

# ANGOLA 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

## *BIRD CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES*

*Compiled by Michael Mills*



**Red-crested Turaco**  
*Tauraco erythrolophus*

**Conservation Icon and  
Angola's National Bird**

© Sheryl Hughes

### **Summary**

This year was a year of consolidation. Three important tasks were initiated and two of these were completed. Firstly a project vehicle was purchased and registered in Luanda and secondly Michael obtained a work permit for Angola. Both activities required a month in Luanda, without the option of travelling, which limited field time this year but should greatly enhance efficiency in the future. The third action was to initiate the registration of an Angola bird conservation society, a process which is still ongoing. Other highlights of the year were the publication of several papers, constructing a new nursery facility at Mount Moco and Aimy Cáceres commencing field work for her PhD at Kumbira.



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**ACTIVITIES PERFORMED DURING 2012**

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

During the year three visits were made to Mount Moco. In February, Michael Rogerson of CGGVeritas, Juliet Mills and Michael Mills visited Kanjonde/Mount Moco to monitor progress with the nursery. During this visit more saplings were planted from the nursery back on the mountain (see photograph below). Then in May, Gerrit Laubscher, Michael Sturesson and Michael Mills spent a week at Kanjonde constructing a new nursery facility adjacent to the village. A full report on this visit was circulated; please contact me for a copy. Finally a short visit to Kanjonde in August revealed significant structural damage to the new nursery, as a result of a severe storm, which still needs to be addressed. A fourth visit to plant out a significant number of saplings was planned for October but had to be postponed to 2013 due to the long processing time of Michael’s work permit and not being able to travel within Angola during this time.



The nursery-related activities and findings can be summarised as follows:

1. Almost all of the c. 180 seedlings in the nursery were looking healthy, and the incidence of leaf curl was much reduced compared with October 2011.
2. Twelve more saplings were planted out in February, bringing the number of planted trees to 22.
3. Measurements of the planted saplings were made in order to monitor growth.
4. In May a new nursery was constructed with the support of Gerrit Laubscher and Michael Sturesson of The Gulf Agency Company in Luanda. Unfortunately this nursery suffered major structural damage during a severe storm in June.

With regards to the Vesto Fuel Efficient stoves, Michael has been trying since the end of 2010 to get an order of 80 stoves produced. Finally it looks as though progress is being made. Direct correspondence with Larcol Pressings, who are manufacturing the stoves for New Dawn Engineering, indicates that the stoves will be completed by February 2013. We hope to distribute them among the community in 2013.

Funding for this year's Mount Moco activities came primarily from a grant from The Rufford Small Grants Foundation and The Gulf Agency Company, with further support from CGGVeritas. In 2013 most of the work will be funded by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation and APLORI.

## **KUMBIRA FOREST PROJECT**

Due to limited field time in 2012, Michael only made a brief 2-day visit to Kumbira. During October 2012 however, Aimy Cáceres and Martim Melo spent two weeks at Kumbira, testing out field protocols for Aimy Cáceres' PhD, funded by APLORI and The Percy FitzPatrick Institute. First Michael, and then Aimy and Martim, met with Mr. Fonseca, the new administrator of Conda, to discuss the formation of a nature reserve at Kumbira for birds. Martim produced a short proposal for the administrator to present to the governor of Kwanza Sul province. We are yet to hear the outcome of this.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

1. Jan-Mar: Michael Mills purchased and registered a new Nissan Hardbody with canopy as a project vehicle, with funding from APLORI, CGGVeritas, Julian Francis and the International Turaco Society.
2. Feb: Michael Mills ran a 5-day ornithology training workshop at Kawa camp in Kissama National Park for the Ministry of the Environment and the Kissama Foundation. Six students attended the workshop, and Rui Marcao assisted Michael with translations. This was part-funded by the Conservation Leadership Programme. A full report is available upon request.
3. Feb-Dec: Michael has been discussing with various people the possibility of registering a bird club in Angola. An informal group has already drawn up a constitution for the organisation. Initial discussions with the law firm Fatima Freitas resulted in nothing, and Michael is now being assisted by Vladimir Russo in this regard.
4. Feb-Dec: Michael and Martim have been working on a revised Angola checklist with Portuguese names. This is to be published electronically early in 2013.
5. March: Michael Mills attended BirdLife's Council for the Africa Partnership (CAP) biennial meeting in Nairobi.
6. March: Michael Mills and Chris Hines started a new Google Groups email discussion forum called AngolaBirders.
7. May: Michael Mills accompanied Pedro Vaz Pinto to Kandangala National Park and Luando Strict Reserve, both Important Bird Areas, to conduct bird surveys.

