customer. Travel and tourism is a high-taxed industry, which makes many countries expensive as a tourist destination. This is affecting the growth of the industry and leads to losing out to other low-cost destinations. Inbound tourism is the one most affected. Various taxes are levied across the entire industry right from tour operators, transporters, airline industry to hotels and these include service tax, luxury tax, tax on transportation, tax on aviation turbine fuel (airline industry), and various taxes on transportation. In addition, these tax rates tend to vary across different states in a country (SNV, 2007).

Security has been a major problem as well for growth of tourism for a number of years. Terrorist attacks or political unrest in different parts of different countries have adversely affected sentiments of foreign tourists. Terror attacks at Mumbai, India in November 2008 dealt a strong blow to tourism in the country. The terror attacks raised concerns of safety. In addition, insurgency in different parts of countries also mars countries' image as a safe destination (Tourismos, 2012).

Continuous awareness and training for communities, staffs of destinations, associations in the destinations etc has role to commit these concerned bodies to deliver better service for visitors. Among the challenges in tourism and hospitality industry is lack of skill and knowledge of the sectors, less/lack of commitment and

unethical service have big share. Many countries in the world for their tourism and hospitality industry development they are making maximum effort through opening colleges to train experts and lower level staffs (Martha and Raymond, 2009).

Cooperate working with airlines; travel agents and tour operations help destinations for its promotion. Airlines organizations and tourism destinations will have mutual benefit by promoting each other and travel agents & tour operations are more beneficiary if they closely work with tourism destinations. It is also good opportunity to have better accommodations by introducing investors on the sectors. Investors will build lodges, hotels etc in and around destinations (MoCT, 2014).

Other opportunity is if destinations experts make assessment of their destinations infrastructure, service and promotion at least once a year and analyze gaps the problems are known and solution will have given immediately or the immediate organization will include them in the next year annual plan and solve at the time. Unless research and assessment get consideration even with adequate budget, better commitment and skilled experts and leaders tourism sector problems will not clear (Tourismos, 2012).

### **2.3. Literature on the Ethiopia Tourism Facilities**

Ethiopia scores one of the worst rankings in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2015 compiled by World Economic Forum: 134/141 in tourist service infrastructure, 118/141 in overall global ranking and 17/28 in Eastern and South Eastern African region. About 10 % of the travellers have changed planned number of days to be spent in Ethiopia. Of the six tourists who elongated their stay, three of them

didn't explain why, two of them are interested in tourist sites and needed more time and one of them was a business man who needed to get more friends. Among the seven tourists who decided to shorten their stays, 'bad roads' disappointed two of them and the other two quoted language difficulties as a problem while three of them didn't respond to the question (Yabibal Mulualem, 2010).

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is appreciating the problems of tourism sector and giving special attention to the matter, and recognizing the necessity of creating a strong government organ to lead the sector, has established the Ministry of Culture and Tourism under Proclamation Number 471/2005, enacted to redefine the powers and duties of the organs of the Federal Government (MoCT, 2009).

The Federal Government, Regional Governments, tourism associations and training institutions, private sector tourism facilities, donors, development organizations, transportation companies, media representatives and influential personalities are a key role players to develop Ethiopia's tourism sector specially tourism specific facilities (infrastructures, services and promotions) to progress this country's tourism industry (Ethiopia's Media, 2008).

Among the services given by the ETO, is provision of tourist information. The Tourist Information Office receives tourists and gives information about areas known for tourism resources. The service is based on the preference of the tourists but it also guides those who come without pre-determining their destination site visits. The institution updates all of the existing conditions in the tourist attraction places. Because some of the attractions may have inadequate infrastructure or challenges of

access, there may be conflict. As one expert explained, ETO also repairs tourist attraction sites such as the Lalibela Monasteries where, in an effort to preserve the site, people residing in the monasteries were relocated and given compensation. With all these challenges in the tourism sector; currently, the tourism sector is contributing a 4.8 per capital share to the total GDP of the country. Its GDP contribution has increased from 4.2 per capital in 2013 (Lucy Kassa, 2015).

The has imagined Ethiopia's food and accommodation services to be lower than an average African country service, another aspect of the image problem. The image for food and beverage facilities has improved after visiting while the improvement for accommodation is insignificant. Lack of improvement in the rankings shows that tourists are not satisfied with the services and they are most likely to certify the negative images their friends or countrymen have thereby perpetuating the poor image Ethiopia has in the minds of world (Yabibal Mulualem, 2010).

With respect to competence of trained human resources, operating system, and institutional capacity that the sector demands, the following weaknesses are observable. Human resources already deployed in the sector and those needed for new deployment are limited in terms of type, number and quality. There is a shortage of highly trained and moderately trained manpower that is crucial to the development of the sector. Branding and market positioning based on timely studies are not in use. There are capacity limitations among tourism stakeholders, and mutual support and coordination of efforts among them have not been strengthened (MoCT, 2009).

Enhancing the development impacts of tourism by properly developing and utilizing the tourism potential with which the country is endowed is a matter deserving focus. Accordingly, in order to realize the development of tourism facilities and to enable the sector to effectively contribute to the country's current effort to eliminate poverty, it is necessary to lead the development of the sector within appropriate policy and strategic framework. Hence, this policy has been formulated ([www.abyssinialaw.com](http://www.abyssinialaw.com), 2015).

## **2.4. Literature on the Bale Mountains National Park Tourism**

### **Facilities**

The high altitude area of the park are best visited on horseback, to fulfill this the park horse rent association has limitation providing quality horse with required materials. Guiding service, porting, cooking and handicraft & wood providing have also big limitations due to the members of associations' skill gap and unethical service (EWCO, 1986).

Bale Mountain Lodge in the Katcha clearing of the Harena forest is undoubtedly the best accommodation in the Bale area. The lodge boasts 15 double rooms and offers activities in and around the clearing related to the forest flora and fauna. A resident naturalist is on hand to provide advice and information and the lodge is an excellent place from which to explore the plateau, forest and valley from the comfort of a modern and welcoming lodge. Booking is required in advance as the lodge is often full (BMNP office, 2013).

Provision of support from Oromia Tourism Development and Promotion Department, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and Ethiopian Tourism Organization

should assist with the development of promotional materials, website development & operation, support for development of exhibit to promote the park (Gezahegn Bedasa, 2015 and MoFED FDRoE, 2003).

Guiding and trekking services are also poorly organized, and there are many complaints from visitors, especially about the park rangers who accompany trekking tour but are generally regarded as a nuisance. Interpretive facilities are also poor, although FZS-BMCP, EWCP and BMNP have made a valiant effort. The poor reputation of the park service of course has an impact on visitors as well and efforts to promote the park and to raise awareness about its outstanding scenic features and other values have been very limited (MoFED FDRoE, 2003).

As things stand, the tourism related benefits that accrue at the community level are practically very limited, Ecotourism associations in the park are not sufficient representative of the community because they are very limited in number. Despite all these problems it has long been recognized that the parks outstanding scenery and unique wildlife has been potential to attract a very significant level of tourism. Thus become an important force in the local economy. Park related tourism can generate revenue and stimulate the economy through a variety of direct and indirect means, including: Entrance fee, parking, lodge operation, guiding, cooking, horse renting, handicraft providing, porting materials (assisting guests on whatever support they want), wood providing etc (MoFED FDRoE, 2003 and BMNP office, 2007 – 2017).

Tourism related output will involve either the preparation or the review of tourism development plan and its approval by concerned stakeholders. This will identify the

key tourism products, infrastructure and other investments needed that the park is potentially able to offer. It can be assumed that the development of one or more new lodges will be a top priority, as this undoubtedly must be the cornerstone of all efforts to expand tourism within the park. In theory, even in park facilities can be managed in such a way as to contribute directly towards community welfare as well as the management authority (MoFED FDRoE, 2003).

With a favorable regulatory and investment climate for the development of imaginative and good quality trekking experiences the BMNP could generate very significant revenues from trekking visitors. The BMNP could certainly become one of the best places in Africa for this kind of experience – either as a stand-alone destination or in combination with others. There is scope to develop both ‘basic’ trekking experiences and to capture the large, global market for more trekking experiences which involve more comfortable accommodations such as networks of imaginative and comfortable campsites and also simple eco-lodges or guesthouses (BMNP office, 2015).

Involving communities directly and indirectly in tourism, in a culturally and socially acceptable manner, is a key tenet of tourism development in BMNP. It is important to ensure that communities are taken into consideration in any partnerships between BMNP and private investors, for example by ensuring local staffing, the purchasing of local produce and services, and benefit sharing. Additionally, community tourism development is a growing area and there are a number of such initiatives within Ethiopia and the wider region (BMNP office, 2007-2017).

To develop Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities various meetings and workshops have been undertaken with its partners and stakeholders since the establishment of the destination at woredas level, at zones level, at regional level and at federal level. These meetings and workshops have contributed for the sector development (*BMNP office, 2015*). But from my observation of the meetings and workshops held since 2009 comparing with number of discussions the contribution is nothing; this will be due to implementation problems and lack of skill and commitment (experts and leaders).



Picture 1: Workshop on Tourism Day at Wabe Shebele Hotel (Goba)

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (2013)

## 2.5. Conceptual Framework

The whole research process is represented by the following figure. Each box has its own interpretation which is described as follows in short. Tourism facilities development is the general area of development that will bring progress of Bale Mountains National Park Tourism development while infrastructures, services and promotions are the three core areas of tourism facilities development. Inadequate budget allocation, less/or lack of government bodies commitment, BMNP management members gap of skill, knowledge and commitment and poor cooperation work with partners and stakeholders are factors that negatively affect the development of tourism facilities.

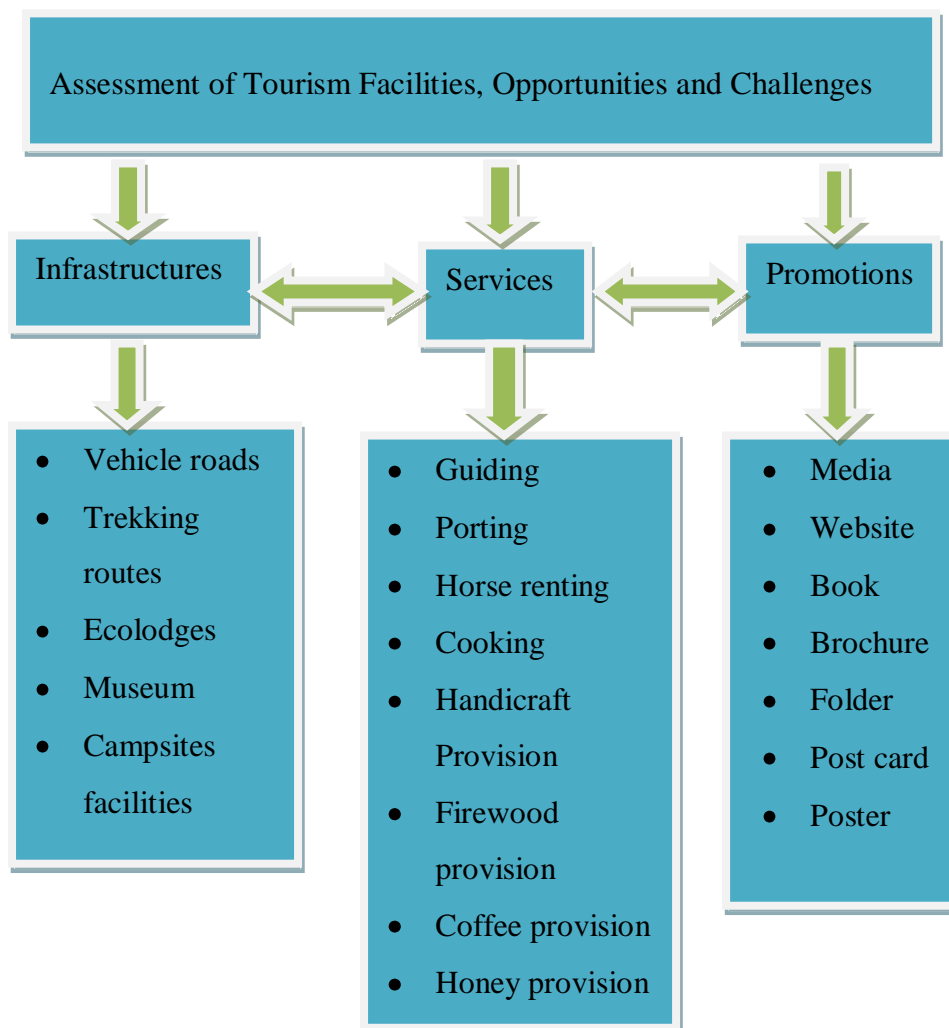


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Research (Own formulation) (December 2015)

# Chapter Three

## 3. The study area and Methodology

### 3.1. The Study Area

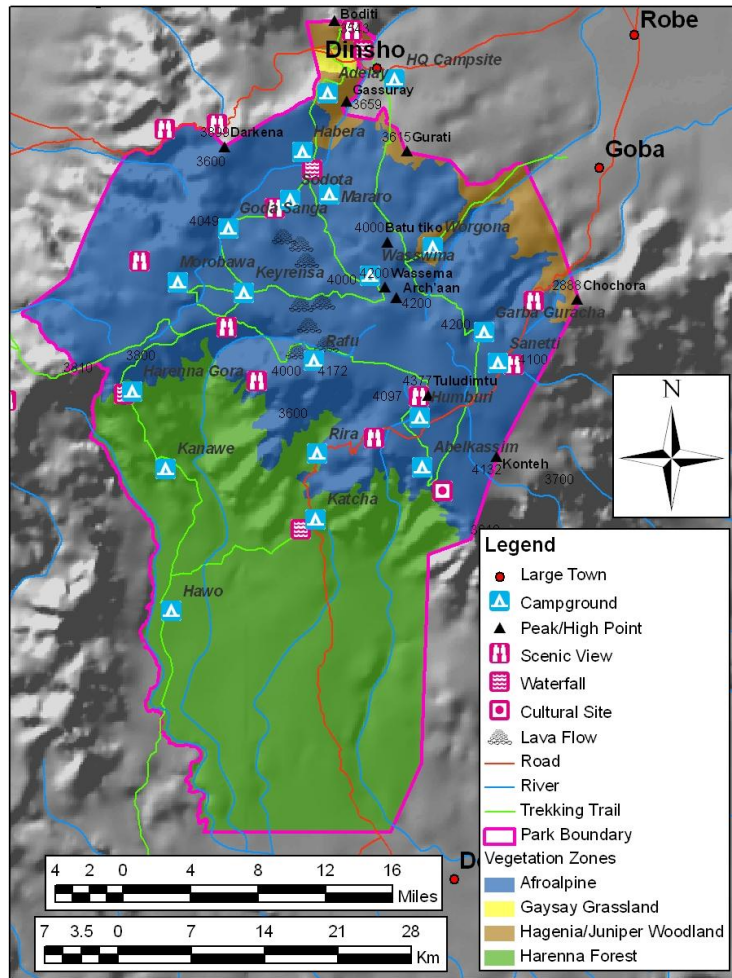
#### 3.1.1. Geographic Location and Climate

Bale Mountains National Park is located in Ethiopia South East of Oromia Regional State. It is found between two Oromia Zones which are Bale and West Arsi. From Bale zone four woredas and from West Arsi zone one woreda surrounds the park (BMNP Office, 2007-2017, Anteneh Gezahegn, 2012 and observation). The woredas location and their respective zones are as follows.

