Angola Project

Country Profile

Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU (CISR)

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal

Part of the Defense and Security Studies Commons, Emergency and Disaster Management Commons, Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons, and the Peace and Conflict Studies Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol10/iss1/22

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction by an authorized editor of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.
Landmines form a barrier separating the Chobe region of Botswana from the upper Cuando and Zambezi Rivers. The ephemeral watersheds of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KaZa TFCA) has been reduced to a fraction of its size by the landmine barrier. Surpassing 130,000, the elephant herd is increasing by approximately 5 percent each year, an unsustainable growth rate given the current confinement. The growing herd is disturbing local communities and destroying the surrounding environment by overgrazing the area.

Working with Conservation International, Roots of Peace plans to implement a program to open elephant access corridors, conserve wildlife and stimulate economic development. Roots of Peace will head a demining operation to remove landmines from historic elephant foraging areas, coordinating with the government of Angola, the provincial government of Cuando Cubango, and the U.N. Development Programme—Angola. Conservation International will then work on ecosystem development based on wildlife conservation within the Lualla Reserve. It is expected that the return of the elephants to these historic habitats will stimulate the economy through an increase in tourism in the area.

Harvesting Hope

The landmine situation in Angola has had a severe impact on the socio-economic state of the country. Landmines and UXO have blocked roads, bridges and access to farmland, resulting in an inability to meet domestic food requirements. Blocked access has also made it hard to provide medical attention and education on HIV/AIDS and mines, specifically in the war-torn provinces of Huambo, Bie and Benguela.

Roots of Peace and World Vision seek to combine demining and redevelopement efforts, stimulating the economy and agricultural development. The project consists of three parts:

1. Clearing and redeveloping roads, bridges and other priority areas: Roots of Peace will conduct a mine survey including mapping and education efforts. The organization will also demine and reconnect roads and bridges, opening access to regions in need of assistance.

2. Strengthening agri-business development and improving food security: World Vision will focus on its already-established Pro-Rural model program, as well as food security through subsistence farming.

3. Producing and exporting high-value crops: Roots of Peace and World Vision will work together on this aspect of the project, executing a plan to grow and market high-value crops.

Bringing Back Security

Each project will raise US$10 million over the next three years. The long-term impact of the projects will be great, helping the people of Angola return to a self-sufficient lifestyle and preserving the environment. Working collaboratively with other organizations, the project headed by Roots of Peace are expected to increase safety, security and stability of these regions. See Endnotes, page 109

Profile Angola Project

Roots of Peace, based in California, was founded in 1997 by Heidi Kuhn with the goal of freeing the world from landmines. The organization takes a unique approach to mine clearance, turning minefields into farmland. Currently, Roots of Peace is working on two projects in southeastern Angola. A 28-year civil war resulted in landmines and unexploded ordnance being scattered throughout the country and also created an unstable economy. Roots of Peace is working with Conservation International to clear access corridors for elephants and with World Vision to help Angola increase agricultural production.

Restoring Nature’s Balance

Landmines and unexploded ordnance have not only affected the people of Angola, but also disrupted the lives of elephants in northern Botswana, blocking access to historical foraging areas in Angola and Zambia.

Appropriate Prosthetic Technology

It has been well-established that high-tech Western prosthetic technologies are not always suitable for developing countries. The International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics stressed the use of appropriate technology in its Consensus Conferences in Cambodia and Tanzania, defining appropriate technology as “a system providing proper fit and alignment based on sound biomechanical principles [that] suit the needs of the individual and can be maintained by the country at the most economical and affordable price.” There are a significant number of efforts underway to develop appropriate prosthetic technologies for landmine-affected countries; however, many have been designed and produced without accounting for key factors such as the environment, local resources and culture.

Furthermore, many new technologies continue to rely on older methods and resources that still require a fully operational prosthetic limb. It is necessary to develop new products and fabrication methods that do...