

Project Update: September 2017

Multi-stakeholders workshop on Black Crowned Crane conservation at Seka Chekorsa Town - August 8th 2017

At the opening of the workshop, Mr. Tijani Temam, Head of Seka Chekorsa District Agricultural and Natural Resources Head (Figure 1), officially open the workshop with much excited on the issues of nature conservation. After the opening speech the content of the presentation was introduced by the project principal, Mr Dessalegn Obsi Gemeda (Figure 2). Multi-stakeholder workshop was conducted on black crowned crane and its habitat (wetland) conservation for various experts at Seka Chekorsa district in Jimma Zone on July 18th 2017.

At the workshop, there were a total of 39 participants; six experts from Jimma University, one journalist (Mr Muktar Taha, Fana Radio), and 32 experts from various offices of Seka Chekorsa district. The entire workshop was conducted in local language (Afan Oromo). The workshop got media coverage. The workshop participants were invited based on relevance of their work and potential for collaboration to implement the agenda of conservation on the ground. The workshop was supported by The Rufford Foundation with in-kind contributions of Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. Starting from February 2015 onwards various research and outreach activities were conducted on the Vulnerable black crowned crane in order to save the species from threats and loss. Based on the findings of the previous project work, we scale up the issue of black crowned crane conservation with the project entitled as 'Scaling-Up Public Education and Awareness Creation towards Conservation of Vulnerable Black Crowned cranes in Seka Chekorsa District of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia'.



Figure 1: Welcoming Speech by Mr Tijan Temam (Photo by Mitiku Hailu, JUCAVM ICT Studio Camera man)



Figure 2: Content of the workshop by Mr. Dessalegn Obsi Gemeda (Photo by Mitiku Hailu)

The content and objectives of the workshop

Wetland degradation has become one of the hot issues and serious problems in Jimma zone because of overexploitation and conversion of wetlands to other land use. Wetland ecosystem is the key habitat since it played an important role in ecological functions. Wetland is one of the key habitats for the Vulnerable black crowned cranes and other endangered species. On the workshop one journalist (Mr Muktar Taha) mass media was invited to disseminate key issues raised on wetland and Black Crowned crane conservation and the formulated the way forward for the public through mass media.



Figure 3: Mr. Muktar Taha with the white t-shirt from mass media on the first row recording the presentation of Prof. Debela Hunde Feyssa

Jimma Fana Radio transmitted the content of the workshop, stakeholders discussion and the formulated the way forward on wetland and black crowned crane

conservation for more than 5,000,000.00 people @98.1 MHz on Friday July 21, 2017 straining from 11:15-11:45 am.

Workshop components

On the workshop two power point presentations was conducted followed by question and answers as well as interactive discussions. The first presentation was conducted by Prof. Debela Hunde Feyssa (Figure 4) on the Functions of Wetland Ecosystems, Current Challenges and Way forward. The second presentation was conducted by Mr Dessalegn Obsi Gemedra (Figure 5) on the project entitled as 'Scaling-Up Public Education and Awareness Creation towards Conservation of Vulnerable Black Crowned cranes in Seka Chekorsa District of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia'. Mr. Dessalegn shared the outcomes of the previous project for the workshop participants and the current proposed conservation plans at Seka Chekorsa District which was followed by question and answers. Both presentations were chaired by Dr. Benti Dheressa and Mr. Akalu Daffisa (Figure 6).



Figure 4: PowerPoint presentation by Prof. Debela Hunde Feyssa



Figure 5: PowerPoint presentation on the workshop by Mr. Dessalegn Obsi Gemedra (Photo by Mitiku Hailu)



Figure 6: The workshop was chaired by Dr. Benti Dheressa and Mr. Akalu Daffisa

Dear reader of this report, if black crowned crane species is new for you please read the next paragraph.

