

## **Project Update: December 2016**

I am happy to write the progress report on the achievements of black crowned crane conservation campaigns. This is the third training event after the higher institution students training on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 and the multi-stakeholders training on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2016. On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, a student training session was held at Ayte Junior Primary School in the presence of school teachers. In order to make the training more successful, the school director and vice director were informed 2 weeks in advance to inform all teachers to reserve November 29<sup>th</sup> for student training.

At the beginning, the school director and vice director has welcomed and introduced to new recruited staff since we conducted training last year. The school director informed all instructors to order the students for training which was conducted on open field in the school compound and then the school vice director Mr Dirba Teferi introduced the purpose of our visits and agenda for the students. The training focused on black crowned crane species (Figure 1) and wetland conservation.





**Figure 1: Photo of Black Crowned cranes**

After the students take their places we start by thanking our sponsors Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation, Jimma University for its in-kind contributions, the students and Ayte Primary school administration for accepting our request for black crowned crane conservation campaign. About 750 students and 14 instructors follow the training. Some pictures of the students during the training was reported in this document (Figure 2). First of all, the objective of the training was briefly explained for the students. The outline of the training was as follows:

- The objectives of black crowned crane conservation.
- Characteristics and habitat preferences of black crowned cranes.
- Black crowned crane population dynamics.
- Community understanding towards black crowned crane conservation.
- Black crowned crane threats.
- The role of students in conservation and changing the attitude of their families.
- Students' responsibility for black crowned crane conservation.
- The concept of loss, love, need and action in black crowned crane conservation.
- How to conserve the black crowned cranes in their natural habitats.



**Figure 2: Some picture of the students during introduction for the training**

It is obvious that little understanding on the value of wetlands from the local people challenges the life of the black crowned crane and other bird species. Thus, awareness creation is mandatory to rekindle the love for species conservation deep in pupil's hearts and engage them in promoting and inspiring conservation actions. Conservation has an opportunities to protect biodiversity and at the same time, find solutions for the problems.

In order to actively conserve the black crowned cranes, we need to do more on awareness creation about the importance of its conservation. We can do this through training and other outreach activities. The pupils were informed about the status of black crowned crane in Chora boter district from the past project findings and the current ongoing project. The other important information transferred in this training was the main threats of the species - why is the black crowned crane declining? Understanding the threats is crucial to decide the best conservation strategies to the threats that affect the life of black crowned cranes. The black crowned crane is threatened (Vulnerable) because it has experienced high population declines and is disappearing in some countries due to conversion of wetlands to agricultural fields, overgrazing and land degradation. During data collection and field observation we found that conversion of wetlands to agricultural lands (Figure 3), free grazing (Figure 4) and land degradation (Figure 5) was the major threat the black crowned cranes in Chora boter district.



**Figure 3: Conversion of wetland to Agricultural lands**



**Figure 4: Free grazing and overgrazing lands by cattle around wetlands**



**Figure 5: Land degradation which leads to wetland deterioration**

Conservation needs collaboration of various stakeholders including students. Conservation requires unit to work together on critical problems that the species is facing because of various problems. We can inspire together about nature conservation and its last long benefit for future generation like students. Recognising the vulnerability of the black crowned crane is important, as local declines lead to global endangered and slowly to global extinction which represent a loss of the species. Effective conservation actions benefit both the species and ecosystems, and directly save the species from loss. In the conservation campaign it is important to consider and convince all sectors including students about loss, love, need and action. Loss: habitat loss and threats; love: appreciation of the natural environment; need: economic value of nature; and action: any activities or task that enable us for restoration and conservation of nature. Two big posters (1.5 m x 2 m) were posted for the student in Afan Oromo and English languages. The Afan Oromo version describes about the threats of black crowned cranes and the way forward for its conservation. The Rufford Foundation logo has been used both on the posters and flyers which were distributed for the students. The posters has key facts about the status of the black crowned crane and its conservation (Figure 6 and 7).