Table 1: Description of BNMP Adjacent Woredas

SN	Woreda name	Direction from BMNP	Location (Zone)
1	Dinsho	North	Bale
2	Goba	North East	Bale
3	Delo mena	South	Bale
4	Harena Buluk	South West	Bale
5	Adaba	West	West Arsi

Source: (BMNP office, 2007-2017 and Anteneh Gezahegn 2012)



Map 1: Bale Mountains National Park Boundary

(BMNP Website: [www.balemountains.org](http://www.balemountains.org) (February 2016))

Its area is 2150 km<sup>2</sup> and stretches 53 km East to West and 74 km North to South. The park is encompassed within geographical coordinates of 6°29' – 7°10'N and 39°28' – 39°57'E and covers the largest area above 3000 m above sea level in Africa. Tulu Dimtu, altitude 4377m above sea level is the highest peak in the park and the second highest peak in Ethiopia (BMNP office, 2007 – 2017 and EWCO, 1986).

There is huge variation in climate over the area of the BMNP, primarily as a consequence of the great variation in altitude and by the bulk of the massif, which

attracts orographic rainfall. The lower altitude receives 600 – 1,000mm rainfall annually, whereas the higher altitude receives up to 1,200mm. As to be expected, the temperature falls with increasing altitudes. The lowest temperature that has been recorded in the mountains is  $-15^{\circ}$  at night and the highest recorded temperature is  $26^{\circ}$  within 24-hour period (Stuart, 2002 and BMNP office, 2007-2017).

### 3.1.2 . Tourism Attractions

#### Faunas

In Bale Mountains National Park there are above 78 mammals; among which 20 are endemic to our country. For instance mountain nyala, Ethiopian wolf, Menelik’s bush back, Bale monkey, Starck’s hare and Giant molerat. The park endowed with more than 310 bird species among which 6 of them are endemic to the Ethiopia. In the park there are also tourism potentials of reptiles, amphibians and fish (BMNP office, 2007-2017).



Picture 2: Some birds in the BMNP

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (2012 and 2014)



Picture 3: Large Endemic Mammals in the BMNP

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu except Bale Monkey which is by Sena Gashe  
(2012-2015)

### **Floras**

About 1660 plant species; 160 are endemic to Ethiopia and 31 are strictly endemic to Bale Mountains National Park are found in the destination. Among the plant species

Hagenia abyssinica, Juniperus procera, podocarpus facultas and Phytolaca dodecundra are some of them (BMNP Office, (2007 – 2017)).



Picture 4: Some Plants in the BMNP

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (2012-2014)

### **Landscapes**

BMNP marvelous landscapes have also outstanding view for tourists. Tulu Dimtu, mount Batu, mount Wasama, mount Adele, mount Boditi, Senate plateau and Harena Forest escarpment are among the wonderful landscape attractions. The park ranges between 1,500 m and 4,377 m altitude above sea level.



Picture 5: Some Landscapes in the BMNP

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (2012 and 2013)

### **Hydrology**

Bale Mountains National Park has high water catchment which includes five big rivers, above forty tributaries of the big rivers and alpine lakes. There are also many water falls in the park such as Habera water fall found at the gate of the mooreland, Gusa Waterfall found in the Harena forest and many others in the Harena forest (BMNP office, and Observation, 2016).



Picture 6: Some Water Bodies in the BMNP

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (2012 and 2013)

### 3.1.3. The Community

Around Bale Mountains National Park there are large communities. Their culture, religion, language and living style are much interacted. Most of the communities are Oromo people whose religion is Muslim (the dominant), Orthodox Christianity (second in number) and there are some Protestants (website: [www.balemountains.org](http://www.balemountains.org)).

The people's livelihood strategies mainly depend on farming and livestock rearing. The local people livelihood supports are poorly resourced. There has been and continues to be a strong interaction between the communities and the park. Limited livelihoods alternatives combined with rapidly increasing human population are putting heavy pressure on the park's natural resources (Anteneh Gezahegn, 2012).

The community has multiple negative impacts on the park tourism development. Human settlement, livestock overstocking, agricultural expansion and wood extraction resulting from immigration and population growth are those that are currently considered the most severe and widespread and hence, the most destructive to ecosystem health in the BMNP. These impacts have direct negative influence on tourism development of Bale Mountains National Park (*Observation*).

In other words, the community is benefiting from the park tourism activities; but the benefit is concentrated for the communities around the park headquarters (Dinsho). There are eight ecotourism associations on the field of guiding, porting, horse renting, cooking and handicraft, wood, honey & coffee providing have been serving tourists. The total number of members of the associations' is 160. This is really surprising 2150 km<sup>2</sup> wide park with its outstanding biodiversity, landscape and hydrology benefits these few number of community out of about 50 thousand adjacent residence (Gezahegn Bedasa, 2015).

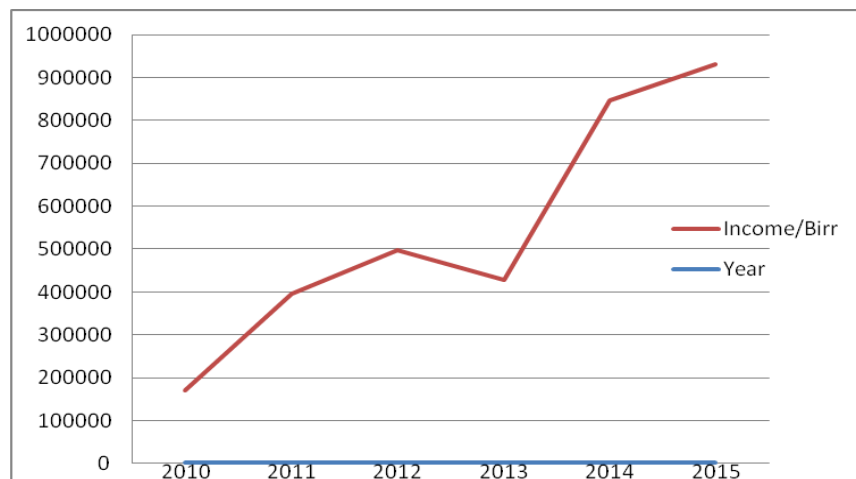


Figure 2: BMNP ETA's Benefit

(Geremew Mebratu, 2014, Addisu Tsegaye, 2014 and Gezahegn Bedasa, 2015)

Figure two shows us ecotourism associations benefit from tourism activities in the Bale Mountains National Park. We can observe that the figure indicates increment income except in 2013 which was due to shortage of visitors stay in the destination. As a whole, according to the park office analysis of the income growth, it is due to number of tourists rise because the opportunities in and around the park such as better road (asphalt) from Shashemene to Goba, Bale Robe airport and ecolodges establishment and service improvement (Dinsho Bale Mountain ecolodges).

### 3.1.4. Visitors and Revenue Generated

Main source of visitors are Europe and America Continents. There is also significant number of domestic visitors whose number is increasing from time to time. Students mainly come from Mada Walabu, Hawasa, Dila and Adama universities and from different colleges; in addition come from surrounding primary and secondary schools.

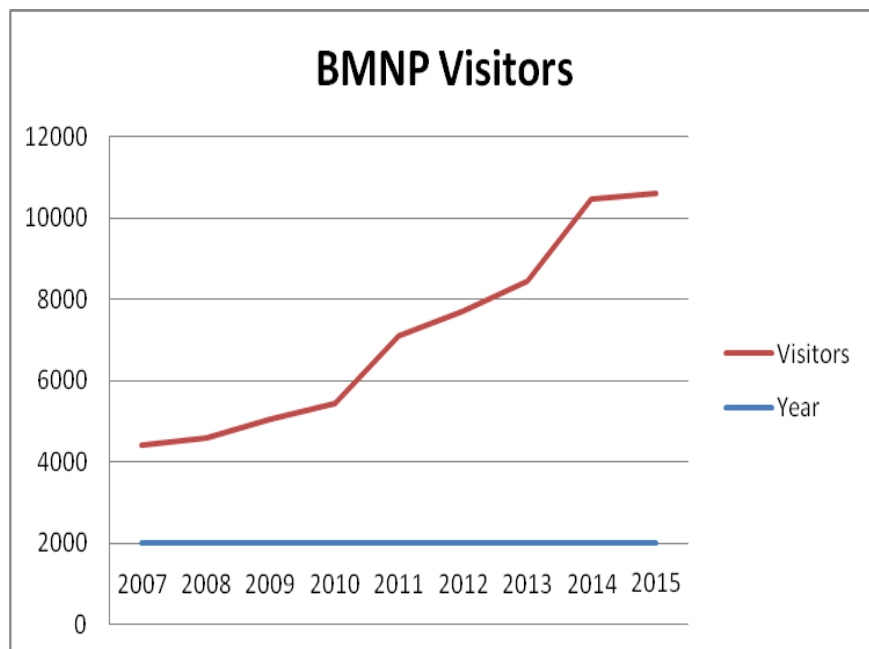


Figure 3: BMNP Visitors Flow

(Geremew Mebratu, 2014 and Gezahegn Bedasa, 2015)

Figure three shows us rise visitors continuously; this is due to opportunities from the park mangement and government. Among the opportunities: asphalt road from Shashemene to Bale Goba, Bale Robe airport establishment and ecolodges establishment and service improvement are the majors.

Bale Mountains National Park office has been generating revenue from the tourism activities of the park which include: entrance, parking, campsite, plane landing and filming fees. Although the fee is too small in comparison with tourism attraction of the park it shows progress.

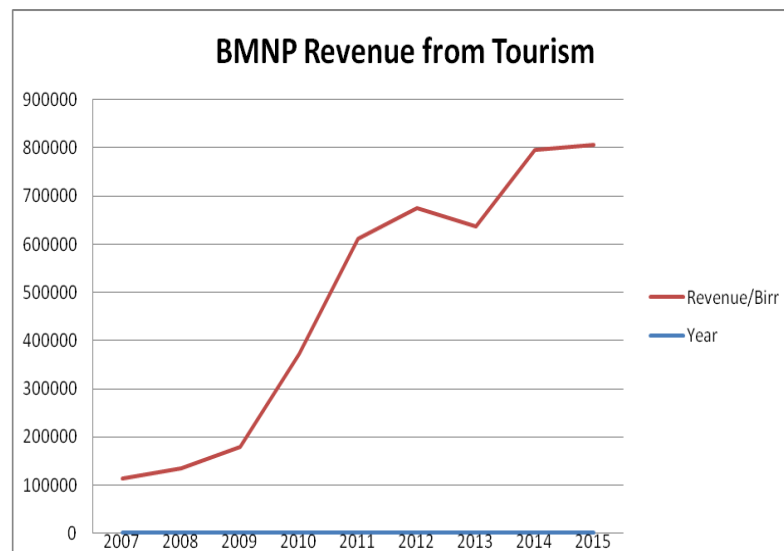


Figure 4: BMNP Revenue from Tourism Activities

(Geremew Mebratu, 2014 and Gezahegn Bedasa, 2015)

Figure four shows BMNP tourism revenue rise continuously except in 2013 which is a little bit less than the previous year (2012) due to shortage of visitors in the destination; otherwise the increament the revenue directly linked with the tourists

whose number has been increasing because of the opportunities (accessibilities and accommodation); see the opportunities explained under figures 2 and 3 above.

### **3.1.5. Tourism Facilities**

#### **Infrastructures**

Tourism to BMNP is limited by the lack of facilities through the loss of the lodge and by lack of awareness of the parks attractions on the part of the tourism authorities. Facilities for tourists almost occur in the north of the park at Dinsho and at Rira (Southern part of the park) in Rira Haji Kemal lodge and Bale Mountain lodge. Elsewhere in the park tourists have to be self-contained with regard to shelter, food and fuel and there are only three roads for vehicles in the park which are in Gasea grassland (6 km public road and 3 km off the main road), Goba to Delo Mena (84 km public road), at the park headquarters (1.5 km) and Dinsho to Sodota (22 km). These roads except 6 km public road in Gasea Grassland lack basic maintenance and during summer mud is too difficult to drive (Observation and BMNP office, 2015).

The Dinsho lodge is private rent and has poor facilities such as bathrooms and public rooms. It is also very limited in rooms, such that it is not uncommon to see tourist parties camping in the lodge grounds. With such standard of accommodation, it is perhaps unsurprising that tourist visitation to Bale is low, and limited to hardier types willing to suffer the hardships of Dinsho (observation and BMNP office 2015).

#### **Services**

Tourism services would be improved with campsites trekking huts, establishment of lodges, giving proper training for the staffs and associations members, hiring required

experts and giving them activities to carryout etc. There should be also regular assessment and analysis of tourism based infrastructure, service and other facilities. Care must be taken to ensure that the impact of visitors on the environment they are coming to see is fully considered. This includes visitors permitted, the provision of accommodation & fuel facilities, the means for correct disposal of rubbish and other wastes, and the provision of transport facilities (Geremew Mebratu, 2014).

### **Promotions**

Promotion of Bale Mountains National Park is still in its early stage. The park office with its partners and stakeholders have been trying to progress the destination promotion through website, media, published and non-published materials, workshops, exhibitions and other; but inadequate budget allocation for the sector, lack of commitment and skill gap of the park: wardens and experts, partners and government bodies (Observation and BMNP office, 2015).

### **3.1.6. Management**

Bale Mountains National Park since its establishment has passed through different administration hierarchies. The current administration of the park is under EWCA. Management structure of BMNP seems superb; but many staffs in the office and scouts are under question mark with their skill, commitment and physical fitness (scouts) to accomplish require activities.

