



Geographical range

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Species of the Day: Ethiopian Wolf

The Ethiopian Wolf, Canis simensis, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The wolves are found only in the Highlands of Ethiopia at altitudes above 3,500 m. They live in family packs and prey primarily upon small mammals, many of which are also endemic to the Afroalpine ecosystem.

Less than 500 wolves remain in seven distinct populations, with the majority living in the Bale Mountains National Park. Encroached upon by high altitude agriculture, their Afroalpine habitats continue to shrink, and climate change may push this agriculture frontier even higher. Pastoralists taking their livestock and their dogs into the wolves' range are responsible for recurrent disease outbreaks of rabies and distemper in the wolf population, which may result in eventual local extinctions.

Conservation measures focus on a mass campaign of dog vaccinations in and around wolves' range to prevent disease transmission. Intensive wolf monitoring, ongoing research, environmental education and protected area support complete a multi-pronged strategy to secure the long-term survival of this species.