The black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*) is categorised as a vulnerable species and decreasing in population. The species is threatened by habitat loss, particularly the rapid conversion of wetlands into agricultural lands driven by a need for livelihoods and a lack of awareness about the value of healthy, intact wetlands which benefit the biodiversity at large. The black crowned crane is found in Africa, from Senegal and Gambia on the Atlantic coast to the upper Nile River basin in the Sudan and Ethiopia and they use both wet and dry open habitats with preference for short and medium height open grasslands adjacent to wetlands (IUCN, 2014 and Meine and Archibald, 1996). Black crowned crane is observed in Jimma Zone (Nowald & Schröder 2012; George, 2012; and Nowald et al., 2007). Even though, the presence of black crowned crane was recorded in Ethiopia, its current status in Jimma zone is not well documented. According to the eyewitness of the elder people this species was previously abundant and widely distributed than today in Jimma zone

Way forward

- Awareness creations are important on wetlands and black crowned crane conservation.
- Various organisations should work on the conservation of black crowned crane and wetlands.
- Habitat loss may not be the only threats of black crowned crane.

- Further research should be conducted on the ecology of black crowned crane.
- Clear land use plan and implementation is required,
- Advocacies need be accompanied with practical portfolios to participate the community,
- Sustainable watershed and water bodies management

On the workshop, 50 reference books were donated by the project for school capacity building to be deposited at school library (Figure 7).

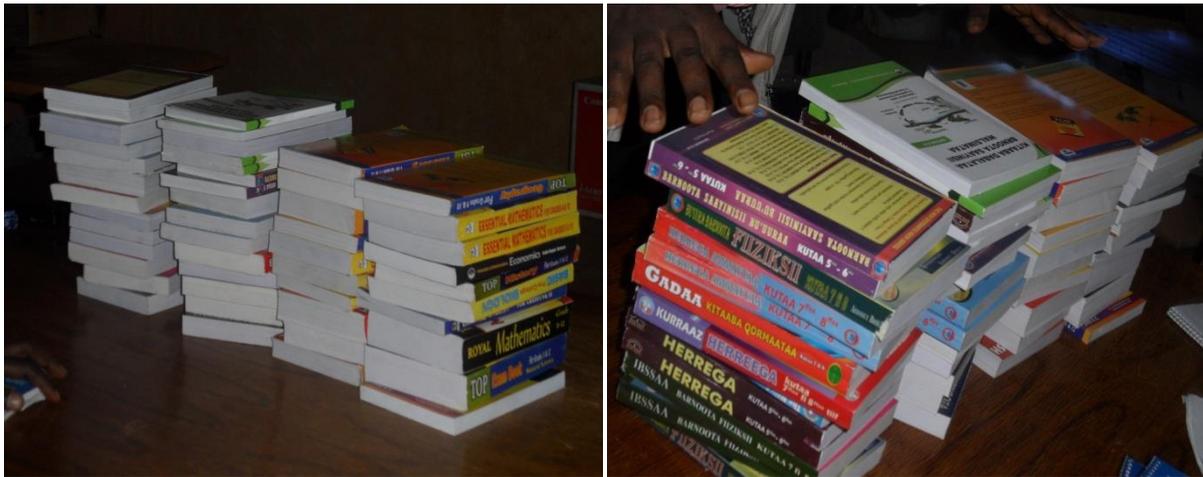


Figure 7: Book donated for School capacity building of Seka Chekorsa District (Photo by Mr. Dessalegn Obsi Gemed))

Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine published the output of the workshop on its local network for the public (<http://cavm.ju.edu.et/?q=node/102>) (Figure 8).

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Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

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Home » Multi-stakeholders workshop is conducted at...

Multi-stakeholders workshop is conducted at Seka Chekorsa Town

BODY:
Multi-stakeholders workshop
 At the opening of the workshop, Mr. Tijani Temam, Head of Seka Chekorsa District Agricultural and Natural Resources Head (Figure 1), official open the workshop with much excited on the issues of nature conservation. After the opening speech the content of the presentation was addressed by the project principal, Mr. Dessalegn Obsi Gemed

The content and objectives of the workshop
 Wetland degradation has become one of the hot issues and serious problems in Ethiopia including Jimma zone because of overexploitation and conversion of wetlands to other land use. Wetland ecosystem is the key habitat since it played an important role in ecological functions and other crucial roles. Wetland is one of the key habitats for wildlife like the Vulnerable Black Crowned cranes and other endangered species. On the workshop mass media was invited to disseminate key issues raised on wetland and Black Crowned crane conservation and the formulated the way forward for the public through government media. Jimma Fana Radio transmitted the content of the workshop, stakeholders discussion and the formulated the way forward on wetland and Black Crowned crane conservation for more than 5,000,000.00 people @98.1 MHz on Friday July 21, 2017 straining from 11:15 am onwards....

