

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

---

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

---

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Dessalegn Obsi Gemedo
<b>Project title</b>	Enhancing the conservation of the Vulnerable Black Crowned cranes in Chora boter district of Jimma Zone. The case of Ethiopia.
<b>RSG reference</b>	19723-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	May 2016- March 2017
<b>Amount of grant</b>	5000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:dasoobsi@gmail.com">dasoobsi@gmail.com</a> OR <a href="mailto:dessalegn.obsi@ju.edu.et">dessalegn.obsi@ju.edu.et</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	March13, 2017

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Increasing public awareness on the ecology, habitat and threats of black crowned cranes				Capacity building conducted for communities, stakeholders and students on the conservation of black crowned crane. I did my best in conservation campaign and I exceed my objective. Although, this objective was addressed beyond its plan still majority of the community do not get the chance to aware about the conservation of Black Crowned cranes. When I compare with the total population of the area, the issues of public awareness was partially achieved. In the awareness creation about 3226 people understand about black crowned crane; its ecology and threats. Additionally, short field excursions have been organised for four academic staff of Jimma University and four journalists to visit Chalalaki wetland and its co-existences of black crowned cranes for detailed information. Interview conducted with journalist (On August 3rd 2016 and January 4th 2017) on the field to use the wetlands and birds as a background for media. With the support of journalists from (EBC1 and Ethiopian Southern TV) millions of people understand about black crowned cranes ecology and its current threats.
To understand the public about the values and ecosystem services of wetlands				Workshop and training was organised for communities and stakeholders. The capacity building focused on the values and ecosystem services of wetlands. After capacity building, the community

			<p>and stakeholders understand the use of wetlands for biodiversity and community livelihoods.</p> <p>The workshop participants understand deeply about the use of wetlands as source water, food, recreation and a home of biodiversity particularly birds. They also recognised the co-existence of wetland and black crowned cranes. After the workshop, the participants understand that the life of black crowned cranes is depending on the existence of wetlands. Thus, if wetland is degraded the black crowned cranes will migrated to other countries for searching diet.</p>
To monitor the population of Black Crowned cranes at Chelelki wetland			<p>The population of black crowned cranes at Chalalaki wetland was taken for 10 months. Data was collected with the support of local people. From the recorded data we found that the population of the black crowned cranes was much higher in the dry season than wet season. From the population survey results, we found a maximum of 250 in February 2017 and a maximum average number of 220 individuals in March 2017 around Chalalaki wetland.</p>
To aware the local communities, key stakeholders, teachers and students about environmental conservation			<p>Training has been organised for the local communities, key stakeholders, and students at different levels with in-kind contributions of Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine give recognitions for Rufford Small Grants (RSG) project work and included in the quarter reports of the institutions as in-kind contributor of the project. The issue of black crowned cranes conservation was addressed for total of 3226 individuals (majority of them were</p>

			students). This data excludes the national mass media coverage.
Disseminations of the key findings of the first Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation for the public			<p>Publications of the first RSG including the conservation guideline have been shared for the stakeholders. Two scientific articles were published on international journals which were accessible, through Google scholar, journal website and on research gate. The first article was published in the International Journal of Ecology and the Natural Environment, Vol. 8(4), pp.40-48, April 2016.  <a href="http://www.academicjournals.org/journal/JENE/article-abstract/7B2AB2058037">http://www.academicjournals.org/journal/JENE/article-abstract/7B2AB2058037</a></p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> article was published on International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation, Vol. 8 (8), pp. 164-170, August 2016.  <a href="http://www.academicjournals.org/journal/IJBC/article-abstract/0346D8859435">http://www.academicjournals.org/journal/IJBC/article-abstract/0346D8859435</a></p> <p>The achievements of this project will be published on international news letter (coming soon). Up on published I will share for RSG Foundations.</p> <p>The project findings and the outreach activities were shared for the public through mass media, social media and networking. The dissemination of the project work exceeds its objective in both RSG (First and second). In the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG, in addition to social media and mass media, the result of the project was shared for other crane working groups (E.g. International Crane Foundation U.S.A and International Crane Foundation/Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership, South Africa).</p>
To enhance the capacity of School environmental clubs			<p>Training was conducted in Ayte Primary school compound for environmental club member students. Students enhance their understanding on the importance of environmental</p>

				conservation. They also discussed how environmental conservation played a role in the health of people and existence of various wildlife including reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and mammals.
--	--	--	--	---

