

ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA PARA AVES E NATUREZA

2014

RELATÓRIO ANUAL/ANNUAL REPORT

Compilado por/Compiled by

Michael Mills



O Turaco de Angola *Tauraco erythrolophus* é a ave nacional do país, um ícone para a conservação em Angola e o emblema da Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza.

Red-crested Turaco is the National Bird of Angola, an icon for conservation in Angola and the emblem of the Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza.

© Sheryl Hughes

Resumo Durante este ano os nossos dois principais projectos avançaram a bom ritmo: no Monte Moco a reflorestação acelerou, o viveiro foi aumentado e 80 fogões de combustão eficiente foram finalmente entregues à comunidade de Kanjonde de forma a reduzir a sua dependência de lenha. Em Kumbira, a Aimy Cáceres coordenou sete semanas de trabalho de campo que incluíram um estudo de radio-telemetria do Pisco da Gabela - para averiguar o tamanho dos territórios e a utilização de habitat por esta espécie - e um estudo sobre a biomassa de árvores presente nestas florestas. Foram feitos também progressos importantes na concretização da Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza, com o certificado de registo finalmente emitido. Foi ainda completado o livro bilingue ‘As Aves Comuns de Luanda’ (que irá ser lançado ao mesmo tempo que a Associação em 2015) e vários artigos científicos foram publicados.

Summary This year saw good progress with our two main projects: at Mount Moco tree planting was accelerated and the nursery expanded, and 80 fuel efficient stoves were finally delivered to the community at Kanjonde, to reduce their reliance on fire wood. At Kumbira, seven weeks of field study were undertaken by Aimy Cáceres and colleagues, where a detailed study of Gabela Akalat range sizes and habitat use was undertaken, and tree biomass evaluated. Additionally, good progress was made with the registration of the Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza (the Angolan Association for Birds and Nature) with the registration certificate now issued. Other highlights include that the bilingual book on *The Common Birds of Luanda* was completed and will be launched with the launch of the NGO in 2015, and several peer-reviewed publications were produced.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2014 ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES 4

MOUNT MOCO PROJECT (WWW.MOUNTMOCO.ORG)..... 4

KUMBIRA FOREST PROJECT (BY AIMY CÁ CERES) 5

OTHER ACTIVITIES 6

ACTIVITY TARGETS FOR 2014 AND 2015 7

MAIN TARGETS SET FOR 2014 IN THE 2013 REPORT, WITH COMMENTS..... 7

MAIN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2015 8

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION OUPUTS 2014 AND 2015 9

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 10

2014 ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MOUNT MOCO PROJECT (WWW.MOUNTMOCO.ORG)

During 2014 three field visits were made to Mount Moco, in February, August and November (email Michael for copies of trip-specific reports). In February Bruna Campos joined Michael Mills to monitor progress with the nursery and reforestation project. Forty two saplings were planted and more than 200 new saplings were added to an expanded nursery. In August Michael Rogerson, Aimy Caceres, Henrique Costa and Ursula Franke joined Michael Mills to deliver the long-awaited 80 Vesto fuel efficient stoves to the community. They also prepared new areas and trees for planting in November. Finally, in November Katie and Danny Reese and Teague and Robert Meyer planted 58 trees into a newly cleared area working with three nursery workers from Kanjonde, Benjamin, Sezare and Cipriano.



Figure 1. A highlight of the year was delivering 80 fuel efficient stoves to the community at Kanjonde. Here one of the ladies of the village receives her stove from Michael Rogerson of CGG.

Progress with Mt Moco project can be summarised as follows:

1. A total of 100 trees were planted back on the mountain during the year, bringing the total to 239 trees. Survival rate continues to be very high.
2. At the end of November the nursery held over 391 healthy saplings; most of these were planted into the nursery in February.
3. Measurements of the planted saplings were made during two field visits in order to monitor growth. However, many labels had been removed – probably by goat browsing – making it hard to monitor individual tree growth. In August all trees were re-labelled with metal labels, which will hopefully be more resistant to goat mastication!

Funding for this year's Mount Moco activities came from CGG (via Michael Rogerson), APLORI, students of the Luanda International School and a grant from The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

KUMBIRA FOREST PROJECT (By Aimy Cáceres)

This year Aimy Cáceres spent seven weeks in the field at Kumbira Forest in June/July and August, and was joined by MSc student Ana Leite for four weeks in June/July, who worked specifically on carbon biomass. Aimy and Ana Leite were assisted by Michael Mills (10 days of biomass surveys), Hugo Pereira (four weeks of radio tracking) and Henrique Costa (three weeks of radio tracking).

