

"WE WOULD JOURNEY
HUNDREDS OF KILOMETRES
THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS,
THROUGH CENTURIES OF TIME
ON A KIND OF PILGRIMAGE
TRACING IN ART
AND STONE"

HORATIO CLARE | ROCK OF AGES | ETHIOPIA CONDE NAST TRAVELLER CULTURES ON THE MOVE



WELCOME TO CULTURES ON THE MOVE

In deciding to produce an image-led brochure devoted exclusively to the peoples of the Horn, and those of eastern and southern Africa, we realise that we are tackling a sensitive and difficult subject. Apart from the fact that the area is both huge and traditionally diverse, the idea that a picture book could begin to truly reflect the effects of change - of education, of globalisation, population growth and technology – on the cultural traditions of the many peoples of Africa is patently absurd.

No, the main purpose of *Cultures on the Move* is to show the Africa that we at *Journeys by Design* know and love, an Africa that is alive and bristling with change, its vast wildernesses home to an extraordinary range of traditional cultures, to the greatest genetic diversity on earth; the sum a vast, vibrant and ever-growing mesh of change, a world that I have, for much of my life, been lucky enough to call home. It is a celebration – pure and simple.

Which is not to say that such a celebration should blind us to the more negative effects of change - the shrinking rangelands of the Maasai of Kenya and Tanzania, for example, or to the questionable benefits of 'development' for the Mursi of southern Ethiopia.

On the contrary. We are all stakeholders in our children's worlds, their futures, and as such bear great responsibility for how the forces of change are managed. Responsibility of this kind requires great thought, sensitively negotiated conditions and the ability to act decisively. The Northern Rangelands Trust, a thriving partnership between local communities – Maasai, Samburu, Pokot, European settlers – based in the Laikipia, in northern Kenya, is an excellent example of what can be done in the name of conservation, culture and sustainability.

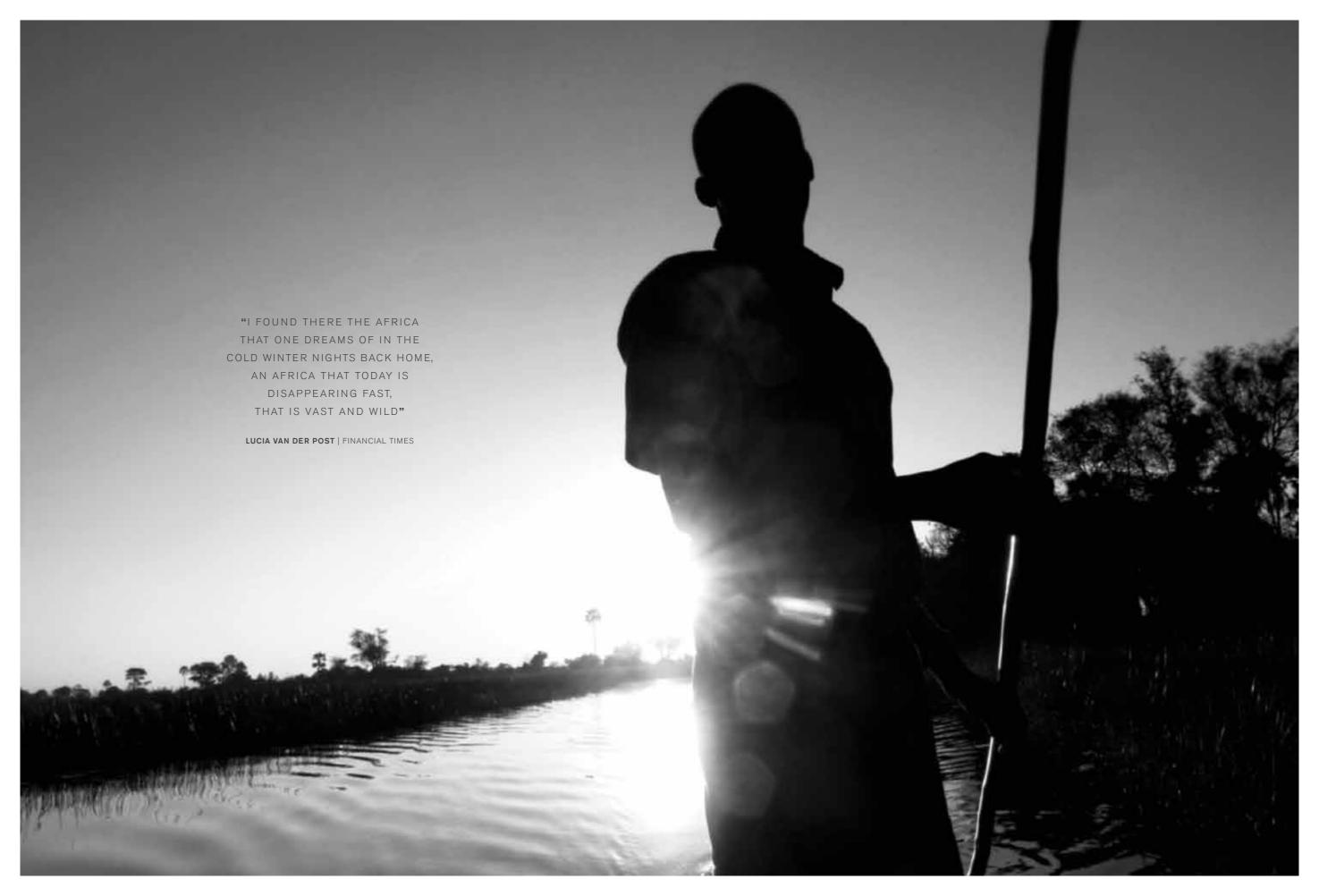
This said, some cultures remain exceptionally vulnerable. The Bantu and European expansions across and into Equatorial and southern Africa have seen hunter-gatherer societies' numbers decimated, their once huge ranges reduced to not much more than pockets of survival, their wilderness-born sensibilities eroded by colonising interlopers. The Hadza of Lake Eyasi, in northern Tanzania, now numbering just 400 traditionalists, and hemmed in by expanding agricultural and pastoral societies, is an extreme case in point. Add to this the influences of trade, and of religion, and we are left with a continent as fluid, as rich and as complicated as central Europe. Change is inevitable.