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

I encounter with few challenges to share information on YouTube. Of course, I shared speech I conducted on national television. However, I am not able to upload a summary of my project video, a nice short documentary video (12:36 minutes length) on YouTube. The video was edited with the support of Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine ICT Studio. The problem is due to weak internet connections. I will do my best as soon as our internet connection is strong enough for uploading documentary video on YouTube.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

The three most important outcomes of this project were:

- (i) Capacity building of the local communities, stakeholders and students at various levels through workshop, training, focus group discussions and debate on the conservation of black crowned cranes and its habitats;
- (ii) A comprehensive population monitoring of black crowned cranes around Chalalaki wetland for 10 months; and
- (iii) Sharing knowledge for the public through social media, mass media, university website and networking on the current status of black crowned cranes and the way forward for its conservation.

**(i) Capacity Building**

This project played a crucial role in building public understanding on black crowned cranes conservation and its habitat. Changing the attitudes and perception of the public on black crowned cranes and its habitat conservation requires time and cost in addition to skills and knowledge to implement on the ground. In this second RSG project, thousands of people get awareness through workshop, training and other outreach mechanisms.

**Student's workshop:** Students workshop was conducted at all levels (elementary, high school and higher institution). Accordingly, 52 and 55 students from higher institution on May 24th and December 8th 2016 respectively, 191 students from preparatory school on December 13th 2016, 750 elementary students and 14 school teachers on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Totally, 1048 students directly acquired skills and knowledge from the workshop. In addition to face to face workshop, more than 2000 students watched the workshop video through university plasma transmission from December 14th-16th 2016. At all levels, students were advised to give high attention for conservation of the vulnerable black crowned cranes. In the training, habitat preferences of the species, population dynamic, major threats of the species and its conservation concern were presented. Additionally, the role of students in conservation of the species and how we conserve our environment from degradation was discussed. At the end of the workshop, students agreed to work more on wetland conservation which directly contributes for black crowned cranes conservation.

**Stakeholder's workshop:** Twenty-eight stakeholders from different sectors were invited and participated on the workshop. During the workshop, the published conservation guideline of black crowned cranes and the outcomes of the first RSG project and the current plan were presented and shared for discussions. The participants were really excited about the conservation of the vulnerable black crowned cranes and they are motivated for additional nature conservation campaign projects and to work with higher institution, communities and stakeholders to solve the existing environmental problems from the root. For the workshop participants, the current status of black crowned cranes and the ecological, cultural and economic values of wetlands presented on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2016. For additional scientific contributions, four experts from Jimma University (Dr Debela Hunde, Mr Aduugna Eneyew, Mr Akalu Dafissa and Mr Abebayehu Aticho) participated in the stakeholder's workshop. All invited experts contributed their skills and knowledge for the participants. And lastly, Chora boter administrative head and head of agricultural office acknowledge the activities of the project and recommend continuation work on black crowned cranes and wetland conservation. On the stakeholder's workshop, high resolution photo of black crowned cranes with photo frame and book donation for school was given to the head of the district agricultural and educational office respectively.

**Community workshop:** Community workshop and training has begun starting from the first RSG and continues in the second round since the community is the basis for the success of conservation plan. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG about 150 community members get awareness about conservation issues of Black Crowned cranes and its habitat. Out of which, 40 people directly participated on the workshop and the remaining 110 people get awareness through other mechanisms (on public meeting, interview,

and focus group discussions). In addition to changing the attitudes of the communities on black crowned cranes conservation, various efforts were conducted to aware the community about the value of wetland and its conservation. Thus, the communities understand both about black crowned cranes and wetland conservation in Chora boter district. The workshop participants understand how wetland affects the life of the species and gradually the health of the community at large.

### **(ii) Black Crowned crane Population Monitoring**

During the last 10 months, we examine the population variations of black crowned cranes around Chalalaki wetland with the support data collector from the local people. The population monitoring was started from June 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 onwards up to March 11<sup>th</sup> 2017. The minimum (14 individuals) and the maximum (220 individuals) at average was recorded in August 2016 and March 2017 respectively. The maximum numbers of the species observed in the dry season and the minimum was recorded in wet seasons. The population of the species increased around Chalalaki wetland because of the fact that majority of small wetlands in the region dried and the black crowned crane migrated to Chalalaki wetland (relatively stable wetlands in the area) for searching diet. After I share the population monitoring for International Crane Foundation senior experts (George Archibald) I received the reason for the increasing of the species during the dry season in below paragraph. I received the text from Dr. George Archibald through e-mail on March 5, 2017.