In the park there are Nongovernmental organizations and ecotourism associations which accomplish tasks with the park office recognition. Currently there are two NGOs which are Frankfurt Zoological Society-Bale Mountains National Park

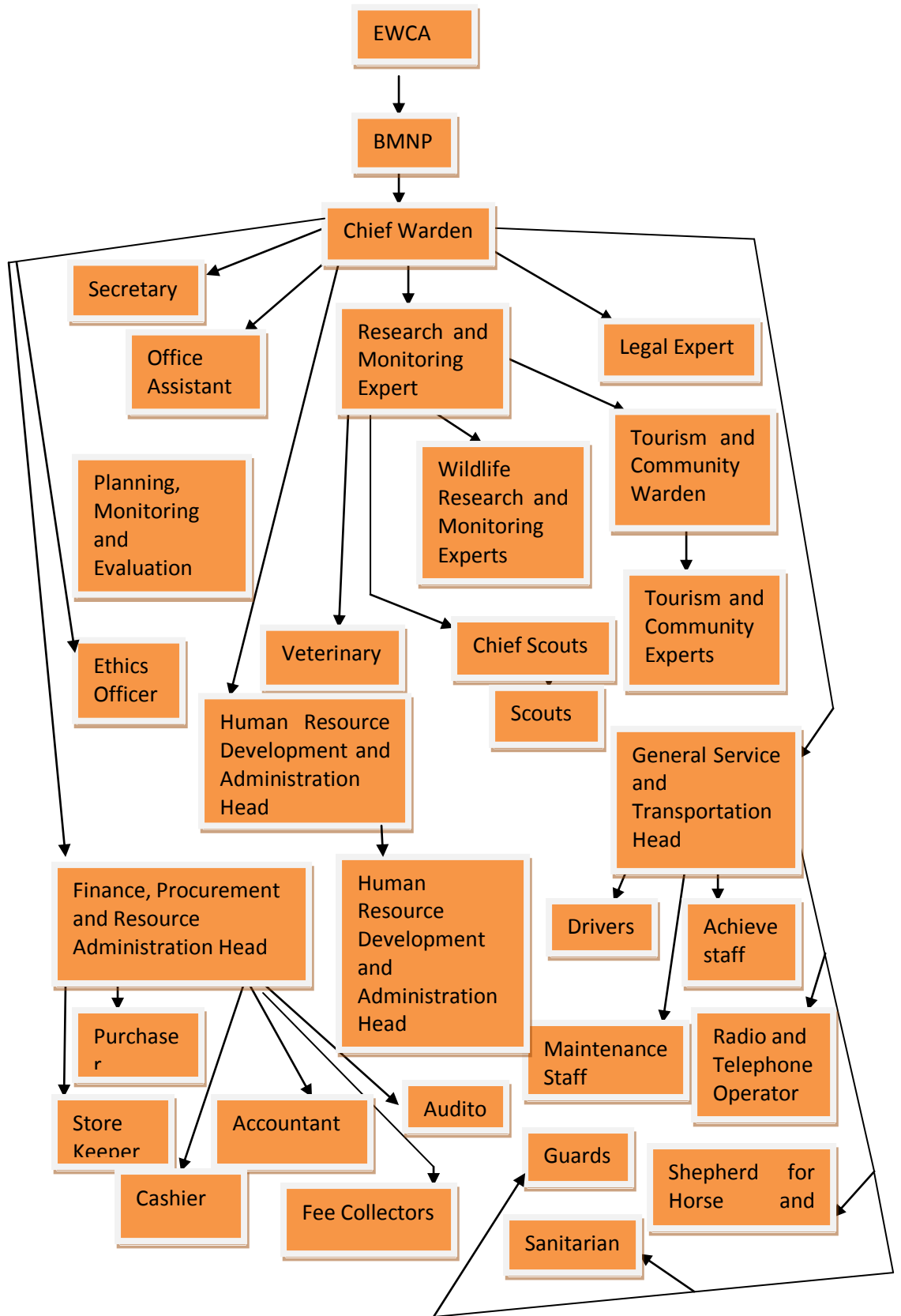


Figure 5: BMNP Management Hierarchy (Source: BMNP office/Own Formulation) (December 2015)

Conservation Project (FZS-BMCP) and Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program (EWCP) which number of staffs 32 and 25 respectively. FZS-BMCP supports the park conservation and tourism activities development both technically and financially. EWCP supports conservation of Ethiopian Wolf monitoring and vaccinating the species.

Since 2006 Bale Mountains National Park office has been establishing ecotourism associations which number is eight currently (has already established). These associations are Nyala Guides, Borofa Porters, Kerensa Horse Renters, Jedala Farda Cook, Bare Handicraft Providers, Walinjiregna wood providers, Honey providers and coffee providers. All these associations support the management tasks. There are also other associations which are on the way to establish.

## **3.2. The Research Methodology**

### **3.2.1. Data Sources**

This study has used both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary sources include: BMNP, FZS-BMCP, EWCP, BMNP ETA, the park stake holders staffs, Local communities and tourists. The secondary sources include: books, research papers, management plans and other published and non-published materials.

### **3.2.2. Sampling Technique**

Bale Mountains National Park is selected for sample study because the destination has huge tourism attraction potentials. Candidates for interview and focus group discussion have planned to use *deliberate sampling technique*. This is because they are key informants to give the aimed information. Kebeles are selected randomly which are adjacent to BMNP using simple *random sampling technique* and the survey of households' also undertaken using *simple random sampling technique*.

Tourists are also my source to fulfill the research with sufficient information and to get all directions idea. This will be a big input for the study due to tourists are the target market for the destination and has practical global view idea of tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development. Questionnaire will be distributed to tourists using simple random sampling system.

Table 2: Sampling Description for Key Informants' Interview

SN	Description	Interviewee Organizations						Total
		BMNP	FZS-BMCP	EWCP	ETA	Bale Mountain Lodge	Dinsho Lodge	
1	Total population	96	32	25	160	29	7	349
2	Sampled size	16	3	1	6	1	1	28

Table 3: Sampling Description for Focus Group Discussion

SN	Description	No of Ecotourism Association members
1	Total population	160
2	Sampled size	12

Table 4: Sampling Description for Tourists Survey

SN	Description	Population size
1	Total tourists	8606 (2015 trend)
2	Number of tourists sampled	259

Table 5: Sampling Description for Households Survey (Local Community)

SN	Description	Woredas			Total
		Dinsho	Goba	Delo Mena	
1	Total kebeles	5	5	8	18
2	Kebeles sampled	1 (Gofingira)	1(Fasil Angeso)	1 (Wabero)	3
3	Selected Kebeles' Household size	2814	618	2706	6130
4	Sampled size of households	141	62	135	338

Table six below shows us population sampling rules which called (Rule of Thumb).

Table 6: Rule of Population Sampling

SN	Size of Population	Sampling Percent
1	0-100	100%
2	101-1,000	10%
3	1,001-5,000	5%
4	5,001-10,000	3%
5	10,000+	1%

Source: (Rick, 2006)

### **3.2.3. Data Collection Tools**

Field observation, Interview, focus group discussion and distribution of questionnaire are the mechanisms which help to collect data of the research. Below are the mechanisms with brief descriptions.

#### **Field Observation**

I have observed BMNP tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development with the help of GPS position, photo camera and notes. The observation included: vehicle roads, trekking routes, ecolodges, campsites, museum, ETA services and NGOs activities on the park tourism development and BMNP office share of tourism development. On the field operation non-existing tourism specific infrastructures, services and promotions need also considered. The activity is through the park area and adjacent (buffer) zone.

#### **Interview**

Questions are prepared and interview was made with: BMNP: wardens, experts, chief scouts, Head Scouts and supportive staffs, FZS-BMCP staffs, EWCP leaders and BMNP ETA members; **see list of interview questions under appendix one.**

#### **Focus group discussion**

Focus group discussion is prepared to undertake with members of BMNP ETA. This is because of the associations' members are from community and they know better about Bale Mountains National Park tourism development; **see list of focus group discussion questions under appendix three.**



Picture 7: Focus Group Discussion with Ecotourism Association Members

Photo by: Ahmed Alo (February 2016)

### **Questionnaires surveys**

Questions are prepared and distributed for households and tourists. To represent the community questionnaire was distributed for *5% and 10% of the communities based on the number of households using “Rule of Thumb”* and also using *“Rule of Thumb”* questionnaire distributed for *3% tourists based on 2015 annual tourists number trend*. The questionnaire distributed for households randomly and for any tourists who come to the destination. Tourists had given the questionnaire at the park reception during their first foot print to the park and they filled the survey after their visit; **see list of questionnaires for tourists and households under appendix four and five respectively.**

### **3.2.4. Data Analysis Methods**

After the data have been collected, the final task is analyzing the collected data. The analysis of the data is by using both quantitative and qualitative methods with the help of tables, graphs and statements. Thus, in this research all the data expected using references, participant observation, interview, focus group discussion and questionnaire distribution analyzed by tables, graphs and statements with detail concepts of the research results.

# **Chapter Four**

## **4. Data Analysis and Discussions**

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data collected through field observation, interview, focus group discussion and questionnaires survey. The data gathered through questionnaires are presented in tables, statements and figures for analysis.

### **4.1. Tourism Facilities Development**

#### **4.1.1. Tourism Infrastructures Development**

##### **Vehicle Roads**

##### **Grassland Vehicle Roads**

Grassland is one of the park parts in which six kilometer vehicle road passes through, which is asphalt road since 2011. The road is initially constructed for public service before the park establishment; but now the park office is using for the park monitoring and other purposes. Tourists who are coming to the park are also using it. In addition, there are three kilometers road two kilometers from the main road to Gofingira outpost and one kilometer to Berak side (which was outpost until 2012 before the camp shifted to Alija). The key informants and focus group discussion participants agreed that the vehicle road in the grassland is sufficient but the three kilometer road require maintenance. 90% tourists replied that vehicle roads in the grassland are sufficient; but maintenance is very important. 95% of the local community had forwarded that the current vehicle roads in the park is adequate.

### **Woodland Vehicle Roads**

All key informants, focus group discussion members, tourists and households responded that except the one kilometer road in the park Head Quarters the woodland part of the park does not require vehicle road.

### **Mooreland Vehicle Roads**

In this part there is 22 kilometers road which is purposely constructed for the park patrol and tourists visit. All key informants agreed that the road is not sufficient for tourists. Thus, it is suggested that there should be vehicle roads from Sodota to Tulu Dimtu and from Sodota to Morobawa.

### **Afroalpine Vehicle Roads**

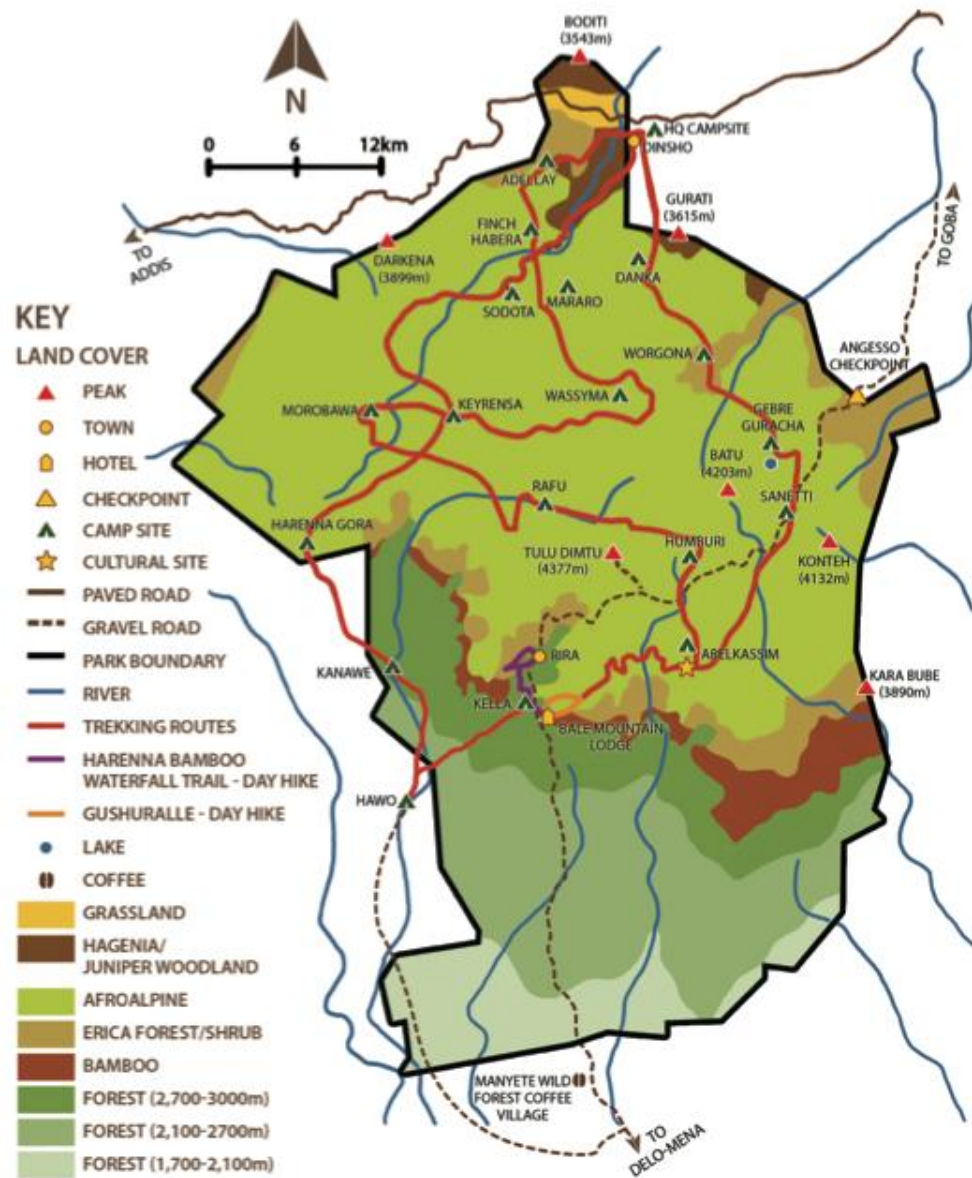
Afroalpine is one of the vast parts of the park in which 33.4 kilometers road passes through. This road starts at the park check point (Angeso) and goes to the south direction to Delo Mena Woreda. 90% of the key informants replied that in addition to the 33.4 kilometers road which is also public road and established before the park establishment, there should be one road two kilometers start at the Tulu Dimtu round go to Chefa Dalecha. 10% of the informants replied that only the existed road is sufficient. Focus group discussion participants 100% replied that the two kilometers road and the existed road are advisable to visit the Afroalpine part. 90% of tourists responded that two kilometers road from Tulu Dimtu round to Chefa Dalecha and the existed road that is 33.4 kilometers are adequate to serve visitors. 10% of tourists replied that only the existed road is enough to serve visitors. 70% of households replied that the existed road is enough to visit the park. 100% of key informants, focus group discussion members, tourists and 80% of households agreed that the 33.4

kilometers road should be close to public and it should be only for the park office and tourists who come to the park. Public road should round from Berbere Woreda side which passes through Haro Dumal capital town of Berbere Woreda.

### **Harena Forest Vehicle Roads**

At current time starting from the forest escarpment to Shisha the end of the park boundary when we drive to Delo Mena the vehicle road stretches 46.6 kilometers which purpose is both for public and the park office including tourists. 85% respondents agreed if the road close to public and open only for tourists. According to the respondents the road lacks maintenance; thus, they forwarded their idea for regular maintenance. 70% of the key informants replied that 20 kilometers other road require in the Harena Forest which is from Shisha to Hawo. 87% of the households also replied that the 20 kilometers road is vital for tourism development. 60% of the focus group discussion members agreed with other new roads which are from Shisha to Hawo 20 kilometers and Shisha to Chefa Dera 15 kilometers. 90% of tourists responded that Harena Forest requires two other roads which initial point is Shisha and stretches to Hawo and Chefa Dera. All respondents recommended that there should be check points at the gate and departure of the new roads in the forest.

## TREKKING ROUTES



Map 2: Vehicle Roads and Trekking Routes Development in the BMNP

Source: (BMNP office, 2013)

## **Trekking Routes**

### **Grassland Trekking Routes**

Mountains nyala, Menelik's bush buck and different grass types are among active tourism products of the destination in the grassland. Birds are also other tourism attractions of BMNP in the grassland. In the grassland of the park there are no specific trekking routes for tourists. Tourists are using the vehicle roads; thus 100% respondents recommended that trekking routes required. According to the key informants there should be new trekking routes from Chefa Dalecha to Photo Mansha, from round to Berak to end of the park boundary at Berak village and from Web river bridge (which is on asphalt road) to Tiyanta and continue up to round to Berak. The total proposed grassland trekking routes are three kilometers.

### **Woodland Trekking Routes**

*Hagenia abyssinica* and *Juniperus procera* among plant species and Mountain nyala and Menelik's bush buck among endemic mammals are active tourism products in the woodland part. In addition there are marvelous birds, plants and other attractions here. Except half kilometer trekking route at the park Head Quarters the wood land part has no trekking routes. Tourists have been trekking in different routes. The key informants 100% agreed with new trekking routes; it should not be construction but also putting known marks which will be artificial or natural. All focus group discussion members, tourists and households also agreed with new trekking routes with the same idea of key informants. Hence, they propose new routes from photo Mansha to Boditi Mountain summit and down to Berak village, from Tiyanta to Adele Mountain Summit which continues down to Gasore and its end is at Web Scouts outpost. Other is in the park Head Quarters which is from parking at office continues

to Kara Ari Village up to the BMNP headquarters fence turn to Tulu Dinsho. The total proposed woodland trekking routes are 5.5 kilometers.