The Black Crowned Crane



# Kunuunsa Simbira Abbaa Waaqoo Godina Jimmaa Aanaa Cooraa Botor

## Dassaleny Obsii Gammadaa, Jimmaa, Itoophiyaa, Muddee 2016 Seensa

Simbroon Abbaa Waaqoo sanyii crane ardii Afrikaa keessatti argaman jahan keessaa isa tokkoodha, (Harris and Mirande, 2013). Sanyii simbira “Cran” kana lakkoofsi isaa xinnaa ta’uu isaatiin salphaatti baduu irra ga’uu kan danda’uudha. Akka qorattoonni baay’een irra ga’anitti baay’inni simbroo kun baay’ee xiqqaachaa dhufuun biyyoota dhiha Afrikaa tokko tokko keessatti immoo badee jira, (Beiffuss et al., 2007; Harris and Mirande, 2013). Xinnaachuun lakkoofsa simbroo Abbaa Waaqoo sababa manca’iinsa bakka jireenya isaa keessumaa lafa caffaa’aa irraa kan ka’e gara fuula duraatti akka itti fufu raaguun danda’amee jira, (IUCN, 2012). Biyyoota simbiroon kun argamu hunda keessatti manca’iinsaafi xiqqaachaa dhufuun lafa cafaa’aa; kanneen balaa hamaa yookiin jiraachuu sanyii kanaaf rakkoo guddaa tahaniidha. Simbiroon naannoo tokko sababa uumamaafi dhalli namaa jeequmsa naannoo irratti geessisuun baduu danda’u. Gara biyyaa keenya Etiyoophiyaatti yeroo deebinu sababa hanqina eegumsaafi kunuunsa lafa caffaa’aa yookiin lafa garmalee jiidhaa ta’e (Wetlands) akkasumas hojiiitti jijjiiramu dhabuun heeraafi seera kununsa qabeenya uumamaa sanyii simbiroo Abbaa Waaqoo dhuma jira. Badiinsa lafa jiidhaa bakka wal-hormaataafi soorata simbiroo Abbaa Waaqoo akkasumallee ijoolleen loon tiksitu buuphaa isaa cabsuudhaan, ilmoo simbira kana qabudhaan akka sanyii simbira kana biyya keenyatti hin baay’anne kan godhan keessaa isaan ijoodha.

## Kununsaa Abbaa Waaqoo Hawasa Wajjin

Hawasni naannoo lafa caffaa’aa fi simbiroo Abbaa Waaqoo kununsa irratti hirmaachisuun yaada filannoo hin qabineedha. Hawaasa naannoofi namootni dhaabbata adda addaa keessatti qooda qaban kunuunsa Abbaa Waaqoo irratti hirmaachisuun jijjiirama guddaa fiduun ni danda’ama. Hawasaafi qaama dhimmii ilaalu hunda hirmaachisuun kunuunsi sun akka iftoominaaf abbaan dhimmummaa itti dhagahamu gochuu irratti gahee olaanaa qaba. Akkuma beekamu uumata malee kunuunsi tokko galma gahuu hindanda’u. Karoorri kunuunsa tokkoo kan inni galma ga’uu danda’u yoo namoonni naannoofi qaamni dhimmii ilaallatu hundi irratti hirmaatee dha. Keesumattuu hirmaannaan hawaasa naannoo kununsa sanyii simbiroos, ta’ee kan biraaf furmaata akka ijootti beekuu qaba. Ummanni naannoo qaama sirriitti qabeenya uumamaa eeguuf gahee guddaa taphachuu danda’an keessaa isaan ijoodha. Hojiin duulaa kunuunsa irratti nama dhuunfaa irraa eegalee hanga seekteroota adda addaatti hamma danda’ametti hirmaachisuun rakkoo amma jiruuf gara fuula duraatti mudhachuu danda’u hambiisa.

## Tarsiimoo Kunuunsaa Abbaa Waaqoo

Tarsiimoo qopheessuun mala akka salphaatti bakka galma (target) geesisuuf nama gargara. Saxaxa tarsiimoo nama kamiyyuu kan kunuunsa irratti hirmaatu ni gargara. Yeroo tarsiimoon qophaa’utti qaamni dhimmii ilaallatu yoo irratti hirmaate gaarii taha, kaayyoo qophaahuu irratti walii galamuu qaba, akkasumas yoom akka hojjatamuuf maalin akka hojjeetamu beekuun barbachiisaadha. Akkuma beekamu tarsiimoon tokko rakkoo manca’iinsa bidooleef furmaata kennuu hindanda’u. Mala makaa “bottom- up fi top-down” ilaalcha keessa galchuudhaan karora kunuunsa akka yaadameefi, yeroofi qabeenya utuu hin afoollessiin sirriitti hojjechuun nama dandeessisa. Malli “botom-up” kan jedhamu yaada, ilaalchaafi hubbannoo hawaasni naannoo qaban gadi bu’anii baruudhaan ilaalcha isaanifi beekumsa isaan qabsisuudhaan kunuunsa irratti hirmaachisuuf yeroo tahu “top-down” kan jedhamu immoo qaama dhimmii ilaallatu keesumattuu caasaa dhabbilee motummaa keessa darbuudhaan deeggarsa waajjiroolee dabalachuudhaan uummata balaa akka duulaa kununsaa bidoolee irratti hubannoo argataniif hojjeetaan gochuu dha. Yeroo tarsiimoon qopha’uu karoora akka dura aantii isatti qopheesuuf dandeetti rawachuu danda’an beekuun waanta yaadame rawachuu nama gargaraa. Toftaa bottom-up fi top-down faayadamuudhaan qajeelchaa fi imaammata ifaa tahee qalaquudhaan qaama dhimmii ilalatu hunda: hawaasa nannoo, bulchaa hawaasa nannoo, bulchaa aanaa fi zoonii, universitoota fi dhabbilee qorannoo adda addaa, dhabbilee motummaa fi mti-motummaa hirmaachisuudhaan manca’iinsaa fi badisaa bidoolee olchuun ni danda’ama.