*The increase in cranes at the peak of the dry season is not only a reflection of wetland availability, but also a tendency for cranes to gather in flocks before the onset of the next breeding season. Such flocking facilitates the transition for juvenile cranes as they leave their parents and join flocks of other young cranes that have yet to reach the first breeding age of 3-5 years, if Black Crowned Cranes follow the pattern of other species of cranes. It also is an opportunity for an unpaired bird to pair with another crane. After pairing, male cranes return to the area where they were raised, while females do opposite (George Archibald).*

### **(iii) Information dissemination**

The project was designed to enhance the conservation of black crowned cranes at Chora boter district of Jimma zone in Ethiopia. In order to achieve this objective incredible efforts: public awareness through national television, stakeholder's and community workshop, and student's workshop were conducted parallel to population survey of black crowned cranes and investigation of its threats through depth interview and focused group discussions. In short, the outcomes of the

project was shared for the public on national media (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zOA3IGcURU>).

Social media like Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gammadaaf>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2118640714827679&set=pcb.2118642548160829&type=3&theater>

On Rufford East Africa Projects - Network (REAP):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/793719180726678/?ref=bookmarks>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGlzTGg78Aw>

ResearchGate:

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/Enhancing-the-Conservation-of-the-Vulnerable-Black-Crowned-Cranes-in-Chora-Boter-District-of-Jimma-Zone-The-Case-of-Ethiopia>

#### **4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project (if relevant).**

In addition to capacity building, the local communities were benefited from the project. Data collector was recruited from the communities. Refreshment and lunch cost for the workshop and training participants were covered by the project. Per diem and refreshment costs were given for the stakeholders during the workshop. T-shirts with the logo of RSG Foundation were given for experts and higher institutions students along short conservation message to motivating them. Twenty-three reference books were also donated for school library in the presence of key stakeholders of the district.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. Absolutely. I will apply for the booster grants of RSG to scale up the conservation of the species in Seka district of Jimma zone. We can bring a change on the attitudes and perceptions of the public towards black crowned cranes conservation through capacity building. However, conservation action is never accomplished within a short period of time; it needs collaboration of stakeholders and continuous follow up. Conservation campaign needs sufficient resources and involvements of all stakeholders.

Scaling up the conservation of black crowned cranes to other district is compulsory since we cannot conserve the species by working only with one district with clear understanding of local movements of the species from one district to another. I try my best to secured additional funds in order to expand the project to other district in Jimma zone and I submitted project application to Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation but I am not lack to secure the fund. Therefore, scaling up the conservation of black crowned cranes to Seka district is suggested for continuation work with the support of RSG for Nature Conservation. Seka district is proposed based on the severity of wetland degradation (habitats of black crowned cranes) from Jimma zone and some evidences observed on the species threats during the field visit. Therefore, the suggested project will contribute for the conservation and wellbeing of black crowned cranes and its habitat in the region.

#### **6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

The project is successful in sharing the information for the public. As we all know mass media, special TV Broadcasting is the best method for mass awareness since we can share our message for a million of people within a short period of time with and also cost effective. On mass media (Ethiopian Television), the objective of black crowned crane conservation, the main threats of the species and how we can overcome the threats of the species was transmitted online by Ethiopian Southern Television on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 and the same message was transmitted by Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation Television (EBC1) on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in which several millions of people watched and heard a brief message for the conservation of the vulnerable black crowned cranes and short documentary video of the species was also presented by Ethiopian Television. You can assess the video from YouTube on this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOA3IGUR>).

Since this project is the continuation of the 1<sup>st</sup> RSG, the main output of the previous project was shared for stakeholders. Among the shared information was, two published articles of the first RSG project findings and the developed conservation guideline in the local languages was distributed for the stakeholders. The conservation guideline also shared for the academicians and researchers of Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. The key findings of the first RSG project; the main threats of the species and the attitude and understanding of the local communities towards the conservation of black crowned cranes were presented for the stakeholders for further conservation actions. Surprisingly, the copies of the published articles were given for journalist after the onsite visit of Chalalki wetland.

