

## Project Update: May 2015

### Multi-stakeholders workshop to enhance the conservation of Black Crowned Crane Limmu district /Chora Botor/ districts of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia

I conducted a multi-stakeholders workshop in order to get mass support at the grassroots level. The workshop was officially opened after the welcome speech of Mr Sheleme Wadajo the district chairperson of the Oromo People Democratic Organization at Bege town.

Four additional experts from Jimma University academic staff and researcher were invited to share their knowledge for the workshop participants. The backgrounds of the invited experts are as follows:

1. Dr Debela Hunde: biodiversity experts and currently Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Research and Postgraduate Coordinating Office.
2. Mr Taiku Mekonnen Gutema (PhD student @ Oslo University): wildlife ecologist.
3. Mr Abebayehu Aticho: Assistant Professor: natural resources management expert.
4. Mr Akalu Defisa: lecturer: Rural development expert and instructor on rural sociology.
5. Mr Dessalegn Obsi: Project principal.

The participants were invited from different governmental organisations including Jimma University

No	Name of the participants	Organization/ Sectors
1	Mr Abebayehu Aticho	Jimma University
2	Mr Akalu Defissa	Jimma University
3	Dr Debela Hunde	Jimma University
4	Mr Degefa Gelana	Head of Chora Botor Agricultural Office who leave the workshop because of other duties from the government
5	Mr Dessalegn Obsi	Jimma University (Project principal)
6	Mr Fanta Nugussa	Representatives of district animal health
7	Mr Habitamu Bezabih	District administrative office
8	Mr Ibrhaim Makkate	District communication office
9	Mr Jewar Temam	District administrative office
10	Mr Lamessa Wirtu	District Finance Office
11	Mr Miftahu Abdulkadir	District Ministry of Education
12	Mr Muhee Said	District administrative office
13	Mr Nasir Dirba	Head of district administrative office who leave the workshop because of other duties from the government
14	Mr Reshad Mohammed	From district ethics and civil service office
15	Mr Shelema Wadajo	District administrative office
16	Mr Tadesse Mokonnen	Districts Agricultural Office (Natural Resources Management)
17	Mr Tariku Mekoonen	Jimma University

The workshop was conducted in the former Limmu Genet District of Jimma zone at Bege town which located about 117 km from capital city of Jimma zone and 463 km from capital city of Addis Ababa in the south western part of Ethiopia. The workshop expenses: fuel for car, per diem, refreshment cost, and stationeries materials were covered by Rufford Small Grants. Jimma University contributes in-kind, e.g. a car.

In the workshop three power point presentations were given. The presentations focused on the value of wetlands, the current status and distributions of black crowned cranes and lastly, the way forward for the conservation of black crowned cranes. After the presentations, the workshop participants discussed in detailed on the long-term impacts as well as the contributions of this awareness creation for other species conservation in the area.

Before the multi-stakeholders workshop I trained 15 undergraduate students of Jimma University on the conservation of the vulnerable black crowned cranes.

A multi-stakeholders workshop was conducted on May 12th 2015. A total of 17 participants joined the workshops who are working in different sectors. ‘The workshop was an important opportunity to work more on conservation of various endemic birds in our region’ explained Reshad Mohammed the districts ethics and civil service office. The workshop provided skill enhancements on the value of wetlands, conservation of black crowned cranes and the future opportunities of conservation of birds like ecotourism site. The other important stakeholders Mr Ibrhaim Makkate from government communication office said that “we have to do more to promote our beautiful unique birds of our districts.”

Before the workshop, the workshop participants had no information on the current status of black crowned crane, whether the population is decreasing, stable or increasing. Even if some of them are no information about the black crowned crane existence in the region. Due to this fact some participants are surprising the presence of various birds in the area after observing various photos. After the workshop, all participants reach common understanding on the current status of black crowned cranes. Other participants declared that we have a potential to promote our district as one of the tourist destination sites in Jimma zone which will help our community in the future. During our lunch time I share about the possible fund for conservation like Rufford Small Grants.

Lastly, the participants discussed the way forward for the conservation of black crowned cranes. In June 2015 I plan to conduct the community workshop along the key stakeholders of the districts.