## **TARGETS: 2012 AND 2013**

### **MAIN TARGETS SET FOR 2012 IN THE 2011 REPORT AND COMMENTS ON THEIR EXECUTION**

1. Successfully purchase and register a vehicle for our activities in Angola, to be stationed in Luanda. **One of the main successes of the year was to purchase a new Nissan Hardbody and have a canopy fitted.**

2. Construct a new nursery facility at Kanjonde/Mount Moco. This is done in collaboration with Gerrit Laubscher of The Gulf Agency Company. **A new nursery was constructed at Mount Moco in May, although has subsequently been damaged by severe weather.**
3. Maintain the current nursery at Kanjonde and continue to assess its effectiveness. **Done on all visits to Mount Moco.**
4. Assess the success of initial tree planting done in October 2011. **The February visit revealed that tree planting was highly successful, with all but one tree looking alive and healthy.**
5. Plant 30 new trees at the commencement of the next rainy season – October 2012. **Due to visa issues Michael could not get to the field during this time and has to postpone this until early 2013. Twelve new trees were planted in 2012.**
6. Secure funding for 2013 field work. **We are currently waiting to hear from CGGVeritas regarding funding for Mount Moco work during 2013. Some funds remain from the 2012 Rufford Small Grants funding, and The Chicago Zoological Society has contributed USD 4,800 towards the Kumbira project.**
7. Conduct further field surveys in the northern scarp forests, specifically on the Endangered Braun's Bushshrike. **Due to logistical difficulties this was postponed to 2013.**
8. Successfully deliver a shipment of 80 Vesto fuel efficient stoves to Kanjonde. **The stoves have not yet been produced by Larcol Pressings/New Dawn Engineering, but are expected to be completed by February 2013.**
9. Submit a proposal for the establishment of a new conservation area at Mount Moco to The Ministry of the Environment in Luanda. **Due to lack of interest from the ministry this was postponed.**
10. Prepare a first draft of a proposal for the establishment of a new conservation area at Kumbira, to be submitted to The Ministry of the Environment in Luanda. **Again, due to lack of interest from the ministry, this was postponed, although a proposal was delivered to the administrator of Conda.**
11. Organise and execute a week-long bird training workshop at Kissama National Park for a select group of Angolan students and field rangers of Kissama National Park, to be done in collaboration with Paula Francisco, National Director of Biodiversity in The Ministry of the Environment, and Roeland Goetz of the Kissama Foundation. **This was carried out in February.**

12. Research and test alternative sources of construction materials for the community of Kanjonde.  
**Due to limited field time this has been postponed.**
13. Attend and contribute to the meeting in Nairobi in March of the Council for the African Partnership of BirdLife. **Michael participated in the meetings.**
14. Attend and contribute to the Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) in Arusha in October. **Due to clashes with planned field work, and the expense of attending, Michael did not attend PAOC.**
15. Deliver on all planned publication outputs. **See the following section.**
16. Make first steps towards the registration of a society/organisation for bird conservation in Angola. **This is in progress.**
17. Continue to engage various Angolan individuals and organisations in our work. **We continue to work with ISCED, The Angola Field Group, CGGVeritas and The Gulf Agency Company.**

### **MAIN TARGETS FOR 2013**

1. Continue working with the community at Kanjonde/Mt Moco.
2. Plant 50 more trees at Mount Moco
3. If at all possible, repair damage to the nursery constructed at Mount Moco in May, or make alternative arrangements to expand the nursery.
4. Deliver the shipment of 80 fuel efficient stoves to Kanjonde.
5. Aimy Cáceres to spend 2-3 months in the field at Kumbira, and Michael to assist her for at least 10 days at the start of this field work.
6. Michael to visit the Lubango Bird Skin Collection/ISCED to study some bird skins in the collection.
7. Successfully register a bird conservation society in Angola.
8. Conduct a second bird training workshop for Angolans.
9. Deliver on all planned publication outputs.
10. Continue to engage various Angolan individuals and organisations in our work.
11. Publish a revised Angola checklist with Portuguese names.

