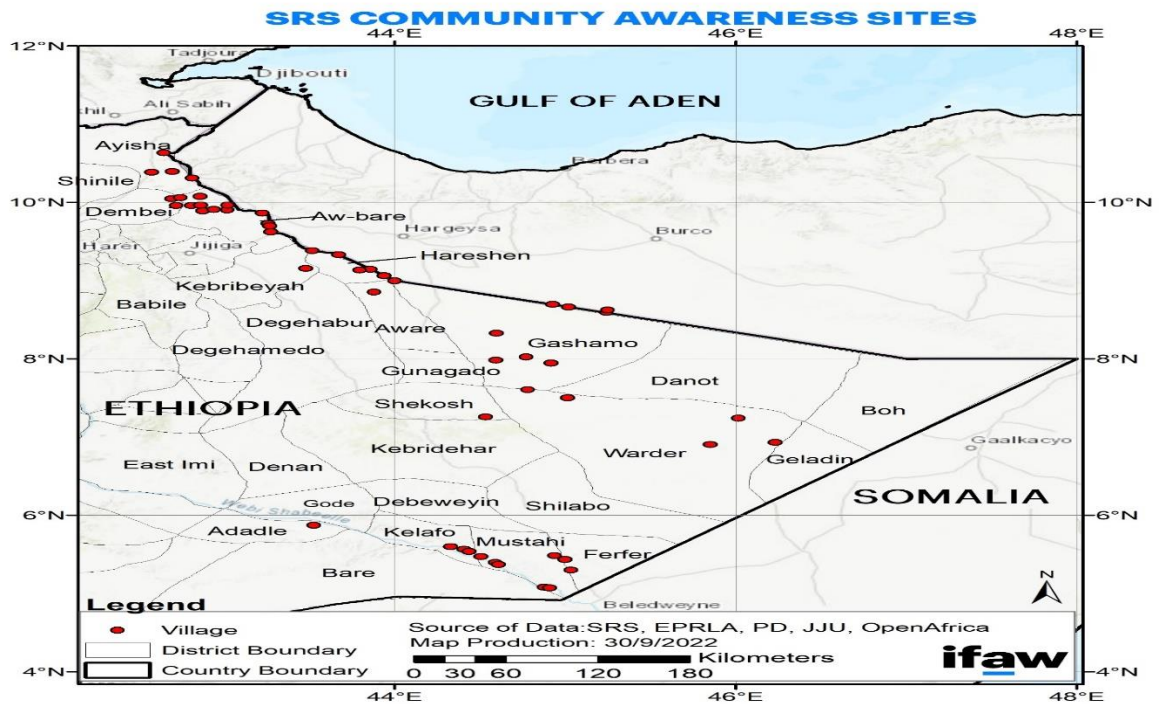




Legal intelligence for cheetah illicit trade project (LICIT)
Awareness creation about illegal wildlife trade in selected border districts
with six zones, Somali regional state.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Ethiopia is located between 3°30' - 15°00'N latitude and 33° - 48°E longitudes in the horn of Africa, and is one of the wildlife biodiversity centers of the world (Yalden, D. and Lagen, M. 1992). Ethiopia is one of the top 25 biodiversity-rich countries in the world and hosts two of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, namely: the Eastern Afromontane and the Horn of Africa hotspots (EBI, 2014 and WCMC 1994).

Despite most of the Somali region's land is lowland, it is part of the richest biodiversity lands in country where a lot of wildlife species live; among which endangered wildlife species are one of them; particularly cheetahs, which are currently under threat of extinction due to loss of habitat by human expansion and loss of genetic variation because of their diminishing number due to killing of the adult and illegal trade of its cubs. So that, Cheetah conservation fund (CCF) with the mission to save the cheetahs from extinction threat, through creating a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in coexistence with people within a sustainable system that is protective of the environment, socially responsible, and economically viable means; has stepped up to conduct a quick survey and community awareness tour in Somali region to understand the status of cheetahs/wildlife, level of community engagement in wildlife protection and determine the status of human-wildlife conflict in Somali region, more specifically in border areas with Somali-land and Somalia.

Cognizant of these, IFAW, CCF and SRS Environmental Protection and Rural land administration bureau agreed to cooperatively conduct a quick survey & community awareness tour in six/eleven administrative zones (Siti, Fafan, Shabele, Jarar, Dollo and Korahay) of the region.

