

Project Update: December 2017

I am happy to provide my project success for other conservationist across the world without border with special emphasis on human dimensions. I focused on people attention due to the fact that people is the core components of species conservation particularly for those threatened species like black crowned cranes. Without people, it is very difficult to say the term conservation. Our community have different feelings about species conservation based on their understanding and knowledge. Some people have a positive attitude towards conservation but they cannot contribute because of lack of capacity but others are don't care about the issues of conservation. So, our assignment as conservationist is to educate and aware our people to change their understanding and feelings towards conservation of nature. Thus, it possible to say conservation is more social processes. Species conservation naturally involves various dynamics and we have to enhance people understanding on the ecology of the species for the issue of habitat protection. We need to scale up the understanding of our society more about the behaviours and physiology of black crowned crane ecology and it's interact with the environment.

In this project, scaling-up public education and awareness creation towards conservation of vulnerable black crowned cranes in Seka Chekorsa District of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia, I am investing a lot of time and capital to promote the most efficient and effective conservation approach to save the vulnerable black crowned crane in Jimma Zone starting from the first Rufford Small Project (February 2015) onwards to the current Booster Grants. I used all existing opportunities (national and regional mass media, scientific publication, stakeholders' workshop, community workshop, youth workshop and other online social media (Face book and YouTube) to bring the agenda of black crowned crane to the public. Because of strong efforts of the project various achievements came out of the project. For instance, our final finding about the threats of black crowned cranes and the suggested way forward was presented for the concerned stakeholders to use as an input for the issues of conservation.

It is obvious that environmental degradation and habitat losses are common threats of various species in developing countries because of high human influence which requires appropriate policies for implementation on the ground. Biodiversity conservation related research and policies in agricultural ecosystems are often less successful than expected because of lack of a well-focused approach.

Whatever you like, want and need to share the threats of the species for the public, talking to people about your concern and engage them in species conservation is not easy. It needs strong commitment and vision. All people are familiar about human pressure on the environment but when we came to species loss we have to teach and aware how habitat loss will lead to species conservation. From our previous project findings we understand that the community have detail information about habitat loss but unable to associate with species losses. Thus, this project is focused on habitat loss (wetlands) and species threats (black crowned cranes). From our project work, we understand that public attitude change is crucial to fully implement the issues of conservation.

The role of youth in Species Conservation

As we all know youth involvement in species conservation has a potential role in both dissemination of knowledge and conservation action on the ground. It is the right time to aware the youth about the ever increasing pressure on wetland habitats, resulting in a reduction in the space available for black crowned cranes. Along the youth we can bring change on the conservation of black crowned cranes. We can bring change. Conservation can help us to work and be inspired together so we can solve the problems of species loss. On December 9th 2017, 1-day youth workshop was organised on the topic entitled as "Space and Species Conservation with special emphasis on Black Crowned Crane". On the workshop power point presentation was conducted, documentary video on black crowned crane was presented for the audience. T-shirt was distributed for the participants with clear message of conservation. On the front page of the t-shirt the logo of Rufford Foundation was used. On the back short conservation message was written (black crowned cranes and its habitat conservation). At the youth workshop a total of 58 individuals participated.

Some picture of Yyuth workshop at Jimma University



On back side of the t-shirt (Black Crowned cranes and its habitat conservation, photo credit © Mitiku Hailu, December 9, 2017)



Front side of the t-shirt with the log of The Rufford Foundation. © Mitiku Hailu, December 9, 2017.





The Youth during refreshment. © Mitiku Hailu, December 9, 2017.



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The Youth representative admiring the workshop entitled space and species conservation



Additional group photo on the field after the workshop. © Mitiku Hailu, December 9, 2017.



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After the workshop the student photo was shared on social media along short conservation message (See figure below). On social media until this report was generated, 95 like the workshop and 22 people inspire about the issues of space and species conservation.