Given all this, my personal feeling is that Africa is the future; on the one hand, robust, on the move; on the other, it's various historic cultures under threat. It requires an approach that takes into account an understanding of both the needs of the vulnerable and, simultaneously, of its enormous economic potential. Clear-eyed and multifaceted, such an approach values the present as much as it does the past, places health, education and opportunity at its centre, and, perhaps most importantly, is designed to celebrate the way in which local communities, given the chance, take charge of their own destinies. Dynamic, resourceful, filled with meaning, they're cultures very much on the move.

Let's celebrate them.









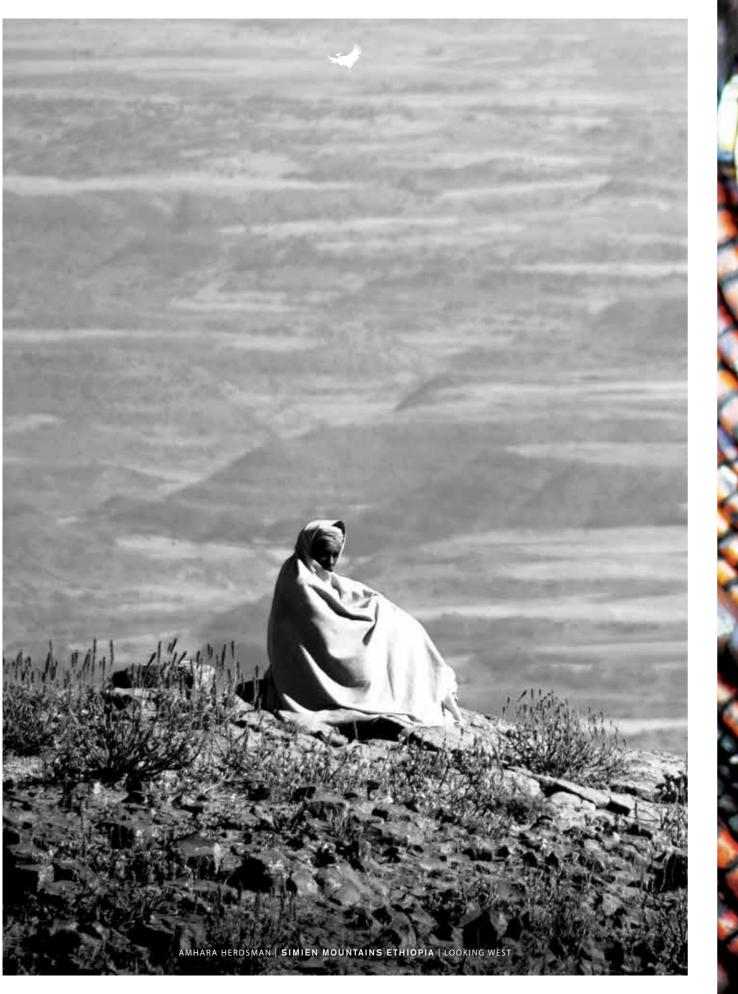


"Africa is raw, elemental, inspiring," Jones says, explaining why he has centered his life round it. "Africa has something that resonates. It definitely feels like the cradle of man."

