



Zonation of Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve (LTBR)

Core Zone

DO's: Let nature take care of itself.

According to Regulation 125/2014 by Amhara National Regional State, entering a core zones is only allowed for non-destructive activities, such as research. Even for these activities a special permit needs to be obtained from the Biosphere Reserve authorities.

DON'Ts: Destructive and economic activities, such as

- Hunting of wild animals or taking them away (including their eggs),
- Cutting, collecting or damaging of plants/trees
- lighting fires, smoking or slash and burn practices
- Picking up, taking away or damaging of any items, natural or manmade
- Fishing, farming, livestock grazing
- Mineral exploration, digging or sand extraction
- Any disposal of waste or other manmade materials
- Any type of construction works
- Damaging, changing or removing any boundary marks of a core zone



Buffer Zone

DO's: Sustainable use of natural resources, e.g. traditional fishing and organic farming.

- Traditional (seasonal) fishery, organic farming, beekeeping and similar activities
- Environmental research and education
- Recreation and eco-tourism

Only limited human activity is allowed and often guarded by community management systems and governed by utilization bylaws.

DON'Ts: Harmful and destructive practices, such as

- use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides
- washing of clothes and vehicles near water sources
- (infrastructure) construction (buildings, roads)
- mining, drilling and other large scale earth movement
- over-use of water and plants (e.g. for grazing)

Transition Zone

DO's: All other, legal human activities.

Nonetheless a focus on sustainable and ecologically sound practices should always be favoured and promoted to ensure Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve becomes model region for sustainable development.

DON'Ts: Purely destructive and damaging activities, e.g. illegal according to Ethiopian law.

