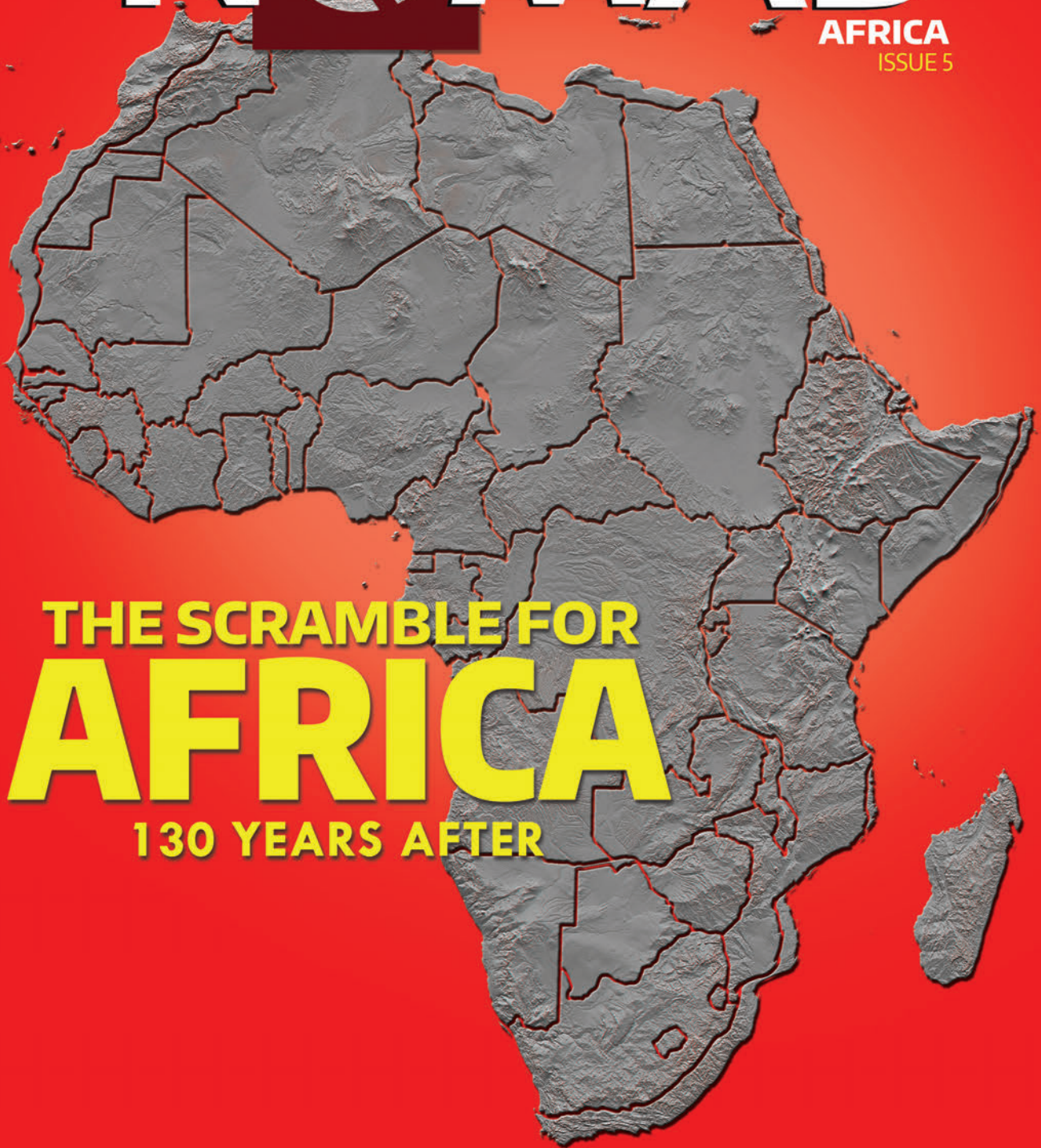


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NOMAD

AFRICA
ISSUE 5



THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA 130 YEARS AFTER



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NOMAD

AFRICA
ISSUE 5



THE SCRAMBLE FOR **AFRICA** 130 YEARS AFTER



BIOCARBON PARTNERS
COMMUNITY BASED FOREST
PROTECTION PROJECT
CHANGING ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE
MINISTER CALLS
FOR TOURISM TAX
REDUCTION

SOUTH AFRICA
STILL BEHIND
ON RESPONSIBLE
TOURISM



Welcome

TO AFRICA!

a concept was borne from a passionate desire to dispel the negative perceptions which the world has held of the African Continent, and to replace it with a positive focus. That concept took form in the creation of the Nomad Africa Magazine Project in 2012.

Nomad Africa Magazine is an elegant, luxury, Pan-Africanist Magazine, targeting the Tourism, Travel, Social, Political, Cultural & Business fields prevailing in Africa, operating out of Johannesburg, South Africa. Nomad Africa Magazine Project celebrates life on the African continent and promotes its vibrant pulse through our Pan-Africanist ideology, to encourage the solidarity of Africans worldwide. It aims to foster a strong interest in the Continent's cultural heritage, unique tourist attractions and countless Business Development and Investment Opportunities, with the millions of people living in, investigating- or visiting Africa.

Nomad Africa Magazine Project inspires and breeds a conscious, knowledgeable generation of visionaries among our own, and influence positive perceptions and appreciation for the true worth of Africa worldwide.

The Nomad Africa Magazine in print is circulated across the African Continent with subscription and distribution absolutely free, made available in VIP lounges of major International Airports, some Airlines, 4 & 5 Star Hotels, Spas & Casinos, as well as Luxury Cruise Liners sailing around our coasts. These copies are free souvenirs, displayed and available to guests to remove and keep, adding further value to the venues' services.

Placements: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Mauritius and several Northern African destinations. New distribution points will be several locations in Namibia, Nairobi in Kenya and Accra in Ghana, while numerous International distribution venues are negotiated, including Europe, the United States of America, United Kingdom, China and the United Emirates.

The Print Magazine is in tandem with:

Nomad Africa E-zine, published digitally, and circulated worldwide, in 'mobile friendly' format, to download no charge, with no T's & C's. Nomad Africa Magazine bi-monthly Newsletter is sent to 65,000 subscribers internationally, with the number constantly growing.

NomadTV is the Online digital Television division of the Nomad Africa Magazine project. It regularly features interviews with representatives of government tourism boards across the continent of Africa to showcase their unique offerings and destinations. In addition, regular videos of newsworthy incidences, discoveries and many other noteworthy occasions in Africa are taped.

NomadTV is popularly employed to create advertorials for our Distribution Partners and Advertisers; all our productions are showcased on our Website and the NomadTV Youtube Channel.

The Nomad Africa Project has created a unique advertising platform in our Magazine, for clients wishing to promote business, investments and awareness of their services and products vested in Africa.

For more details, how you can partner with us, or invest in this unparalleled project, please send us an email with your enquiry to thepublisher@nomadafricamag.com and we will gladly respond to arrange for a presentation.