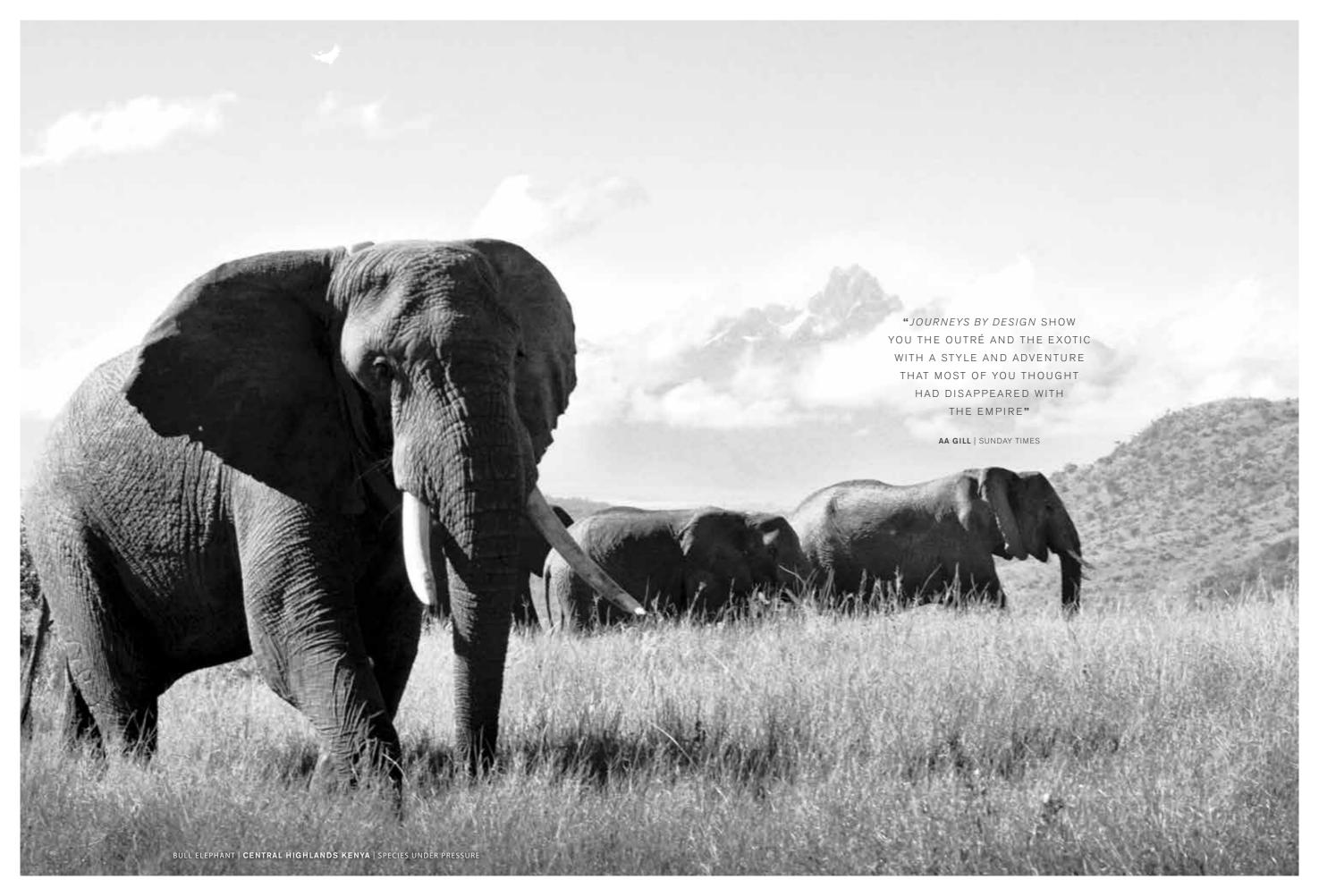
Journeys by Design allows him to remain connected to Africa, and his enthusiasm for the continent is reflected by the company's exhaustive menu of dozens of possible destinations in twelve countries. "Ideally, we like to have a face-to-face preliminary session with clients," he says, "talking in broad strokes about all the possible options." To make this happen, Jones or a colleague will often travel to a client's home. After all, many trips will crisscross the continent, and encompass a myriad of hotels, lodges, and camps, not to mention multiple flights and a coterie of guides. (Wherever travelers go, Jones recommends a minimum of nine nights, though twelve to fourteen is even better.) For a truly once-in-a-lifetime journey, Jones himself will accompany clients.

