

Bale Mountains

ETHTIPA0019

Country: **Ethiopia**

Administrative region: **Oromia (Regional State)**

Central co-ordinates: **6.85155 N, 39.79745 E**

Qualifying IPA criteria

IPA assessment rationale

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Site description

The Bale Mountains (BM) IPA is situated in the Oromia Region, at the intersection of the Bale and West Arsi administrative zones, c 40 km south of the town of Robe in the Bale floristic region. The Bale Mountains are in the central highlands of the Ethiopian rift valley and reach their peak at Tullu/Mt Deemtu (4,400 m asl). The BM represents the largest area in Africa of the Afroalpine vegetation over 3000m and is the most intact remnant of original highland vegetation (UNESCO, 2024). The contiguous massif is 2067 km², or 17.5% of African land above 3000 m, and is the most intact remnant of original highland vegetation (Brooks et al., 2004). The BM has been recognized been recognized for its significance with both national and international protection as a National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Bale Mountains IPA is of global conservation significance as one of the largest and most intact remaining example of remant Afroalpine and Afromontane vegetation in Africa, which in turn is important habitat for many threatened and endemic Ethiopian plant taxa.

Botanical significance

Cynanchum balense strict endemic to Bale Mountains (not just this IPA, all collected at c3,200 m)

Crotalaria hypargyrea only collected from type in 1928.

Habitat and geology

IPA criterion A species

SPECIES	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 1% OF GLOBAL POPULATION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION	SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT	ABUNDANCE AT SITE
<i>Afroligusticum mattirolii</i> (Chiov.) P.J.D.Winter	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Occasional
<i>Afroligusticum petitianum</i> (A.Rich.) P.J.D.Winter	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Occasional
<i>Alchemilla haumanii</i> Rothm.	A(iv)	—	—	—	—	—	Frequent
<i>Alopecurus baptarrhenius</i> S.M.Phillips	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Occasional
<i>Anthoxanthum aethiopicum</i> I.Hedberg	A(i)	✓	—	✓	—	—	Unknown
<i>Arisaema mooneyanum</i> M.G.Gilbert & Mayo	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Unknown
<i>Artemisia schimperi</i> Sch.Bip. ex Engl.	A(i)	—	—	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Asplenium balense</i> Chaerle & Viane	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Chiliocephalum tegetum</i> Mesfin	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Occasional
<i>Clinopodium paradoxum</i> (Vatke) Ryding	A(iv)	—	—	—	—	—	Occasional
<i>Crotalaria hypargyrea</i> Chiov.	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	Unknown
<i>Cyanotis polyrhiza</i> Hochst. ex Hassk.	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Occasional
<i>Cynanchum balense</i> Liede	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Occasional
<i>Cyperus clandestinus</i> Steud.	A(i)	✓	—	✓	—	—	Occasional
<i>Euryops prostratus</i> B.Nord.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Frequent
<i>Haplocarpha hastata</i> K.Lewin	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Scarce

SPECIES	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 1% OF GLOBAL POPULATION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION	SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT	ABUNDANCE AT SITE
<i>Helichrysum harennense</i> Mesfin	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Occasional
<i>Herniaria abyssinica</i> Chaudhri	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
<i>Lobelia acrochila</i> (E.Wimm.) E.B.Knox	A(iv)	–	–	–	–	–	Occasional
<i>Malva aethiopica</i> C.J.S.Davis	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
<i>Poa hedbergii</i> S.M.Phillips	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Scarce
<i>Ranunculus simensis</i> Fresen.	A(i)	–	–	–	–	–	Unknown
<i>Ranunculus tembensis</i> Fresen.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Unknown
<i>Rubus erlangeri</i> Engl.	A(iv)	✓	–	–	–	–	Unknown
<i>Sedum glomerifolium</i> M.G.Gilbert	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Unknown
<i>Sedum mooneyi</i> M.G.Gilbert	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Occasional
<i>Senecio balensis</i> S.Ortiz & Vivero	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	–	–	Unknown
<i>Senecio farinaceus</i> Sch.Bip. ex A.Rich.	A(i)	–	–	–	–	–	Unknown
<i>Senecio steudelii</i> Sch.Bip. ex A.Rich.	A(iv)	–	–	–	–	–	Unknown
<i>Trifolium spananthum</i> Thulin	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	

IPA criterion C qualifying habitats

HABITAT	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	≥ 10% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	AREAL COVERAGE AT SITE
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General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
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