

## **Project Update: June 2016**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> small grants were started on May 24, 2016 with student's workshop on Black Crowned cranes conservation. A total of 52 students from Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine were involved on the workshop (Figure 1). The student's understand about biodiversity conservation especially on Black Crowned Cranes. During the workshop the students watched various conservation videos: the importance of biodiversity conservation, the role of people in conservation, the role of stakeholders in conservation campaigns, the role mass media in information dissemination for biodiversity conservation were presented. The importance of wetland resources for Black Crowned cranes and other living creatures were also presented and discussed during the workshop. The geographical distributions of Black Crowned cranes, habitat preferences as well as the main threats of the species were presented and discussed on the way forward. About 50% of the workshop participants have no information about Black Crowned cranes before the training. After the workshop, the students enhance their understanding about Black Crowned crane. The main threats of Black Crowned cranes were also presented from the findings of 1<sup>st</sup> Rufford Small grants. The student's understand the importance of Black Crowned Cranes and its habitat conservation. The conservation guideline of Black Crowned cranes was also presented for the students.



**Figure 1: Students actively following the video presentation during the workshop**



Figure 2: Group Photo after student workshop (Photo by Dessalegn Obsi Gameda)



Figure 3: Some of group photos after the workshop (Photo by Dessalegn Obsi Gameda)



Figure 4: Every student show smile face after the workshop (Photo by Dessalegn Obsi Gemeda)



Figure 5: Some portions of Chalalaki Wetlands in Chora Boter district of Jimma Zone (Photo by Dessalegn Obsi Gemeda)



**Figure 6: Chalalaki wetlands (June 7, 2016)**

As indicated in figure 9, the population of Black Crowned cranes varies from day to day. For instance, were recorded 56 Black Crowned cranes on June 7, 2016; 28 Black Crowned cranes on June 10, 2016 and 70 and 74 Black Crowned cranes on June 17 and 25, 2016 respectively. So, we recorded a maximum of 74 and a minimum of 28 Black Crowned cranes within three weeks. We will monitor the population dynamics of the coming months. In this project, the population dynamics of Black Crowned crane will be recorded once per week with the support of the local communities (Recruited data collector) from the site support group (Figure 7). To know the population dynamics of Black Crowned crane across different months, the population census will be continued throughout the project lifespan and beyond.



**Figure 7: Photo of Mohammed S/Hassien data collector from the local communities**



Figure 8: Photo project investigator with bag along the data collector in Mecha Dire Village near to Chalalaki wetland

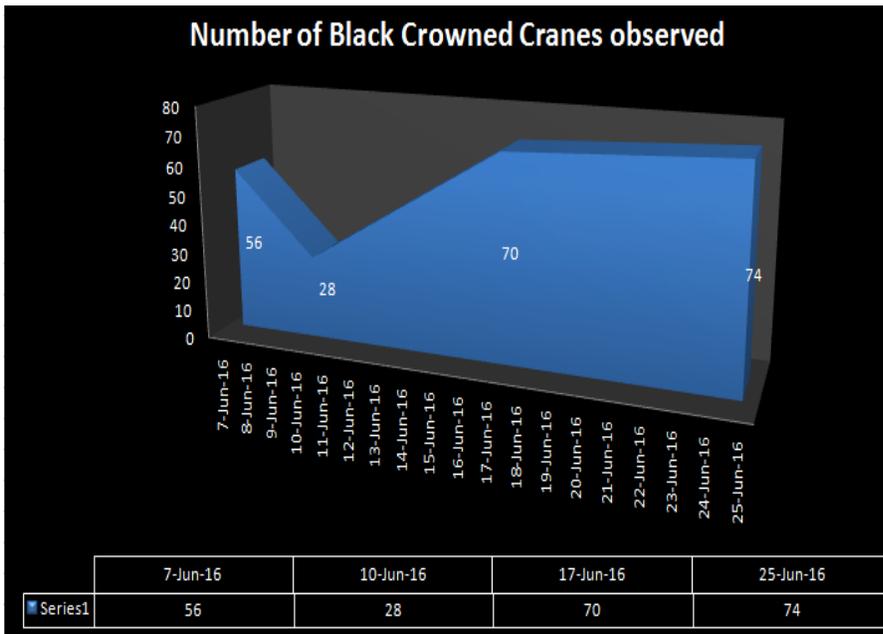


Figure 9: Population Dynamics of Black Crowned cranes around Chalalaki wetland



Figure 10: Group of Black Crowned cranes in the margin of Chalalaki wetland





Figure 11: Pair of Black Crowned cranes on feeding (Photo by Dessalegn Obsi Gemeda)



Previous research findings have shown that environmental degradation and overgrazing are some of the major factors that threaten the life of Black Crowned cranes in Chora boter district. I observed this factors several times during data collection (Figure 12 and 13).



**Figure 12: Free overgrazing land around Chalalaki wetland**



**Figure 13: Land degradation around Chalalaki wetland buffer zone**