### **Mooreland Trekking Routes**

Erica belt, Ethiopian wolf, many bird species and plants are tourism potentials of the part among which Ethiopian wolf is active product. The mooreland In the Mooreland there are trekking routes but we do not have known marks (direction indicators to the campsites and attractions); due to this tourists are visiting the park travelling through different parts of the park in the area. All key informants replied that one trekking route should start from the park Head Quarters which initial point is west direction gate, pass through Sodota and continue up to Harana Gora. This trekking route stretches 50 kilometers. The other is from Sodota to Sanatae/Tulu Dimtu which stretches 30 kilometers. The third is from Sodota to Adele which stretches 15 kilometers. The fourth trekking route starts from the park Head quarter passes through Batu Tiko and its end is Tulu Dimtu. This trekking route stretches 35 kilometers. The focused group discussion members also ensured the key informants reply. Tourists' idea is also the same with key informants and focus group discussion participants' ideas. Thus, my respondents have recommended that there should be natural and/or man-made campsites and attractions indicators.

### **Afroalpine Trekking Routes**

Afroalpine part of the park is endowed with Ethiopian wolf, Giant molerat and Giant lobelia. The key informants (90%), focus group discussions members (100%) and 85% tourists propose the following new Afroalpine trekking routes. Additional routes should start from Tulu Dimtu round turns to Chefa Dalecha and continue to Habel

Kasim campsite then turns to Konte Mountains East direction. After Konte the route should cross the main road to Delo Mena Woreda and pass through Konte research camp and reach Garba Guracha Tourists campsite. The other is trekking route which start from Konte research camp and stretch to Tulu Dimtu Mountain. The total trekking routes are 10 kilometers.

### **Harena Forest Trekking Routes**

Harena forest is endowed with large carnivore mammals (lion, leopard, wild dog etc), Bale monkey, bamboo forest and variety of plant species such as *Phytolaca dodecandra*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Hagenia abyssinica* etc. In the Harana Forest there is 12 kilometers existing trekking routes. In the forest there are huge tourist attractions. To make accessible the attractions we require additional routes. According to 87% key informants one route should starts from Rira outpost stretch to Hawo (30 km); the second route starts from Hawo stretch to Shisha outpost (20 km), the third route starts from Shisha outpost and stretch to Chefa Dera 20 km), the fourth route starts from Shisha and stretch to Ogado which continue up to Bale Mountain Lodge (30 km) and the Fifth route starts from Gushrale Mountain and stretch up to Habel Kasim which is tourists' campsite (15 km). Focused group discussion members (100%) and tourists (92%) have proposed the routes which the key informants recommended. The following are the summery of proposed tourists' trekking routes in the Bale Mountains National Park.

## Ecolodges

Ecolodges are places where tourists get accommodation, food and beverage. In the Bale Mountains National Park private lodges are existed but there are no community lodges.

### Private Ecolodges

In the Bale Mountains National Park there are three private ecolodges which are Dinsho, H/Kemal (which deliver limited service) and Bale Mountain lodges. Dinsho lodge exist since the park establishment and Bale Mountain lodge constructed in 2012 and started service in 2013. Dinsho lodge is found at the park Head Quarters one kilometer from the office. The senior staffs of the park told me that its initial purpose was for office and staffs house; some written documents (*BMNP office, 1986*) also support this idea. But after years transferred to lodge and the park office was running the service until December 2013; afterward, it has rented for private. The reason of renting was to improve tourists' service.

Table 7: Dinsho and Bale Mountain Eco-lodges Services Evaluation by Tourists

(January 01/2016 – February 28/2016)

SN	Lodges	Evaluation Rate				
		Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
1	Bale Mountain Lodge	45.2	30.8	24%	0%	0%
2	Dinsho Lodge	0%	6%	48.5%	27.5%	18%

95% of my key informants, 18% of tourists and 100% focus group discussion members replied that Dinsho lodge service is poor. Thus, they forwarded their idea

for improvement of the lodge services. The justifications why they said poor are the lodge has only common toilet, common shower, sometimes water is not available, except two beds the rest beds are in common rooms which are three-six beds in one room, many times food order delays, variety of food and beverage are limited, comparing with quality of bed its price is expensive, food and beverage price is also expensive. So they recommended that unless all the listed problems get solution Dinsho lodge service is undermining tourists who are coming to the destination.



Picture 8: Dinsho Eco-lodge

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (January 2013)

All key informants & focus group discussion members and 60% of tourists suggested that Bale Mountain lodge require some improvements that are the services are expensive and because the lodge sale package service it is difficult to use separate service for tourists who has no abundant money to afford and/or do not want all service together. Except this all respondents agreed that the rest services are good.



Picture 9: Bale Mountain Eco-lodge

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (April 2014)

### **Community Ecolodges**

Since its establishment, in the Bale Mountains National Park there is no community ecolodges. All key informants agreed that community ecolodges is important for dual purposes which are service for tourists and community benefit. Accordingly 95% of them recommended that community ecolodges should establish in the park at five places that are Dinsho (Web River) which is nearby for Dinsho town, at Adaba around Lencha Wosha (Kebele), at Harana Buluk (Adeyi), at Delo Mena (Shisha) and at Goba (Angeso Kebele) and recommended the managing should be by the community. 80% of tourists replied that community ecolodges should be at five places in the park which are the same place with key informants. 5% of the key informants and 20% of tourists replied that community ecolodges should be at three places which are at Hawo, Angeso and Sodota.

All households agreed with establishment of community ecolodges and the administration should be by the community. They recommended that five community ecolodges in the park which are at Magnate, Adeyi, Lencha Wosha, Web River and

Angeso. They explained that the establishment of community ecolodges in the park will minimize negative impact of local community on the park attractions, improve the community benefit and solve problem of tourists' accommodation.

### **Campsites Basic Facilities**

90% of key informants, all focus group discussion participants and all tourists recommended that all campsites should have basic facilities which are mountain hut (accommodation), kitchen, shower, toilet, waste disposal, solar electric and pure water. At current time there are 20 tent based tourists' campsites among which two of them have half facilities. All respondents recommended that the basic facilities construction should consider the park biodiversity's and landscapes' sustainability.



Picture 10: Sodota Tourists' Campsite

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (January 2014)

From my field observation and focus group discussion I have proposed four new campsites which are listed in table 20 below. Key informants, focus group discussion participants, households and tourists suggested their idea that is if all campsites have basic facilities it is a great progress for Bale Mountains National Park Tourism

Development and solves tourists' accommodation problem. This is due to the park is rainy for eight months in a year, it is good opportunity for tourists to have good stay in the park during rainy season which lengthen tourists' stay in the destination.

Table 8: Tourists' Campsites in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Campsites	Location	Remark
1	Tulu Dinsho/BMNP HQ	Woodland	
2	Adelay	Woodland	
3	Habera	Mooreland	
4	Sodota	Mooreland	
5	Mararo	Mooreland	
6	Goda Sanga	Mooreland	
7	Alea	Mooreland	New Proposed
8	Morobawa	Mooreland	
9	Kerensa	Mooreland	
10	Wasama	Mooreland	
11	Worgona	Mooreland	
12	Garba Guracha	Mooreland	
13	Rafu	Afroalpine	
14	Humburi	Afroalpine	
15	Habalkasim	Afroalpine	
16	Harana Gora	Moorland	
17	Kontae	Afroalpine	
18	Kanawe	Harana Forest	
19	Hawo	Harana Forest	
20	Bulbula Waterfall	Harana Forest	
21	Kela	Harana Forest	
22	Gusa	Harana Forest	New Proposed
23	Tula Muma	Harana Forest Escarpment	New Proposed
24	Gnore	Harana Forest	New Proposed

Source: (BMNP office 2009, Focus Group Discussion and Field Observation 2015)

Table 9: BMNP Tourists’ Campsites Service Evaluation by Tourists

(January 01/2016 – February 28/2016)

Evaluation Rate				
Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
5%	20%	31.5%	25.5%	18%

Table nine shows us, even though more than 50% tourists evaluated the campsites by “Very good and Good” 18% of the respondents evaluated the campsites saying “Poor”. This percentage of tourists is very significant to know the requirement of BMNP campsites service improvement. Thus, the concerned bodies need to improve the limitations.

#### **4.1.2. Eco-tourism Associations’ Services Development**

Since its establishment Bale Mountains National Park has been delivering different services for tourists; but still now the services which have been delivering are under. According to all key informants, focus group discussions, tourists and households who are coming to the park lacks many services for instance accommodation, quality food and beverage etc. In addition to the ecolodges, campsites etc there are community based ecotourism associations which established at different times and delivering service for visitors.

Table 10: BMNP Ecotourism Associations' Services Evaluation by Tourists

(January 01/2016 – February 28/2016)

SN	Associations	Evaluation Rate				
		Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
1	Guide	0%	32%	44%	21%	3% %
2	Porter	0%	43%	37%	9%	1%
3	Horse Renter	0%	29%	52%	19%	0%
4	Cook	0%	14%	33%	44%	9%
5	Handicraft Provider	0%	0%	45%	38%	17%
6	Wood Provider	0%	4%	31%	57%	8%

### Guiding

In the Bale Mountains National Park there are three groups of guides. The senior group is Nyala Guides which base is the park Head Quarters and has 17 members. Many of these guides education level is grade 10, some of them under grade 10 and some of them have diploma/level graduate qualification.

According to my key informants and Nyala Guides association members this association established formally in 2006. Before 2006 different people were serving visitors by guiding service personally. It was difficult for visitors to get guides on time and alternative guides. Since 2006 guiding service become better; but still now the guide members have multiple problems. All key informants, members of the guide associations and tourists identified the following service gap of Nyala Guide Association members.

Many members have communication skill, ethics, skill of the park attractions and interaction with visitors. In addition welcoming for visitors while arrival is not satisfactory; some of them do not say even welcome to Bale Mountains National Park. They directly go to their office to plan trip and calculate their fee. The key informants agreed that one of the hindrances for the park tourism development is absence of competitive, skillful and ethical guides. My respondents suggested me that Nyala Guides members should get training of communication skill, the park attractions and ethics.



Picture 11: BMNP Reception and Nyala Guides Office

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (February 2016)

The above picture represents BMNP reception and the guides' office where the park fee collectors collect any fee of the park and guides welcome and contact the visitors at the first time. It is found at the destination main get where you will also get Headquarter of the park.

The second group is four guides at Bale Mountain lodge in Harana Forest who established in 2013. They have monthly salary from the lodge and have limited

territory to serve visitors. The members have diploma and above education level. The third guide group is six guides who established at Shisha outpost in 2015. This group guides services are still very limited due to the area is not promoted well. All members of this association have grade 10 complete certificate.

My key informants, focus group discussion participants and tourists suggested that the park office has opportunity to serve visitors with better guiding service if solve problems of guides communication skill, ethics, interaction with guests and the park attraction skill.

### **Porting**

Among the porters activities packing visitors materials, loading on horse the materials and pitching tent are the mains. Porters association established in 2007 to deliver service for tourists; its name is Borofa. In the Bale Mountains National Park now there are two groups of porters with 20 and 10 members. All my key informants, 82% tourists and all focus group discussion members replied that the porters have gaps of service delivering such as lack of tourism sector knowledge and delay of service. The senior group which is with 20 members base is the park headquarters and the recent group with 10 members base is Rira. This group is established in 2015.

All my respondents suggested that the members of associations should improve their limitations. But the suggestion does not include the Rira group; because yet they did not start service. In addition to the current associations there is also recommendation from 85% tourists that other porter association should establish at Shisha so as to deliver service for tourists who want assistant of porters around during trekking. The

following picture represents, porters load tourist material on the way trekking to Sodota. Normally the initial loading place is at Dinsho but due to the load attempts to fall down they are loading it.



Picture 12: Porters Loading Horse on the Way Trekking to Sodota

Photo by: One of Borofa Porters Association Members (2012)

### **Horse Renting**

The horse rent association service is renting horse for visitors for riding and material loading. This association established in 2007. In the Bale Mountains National Park now there are two groups of horse rent association which name are Kerensa and one unnamed with 20 and 10 members at the park Head Quarters and Rira respectively. All my key informants, 75% tourists and all focus group discussion participants replied that the association which is at the park Head Quarters lacks quality horse and materials which rent with horse.

The following picture represents office of horse rents and porters. The two associations put horse materials which service visitors and take the materials from the office when they want.



Picture 13: Kerensa Horse Renters and Borofa Porters Associations' Office

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (February 2016)

All my respondents suggested that the association should improve its limitations. But the suggestion does not include the Rira group; because, yet they did not start service. In addition to the current associations, there is recommendation from 75% tourists that other horse rent association should establish at Shisha so as to deliver service for tourists who want horse around during trekking.

### **Cooking**

Cooks association established in July 2010 with 10 members. According to my all key informants, the association has been delivering service since their establishment; but many of them lacks skill of good cooking and ethics during interaction with visitors

and other association members. All focus group discussion members also suggested the same problem with the cooks' association members. 50% of tourists also replied that cook association members in the Bale Mountains National park have ethics problems during interaction with visitors and lack good skill of cooking. The name of the association is Jedala Farda.

Thus, all key informants and focus group discussion participants and 50% of tourists suggested that the association members should improve their limitations to progress the park tourism development.

### **Handicraft Providing**

In the park there are two handicraft association groups which are at Dinsho and Rira with 11 and 5 members, respectively. The associations name at Dinsho and Rira are Bare Handicraft and Chicho Handicraft, respectively. The association at Dinsho is established in October 2010 and the association at Rira established in 2013. These associations are providing cultural materials for visitors who are coming to the park. According to all my key informants and focus group discussion members the handicrafts that the associations provide has no variety and the price is expensive comparing with the quality of materials. They also responded that the members sometimes are not present on time to provide the material for sale.



Picture 14: Bare Handicraft Association

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (February 2016)

60% of tourists suggested that price of the materials is expensive. Thus, the above respondents recommended that to leave memory with visitors who are flowing to Bale Mountains National Park with the cultural materials, the association should strengthen. The way they will strengthen will be through with training and orientations, to provide quality and variety cultural materials with fair price.

### **Firewood Providing**

In the Bale Mountains National Park the park staffs wood association were providing wood for tourists; but in October 2010 wood provision association has established at Dinsho with eight members and yet they have been providing eucalyptus wood. One of the park regulations is avoiding utilization of indigenous plants for wood. The name of the association is Walinjiregna Wood Provider. My key informants and focus group discussion members responded that the association members now decline to three due to disagreement between the members.



Picture 15: Walinjiregna Firewood Provider Association

Photo by: Tilahun Girma (February 2016)

Thus, the respondents suggested that the park office should add other members to strengthen the established association and there should be other wood provision associations at Angeso and Shisha to provide abundant eucalyptus wood for visitors. The wood provision is not only at the places where the associations established and will establish; but also all visitors who come to Bale Mountains National Park should use the eucalyptus wood from the associations (if they want wood).

### **Coffee Providing**

Coffee Association in the Bale Mountains National Park is established at two places in the park which are at Dinsho with three members and at Shisha also with three members. The Dinsho group established in 2013 and the Shisha group established in 2015. The members of the associations have limitation of delay sometimes. Thus, my key respondents, focus group discussion members and tourists recommended that the

number of members should increase and training required for better service. This association service is delivering coffee for visitors.



