



AusCongo Network

Annual Report

2015-16



President's Report by Constanin Mukendi



This year has been a highly successful and transformative year for the AusCongo Network. I am proud to say that great progress is being made in many ways, and our organisation is stronger than it has ever been.

Our Brisbane management committee is meeting monthly and we now have hardworking people on board in our Projects team, PR teams and financial management.

We are also taking great strides towards independent charity status with Ms Gigi Lacey coming on board to help us develop our strategic and operational plans. Gigi held a brainstorming session with committee members to pick our brains and develop a strategic plan for the next few years that we have now implemented. We are hopeful that we will have charity status by early next year.

In Mbuji-Mayi, we have purchased 14 hectares of land thanks to a grant from the Entrust Foundation and have since planted 3 hectares of Cassava and run programs to train over 500 people from the local community in agricultural activities.

This year has been a year of restructure for ACN. After the loss of Cassandra and Roxanne, the organisation has been struggling to find people with the required experience in project management, public relations, administration and finance. Our capacity of operation is still suffering. We have not yet been able to get community development, and business development workers.

The following positions remain vacant at this stage:

- Fundraising activities and event management officer,
- Co-ordination of partners (stakeholders) officers,
- Administration personnel,
- Finance officer and accountant.

Community and business development training from Australia has stopped. Mr Alex Ng, our previous treasurer and Mr Martin, the webmaster have both resigned. But, we are lucky to have the following people with strong experiences and ACN really appreciates their contribution:

Mr Bob Helyar, our secretary, is doing a commendable job. I am very impressed by his readiness for any task in the management committee including recruitment, contribution to the project team work, preparations for meetings such as the AGM, taking the minutes in the monthly management committee meetings, interviewing new volunteers and contributing in every way possible.

I have now my personal assistant Mrs Kanchan Vekaria. She has a Masters degree in accounting and finance. She been invaluable, managing our finance records in addition to her responsibilities as my personal assistant. Her annual finance report was noted as being an excellent standard and was audited successfully by auditor Mr David Hartmann.

Mr Sathiya with strong background in projects management has taken the job left by Cassandra and has taken over Dr Ann Ingamells in preparing the six-month report to WRA. I really thank Mr Sathiya for his



dedication and commitment. The project team also includes Mr Kanthi and Mr Jonathan, both of whom have been an outstanding support to Sathiya. Thanks to them we have been able to submit the project proposal 1624 Capacity Building to WRA, the final report of agriculture project to Entrust foundation and are working on the grant application for an agriculture project this coming year.



It is important to mention that we had the privilege to meet with Mr Richard Beaumont, the CEO of Entrust foundation earlier this year. He had visited our Centre in Mbuji-Mayi in November 2015. In his report he was satisfied and impressed by the work we have done in Mbuji-Mayi so far and has promised to continue working with us in the future. He conducted a capacity building training program during his visit and later sent the training materials.

Dr Emma Campbell, formerly worked as a projects director. In July 2015 she conducted a project with occupational therapy students as part of her teaching program. The aim of the project was to focus on building upon resources in the DRC

to support the Congolese people and decrease the rates of poverty by increasing the capacity for income-generation and improved livelihoods for the people of Congolese communities. In May 2016, she also conducted a community development training session with the ACN management committee members. This year, Emma stepped down from her role as Project Director, but will continue to liaise with ACN on her community development research projects. I would like to thank Emma for all of her help with AusCongo Network over the years. We are currently, in the process of developing an MOU to strengthen our partnership with UQ.

Ms Katherine Storer has joined us with her experience in public relation. She has rebuilt our website and produced all the promotional materials. She was joined by Ms Khwezi and they have made amazing progress. She is working also on a crowd funding project, which will commence when the paypal account is established for fundraising. The team also runs our social media, develops written content and designs all of our documents.

Ms Gigi Lacey is a very enthusiastic and strong supporter of ACN. She has joined us to consult on a pro bono basis, bringing her extensive experience in organisation capacity building and governance. She is a consultant for many organisations around Queensland and is helping us with strategic planning, business planning, risk management, developing policies and procedures and obtaining charity status.

Fabris Kalala is our treasurer. He has a BA degree in economics and finance from Griffith University. We are privileged to have Mr Fabris, a Congolese man, in our team.

Ms Wendy Milgate, the editor of my book has been working with us since 2013, behind the scenes as a volunteer in ACN. She worked on all promotional materials before Ms Kat joined us. She is a strong supporter of ACN and is always available for any editing job or promotional materials.