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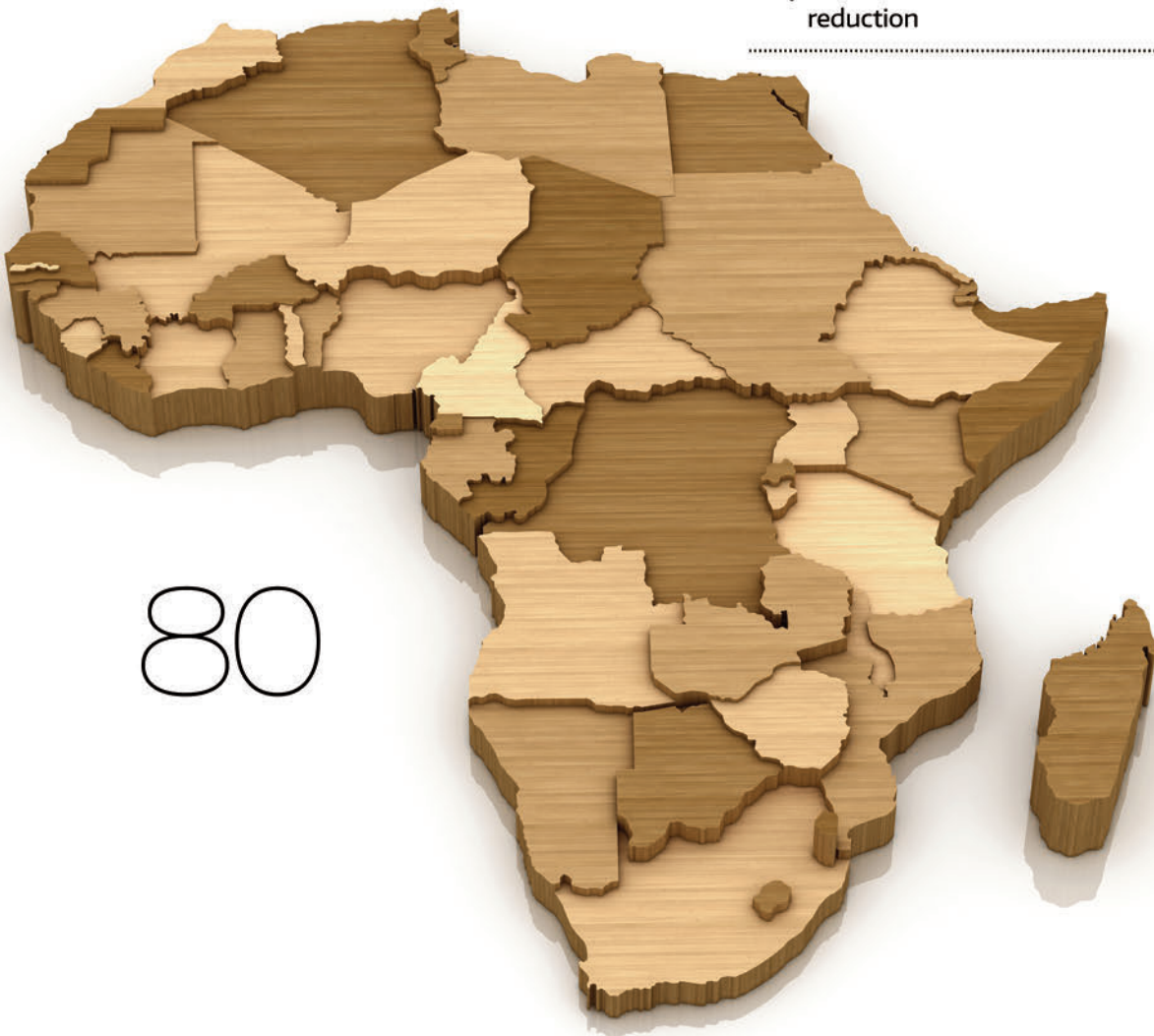
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PRINTING

Guangzhou Hangtong Co., Ltd., 2A MingMen Int. Building, Xin Hua Street,
Huadu District, Guangzhou, Guandong, China.

DISTRIBUTION

Media Support (Pty) Limited

NomadTV Presenters

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nomadicperspective



Monica Ashley La-coure

Monica Ashley La-coure
 Managing Editor
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Crimes against Humanity

The current most newsworthy villainous items in world news, present in Africa causing us immeasurable negative publicity are: 'Refugees' and 'Corruption'. Our Magazine however, is only about Africa, and we mostly concentrate on the positive sides as we celebrate the great continent of Africa. This edition is dedicated to the 'Scramble for Africa, 130 years ago', therefore those two nouns, 'Refugees and Corruption' are not the subject of this article.

However, they do apply, to Africa at the time the Continent was being 'Scrambled for', a 130 years ago, when Europeans were forcing across into Africa. Inhabitants were refugees in their own countries, created through the corruption of the European invaders.

They also apply today, as a legacy from those north-south invasions, and another 50 years after every Country in Africa has won its freedom back, it left Africa of today as the springboard for countless migrants and refugees.

Corruption, the second of the culprits, had not only found fertile soil on our Continent, as a legacy from the European settlers, it manifested itself as an omnipresent continuum in everyday life and governance.

The European Conference delegates decided how to divide Africa, with no regard to any of the ethnic, linguistic or religious practices. Collectively they ignored African tribes, laws, cultures, sovereignty and institutions, which in itself was a monstrous crime. That division of Africa set the stage for a myriad of the conflicts we still face to this day.

The greatest Crime against Humanity was not the 10 million deaths; it lies in the fact that King Leopold was never convicted or punished, he wasn't even prosecuted. His worst penalty, to prevent further scandal, was to be forced by the Belgian government to relinquish control of the Congo colony to the civil administration in 1908. After which he completed full 44 years of super luxurious reign, till his death. Africans must all rally behind the African Union, be proud of the fact that Africa is the 'richest continent'; not in bank balances, but in what Africa possess as its birth right; stop allowing its riches to be taken and developed elsewhere. Africa has to be willing and become able to create the facilities to develop and manufactured its resources internally, to the point that it will become a Manufacturing & Export Power in the future. That will be the negation of the 'Scramble for Africa', the Cradle of Human Kind. In this edition, Nomad Africa Magazine's Elaine Porteous looked at rolling out professional procurement in Africa and also checked in a separate article if the African banking sector is moving along with the flow.

Saving the best for the last, Nomad Africa magazine project partnered South Africa's Talana historical Museum in celebrations. Throughout the three day event, we witnessed a re-enactment of the battle of Talana, and marvelled at the museum's all-inclusive historical records, wherein credit is given to all the brave people, men and women of all races, who lost their lives in this conflict which influenced South Africa in its aftermath. Nomad Africa magazine's invitation to this event by Talana Museum, is a testament to our increasing and valuable contribution to the retelling of the African story to the outside world.

Nomad Africa magazine is therefore continuously looking out for partners and investors from across the globe. This way we will unite to amplify the true pan-African story.



expert contributors



ELAINE PORTEOUS

Elaine Porteous is a freelance business-to-business (B2B) writer. She has a specific interest in African Business and writes articles on subjects such as supply chain, procurement, talent management and the financial services industry for corporate clients and for print and on-line journals. Although British by birth, she is resident in South Africa, travels a lot and occasionally writes leisure and travel articles when time permits.



JANIS THERON

Janis is a qualified in 1989 at Rhodes University with my BA in Journalism and English. She writes specifically on the conservation / environmental world.