## **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS: 2011 AND 2012**

### **PUBLICATION OUTPUTS 2012**

1. Dean WRJ, Franke U, Joseph G, Gonçalves FM, Mills MSL, Milton SJ, Monadjem A and Oschadleus HD. 2012. Type specimens in the bird collection at Lubango, Angola. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 132: 41-45.
2. Mills MSL, Vaz Pinto P and Haber S. 2012. Grey-striped Francolin *Pternistis griseostriatus*: skins, distribution and morphometrics. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 19: 172-177.
3. Mills MSL, Melo M and Vaz A. 2012. The Namba Mountains: new hope for Afromontane forest birds in Angola. *Bird Conservation International*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S095927091200024X>.

### **PUBLICATIONS PLANNED FOR 2012 (AS IN THE 2011 REPORT) AND COMMENTS ON THEIR EXECUTION**

1. Dean WRJ, Franke U, Joseph G, Gonçalves FM, Mills MSL, Milton SJ, Monadjem A and Oschadleus HD. 2012. Type specimens in the bird collection at Lubango, Angola. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 132: 41-45. **Published.**
2. Mills MSL, Vaz Pinto P and Haber S. 2012. Grey-striped Francolin *Pternistis griseostriatus*: skins, distribution and morphometrics. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 19: 172-177. **Published.**
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4. Mills MSL and Dean WRJ. In press. The avifauna of the Lagoa Carumbo Important Bird Area, Angola. *Malimbus*. **In press.**
5. Mills MSL, Gonçalves FM and Cáceres A. In preparation. Impacts of subsistence farming on forest avifauna: how threatened birds on the central Angolan escarpment respond to current agricultural practices. *Bird Conservation International* or similar. **Still in preparation.**



6. Mills MSL and Oschadleus HD. Submitted. Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigrimentus* in Angola, and its nest. *Bulletin of the African bird Club*. **In press.**
7. Mills MSL. In press. The little-known Bocage's Sunbird *Nectarinia bocagii*: an Angolan near-endemic. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **In press.**
8. Mills MSL. South African Cliff Swallow new for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **Amalgamated with the following article. In press.**
9. Mills MSL. Yellow-throated Cuckoo new for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. **Amalgamated with the previous article. In press.**
10. Cáceres A, Santos P, Tchalo F, Mills MSL and Melo M. Submitted. Easter Island syndrome? Human resource use in the last Afromontane forest remnants of Mount Moco, Angola. *Biodiversity and Conservation*. **Submitted.**

#### **PLANNED PUBLICATIONS FOR 2013**

1. Mills MSL and Dean WRJ. **In press.** The avifauna of the Lagoa Carumbo Important Bird Area, Angola. *Malimbus*.
2. Mills MSL. **In press.** The little-known Bocage's Sunbird *Nectarinia bocagii*: an Angolan near-endemic. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*.
3. Mills MSL, Vaz Pinto P and Palmeirim JM. **In press.** First records of Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*, South African Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon spilodera* and Red-tailed Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens* for Angola. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*.
4. Stavrou C and Mills MSL. **In press.** Observations of Birds of the Soyo area, north-west Angola. *Malimbus*.
5. Dean WRJ, Franke U, Joseph G, Gonçalves FM, Mills MSL, Milton SJ, Monadjem A and Oschadleus HD. **Submitted.** Further breeding records for birds in Angola. *Durban Museum Notivates*.
6. Mills MSL and Oschadleus HD. **In press.** Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigrimentus* in Angola, and its nest. *Bulletin of the African bird Club*.
7. Cáceres A, Santos P, Tchalo F, Mills MSL and Melo M. **Submitted.** Easter Island syndrome? Human resource use in the last Afromontane forest remnants of Mount Moco, Angola. *Biodiversity and Conservation*.

8. Mills MSL, Gonçalves FM and Cáceres A. **In preparation.** Impacts of subsistence farming on forest avifauna: how threatened birds on the central Angolan escarpment respond to current agricultural practices. *Bird Conservation International* or similar.

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