



# Isau Tutalife

**Kapako Village,  
Caprivi, Namibia**



I took this picture of the tree to show where they had classes for old people. My older brother **teaches the old people** how to read and write. Before they could not even write their signature. It's good because it reduces the illiteracy rates and it helps development. There are **only classes during the dry season since there is no house** for them. The classes stop when the rain comes because the money coming from the conservancy and trophy hunting is not enough to build more schools. The conservancy income only covers people who work in the conservancy. They used to tell us that the money would be given to us every year. They also said that if an elephant has eaten in your field the money from trophy hunting would pay that. But **they are not using the money in a good way**. Conservancies could also use the money to fund learns for further studies.

When I saw this elephant I thought of my grandparents and what they used to tell us. We don't have the knowledge to know about the behaviour of all the wildlife. **You have to ask the old people** so they can explain it to us. I also see that the elephant is **money and meat**. I see it as a benefit. When the hunter comes they can charge him or her up to N\$ 200,000 and they leave the meat for us. The traditional Kuta, the Indunas, then distribute the meat and everybody who is above eighteen years old gets a piece. Also by the end of every year if you are eighteen you used to get N\$ 59. Other people see the elephant as a problem. But it is **better to chase the elephants away** than to kill them. If we kill all the elephants, people will grow up not seeing wild animals and will not know the names of the wildlife.



This road where the cows are walking goes to a water hole for the wild animals, only a few kilometres away. You can see leopards and hyenas there. Being **in a conservancy you live close to wild animals**. Some people don't want the conservancy. For them it is all about their fields and they see no benefits of living close to wild animals. Also people who have not gone to school don't see any benefits. The elephants destroy their crops but baboons are the biggest problem. We used to put scarecrows to scare them away but the baboons learnt that they are not dangerous. The conservancy should give us **chilli bombs for the elephants**.

We have **a kraal to protect our cattle** from dangerous animals like hyenas, lions and leopards because we live in a conservancy and very close to a national park. It is only the Kwando river between us and the park. The kraal also keeps our name clear. If you let your animals out during the night they can eat in the fields of another person. You have to take care of your cattle. Kraals also help to **add fertilizers to the fields** and they are used later on as a ploughing area. You can use the kraal as a good harvest area for pumpkins and you can also sell the fertilizers.



This field belonged to my mother. After she passed away I was taken care of by my aunt. She uses the fields now but she **can't afford to plough** all of them. We don't have a cow and no money to hire people to help us. My mother always **used to plough in November and started harvesting end of March**. People here rely on how things have always been when ploughing and harvesting. I also used to stay in the fields during harvest time to protect them from the wild animals.