Janis is also an environmental educator! She gained a Masters Degree in Education (Environmental) from Rhodes University in 2003. This taught her how to teach about the environment to children, youths and adults from all walks of life.

Janis Theron presently work as a copywriter in the travel industry and would love to one day become fully immersed in environmental education and pertinent, local environmental writing.



FREDERICK ERASMUS

Born and bred South African, from an Afrikaans speaking family; but integrated with all races since childhood, makes Frederick a Potpourri African. Silly as it may sound, he can truly claim to have two first languages, Afrikaans & English, in which he is equally proficient.

During 27 years marketing Life Assurance and Investments, Frederick was always very involved creating promotional and training text. When his last Employer sold and closed in 2006, he faced destitution. However, Frederick Erasmus penchant for writing stood him in good stead and he founded his business, operating as freelance writer and editor.



MOZA MOYO

Moza has written widely for the entertainment (TV, music and celebrity) industry. He worked for a range of publications including tvplus and the now-defunct heat magazine. His work transcends the pages of magazines as he has been writing blogs as well. Propelled by his passion for all things digital, Moza also dabbles in social media.

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**ALESSANDRO PARODI**

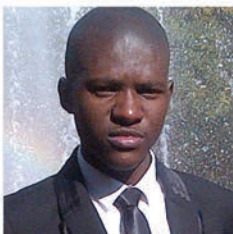
Alessandro Parodi researches and reports on cultural interactions of persons from across the world. His work has seen him travel through Africa, Europe and Asia with the aim of portraying different aspects of human life on different media platforms. Areas of interest include religions and spirituality, urban dynamics and social cohesion. In his efforts to advance integration and the knowledge of cultural interactions, he has participated in the production of the documentaries "Riverside Rendezvous" (2013) and "Common Ground" (2015) for the Italian association PopEye Ethnovisual.

**MICHELLE COLMAN**

Michelle Colman sees fascinating stories lurking everywhere – stories that she delights in sharing with others. She has a wide interest in lifestyle issues, with a special leaning towards all things heritage. She has worked extensively in the travel field, writing both for consumers and travel trade. She holds a B.Journ from Rhodes University and a MA (Heritage Studies) from the University of the Witwatersrand. Johannesburg-based, she has travelled widely and believes her greatest fortune is to be borne on the beguiling continent of Africa.

**MATHIEU DASNOIS**

Mathieu was born in Paris and lives in Cape Town, South Africa. He is a writer and news photographer, occasional tour guide and sound technician, who has a pilot's licence and loves travel and the sea. He has spent four months wandering the back roads of Tanzania, learning a bit of Swahili, taking buses, enjoying the food and meeting friendly people. He currently works in communications at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town. He has survived both a shark attack off South Africa's east coast and a degree in maths and politics at Rhodes University.

**MKHUSELE VANGILE**

Mkhusele is very hungry for knowledge, experience, love, understanding and sharing with others young African man. A true and proud African who is blessed with belonging into two different African tribes namely Amakhosa tribe and Amazulu tribe. Contrary to popular belief, the only weapon this African child owns is the pen and a paper; He believes he can conquer wars with these two in at his disposal. Mkhusele am a son of every race, every tribe, every region and every elder that speaks love for love and with love because love is all he wants to know.



One of the telescope receptors at the SKA facility in Karoo. The study of radio waves, started in 1930 by Karl Jansky, can determine the relations between astral objects.

SKA

A RADIO TELESCOPE IN THE LAND OF ANCIENT ASTRONOMERS

The South African section of the Square Kilometre Array Telescope (KAT) is under construction in the semi-desert region of the Karoo, in South Africa. The land was inhabited by Bushmen tribes, since time immemorial; an ancient tribe who used astronomy to navigate the vast Country, in their nomadic lifestyle. Bushmen still occupy parts of Southern Africa, while they are now mostly scattered across Namibia and Botswana. In modern times, looking at the sky has acquired a new significance, thanks to the improved applications of radio telescope.

Words & Photographs: ALESSANDRO PARODI

an ideal position in the southern hemisphere, for the KAT installation: the wide prairies, dry climate and clear skies are the perfect collocation among the flat top hillocks of the Karee Mountains of the Northern Cape, in South Africa, with very little human interference from the small

village of Carnarvon close by, 560 kilometres from Cape Town. These are the ingredients for success where a significant portion of SKA will be built. The SKA (acronym for Square Kilometre Array) telescope is an international project that was started in 1991.

South Africa and Australia were chosen for their topography and location, after which followed the construction of the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT), and the vastly increased number of units, collectively called MeerKAT (MoreKat), presently still under construction, which will be incorporated into the SKA. The 1st phase should be completed by 2024, and the 2nd by 2030. The core of SKA is split between South Africa and Australia, in Carnarvon (RSA) and Boolardy (AUS). Eight partner countries around the African continent will also have radio telescopes to provide the global network of researchers with the world's most advanced radio astronomy array. The potential and importance of the project are best explained in the words of Lorenzo Raynard of SKA South Africa: "The applications of radio astronomy in everyday

life are beyond any expectation. Technological developments in communication and imaging that were derived from radio astronomy is now being used in fields such as medicine, security scanning methods and assessment of structural weaknesses in building, to name a few". If the astronomers, once, had to look at the galaxy to understand it, scientific research has now shifted to the analysis of correlations between astral bodies.

The study of radio waves, started in 1930 by Karl Jansky, aims to describe the relations between astral objects. Analysing the forces that operate between a known body and an unknown one, it will be possible to understand the latter. Radio observation might become a meaningful tool in the research on black holes and dark matter, which cannot be seen with telescopes. In fact, the existence of dark matter was first postulated by Jan Oort, a radio astronomer.

The same technology and heuristic process can have numerous applications, some of which are surprising in their effectiveness. "What these techniques will help us understand is how to deal with and make meaning of large volumes of data or Big Data", furthers Raynard. "Effectively analysing data that is being generated and collected globally all the time holds the promise of developing new applications that could potentially lead to smart cities, improved health care facilities and new markets". The use of the same technologies, today, can help the National Parks to identify the shot of a gun and locate poachers.



Resultant from the technology supplied, and employment offered to the locals, the SKA Development will have a major positive impact on the local Northern Cape communities, which have suffered severely under the negative socio-economic conditions associated with poverty.



Lorenzo Raynard,
SKA, South Africa.

Bringing the Cosmos so close to Mankind, SKA, will develop networks, and our human capital with the result, South Africa and our People will be pushed to the forefront, and will put the country in a leading position in tomorrow's world of technology. As part of the BRICS, South Africa will benefit from the cooperation with Brazil, China and India in the development of a skilled generation of engineers, to be active in SKA

The Human Capital Development Programme of SKA, started in 2004 thanks to the investments of the South African Government, which focuses on specialized education. The "Youth into Science and Engineering" project, established in 2005, has awarded 293 bursaries and created six research chairs in African Universities. For the next 50 years, the SKA will nurture the radio astronomy science intelligentsia of Africa.

