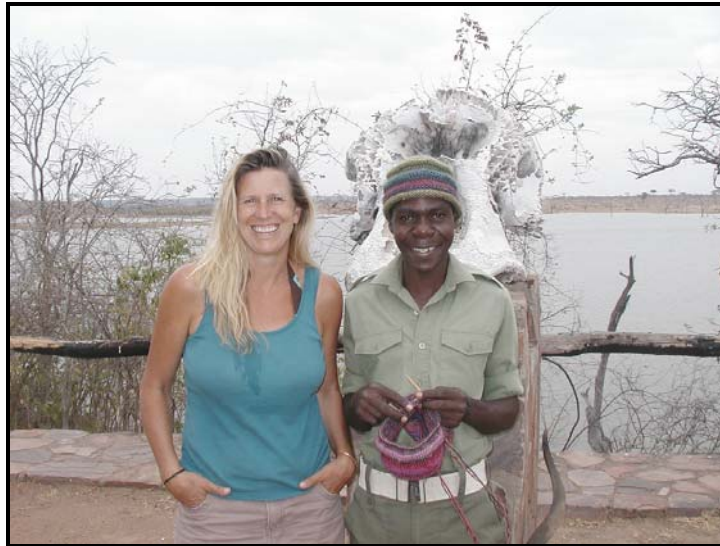# Can't Save Zimbabwe

~ but you can knit a beanie and help one person ~
Read the story at www.lustedtowander.blogspot.com

This is an excellent pattern for teaching a beginner how to knit. Circular needles are easy to hold and maneuver, and the pattern includes the basic skills of knit, purl, cast on and a K2tog decrease.

<u>Materials:</u>   Size 9 circular and double pointed needles.
Patons SWS yarn, one skein.
Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

<u>Abbreviations:</u> **K2tog** ˜ knit two stitches together. Slip right needle through 2 stitches knit-wise, then knit both together. This makes the stitch slant to the right.

<u>Gauge & Size:</u>   Gauge is 15 stitches & 20 rows/4 inches, knit in the round. The hat is stretchy, and so is basically a 'one size fits all'. Add or reduce stitches to change the size, then adjust in the decrease phase of the pattern.

<u>The Pattern:</u>   Using circular needles, cast on **72** stitches. (I use the long tail method.) Join the round - careful not to twist the stitches!

Knit 14 rounds
Purl 4 rounds
Knit 6 rounds
Purl 4 rounds
Knit 6 rounds
Purl 4 rounds
Knit 1 round
Begin decrease:
*Knit 6, K2tog   *9 times (63 stitches)
Knit one round
*Knit 5, K2tog   *9 times (54 stitches)
Knit one round
Continue decreases in this manner ˜ switch to dpn's when the circle of stitches gets too tight ˜ until only 18 stitches remain.
K2tog all the way around. Clip yarn to a 3" tail & draw through the remaining stitches. Use tapestry needle to secure top hole with an 'x'. Weave in ends.

**To prevent a 'jog' in the knit/purl or purl/knit changes, try this: After changing stitches, purl (or knit, depending on which change you are working on) one round, then pick up a loop of the stitch in the row below and lift it onto the left needle. Purl (or knit) together both the top purl (or knit) stitch and the picked up stitch of the previous row. I didn't invent this, but I use it all the time!