1.2. Objective

The objective of this Quick survey and Awareness tour was to:

- Understand the status of cheetahs/wildlife in the border areas with Somali-land and Somalia as well as get the information about possible illegal trade of cheetahs.
- Understand the human-wildlife conflict in the target area.
- Raise the community awareness about the illegal trade, the extinction threat and loss of genetic variation of cheetahs as well as general wildlife and its habitat protection
- Strengthen the community network engagement in wildlife protection

1.3. Scope of the survey and awareness tour

This Quick survey and Awareness tour were conducted by two survey teams drawn from EPRLA Bureau, pastoral development Bureau and JJ University. each team consisting of 3 members to cover six (6) zones in Somali region; Team A, visiting Shabele, Jarar, Dollo and Korahay Zones While Team B, visited Siti and Fafan Zones. Team A, covering nine (9) districts among four (4) Zones (Shabele, Jarar, Dollo and Korahay) all located along the border with Somali-land and Somalia. While Team B, covered seven (6) districts among two (2) Zones (Siti and Fafan); Where both teams were visiting a purposely selected sample villages in each district awareness creation; meeting an average of 45 – 55 people in each village for awareness creation; on the other hand, meeting with elders, religious leaders, community leaders, law enforcement of the villages, women and youth for surveying in focus group discussion and key informant.

1.4. Met Population size

Herders, farmers, and other inhabitants of rural, pastoral communities, animal health workers, zone focal persons in six zones of the SRS. Survey planning is based on expected 50 participants in each of 39 communities for a total of 1,950 individuals engaged.

Covering of that target Team, “A” had a target of visiting 24 villages while Team, “B” had a target of visiting 20 villages meeting an average of 45 -55 individuals in every village for awareness creation. However, both teams managed to visit 27 villages each, making the number of visited villages 54 villages in general.

The population met by the teams for awareness creation were ($54 \times 50 = 2,700$ individuals) meaning each team has reached ($27 \times 50 = 1,350$ individuals) across the survey areas.

In the case of Team, A, they conducted a survey interview in all the 27 visited villages (1 KII and 2 FGDs in each village) doing 27 KIIs and 54 FGDs. While Team, B conducted a survey interview in 20/27 visited villages (1 KIIs and 2 FGDs in each of the 20 villages) doing 20 KIIs and 40 FGDs. Then, in total, both teams conducted 47 KIIs and 94 FGDs and met a general population size of $2 \times 1,350 = 2,700$. Individuals across the survey areas.

Table 1. Zones, Districts and visited villages in Somali regional state, Ethiopia

Zone	Districts	Villages	Total Villages Visited	NO. Community participated
Doolo	Danod	Qoriile	1	50
	GalaadI	Qaloocan	3	150
		Injiro		
		Cagarweyne		
Jarar	Daroor	Aarjoog	4	200
		Shabelle		
		Gosayga		
		Winiqa		
	Gashamo	Haji-Saalax	5	250
		Khatumo		
		Mulaaxo		
		Gucundhale		
		Moholin		
Korahey	Marsin	Gabo-gabo	2	100
		Nusdariiq		
Shabelle	Adaadly	Higlo	1	50
	Kelafo	Buur-Gabo	3	150
		Aashatag		
		Babaco		
	Mustahil	Buur-dheeto	3	150
		Eyoole		
		Qaboobe		
	Ferfer	Cadayle	5	
		Buurkucur		
		Baarmoog		
		Farjano		250
		Qarroof		
Sitti	Ayshia	Garbale	4	200

		Daya		
		Biyo Gurgur		
		Biyo Kabobe		
	Dambal	Arrabi	5	250
		Gajiji		
		Hufane		
		Jabanta		
		Agar-Wayne		
Fafan	Harawa	Dhabanta	5	250
		Armo		
		Goti		
		Layla-Kal		
		Sheikh-Nabadgalyo		
	Aw-Barre	Gorayo-Awl	5	250
		Muse Irgin		
		Bodhlay		
		Garbo- Hadlay		
		Sharifka		
	Kebri_Beyah	Allaybaday	2	100
		Dibble		
	Harshin	Lankayr	6	300
		Bali-Gubadle		
		Kabada		
		Bali-Abane		
		Fara-Wayne		
		Magalo-Hali		
Total	15		54	2700

Fig 1. Map of districts and visited villages in SRS.