Resultant from the technology supplied, and the employment offered to the locals, the SKA Development will have a major positive impact on the local Northern Cape communities, who have suffered severely under the negative socio-economic conditions associated with poverty: Illiteracy, substance abuse and teenage pregnancies and many other related ills, which used to leave little hope for people in the area. The combined effort of the Government and SKA has created job and business opportunities; produced undergraduate programs and support to local maths and science teachers; built labs and computer centres. The latest contribution by SKA has been in arts & culture, with the exhibition "Shared Sky", at the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town, between February and May 2015, which displayed contemporary, indigenous art from Southern Africa and Australia. The vision of SKA is to bring together under 'one sky' the

indigenous artists of South Africa and Australia, celebrating humanity's ancient cultural wisdom. Not only the Greeks and the Egyptians, known as forefathers of modern sciences, possessed knowledge of the stars and their observation. It appears that the ancient Southern hemisphere populations also 'followed' the stars.

The observation of the southern skies existed long before the arrival of the first colonisers. Discoveries made in 2000 in the Blombos Cave, on the South African coast, have proved that the first dwellers of the land had developed a sense of aesthetics and produced the first pieces of ancient art in Africa, known to archaeologists. The ancient peoples, San and Khoikhoi, who lived in the Karoo, left us remarkable art, of which some rock engravings have been proved to be of spiritual inspiration, and very likely motivated by the Cosmos.

Their beliefs, described by David Lewis-Williams and David Pearce in the essay *San Spirituality*, divided the universe in four domains. The 'camp' where they lived was the centre of culture and human life, opposed to the 'hunting ground', which represented nature and wilderness; the 'underground realm' was the place for the dead, opposed to the 'sky', where spiritual matters were dealt with. The conjunction of the four domains was the 'waterhole', where man and animals met and where the rains dig the soil.

It seems cosmology was the tool the Bushmen used to read the course of nature in the sky, to follow and expect changing seasons, to predict the rains and to find directions through the fierce Karoo. Through MeerKat and SKA South Africa now finds a clear route to the Macrocosmos. 📡

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DISCOVER A VILLAGE WITH ALTITUDE

"We are close. I can smell them". Agre, my Tanzanian guide in this rainforest, either has an acute sense of smell or an odd sense of humour. I wonder if the black and white Colobus monkeys are in heat, that he can smell them, but I don't ask. Agre scans each tree. But all I can see are leaves. The monkeys would have to be within a hundred metres, or they might as well be in Rome. Apparently I am not to worry, we will see them today. Agre sounds sure of himself.

Words & Photographs: MATHIEU DASNOIS





Agre, my Tanzanian guide in this Rain Forest, either has an acute sense of smell or an odd sense of humour.

We are walking in the Western Usambaras, part of the ancient Eastern Arc chain. The Swiss Alps of Tanzania, the Galapagos of Africa, prized for their cool climate and their extraordinary biodiversity.

The Magamba rainforest is a maze of unmarked paths, making tourism an opportunity for a young man who can speak very little English, as a guide. In theory, most of the guides like Agre work with community tourism initiatives, feeding the funds back into infrastructure, schools and other projects. In practice, each slags off the others as thieves and private money-makers. Who knows? Tourism could be the new 'cash crop'.

We weave quietly from path to path, between ancient ferns and over little streams, around old German built dams and down windy paths through patches of sunlight the size of my palm. Agre has lightened his step, and I follow suit, hunching in a ridiculous attempt to stay hidden. The giant trees, straight as massive arrows, sway from side to side, laughing at my foreign

stealth. Agre beckons me to a window in the leaves. "Look there".

The Colobus! The gap in the foliage is no bigger than my head and the monkeys are far away, but not far enough. They have seen us and are already scuttling away up a tall tree. Either my vaunted stealth failed or Agre's not the only one with a sense of smell.

He and I part at Irete viewpoint, on the edge of the Usambaras, where the mountains suddenly plummet to the vast Maasai steppe.

Most hikes here start from Lushoto, the regional capital and a great base from which to explore the area. The town lies in a bowl, surrounded by beautiful mist-shrouded peaks, etched with winding footpaths where many feet, walking always in single file, have revealed the red earth under the green of the hills. Cloud clings to the slopes, fighting the wind.

Life here is centered on the market and the bus station, with small restaurants and bars and barber shops and cramped houses and people selling what they can in the street to passing



The Village offers the few tourists who make it up here, breathtaking views from the edge of the Usambaras. For the locals, many of whom have to walk up and down winding paths, to get to the tomatoes, beans, and maize fields at the foot of the hills, Mtae's position remains a challenge.

buses or pedestrians. On Sundays, Lushoto comes to life. People from all over the mountains come for the market. The marketplace, where dried and fried fish and beans and lentils and rice and honey are sold, develops a chaotic arm that stretches through the streets, onto mats and kangas on the ground, around houses, until twisting alleyways are filled to bursting with people trying to pass each other without stepping on the vendors' wares. Pricelists develop into musical cries. Local fruit and vegetables dominate, with food displayed neatly on kangas of every colour, vendors shielded from the sun by even more colourful umbrellas. Nothing is drab. The market spills, unconfined over stalls, onto the creek bed, back into the road, wher-

ever a flat patch of red earth can be found. Lushoto is also the starting point for the five day hike to Mtae, often touted as the best walk in the Usambaras. We opt to go by bus, a spectacular four hour journey along green valleys dotted with villages, covered with the red dust thrown up by passing buses. Children, shouting and waving, run at our bus. Adults spread their arms in greeting and welcome. Many villagers come to the road, often the only one in the village, simply to watch the bus go past every day. Trade springs where villagers sell tiny bunches of fruit. One stall offers a few bananas, three corn cobs, and a handful of dried fish no bigger than my hand. In a world with few private vehicles, the buses bring mail, mes-



MAZUMBAI
FOREST RESERVE

HALMASHAURI YA WILAYA YA
LUSHOTO
SOKO KUU LA SONI
KARIBU KWA WAHITAJI-KA MAZAO YA
MROGAMBOGA, MATUNDA NA BIDHAA NYINGINE

We opt to go by bus, a spectacular four hour journey along green valleys dotted with villages covered in the red dust thrown up by passing buses. Children, shouting and waving, run at our bus. Adults spread their arms in greeting and welcome. Many villagers come to the road, often the only one in the village, simply to watch the bus go past every day.



The village offers the few tourists who make it up here breathtaking views from the edge of the Usambaras. For the locals, many of whom must walk up and down winding paths, to the tomatoes, beans, and maize fields at the foot of the hills, Mtae's position remains a challenge. But as in much of Tanzania, this burden is borne silently; the villagers carrying big loads on their heads, always smiling and laughing. Only when we ask, do we learn that they have been walking all day, as they do every day.

sages, money and goods. One passenger unloads a small cardboard box, wrapped in twine, contents unknown; two plastic bags; six pineapples, in two bunches, and a bicycle pump.

At Mtae, Rogers Shikuli meets us on the way to our hostel, offering his services as a guide to this small, quiet, and meticulously friendly farming town.

Mtae's altitude makes it an ideal position to acclimatise for Kilimanjaro, which is visible from here on clear days. The village offers the few tourists who make it up here breathtaking views from the edge of the Usambaras. For the locals, many of whom must walk up and down winding paths, to the tomatoes, beans, and maize fields at the foot of the hills, Mtae's position remains a challenge.

But, as in much of Tanzania, this burden is borne silently, the villagers carrying big loads on their heads, always smiling and laughing. Only when we ask do we learn that they have been walking all day, as they do every day.