Picture 16: Coffee Provider Association at BMNP HQs

Photo by: Tilahun Girma (February 2016)

### **Honey Providing**

In 2015 Bale Mountains National Park office has established two groups of Honey Provision Associations at Rira and Shisha with 20 members each. These associations provide honey for tourists. The places are selected due to Rira and Shisha are part of Harana Forest where we get abundant honey. All my respondents replied that the association should strengthen to provide quality honey for tourists regularly.

### **Ecotourism Associations to be Establish**

According to my key respondents, in addition to the above existed community based ecotourism associations if the following ecotourism associations establish visitors will be very satisfied with Bale Mountains National Park service and its Tourism

Development will get high progress. The associations that suggested are Cultural Food provision and making (tourist will make) at Dinsho, Rira and Shisha, Local Music and Dance Association at Dinsho, Rira and Shisha and Variety Meat Provision Association at Dinsho, Rira and Shisha.

### **4.1.3. Tourism Promotions Development**

Bale Mountains National Park office with its partners has been promoting the destination tourism attractions through multiple mechanisms among which brochure; folder, books, exhibition, tourism day celebration, mass media, website and presentations (oral and written) are the mains. Having all these means of promotions yet the park tourism promotion is in its infancy stage.

80% of my key informants responded me that promotion of the park tourism is at its early stage due to lack of committed and skillful experts, lack of adequate budget for the sector and lack of attention from government side. The above listed usual promotion mechanisms (brochures, folders and books) do not provide for visitors continuously. Exhibition hold at Addis Ababa has role for promotion of the park tourism attractions; but it is once/twice within a year. Tourism day is one of the promotion means; but it is missing its objective. Instead of tourism the participants have been talking about other issue.

Mass media is a big instrument to promote the park; but according to my key informants the park tourism has been not getting media coverage. Many Medias are talking about the park in general which will not pull tourists to the destination. Not

only this but also the language by which broadcasting is almost the national language (Amharic) which international tourists cannot understand.

According to all tourists response the park website ([www.balemouns.org](http://www.balemouns.org)) has no owner to operate it. Many tourists have been comment about the park tourism attraction and service but no one respond them. Due to this problem tourists will not contact with park through website. They recommended that the Park office should allocate right expert to operate the website for better promotion of the park and to follow up day to day comments of visitors and other concerned bodies.

My focus group discussion members suggested that unless the park improves the promotion of the destination, all things for tourism development in the area will not have value. They commented that there should be continuous promotion of the attractions and updating of information which posted on website and wrote in brochures, folders, books, maps etc. In addition experts should update themselves with current information. The key informants and tourists suggestions are also the same with focus group discussion members.

Table 11: BMNP Promotions and Website Operation Evaluation by Tourists  
(January 01/2016 – February 28/2016)

SN	Items Surveyed	Evaluation Rate				
		Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
1	Promotion	0%	18%	32%	36%	14%
2	Website	0%	0	22%	55%	23%

From table eleven we can observe that many tourists evaluated promotion and website operation of BMNP by “good and fair”. What I surprised is there is no tourists who evaluated by excellent rate; but we have a number of tourists who said poor. This shows the park promotion and website operation are at their early stage.

Table 12: Greeting/Welcoming and Availability of Information & Services Evaluation by Tourists during Arrival at the BMNP Gate (January 01/2016 – February 28/2016)

SN	Items Surveyed	Evaluation Rate				
		Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
1	Greeting/Welcoming	0%	13%	47%	34%	6%
2	Availability of Information & Service	0%	28%	42%	28%	2%

Greeting/welcoming and arrival information service for tourists are among promotion mechanisms of BMNP. In table twelve we have seen rate of evaluation for the two promotion means by tourists. Accordingly many % of tourists evaluated the two ways saying good and the next evaluation rate is fair. This shows us that the park office required improving the arrival service. My key informants and focus group discussion replied me that the park office should improve the greeting/welcoming and information & service for tourists during arrival at the park gate.

Since its establishment Bale Mountains National Park has no museum. Due to this different trophies, photos and pictures displayed in different rooms and offices. At the Park Head Quarters there is museum which construction is a head. This museum construction started in January 2013 and expected start service in January 2017. It is

0.75 km far from office and outstanding museum which will display almost all attractions of the park with some detail notes. The ingredients of construction reflect the park biodiversity and the local community culture. The trophies that are in different rooms and offices will shift to this museum. Because its base is at the park headquarters many visitors has opportunity to visit it during arrival and departure. According to 85% of key informants, 80% of focus group discussion members and 100% tourists it is at the right place and the composition is also right. 15% of key informants and 20% of focus group discussion members recommend that the place of museum should be at the gate of the park headquarters and it was not right using indigenous plants of the park.



Picture 17: Museum at BMNP HQs Construction a Head

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (February 2016)

All respondents replied that absence of museum in the Bale Mountains National Park for very long time is one of the factors which hinder the progress of the park tourism

development. Their justification is, museum plays great role to deliver information for visitors and aware the whole attractions at a place within short time. They also suggested that if the museum starts service it is one of the progresses for the park tourism development; but they recommended other two mini museums at Angeso and Shisha outposts. Angeso outpost is one of the park gates after which tourists cross Sanatae plateau and drive down to Harena Forest up to Shisha out post. If they are interested and have plan after Shish outpost they can drive down to Delo Mena town for overnight or to visit attractions around. According to their plan they can drive back to the park, trek in the Harena Forest or continue driving to Mada Walabu to visit Mada Walabu cultural and historical attractions.

Thus, respondents recommended that the mini museums will play additional role to promote the park and satisfy tourists particularly who has no time to visit the park for long days by trekking. The display at all museums will be the same. Accordingly, to satisfy the tourists who have been increasing annually if the two museums get recognition and start service Bale Mountains National Park tourism development gets progress.

## **4.2. Government Roles to Develop Bale Mountains**

### **National Park Tourism Facilities**

According to my key informants the federal and regional governments have the following roles to develop the destination tourism facilities.

One of the mains threats for the park tourism attraction is illegal activities which due to the encroachment of the local community to the park. To stop the encroachment

and take out the people already in the park it is too difficult for the park office. The issue does not require only money but also political commitment and influence are too vital. Hence, to make free the park free of the community and progress the destination tourism both the federal and regional government involvement is unquestionable.

Because of the park administration line is to the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority which is in Addis Ababa there are gaps to follow up the park tourism development and conservation; thus there should Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with regional/Zones to develop tourism and conserve better. Due to the next hierarchy of the park is federal level many of the local administrators have been keeping silent with the destination problems after which they will committed consider the park tourism development and conservation.

Even though non-governmental organizations are in the park still now the park has huge gap of budget limitations. Thus, government should look at the gaps and allocate adequate budget. The three areas of tourism development (infrastructures, services and promotions) need abundant budget. One of the problems staffs of the park have been encountering since its establishment is underpayment (salary) due to which staffs leaving of the park have happened (wardens and experts). Better salary will lengthen staffs duration in the park; of course underpayment is the country problem but the protected area staffs are undertaking activities regardless of government regular working time and harsh working condition is obvious.

The development destinations tourism facilities require cooperation of all concerned bodies (the destinations, woredas, zones, regions and federal bodies). Thus, these

concerned bodies should work together to enhance the protected areas tourism development particularly for Bale Mountains National Park which is outstanding destination with its biodiversity high endemicity, marveleous landscapes and hydrology system.

In general, the federal and regional government should create conducive environment for the park tourism development and indicate the directions of the destination tourism development to improve and lead the development of infrastructural, services and promotions networks essential to sector development. Should also build the implementation capacity of development participants at each level of government bodies to coordinate the capacities and efforts of the main participants in development and create collaboration leadership.

### **4.3. Government Policy Which Support BMNP Tourism**

#### **Facilities Development**

Enhancing the development impacts of tourism by properly developing and utilizing the tourism potential with which the country is endowed is a matter deserving focus. Accordingly, in order to realize the development of tourism and to enable the sector to effectively contribute to the country's current effort to eliminate poverty, it is necessary to lead the development of the sector within appropriate policy and strategic framework. Hence, this policy has been formulated (MoCT, 2009).

The basic principles of the policy are respect for pluralism, guaranteeing community participation and benefits, instituting management transparency and responsibility, creating partnership and enhancing the implementation of capacity of the sectors. The

main policy issues and strategies are guiding the tourism industry in a broad-based direction, developing the existing and new tourist attractions: in variety, scale and quality, expansion of the facilities development, undertaking promotional work through the creation of strong market ties in order to become competitive on the international market, strengthening the collaborative relationship among actors participating in tourism development and overcoming the serious capacity limitations observed in the industry.

BMNP has certain rules and regulations of tourism development written in General Management Plan of the park. The management plan is ratified by Oromia regional government (BMNP General Management Plan, 2007-2017). This plan has five management programs which are ecology, sustainable natural resource, tourism provision, park operations and outreach. Like the federal and regional level tourism policy BMNP big problem with the management plan is implementation due lack of awareness and commitment.

The primary role of BMNP in tourism management is to develop policy, guidelines, monitoring and enforcement of tourism activities, while the tourism services will be provided by the private sector or community groups, under agreement with BMNP management. Prototype concession agreements and leasing procedures will be developed and implemented so that private investors can be partners in tourism provision, where benefits accrue equitably to both the park and park associated communities. BMNP's capacity to manage and deliver an enriching tourism experience will be strengthened and tourism management systems will be devised.

## **4.4. Opportunities and Challenges of Tourism Facilities**

### **Development**

#### **4.4.1. Opportunities**

According to my key informants, focus group discussion members and 80% of households the following opportunities identified for better development of Bale Mountains National Park tourism progress.

#### **Non-governmental Organizations in the park**

Since the establishment of Bale Mountains National Park many non-governmental organizations including World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Frankfurt Zoological Society-Bale Mountains Conservation Project (FZS-BMCP), Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program (EWCP), Farm Africa and Melka Ethiopia (ME) have been supporting the park tourism development and conservation of its biodiversity; but the progress of both tourism development and conservation is not the expected. Even though the non-governmental organizations were and are with adequate budget to undertake activities because of administration problems of the park, lack of government body commitment for tourism sector and conservation of resources it is too tough to support with their full capacity.

#### **Stunning attractions of the park**

Bale Mountains National Park is one of the outstanding tourism destinations in the world with its high endemicity of mammals and birds, abundant number of reptiles and amphibians, a number of rivers, springs and water falls, high endemicity of plant species and spectacular landscapes. Regardless of its vast tourism potentials the progress of tourism in the area is low.

## **Accessibility**

### **Bale Robe Airport**

Bale Robe airport which was serving before and stop service for long time is now start service transporting people from Addis Ababa to Bale and Bale to Addis Ababa since 2014. The distance from Bale Robe airport to the park headquarter (Dinsho) is 30 kilometres; after arrival at the airport tourists will drive to Dinsho by public bus/minibus which is 11.00 Birr or if they want can rent minibus which cost depend on their duration in the destination. Due to the plane opportunity visitors number to Bale tourism destinations are showing progress and Bale Mountains National Park has chance to link to the Airport administration and will make joint advertisement. In this moment there is no any formal linkage between the two organizations.

### **Asphalt Road from Addis Ababa to Bale Robe**

One of the tourists, tour operations and travel agents complain on Bale destinations was problem of road after Shashemene town. Until 2012 the road from Shashemene to Bale was difficult and vehicles were with high risk drive. Since the year the route become asphalt and one of the complaints has gone.

### **The surrounding Higher Education Institutions**

Higher education institutions have diversified skilled professionals. Around Bale Mountains National Park we have Mada Walabu University at Robe and Goba, Agarfa ETVT and Batu ETVT (Goba). They are good opportunities to support BMNP Tourism development. Still little has done with Mada Walabu University on Ecotourism Associations' members' capacity building. If BMNP makes linkage with the institutions, the park tourism facilities development will show progress.

### **Tourism Sector Investors**

Until the end of 2012 in Bale there are only two hotels which are Wabe Shebelle at Goba and Bekele Mola at Robe with tourist basic facilities. At the beginning of 2013 Bale Mountain lodge started service with luxuries tourist facilities; the owner is Mr Guy from England. It is built in Harena Forest with huge budget considering the local community culture. Since that time it has been serving the tourists and benefiting communities hiring in the lodge. Thus, it is opportunity to promote the park through it and accommodate tourists there. The lodge has its own guides and helping the park as well advertising attractions of the destination.

Dinsho lodge which service is still not sufficient for visitors rented for private investor in 2013 with seven years contract. The owner is ato Amaha Hailesilssie from Addis Ababa. Even though there are many limitations this lodge is one of the opportunities to lengthen duration of tourists in the Bale Mountains National Park.

In addition there are some investors who have seen places in the park to build ecolodges which will fulfil this research result and BMNP office interest for tourists to have sufficient facilities. In the surrounding towns also some have done (hotels) such as Aba Dama Hotel and Asambarera Hotels at Robe.

### **Nearby Attractions for Bale Mountains National Park**

In Bale there are three flagship (big) destinations and many clusters (small destinations) which are opportunities to visit Bale Mountains National Park on the way and plan the destinations together. In addition it is good opportunity to promote

the destinations with Bale Zone Culture and Tourism office and Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau. The three flagship destinations are the following.

### **Sof Omar Caves**

Sof Omar Cave is the longest cave in Ethiopia at 15.1 kilometers (9.4 mi) long; sources claim it is the longest system of caves in Africa. It is situated to the east of Robe, in the Bale Zone of the Oromia Region in southeastern Ethiopia (6°55'N 40°45'E), through which the Weyib River (Gastro River) flows. It sinks at the Ayo Maco entrance and reappears at the Holuca resurgence 1 kilometer (0.62 mi) away. According to tradition Sof Omar was the name of a Muslim holy man who lived in the area and Ayo the name of his daughter. Maco and Holuca are local names for 'name' and 'cave', respectively.



Picture 18: Sof Omar Cave

Photo by Geremew Mebratu (March 2012)

Long a religious center, it is sacred both to Islam and the local Oromo traditional religion. The caves are known for their many pillars, particularly in the 'Chamber of Columns' ([www.ethiovisit.com/sof-omar-caves](http://www.ethiovisit.com/sof-omar-caves) and observation, 2015). This cave is

140 kilometers far from BMNP headquarters (Dinsho). This cave is one of the most spectacular and extensive underground caverns in the world. Sof Omar cave system formed by the Web River as it changed its course in the distant past and carved a new channel through limestone foothills, the Sof Omar cave system is an extraordinary natural phenomenon of breathtaking beauty. Inside the Sof Omar caves, the only living creatures are bats and fish. Crocodile are to be found in the river nearby but, fortunately, seem to shun the caves themselves. The countryside abounds with wildlife - dik-dik and kudu, serval cat, rock hyrax, giant tortoises, snakes, and lizards, as well as more than fifty species of birds.

### **Dire Sheik-Hussein**

Dirre Sheik Hussein is located in the South Eastern part of Ethiopia in Oromia regional state, Bale zone, Gololcha Woreda at 210 km distance from Bale Mountains National Park with an elevation of 1386 meters above sea level. It is a 10th century Islamic center of pilgrimage for people coming from different corners of the country, and Islamic communities of the Horn and the Middle East countries, twice a year. Dirre Sheik Hussein is a site of magnificent groups of buildings, monumental tombs and courts representing early medieval period of Islamic architecture and buildings of significant engineering qualities ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh Hussein](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Hussein) and observation, 2016).