During fieldwork, 16 Gabela Akalats were radio-tagged and tracked in order to establish their home ranges and habitat preferences. Fitted transmitters (PicoPip Ag 379) did not exceed 5% of the bird's body weight and were attached with eyelash glue to the birds' mantle feathers. Birds were followed for five days and located every hour (from 7:00h to 17:00h, with a recess at 13:00h). Most of the data has already been analysed and a manuscript detailing the finding of the study is being prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Bird point counts (n = 83) were also conducted to assess the presence of threatened endemic birds in a new sector of Kumbira Forest ("Alto Minho"), which is further away from N'jelo Mountain. Gabela Akalat was found at 23 points and Pulitzer Longbill at just two points, while Gabela Bushshrike was not found during any point counts, although one individual was captured in the general study area. Census data obtained for Gabela Akalat will be used in a modelling exercise of a distribution of this species.

Working with Aimy, Ana Leite undertook vegetation surveys in selected sampling points to assess carbon biomass at Kumbira Forest, as part of her MSc degree. At each point a 10m x 10m plot was assessed for canopy cover using a densitometer and canopy height using a range finder. Tree height and diameter at breast height (DBH) for every tree with DBH > 5cm was measured within the plot. A total of 54 plots were assessed and Ana is in the process of analysing these data in order to estimate carbon stocks/tree biomass at Kumbira. These data may be used to investigate the possibility of establishing a carbon credits project at Kumbira, at some time in the future.

Funding for the Kumbira Forest field work was provided by APLORI, the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, Turaco International Society, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and a personal contribution from Louise Peat from the Cotswold Wildlife Park.



Figure 2. Aimy Cáceres radio tracking (left) a tagged Gabela Akalat (right).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Apr: Michael Mills addressed year two students at Luanda International School on the importance of birds and our greater environment.
2. May: Michael Mills addressed the Angola Field Group on the future of bird conservation in Angola.
3. May: Michael Mills led a field outing to Mussulo Bay for about 15 members of the Angola Field Group.
4. Sep: Michael Mills wrote an article published in *African Birdlife* highlighting opportunities for ornithological exploration in Angola.

5. Oct: Michael Mills addressed the Environmental Unit of BP Angola on bird and bird conservation issues in Angola.
6. Michael Mills contributed to the Wattled Crane single species action plan
7. Michael Mills provided information on vulture populations in Angola for a continent-wide report
8. Great progress was made with the registration of the NGO “ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA PARA AVES E NATUREZA”. We have been issued our registration certificate, although several outstanding steps still need to be completed.
9. The book “The Common Birds of Luanda” was completed. We are waiting for the launch of the NGO to launch the book.
10. Michael Mills began work on a book titled “The Special Birds of Angola”, to highlight 50 of the most important birds in the country. The book will be in English and Portuguese.
11. Anne Gillanders studied the breeding behaviour of Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush *Cichladusa ruficauda* in Luanda; a note will be prepared with the findings.

ACTIVITY TARGETS FOR 2014 AND 2015

MAIN TARGETS SET FOR 2014 IN THE 2013 REPORT, WITH COMMENTS

1. Plant 80 new trees at Mt Moco. **Forty two trees were planted in February and 68 in November, making a total of 100 and surpassing this target by 25%.**
2. Expand nursery facilities at Mt Moco to hold up to 500 plants. **Over 200 new saplings were planted to the nursery, bringing the total number of trees in the nursery to over 500, although with 100 trees being planted and about 10% die off, there were 394 trees at the end of November.**
3. Maintain planted areas at Mt Moco. **Planted areas were maintained during visits in February and August. Growth of trees was monitored by measuring tree sizes during visits.**
4. Clear at least 2 hectares of dense thicket/shrubbery at Mt Moco in order to facilitate natural forest regeneration and exclude fire. **New areas were cleared but it was found that there**

were very few trees that could regenerate, so these were supplemented with trees planted from the nursery.

5. Deliver 80 Vesto Fuel Efficient Stoves to the village of Kanjonde. **The stoves were finally delivered and distributed in August.**
6. Secure funding for the continuation of the Mt Moco project. **This will be undertaken in early 2015; a proposal will be developed for further funding from The Rufford Small Grants Foundation, and other funding agencies.**
7. Aimy Cáceres to spend 2 months in the field at Kumbira, and Michael Mills to assist her for 10 days at the start of this field work. **Aimy spent 7 weeks at Kumbira during June/July and August.**
8. Initiate an experimental nursery at Kumbira. **Due to field time constraints, this was not carried out.**
9. If not successful in registering the ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA PARA AVES E NATUREZA as an official Angolan NGO, then at least make significant progress with this process. **An official registration certificate for the NGO has now been registered, although the process is not yet complete.**
10. Publish a book on the common birds of Luanda in English and Portuguese. **The preparation of the book was completed but it was decided to hold off on the publication of this, and to include this as part of the launch of the NGO during 2015.**
11. Deliver on all planned publication outputs. **See following section.**
12. Continue to engage various Angolan individuals and organisations in our work. **Meetings were held with ISCED Huambo to discuss collaboration on the Mt Moco project.**