Ms Roshni Achar has a Masters degree in Business Administration (Human Resource and Information Systems), Anna University, India and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, University of Madras, India. She is doing a fantastic job of human resources management, recruiting, interviewing and writing position descriptions. She has a long experience in working as a human resources manager overseas and here in Brisbane.

Mr Rodrick Kayembe is a member of events management's team working in organising the music for all the events. He has a BA in economics from Griffith University.

Ms Nana Makatema, is a Congolese young lady who has recently joined ACN. Her role is to promote ACN at the University and in the Congolese community. She is a university student studying a double degree in Law, Government and International Relations at Griffith University. We are excited to have her on board.



Mr Duncan Marckwardt, our lawyer, is always ready for any legal advice and assistance. Mr Duncan has been working for ACN since 2012. He has helped us register ACN legally in Congo. He has been involved in our application for charity status before Ms Gigi joined us. With Mr Duncan's guidance, we are able to meet all the legal requirements of an incorporated organisation.

With this team and other wonderful people working behind the scene, the structure of ACN is becoming slowly but surely solid and strong. We are now able to report with confidence to our supporters, to our donors and to our members, demonstrating accountability and credibility, giving them reason to continue supporting the work we are doing. Our management committee meetings are now taking place regularly every month and our capacity of working and organising ACN has improved.

AusCongo Network Chapter in Perth

We want to connect with the people in Perth where there is a significant number of Congolese. We nominated Mr Joao Ngandu as our representative in Perth. He was here at the creation of ACN, but he moved to Perth. He has background in economics and had worked with BP before he moved to Australia. He had asked to be nominated as a representative of ACN in Perth so he can also raise money there on our behalf. The nomination was first approved in our meeting of April 2013. Due to ever-changing circumstances, we were unable to officially instate Mr Joao until now. He has some Congolese people who want to work with him. He will be receiving an official letter of nomination so he can begin immediately. He has some ideas he wants to present us and we are excited about the expansion of AusCongo Network.

ACN in Mbuji-Mayi, Congo

On the field in Mbuji-Mayi, I commend our Director, Mr Jean Calvin, for his efforts. He manages to continue working without much support or resources from Australia, thanks to his experience in community development work. At this stage, nobody from Australia is available to follow up like Ms Cassandra was doing, and I do not have that experience either.



Our Community development centre in Mbuji-Mayi, continues operating without any financial assistance or resources. We have not received any funding this year and have no fundraising activities to support our centre in Mbuji-Mayi. Together with the director the centre also has an administrator, an agronomist, an accountant, an I.T. officer plus 2 securities guards.

We require financial assistance to deliver our programs effectively and professionally. I strongly believe that with enough resources and financial assistance, ACN will be a leader in running a unique, remotely managed community development centre overseas.

The community centre has only one laptop, and as they have no access to internet, they have to use a public internet café to communicate with us, which is expensive. They have no transport and office furniture. They have 14 hectares of land which we bought last year from the grant provided by Entrust foundation. 3 hectares is used for planting of cassava and beans. This land is also used for agriculture training for more than 500 people from different villages.

The report from Congo indicates that the microfinance program has drastically decreased due to the fact that they do not have someone who can follow up and continue training them to reduce defaults of payment. The recent reports in August 2016 show that 45 persons have participated in this program. Over 53% of community members have paid back their loans and 24 (53.3%) have paid back the monthly payment of US\$20. There



is need to employ a paid worker to train, monitor and follow the participants in order to reduce the default of payment.

The agriculture project funded by Entrust foundation has reinforced the capacity of our centre. They have not expanded the project yet as they are still waiting for another grant to continue the work. Other groups are operating with their individual means without any assistance from Australia.

There is a real need to increase our capacity of fundraising here in Australia in order to encourage and support these groups of people who have taken responsibility for their lives into their own hands, thanks to the asset-based community development training delivered by Ms Cassandra long ago, which they are still using.

10 village community groups have attended the training on our farmland with the materials sent by Richard Beaumont, CEO of Entrust foundation. The villages which attended training are: Bena Kabamba (5 groups) and Bena Lukusa (5 groups). The total number is 502 including 242 women and 260 men.

Current Partners

Throughout this year, the capacity of ACN was reinforced by working with our partner World Relief Australia (WRA). I am very grateful for Dr Donald van Cooten, the CEO of WRA, and Ms Dianne Harris-Miles, the manager of International projects, for their flexibility, support and assistance.

