

ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA PARA AVES E NATUREZA

2015

RELATÓRIO ANUAL/ANNUAL REPORT

Compilado por/Compiled by

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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.

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Resumo. Durante este ano houveram grandes mudanças na logística para a realização dos nossos projectos em Angola. O Michael Mills mudou a sua residência de Luanda para a Cidade do Cabo e a Aimy Cáceres passou a viver em Luanda. Uma única visita de campo ao Morro do Moco permitiu-nos manter o projecto, o que incluiu a preparação de novas áreas para plantar e expandir o viveiro. O projecto da Floresta de Kumbira recebeu um grande impulso no financiamento devido a uma segunda ronda de financiamento da Conservation Leadership Programme. A Aimy Cáceres está atarefada a terminar a sua tese de doutoramento e liderará este projecto no próximo ano, trabalhando junto com a Ninda, a Sendi Baptista e o Michael Mills. Outro grande sucesso foi conseguir financiamento para imprimir 3000 cópias do livro bilingue "As Aves Comuns de Luanda", que neste momento já se encontram em Luanda prontos para ser distribuídos.

Summary. This year saw significant changes in the logistics of running our projects in Angola, with Michael Mills moving from Luanda to Cape Town, and Aimy Cáceres moving to Luanda. A single field visit to Mount Moco allowed us to maintain the project there, which included preparing new areas for planting and expanding the nursery. The Kumbira Forest Project received a funding boost due to a second round of funding from the Conservation Leadership Programme. Aimy Cáceres is busy finishing off her PhD and will lead this project next year, working with Ninda and Sendi Baptista and Michael Mills. Another landmark achievement was raising funds to print 3000 copies of the bilingual book on The Common Birds of Luanda, which are now in Luanda and ready to be distributed to schools in 2016.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES	4
MOUNT MOCO PROJECT (WWW.MOUNTMOCO.ORG)	4
KUMBIRA FOREST PROJECT	5
OTHER ACTIVITIES	7
ACTIVITY TARGETS FOR 2015 AND 2016	7
MAIN TARGETS SET FOR 2015 IN THE 2014 REPORT, WITH COMMENTS.....	7
MAIN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2016.....	8
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION OUPUTS 2015 AND 2016	9
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	10



Above: Ninda Baptista, Pedro Vaz Pinto, Nito Rocha and Aimy Cáceres (left to right) attend the “Workshop about Kumbira Reserve”, held at Conda on 10 October.

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

During the year Michael Mills moved from Luanda to Cape Town, and Aimy Cáceres concentrated on finishing her PhD. This meant that time for field work was limited during 2015, although some significant progress was made with the projects at Kumbira and Mount Moco.

MOUNT MOCO PROJECT (WWW.MOUNTMOCO.ORG)

A single visit to Mount Moco was made by Michael Mills, Aimy Cáceres, Desia Nobrega and Michael Rogerson in August, the previous visit having been made in November 2014. During this trip, the nursery and planted trees were examined and measured, new areas cleared of dense undergrowth in preparation for planting, and a day-long excursion was made in search of *Podocarpus* saplings and seeds. An additional 20 *Podocarpus* saplings were found and transplanted to the nursery, although no seeds could be found.



Figure 1. The nursery at Mount Moco continues to work well.

Katie and Danny Reese from Huambo also joined the team for a day during the August visit. Since then they have been visiting Kanjonde on a monthly basis, with Katie holding school classes for kids in the village once a month. They are keen to continue with this indefinitely, and Katie has included a strong environmental/conservation message in her teachings.

The next field visit is planned for March 2016, during which we plan to plant a further 200 trees.

Funding for this year's Mount Moco activities came from APLORI.

KUMBIRA FOREST PROJECT

Despite Aimy Cáceres concentrating on writing up her PhD, she led the submission of a successful proposal for a second round of funding from the Conservation Leadership Programme. A team comprising of Aimy, Michael Mills, Ninda Baptista and Sendi Baptista received funds to continue work at Kumbira for the next two years.

In August Michael and Aimy, together with Desia Nobrega and Michael Rogerson, commenced the CLP-funded project with a visit to Conda. They met with the administrator to outline the project and discuss collaboration with the local administration. The meeting went well and the administrator indicated an eagerness to collaborate, although mentioned that he may be moved to another district. The team also visited Kumbira, where an experimental nursery was established (with 141 saplings planted) with the blessing of the local leaders, who granted the land to be used, and with the help of two local assistants who are now employed to be caretakers on a part-time basis.

Finally, in October Aimy and Ninda attended a joint workshop with the administration of Conda regarding the establishment of a reserve at Kumbira (picture above). Unfortunately it seems that the administrator was using the workshop as a political platform for himself, rather than to further the project, and it was unclear what meaningful progress, if any, was made with the workshop. During this trip the team also visited Kumbira. Further work on the nursery resulted in it being expanded (60 more saplings were planted), and growth and survival of plants was monitored (survival rate was 94%). Overall the nursery seems to be working well. They also met with local school teachers to discuss collaborating on an environmental education campaign at Kumbira, and talked to some school children

from the community. On the down side, they were witness to significant new logging activities taking place at Kumbira, a very worrying development which the local authorities seem to be doing nothing to prevent/control.

Aimy spend much of the year writing papers in fulfillment of her PhD (see the reference list for details).



