Project Update February 2017

1. **Community Workshop**

The project is going well in capacity buildings of various sectors including young generations, local communities, and other stakeholders in Chora boter district of Jimma zone. So far, student's workshop at elementary, high school and higher institution, stakeholders and community workshop was conducted to promote the conservation of black crowned crane. From the last report of January 2017 I stated that, students were aware about the threats of black crowned crane and its conservation. The local communities around Mecha Dire village were excited and looking forward to the activities of the black crowned crane conservation activities. Community awareness and training has begun starting from the 1st project of Rufford Small Grants and continues throughout the 2nd phase of the project in which more than 150 local communities and thousands of students develop common understanding on black crowned crane conservation. In addition to black crowned crane conservation, the local communities also discussed on the issues of wetland degradation and its impacts on the environment including the community livelihoods (See lists of questions raised for discussions during community workshop in bulletin below).

- Is there wetland degradation in this area?
- Why wetland system degraded?
- How it will be prevented by the communities?
- Do you think that wetland degradation leads to biodiversity loss?
- What is the role of communities on the conservation of wetlands?

For community training, three professionals from Jimma University and six experts from Chora boter district were invited to join the community training. Before, we start training, the teams invited from Jimma University and invited guests from the district visited Chalalaki wetlands to observe the current situations of the wetlands and the existing opportunities and challenges for conservations (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Experts from Jimma University and Chora boter district on site discussions

The community Workshop was conducted on wetland and black crowned crane conservation in the 1st Rufford Small Grants (Figure 2). In both projects, the community was targeted for enhancing the conservation of black crowned cranes and its habitats. In the 2nd Rufford Small Grants various actors from Chora boter district and experts from Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine were participated on the community workshop in order to get strong attention both from the communities and the district stakeholders.

Figure 2: Community workshop from the previous Rufford Small Grants Project

See some additional pictures of the community photo during and after the workshop (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Community photo during and after the workshop

2. Black Crowned Crane population Monitoring

Table 1: Number of Black Crowned recorded between June 7, 2016 and February 17, 2017

S.No	Month	Date of record	Number of observation
1	June	June 7, 2016	56
2	June	June 10, 2016	28
3	June	June 17, 2016	70
4	June	June 25, 2016	74
5	July	July 2, 2016	62
6	July	July 9, 2016	34
7	July	July 23, 2016	45
8	July	July 29, 2016	18
9	August	August 7, 2016	18
10	August	August 13, 2016	20
11	August	August 20, 2016	14
12	August	August 28, 2016	18
13	September	September 5, 2016	20
14	September	September 18, 2016	30
15	September	September 27, 2016	58
16	October	October 5, 2016	72
17	October	October 19, 2016	68
18	October	October 25, 2016	50
19	October	October 31, 2016	50
20	November	November 4, 2016	28
21	November	November 18, 2016	32
22	November	November 25, 2016	53
23	December	December 1, 2016	58
24	December	December 8, 2016	67
25	December	December 15, 2016	86
26	December	December 25, 2016	72
27	December	December 28, 2016	88
28	January	January 5, 2017	94
29	January	January 12, 2017	108
30	January	January 19, 2017	130
31	January	January 26, 2017	153
32	February	February 10, 2017	125
33	February	February 12, 2017	140
34	February	February 17, 2017	250

As indicated in table 1, population monitoring of black crowned cranes was conducted starting from June 7th 2016 onwards. The minimum and maximum record was 14 and 250 individuals respectively. The minimum record (14 individuals) was observed in August 2016 while the

maximum (250 individuals) was in February 2017. Because of local movements of the black crowned crane, there is high disparity in population (Figure, 4). In order to analyse the population variation across different months we took continuous data record of 9 months (minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 days data were taken) with the support of data collectors (Mr. Mohammed S/Hassen) until this report was generated (Table, 2). More than 100 individuals of black crowned cranes were recorded after January 2017 because of the fact that, majority of the small wetlands in the region was dried which makes the movement of the black crowned cranes from one area to another for searching diet (Figure, 6). When we analyse the monthly average records of the species, the minimum record was 18 in August 2016 and the maximum (172 individuals) was recorded in February 2017 (Figure, 5). Although, Chalalaki wetland is under serious threats (environmental degradation, siltation and overgrazing) it is relatively better than other wetlands in the area and they can host a lot of bird species during the dry seasons. It is confirmed that population of black crowned cranes in this area is higher during the dry seasons. The population of the black crowned cranes was increasing in this area starting January 2017 and it is expected that the population will increase in March, April and May 2017.