We thank the following organisations who team up with us in this noble cause:

- Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd (PICCA). Mr Steve Maguire and Stephanie Bolderman have started working with us to increase our capacity of funding and project management. They have connected us to another organisation Kyeema foundation which is supporting local partnerships and initiatives in poverty alleviation and food security. I have already met with Mary and Celia of Kyeema.
- We thank MDA for providing us with facilities and printing of our promotional materials.
- We thank Ms Abby Bishop, the founder of Ride for Refugees for accepting our request to ride for us. She invited me for an interview before they started the ride this year on 10/09/2015.
- Self-help Queensland: I have managed to renew our relationships with Self-help Queensland. Ms Trish Fallon, the coordinator is now helping us with the capacity building, and with grant application writing as part of project team. She has paid for our public insurance, and is committed to help us find an office within Brisbane and to provide other administration assistance. Roshni is working with her.



- Skilling Queensland: we are working with Ms Roshni and Ms Trish to host job employment seekers with the assistance of Skilling Queensland. They will place job seekers for 15 weeks paid work in our office. Once we receive the public liability insurance, we shall be able to host the job seekers in Ipswich area.

Potential partners

- We are in the process of teaming up with other Congolese Organisations on the ground including Congo Relief Mission and Friends of Congo. Both organisations operate in America but have projects in Mbuji-Mayi like ACN.



- We are working with Bike4Life, an NGO based in Melbourne which repairs bicycles, and sends them in containers to developing countries including Africa. An MOU is being developed with some people in Congo in order to partner with Bike4Life.

In conclusion

I am confident that with all these partners and stakeholders, ACN is becoming a real network, a pipeline of all financial and logistic resources. I have received 25 old computers (6 computers were donated by QPSTT and 19 donated by Mr Benjamin Forday, Peter's son) to send to Congo once we have enough funds. I am proud to running such an organisation, leading a community development centre remotely.

The launch of my book was successful. The book is available on Amazon, and In-House, and I have some in stock. As 5% of profit will go to ACN, I need assistance from ACN for promotion and selling. I shall be conducting many activities such as Author talk, book signing, or sharing information.



Finally, from the bottom of my heart, I thank all of you who have supported me throughout this year, directly or indirectly. I am grateful to the members of the management committee for their dedication and assistance.

In 2017, we want concentrate on fundraising activities and strengthening our capacity of operation.

Huge thank you.



Projects Report by Sathiya Ramakrishnan



I am proud to say that this year was a highly successful one for the projects team. We successfully developed and implemented several projects in Mbuji-Mayi and maintained progressive continuation of our work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Achievements:

- Successful completion of Agriculture Project funded by Entrust Foundation, Australia.
- Successful completion of Capacity Building Project (#1306) organized by Word Relief Australia.
- A new Capacity Building Project (#1624) proposal was approved by World Relief Australia in September 2016 for potential fundraising.
- Emma Crawford (former Project Director) conducted a Community Development Training Session in May 2016 and many Australian volunteers had the opportunity to learn and apply the principles of Community Development.
- Recruited new members for the project team - Mr. Kanthi Pillai and Mr. Jonathan Hsu. Both of them did a commendable job for the team.



The agriculture project involved the 14 hectares of land we recently purchased thanks to a grant from the Entrust foundation. On this land, the community were able to plant 3 hectares of cowpea fields and a further 3 hectares of Cassava. While the harvest of the Cowpea crop was not as successful as we had hoped, it will have enriched the soil with nitrogen, which will be beneficial to future crops. The Cassava will be harvested in November and sold.

Not only were we able to produce crops, but also successfully reduced unemployment in the area by employing labourers to work the land. Over 450 people participated in this agriculture project. The project paid

salaries to labourers who were then able to support their families, pay for education, clothes and food for their children and dependents.

Finally, this project was able to help 35 children – 20 male and 15 female – complete their secondary education. By working on the land after school the students were able to earn the money they needed to pay for school.

The capacity building project incorporated improvements to the AusCongo Community Centre in Mbuji-Mayi. Improvements to the facilities including the purchase and installation of a generator, new laptop and an Internet connection were made. Unfortunately, due to a lack of on-going funding, we were unable to retain the Internet connection long term. This project also included monitoring of our micro-finance program which is still running successfully, with loans of up to \$100 being repaid. We are continuing to run programs in the community centre that educate community members on how to become more self-sufficient.



We are also happy to report that our programs are helping children through school, with their parents now able to afford school fees through various ACN projects.

