



Cordelia Muyoba

Soweto Village,
Caprivi, Namibia



This picture represents the sustainable use of resources. **We all rely on the environment and the natural resources;** we use the environment for getting fruits, building material and for making fences to keep the cattle safe. We need to **try to communicate the importance** of taking care of the environment. The picture also represents conservancies. We are living within a conservancy. We get benefits such as skills and education on how to use resources. There are also benefits from trophy hunting that gives us meat and money. Conservancies also create challenges. We should protect wildlife instead of killing them. People in **the community should feel responsibility and be understanding.** But many in the community don't want to understand the benefits besides money and everyone expects to get employment from conservancies. They don't realize the long-term benefits.

The Kraal is protecting our cattle from wildlife. If your cattle are killed from predators you can report it to the conservancy. But **you will only get paid out if you follow certain steps.** You have to have a head boy for the cattle during the day and keep them in the kraal at night. There is a lot of human-wildlife conflict here. There is loss of livestock, damage of crops and poaching. But **through education you can minimise conflict** and there is less poaching since the conservancy was established. People need to know more about the methods on how to keep the elephants away, otherwise there will be a lot of anger. When I was working in the conservancy I demonstrated different farming strategies to a group of farmers to keep the elephants away, such as chilli bombs.



I had to take this picture of the pastor in my church. He was preaching about Adam and Eve. I made a comment and said that in Genesis it says that **God has given us the responsibility to take care of the environment.** People are seeing that the weather patterns are changing. For example **the rainy period is changing.** The Elders are not expecting these changes and don't know why this is happening. It is a Christian thing to say that maybe God is coming as an explanation of why the weather is changing and they pray for it.

There was a big storm in November 2010. We have **never seen such strong winds** here. The roof of the church blew off. Now the ceremonies are being held under a tree. Things that we have been familiar with are, like certain climate patterns, **are now changing.**



I talked to these girls about the environment. We need to talk to all ages about the environment. The environment is part of their lives; they live with nature. It is our responsibility to share information on environmental issues to everyone. Our cultural belief tells us that women should stay at home and do domestic work. It is beginning to change. But still decisions within communities on land management are being made by the Elders/Indunas. **I started a women's group to disseminate environmental education.** Every week we met and talked about natural resources and environmental factors.