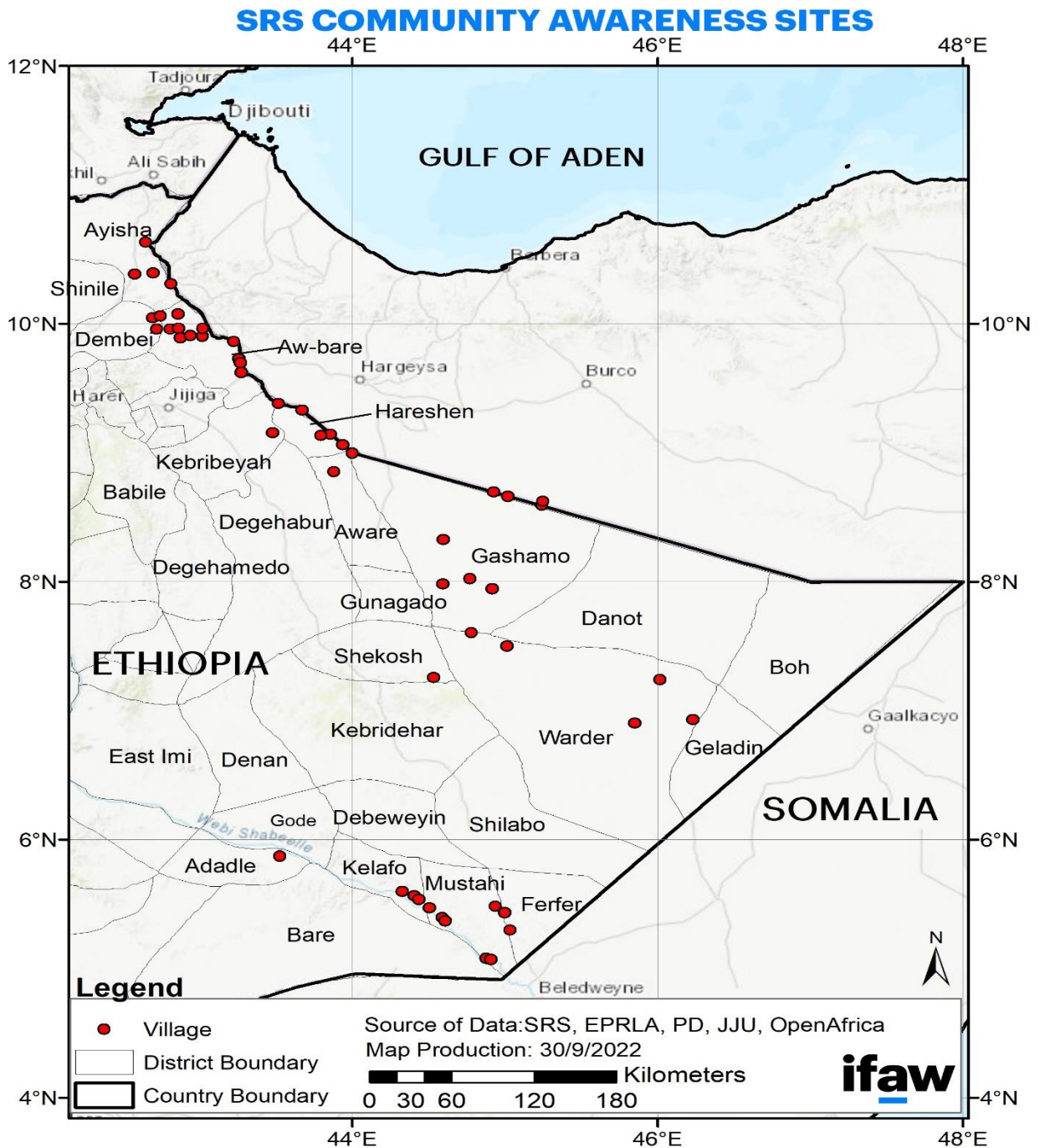
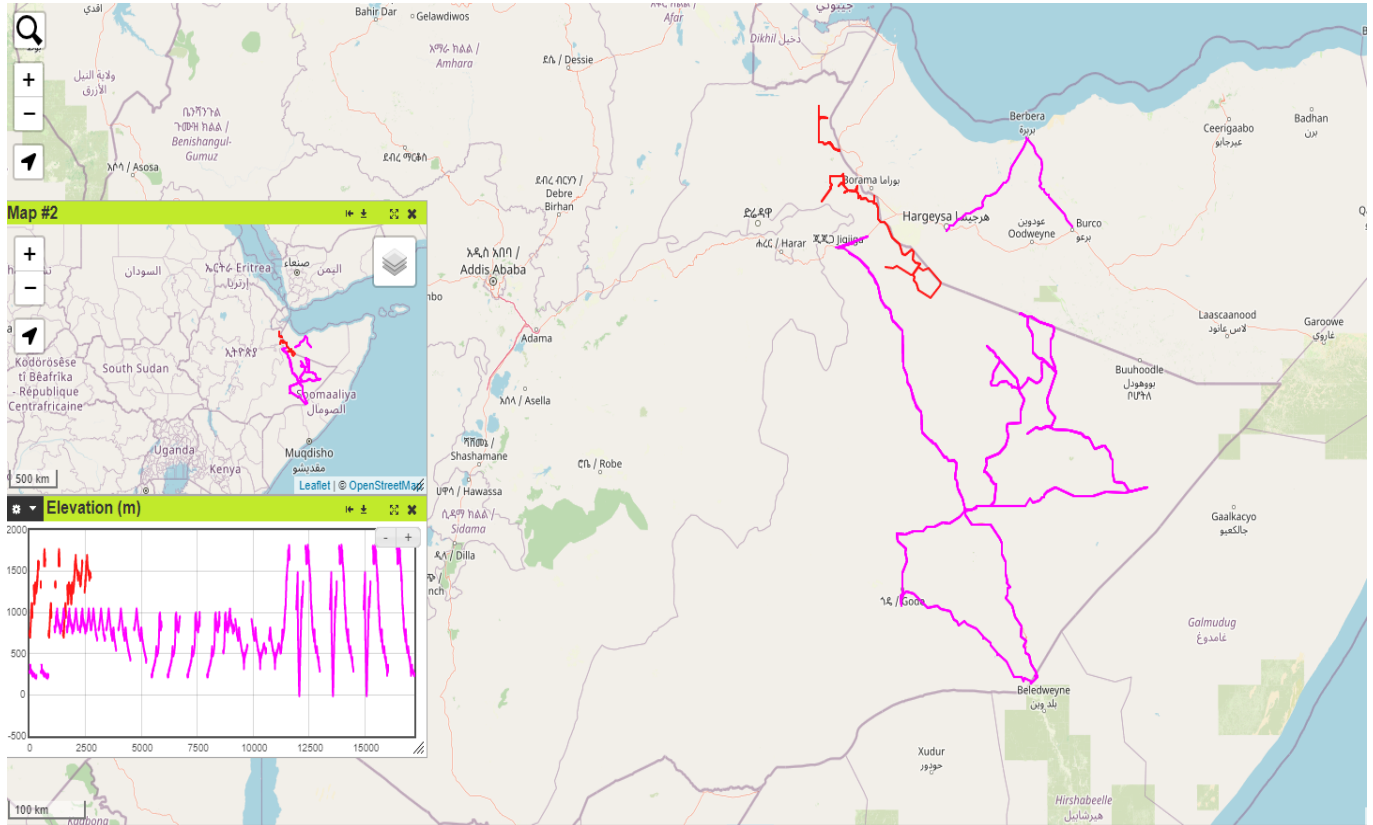