Work in progress:

- We are half-way through to submit a new Agriculture Project proposal to Entrust Foundation.
- Emma Crawford is spearheading our partnership with University of Queensland on Community Development research and evaluation.
- Initiated potential collaborations with Congo Relief Mission (USA), Friends of Congo (USA & DRC) and PiCCA (Australia).

We are hopeful that we will soon be able to implement a project that will assist the local Mbuji-Mayi community in developing programs to fund the on-going Community Centre costs, such as wages, rent and internet, to reduce the Centre's reliance on funds from Brisbane.

To conclude this report, I would like to thank all members, volunteers and friends from Australia and Democratic Republic of Congo for continuously supporting the project team and ACN.

Public Relations Report by Katherine Storer



The Public Relations team has had a very busy 2016 so far. Starting with an entirely new team in January, we have been successful in rebuilding and developing several new assets for the AusCongo Network.

Our new manager, Katherine Storer came on board in January and was joined by our PR Officer, Khwezi Nkwanyana in July.

So far in 2016, the team has redesigned the AusCongo logo, as well as the website, updated social media accounts, launched the blog and created new flyers, brochures and banners for the Network to use. While we have certainly achieved some notable outcomes, there is still a lot we would love to be able to achieve, but due to a lack of resources (particularly man power and time), we are often restricted on what we are able to achieve.

We were also lucky enough to have Ben Weir, a journalism student from the University of Technology Sydney, fly up to interview Costa one weekend. We are excited for the release of his article in his university newspaper. It is exciting to see other institutions and organisations with a vested interest in the DRC recognise the work of AusCongo Network and express and interest in our projects.

In future, we are hoping to be able to develop more social media content for Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn (new account coming soon!), provide regular updates via newsletters to all subscribers – a project currently underway – host fundraising events, continue to build connections with external organisations, improve the website, maintain a blog and continue to grow the AusCongo brand in a way that will help us raise funds towards future community development projects in the DRC.

In order to achieve all of our goals, the PR team is always seeking new expertise. We welcome any one who has the time and knowledge to assist our small team in any way. We are currently seeking writers, web designers and developers as well as social media, marketing and design enthusiasts (students are welcome) to assist us with future projects. If you would like to contribute in any way, email Katherine at media@auscongo.org.


For further updates from us, keep your eyes on our website, or contact Katherine to sign up to our newsletter, coming soon.

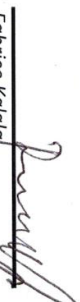


AusCongo Network Inc.
Asset Register

Prime cost
basis

Net Asset Details		Accumulated depreciation										Opening Written Down Value
Description	Original Cost	Dep Rate %	Opening Written Down Value 2015	Dep Chrg For the Year 2015	Opening Written Down Value 2016	Dep Chrg For the Year 2016	2014	2015	2016		2017	
Electronic Equipment												
Laptop computer												
Toshiba Satellite (05-12-2010)	961.75	33%	0.00		0	0.00	961.75	961.75	961.75		0.00	
Projector												
NEC NP215G (11-12-2010)	794.00	20%	224.97	158.8	66.17	66.17	569.03	727.83	794.00		0.00	
Photo camera (05-12-2010)												
Sony Exmor 10.2 Mpixels	488.00	20%	148.03	87.8	60.23	60.23	339.97	427.77	488.00		0.00	
Sub Total	2,243.75		373.00	246.60	126.40	126.40	1,870.75	2,117.35	2,243.75			
Fixtures & Fittings												
BBO Set												
Jumbuck (14-11-2010)	389.00	20%	111.51	77.8	33.71	33.71	277.49	355.29	389.00		0.00	
Tent (gazebo) (23-10-2010)	389.00	20%	103.73	77.8	25.93	25.93	285.27	363.07	389.00		0.00	
Tables (x2) (01-10-2010)	118.00	20%	29.50	23.59	5.91	5.91	88.50	112.09	118.00		0.00	
Photo display unit (01-05-2010)	100.00	20%	18.33	18.33	0	0.00	81.67	100.00	100.00		0.00	
Sub Total	996.00	0.80	263.07	197.52	65.55	65.55	732.93	930.45	996.00			
Total	3,239.75	0.80	636.07	444.12	191.95	191.95	2,603.68	3,047.80	3,239.75			

