

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 ETHIOPIAN HERITAGE TRUST (UK)

Sadly, for most of the year 1 January to 31 December, the backdrop to the Trust's work was the tragic civil war in Ethiopia. With the ending of hostilities in November we hope 2023 will be a year of peace.

Particularly given these difficult circumstances I am pleased to be able to report a successful year for the Trust.

ETHIOPIAN HERITAGE TRUST (UK)

STATUS

1. We remain registered with the Charity Commission and with HMRC for Gift Aid.

THE BOARD

1. The following Board Members were elected for a two year term at the 2021 Annual General Meeting: Christopher Sargent, Ensermu Workneh, Dr. Fatemeh Ahmadi, Dr. Jacke Phillips, Komeil Karimi, Luisa Tatoli, Makonnen Wodajeneh, Michael Sargent, Dr. Negusse Tewoldemedhin, Dr. Seife Ayele and Dr. Yonas Ghebremichael Weldeselassie.

2. Unfortunately during the year Makonnen Wodajeneh resigned from the Board for personal reasons. We were sorry to see him go and thank him for his term of service.

3. Postholders on the Board continued as:

Chairperson	Michael Sargent
Secretary	Jacke Phillips
Treasurer	Dr. Yonas Ghebremichael Weldeselassie

4. The Trust's Constitution allows for up to 12 Trustees. As there are now 10 Trustees there will be an election during the meeting for the two vacant posts.

5. The Board met 5 times during the year.

6. We are grateful, as always to Ensermu Workneh, Makonnen Wodajeneh, Dr. Negusse Tewoldemedhin, Dr. Seife Ayele and Dr. Yonas Gebremichael Weldeselassie for their help in guiding the Board as regards Ethiopian customs and social mores.

7. During the year Dr. Seife made two working visits to Ethiopia, and was kind enough to find time for discussions with Trust staff and Board Members in Addis Ababa, as well as visiting the Entoto Natural Park. Such first-hand contact is invaluable for helping maintain good working relations.

8. And once more, we are happy to appreciate the excellent work of Luisa Tatoli who is responsible both for maintaining the Trust's website and for producing the attractive Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

1. Outside events, particularly the war in Ukraine, made it difficult to raise funds.

2. Under those circumstances it is pleasing to be able to report that our net income for the year was £16,305. For 2021 the figure was £24,830, helped by a generous donation of £10,000, and for 2020 net income was £7,800.
3. Membership numbers were similar to the previous year, with 182 donors and members.
4. We are grateful to all members who kindly set up standing orders, whether monthly (the ideal for us) or yearly.
5. We are sorry to record the death during the year of Sir Eldryd Parry. A great man, he was one of the earliest supporters of the Trust in the 1990's and a generous donor over many years.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Thanks are due once more to Dr. Yonas Gebremichael Weldeselassie, our Treasurer, for ably managing the accounts and the membership data base.
2. Gift Aid, which Christopher Sargent kindly organises, brought in £5,904.
3. The sale of Eric Robson's wonderful paintings, which are available on the Trust's website, brought in just over £1,000.
4. The accounts were inspected and certified once again by John Bowthorpe. We are grateful to him for his time generously given free.
5. As always, no funds were spent in the UK on administration.
6. During the year £2,000 was transferred for the Trust's account to the Trust in Addis Ababa. This was provided to help with expenses for the final days of tree planting in the Entoto Natural Park, when 9,000 seedlings were planted to add to the 15,000 already planted.
7. The Trust also provided a mobile phone at the cost of £380 for the General Manager of the Trust in Addis Ababa.
8. The Trust's finances ended the year with a balance of £35,848.
9. The reason for such a high balance is to be found in the unfortunate saga of the Ethiopian Trust's desperate need for transport. Their old car should have been put out to pasture years ago; it frequently breaks down. Repairs are very expensive and parts very hard to come by. To manage the Entoto Natural Park – not to mention serving the new projects (please see below) - a work vehicle is urgently required. The Trust in Addis Ababa asked us for funding to buy a Toyota pick up; the cost, depending on the exchange rate, is around £32,000. This sum, as you will see, we have collected.
10. However, duty on importing a new truck is 200%. The Trust in Addis Ababa believed they could – as a charity – obtain permission from the appropriate authorities to import a car duty free. Unfortunately, to date, their efforts have been unsuccessful – but their efforts are continuing.
11. A new online platform – Yaan – now features the Trust's fundraising efforts. Craft items are being sold by "Save me, I'm wild", "Eric Robson" and "The Oakam" with prices including a donation to the Trust.
12. And, lastly, right at the end of the year we had a very generous donation of £1,000 from a Singapore supporter.