Training and workshop was organized with financial support of RSG and in-kind contributions of Jimma University at Chora boter district which brought various sectors: district Administrative office, agricultural office, soil and water conservation experts, irrigation office, transport office, environmental protection office, fishery office, tourism office, wildlife and forest enterprise office, educational office, health centre, finance office, planning office, media and communication office of the district and other key experts of the district were participated. During the workshop, the previous project findings and the ongoing activities of the project was shared for the participants.

Information about the black crowned cranes and its ecology and communication materials like scientific articles, conservation guideline, t-shirts, banners, posters and photos of black crowned cranes were disseminated to build public understanding.

- The project findings was shared on research gate to be open accessible for researchers across the world (Both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG).
- The published articles was uploaded on research gate (1<sup>st</sup> RSG).
- The population monitoring of black crowned cranes was shared for crane working organization as well as on research gate (2<sup>nd</sup> RSG).
- The outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> RSG with clear acknowledgments of Rufford Foundation was accessible on Google scholar through scientific publication (1<sup>st</sup> RSG).
- Short documentary video was uploaded on YouTube (both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG).
- Some pictures of the project was shared on face book and other social networking (both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG).
- Reports were provided on quarterly basis to Jimma University (both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG).

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The project is approved on May 4th 2016 and the budget was utilised starting from the middle of May 2016 to implement the proposed conservation camping and population survey of black crowned cranes. The project was actively conducted from May 2016 to March 2017. The training components was conducted in May, June, September, December 2016 and January 2017 and the population monitoring was taken continuously from June 2016 to the beginning of March (March 11, 2017).

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Local exchange rate used: 1GBP=31.0879 Ethiopian Birr (ETB). The exchange rate was fluctuated now. I received with conversion rate of 1GBP =31.0879 Ethiopian Birr on May 11, 2016 (Totally, I received 5000 GBP=155,439.5 Ethiopian Birr).

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Meeting with the stakeholders to launch the project	60 GBP (1865.27 ETB)	60 GBP (1865.27 ETB)		
Black Crowned cranes Conservation guideline dissemination	-	+300 GBP (+9326.37 ETB)	+300 GBP (+9326.37 ETB)	This element was added & managed by the grant balance
Canon Camera equipment: Canon Powershot S X 60 HS; 65X zoom lens. 21mm wide angle	350 GBP (10880.76 ETB)	-		The equipment did not exist in the local market. I am not able to purchase online. Used for project balance
Black Crowned crane population survey	800 GBP (24,870.32 ETB)	800 GBP (24,870.32 ETB)		
Recruiting local people for data collector	400 GBP (12,435.16 ETB)	200 GBP (6217.58 ETB)	-200 GBP (-6217.58 ETB)	Only one person recruited
Conducting interviews	350 GBP (10,880.76 ETB)	350 GBP (10,880.76 ETB)		
Conducting Focused Group Discussion.	368 GBP (11,440.35 ETB)	368 GBP (11,440.35 ETB)		
Posters with the log of RSG	20 GBP (9621.758 ETB)	88 GBP (2735.74 ETB)	+ 68 GBP (2113.98 ETB)	The requested budget was less than the actual cost.

Community Educations	510 GBP (15,854.83 ETB)	510 GBP (15,854. 83 ETB)		
Multi-stakeholders workshop	300 GBP (9,326.37 ETB)	400 GBP (12435.1 6 ETB)	+ 100 GBP (+ 310879 ETB)	More experts were invited for the workshop
Student training at various level	449 GBP (13958.47 ETB)	500 GBP (15543.9 5 ETB)	+51 GBP (1585.48 ETB)	
One day panel discussions with higher institution students	255 GBP (7927.41 ETB)	300 GBP (9326.37 ETB)	+45 GBP (+1399 ETB)	
Professional fee	230 GBP (7150.22 ETB)	284 GBP (8828.96 ETB)	+ 54 BGP (+1678.75 ETB)	
Mobile top up	40 GBP (1243.50 ETB)	40 GBP (1243.50 ETB)		
Outreach: brochure, T-Shirts, mass media coverage, and book donation	568 GBP (17657.93 ETB)	750 GBP (23315.9 2 ETB)	+182 GBP (5658 ETB)	The requested budget was under-estimated and the price of t-shirt is high
Data entry	50 GBP (1554.40 ETB)	50 GBP (1554.40 ETB)		
Indirect cost	250 GBP (7771.98 ETB)			Used for project balance
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000 GBP (155439.5 ETB)</b>	<b>5000 GBP (155439. 5 ETB)</b>		

