

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Michael Mills
Project title	Restoring Angola's threatened Afromontane forests: an expanded approach to reforestation in collaboration with the local community at Mount Moco, Angola
RSG reference	22590-B
Reporting period	October 2017 and October 2019
Amount of grant	GBP 10 000
Your email address	birdsangola@gmail.com
Date of this report	31 July 2019

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Establish & maintain firebreaks around at least two areas previously covered in forest, of at least 15 ha in extent				More than 22 ha of habitat are protected from fire for the third fire season in a row.
Maintain the established nursery, and expand it to hold at least 800 plants				The nursery currently holds over 1600 plants. The target was exceeded by 100%.
Continue to increase tree planting rates to reach a minimum of 400 plants per season				Planting rates have increased only slightly to around 310 per season. The rates were not achieved due to a lag following nursery expansion, but replanting rates are likely to exceed 400 per season from 2019/2020 given the current size of the nursery.
Investigate the use of fuel efficient stoves already delivered to the community of Kanjonde, and trouble shoot any problems that may be encountered				Use of fuel efficient stoves were investigated. Some broken stoves were fixed and people were encouraged to use stoves, but we hope to develop incentives for stove use to encourage greater uptake. More can be done here.
Continue community education on forests, water supply and quality, and erosion			x	Education was continued through informal sessions and villagers are demonstrating a better understanding between forests and their livelihoods, including water quality.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

No significant unforeseen circumstances arose, except that we did not fully take into account the lag phase between putting seedlings into the nursery and planting them out as small trees. This meant that planting targets have been postponed, but will be exceeded from the 2019/20 planting season onwards.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The most important outcome was that none of the habitat that is naturally recovering back to forest, that we protected with firebreaks, was burnt during the

project period (two fire seasons). Firebreaks allowed forest to visibly recover, and we now plan to massively expand the fire prevention plan in the next phase of the project.

Secondly, our nursery was trebled in size to hold > 1600 plants, aiding the rate of reforestation. This doubles the target set.

The third most important outcome, not initially planned, is that we have achieved gender equality in our work. We expected there to be significant resistance from the local community, but there was virtually no resistance. We now employ four men and four women as nursery managers (only four men employed at the start of this project phase) and use equal numbers of men and women as casual labourers during our site visits.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The local community is central to the success of the project. We now employ eight nursery workers (four women and four men) on a part-time basis to maintain the nursery. During field visits we also employ up to 150 different villagers per visit to work with us in the field, which means that all families in the village benefit from employment; to our knowledge this is the only employment provided in the village.

We have also set up a community fund into which an additional 50% of workers' salaries are now paid. Village health was identified as a priority by the community, and to improve health we have started a deworming campaign in the village, to deworm everyone over the age of 2 years, twice a year for the next 3 years. The first medication was handed out in May 2019. During this field visit the chief of the village also approached us to pay for the new village school roof, and we have arranged to pay for the roofing during our next field visit in August 2019, using the community fund. In the past villagers have also benefited from fuel efficient stoves, although uptake of the technology needs to be improved.

A very touching letter was presented to us during a visit in November 2019, in which the village highlighted the importance of the project to the community. See attached.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to continue with the project indefinitely. The Angolan Government has advertised a tender to write a proposal for the establishment of a conservation area at Mount Moco, which we have put in a bid on working in collaboration with Angolan colleagues. We have already been awarded a similar contract for Kumbira Forest. This indicates that there are long term prospects for the site to be formally conserved, although we don't expect formal declaration within the next 3 years, making it vital that our work continue.

In 2018 we put in an application for Darwin Initiative funding, and made it to the second/final round of applicants, but ultimately were not rewarded the funding. We will re-submit this proposal for funding to Darwin Initiative in 2020, and are currently investigating Aga Khan funding with Portuguese colleagues (a special fund for Portuguese institutions). If awarded this funding we will use it to expand the current project, and especially work more closely with the local community.

