



Bennety Bushu

Malengalenga Village,
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These are the **chilli bombs**. They are prepared by the community game guards and conservancy committees to be ready for the harvesting season when the elephants are coming to eat the crops. But I took this picture to tell another story. The conservancy has already made the effort to make these chilli bombs but then **they don't store them properly**. They stored them where it has been leaking. So this is the kind of thing we don't want people to do. Now these bombs won't work and people will say that the chilli bombs don't work. This is negligence from the conservancy committees, like "I don't care" attitude. We **need to change that** and make sure that everyone works hard in order to help the communities.

In the past we couldn't get women involved in decision-making. At least now when the IRDNC started working with the communities they encouraged women to take part in natural resource management. **The vice-chair of this meeting is a woman**. In the past you would never see a woman stand up and say that this is what we want and need. We are now going in the right direction. The men used to say that women are just wasting their time trying to participate. A woman was just known to raise the children and work in the field. But now **it's good that they are speaking out in the public**. The Kwando conservancy employed the first female conservancy manager. We wanted to say that women can play a major role in development of the area.



This is my **five-year-old son** in my mum's field. We are thinking of introducing the vuvuzela to our farmers. Maybe it can **help to scare the elephants away**. We will see how it goes. The problem is that if you give it to an old man he won't be able to blow it; it is more for the younger people in our communities. We got four vuvuzelas, one for each conservancy in this area. We want to use it for the areas that are the most affected by the elephant raids like Singalamwe by the border between Namibia and Zambia where there is a big elephant corridor. **How can we keep wildlife corridors in this area where there are so many people?** Also we have to make sure there is water for the farmers who have to move because of this. This is getting more difficult now when we see that **the rain is becoming less** during the rainy season and that it also comes later.

I took this to talk about **food security**. Our communities should plant fruit trees so that they can get guavas and oranges but also to sell it to be able to pay the school fees for their children. I talked to one older man in the area and he told me he has two guava trees. He says **he gets N\$ 500 for selling the fruit**. This is good encouragement. You can buy a fruit tree from this nursery for only N\$ 5. The Kwando conservancy sometimes also distribute the trees if they can't sell them. When I was at Kwando as a conservancy manager we came up with the idea of having **a nursery**.