## 9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

This project is mainly focused on capacity building of the community, stakeholders and young generations to save the life of vulnerable black crowned cranes in Chora boter district of Jimma Zone in Ethiopia. I am very proud for all activities conducted to aware the public about the conservation of black crowned cranes through training, workshop, interview, focused group discussion, social media including

national TV broadcasting transmissions and sharing the outcome the project to various organization working on crane conservation in Europe, USA and Africa.

I am motivated to continue the conservation of black crowned cranes in other district in Jimma zone since we cannot conserve the species by limiting our project to one district. The species is known in local movements throughout the year from one area to the other. Thus, it is good if we work more on other areas too.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

The logo of RSG was used during the outreach activities (training and workshop). The published t-shirts, banners and posters and PowerPoint presentations conducted by the project used the logo. The RSG mission was shortly described and shared on Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, face book and YouTube. In all activities of the project the Rufford Foundation was acknowledged.

**11. Any other comments?**

I am very grateful to RSG for Nature Conservation in supporting the project entitled as 'Enhancing the conservation of Black Crowned cranes in Chora boter district of Jimma zone, the case of Ethiopia. I develop a good experience and networking with stakeholders and other crane working groups both in the country and abroad to continue my work on black crowned cranes conservation. I strongly request RSG for follow up Booster Grant Awards to scale up the conservation of the species to Seka district of Jimma zone.