Figures 2-5. Work at Kumbira included the commencement of an environmental campaign in collaboration with local school teachers (top), and the establishment of a nursery with the blessing and support of Kumbira village (bottom).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Jan-Feb:** Michael Mills assisted Stéphanie Paquin from the IUCN with information relevant to the ratification of sites as RAMSAR wetlands in Angola.
- **Feb:** Michael Mills successfully submitted an application for part-funding of the printing of “The Common Birds of Luanda” to The International Community of Angola, a charity group in Luanda.
- **Feb-Dec:** Michael Mills continued work on the book “The Special Birds of Angola”.
- **Mar:** Martim Melo and Michael Mills successfully organised for 3000 copies of “The Common Birds of Luanda” to be printed in Cape Town.
- **Aug:** Michael Mills and Aimy Cáceres provide in-field training during a field trip to Mount Moco and Kumbira, to environmental engineer student Desia Nobrega from Instituto Politécnico de Tundavala in Lubango.
- **Oct:** Michael Mills provided an update report to Julius Arinaitwe for the BirdLife CAP meeting held in Ghana. Unfortunately Michael was unable to attend due to prior commitments.
- **Nov:** Michael Mills met with Ross Wanless, Oli Yates and other members of the Albatross Task Force to discuss possibilities for some work in Angola.
- **Nov-Dec:** Michael Mills made enquiries for contacts in the Angolan fishing industry.

ACTIVITY TARGETS FOR 2015 AND 2016

MAIN TARGETS SET FOR 2015 IN THE 2014 REPORT, WITH COMMENTS

- Plant 100 new trees at Mount Moco. *Due to limited field time this year, this was not achieved. Although no new trees were planted (the only field visit was made at a time of the year not suitable for planting), an area to receive >100 new trees was prepared in August. A total of 200 trees are ready for planting during the next field visit, planned for March 2016.*
- Maintain nursery facilities at Mount Moco to hold 500 plants. *The nursery was expanded in area and now holds almost 500 plants.*

- Maintain planted areas at Mount Moco and monitor tree growth. *This was done during a single visit in August. Tree survival remains very high.*
- Officially launch the Angolan Association for Birds and Nature. *Another year of frustration on this front, with no real progress made. The previous certificate approving the formation of the association was incorrectly dated, and had thus expired by the time it was issued. This meant we were back to step one.*
- Launch the book “The Common Birds of Luanda”. *While the book has not been officially “launched”, 3000 copies have been printed and transported to Luanda, where they await distribution to schools in 2016.*
- Complete the preparation of the book on “The Special Birds of Angola”. *English texts for 60 species have been written and photographs for most species sourced. The book will be published in 2016, but still needs to be translated to Portuguese, and proof read.*
- Secure funding for the continuation of the Mount Moco project. *Funds from APLORI were used to run the project in 2015.*
- Aimy Cáceres to complete field work at Kumbira for her PhD. *Aimy Cáceres has completed field work for her PhD and is in the final throes of writing up.*
- Develop a strategic plan for the NGO “Associação Angolana para Aves e Natureza”. *This is on hold until the organisation is officially registered. A draft plan has been developed.*
- Collaborate with local and international partners on any projects that may arise. *We collaborated with ISCED Lubango, the administration of Conda, local communities at Kumbira and Kanjonde, and charity group The International Community of Angola.*

MAIN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2016

- Plant 200 trees at Mount Moco.
- Maintain the nursery and planted areas at Mount Moco.
- Continue work on the Kumbira Forest Project as detailed in the funding proposal to CLP.
- Distribute free copies of “The Common Birds of Luanda” to schools in Luanda.
- Publish “The Special Birds of Angola”.

- Continue to work on the registration of “The Angolan Association for Birds and Nature”.
- Support The Albatross Task Force to commence work in Angola.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION OUPUTS 2015 AND 2016

1. Mills MSL and Vaz Pinto P. 2015. An overlooked population of White-collared Oliveback *Nesocharis ansorgei* in Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 22: 64–67. **Was in press, now published.**
2. Mills MSL. 2015. First record of Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 22: 223–224. **Was in press, now published.**
3. Mills MSL and Tebb G. 2015. Forest Swallow *Petrochelidon fuliginosa*, new for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 22: 221–222. **Was submitted, now published.**
4. Bersacola H, Svensson MS and Bearder SK. 2015. Niche partitioning and environmental factors affecting abundance of Strepsirrhines in Angola. *American Journal of Primatology* 77: 1179–1192. **Work supported by Michael, now published.**
5. Description of a new species of Galagoides in Angola based on 2013 field work. **Still in preparation.**
6. 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.**
7. Mills MSL, Bennett B, Baptista N and Vaz Pinto P. Submitted. Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* in Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **New, submitted.**
8. Mills MSL. In prep. Why *Cisticola bailundunesis* is a valid species. **New, in preparation.**
9. Cáceres A, Melo M, Barlow J, Cardoso P, Maiato F and Mills MSL. 2015. Threatened birds of the Angolan Central Escarpment: distribution and response to habitat change at Kumbira Forest. *Oryx* 49: 727–734. **New, published.**

10. Cáceres A, Melo M, Barlow J and Mills MSL. In press. Radio telemetry reveals key data for the conservation of *Sheppardia gabela* (Rand, 1957) in the Angolan Escarpment Forest. *African Journal of Ecology*. **New, in press.**
11. Cáceres A, Melo M, Barlow J, de Lima R and Mills MSL. In prep. Drivers of bird diversity in the Central Angolan Escarpment Forest: conservation implications. **New, in preparation.**

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