Picture 19: Dirre Sheik Hussein Mosque

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (December 2013)

The holy site was founded by the Islamic Saint known as Sheik Nur Hussein. He was one of the Nine Islamic venerated saints who entered Ethiopia (from South Arabia) along the eastern route via the walled city of Harar, which was recently inscribed as the World Heritage site of Ethiopia. Within the compounds and courts of Dirre Sheik Hussien there are huge and magnificent mosques, shrines, residential buildings, artificial water ponds and other cultural spaces of Islamic religious processions and diverse ritual practices.

### **Mada Walabu Historical Place**

Mada Walabu which is historical place and one of the top destinations in Bale found in Mada Walabu Woreda on 237 kilometers distance from BMNP headquarters (Dinsho). The area said to be origin of Oromo people. In the area in addition to the historical place different mammals, birds and plants are supplementary pull factors for tourists. It was center of Oromo people from 1450 – 1801.

#### **4.4.2. Challenges**

There are many challenges which hinder the development of tourism facilities in the Bale Mountains National Park. According to my key informants, focus group discussion members and 75% households the following are the main challenges which hinders the destination tourism development.

##### **Policy Regarding Tourism Development**

Policy is one of the pillars to support development of a given destination. In our country it is known that tourism policy is in its infancy stage and accompanied with bureaucratic way of destination administrations. Bale Mountains National Park Management Plan which first prepared in 1986 has some points with the park tourism and the park General Management Plan which prepared in 2007 has some details on tourism development of the park. Other is BMNP office has tried to set some rules and regulations which adopted from the authority and other destinations of the country but their implementation is not like on the paper.

Among Issues regarding the policy which are challenges, limited and lack of the policy that talk with tourism, bureaucratic administration and government body gap of commitment and skill of the park professionals are the majors. Thus, weak policy with poor implementation cannot bring development of tourism in the destination. Even though some progress seen we cannot take them as impressive tourism growth of the park.

### **Absence of Required Resources (Budget, Material and Equipment)**

Resources are our instruments to carry out any activity of tourism. Bale Mountains National Park lacks many basic resources for tourism development and to serve tourists. Budget which EWCA has been allocating for tourism activity of the park is very inadequate; having this low budget even it is impossible to make sustainable the regular activities for instance distribution of written materials. The same, the salary of staffs is under; they are not happy to carry out activities well.

Tourists need equipment for their visit which include, cooking materials, tent and other. The park has no any material and equipment to serve tourists. Of course it is the country's destinations problem; but now our focus is BMNP to get what are the gaps of resources for tourism development in the area. Unless tourist brings from Addis Ababa or elsewhere the required materials, in Bale, there are no tour operations, travel agents or any tourists' materials rent organization or organizations which serve tourists by any service except ETA which give limited services. Some individuals are providing tent and other materials; this is difficult for tourists to get and not tourist standard. These problems have been leading tourists to dissatisfy with their visit and not less tourists who are complaining and forwarding their suggestions for the park office.

### **Skill Gaps of Professionals**

Bale Mountains National Park office has limitations of professionals who are committed with tourism skill and hospitality industry. Both the government employee staffs and ecotourism associations' members have gaps of professionalism in the sector. Because tourism industry is service deliver sector and requires careful concern

of customers what has been observing in the destination at current time with the staffs and associations' members are too challenging for tourism development. Currently the park has 97 government employee staffs among whom 21 supportive staffs, 64 scouts (rangers), 8 experts, 2 wardens and 1 chief warden. Two experts and one warden are specifically working with tourism specific tasks.

From my observation I have seen members of the park staffs (scouts) insulting tourists and ecotourism associations' members closing door of the park gate complaining for non-reasonable benefit and the members many times have been cheating tourists with the payment which are not included in the memorandum of understanding with the park office. There was also times when tourists' bag with materials lost while on visit with guide. Among 160 ecotourism association members more than 50% of them are not ethical and committed to welcome and deliver service for tourists. Many of the associations' members chase only their benefit looking over the hospitality service in the destination. The members even ask for tip which is forbidden in tourism industry except the tourists do it by their interest. The associations' members are not happy unless they get tip due to which they ignore the guests at the end of visit.

### **Government Bodies less Commitment**

Commitment of government bodies is one of the inputs to progress tourism in destinations. To curb the local community threats on tourism destinations and to do joint activities destinations administrations require support of all concerned bodies. Infrastructure, service and promotion development will not achieve the set goals without concerned bodies' involvement. Bale Mountains National Park has faced such

problem; even its top administration (Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority) is less committed with tourism sector of the country as whole and for BMNP specifically.

Woreda and zone administrators with their respective sectors heads and higher politicians of the country have a lesser amount of commitment. In Bale and West Arsi zones government bodies' less commitment is one of challenges to develop the destination tourism specific infrastructure, service and promotion. It was right to give especial attention for BMNP tourism development because it has many impressive attractions; but yet has not seen. Many times workshops and meetings held at concerning conservation and tourism development of the destination; but instead of conservation issue and tourism development of the park the politicians worry is political matter. Many of the park staffs also worried about politics and have fear due to which they talk about unrelated issue instead of tourism and conservation.

#### **Local Community Impacts on the Park Tourism Attractions**

During the park establishment there were few people in the area and in its surrounding; but at current time number of people in and around the park is about 50,000. The people have direct negative impact on tourism attractions by settling in the park, grazing the park their livestock, setting fire, ploughing the park etc. Among the main impacts fragmentation of the wildlife habitat & corridor, food competition of livestock with wildlife, disease transmission from domestic dog to Ethiopian wolf (rabies and canine distemper), destruction of landscapes, deforestation etc which reduce quality of attractions and dissatisfy visitors. The following are some of the illegal activities in the Bale Mountains National Park.



Picture 20: Some Illegal Activities in the BMNP

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (2012 and 2013)

# Chapter Five

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1. Conclusion

Results and discussions part of this paper ensured that Tourism infrastructure, service and promotion Development in the Bale Mountains National Park are at their infancy stage. In all developments (infrastructure, service and promotion) respondents who have agreed with the under development of Tourism in the park ranges from 75% - 100%. In addition during my personal observation I have ensured my respondents idea.

According to my observation and respondents the park tourism infrastructure i.e. vehicle roads, trekking routes, private ecolodges, community ecolodges, campsites facilities and Museum are not sufficient to serve tourists who are coming to Bale Mountains National Park. When we talk about vehicle roads suggestions from my respondents is, there should be additional vehicle roads from Sodota to Harana Gora, Sodota to Tulu Dimtu and from Shisha to Hawo. Many trekking routes in the park is natural because of this the local guides take tourists in different ways. According to my respondents it is suggested that there should be known and fixed line to trek in the park. Accordingly the summary of trekking routes put under chapter four (title: trekking routes).

In the Bale Mountains National Park there are three private ecolodges which are Bale Mountain, Dinsho lodges and H/Kamal. From my observation and respondents suggestion Bale Mountain ecolodges is better but due to it is selling package it do not

consider tourists who want to use different services separately. In addition the lodge does not consider domestic tourists, guides and drivers; the standard of service price is for foreign tourists. Dinsho lodge is not good due to lack of private shower, toilet and separate rooms for beds. There are only one single and one twine rooms. Food order is also other problem because there is delay and lacks both quality and quantity. In addition to the existed lodges respondents suggested me three places for establishment of new ecolodges that are at Web valley, Garba Guracha and Hawo.

Yet in the Bale Mountains National Park and in its surrounding there are no community ecolodges which is due to lack of awareness of the community by the authority (EWCA) and BMNP office leaders and experts. Community ecolodges have big role to curb impacts of community on the park and for tourists' service (accommodation, food and beverage). My respondents recommended me that there should be five community ecolodges around Bale Mountains National Park. The places that suggested are Dinsho at Web River, Goba at Angeso, Delo Mena at Shisha, Harana Buluk at Adeyi and Adaba at Lencha Wosha.

The park has 20 satellite (tent based) tourists' campsites among which two of them have half basic facilities (shelter, kitchen and toilet). Most of my respondents suggested that all campsites should have basic facilities (shelter, kitchen, toilet, solar light, pure water and waste disposal). If the campsites have the facilities there will be progress of tourism development in the park.

Even though there is progress of tourism service in the Bale Mountains National Park still now many service are not sufficient to serve tourists. Accommodation has already

discussed above; to address some information of accommodation in the town which are nearby for the park there are no sufficient and quality accommodations in the towns. The few hotels which have tourists' standard are Wabe Shebele Hotel at Goba, Bekele Molla Hotels at Robe and Seko Mendo Hotel also at Robe. This shows us whether in the park or in the nearby towns' tourists who come to Bale face problem of accommodations, food and beverage.

Ecotourism associations which are serving tourists are guides, porters, horse renters, cooks, handicraft providers, wood providers, coffee providers and honey providers. Many of all these associations' members have their limitations of skill of the service, ethics, interaction with visitors etc. This gap of service undermines the development of tourism in the park. Hence, it is suggested that the associations' members should get regular trainings and orientations to improve the services they are delivering. Otherwise law enforcement is very vital on members who have no willing to stop rude behavior.

In addition to the current associations if additional associations establish the park will get progress of tourism service development. Accordingly, respondents suggested that Cultural Food provision, Local Music and Dance and Variety Meat Provision associations at Dinsho, Rira and Shisha should establish.

Since its establishment the park office has been promoting tourism resources in the destination; still the promotion is in its early stage due to many problems among which lack of adequate budget, skillful experts, non-responsible experts and lack of attention for the sector from the government bodies are the mains. According to my

respondents, the mechanisms through which the park office promoting the destination is abundant; but there are lack of quality & addressing at target people and fragmentation of distributing written materials and website operation. Thus, it is suggested that the park office with concerned bodies should seek solution to upgrade promotion of Bale Mountains National Park which plays great role in the development of the destination tourism.

From my observation and respondents I can conclude that if the park uses the opportunities such as non-governmental organizations to solve inadequate budget problem, stunning attractions which is easy to promote, airport at Bale Robe (making link with organization to have more guests), using the surrounding institutions to promote the destination and get additional fund and private investors who will establish lodges and other tourism related services the park will get very good progress.

## 5.2. Recommendations

Interpretation of my field observation, interview with key informants and survey of tourists and households have ensured that Bale Mountains National Park tourism *infrastructures, services and promotions* developments are at early stage. Thus, this Park Tourism facilities development requires big assignment for improvement to progress the destination tourism. Based on my interpretation to enhance the growth of the three areas of tourism development I would like to recommend as follows.

- The current vehicle roads require maintenance except the six kilometers asphalt road in the Gasae grassland. The development of roads in Kotera, Sanatae and Harana should get consideration. To have significant number of tourists, vehicle road is one of the compulsory infrastructures. Trekking routes in the Bale Mountains National Park is almost natural routes; due to which tourists are trekking in different ways. Hence, there should be some construction where necessary like in the Harana Forest & Kotera and direction indicators should put within short distance to take tourists with right routes to attractions and campsites.
  
- In the Bale Mountains National Park there are only two private ecolodges which are not sufficient to serve even the current number of tourists; not only this but also the ecolodges have many problems particularly Dinsho lodge. To accommodate tourists well, Bale Mountain lodge should consider the domestic tourists, guides and drivers. Thus, the lodge should also improve price of

service which is too expensive for domestic tourists, guides and drivers at current time. Dinsho lodge required improvements of almost all service.

- To curb the local community negative impacts on tourism development of the park such as settlement in the park, fire, agriculture, grazing etc and to deliver required services for tourists the five suggested community ecolodges should construct which are at Web river (near Dinsho town), Angeso, Shisha, Adeyi (Harana Buluk) and Lencha Wosha. The community ecolodges administration will be by the community themselves and the revenue generate will be 100% for the community.
  
- Bale Mountains National Park is large destination which has 20 satellite (tent based) campsites. All these campsites should have basic facilities such as shelter (mountain hut, toilet, shower, kitchen, pure water, waste disposal and solar light). These facilities will boost number of tourists who flow to the park and increase their stay which has direct positive impact on the local community income. Construction of the basic facilities should consider the park ecology and landscapes for their sustainability and wilderness of the campsites and keep nature based tourism in Bale Mountains National Park. The materials from which the basic facilities made should also consider the park biodiversity and the local community culture.
  
- The park ecotourism associations are delivering service for tourists; but the associations' members have many limitations among which skill of services, ethics and interaction with tourists are the majors. So to satisfy tourists who

flow to the Bale Mountains National Park all members of the associations' should get training orientation and if there are members who will not shape themselves law enforcement is other opportunity to have better services for tourists. Yet there are eight types of ecotourism associations who are already described under chapter four (*title: Ecotourism Associations Services Development*). In addition there should be other ecotourism associations which are Cultural Food provision, local Music and Dance and Variety Meat Provision at Dinsho, Rira and Shisha.

- Bale Mountains National Park stunning biodiversity, landscapes and hydrology system give the destination outstanding beauty. The endemic mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians are too exceptional tourism resources. Tourism products which are active in park are few comparing with the destination resources. Having the resources the promotion which has done is low due to which many of the park tourism resources are unknown by tourists. Thus, brochures, folders, books etc should have quality and regular provision. Promotion of the park through media should also have regular program and tested whether the information addressed to target groups through conducting survey by questionnaire or interview.
  
- At current time the park website which is ([www.balemountains.org](http://www.balemountains.org)) is not operating due to lack of attention for the website. There is little information which non-park staffs insert sometimes. To enhance the park tourism the website operation should have regular operation by known experts. The experts will feed new products, give feedback for visitors, update the

information which have already inserted, make contact with visitors and other bodies concerning the destination tourism development etc.

- Promotion is one of the basic activity to develop a given destination; thus the above mechanisms are not enough; if the park make linkage with tour operations, travel agents, airports etc these will help the park tourism promotion enhancement within short time. These organizations are the organizations that have accessibility to get tourists easily, particularly tour operations and travel agents are mediators of destinations. Mutual promotion with these stakeholders is unquestionable task for Bale Mountains National Park office to see better tourism development in the destination.
  
- Museum is one of the basic infrastructures in the national park. In addition to the museum construction a head at the park headquarter, two other mini museums at Angeso and Shisha require to address better information for visitors; because Angeso and Shisha are other gate and departure of the park.
  
- To mitigate and stop negative impacts on the tourism development of Bale Mountains National Park and progress the sector, tourism specific awareness is too important for the: community, the woredas and zones staffs and leaders, park and non-governmental organizations that are in and around the park staffs and ecotourism associations members.

## References

- Addisu Asefa. 2011. Walia Special Edition on the Bale Mountains: Mammals of the Bale Mountains National Park (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP 12-14.
- Addisu Tsegaye. 2014. BMNP Community Benefit Report (unpublished). Dinsho, Bale.
- Akama. 199. The Development of Tourism (Published).
- Alberta. 1991. Tourism Development Guide: A Guide to Help Navigate the Tourism Development Process (Published). Edmonton, Alberta. PP 18-23 & 35-39.
- Anteneh Gezahegn. 2012. Assessment of resource use conflict in Bale Mountains National Park (unpublished). Wondo Genet, Ethiopia. PP 23, 25 & 26.
- Bale Mountains National Park website: [www.balemountains.org](http://www.balemountains.org). 2015.
- BMNP Office. 2007 – 2017. Bale Mountains National Park General Management Plan (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP 14, 15, 15-22, 17-20, 17 & 18 & 80.
- BMNP office. 2009. Bale Mountains National Park Trekking Map (Published). Dinsho, Ethiopia.
- BMNP office. 2013. Bale Mountains National Park Birding Booklet. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- BMNP office. 2015. Bale Mountains National Park Tourism Development Plan Draft (unpublished). Dinsho, Bale. PP 20.
- BMNP. 2013. A Traveler's Guidebook (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP 11-20, 22, 23, 45 & 60.
- David G., Fikirte G, and Roman K. 2013. Amphibians of the Bale Mountains (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Dr Rick Y. 2006. Population and Sampling (published): The Case Study Approach.