ETHIOPIAN HERITAGE TRUST IN ETHIOPIA

ORGANISATION AND PERSONNEL

- 1.Lik Kahinat Abayneh remained as the President of the Board of the Ethiopian Heritage Trust. Once more we recognise his unwavering commitment to the Trust, and the strength of his leadership. The Vice President remains Alula Pankhurst, who has found time, despite a very full diary, to take an active role in moving the Trust forward.
- 2.It might be interesting to know that one Member of the Board is Wzo Beletu Mengistu was the first employee of the Trust from 1 August 1994 to January 1995 as the Entoto Park Coordinator.
- 3.The General Manager remains Ato Mekoya Mamo who has been energetic throughout the year. Dr. Regasse Terefe is Head of Natural Heritage Development, Conservation and Monitoring, with Tirsit Shiferaw as Head of the PR Department.
- 4.There are 52 staff members of whom 44 are Park Guards

DEVELOPMENTS

Ankober-Zego Natural Forest

- 1.The most exciting development of the year was undoubtedly the start of a new project, the Ankober-Zego Natural Forest. The Trust, from its creation in 1993 has been hoping to have projects outside Addis Ababa and it is really excellent news that the first such project has begun.
- 2.The lease was signed in June for 99 years. The site, 170 miles north-east of Addis Ababa, is situated adjacent to the Wof-Washa National Forest, an afro-montane forest. It is 100 hectares, plus 2 hectares for a nursery for seedlings. It is, at the moment a degraded forest area, much in need of restoration.
3. The aims are:
 - a) To establish and run a nursery for native plants, particularly trees.
 - b) To plant native trees throughout the area.
 - c) To restore and conserve the natural flora and fauna
 - d) To promote local community benefits and community awareness.
- 4.For the first three years of the project financial support is being provided by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).
- 5.The site is being developed in cooperation with local farmers.
- 6.During the planting season (July – August) 3,000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted and, working with 20 farmers, 2,500 fruit trees.

Entoto Natural Park

- 1.The tree planting this year on Entoto was successful again. Figures for the last three years are:

2020	9,400
2021	24,000
2022	24,000

- 2.The trees planted were a mixture, including Olea africana, Juniperus procera, Acacia abyssinica, Cordia Africana, Podocarpus falcatus and Ficus sur.
- 3.The seedlings required were grown on a site provided by a Local Authority near the Park. A new permanent nursery is planned for this year.
- 4.Over 1,000 volunteers took part in the planting operation and 20 different organisations, supported the planting. These included the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the Roads Authority, 5 hotels (among them the Hilton, the Hayat Regency and the Sheraton) the BGI Ethiopian brewery, the Dashen Bank, the Zemen Bank and the Abyssinia Bank.

Membership

- 1.One disappointment during the year is that the number of individual members remained at only around 120. The Trust will make a particular focus on this in 2023.
2. Corporate membership is in a better state. There are 20 members including banks, insurance companies and hotels.

Dessie Museum

- 1.A Cultural Protection (CPF) project, funded by the British Council, in partnership with the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has been agreed to renovate the Dessie Museum. Contracts were signed in November 2022, with the Ethiopian Heritage Trust as the lead partner. The project will run to 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, our thanks go to all our Members and Donors, without whose help we could do nothing. Their faithful support is greatly appreciated.

Secondly I would like to pay tribute to fellow Board Members, whose commitment and contributions keep the Trust moving forward. Their donations of time and money, from busy professional people, are most generous.

I close with a saying attributed to Martin Luther.

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

Michael Sargent
Chairperson