There are also plans for a broad-scale research and conservation project for the Angolan escarpment and montane areas, co-ordinated by Brian Huntley for CIBIO/InBIO–Centro de Investigacao em Biodiversidade e Recursos Geneticos at the University of Porto, which has already been granted some funds for the greater project. Other funding is being sought.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

An annual report of bird conservation work in Angola is produced and shared with various interested individuals and parties in Angola (including the Ministry of the Environment), and internationally, on Facebook Groups, Email Groups, etc. We also have regular meetings with The Ministry of the Environment to make sure they are aware of the work.

7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The funding was used between October 2017 and May 2019. The anticipated length of the project was to run until October 2019, but more rapid progress was made with firebreaks and nursery expansion, and many more people employed than initially anticipated, which allowed us to complete the project earlier than planned. We would also like to raise funds to expand the fire management programme, starting in May 2020, and so would like to wrap up this phase of the project as soon as possible.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount (Rufford top, Total bottom)	Actual Amount Spent	Difference (Rufford top, Total bottom)	Comments
Flights international	944	1650	+706	Flights in Oct 2017, May 2018, Nov 2018, May 2019. c. ZAR 28 000.
Vehicle running costs	3281	3281		Field trips in Oct 2017, Jan 2018, May 2018, Nov 2018, Jan 2019, May 2019. Six trips planned, six made.

Employment of nursery workers	1127	1090	-37	246 000 + 81 000 Kwanzas = 327 000 between Oct 2017 and Jun 2019. Budgeted for 24 months but spent for 21 months.
Casual labour	1521	3756	+2235	847 000 + 280 000 Kwanzas = 1 127 000 Kwanzas between Oct 2017 and Jun 2019. We employed more people per visit than planned.
Visas	590	148	-442	Visas for South Africans were dropped in Jan 2018, so only one visa was needed.
Food and maintenance	563	600	-37	Spent as planned.
Planting bags	255	330	+75	ZAR 5600 spent. Nursery was expanded more than planned, so more bags needed
Herbicides etc.	352	118	-234	Herbicide was not as effective as hoped, so we used less
Nursery equipment	1000	590	-410	
Contingency	367	367		
TOTALS	10000	11930		*over-expenditure was met with other funding raised

*213 Kwanzas/GBP as per budget, although current rate is 427 Kwanzas/GBP. Thus used 300 Kwanzas/GBP as average

*16.96 ZAR/GBP

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

The success of the use of firebreaks has been demonstrated over the past 2 years, with no recovering forest patches within firebreaks being burnt by grassland fires. This meant that overall recovery to forest was more rapid, and I feel it is more efficient that reforestation through tree planting.

However, the current method of firebreak installation and maintenance (clearing vegetation by hand) is very slow and time demanding. To these ends we have identified training local villagers to use fire to burn firebreaks as the most important next step in the project. By bringing expert trainers to the community and training them in the necessary skills, we anticipate being able to protect all forest patches on Mt Moco from fire within the next 3 years. I believe this is the most sustainable long-term strategy for forest conservation at Mount Moco, which will continue to be supported by tree planting.

I am already in contact with an organisation in South Africa called 'Working on Fire', which provides such training and offers fire management services. It has two Angolans (living in South Africa) working for it as fire trainers. I observed some of their

fire management work to learn how the process works, and am currently waiting for quotes on training in Angola and materials needed.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The Rufford Foundation logo appears on the home page of the project website www.mountmoco.org. The Rufford Foundation was mentioned as donor of project work in my 'Angola Bird Conservation and Research' Annual Report 2017 and 2018.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Michael Mills – project manager and main executor

Kerllen Costa – chief project assistant, taking on more of the role of Michael Mills with time with the long term aim of handing over project management to him (an Angolan).

Benjamin, Cesar, Chingando and **Cipriano**, and from July 2019, also **Anita, Adelina, Rufina** and **Benedita** - the eight nursery workers responsible for nursery maintenance during our visit.

Ninda Baptista – project assistant during one field trip.

12. Any other comments?

Kerllen Costa is playing an every-increasing role in this work and I hope to eventually hand over the running of the project to him.