Taken from Dr. John Curry, Professor of Educational Research, North Texas State University "Rule of Thumb" on Sample Size.

Ethiopia Media. 2008. Creating the Structure for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism in Ethiopia (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

EWCO. 1986. Bale Mountains National Park Management Plan (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP 6, 35, 52 & 53.

Geremew Mebratu. 2014. Bale Mountains National Park Tourism Activity Report (unpublished). Dinsho, Bale.

Gezahegn Bedasa. 2015. Bale Mountains National Park Annual Report (unpublished). Dinsho, Bale.

Hunegnaw Mekonnen. 2016. BMNP staffs Report (unpublished). Dinsho, Bale.

ILO. 2010. Developments and challenges in the hospitality and tourism sector (published).

Lucy Kassa. 2015. Ethiopia's Tourism Services (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Malcolm L. and Stephen S. 2011. Walia Special Edition on the Bale Mountains: Amphibians and Reptiles Recorded from the Bale Mountains (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP: 91.

Martha H. and Raymond G. 2009. United States Institute of Peace; Tourism in the Developing World: Promoting Peace and Reducing Poverty (published). Washington DC, USA. PP 5-9 & 27-31.

MoCT. 2009. [www.abyssinialaw.com](http://www.abyssinialaw.com): Tourism Development Policy (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP 2 & 9-12.

MoCT. 2013. Workshop on Ethiopia Tourism Development (published). Bale Robe, Ethiopia.

- MoCT. 2014. India Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (published). Delhi, India.
- MoCT. 2014. Workshop on East Africa Tourism Master Plan (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- MoED. 2011-2016. Tourism Development Strategy (published). Republic of Srilank. PP 2, 4-7, 14 & 21-26.
- MoFED FDRoE. 2003. Bale Mountains National Park Development Project (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP 26, 27, 44 & 45.
- SNV. (October 2007). Tourism and Development (published). Nairobi, Kenya. PP 9-11, 20, 51-62 & 72-78.
- Stuart W. 2002. Bale Mountains A Guidebook (published). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PP 7,8 & 48.
- Tourismos. 2012. An International Multidisciplinary Journal of Tourism Volume 7., Island of Skiathos.
- Wason. 1998. Tourism Contributions for Economic Development (published).
- [wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh\\_Husseini](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Husseini). 2015.
- [www.ethiovisit.com/sof-omar-caves](http://www.ethiovisit.com/sof-omar-caves). April 2015.
- Yabibal Muluaem. 2010. Tourist Flows and Its Determinants in Ethiopia (published).

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Interview Questions

1. What kind of tourism infrastructures and services exist in the Bale Mountains National Park?
2. Among the infrastructures and services existed which are in better circumstance and which are not? Discuss with reasons.
3. Do you think Dinsho and Bale Mountain lodges are plenty to accommodate tourists? Discuss their service quality, staffs' profession and other gaps.
4. Is there any other opportunity for tourists who visit Bale Mountains National Park to stay in? If there are, discuss their service quality, staffs' profession and other gaps.
5. What can you recommend for accommodation services gaps of the park? Discuss opportunities to build new ecolodges and what kind of service they will deliver?
6. Please explain Bale Mountains National Park tourist vehicle roads: quality, maintenance, limitation and where new road will construct.
7. Are the trekking routes has limitation? Discuss: quality, maintenance and where the park will add new.
8. Do you think tourist's campsites of the park need facilities like: mountain hut, toilet & kitchen? If your answer is yes, discuss wilderness issue and identify if any not to build on.
9. What are the service limitations of Bale Mountains National Park ecotourism associations? How can the limitations improve?
10. Do you think other ecotourism services require for the tourist? If yes, identify the name(s) of service(s) and where it (they) will base.

11. Please explain Bale Mountains National Park promotions ways. Do you think the destination has been promoted well? If your answer is no, identify the limitations and put your suggestion how it will promote well.
12. What are the federal and regional government roles to develop Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities?
13. Explain policies regarding tourism which have impacts on the Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities development at federal and regional level.
14. Identify opportunities and challenges of Bale Mountains National Park tourism facilities development.

## Appendix 2: Basic Information about Key Informants

SN	Name	Organization	Position	Age
1	Shamil Kadir Kalil	BMNP	Acting Chief Warden	32
2	Teshite Osolo Muda	BMNP	Tourism and Community Warden	40
3	Sena Gashe Hora	BMNP	Wildlife Research and Monitoring Expert	29
4	Zerayehu Endalew Kalemework	BMNP	Tourism Expert	27
5	Muluken Abayneh Zerfu	BMNP	Wildlife Research and Monitoring Expert	27
6	Shimelis Wondimu Teklu	BMNP	Wildlife and their Habitat Monitoring	31
7	Awol Kasim Mame	BMNP	Community Expert	30
8	Gazehegn Bedasa Hailu	BMNP	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	26
9	Fekadu Asefa Eshetu	BMNP	Legal Expert	25
10	Girma Tadese Meskela	BMNP	General Service and Transportation Head	49
11	Wordofa Bayecha Debele	BMNP	Chief Scout	49
12	Worku Tadese Tekle	BMNP	Chief Scout	43
13	Haji Ebu Seyo	BMNP	Head Scout	55
14	Girma Urge Dinagde	BMNP	Head Scout	53
15	Abduresak H/Adem	BMNP	Acting Procurement,	40

	Bashara		Finance and Resource Head	
16	Zerihun G/Hiywot Hailu	BMNP	Fee Collector	33
17	Eban Yigezu Shabera	FZS-BMCP	Natural Resource Management and Outreach Technical Advisor	44
18	MatthewThomas Tornton	FZS-BMCP	Tourism Technical Advisor	30
19	Hussein H/Adem Bashara	FZS-BMCP	Assistant Administration	49
20	Idris Ebu Seyo	EWCP	Assistant Field Coordinator	42
21	Jafar Mohammed Bashara	Nyala Guides	Leader	47
22	Ahmed Alo Batu	Nyala Guides	Member	26
23	Armaye Negalign Shiferaw	Nyala Guides	Member	24
24	Hasen Wako Sheymo	Borofa Porters	Leader	40
25	Sultan Mohammed Washi	Kerensa Horse Renters	Leader	38
26	Idris Abdela Hussein	Key Kebero Cooks	Leader	25
27	Meskelu Kumsa Megersa	Dinsho Lodge	Manager	22
28	Bruk Negussie Dane	Bale Mountain Lodge	Guides Leader	24



Picture 21: Key Informants Interview

Photo by: Geremew Mebratu (February 2016)

### **Appendix 3: Focus Group Discussion Questions**

1. What are the contributions of the local communities for the park tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development?
2. Is there any negative impact on the park tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development?
3. What benefits the local communities get from the development of the park tourism infrastructures, services and promotions?
4. Do you think the benefit of local community has positive impact on the park tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development? Discuss if exist.
5. Is there any negative impact on the local community if the park tourism infrastructures, services and promotions developed? If yes, identify the impacts and discuss on.
6. Are the local community beneficiary from the ecolodges existed in the park? Whether you say yes or no, explain reasons in both case and put your suggestion for improvement as well explain its impact on the development of the park infrastructures, services and promotions development.
7. What kind of suggestion do you have for Bale Mountains National Park tourist accommodations improvement?
8. Discuss on the park vehicle roads and trekking routes in relation to the local community benefit and the park tourism development.
9. Do you think the local community has any benefit with the park campsite development? If yes, identify the benefits and discuss on how the community will operate.

10. Do you think the current ecotourism associations in the Bale Mountains National Park are delivering services for tourists well? If no, explain gaps and put your idea for improvement.
11. How you can explain the involvement of ecotourism associations' members in the park? Discuss in relation with community benefit.
12. Discuss on the positive and negative impacts of local community on the infrastructures, services and promotions development if any.
13. What are the opportunities and challenges of tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development of Bale Mountains National Park?
14. What do you recommend for Bale Mountains National Park office for better experience of tourists?

## Appendix 4: Questionnaires for Tourists' Survey

Dear tourist, you are kindly requested to answer the following questions by saying yes or no using right mark (√), filling the blank spaces, listing your answers and writing short notes which purpose is to carry out research on tourism infrastructure, service and promotion development of Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia. This research will help the park management and the concerned bodies to seek possible solutions for the problems which are hindrance for the park tourism infrastructures, services and promotions development. *Dear sir/Madam, please answer the questions after your visit; because there are many questions which require observation of other parts of the park and the services. For specific questions your answer can be more than one.*

### Section A

#### Personal questions

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Nationality \_\_\_\_\_
3. Country of residence \_\_\_\_\_
4. Organization (work place): Government  Nongovernment   
Private  Other
5. Sex: Male  Female
6. Age: 16- 25  26- 35   
36 – 45  above 45
7. Education level  
Elementary  High school  Diploma

Undergraduate  Postgraduate (MA/MSC)

Postgraduate (PHD)

## Section B

### Research Area Questions

1. Is this your first time coming to Bale Mountains National Park?

Yes  No

2. If your answer for question number 1 is no how many times you came to the Park?

1  2  3

4  above 4

3. How do you rate the arrival at the park gate greeting by the experts/guides?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

4. How do you rate the availability and quality of arrival information and services?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

5. Do you have complains with the information and services?

Yes  No

6. If your answer for question number 5 is yes, please list the complaints.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

7. If any, for your complain did you get positive/fair answer from the park management?

Yes  No

8. If you have encountered problems with the ecotourism associations' members (guides, porters, cooks, horse renters and wood, handicraft, coffee & honey providers please list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

9. How do you rate the overall ecotourism associations' members' service?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

10. How do you rate Bale Mountains National Park Guides knowledge, professionalism and service?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

11. How do you rate Bale Mountains National Park porters' service?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

12. How do you rate Bale Mountains National Park horse service?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

13. How do you rate Bale Mountains National Park cooks professionalism and service?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

14. How do you rate Bale Mountains National Park handicraft providers and the handicrafts?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  excellent

15. How do you rate Bale Mountains National Park wood provision?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

16. What will you recommend to improve Bale Mountains National Park ecotourism associations' services?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

17. How do you rate Dinsho lodge services quality and its staffs' professionalism?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

18. If you have encountered problems with the Dinsho lodge service provision, please list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

19. How do you rate Bale Mountain lodge services quality and its staffs' professionalism?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

20. If you have encountered problems with the Bale Mountain lodge services provision, please list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

21. What should be done to improve the two lodges' services?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

22. Did you face any difficulty with the park vehicle roads and trekking routes?

Yes  No

23. If your answer for question number 22 is yes please list the difficulties you have faced?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

24. Do you think the park requires additional vehicle roads?

Yes  No

25. If your answer for question number 24 is yes, where will you recommend the new road(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

26. Do you think the park requires additional trekking routes?

Yes  No

27. If your answer for question number 26 is yes, where you will recommend the new trekking routes?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

28. How do you rate the park tourists' campsites overall circumstances?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

29. Do you think campsites need facilities to construct on such as mountain hut, toilet, kitchen etc?

Yes  No

30. If your answer for question number 29 is yes which campsites you will recommend for construction of the basic facilities?

---

---

---

31. How do you rate Bale Mountains National Park promotions?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

32. Which promotions types of the park are better and which are not?

---

---

---

33. How do you rate the park website ([www.balemountains.org](http://www.balemountains.org)) operation by the park office?

Poor  Fair  Good

Very good  Excellent

35. Did you face any problem with park website?

Yes  No

36. If your answer for question number 36 is yes please list the problems.

---

---

---

33. Do you think a museum is required in the Bale Mountains National Park?

Yes  No

37. If your answer for question number 33 is yes, please explain what kind of museum the park office will build and where.

---

---

---

## Appendix 5: Gaaffilee Abbootii/Haadhotii Warraatiif (Hawaasa Naannoo)/Questionnaires for Households Survey

Kabajamoo obbo/aaddee gaaffilee armaan gadii haaluma gaafatameen akka deebistan kabajaan isin gaafanna. Kaayyoon gaaffilee guddina tuurizimii (ijaarsa, tajaajila fi beeksisa) ilaalchisee rakkinnaa fi carraa jiru addaan baasuu fi furmaanni rakkinnootaa maal akka ta'uu malu hubachuufi. Kabajamtoota hawaasa naannoo gaaffileen hundi bu'aa hawaasa naannichaa wajjiin kan walqabatu ta'uu hubadhaa. Gaaffilee filannoo qabaniif deebii tokkoo ol kennuun ni danda'ama.

### Kutaa A

#### Gaaffilee Dhuunfaa

1. Maqaa \_\_\_\_\_
2. Saala: dhiira urba
3. Umrii: 20-30  31-40  -50  50 ol
4. Sadarkaa barumsaa: Kutaa 1-8  Kutaa 9-12  Diplooma   
Digrii jalqabaa  Digrii lammaffaa  Digrii sadaffaa
5. Dalagaa: Qonna  Horsiisa loonii   
Horsiisa kanniisaa  Daldala  Kan biroo
6. Godina \_\_\_\_\_
7. Aanaa \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ganda \_\_\_\_\_

## Kutaa B

### Gaaffilee Qo'annoo

1. Karaan konkolaataa dabalataa daawwattootaaf paarkicha kessatti ni barbaachisu jettanii ni yaadduu? Ni yaaddan yoo ta'e bakka itti barbaachisan nuuf eeraa.

---

---

---

2. Karaan miilaa/fardaa dabalataa daawwattootaaf ni barbaachisu jettanii yaadduu? Ni yaaddan yoo ta'e paarkicha keessatti bakka itti barbaachisan nuuf eeraa.

---

---

---

3. Ijaarsi tajaajila daawwattootaa kaampota irratti ni barbaachisu jettanii yaadduu? Yoo ni yaaddan ta'e kaampota kamfaatu hoxxee, mana fincaanii, mana bilcheessaa fi kkf barbaadu?

---

---

---

4. Lojoonni Paarkii Biyyoolessaa Gaarreewwan Baalee keessatti argaman daawwattoota gara paarkichaa dhufan keessummeessuuf gahaa dha jettanii yaadduu? Yoo hin yaanne ta'e waan hir'ate tarreessaa?

---

---

---

5. Hawaasni naannoo hojii tuurizimii paarkichaa irraa fayyadamoodhaa? Yoo kan yaffadamoo ta'an ta'e maalfaadhan fayyadamaa jiru?

---

---

---

6. Faayidaa hawaasa naannoo paarkichaa cimsuu fi babal'isuuf ijaarsa, tajaajilaa fi beeksisa tourizimii misoomsuu keessatti maal faatu hojjetamuu qaba?

---

---

---

7. Misooma:- ijaarsa, tajaajilaa fi beeksisa tuurizimii paarkichaatiif wantoota karaa hawaasa naannootiin gufuudha jettan tarreessaa.

---

---

---

8. Misooma:- ijaarsa, tajaajilaa fi beeksisa tuurizimii paarkichaatiif waantoota karaa hawaasa naannootiin haala mijaawoodha jettan tarreessaa.

---

---

---

9. Ijaarsa, tajaajilaa fi beeksisa tuurizimii Paarkii Biyyoolessaa Gaarreewwan Baalee misoomsuuf hojiiwwan karaa hawaasa naannootiin hojjetamuu qabu jettan tarreessuun ibsaa.