Rogers takes me on what is supposed to be a leisurely stroll but "leisurely" takes on a different meaning in a mountain village.

On the way, we exchange greetings with almost everyone we pass. A sense of community permeates the thin mountain air; this is a place where the elderly are greeted with the utmost respect. "Shikamoo" or literally "I clasp your knees" is answered by "marahaba", "I acknowledge you". Many tourists don't know this; so a horde of children skulk around, clasping white knees, mostly unacknowledged by the foreigners.

Back in Mtae we are invited into Rogers' home, where his par-

ents welcome us with great kindness.

The language barrier is solid, but through Rogers 'thank-yous' that fly back and forth, we manage while we sit inside the tiny room where the only furniture is a wooden stool, which his father, Alfonso, made. Chickens walk freely through the house. They thank us for coming to their home, to Mtae, to the Usambaras. We thank them for their hospitality, their village, their kindness.

Outside, on the white mud wall, alongside the red geometric patterns, is a painted heart inscribed with the word "Karibuni", plural for welcome. Welcome to all.

We are offered plums from their tree. They apologise profusely that they have no more to give. We wring our empty hands, unprepared as we were for this visit. Later, over dinner at Mtae's only restaurant, we give Rogers a belated present, a bottle of honey from Lushoto. His brilliant smile assures us that it will be well-received.

After dinner Rogers takes me to the local bar. It's a small room with benches lining the walls and tables in the centre. All the furniture is wooden and wobbly, almost as old as the patrons who are getting slowly drunk on sugar-cane beer and liquor. I am hailed with great interest when I enter and given a place of honour next to the matron who controls the liquor. At \$0.10 cents, US, for a bottle of beer or a glass of strong spirit, a little goes a long, wobbly way. A few patrons try their luck, trying to get a free drink from the foreigner.

I don't have the heart to tell them that, because I only wanted a taste, the white guy got his drink for free. 🍷



bill Harrop is a vivid personality in South Africa's travel industry – quick to liven up a meeting with a witticism or quirky comment. Frivolities aside, he's never been afraid to dream large, and is today synonymous with having introduced commercial hot air ballooning to the country some 34 years ago.

If we flash back to 1972, we'd find the England-born Harrop working in Bermuda as a hotel management trainee-cum troubadour. By day he's learning the art of providing customer service to tourists, and by night he's strumming his guitar in bars and clubs. One of his musical performances even draws a compliment from Diana Ross. On weekends, he slakes his thirst for adventure by sailing yachts and speed boats.

Fast forward to the mid-70s when the young Harrop, now married to Mary, stops in South Africa for a look-see, and never leaves. The couple sell penny stocks, then fire extinguishers and later carpet cleaning and flooring services as they establish themselves. Now residing in landlocked Gauteng, Harrop sam-

ples other activities to satisfy his adventurous side. He finds an attempt at fixed-wing aircraft training to be "the aerial equivalent of riding a battered Volkswagen."

It all changes one day in 1976 when a hot air balloon flies over the Harrops' Randburg home and lands nearby. Harrop literally chases after it - the pilot is Terry Adams, one of the world's top balloonists, participating in the first balloon rally to be held in South Africa, which kicked off from the old airfield at Baragwaneth, Soweto. Adams then teaches Harrop to fly.

In no time, Harrop is hiring balloons from Adams and taking paying passengers on flights. Then comes a call from civil aviation authorities – Harrop remembers the date because it was April 1, no less - advising him that he needs to be licensed. As he waits out the licensing period, Harrop researches best locations for a commercial balloon flight operation.

He opted for the Magaliesberg River valley, which not only offers excellent weather conditions year-round, but scenic beauty. The ancient mountain range is also just a short drive from Johannesburg. Bill Harrop's Original Balloon Safaris is born.

FLOATING ON GENTLE ZEPHYRS

OVER THE VAST CONTINENT OF AFRICA

Balloon flights are wish list items for many. Bill Harrop, founder of South Africa's first commercial balloon flight operation, has made them a reality for thousands of happy passengers.

Words & Photographs: MICHELLE COLMAN

Ballooning has to be the most seductive form of sightseeing. At daybreak, when the air is stratified and before the earth heats up forming thermals, the motion is controlled and gentle, a weightless floating – if you closed your eyes you'd hardly discern any movement.

Soaring a kilometre above the earth, you fly at a level where landmarks can still be identified. Harrop's flight terrain includes the Segwati Game Reserve, Hartbeespoort Dam and the Cradle of Humankind, giving guests sightings of game, water and an age-old landscape where modern humans first stood upright. The activity is the safest of all aviation pursuits too, and injuries are rare.

Harrop's balloon experience begins at dawn – between 05:00 and 06:30 depending on the season. The launch site is at the company's Skeerpoort base, 45km north-west of Johannesburg's northern suburbs. There's freshly brewed coffee and just-baked muffins as passengers watch flight preparations from the patio of an Edwardian-style clubhouse. A 'whoosh' signals the lighting of propane gas burners which blow into billowing piles

of rainbow-coloured cloth, shaping them into magnificent orbs. Instruction on boarding and safety are given, and the flights last an hour or so. A bottomless glass of local bubbly is served in flight or on landing, which, according to the company literature, takes place "always in the shadow of the basket, wherever that may be."

Passengers are returned to the clubhouse by vehicle for a slap-up breakfast, where a menu highlight is Harrop's take on Northumbrian oatmeal porridge - "with a pinch (of salt), a sprinkle (of sugar), a dollop (of cream) and a dribble (of whiskey)", he quips. Passengers leave with a citation marking their "courage and fortitude to ascend (as few other earthly mortals would dare) up in to the aether...in an aerostat floating on the gentle zephyrs over the vast continent of Africa."

The experience is pricey, and as such a bucket list item. Many of Harrop's customers book it as a celebratory activity, to mark a significant birthday or anniversary, or to 'pop the question'. Ballooning is also widely used for corporate team building or incentive events. Mindful of budgetary constraints, Harrop mar-





Harrop owns six balloons accommodating three to twenty passengers and costing between R1million and R2million. They must be transported by a fleet of vehicles and trailers, and each carries a hefty insurance ticket of up to R26million.

kets the Bill Harrop Original Safaris as a five-star product, but also offers two other brands – Cloud 9 Balloon Rides, a four-star experience for “high flyers at down to earth prices”, and the no-frills Action Balloon Flights offering the best possible prices without compromising on safety.

All operations represent a sizeable investment in the South African travel industry. Harrop owns six balloons accommodating 3 – 20 passengers and costing between R1million and R2million. They must be transported by a fleet of vehicles and trailers, and each carries a hefty insurance ticket of up to R26million. Their maintenance warrants one-and-a-half engineering staff, while maintenance of aviation instruments is sub-contracted. The monthly order of propane gas amounts to over 10 tons. Permanent staff number 23, including three pilots selected for their safety records, people skills and company-mindedness. Some staff members have been afforded overseas training on Harrop’s account.

In coming weeks, Harrop will host his 100 000th passenger. The peer review website, TripAdvisor, has just conferred a Certificate of Excellence on Bill Harrop’s Original Balloon Safaris. The award recognises entities that consistently earn great reviews from travellers.