Workshop components
 On the workshop two power point presentations was conducted followed by question and answers as well as interactive

SEARCH

NAVIGATION

- ▶ Anonymous Suggestion Box
- Automated Staff Audit System(Acadamic)
- Automated Staff Audit System(Admin)
- PHM Kaizen System
- Auditorium system
- Online Exam System
- Research Manager
- QTRS
- SRS
- Teaal

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Workshop components

On the workshop two power point presentations were conducted followed by question and answers as well as interactive discussions. The first presentation was conducted by Prof. Debela Hunde Feyssa on the Functions of Wetland Ecosystems, Current Challenges and Way forward. The second presentation was conducted by Mr. Dessalegn Obsi Gemeda on the project entitled as 'Scaling-Up Public Education and Awareness Creation towards Conservation of Vulnerable Black Crowned cranes in Seka Chekorsa District of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia'. Mr. Dessalegn shared the outcomes of the previous project for the workshop participants and the current proposed conservation plans at Seka Chekorsa District which was followed by question and answers. Both presentations were chaired by Dr. Benti Dheressa and Mr. Akalu Daffisa (See workshop participants photo in figure 3).

Participants

On the workshop, a total of 39 participants (Six experts from Jimma University, one Journalist from Mass media (Fana Radio), and 32 experts from various offices of Seka Chekorsa district). The entire workshop was conducted in local language (Afan Oromo). The workshop gets media coverage. The workshop participants were invited based on relevance of their work and potential for collaboration to implement the agenda of conservation on the ground.

Multi-stakeholders workshop was conducted on Black Crowned crane and its habitat (Wetland) conservation for various experts at Seka Chekorsa district in Jimma Zone on July 18, 2017. The workshop was financial supported with The Rufford Foundation, a UK registered charity which funds nature conservation projects across the developing world with in-kind contributions of Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. Starting from February 2015 onwards various research and outreach activities was conducted on the Vulnerable Black Crowned crane in order to save the species from threats and loss. Based on the findings of the previous project work, we scale up the issue of Black Crowned crane conservation with the project entitled as 'Scaling-Up Public Education and Awareness Creation towards Conservation of Vulnerable Black Crowned cranes in Seka Chekorsa District of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia'.

Dear reader of this news, if Black Crowned crane species is new for you please read the next paragraph. The Black Crowned Crane (*Balaearica Pavonina*) is categorized as a vulnerable species and decreasing in population. The species is threatened by habitat loss, particularly the rapid conversion of wetlands into agricultural lands driven by a need for livelihoods and a lack of awareness about the value of healthy, intact wetlands which benefit the biodiversity at large. The Black Crowned Crane is found in Africa, from Senegal and Gambia on the Atlantic coast to the upper Nile River basin in the Sudan and Ethiopia and they use both wet and dry open habitats with preference for short and medium height open grasslands adjacent to wetlands (IUCN, 2014 and Meine and Archibald, 1996). Black Crowned Crane is observed in Jimma Zone (Nowald & Schröder 2012; George, 2012; and Nowald et al., 2007). Even though, the presence of Black Crowned Crane was recorded in Ethiopia, its current status in Jimma zone is not well documented. According to the eyewitness of the elder people this species was previously abundant and widely distributed than today in Jimma zone. For more information about the project visit the on the website of The Rufford Foundation in the link below

Way forward

- Awareness creations are important on wetlands and Black Crowned crane conservation
- Various organization should work on the conservation of Wetlands and Black Crowned crane
- Habitat loss may not be the only threats of Black Crowned crane
- Further research should be conducted on the Ecology of Black Crowned crane
- Strategic action in integrated production and enhance productivity,
- Clear Land use plan and implementation,
- Advocacies need be accompanied with practical portfolios to participate the community,
- Sustainable watershed and water bodies management

On the workshop, 50 reference books were donated by the project for school capacity building to be deposited at school library.

IMAGE:



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Teal

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WHO'S ONLINE

There are currently 0 users online.

Figure 8: Project news on Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine website

Additional photos of the workshop





