



for birds  
for people  
for ever

UK Headquarters, The Lodge,  
Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
Tel: +44 1767 680551  
Fax: +44 1767 692365  
DX 47804 SANDY  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**To Whom It May Concern,**

**Reference letter for Mr. Houssein Rayaleh's application for the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund**

This is to support Mr. Rayaleh's application to the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for his project on the conservation of two globally threatened species in Djibouti. The project will contribute greatly to the conservation of the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin, the Vulnerable Bankoualé Palm and their currently degenerating ecosystem.

In addition, the project will allow to Mr. Rayaleh an important opportunity to train local community members in elementary bird and plant monitoring techniques and thus ensure their effective involvement in conservation issues and to strengthen a site-based nature conservation group in Forêt Du Day region.

I worked with Houssein for two years when I was IUCN Chief Technical Advisor to the Department of the Environment in Djibouti and found him extremely reliable and very rigorous and scientific in his approach. I have no hesitation in recommending both Houssein and his project to you for funding.

Yours faithfully

Dr Chris Magin

International Officer - Africa

