

Documentary on Djibouti conservation project

Title

A conservation project has been set up in the north-east African Republic of Djibouti with a view of protecting habitat and native wildlife species, with a special focus on the endemic Djibouti Francolin and antelope species such as the Beira antelope.

The resulting documentary film, directed by Dr Paul Schwarz, has already been screened during a number of international conferences, including the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) conducted in Korea in 2012. The project was implemented by [Zoo School Landau](#), in south-west Germany, and the teaching units and materials were developed with financial support from [NABU \(BirdLife in Germany\)](#).

Dr Jens-Ove Heckel, director of Landau Zoo and NABU member, and the primary school teacher Nadine Ziellenbach travelled to Djibouti on a mission from NABU. Dr Heckel also joined colleagues from [Djibouti Nature \(BirdLife in Djibouti\)](#) in coordinating additional measures for the protection of the critically endangered [Djibouti Francolin *Francolinus ochropectus*](#). They were accompanied by a film team from the Mannheim Outfit TeVau Filmproduktion.

Besides many nature shots, the 38-minute film also shows the work of Djibouti Nature, their cooperation with NABU, and the conservation efforts made for the [Foret du Day](#) in the Goda Mountains, the largest forest in the country.

"This forest harbors one of two occurrences of the Djibouti Francolin, which is affected by dramatic changes to its habitat", stated Dr Heckel, who continued "A rapid population decline has been observed in this bird, exceeding 90% over the last 20 years, and the woodland where it lives is in very poor condition because of reasons such as the high level of grazing, climate change, collection of firewood, hunting or human disturbance".

The film is available on a three language DVD in German, English and French for 9.50 EUR plus shipping costs from [Landau Zoo](#).

For more information: please contact [Dr Jens-Ove Heckel](#), Member of NABU Africa Working Group and Director of Zoo Landau in der Pfalz (Germany).