



**ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA
PARA AVES E NATUREZA**

in collaboration with

FUNDAÇÃO KISSAMA

**2018 -
RELATÓRIO ANUAL
ANNUAL REPORT**

compiled by Michael Mills

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RESUMO

Durante este ano, focamo-nos na planificação da expansão do projecto, em colaboração com a Fundação Kissama, a BirdLife South Africa, o Institute for Natural Resources da África do Sul e a Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Foi desenvolvido um plano de expansão para o projecto do Morro do Moco e foi submetida uma proposta para patrocínio à Darwin Initiative. Todo o trabalho no viveiro e de plantação de árvores apresentou um progresso significativo, sendo que foram já plantadas 1260 árvores e o viveiro alberga agora 1700. As linhas de quebra-fogos foram expandidas e protegem agora 22 ha de habitat; estas linhas travaram com sucesso pelo menos dois incêndios. Na Kumbira, todo o trabalho financiado pela Conservation Leadership Program foi concluído, tendo sido entregue o relatório final, bem como foram realizadas reuniões com o Rainforest Trust sobre futuros trabalhos. Este ano viu também a publicação do livro *Aves Especiais de Angola*, com 120 cópias distribuídas grátis para Angolanos, por outro lado, Kerllen Costa deu seguimento às visitas às escolas em Luanda para distribuir cópias do livro *Aves Comuns de Luanda*. Tivemos também a oportunidade de estudar pela primeira vez no seu habitat natural, em Maio, o Barbaças-de-cabeça-branca de Angola *Lybius leucocephalus leucogaster*.

SUMMARY

This year we focussed on planning project expansion, with a collaboration formed between Fundação Kissama, BirdLife South Africa, the Institute for Natural Resources and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. An expanded Mount Moco project plan was developed and an application for funding submitted to the Darwin Initiative. Planting and nursery work progressed well, with 1260 trees now planted and the nursery enlarged to hold 1700 trees. The firebreak network was expanded and now protects 22 ha of habitat; it successfully stopped at least two fires. At Kumbira, work was wrapped up under the Conservation Leadership Programme-funded project and the final report submitted, and talks held with the Rainforest Trust regarding further work. This year also saw the publication of *The Special Birds of Angola*, with 120 free copies distributed to Angolans, and Kerllen Costa continued to visit schools in Luanda and hand out free copies of *The Common Birds of Luanda* book. We also had the opportunity for the first time to study Angola White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus leucogaster* in the field in May.



ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This year was largely one of planning project expansions. A partnership between Fundação Kissama, BirdLife South Africa, the Institute for Natural Resources and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (advisor on nature conservation to the government of the United Kingdom), was established to further work at Mount Moco. An expanded project

plan was developed and submitted to the Darwin Initiative for funding. In the mean time reforestation activities were maintained at Mount Moco, and the Conservation Leadership Programme-funded project at Kumbira was wrapped up, and 2019 will see further planning for Kumbira.

MOUNT MOCO PROJECT ([WWW.MOUNTMOCO.ORG](http://www.mountmoco.org))

Three project visits were made to Mount Moco in 2018.

In January, Kerllen Costa spent several rainy days focused on planting trees and expanding the nursery. A total of 230 new trees were planted, bringing the total number to just over 950 trees. Most significantly, the nursery

was greatly enlarged, with more than 900 trees added to more-than-double it in size from 660 to >1350 trees, after tree planting. Maintenance work was also conducted on firebreaks, and more formal and informal meetings were held with villagers to discuss the project and aspects important to their lives and well-being.



Nursery workers planting trees in November.



Ant Maddock from JNCC admiring part of the nursery at Mount Moco.

In May, Michael Mills spent four days at Mount Moco with Callan Cohen and Derek Engelbrecht. Michael worked with up to 80 villagers to clear old firebreaks and install new ones. Two patches of habitat recovering towards forest were protected from fire by the end of the visit, with perimeters of 1.42 and 2.11 km and areas of 8.7 and 13.6 ha respectively, totalling 3.53 km and 22.3 ha.

Finally, in November Michael Mills, Kerllen Costa, Fonda Lewis from the Institute for Natural Resources and Ant Maddock from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the UK government, spent five days at Canjonde. The aims of the field visit were twofold: (i) to continue with planting, and (ii) to introduce new project partners to the work to help fine-tune the Darwin Initiative funding application that we were working on together. During the visit, meetings were also held in Luanda with Vladimir Russo, Ninda Baptista and Adjany Costa, who will hopefully be involved in the project under the umbrella of Fundação Kissama.

During the field visit we planted 308 trees, crossing the major milestone of 1000 trees planted, with a total of 1260 trees now planted back to the mountain. A small celebration was held with the community to mark the occasion, to build pride in the project. The nursery was also expanded further, and currently holds 1700 trees. Fonda and Kerllen held several productive meetings with the villagers, with separate meetings for women, men and youth, to guide the socioeconomic work planned at Canjonde.