After three-and-a-half decades gliding around the Magaliesberg skies, Harrop plans to step back in years to come. For the moment, his eye is on perfecting systems and enhancing company culture, so that the business remains profitable and sustainable. He is also heading up an initiative by the adventure tourism industry to self-regulate, based on best practice scenarios from around the world. “But, I will never be out of touch with the coalface,” he promises. 🍷



PLAYING WITH THE PAST

Eight hundred years ago, the Great Mosque of Kilwa was a spectacular tribute to the richest state on the East African coast. Today it is a playground. The children are a ragtag bunch with split trousers, climbing over broken walls and running under ancient alcoves tinged yellow with age. They delight in the camera. They skip between old stone pillars, shout under the domed roof of the mosque, pose in the alcove which faces Mecca, just to be seen through my lens. Their home is in the Unesco World Heritage Site of Kilwa Kisiwani, on the southern coast of Tanzania.

Words & Photographs: MATHIEU DASNOIS





The little village on the island in Kilwa Kisiwani is home to barely 1200 people, merely a tenth of the number who used to sleep behind its walls. Today most survive on fishing and tourism.

Kilwa was once a thriving port city hugging the trade lanes of East Africa, rich from the trade in Great Zimbabwe's gold. The city claimed dominion over most of the islands and city-states of the east

coast, all the way to Mombasa in modern day Kenya, across to Madagascar, and south to Mozambique. The town's wealth was legendary, mentioned by Milton in Paradise Lost; its beauty was praised by the Arab explorer Ibn Battuta and the Portuguese captain Francisco d'Almeida; it traded with the Middle East, India, and even China, as early as the 11th century.

Today the great round towers of the 18th century Omani fortress provide shade for boat repairs.

We meet the children in the 12th century Great Mosque, playing unsupervised in the ruins.

The Great Palace of Husuni Kubwa, also built in the 12th century, is only kilometres away but we barely make it on foot. It is mid-morning during the hottest part of the year, and the heat is alive. A blanket of humidity, a tangible presence around us cut by rivers of sweat. It eventually inches into us as we dehydrate, in-

vading our head with tendrils of pain starting above the neck and working forward. We guzzle our water as fast as we can, while our guide refuses any. He says he is fine and needs no water. I will come to miss this humid blanket when I leave Tanzania, but now I want only to hide from it.

Along the narrow winding footpath we glimpse villagers drawing water from a centuries-old well, deeper and cleaner than the new one.

Though these tours are touted as "community tourism" and the proceeds supposedly go back into the community, the people of the island are entirely uninvolved, and appear largely uninterested. Information about the village and villagers is given when asked, but not volunteered. Perhaps most tourists care only about the past.

The palace, Husuni Kubwa, is disappointing. Of its one hundred rooms, courtyard and octagonal pool built on the edge of a cliff, only the foundations are visible. The walls and roof are long gone.

But what is clear is its scope. It was huge.

There was probably a fishing community here before Persian settlers from Shiraz got rich taxing the trade of the Swahili coast. Fruit was grown locally as it is today. Meat was imported from the mainland, as it is today. Sail-powered mashua dhows still ply



The children are a ragtag bunch with split trousers, climbing over broken walls and running under ancient alcoves tinged yellow with age.



The little village on the island in Kilwa Kisiwani is home to barely 1200 people, a tenth of the number who used to sleep behind its walls. Today most survive on fishing and tourism.

the channel between the village and the mainland, as they did then, carrying goods and people. Today there are fish traps along the coast under the palace pool.

Kilwa Kisiwani has gone from a small local fishing village, to a huge Persian trading hub, to a Portuguese outpost, to an Omani town, and back to a small fishing village.

North of Kisiwani, is the sandy harbour town of Kilwa Kivinje, whose wealth was tied to the slave trade, long after its southern island neighbour had fallen to ruin. Caravans snaked across the dry hinterlands to the coast where the slaves were packed into ships headed for Zanzibar, Madagascar or Reunion. Today's big jihazi dhows ply the waters to the north and south with very different cargo.

Villagers walk at low tide to the dhows at the water's edge, returning with bright green buckets filled with fish. Thousands of tiny black crabs scuttle across the sand. Families catch boat rides to the islands of Songo Songo or Mafia, or south to Lindi.

The town bleeds history. Intricately carved doorways in the old Swahili style rot in the blistering sun, the old German boma has long lost its roof. Families have taken shelter in yesterday's colonial administration, a child shooing us away as we tentatively ap-

proach. Behind the boma are Swahili houses with broken walls, trees melting into walls melting back into trees, rubbish for floors.

Pockmarked walls are a reminder of the mangrove poles that would once have supported a roof here, a stairwell there. Open stairs lead into broken archways, giving a view over nothing but broken walls.

Residents wander through the ruins wearing bright yellow T-shirts made in China. Conservatively dressed Muslim women lead wide-eyed children, their toy a stick with a plastic water bottle at one end.

We meet a local elder, Simba, who's name means "lion" in Swahili. He is a welcoming, kind, gentle, and bitter old man of 69 years. He has lived through colonialism to independence, Uhuru, to Nyerere's socialist Ujamaa, to the IMF-friendly policy that the country has today. In all these years, he says, through all these disparate policies, Kilwa Kivinje did not change.

"I had a teacher, long time ago. He told me, we [Africans] just help each other to die. I remember... Now we are all waiting to die."

"There are no factories here, no work". He sees our fascination



Pockmarked walls are a reminder of the mangrove poles that would once have supported a roof here, a stairwell there. Open stone stairs lead into broken archways, giving a view over nothing but broken walls

Kilwa was once a thriving port city straddling the trade lanes of East Africa, rich from the trade in Great Zimbabwe's gold. The city claimed dominion over most of the islands and city-states of the east coast, all the way to Mombasa in modern day Kenya, across to Madagascar, and south to Mozambique.

with his town, doesn't resent us for it, nor, I suspect, does he believe that a few factories will truly revive the picturesque old town's fortunes any more than will a few tourists. When we

leave, he asks us for money, apologising as he does so. His tone suggests an intense dislike for this part of the 'job', and I suspect he would show us his town for free, if he could.

The hub of the region now is Kilwa Masoko. Historically the least interesting of the three settlements, this is now where the money is. Masoko is the place to find a decent hotel, with a half-dozen beach resorts providing fishing trips, safaris to Selous game reserve, or excursions to the nearby islands. We stayed on the beach, in a bright blue chalet with wonderful sunrise views across the sea and excellent food, coconut calamari and grilled tuna.

Cheaper but decent lodging can be found in town, where the few restaurants serve the standard fare of ugali (maize meal) or chips with some kind of meat in tomato sauce or fried fish. It is almost as good as it is cheap, and is eaten with the hands in the Swahili style.

In sharp contrast to Kivinje, Masoko is modern, solid, and clean. Banks have replaced empty houses, restaurants have replaced crumbling walls, accountants saunter past the market in crisp suits. It's a useful gateway to the region in general and to Kisiwani in particular. It's from here that the local boats and the expensive tours from the big hotels leave for the old ruins. In the microcosm of time that is Kilwa, Masoko is the new, Kivinje is the old, and Kisiwani is the eternal. 📍



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THE KARO TRIBE

ETHIOPIA'S INDIGENOUS SOCIETY
WHO EXCELS IN BODY PAINTING

Currently in the Horn of Africa, there are ethnic tribes whose exotic traditions and way of life remain untouched by the modern world.