But the greatest luxury, Jones says, is in the company's ability to provide clients a true wilderness experience. "It's about being able to access the remotest, quietest corners of Africa," he says. "Other operators just don't have the wherewithal to do that because they lack the knowledge and the logistical background to pull it off."

REBECCA ROTH BAUM | RALPH LAUREN MAGAZINE

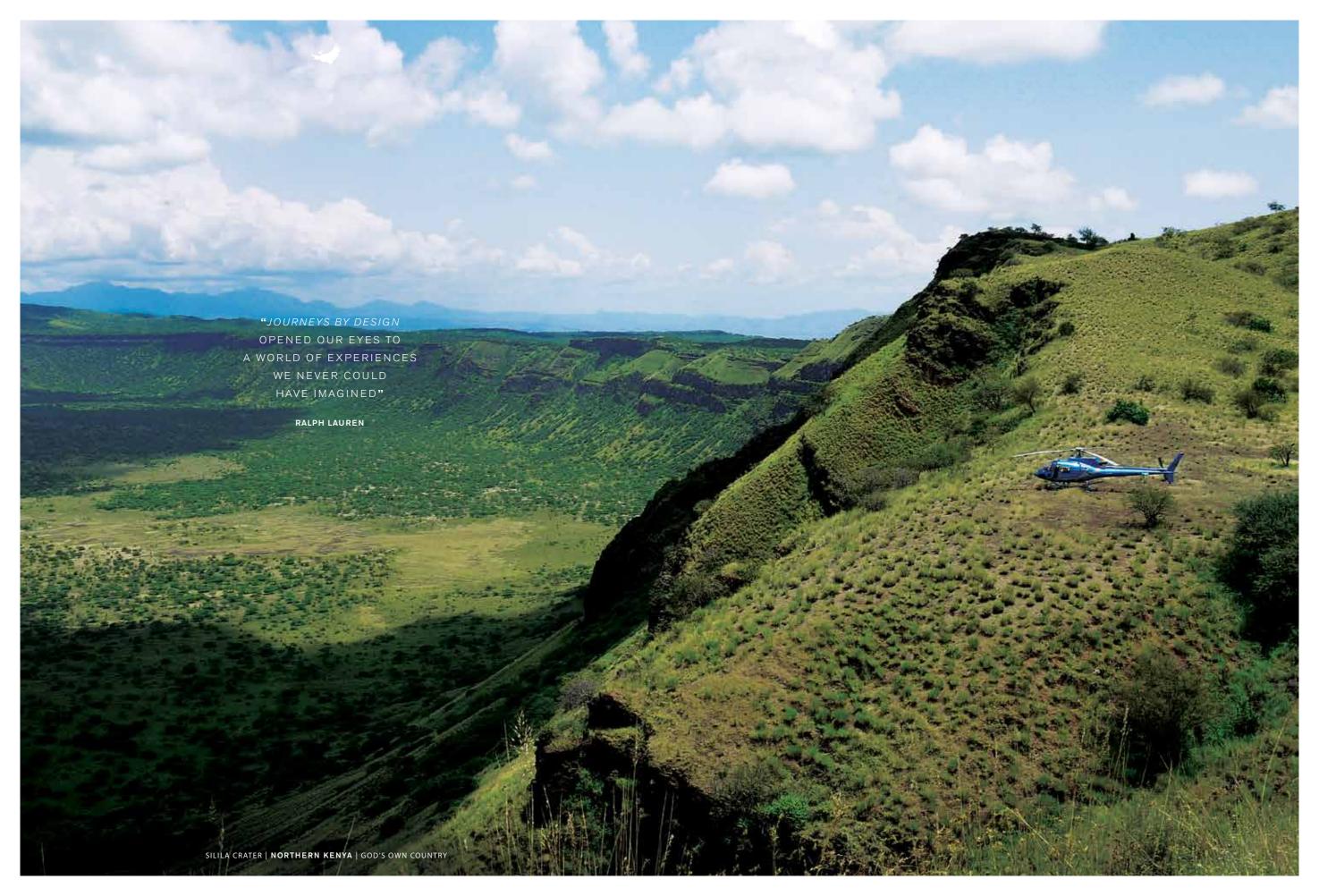
















Journeys by Design is not only the best, but most stylish, ensuring that everything is taken care of with a touch of panache. All our internal transfers were seamless too, which is quite an achievement given the number of variables. And there's nothing so reassuring as a 20-page document detailing every step of your trip. The sign of a really good operator is not just that they think of everything you would – but they think of everything you would.