A major goal going forward is to expand the work at Mount Moco, and to these ends Michael spent several months developing a proposal for funding from the Darwin Initiative, working closely with Ant Maddock, Fonda Lewis and Martin Taylor of BirdLife South Africa, with input from Fundação Kissama. The first round application was submitted in September, and we were invited to round two, which was submitted in December. Results will be announced in February 2019.

The future work will continue to focus on the same aspects as being currently developed, but at a larger scale and with professional input on socioeconomic elements. Four main areas of work were identified during proposal development, namely (i) protection of forest from fire using firebreaks, (ii) tree planting, (iii) eco-literacy training among villagers, and (iv) reducing the impact and reliance on natural resources by villagers at Canjonde, by introducing new and alternative strategies and technologies.

Our November visit gave us the opportunity to witness the effectiveness of the firebreaks, and the first firebreak installed had successfully stopped two fires from entering the forest. The combination of protecting habitat with firebreaks and planting trees is already starting to have positive impacts on biodiversity, with numbers of African Hill Babbler, Evergreen Forest Warbler and Bocage's Akalat increasing locally.

KUMBIRA FOREST PROJECT

One field visit to Kumbira was made this year by Kerllen Costa in January, to complete fieldwork for the Conservation Leadership Programme-funded project. The nursery was relocated and enlarged, and possible land purchases were discussed with local land owners.

Some good news is that the government of Cuanza Sul province has granted 50 ha of land on which to establish a local reserve at Kumbira, although no action has yet been taken.

Much of the rest of the year was taken up with preparing and submitting the final project report and financials for the Conservation Leadership-funded project.

This year we also began to investigate the option of establishing a village wood lot next to Canjonde village, in order to supply alternative sources of wood to meet energy and construction needs. As a start seeds of four species were sourced from South Africa and a small nursery established in the village to propagate the seeds. Success was moderate but we will continue to experiment and improve our methods. Hylton Adie, a forest ecology expert, was also consulted with regards to establishing a wood lot, and it is hoped that he can become involved with the project in an advisory capacity, specifically to help with the establishment of a wood lot based on indigenous trees.

Funding for this year's Mount Moco activities came from The Rufford Small Grants foundation and APLORI. Funding for an expanded project has been sought from the Darwin Initiative, and an application for further funding will be submitted to Rufford in 2019 if the Darwin application is unsuccessful.

Discussion regarding establishing a private reserve at Kumbira has been continued with the Rainforest Trust, by talking to James Lewis. A concept note for funding was submitted to the Rainforest Trust in December by Michael Mills, working with Pedro Vaz Pinto from Fundação Kissama.

Funding for work at Kumbira Forest came from The Conservation Leadership Programme and APLORI.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Jan-Feb:** Michael Mills worked with Ant Maddock of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and individuals from BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) to develop and submit a proposal for a Darwin Initiative Scoping Award.
- **Jan-Aug:** Michael Mills compiled and submitted the final report for the Conservation Leadership Programme-funded project at Kumbira Forest (2015-2017).
- **Jan-Aug:** Michael Mills worked with Richard Dean and Martim Melo to finalise a summary of ornithological work in Angola.
- **Jan-Dec:** Kerllen Costa distributed free copies of *The Common Birds of Luanda* to interested parties, and visited two schools for this.
- **Feb:** Kerllen Costa, under guidance from Michael Mills, hosted Kasper Thorup and Chris Hewson to study Common Cuckoo on its non-breeding grounds in western Angola.
- **Mar:** Michael Mills received printed copies of *The Special Birds of Angola*.
- **May:** Michael Mills, Callan Cohen and Derek Engelbrecht studied Angola White-headed Barbet in the field with Ninda Baptista.
- **May-Jun:** Michael Mills and Ninda Baptista prepared a paper on Angola White-headed Barbet for Bulletin of the African Bird Club.
- **May-Jul:** Michael Mills worked with Ant Maddock from JNCC, Fonda Lewis of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR), Martin Taylor from BLSA and individuals from Fundação Kissama to develop and submit a successful round one proposal for funding from the Darwin Initiative.
- **May-Dec:** Michael Mills, with assistance from Chris Hines, Vladimir Russo, Ninda Baptista and Kerllen Costa, distributed copies, including 120 free copies sponsored by The African Bird Club, of *The Special Birds of Angola*, within Angola.
- **Nov:** Michael Mills, Fonda Lewis, Ant Maddock and Kerllen Costa made a familiarisation trip to Mount Moco in preparation for the Darwin Initiative funding application.
- **Nov:** Michael Mills, Fonda Lewis and Ant Maddock held meetings with Kerllen Costa, Adjany Costa, Ninda Baptista and Vladimir Russo of Fundação Kissama in Luanda regarding collaboration on the Mount Moco project.
- **Nov:** Michael Mills, Fonda Lewis, Kerllen Costa and Ant Maddock met with Matthew Shouler of the British Embassy in Luanda to discuss the Mount Moco project.
- **Nov:** Kerllen Costa met with the new administrator of Ussoque Town, under which Mount Moco falls, to obtain permission to continue work there. Permission was granted.
- **Nov-Dec:** Michael Mills working with Ant Maddock and Fonda Lewis developed and submitted a round two proposal for Darwin Initiative funding.
- **Dec:** Michael Mills worked on the annual report for 2018.
- **Dec:** Michael Mills distributed the 2018 annual report to interested parties.
- **Dec:** Michael Mills and James Lewis of The Rainforest Trust held a Skype meeting regarding conservation of Kumbira Forest.