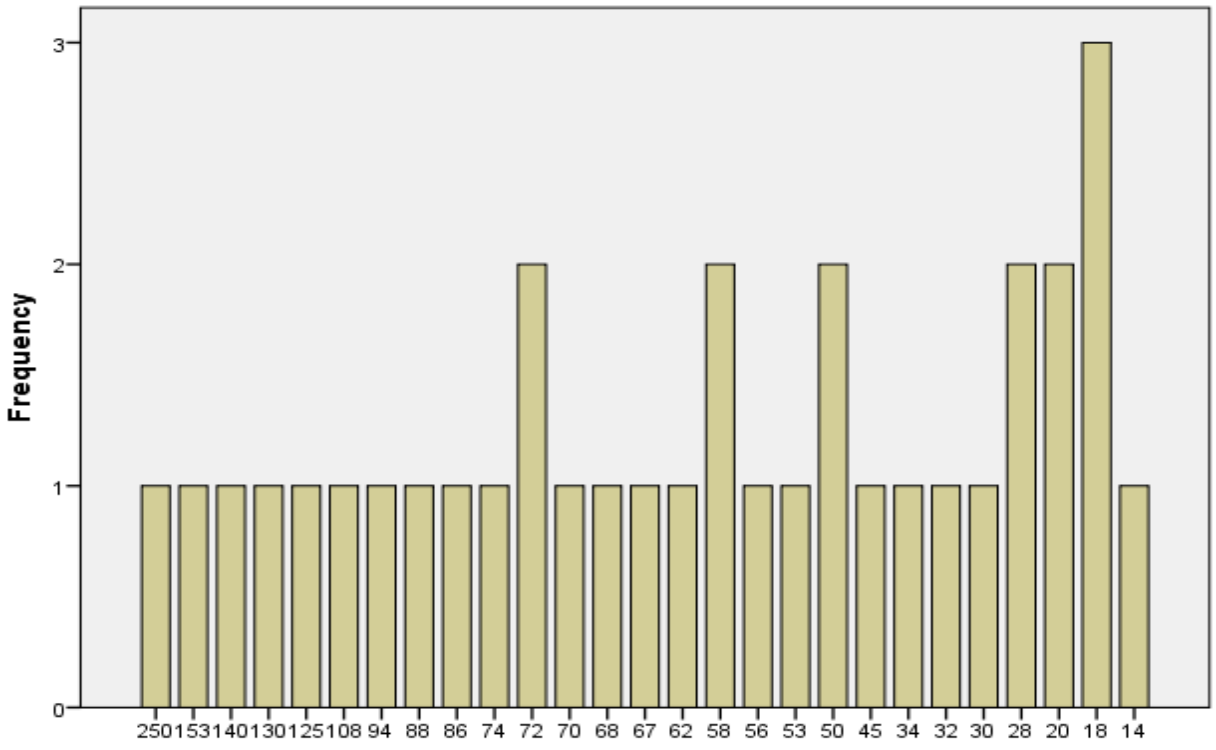

Figure 4: Population frequency of Black Crowned crane

Table 2: Frequency of data collection in different months

Months	Frequency of observation in the month	Percent
June	4	11.8
July	4	11.8
August	4	11.8
September	4	11.8
October	3	8.8
November	3	8.8
December	5	14.7
January	4	11.8
February	3	8.8
Total	34	100.0

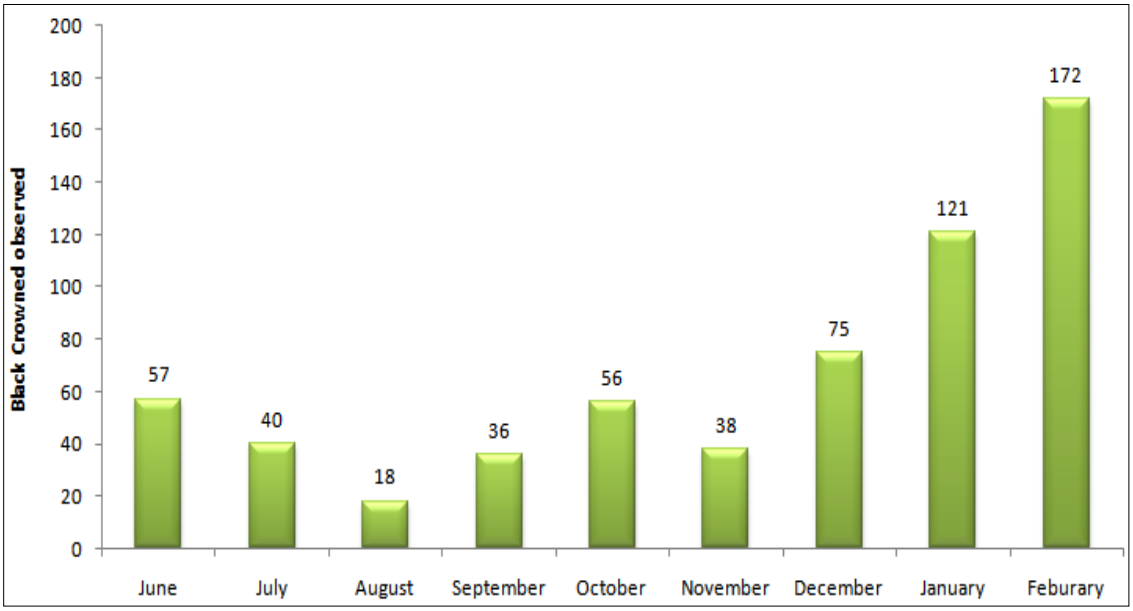

Figure 5: Average record of Black Crowned cranes in nine months

Figure 6: Black crowned cranes feeding