Words: MOZA MOYO

The Lower Omo Valley in southern Ethiopia is home to over a dozen different tribes, who have lived there for centuries. Forming part of the estimated 200 000 indigenous people inhabiting the area are the Karo, who have a population of about 1000 to 2000, making them the smallest ethnic tribe in Ethiopia, probably on the continent as a whole. A deadly scourge of sleeping sickness is reported to have reduced their population at the end of the nineteenth century. The Karo dwell along the banks of the Omo River (according to oral tradition, they settled at the Omo after following a red bull there, almost two centuries ago) and largely rely on the river's annual flood for sustenance – much like the ancient Egyptians who lived along the Nile thousands of years ago. The Karo predominantly practice flood retreat cultivation, growing sorghum, maize, and beans. They also fish and breed cattle and goats.





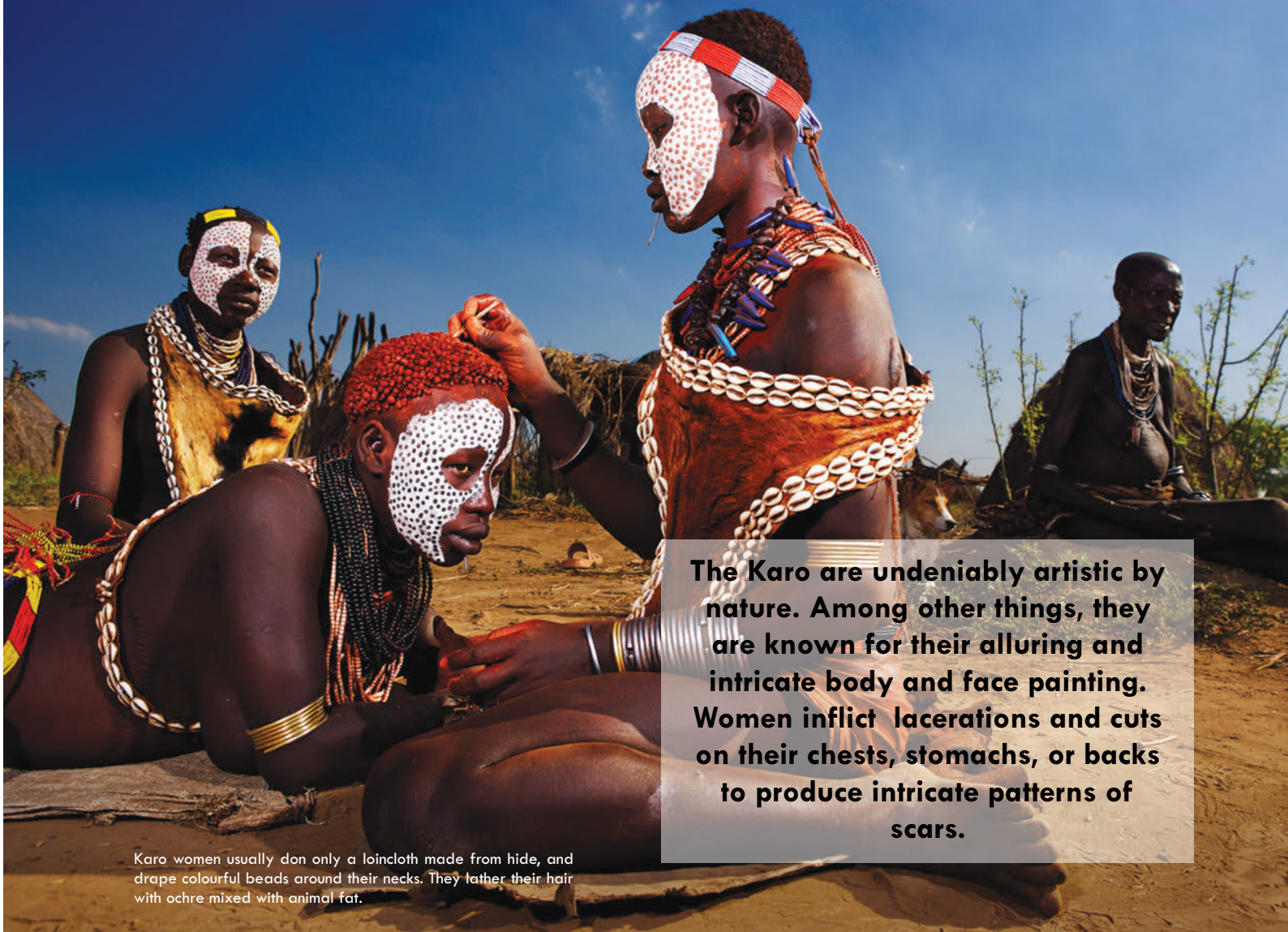
The Karo Tribe of Ethiopia: A unique ethnic tribes whose exotic traditions and way of life remain untouched by the modern world.

Surrounded by more powerful and wealthier tribes, they created a complex social hierarchy to thwart intermarriage and keep their lineages pure. Their neighbours include the Hamar, Bana, Bashada, Nyangatom, and Mursi. The groups have always traded amongst each other for cloth, beads, cattle, and food. The Karo are closely related to the Hamar tribe, who speak virtually identical Omotic languages. These two tribes are of the same ancestry and some of their cultural practices allude to a rich shared cultural history.

The Karo are undeniably artistic by nature. Among other things, they are known for their alluring and intricate body and face painting. They decorate their bodies with locally found white chalk, yellow mineral rock, iron ore and charcoal. This is an elab-

orate process with designs ranging from simple and fine dots to rough but remarkable lines traced with palms or fingers. Animal motifs such as the spotted plumage of the guinea fowl are some of the striking body painting designs they do. Both men and women practice this symbolic and ornamental expression in a bid to appear more attractive to the opposite sex. It's also done on special occasions.

Beauty is an important aspect of the Karo's cultural tradition, and for the women, it is literally ingrained deep in their bodies. Women inflict lacerations and cuts on their chests, stomachs, or backs to produce intricate patterns of scars. Again, all this is done for beauty reasons, as a woman with these types of scars on her torso is considered mature and attractive. The scars are cut with



Karo women usually don only a loincloth made from hide, and drape colourful beads around their necks. They lather their hair with ochre mixed with animal fat.

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a knife or razor and ash is rubbed in to produce a permanent welt. Men scarify themselves too, but for a different reason: To symbolise courageous acts. If you see a Karo man with scars across his chest, you know that he has bravely killed enemies from rival tribes or a deadly animal. A man sporting scars on his chest is held in high esteem in his community. Each scar represents a single kill. Another merit bestowed on brave Karo warriors is the right to wear a grey and red ochre clay hair bun. Ostrich feathers are inserted in the hair bun to complete the stylish look. This coveted clay hair bun is often remade every three to six months, and can be worn for a period of up to one year.

Karo women usually don only a loincloth made from hide, and drape colourful beads around their necks. They lather their hair with ochre mixed with animal fat.

As expected, the Karo have specific rituals and ceremonies that define their culture. Like the Hamar and Bashada, they practice the Bula, or bull jumping, which signifies the coming of age for young men. An initiate has to prove his readiness for manhood by

successfully jumping over a row of cattle six times consecutively. Those who fail are disgraced while the successful boys qualify to marry and earn the right to appear in sacred places with elders of the clan. But there's a catch: a young man can only marry if his older brothers have done so already.