TARGETS FOR 2018 AND 2019

MAIN TARGETS SET FOR 2018, WITH COMMENTS

- **Plant 200+ trees at Mount Moco.** A total of 538 trees were planted this year, almost treble the number targeted. This brings the number of trees planted to 1260. We aim to maintain the level of planting at around 420 trees per year for the next three years.
- **Maintain the nursery at Mount Moco to hold >800 plants.** The nursery was expanded and holds 1700 trees at present. The nursery capacity was more than doubled during the year. We plan to expand the nursery to hold 2000 trees and maintain it at that level.
- **Expand the firebreak network at Mount Moco to cover 20 ha of habitat.** Firebreaks were established and maintained around 22.3 ha of habitat that is being rehabilitated, more than doubling the firebreak network from 2017. We aim to add 11 ha of protected habitat per year for the next three years.
- **Encourage the use of fuel-efficient stoves by Canjonde villagers.** Most of this work was delayed as it will form part of the work carried out with the involvement of Fonda Lewis of the Institute of Natural Resources, if the Darwin funding is approved.
- **Distribute The Common Birds of Luanda book.** Kerllen Costa visited two schools in Luanda during the year, to deliver free books and talk about birds, and will continue to do so in 2019.
- **Distribute The Special Birds of Angola book in Angola.** The *Special Birds of Angola* was printed in March 2018. During visits to Angola in May, September and November, and through assistance from friends and colleagues, 120 free copies have been distributed to Angolans, out of a total of 500 sponsored by The African Bird Club. More copies will be distributed next year.
- **Submit a proposal for funding for the Kumbira Forest Project to The Rainforest Trust.** The final report of the Conservation Leadership Programme-funded project at Kumbira was prepared and submitted by Michael. Finding further funding for Kumbira work was delayed while an application for the Mount Moco project was developed for submission to the Darwin Initiative. At the end of the year Michael continued discussions with James Lewis of the Rainforest Trust, and submitted a concept note as the first step in the application process for funding.
- **Study the endemic subspecies of White-headed Barbet in the field.** In May, Michael Mills, Callan Cohen and Derek Engelbrecht accompanied Ninda Baptista, who rediscovered White-headed Barbet in 2017. We re-found a pair of barbets and spent some time studying them, although they were not heard to call. A paper summarising our finding was published in *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*. In September Michael again visited the site and found a pair of birds, but again they did not call, although they did respond to playback of White-headed Barbet vocalisations from the Chappuis CD set.
- **Work with JNCC (the Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the United Kingdom government) and BLSA to**

submit a funding proposal to the Darwin Initiative for the expansion of the Mount Moco project from 2019 onwards, after making a joint field trip to Mount Moco. Fundação Kissama, BLSA, JNCC and The Institute for Natural Resources partnered to submit a proposal for funding to

Darwin. The round one proposal was submitted in September, and we were invited to submit a round two proposal, which was done in December. Results will be out in February 2019. We also made a familiarisation trip to Mount Moco in November.

MAIN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2019

- Plant 420 trees at Mount Moco.
- Expand the nursery at Mount Moco to hold 2,000 trees.
- Expand the firebreak network at Mount Moco to cover 33 ha of habitat.
- Distribute free copies of *The Common Birds of Luanda* book.
- Distribute free copies of *The Special Birds of Angola* book.
- Submit a proposal for funding for the Kumbira Forest Project to The Rainforest Trust.
- Maintain the nursery at Kumbira Forest.
- Dependent on funding from the Darwin Initiative, massively expand the socioeconomic work being done at Canjonde village, Mount Moco, to be led by Fonda Lewis of The Institute for Natural Resources.
- Dependent on funding from the Darwin Initiative, provide professional fire training to villagers at Mt Moco, so they can use fire to put in firebreaks rather than having to cut firebreaks by hand.

PUBLICATIONS

- Baptista N and Mills MSL. 2018. Angola White-headed Barbet *Lybius [leucocephalus] leucogaster* rediscovered. *Bulletin of the Africa Bird Club* 25: 255-229. New and published.
- Mills MSL. Accepted. The avifauna of Kumbira Forest and surrounds, western Angola. *Malimbus*. Still under revision; due to demand of other work no time was spent on this.
- Mills MSL. In prep. Call playbacks enhance detectability of key Angolan Central Escarpment birds. Still in preparation; due to demands of other work, no time was spent on this.
- Mills MSL, Melo M, Davies O and Bowie R. In prep. *Cisticola bailunduensis* is an overlooked species from western Angola. Still in preparation; awaiting genetic analyses before publication.
- Leite A, Cáceres A, Melo M, Mills MSL and Monteiro A. 2018. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Angola: Insights from the scarp forest conservation 'hotspot'. *Land Degradation & Development* 29: 4291-4300. Published.

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My apologies to anyone I may have overlooked.

