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Angola Project

Country Profile
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Landmines from a barrier separating the Chobe region of Botswana from the upper Cuando and Zambezi Rivers, the largest elephant habitat in the region, have been cleared. The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KazTFC) 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 ecotourism development based on wildlife conservation within the Luanda 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.

Landmines of Peace and World Vision seek to combine demining and redevelopment efforts, stimulating the economy and agricultural development. The project consists of three phases:

1. Clearing and rebuilding 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 projects headed by Roots of Peace are expected to improve safety, security and stability of these regions.

Appropriate Prosthetic Technology

It was 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 as in Consensus Conferences in Cambodian 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 clinic. It is necessary to develop new products and fabrication methods that do...