

Project Update: March 2023

Introduction

The objective of this project is to equip local communities with the knowledge and skills they need to engage in conservation activities that address both conservation and livelihood needs, and to establish new environment and nature conservation clubs at three public schools and strengthen them by providing training and materials.

The study involves a participatory approach to improve the knowledge and skills through practical nature or environmental conservation education system for the surrounding communities of Cheleleka Wetland. One of the main objectives of the project is to improve future conservationist (school children or students) engagement in nature conservation through training and capacity building activities. According to our work plan, in this period we concentrated on providing capacity building activities to school nature clubs, and the entire school communities and meeting with relevant stakeholders and representatives from different institutions. Accordingly, we have provided a 2-day workshop and training (from March 18-19, 2023) for nine elementary and high school nature clubs representatives at Hawassa University, Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources on file of "Strengthening the Environment-Club's Capacities in Schools for Sustainable Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation".

Activity implementation progress

According to our work plan, we have provided capacity building and awareness creation training and conducted workshops with nine elementary and high school nature club representatives on nature and nature protection, why nature protection is required, how nature is protected, and its approaches, how school clubs are important to protect environment, and role of nature/environmental clubs in protecting environment. Both the training workshops were conducted in a participatory approach; the nature club representatives were very passionate to reflect their views and understanding about environmental protection and reduce biodiversity degradation. They clearly identified the direct and indirect drivers and understand how human activities affect the natural environment, especially wetland resources. The project is on track as far as the work plan; we have managed to pull together the relevant stakeholders and convinced the community of the aim and importance of the project. We have also progressed to our next month activities preparation.



Group Discussion among the trainees on selected topics and questions



Group Discussion among the trainees on selected topics and questions



Group Photograph after Training-workshop



Photo on Tea-break and refreshment time