

NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Issue No. 5

General Manager Mekoya Mamo (in the middle), Chief Guard Shimelid Kebede, (on the left) and a park guard during a documentary shooting in June 2021

NEW STAFF

The Trust in Addis Ababa appointed a new General Manager, Mekoya Mamo, in February of this year. He has an MSc in Biodiversity Conservation and Management.

From 2017 – 2021 he was Park Manager of Yangudi-Rasa National Park, a park of 4,730 square kilometres in the Afar Region. He has made an excellent start in his post, and the Trust is lucky to have him.

A few months later the Trust appointed a Park Manager, Ahmed Endris Abi. Also a holder of a relevant MSc degree, he has 10 years practical experience working in the field of wildlife. He, too, has made an energetic start.

And in August a new Administration and Finance Head was appointed, Adefirs Alemu. He is a BSc graduate with 7 years work experience in the financial sector.

We wish them all well.

NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA

More than 20 types of native trees were planted, including African Olive (*Olea africana*), Sycamore Fig (*Ficus sycomorus*), Abyssinian Acacia (*Acacia abyssinica*), African Cherry (*Prunus Africana*), African Juniper (*Juniperus procera*), Cape Ash (*Ekebergia capensis*) and Sudan Teak (*Cordia Africana*).

PLANTING

Circumstances are not easy in Ethiopia at the moment so it is pleasing to be able to record that this year saw the planting of **over 24,000 tree seedlings** in the Entoto Natural Park.

While it was disappointing that the Trust's own tree nursery could not in the event be established this year, still, the fact that the Trust managed to plant so many indigenous trees in July and August (the planting season) was a real triumph – a comprehensive rebound from the 9,400 planted in 2020.

23 organisations contributed, and more than 4,400 individuals were involved in the transport and planting of the seedlings.

PRESSURE ON THE PARK

At the same time the pressure on the Entoto Natural Park land from various directions continues. With the strengthening of the staff the Trust is now better placed to resist these pressures, but earlier this year construction of a new minor road that crosses a northern part of the Park began and this has had to be accepted as a fait accompli.

TRANSPORT

The Trust faces a major problem over transport.

For the tree planting the Trust had to beg and borrow transport from anywhere it could.

To manage a park the size of the Entoto Natural Park a pick-up truck is needed and a Toyota Hilux, duty free, costs around £41,000. Second-hand vehicles are like gold dust, usually not in good condition, very pricey and with spares difficult to obtain.

Unfortunately there is not enough money in the joint kitty. The Trust in Addis Ababa can afford £10,000 and the UK Trust has offered to match this, but a sizeable gap remains.

Any help over this issue, either by donation, or suggestion how we could proceed would be most welcome!

FACEBOOK

The Trust in Addis Ababa is on Facebook!

The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/ethiopianheritagetrust.et>

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Amongst other innovations, Mekoya has been working hard to improve cooperative arrangements with other organisations working in the same field as the Trust.

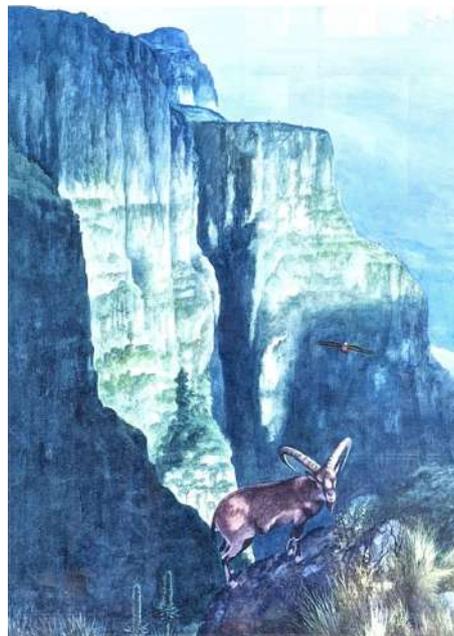
A **Memorandum of Understanding** has been signed with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and also with the Ethiopian Culture and Tourism Journalist Association.

NEWS FROM THE UK

ERIC ROBSON

In these troublesome times in Ethiopia it is refreshing to remember some of the beauties and wonders there.

So we feature in this Newsletter some of Eric Robson's paintings of Ethiopia. His love of the country shines through his works.



Please take the time to look at his paintings on sale at the Shop on the Trust's website

www.ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org

Having been a supporter of the Ethiopian Heritage Trust in Addis Ababa since 1994 he is generously now donating 50% of the sale price of his pictures to the Trust.

Please bring his pictures to the attention of any of your friends and acquaintances who love paintings, or Ethiopia, or both!

TRUSTEES

It is with regret that we announce the passing away of Pete McCann. He was a founding member of the Ethiopian Heritage Trust (UK), and served for two years as the Trust's first Treasurer. Without him it is doubtful whether the Trust would have ever got off the ground. He was lively and committed and served wholeheartedly.

He was a Gold Life Member of the Trust, as was his wife, Wendy, who, sadly, predeceased him.

We are pleased to welcome a new Trustee, Dr Seife Ayele, who is a Fellow of the Institute of Development Studies, a partner of the University of Sussex.

MEMBERSHIP

It is good to be able to record that the UK Trust has 3 new Life Members. Two are former British Ambassadors to Ethiopia, Sir Robin Christopher and Professor Myles Wickstead. We are also very fortunate to be able to welcome Dame Joan Ruddock as Life Member. During a long career of public service she held Ministerial posts concerned with biodiversity, climate change adaptation and energy from 2007 to 2010.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

One of the earliest supporters of the Trust in the UK and Silver Life Member was Anthony Powell, costume designer of genius and winner of three Oscars. Sadly, he passed away earlier this year. A grove or garden in his memory is being established in Entoto Natural Park. There will be a memorial bench in a clearing with views over distant mountains. Around the clearing will be planted indigenous trees, and native Abyssinian roses will encircle the glade. Work has already begun on the project, but we are a little short of the £2,000 required, so any further donations would be gratefully received.