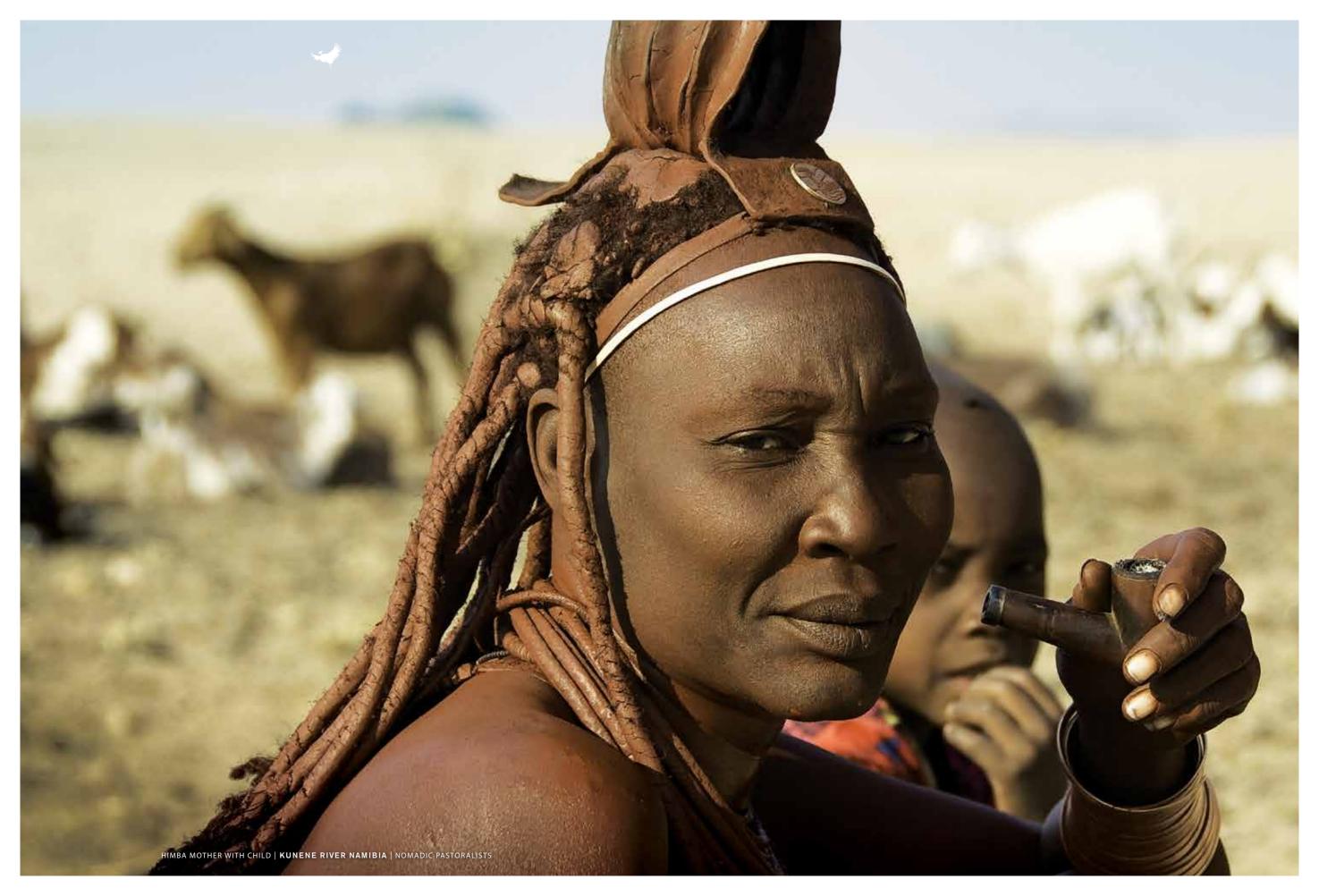
A visit to the local school, and the project's impact is immediately obvious, as the headmaster proudly shows off the new buildings, simple breeze block constructions, which without a hint of exaggeration revolutionise the lives of the local children. We were also welcomed to the local manyatta – an innovative women's craft group, which encourages communal work and has been so successful that a chain of accessory stores in New York now stocks its colourful beaded jewellery.

