

Modou Colley – December 2006

Annual Report on the Gambia Tree Planting and Protection project

Planting trees is very important in human life a community cannot live without trees. That why there is need to plant trees the community of Faraba. We started planting trees in August 2004 and that year over one thousand were planted, but some trees died, that is common in nature. We found the cause first the ground squirrel normally cuts the young trees. So we then make a local protector by cutting the plastic bottle and use that as protector but as the trees grew tall the cattle start disturbing us. We cannot stop the cattle as the tree planting was in the farming area but the only thing we can do is to stop planting the young plants which the cattle like eg mahony and rose wood. As a result we start to keep these trees in the nursery for three years before we plant them now we have over five hundred young trees. Mahogany and rosewood which the local people normal log for rose wood is good for cooking and mahony for red timber. Since 2004 we planted maliena trees and silk cotton trees but the maliena are doing good now we planted over five thousand trees.

Thanks to the nursery school which they did a good job by numbering trees with oil paint that help they number all the big trees around the village and the community also did the same move at the trees planting area. Then the village head call all the compound owner and told them that if any one found logging any number trees that person will face the court the trees has been number by the children they are the future and they need the trees since then no big trees has cut but as you know I use to check the area every two weeks

One fine day as I was doing my checking I found two big mohogany trees cut down I feel so bad that I was about to cry I asked the men who told you to do so they rely me one mr badjie from the forestry office I then when to the village head I explain to him he told me tomorrow morning we can go to Brikama office to find out this problem. I went to the office with the village head and Mr jammeh from the school we asked Mr Badjie and we met him he told us that he told those men to cut the trees the village head the told him why did you not inform us because we did good job there by numbering trees and we planted over five thousand trees and now you just go there and cut trees as you like then Mr Badjie told us that they will never do that again and he told us that if you the villager need timbers you can go to the forest and cut any trees you like we told him we need no timber we like big trees so that why we number them this area we planted trees is very good for birdwatcher and through this project our nursery are getting sponsors the project gave 11.000 to the school because of painting trees so let this be your first and last and he promise us that there will be no logging again is the time we know that this is his deal is for his pocket then we when back to the forest.

We asked the men how much did you gave to Mr Badjie they told us each trees five thousand dalasis (£100) we want to forward the matter to the high office but the village head told us to wait until next time since then all the big trees are free from the villager and the so call forestry office. Now the only problem is bush fire as we planted big area about 300m by 200m which will take more time to clear the four side as we use to do every year and this time around we have plans for it but we need more support from the community at the moment we are building a photo hide which is sponsor by exmoore falconry they sponsored digging the water hole last dry season and now all the cattle and birds use to drink there so now all the cattle owner and school are behind the project.

This is the checklist sight by modou colley Yankuba
tamba and Ebrima Barry all bird guide
greyish eagle owl which is first record in the Gambia
white face scops owl
pearl spotted owlet
African barn owl
African thrush
Brown babbler
yellow thriated leaflove
mosque swallow
red shoulderedcockooshrike
singing cisticola
pygmy sunbird
beautiful sun bird
vriable sunbird

scarlet sunbird
collard sunbird
splended sunbird
common bulbul
oriole warble
fantisaw wing swallow
fork tail drongo
african golden oriole
violet back starling
yellow bill oxpecker
purple glossy starling
lesser glossy starling
long tail glossy starling
fine spotting wood pecker
brown backwood pecker
lanner falcon
grey kestrel
four banded sandgrouse
red necked falcon
stone partridge
double spurred francolin
black bellied bustanrd
wattle plover
black headed plover
hooded vulture
red eye dove
laughing dove
african green pigeon
namaqua dove
square tail drongo
yellow tronted tinked bird
viellot barbet
red spotted wood dove
black bill wood dove
abyssinian ground hornbill
senegal coucal
lizard buzzard
diedrek cuckoo
klass cuckoo
african cuckoo
piapiac
green wood hoopoe
abyssinian roller blue bellied roller
rufous crown roller
green hylia
yellow white eye
white shouldred black tit
red wing warbler
red bill hornbill
swallow tail bee eater
brown necked parrot
white thoated bee eater
violet toraco
green toraco
western grey plantin eater
dark chatting goshawk
shikra
bateleur brow shake eagle
buff spotting wood pecker
little green wood pecker
lesser honey guide
greater honey guide

red shouldered cuckoo shrike
african palm swift
mottled spine tail
little swift
grey wood pecker
long tail nightjar
white billed buffalo weaver
village weaver
black winged red bishop
pintail whydah
exclamatory paradise flycatcher
grey headed bush shrike
brubru
white crested helmet shrike
red wing bishop
copper sunbird
spotted sunbird
lesser blue eared glossy starling
western banded snake eagle
african hawk eagle
black shouldered kite
martial eagle
tawny eagle
booted eagle
harrier hawk
white back vulture
senegal parrot
blue cheeked bee eater
pied hornbill
senegal batis
north black flycatcher
yellow bellied hyliota
pied flycatcher
common wattler
northern puff back
african paradise flycatcher
red bellied flycatcher
verreux eagle owl
sulphur breasted bush shrike