

## **Project Update: November 2012**

1- We launched our beta version of the project website to be a platform for spread of information about dragon tree conservation. Also the Facebook group about the dragon tree we established and will be managed by end of December 2012 to be a social media channel for gathers conservationists that interested in dragon tree conservation.

2- As project leader, I got support from the IUCN and IRF to attend the international Ranges Congress in Tanzania and received recognition for our work on dragon tree conservation and for selected me this year as a runner-up for the IUCN/IRF young conservationist award.

3- For the first time, during this international congress, I presented an oral presentation about the dragon tree conservation project in Somaliland and Djibouti, this work received high appreciation from all participant rangers from the world as they saw it a good initiative for cooperation among rangers and conservationists from north and Horn of Africa.

4- We initiated a good communication with the IUCN GIS unit in Kew Botanic Garden in the UK; they were very interested to help our project to mapping and update the status of dragon tree in the IUCN Red List based on our regional field results.

5- The project leader, received acceptance and invitation from the Cambridge Students Conservation Conference 2013, that will be held in March 2013 in Cambridge University, to present a poster presentation about the project and role of NGOs and young conservationists in nature conservation in Egypt and Africa. The expected participation in this conference is very critical and important for us to:

- Present the project work in the international conference and establish good connection with other African conservationists interested in dragon tree conservation.
- To get opportunity to meet with the IUCN Red List team in Cambridge and IUCN GIS Unit in Kew Botanic Garden to see next steps for strengthen the cooperation and their future support for conservation the dragon tree in north and Horn of Africa.
- To get opportunity during the UK visit this to visit the Middle East Plants Centre in Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh: they very interested to support us and help us for publish our first research paper about dragon tree (it expected to submitted and published in *Oryx* journal upon final revision with cooperation of Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden.

6- During the last 3 months we conducted many online meetings and communication between project regional partners and we agreed the logistics for field work and stakeholder's workshop. We already confirmed that it expected to start the fieldwork to Somaliland in January 2012 and in Djibouti in March 2013.