

Project Update: May 2016

1. I am still collecting the ecological and behavioural data (feeding ecology, ranging pattern, time budget and habitat use) every month from both habituated study bands of the southern geladas. One of the habituated study bands is located inside the park in Afro-alpine ecosystem, Keye Washa site, while the other band is found outside the park in the fragmented area in Afromontane ecosystem, Kosheme site.
2. I am conducting the actual questionnaire survey on human-wildlife conflict of the southern geladas. I am also doing awareness creation among local communities in every occasion.
3. I planned and communicated to organise formal conservation awareness for local students and community representatives.
4. The previous month's data indicated that southern geladas showed extreme dietary and other behavioural plasticity between the two study sites. From these data, I found that southern geladas (as I named Selam Band) at Kosheme site consumed more fruits from fig trees and bulbs of *Merendera abyssinica* while the band (I named Tikura Band) at Keye Washa consumed more on the underground part of *Festuca* grass species and the root of herbs (the scientific name of these roots are not so far identified) and animal like caterpillar. Southern geladas at Kosheme site (Afromontane ecosystem) used shade of trees when the local temperature started to increase from the midday onwards, but this behaviour didn't observe at Keye Washa site (Afroalpine ecosystem). In addition, the data showed that southern geladas at Kosheme became active for feeding at the early morning but geladas at Keye Washa used their morning time for resting and grooming purposes.



Left: *Festuca* grasses that were left by Tikura band after feeding their underground stem. Right: The underground food items (roots) that were consumed by Tikura band.



Left: Selam band during feeding on *Merendera abyssinica*. Right: Tikura band during moving and feeding near the road.



Left: Selam band during resting under the shadow of acacia tree. Right: Selam band during resting, grooming and feeding period inside the compound of the Ethiopian Orthodox church.