

Project Update: January 2017

In order to enhance the conservation of black crowned cranes, first of all the current status of the species were shared in the form of speech and then education will be continued. The students were educated irrespective of their ages and levels on the main threats to black crowned crane and the importance of its conservation. The students were enlightened about habitat preferences, major threats and current status of black crowned crane for both immediate and future actions. I have held awareness creation for students at different levels (primary, preparatory school and higher institution) in which I brought considerable strides in the awareness of the conservation of black crowned crane and its habitat.



Figure 1: Black crowned crane flying over Chalalki Wetlands as we approach them

Student workshop was conducted for higher institution students at Jimma University on December 8th 2016 for 55 students (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Students photo during the workshop (Photo by Mitiku, December 8, 2016)

To make the workshop more effective, various methodologies were employed. Four students, Zebenom G/Egzihber, Yakob Asha, Daniel Mamo and Yetimwork Dessalegn, were selected on voluntary a basis to draw pictures of black crowned cranes and these were posted in the training hall (Figure 3). Flyers and posters were prepared during the workshop and t-shirts with the Rufford Foundation logo were printed and distributed to the students as a form of motivation (Figure 4). The t-shirts were printed with two strongly written messages on conservation on the back and front. The t-shirts describe saving the species on the front side and the back side they promote the enhancement of black crowned crane conservation (Figure 5). Awareness creation on the status of black crowned cane and its habitats (wetlands) were

presented. During the workshop all participants were advised not to destroy the eggs of black crowned cranes or destroy their breeding nests, not to chase and catch young cranes and not to kill cranes - they have a right to life like human beings.



Figure 3: Picture drawn by four students (Zebenom, Yakob, Daniel and Yetimwork, December 7, 2016)

See additional pictures of Students workshop @ Jimma University





Figure 4: Additional pictures of students after the workshop



Figure 5: T-shirts with Rufford Foundation logo and two conservation messages (Saving Black Crowned cranes on the front, and Enhancing the conservation of Black Crowned cranes on the back front).

In addition, we documented reports, pictures and videos of the project on YouTube, Facebook, Jimma University website and other nature conservation working groups on social media. Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine shared and posted information on their website (<http://cavm.ju.edu.et/?q=node/80>). Short videos of black crowned cranes and pictures of the students taken during the workshop were transmitted through the college for 3 days (December 14th – 16th 2016) - more than 2000 students got the chance to watch short documentary video and the photos of the workshop. I shared the short video of the black crowned crane movement and photo clip of the student's workshop on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGlzTGg78Aw>) and other social media like Facebook on December 12th 2016. You can assess the documents in the following social media (https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2118640714827679&set=pcb.211864254816082_9&type=3&theater), other networks like Rufford East Africa Projects-Network (REAP) on December 15th 2016 (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/793719180726678/>) for the rest of the world to promote the conservation needs of black crowned cranes without borders.

The students' workshop was also conducted at Bage Preparatory School in Chora boter district. With the support of the school teachers of Bage preparatory school, we conducted a sensitisation workshop for grade 11th and 12th students on the conservation of black crowned cranes. A total of 191 (103 men and 88 women) participated in the workshop. The students got awareness on the current status and threats of black crowned crane and the conservation needs of the species. At the end of the workshops students were advised not to destroy the

eggs of black crowned cranes or destroy their breeding nests, not to chase and catch young cranes and not to kill cranes - they have a right to life like human beings.



Figure 6: Bage Preparatory school



Figure 7: Students workshop @ Bage Preparatory school

See additional pictures of student's workshop @ Bage preparatory school





From left to right A/Zinab with cape is school guard, Birhanu Negero, Jihad Husien, Dessalegn Obsi, Damma Tolessa and Kedir Garo @ Bage preparatory school after the students workshop (December 13, 2016).

Upcoming Activities

Community workshop and population monitoring of black crowned cranes (on progress) will continue in the coming months.