

Project Update: May 2011

1. The nursery at Kanjonde was in good condition. The seedlings planted in July 2010 were looking healthy. Although they hadn't grown a lot taller, they now had a very healthy growth of leaves. Some plants had probably grown sufficiently to be planted in October 2011, at the start of the next rainy season. We hope to conduct a pilot replanting project with some of the bigger plants then.



2. Space in the nursery is becoming a limiting factor. We spaced the plants slightly more, to give them more room to grow. But all floor space is now used, so we need to look at expanding the nursery facility if we wish to have more plants. Currently there are about 180 plants in the nursery. The pilot project has shown both that we can easily grow plants here and that the villagers we employ have the necessary skills to take care of the plants.



3. We visited the site where we had collected most saplings for the nursery in July 2010 – a swamp next to a spring and below a large *Syzigium* tree. There were many new saplings growing, so we can continue to use this site as a source for expanding the nursery.

4. The nursery guardians had planted 13 *Podocarpus* saplings, which were collected from a distant part of the mountain. For their efforts I paid them an additional 100 Kwanzas/USD 1 per sapling. Once we have more nursery space we can provide further incentives for more *Podocarpus* seedlings to be found and planted.

5. There is a new chief/soba in Kanjonde village. The old soba was difficult to communicate with and very inactive in the community. The new soba was very supportive of our work and should make working with the community easier. We asked him whether we could be given an area of land to start a new nursery. He said there would be no problem, and that he could grant all necessary permission.



6. We have had some problems with the nursery staff and payments. In the past we have paid money to Ecovisao, who have paid money to the workers on a monthly basis to Fernando. Fernando claimed that they had not been paid since November 2010. However, I believe this is what he has told his co-workers so that he could pocket all the income for himself. Right now we (thanks Martim) are trying to receive confirmation from Juares Bongo, who has been making the payments, as to what amounts were paid and when. Any outstanding payments will be sorted out during our next visit in October 2011.

7. We've increased the monthly nursery salaries from a total of 3000 Kwanzas (USD 30) to 5000 Kwanzas (USD 50). Fernando wanted to be paid 4000 Kwanzas himself and for his two co-workers (Benjamin, brother, and Cipriano, cousin) to be paid 500 Kwanzas each. We eventually got him to agree to taking 3000 for himself and paying the other two 1000 each. However, on the morning we left he came to say that the others did not want to work. Turns out he insisted on keeping 4000 for himself. Given the difficulties he has created in the past and his unwillingness to work together and share with his brother and cousin, we have fired him from the position. Currently Benjamin, Cipriano and another Fernando are being employed to water the plants and keep fire out of the nursery. They are being paid 2000, 2000 and 1000 Kwanzas respectively.



8. We saw one of the two Vesto stoves left with the community in July 2010. I think the other stove is still with the previous soba. The stove we saw was in fair condition and functioned well. It was apparently still doing the rounds, and we were told that everyone in the community had now used the stove. We arranged another demonstration on how to use the stove. During the demonstration nobody said that they had any problems with using the stove. I was going to demonstrate the use of the stove again to the community, but the soba insisted that everyone knew how to use it and asked one woman from the audience to come and use the stove. She had a bit of trouble getting the stove going because she used too much material (probably the biggest problem with the stove). This gave us the perfect opportunity to remind people to use less material. We repacked the stove with less material and it immediately lit and boiled a big pan of water in 7 minutes.

9. The villagers asked when they would receive more stoves, and seemed keen to use them. We need to try to get these stoves to them as soon as possible, especially since the nearest patch of miombo woodlands is being felled for fuel wood. Currently I am STILL waiting for a reply from the suppliers. All the funds are ready to immediately purchase the stoves if they can be produced.



10. Two male indigobirds were occupying song posts in Kanjonde village. Both were mimicking Dusky Twinspots, never previously recorded as a host for indigobirds. Another individual also mimicking Dusky Twinspot was found about 50 km away, and three further indigobirds were seen in the area. I think they are probably Dusky/Variable Indigobirds, but will try to capture them next May to establish whether this is the case.



11. The previous administrator of Ussoque (the Commune under which Kanjonde falls) has retired. During our visit the current administrator was absent.