Figure:2 Map of tract and traveling



2. METHODOLOGIES

2.1.Awareness creation

After coming to every village, we have been meeting the elders and community leaders in addition to the person guiding us to inform the community that there is an awareness creation meeting to attend to. Then after gathering the community under a shade, we were introducing ourselves and our objectives. Then we were proceeding with the issue of wild life situation, the extinction threat, illegal trade etc. and its consequences; more specifically Cheetahs. And finally consulting the ways they can protect and conserve the wildlife as well as rising their sense of ownership. So that, they can take the matter seriously collaborate with the local authority and other stakeholders.

2.2.Environmental observation

The teams were tracking all their way with GPS tool, marking every single place they find a sign of human activity like Villages, lone huts/Houses, Livestock, Farms, protected areas, water points etc. and wildlife or its signs. In addition to taking a photo of everywhere they are in every fifteen (15) minutes.

3. FEEDBACK SESSION AND CHALLENGES

Discussions between the teams and the communities took place throughout this session. The communities believed that at the time they did, they saw predators in particular as destructive and interfering with their daily lives. They believed that the wildlife is not owned by anyone, it was and that is why they would not want to have it. The teams explained to the locals that in the past, when they saw wildlife as a threat rather than a resource, other communities, like neighboring countries, had similar problems, but that at the moment, protect the wildlife because it provides them with enormous benefits.

The major challenges among wildlife and communities includes

- Lack of cell phone network coverage in most villages making difficult for communication and reporting
- Lack of road ways to accesses remote villages
- Low awareness level of the community about wildlife
- Low Human wildlife conflict Resolution
- unclear boundaries between human and wildlife
- Wildlife is not owned by anyone
- Communities do not know the benefits of wildlife
- how can the community live peacefully with the wildlife



Team explaining with communities during the public forum, Injiro Village, Galaadi district, Dolo zone.

4. WAY FORWARD

Based on what we have observed at the areas we visited and what we heard from the communities we met. The wild life in general and more specifically Cheetahs are in grave danger for extinction due to killings and illegal trade. unless the state authority and other stakeholders cooperate to rise the community's awareness in wildlife and environment protection to create a sense of ownership in the communities as well as fight the illegal trade and hunting of wildlife by putting serious rules in place to hold accountable everyone involved in such activities.

ANNEX1: TEAM-B- Community awareness sessions And Survey in Fafan and Sitti Zone, SRS







ANNEX2: TEAM-A- Community awareness sessions And Survey in Shabele, Jarar, Dollo and Korahey Zone, SRS

