

## **Project Update: July 2016**

### **Approaches and activities**

#### **1. Training conservation club member at school**

The project has provided training at two Jitu and Kachama schools on ecological, social and economic relevance of nature conservation particularly wetland and cranes. The issue of wetland degradation/losses, causes of degradation/losses, and effete of degradation/losses on wattled cranes and other biodiversity, on the environment, and on the peoples are the main topics addressed during the trainings. After providing solid information on the above mentioned issues, we had a discussion on the roles school nature and environment conservation club in preventing wetland degradation and wattled crane conservation and how club in the school engage in conservation activities. Finally, the club members realised their roles in addressing the issue and mechanisms (community awareness creation activity, protecting wetlands and breeding grounds) of participating in conservation. Then they become volunteer to involve in wetland and crane conservation awareness creation activities and breeding conservation efforts being as an ambassador of wetland and crane in their community.

At end of the training we randomly selected some participates and interviewed them about their understanding of wetland and wattled cranes, conservation needs of wetland and wattled cranes in their community, and potential roles of school nature conservation club in wetland and wattled crane conservation before and after attending this training. Most of them replied, "before the training, we don't have any information about the global status of wattled crane as threatened species' and we don't care for it, now we understood it and the value of wetlands as well thus, both wetlands and wattled cranes should be conserved to sustain their ecological, economic, and social values. To ensure sustainable conservation of wetlands and wattled cranes we have to work together continuously at all level. "

Conservation club members at the two schools are preparing drama, drawing pictures and arts to teach and aware the community during school parents day.

#### **2. Awareness creation to the whole community level**

After training the club members, we have started awareness creation education in school community level. In this programme about 650 people (students and teachers) participated from the two schools (Jitu 350 and Kachama 300 - Figure 1, 2 &3). During awareness creation, we have focused on ecological, social and economic relevance of nature conservation in generally wetland and cranes in particularly. The causes of wetland degradation/ losses, and its effete on threatened wattled cranes, environment and peoples. After the awareness creation some of the participants asked clarity question and got responses on the topic.



**Awareness creation participants at Jitu School for students**



**Awareness creation participant at Kachama school community**

At end of awareness creation as usual we have asked some participants about their understanding and perception about wetland and wattled crane conservation, the respondents replied "before this awareness creation programme we have no information about the need of wetland and wattled crane conservation and they are meaningless for us, now at least we understood its values, conservation needs and we will do what we can to conserve them."

Surprisingly, after the training at Jitu School the students gave new name for us called ***"Aba wakoo"*** in local language which means the father of cranes. When we come back to the school after month the local community said ***"Aba wakoo"*** has coming and they started loving cranes.

### **3. Strengthening the clubs' office**

After building the capacity of school community through providing awareness creation training (for teachers and students, and environment and nature club members) and we started strengthening conservation clubs' office capacity to participate in wetland and wattled crane conservation efforts through different means (e.g., teaching students, surrounding community). To realise this, the project has provide computers and stationeries for the clubs to strengthen its capacity in conservation awareness educations in the school and the wider community (Figure 4 & 5).



When computer and stationeries are handover to Jitu school representatives & Kachama school director.