



Hannah Cooper
Montreal, QC
United Nations
Development
Programme, Namibia

Namibia is divided into privately owned lands and communal lands. Conservancies unite groups of farmers and rural communities who live on these communal lands. Because the lands are not privately owned, the people who live on them have limited rights over their natural resources. Conservancies provide a management structure. They grant communities certain rights over their natural resources.

At the end of the week, I got a lift with my colleague Sonja from Namibia Nature Foundation out to Khoadi Hoas Conservancy. The project there in part involves minimizing conflicts between elephants and humans over water. I visited one of the water points that the Conservancy will protect from elephants. I met the farmers who will directly benefit from the project. Because the land is so arid, elephants and farmers compete fiercely for water. Apparently, a thirsty elephant is a dangerous elephant. Many farmers have seen their livestock killed, their water points destroyed and their homesteads seriously damaged. Using funds from the Small Grants Program, the Conservancy will protect existing water points. It will also build additional water points exclusively for elephants to use.



Geneviève Asselin
Bellechasse, QC
CONGEH (HIV/AIDS
and gender project),
Cameroon

I wanted to set up a little vegetable garden in the front yard of our apartment. That's when I realized how much we residents of the neighbourhood could do to improve our living conditions.

The neighbourhood has a serious problem: managing waste and making residents realize the importance of sanitation. My friend and I are two enterprising and innovative women who have responded to this problem by starting to reuse our organic waste to make compost. We set up a community composter in the yard of our apartment for all tenants to use. We then launched a clean-up campaign with the tenants of the building. We sought to make them aware that waste was piling up in a space that could be used as a vegetable garden to meet their food requirements. Some laughed mockingly. Some were pessimistic. Others were doubtful. Eventually, some tenants got involved in clearing, fertilizing and setting up the garden.

Thanks to the tenants' involvement, we now have a community vegetable garden. We have planted pistachio nuts, sugar cane, beans, watermelons, yams, sweet potatoes, papayas, mangoes and bananas. We have a composter that will enrich the soil for future crops. Change begins at home, and development starts with involvement at the grassroots level.



Graham Willis
Toronto, ON
Ministry of Justice
and Supreme Court,
Cape Verde

It's just a matter of days now [until I finish my human rights work here.] Days until the dusty streets, toothless smiles, shoeless children, cobble streets, a waterless home and Krioulu are behind me, becoming a place so far away, distant and mythical. And the concrete, skyscrapers, consumerism, human coldness and greed will surround me once again, oblivious to that place where a soccer ball or bicycle rim provides all the happiness in the world.

What is this place that was so foreign and alien for four months, this place where children sit on your lap when there is no more room on the bus, where a rural subsistence farmer gives you his last egg, where kindness and care have no limits, not for money, not for property or goods, not for anything?

Suddenly I see the ignorance in the world, and where it lies, it lies in me, in my desire to leave this place, to abandon it, to return to bigger things and a secure life. Suddenly I see why this place remains so polarized from my land. What do I leave behind here? What have my efforts resulted in? What have I done? And of those back home? How will I ever explain this to them? Do they care to listen? Do they have the time? Will the reality of my experiences even hit home for someone else? Will they ever care to open their eyes to the rest of the world?

Update on Afghanistan

Canada's 3D—diplomacy, defence and development—effort continues in Afghanistan (see *Canada World View* Issue 20).

Canadian Lieutenant-General Rick Hillier has assumed command of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan. In addition, a new contingent of Canadian Forces has assumed responsibilities there, renewing Canada's involvement in the ISAF mission to help maintain security in Kabul and the surrounding area so that the

Afghan Transitional Authority and UN agencies can function.

See lots of new features and get the most up-to-date news on Canada's involvement in Afghanistan at www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca.

Adventure Starts Here!

Thinking of working, studying or visiting abroad? A new Web site called Youth...On the Move! offered by DEAIT's Youth and Academic Mobility Unit for Europe makes it easy for young people to look for exciting job, educational and travel opportunities overseas.

The 21st century brings with it possibilities for young Canadians and Europeans to work or travel on both sides of the Atlantic. The new Web site is designed to promote youth and academic programs in both Canada and Europe. Find out more about international work and volunteer opportunities, internships and apprenticeships, scholarships, grants and bursaries, travel tips, the experiences of others abroad—and much more!

Start on your road to adventure at www.youthonthemove.gc.ca.

