

BIRD CONSERVATION IN ANGOLA: WHERE TO NOW?

Michael Mills

ASSOCIAÇÃO ANGOLANA PARA AVES E
NATUREZA

Overview of presentation

1. Where did we start?
2. Where are we now?
3. How do we go forward?



Where did we start?

- ◆ Stagnation: just one visit 1974-2002
- ◆ Minimal baseline information on sites and species
- ◆ Lots of uncertainty due to war



Overview of presentation

1. Where did we start?
2. Where are we now?
3. How do we go forward?



Improved information on species

- ◆ Better information on ranges and populations sizes for all endemics
- ◆ Red List revisions for Grey-striped Francolin, Swierstra's Francolin.
- ◆ Better information on Black-tailed Cisticola
- ◆ Knowledge of vocalisations of c. 20 species
- ◆ Lubango Bird Skins



Improved information on sites

- ◆ Surveys of 13 sites and the central escarpment
- ◆ Extensive bird surveys at Kumbira and Mt Moco
- ◆ Discovery of the importance of Mt Namba
- ◆ IBA list revisions for Kangandala, Soyo, Carumbo, Bicuari, Iona, etc



One community-based project

- ◆ Mt Moco
- ◆ Four years working with local community
- ◆ Well-established nursery and reforestation project
- ◆ Fuel efficient stoves just arrived in Angola



One research project

- ◆ Kumbira
- ◆ Pilot project in 2011
- ◆ Mapping of key bird distributions
- ◆ PhD student working with MSc student
- ◆ Want to understand how local farming practices affect birds
- ◆ Working with local government to establish a reserve



Websites & publications

- ◆ Mt Moco website
- ◆ Birds Angola website
- ◆ More than 25 publications in international journals
- ◆ Several popular articles
- ◆ Numerous oral presentations



Greater government awareness

- ◆ Key sites included in conservation area expansion plan
- ◆ Training workshop for MINAMB
- ◆ Regular contact with MINAMB
- ◆ Assistance with obtaining materials



Greater public involvement

- ◆ Outings and field trips
- ◆ Talks
- ◆ Email discussion group
- ◆ Checklist published
- ◆ BUT not enough Angolan public involvement



Starting an NGO

- ◆ Membership-based
- ◆ Elected committee members
- ◆ Drawn up our statutes
- ◆ Formal process initiated
- ◆ Name approved...



Overview of presentation

1. Where did we start?
2. Where are we now?
3. How do we go forward?



What are the threats

1. Forest/Habitat loss!
 - Slash-and-burn farming
 - Too many people
 - Subsistence use of wood
 - Commercial logging
 - Commercial charcoal production
 - Wetland drainage
2. Forest/Habitat loss!
3. Forest/Habitat loss!
4. Birds killed for food
5. Climate change?
6. Oil spills?



Reducing the threats

1. Alternative farming
2. Reforestation
3. Education and family planning
4. Reduce reliance on natural resources: efficiency and sources
5. Influence policy (logging)
6. Improve conservation area network coverage and management
7. Improve law enforcement



Assess gaps in our knowledge

- ◆ Habitats – other scarp sites
- ◆ Sites – revise IBAs
- ◆ Species – Braun's Bushshrike EN, Grimwood's Longclaw DD
- ◆ Environmental law
- ◆ Logging policy



Prioritise targets

- ◆ Lack of human capacity & resources
- ◆ Education & awareness
- ◆ Second examples of key habitats
- ◆ Braun's Bushshrike



Public participation

- ◆ Active bird club/NGO agenda
- ◆ Education projects
- ◆ Involvement of schools
- ◆ Presence in the media
- ◆ Public outings



More local input

- ◆ Local communities
- ◆ General public
 - wider engagement
 - adverts
 - tv/newspaper
 - school visits
- ◆ Professionals
- ◆ Government



More local expertise

- ◆ Fund training
- ◆ Running training workshops
- ◆ Internships to work with us
- ◆ Finding the right students?



Local ownership of work

- ◆ Local involvement
- ◆ Local standing
- ◆ Local funding
- ◆ Local employment



Growing an NGO

- ◆ Volunteers: your input
- ◆ Members
- ◆ Funding/Donors
- ◆ Employees



Acknowledgements

- ◆ Funding from Tasso Leventis of the A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute, Rufford Small Grants Foundation, Conservation Leadership Programme, **Luanda International School, Gulf Agency Company**, BirdLife South Africa
- ◆ Collaborators: Bruna Campos, Aimy Caceres, **Luanda International School**, Brian Huntley, Martim Melo, **Francisco Gonçalves (ISCED, Lubango)**, Michael Rogerson, Richard Dean, Pedro Vaz Pinto
- ◆ Assistance from BirdLife South Africa

Contact me!

birdsangola@gmail.com