President

Constantin Mukendi
Date: 29/09/2016

Treasurer

Fabrice Kalala
Date: 29. 09. 16

Notes to the statements

- (a) Donation from Costa mostly sent to Mbuji Mayi for Office Running Expenses.
- (b) Income from the \$20pp fee Auscongo members pay annually.
- (c) Donations via WRA(World relief Australia) for the 1306 Project
- (d) Grant received from Entrust Foundation for Agriculture project in Mbuji Mayi via WRA(World Relief Australia).
- (e) Management fee of 10% of the donation charged by WRA on donation via them.
- (f) Fees and chair and table provision charges during African festival as well as charges for attending One world collective event.
- (g) Charges of entertaining a client during a meeting and parking fees .
- (h) Purchase of Printing paper and USB Cable . Includes cost of printing documents for Monthly Meetings.
- (i) Charges on Money sent to Congo (for running the office) every Month via Western Union and Money Gram.
- (j) Charges for lodgement of Annual report.
- (k) Annual Subscription to Qld African Community membership.
- (l) Refer to the depreciation schedule.
- (m) Costa paid for the purchase of Candy form personal funds.

We would like to declare that in our opinion:

- (i) The attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with the Australian Accounting Standards
The attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the organisation
Records are kept properly and updated regularly that explain the Organisations' financial transactions, position and performance.

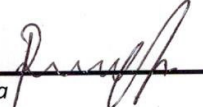
President



Constantin Mukendi

Date: 29/09/2016

Treasurer



Fabrice Kalala

Date:

29. 09. 16



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

		As at 30th June 2016		
	<u>Notes</u>	\$	\$	\$
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank				
Cash at Bank - NAB			1,082.41	
Cash In hand			159.50	
Cash at Aid Agency - WRA			<u>2,436.50</u>	
Total Current Assets				3,678.41
Non Current Assets				
Electronic Equipment	(I)	2,243.75		
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(2243.75)</u>	-	
Fixtures and Fittings	(I)	996.00		
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(996.00)</u>	-	
Total Assets				<u>3,678.41</u>
Less Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Payable to Costa	(m)		599.94	
Non current Liabilities			<u>-</u>	
Total Liabilities				<u>599.94</u>
NET ASSETS				<u><u>3,078.47</u></u>
Represented by				
Accumulated Funds				
Accumulated Surplus/ Deficit				3,354.36
Retained Earnings				<u>(275.89)</u>
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS				<u><u>3,078.47</u></u>

President


Constantin Mukendi

Date: 29/09/2016

Treasurer


Fabrice Kalala

Date: 29.09.16



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

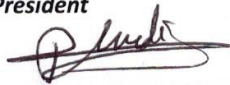
For the Financial Year ended 30th June 2016

INCOME RECEIVED

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Auscongo Network (ACN)			
Donations	(a)	15,955.63	
Grants		-	
Sponsorship		-	
Membership	(b)	280.00	
			16,235.63
Add World Relief Australia(WRA)			
Donations	(c)	1,520.00	
Grants	(d)	9,745.00	
Sponsorship		-	
Less Project management Fees	(e)	(1126.50)	
			10,138.50
Add Candy sales			
		1,970.10	
Less purchase of Candy		(1499.85)	
			470.25
Total Income			26,844.38

EXPENDITURE

Event Expenses	(f)	287.50	
Entertainment Expenses and parking fees	(g)	29.80	
Printing & Stationery	(h)	173.27	
Depreciation	(i)	191.95	
Money Transfer and bank charges	(i)	885.46	
Lodgement fees	(j)	49.95	
Subscriptions	(k)	100.00	
Transfer to Mbuji Mayi			
Agriculture project expenses - WRA		8,640.00	
Office rent & management Exp - Auscongo		16,762.34	
Total Expenditure			27,120.27
Net Deficit			(275.89)

President


Constantin Mukendi

Date: 29/09/2016

Treasurer


Fabrice Kalala

Date: 27.09.16



Hartmann Auditors**Chartered Accountant**Principal: **David A. Hartmann** FCA

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Hartmann Auditors Pty Ltd

ABN 52 124 825 038

AUSCONGO NETWORK INCORPORATED

I have sighted the association's financial records and the financial records show that the association has bookkeeping processes in place to adequately record the association's income and expenditure and dealing with its assets and liabilities.

The financial records sighted by me included the Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30th June, 2016, Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June, 2016 and Asset Register together with supporting schedules.

I have assessed the association as a Level 2 association, having a total revenue of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 for the year ended 30th June, 2016.



David Hartmann FCA

Hartmann Auditors Pty Ltd

28th September, 2016