MAIN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2015

1. Plant 100 new trees at Mt Moco.
2. Maintain nursery facilities at Mt Moco to hold 500 plants.
3. Maintain planted areas at Mt Moco and monitor tree growth.
4. Officially launch the Angolan Association for Birds and Nature.
5. Launch the book “The Common Birds of Luanda”
6. Complete the preparation of the book on “The Special Birds of Angola”
7. Secure funding for the continuation of the Mt Moco project

8. Aimy Cáceres to complete field work at Kumbira for her PhD
9. Develop a strategic plan for the NGO “Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza”.
10. Collaborate with local and international partners on any projects that may arise.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION OUPUTS 2014 AND 2015

1. Bersacola E, Svensson MA, Bearder SK, Mills M and Nijman V. 2014. Hunted in Angola: surveying the bushmeat trade. *Swara* 38: 34-39. **New article, published.**
2. Cáceres A, Melo M, Barlow J, Cardoso P, Maiato F and Mills MSL. 2014. Threatened birds of the Angolan Central Escarpment: distribution and response to habitat change at Kumbira Forest. *Oryx* DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0030605313001415>. **Was in press in 2013, now published.** [in the 2013 report listed as “Mills MSL, Gonçalves FM and Cáceres A. In press. Impacts of subsistence farming on forest avifauna: how threatened birds on the central Angolan escarpment respond to current agricultural practices. *Oryx*.”]
3. Dean WRJ, Franke U, Joseph G, Gonçalves FM, Mills MSL, Milton SJ, Monadjem A and Oschadleus HD. 2014. Further breeding records for birds (Aves) in Angola. *Durban Museum Notivates* 36: 1-10. **Was submitted in 2013, now published.**
4. Mills MSL. 2014. Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*, a new host species for indigobirds *Vidua* in Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 21: 193-199. **Was in press in 2013, now published.**
5. Mills MSL. 2014. Observations of the rarely-seen aerial display of Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 21: 200-201. **Was in press in 2013, now published.**
6. Mills MSL and Vaz Pinto P. In press. An overlooked population of White-collared Oliveback *Nesocharis ansorgei* in Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **New article, now in press.**
7. Mills MSL. In press. First record of Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **New article, now in press.**
8. Mills MSL and Tebb G. Submitted. Forest Swallow *Petrochelidon fuliginosa*, new for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **New article, submitted.**
9. Various publications on nocturnal primates in Angola based on 2013 field work. **Still in preparation.**

10. Mills MSL. In prep. The use of vocalisation playbacks to enhance detectability of birds: a case study from the Angolan central escarpment forests. **Still in preparation.**
11. Monteiro M, Reino L, Beja P, Mills MSL, Bastos-Silveira C, Ramos M, Rodrigues D, Neves IQ, Consciência S and Figueira R. 2014. The collection and database of Birds of Angola hosted at IICT (Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical), Lisboa, Portugal. *Zootaxa*: 387: 89-99. doi: 10.3897/zookeys.387.6412. **Was in press in 2013, now published.**
12. Oschadleus HD, Mills MSL and Monadjem A. 2014. Roadside colony densities of weavers in southern Angola. *Lanioturdus* 47: 17-20. **New article, now published.**
13. Svensson M, Bersacola E, Bearder S, Nijman V and Mills M. 2013. Open sale of elephant ivory in Luanda, Angola. *Oryx* 48: 13-14. **Was in press in 2013, now published.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding from this year's work came from the generosity of Mr Tasso Leventis and The A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute, CGG (Angola), scholars of the Luanda International School, The Rufford Small Grants Foundation, the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, the International Turaco Society, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and a personal contribution from Louise Peat from the Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Various other individuals and organisations supported this work. A special word of thanks to Yuri Rodrigues for all the work she did on the registration of the NGO during the year, and also to Bruna Campos for her assistance with this. Major contributions were also made by CGG and Michael Rogerson, Susan Fernandes and RSME Trading, and the following individuals at the Luanda International School: Juliet Mills, Tim Seccombe, Ali Shebani, Di Atkinson, Dalene Dryer, Carolyne Marshall, Catherine McMahon, Beatrix Geraldo and Tony Baron. Other individuals that contributed to work in Angola this year were Henriette Koning, Hugo Pereira, Ana Leite, Henrique Costa, Ursula Franke, Teague and Robert Meyer, Katie and Danny Reese, Pedro Vaz Pinto, Jos Barlow, Mark Anderson and BirdLife South Africa, Brian Huntley, Paula Francisco, Nigel Collar, Phil Hall, Fernanda Lages, Francisco Maiato Gonçalves, David Laing (web site hosting), Margaret Koopman, Peter Ryan, Julius Arinaitwe, Pam Barrett and Rui Marcao. To any individuals I may have missed, I apologise.