

Project Update: July 2012

One of the main outcomes we recorded in the Increase Community Understanding on the Threats to the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin in Djibouti Project is just how challenging to explain nature conservation issues in general and the threats to a single bird species within a community that their daily life is uncertain. In many opportunities we had trustful discussions which were a big challenge for the project team because "each word to talk to the community about Djibouti Francolin's conservation has to be balanced, from traditional respect, to a very poor understanding of the nature conservation concept". Each visit to the project' site, we spent hours to gain community confidence through the twists and turns of a rigid age-old tradition of work in the community living in and around the project site for the benefit of the Critically Endangered Djibouti francolin and the people of Day village, in an area where there is intense disturbance on both to the bird and to the entire Forêt du Day's ecosystem. So far and despite the project geographical location away from the head office of Djibouti Nature, the implementation organisation, most of the planned activities are conducted properly and in time. After several months undertaking awareness amongst community stakeholders, training to build capacity of the emerging support site group established in the project site from the previous works, door to door campaign to obtain more stock enclosures to keep out livestock of parts of the forest from the community and survey to project's target bird to improve its ecological profile. The project team managed to hold four "open-door" meetings with the community leaders in Day village at the project' site, participated with contribution to an international seminar and workshop on the conservation of Djibouti's priority land animals to be held on March 25th -29th 2012 in Djibouti by presenting a draft strategic conservation of the Djibouti francolin, and five observation spots of the species were located; so we would be able to visit it regularly and record data on the Djibouti francolin's diet, socialising and habitat use behaviour patterns.