Figure 1: Some picture of higher institution student's workshop



Figure 2: Preparatory School student's workshop at Bege preparatory school



Figure 3: Students workshop at Ayte Primary School



Figure 4 A: Journalist on field workshop



Figure 4 B: some pictures of stakeholders



Figure 5: Community workshop

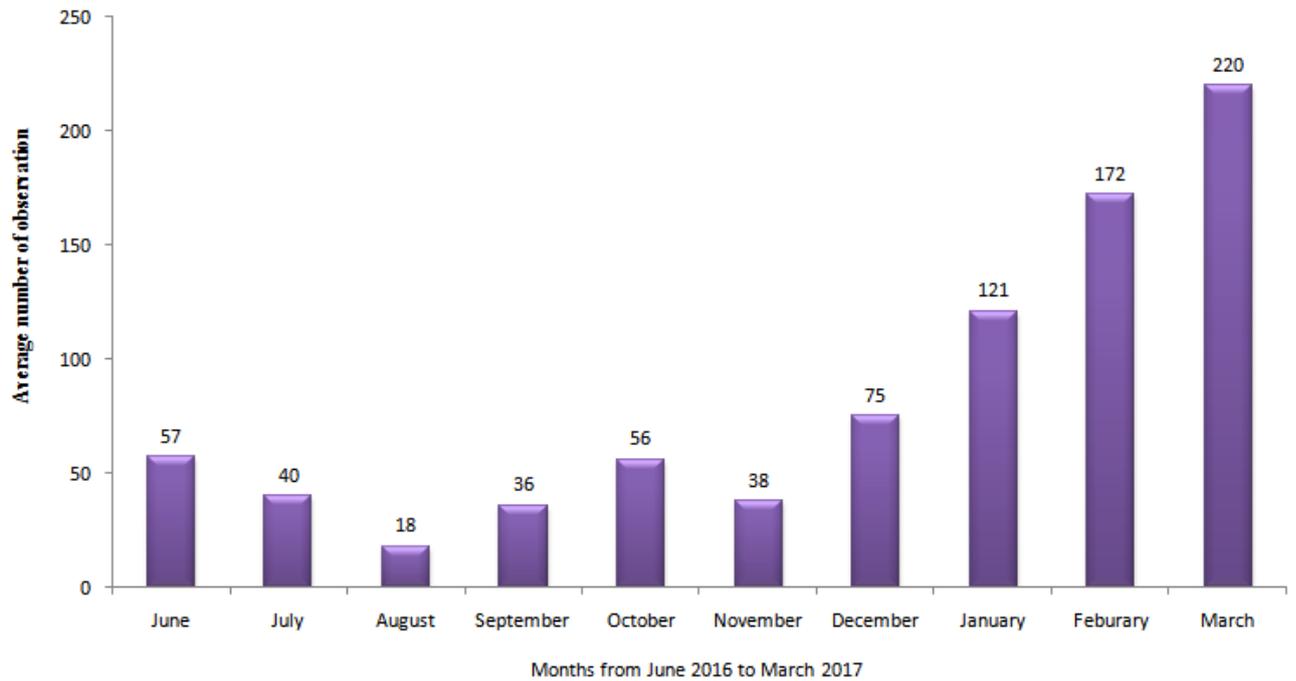


Figure 6: Average number of Black Crowned cranes for ten months (from June 2016 to March 11, 2017)

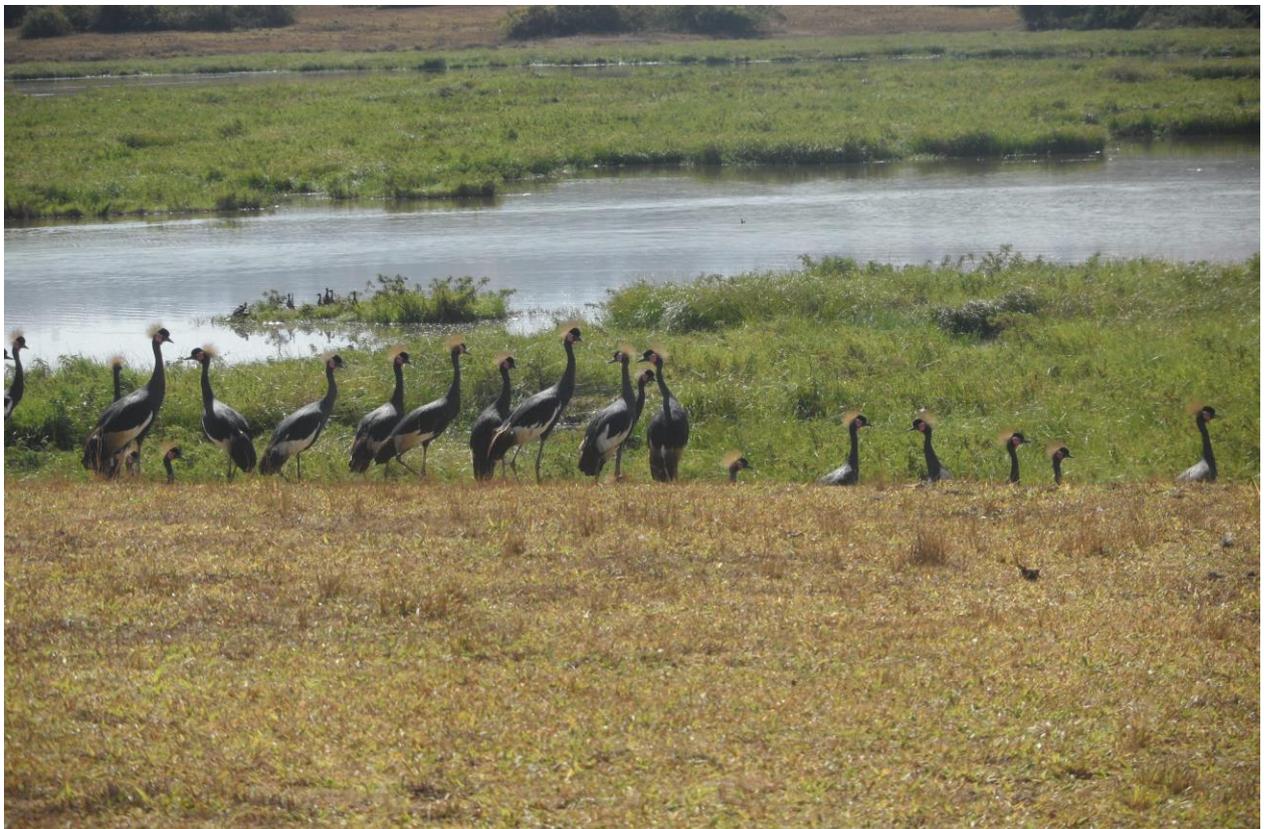


Figure 7: Black Crowned cranes at Chalalaki wetland