

### **Project Update: March 2019**

The black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*) is one of the most vulnerable birds because of habitat loss especially wetlands in Jimma south, western parts of Ethiopia. They prefer wetlands for foraging. They depend on small insects and vertebrates in the wetlands. They also feed vegetative seeds. If the diet of the species is not sufficient around the wetlands, the black crowned cranes will move to agricultural fields and damage farmer's fields. Similar to other regions, the local community draining the wetlands for irrigation purpose, this is one of the major challenges of conservation in agricultural based economic activities like Ethiopia. During the dry season the black crowned cranes form flocks (below), while in the wet season (breeding season) most of the time they move in pairs (family).





Flocks of Black crowned cranes in Jimma zone during dry season

#### **Major threats identified so far**

- Habitat loss like wetlands.
- Human disturbance like cattle keepers.
- Strong flooding due to land degradation.
- Shrinking of foraging grounds.

#### **Actions for intervention**

- Public capacity building on nature conservation.
- Influencing stakeholders on wetland protection and conservation.
- Environmental conservation through planting trees and grass.

You can assess the video of the flocks of black crowned cranes in Jimma zone during dry season on YouTube on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/dkK99bSB8vs>