"All I wanted to do now was get back to Africa. We had not left it yet, but when I would wake in the night, I would lie, listening, homesick for it already."

Well said, Mr Hemmingway.

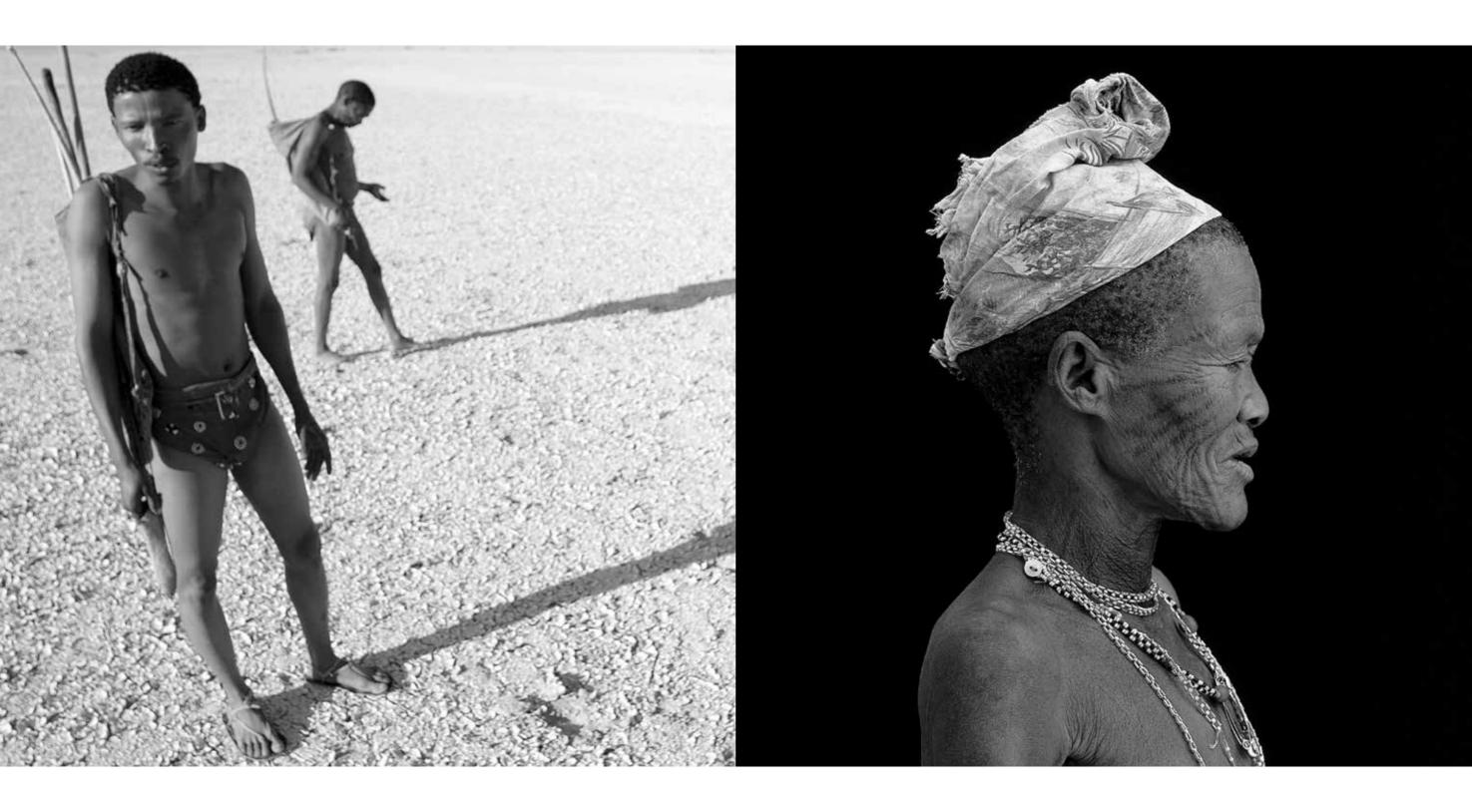
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All photographs in this brochure have been taken by clients, staff and our African partners on their many and varied travels around the continent. Many thanks to all for making this possible.

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