Figure 6: Posters on Black Crowned cranes in Afan Oromo languages



The Black Crowned Crane



# Conservation of Black Crowned Crane in Chora boter district of Jimma Zone

Dessalegn Obsi Gemedo, Jimma, Ethiopia, November 2016

## Introduction

The Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina* L.) is one of the six crane species in Africa (Harris and Mirande, 2013). Its population is decreasing from time to time and categorized as Vulnerable species due to habitat degradation and little concern from the communities. In Ethiopia, majority of the Black Crowned Crane were observed around wetlands and its surroundings. The species uses open grasslands, shallow wetlands and grasslands adjacent to water bodies for feeding, breeding and resting. In the countries where the species is present, wetland degradation and loss is becoming a serious threat for the survival of the species.

## Methodology

The study took place in Chora Boter district of Jimma Zone. The district is rich in wetlands, swamps, grasslands, forests and various wildlife including birds. Different Methodology were used for this study. Field observation was carried out in both wet and dry seasons. During field observation, equipments like GPS, Bushnell binocular 10\*42, digital and video camera, and notebook were used for data recording. Due to the limited number of crane individuals and their preference for open habitats, complete counts (Dowding and Greene, 2012) were conducted in the early morning (6.30-10.00 am) and late afternoon (4.30-6.00 pm). Multiple count method of (Gregory et al., 2004) was also applied to analyze population variation over time in the study area. All observations were counted and recorded. A total of 105 household respondents were interviewed, focused group discussion were also conducted to assess people knowledge, attitudes and perception towards Black Crowned Crane conservation.

## Results

Developing countries are often very rich in biodiversity when we compare with civilized nations but may not have the capacity to effective conservation actions. The biodiversity is under serious threats. Once we understand the threats of the species that we are going to conserve, we have to think about how we are going to measure it and understand how it's changing through time to see if we're being effective or not (Baillie, 2016). A great number of respondents 93.3% agreed that Black Crowned crane is not a pest species and only 6.7% perceived as a pest species that can damage maize at germination stage. About 92.4% perceived that there is no conflict between human and Black Crowned crane. Positive relationship between the Black Crowned crane and human is an opportunity for effective conservation actions. The species is wetland dependent. The majority of the respondents, 96.2% understood that there is a strong relationship between wetlands and Black Crowned crane and most of the time the cranes stay over wetlands. Because of this fact, only 14.3% of the respondents observed cranes on the agricultural fields.

## Conclusion

Promoting Black Crowned crane conservation is a good options to save the species from loss. Enhancing community understanding towards Black Crowned crane is crucial for conservation actions. The results of the study showed that the human-black crowned crane conflict is very low, and the society has a positive attitude the species conservation. The local communities are converting wetlands to agricultural fields for the sake of economic activities that affect breeding and nesting sites of the Black Crowned crane. Although, the Black Crowned cranes are decreasing from time to time because of habitat degradation, majority of the respondents were not able to estimate the current population of Black Crowned cranes. To enhance the conservation of Black Crowned crane capacity building and awareness creations are very important to change the attitudes and perception the community towards Black Crowned crane conservation.



Figure 7: Poster on Black Crowned crane conservation in English language



**Figure 8: Students are actively following the conservation messages**

**Additional pictures of the pupils following discussions at Ayte Junior Primary School**





In addition to the black crowned cranes, wattled cranes (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) are also resident in Chora boter district. The two crane species share common habitats with special preferences of wetlands (Figure 9).



**Figure 9: Pair of Wattled cranes**