---

---

---

10. Bulchiinsa Paarkii Biyyoolessaa Gaarreewwan Baalee ilaalchisee misooma: ijaarsa, tajaajilaa fi beeksisa tuurizimmiif wantoonni mijaawoo hin taane maal faadha?

---

---

---

11. Karaa Bulchiinsa Paarkii Biyyoolessaa Gaarreewwan Baaleetiin ijaarsa, tajaajilaa fi beeksisa tuurizimii paarkichaa misoomsuuf wantoota hojjetamuu qaban tarreessaa?

---

---

---

## Appendix 6: Endemic mammals in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Common name	Scientific name	Locale name
1	Mountain nyala	<i>Tragelaphus buxtoni</i>	Gadamssa baddaa(oro), yeDega Agazen (amh)
2	Ethiopian wolf	<i>Canis simensis</i>	Jeedala fardaa (oro), key kebero (amh)
3	Menelik's bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki</i>	Borofa Minilik (oro), yeMinilik dekula (amh)
4	Giant molerat	<i>Tachyoryctes macrocephalus</i>	Tuqaa guddaa (oro) , yeDega Filfel (amh)
5	Stark's hare	<i>Lepus starcki</i>	Hilleessa (oro), Tinchel (amh)
6	Bale monkey	<i>Chlorocebus djamdjamensis</i>	Qamalee Baalee(oro), yeBale Tota (amh)
7	Mohamet's mouse	<i>Mus mohamet</i>	Hantuuta (oro), Ayet (amh)
8	Harsh -furred mouse	<i>Lophuromys flavopunctatus</i>	
9	Black clawed mouse	<i>Lophuromys melanonyx</i>	

10	Bale Shrew	<i>Chlorocebus bottegoides</i>	Hantuuta (oro), Ayet (amh)
11	White tailed rat	<i>Stenocephalemys albocaodata</i>	Hantuuta (oro), Ayet (amh)
12	Grey tailed rat	<i>Stenocephalemys griseicauda</i>	Hantuuta (oro), Ayet (amh)
13	Nikolaus rat	<i>Megadendromus nikolausi</i>	Hantuuta (oro), Ayet (amh)
14	Blick's grass rat	<i>Arvicanthis blicki</i>	Hantuuta (oro), Ayet (amh)
15	Glass's shrew	<i>Crocidura glassi</i>	Ayte moget(amh)
16	Bale shrew	Hantuuta Baalee	Ayte moget(amh)
17	Thalia's Shrew	<i>Cracidura thalia</i>	
18	White footed rat	<i>Praomys albipes</i>	Hantuuta (oro), Ayet(amh)
19	Harena shrew	<i>Crocidura harena</i>	
20	Scott's hairy bat	<i>Myotis scotti</i>	

Source: (EWCO, 1986 and Addisu Asefa, 2011)

### Appendix 7: Ethiopia Endemic Birds found in the BMNP

SN	Common name	<i>Scientific name</i>
1	Blue-winged goose	<i>cyanochen cyanopterus</i>
2	Spot-breasted Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanocephalus</i>
3	Yellow-fronted parrot	<i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i>
4	Abyssinian longclaw	<i>Macronyx flavicollis</i>
5	Abyssinian catbird	<i>Parophasma galinieri</i>
6	Ethiopian/ black-headed siskin	<i>Serinus nigriceps</i>

Source: (BMNP office, 2013)

### Appendix 8: Reptiles in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Name	Residence	Remark
1	Acanthocercus atricollis (Lizard)	Dodola, Adaba, South slope of Gasae and Dinsho	
2	Chamaeleoaffinis (Chamaeleodae)	Dinsho, Goba and South East of Goba	Ethiopia Endemic
3	Chamaeleo balebicornutus (Chamaeleodae)	Katcha and Near Shawe River	Bale Mountains Endemic
4	Chameleo harennae (Chamaeleodae)	12 km North of Katcha, Katcha, Rira and Arba Gona	Bale Mountains Endemic
5	Typhlops lineolatus (Snake)	Yadot River and South of Shisha River	
6	Dasypelti scabra (Snake)	South of Shisha River	
7	Duberria lutrix (Snake)	Dinsho	
8	Psammophylax variabilis (Snake)	Near Dinsho	
9	Pseudoboodon lemniscatus (Snake)	Dodola, Near Adaba and Shawe River	

Source: (Malcolm and Stephen, 2011)

## Appendix 9: Amphibians in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Name	Distribution
1	<i>Balebreviceps hillmani</i>	Harana Forest (2,800m – 3,200m)
2	<i>Ericabatrachus baleensis</i>	Harana Forest (2,400m – 3,200m)
3	<i>Altiphrynoidea malcolmi</i>	Bale Mountains (2,500m – 4,000m)
4	<i>Spinophrynoidea osgoodi</i>	Bale & Arsi Mountains (1,950m – 3,520m)
5	<i>Paracassina kounhiensis</i>	Ethiopian highlands east of Rift Valley (1,980m – 3,200m) and in BMNP Sanatae Plateau
6	<i>Xenopus clivii</i>	Widely distributed in Horn Africa (1,900 – 2,750m) and in Bale Harana Forest below 2,000m.
7	<i>Hyperolius nasutus</i>	Widespread in Africa (500m – 2,000m) and in Bale Harana Forest below 2,000m.
8	<i>Afrixalus enseticola</i>	Endemic to highlands in southern Ethiopia (1,700m – 2,750m) and Bale Harana Forest below 2,500m.
9	<i>Leptopelis gramineus</i>	Across Bale from 1,900m up to Sanatae plateau
10	<i>Leptopelis ragazzii</i>	Sanatae plateau (1,800m - 3200m)
11	<i>Ptychadena</i>	Dinsho, Harana and Sanatea (1,500m – 3100m)
12	<i>Phrynobatrachus minutus</i>	Endemic to Ethiopia (1,300m – 2,800m) & Harana Forest
13	<i>Bufo kerinyagae</i>	North eastern Africa, Ethiopia (1,500m - 3,300m) and in Bale Sanatae and Rira

Source: (David, Fikirte and Roman, 2013)

## Appendix 10: Fish in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Name	Distribution
1	Rainbow trout	Web, Shaya, Denka and Togona Rivers
2	Brown trout	Web and Shaya

Source: (BMNP office, 2007-20017)

## Appendix 11: Endemic Plants in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Scientific Name	Family
1	Chlorophytum dulis pterocarpum	Anthericaceae
2	Pentar hinum basense	Asclepiadaceae
3	Bedins mesfinii	Asteraceae
4	Blepharis permum obovatum	Asteraceae
5	Euryops prostrathus	Asteraceae
6	Senecio shulz sub Sub. Spp lanatus	Asteraceae
7	Sonanecio harenaensis	Asteraceae
8	Commiphora monoica	Burseraceae
9	Ubelinia kisesiensis	Caryophyllaceae
10	Mytenus havenensis	Clastraceae
11	Convolvulus bidrensis	Convolvulaceae
12	Ipomea sofomorensis	Convolvulaceae
13	Sedam balensis	Crassulaceae
14	Sedam glomeriflum	Crassulaceae
15	Euphorbia soveceana	Euphorbiaceae
16	Euphorbia amariana	Euphorbiaceae

17	<i>Euphorbia balensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae
18	<i>Euphorbia letracantha</i>	Euphorbiaceae
19	<i>Tragia crenata</i>	Euphorbiaceae
20	<i>Acacia pseudonigrescens</i>	Fabaceae
21	<i>Crotalarai hypargyrea</i>	Fabaceae
22	<i>Crotarai trifoliolata</i>	Fabaceae
23	<i>Swertia macrocephala</i> sbsp <i>microspenya</i>	Gentianaceae
24	<i>Gladiolus balensis</i>	Irriddaceae
25	<i>Becium formosum</i>	Lamiaceae
26	<i>Lobelia tripartiata</i>	Lobeliaceae
27	<i>Adenia pulchira</i>	Passifloraceae
28	<i>Polygala crlangerii</i>	Polygalaceae
29	<i>Melchania zavattarii</i>	Sterculiaceae
30	<i>Xerophyte rippstenii</i>	Veloziaceae

Source: (Addisu Asefa, 2011)

## Appendix 12: Mountains in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Name	Altitude above sea level	Remark
1	Boditi	3,543m	On the Boundary
2	Adelay	3,659m	
3	Gurati	3,615m	On the Boundary
4	Batu Tiko	4,000m	
5	Wasama	4,200m	
6	Batu	4,307m	
7	Tulu Dimtu	4,377m	
8	Chorchora	2,888m	On the Boundary
9	Konteh	4,132m	On the Boundary
10	Darkina	3,899m	

Source: (BMNP office, 2009 and field observation 2015 and 2016)

### Appendix 13: Rivers in the Bale Mountains National Park

SN	Major Rivers	Tributaries
1	Wabe Shebele	Abasa, Arba, Baaranda, Boko, Furunna, Gondadoh, Layleeso, and Solay
2	Web	Albabo, Dalacha, Danka, Dimbeeba, Garano, Gaysay, Kabasha, Kaficho, Keyrensa, Lolla, Micha, Shaiya, Shaiya-Gugesu, Tayanta, Togona, Toroshama, Walla, Wasama, Web and Zetegne Melka
3	Dumal	Deyu and 5 un-named tributaries
4	Welmel	Garemba, Rira, Shawe, Shisha and Yadot
5	Ganale	Welmel and 2 other large tributaries

Source: (BMNP office, 2007 – 2017)

### Appendix 14: Basic information about BMNP Staffs

SN	Profession type	Staffs on the job	Additional staffs required
1	Chief Warden	1	-
2	Research and Monitoring Warden	1	-
3	Tourism and Community Warden	1	-
4	Senior Wildlife Research and Monitoring Expert	-	1
5	Medium Wildlife Research and Monitoring Expert	1	-
6	Junior Wildlife Research and Monitoring Expert	1	-
7	Junior Wildlife and their habitat monitoring Expert	1	-
8	Senior Tourism Expert	-	1
9	Medium Tourism Expert	1	-
10	Junior Tourism Expert	1	-
11	Senior Community Expert	-	1
12	Medium Community Expert	-	1
13	Junior Community Expert	1	-
14	Veterinary	-	1
15	Chief Scouts	2	2
16	Head Scouts	10	1
17	Senior Scouts	13	6

18	Medium Scouts	15	11
19	Junior Scouts	13	3
20	Community Scouts	11	14
21	Guards	3	5
22	Legal Expert	1	-
23	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	1	-
24	Ethics Officer	-	1
25	Finance, Purchasing and Resource Administration Head	-	1
26	General Service and Transport Head	1	-
27	Purchaser	1	-
28	Accountant	1	-
29	Auditor	1	-
30	Cashier	-	1
31	Fee Collectors	1	-
32	Secretary	1	1
33	Human Resource Administration and Development Head	-	1
34	Human Resource Development and Administration staff	1	-
35	Shepherd for Horse and Mule	5	1
36	Driver IV	-	-
37	Driver II	1	-
38	Driver I	1	-

39	Mechanic Driver	-	1
40	Radio and Telephone Operator	1	-
41	Maintenance	-	1
42	Office Assistant	1	-
43	Archive staff	1	-
44	Store Keeper	-	1
45	Sanitarian	2	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>57</b>

Source: (Hunegnaw Mekonnen, February 2016)

Note: Staffs from number 1-21 are technical while staffs from 22-45 are supportive.

### Appendix 15: Basic Information about Tourists

<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Education Level:</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Government	59%	Elementary	6%
NGO	4%	High school	15%
Private	37%	Diploma	21%
<b>Gender:</b>		Degree (undergraduate)	44%
Male	68%	Masters (MA and/or MSC)	11%
Female	32%	PHD	3%
<b>Age:</b>			
16-25	14%		
26-35	33%		
36-45	22%		
45+	31%		

## Appendix 16: Basic Information about Households

<b>Gender:</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Education Level:</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	94%	Illiterate	5%
Female	6%	Grade 1-4	59%
<b>Age:</b>		Grade 5-8	34%
20-30	23%	Grade 8-12	2%
31-40	35%	<b>Job:</b>	
41-50	33%	Agriculture, Livestock Raring and Honey Hiving	2%
50+	9%	Agriculture and Livestock Raring	98%

## Appendix 17: Trekking Routes in the Bale Mountains National Park

Trekking Days	Trekking route options
One Day trekking	Dinsho – Gasae – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Habera – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Adele – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Sanatae – Dinsho
Two Days trekking	Dinsho – Habera – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Adele – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Gasae – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Sanatae – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Katcha Dinsho

Three Days Trekking	Dinsho – Habera – Dinsho
Four Days Trekking	Dinsho – Habera – Wasema – Batu Tiko – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Habera – Dinsho – Sanatae – Dinsho
Five Days Trekking	Dinsho – Habera – Wasema – Garba Guracha – Worgona/Batu Tiko – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Habera – Wasema – Garba Guracha – Goba – Dinsho
Six Days Trekking	Dinsho – Sodota – Kerensa – Rafu – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko –Dinsho
	Dinsho – Habera – Alea – Rafu – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko –Dinsho
	Dinsho – Habera – Wasama – Garba Guracha – Kela – Goba –Dinsho
	Dinsho – Adele – Sodota – Wasama – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko –Dinsho
Seven Days Trekking	Dinsho – Sodota – Kerensa – Rafu – Humburi – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Adele – Sodota – Kerensa – Rafu – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko –
	Dinsho – Sodota – Morobawa – Rafu – Humburi – Garba Guracha –Batu Tiko – Dinsho
Eight Days Trekking	Dinsho – Adele - Sodota – Kerensa – Rafu – Humburi – Garba Guracha– Batu Tiko – Dinsho
Nine Days Trekking	Dinsho – Adele – Sodota – Kerensa – Rafu – Gusa – Humburi – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko – Dinsho

Ten Days Trekking	Dinsho – Sodota – Kerensa – Rafu – Gusa – Katcha – Tula Muma –Habel Kasim – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko – Dinsho
	Dinsho – Sodota – Kerensa – Rafu – Gusa – Katcha – Humburi – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko – Dinsho – Gasae – Dinsho
Eleven Days Trekking	Dinsho – Sodota – Morobawa – Harena Gora – Kanawe – Katcha – Gusa – Habel Kasim – Garba Guracha – Wasama – Batu Tiko – Dinsho
Twelve Days Trekking	Dinsho – Sodota – Morobawa – Harena Gora – Kanawe – Hawo – Katcha – Gusa – Habel Kasim – Garba Guracha – Wasama – Batu Tiko – Dinsho
Thirteen Days Trekking	Dinsho – Adele – Sodota – Morobawa – Harena Gora – Kanawe – Hawo – Katcha – Gusa – Habel Kasim – Garba Guracha – Wasama – Batu Tiko – Dinsho
Fourteen Days Trekking	Dinsho – Adele – Sodota – Morobawa – Harena Gora – Kanawe – Hawo – Gnore – Kela – Tula Muma – Habel Kasim – Garba Guracha – Batu Tiko – Dinsho
Fifteen Days Trekking	Dinsho – Adele – Sodota – Morobawa – Harena Gora – Kanawe – Hawo – Gnore – Kela – Tula Muma – Habel Kasim – Garba Guracha – Wasama– Batu Tiko – Dinsho

Source: Focus Group Discussion and Field Observation

# Declaration

I declare that this research report is my own, unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Art by coursework in Tourism and Development Studies at the Addis Ababa University. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any other university.

Declared by:

Name: Geremew Mebratu Demissie

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:

Name: Dr Kassaye Begashaw

Signature \_\_\_\_\_