It is remarkable how, in the age of Internet revolutions and globalisation, the customs of the Omo tribes continue to survive and remain untainted. The only signs of a modern world in the Omo are plastic containers for fetching water from the river, T-shirts (which they hardly wear), and AK-47 riffles. The AK-47, which has flooded the region due to the on-going conflict in neighbouring Sudan and Somalia, has become the Omo tribes' weapon of choice for protection against enemies and to protect their livestock from wild beasts.

The Omo Valley is truly unique. Its significance has been recognised by UNESCO, which named it a World Heritage Site in 1980. Simply put, no other place in the world boasts such a wide variety of people with such diverse cultures. Absolutely awe-inspiring stuff. 📍



TALANA

MUSEUM

Africa's Finest Historical Museum

Photographs: JOHN MENSAH

Situated one kilometre outside Dundee on the Vryheid road in Northern Kwa-ZuluNatal province of South Africa, is no repository of dusty ancient tomes and yellowing photographs. Situated on some 20 acres of park-like ground, the museum houses extensive collections relating to the area's rich coal mining history, glassworks, agriculture, cultural diversity and, of course, the exceptional military heritage of the area. There are some 68 battle sites within two hours drive of Dundee, covering the period 1820 to 1906. And, of course, the Museum has not forgotten the townsfolk's contribution to both World Wars, the first of which is commemorated by a new World War 1 exhibit.

The names of the battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift still resonate through the ages. They inspired two films, "Zulu" and "Zulu Dawn", and enthralled generations of military enthusiasts. The site of the battle of Blood River/ Ncome is just around the corner. Indeed, the Museum itself is situated on the field of the first major battle of the Anglo Boer War, Talana, which took place on 20 October 1899. All these, and more, are commemorated in the refurbished Anglo Boer and Anglo Zulu War exhibit.

The Museum hosts tens of thousands of visitors annually, which just goes to show that history and heritage still have a place in modern society.

Mohandas Gandhi once walked here. So did Lord Roberts, Lord

Chelmsford, Louis Botha, Ntshingwayo kaMahole Khoza, Ndlela kaSompisi and Lukas Meyer, amongst other notable personalities.

Annual battle re-enactments and historical carnivals have taken place on the Museum grounds since the Anglo Boer War Centenary in 1999. This year's one will be the biggest and best yet! Scheduled for the weekend of 16 – 18 October, amongst the attractions will be two Boer War battle re-enactments, a massive vintage car rally, a recreation of the Johannesburg mineworker's march (the original march took place on the outbreak of the Boer War, when expatriate Zulu mineworkers were brought home, on foot, from Johannesburg to Hattingspruit Station); red-coat displays, the Caledonian pipe band, Boer and Brit. military camps, game drives, miniature railway rides, stalls and much more.

Join the British army for a short while, learn Victorian drill and receive your Queen's shilling. Meet our ghosts – and yes, there are more than a few. Watch the military parade through town and take part in the Mineworker's March. Overnight and rough it, if you dare, in either the Boer or British camps. Be entertained by the historical tours, discussion groups and lectures on offer. Try the Saturday evening braai at the MOTH Shellhole and the historical walk around town on Sunday morning, viewing churches, historical buildings and the courthouse where Gandhi was sentenced to 60 days imprisonment.

Come have a blast for the weekend – literally! 🇿🇦



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A TRAIN CALLED **PHELOPHEPA**

"There is a train eagerly awaited by everyone fortunate enough to be on the line – The Phelophepa Train. It is a powerful force for healing, change and development in the communities it touches". Kofi Annan

Words: ALESSANDRO PARODI
Photographs: TRANSNET PHELOPHEPA HEALTHCARE



healthcare and assistance in South Africa travel on rail. The two Transnet Phelophepa Healthcare trains travel across the South African Rail corridor delivering primary healthcare to thousands of South African communities in need. They are fully fitted with advanced technologies and expert healthcare, making affordable, accessible healthcare a reality for thousands that otherwise would not be able to receive these services.

The Phelophepa project was started by the Transnet Foundation in 1994, year of the Liberation from the Apartheid regime. It is patronized by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Since then, numerous partners from across the world have joined the project in a philanthropic effort to meet the health needs of the rural population. "Transnet started a unique project", says Shamona Kandia, Senior Manager at the

Transnet Foundation. "Phelophepa is the only one of a kind in the world that provides primary healthcare services. There are other trains, for example in India, but this is dedicated solely to surgeries".

The rough translation of 'Phelophepa' means 'good, clean health' and is derived from the Tswana / Sotho languages. Indeed, the promise of world class treatment is maintained by the highly professional staff. The trains provide general health, dental, optometry and psychological assistance. The project also has a mobile health unit, sponsored by the Swiss Friends of Phelophepa association. Where individuals cannot come to the train station for treatment, teams of experts go out to them providing free health screening, education and testing services, which include vision and dental screening in the communities themselves. The Phelophepa outreach also provides psychology education and well being programmes focusing on themes such as anti-bullying, abuse and self-esteem. Key messages are



The services offered on board of the trains are constantly expanding. The project started twenty years ago as a three coach eye clinic and has grown to incorporate health, dental, eye, psychology assistance and the provision of medications through its on-board pharmacy.

often conveyed through puppet shows, delivered in local vernacular for ease of understanding of the programme content. The services offered on board of the trains are constantly expanding. The project started twenty years ago as a three coach eye clinic and has grown to incorporate health, dental, eye, psychology assistance and the provision of medications through its on-board pharmacy. The project has been supported by F Hoffmann-La Roche since inception who still is the main external

The Phelophepa project was started by the Transnet Foundation in 1994, year of the Liberation from the Apartheid regime. It is patronized by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Since then, numerous partners from across the world have joined the convoy in a philanthropic effort to meet the health needs of the rural population.

sponsor. Other sponsors also contribute to the project's success through collaboration, including Colgate Palmolive South Africa and 3 M South Africa.

Since January 2015, the trains have been equipped with medical tactile thermal imaging machines to enhance early breast cancer detection in patients visiting the trains. Detection of tumours is a major improvement to the life expectancy of the villagers involved in the project. The continuous attention and care required to treat cancer are generally unavailable to those who live far from a city and whose livelihood is derived from practical work or those even unemployed or subsisting on a state income grant. The intervention of the nurses of Phelophepa allows the patients to receive prompt treatment, increasing the chances of a life-saving cure.

The Phelophepa trains do not substitute, but complement, the operations of the local health infrastructures, mostly primary healthcare clinics. The services re-occur at short intervals, usually two weeks apart. There are no doctors present on board of the trains, only certified nurses, and many students who assist them, to provide support to a huge basin of patients, thanks to a proven method of procedures. They are not able to perform operations or follow up with the developments of a disease or infection. Despite the limitations, the rendered services have led throughout the years to an increasing expertise among the staff on-board, especially concerning the unique conditions prevalent in certain communities. Working with advanced equipment, they remain up to date with progress in the field of primary health-care and apply their knowledge to the advantage of their pa-



■ Phelophepa is the only one of a kind in the world that provides primary healthcare services. The two Transnet Phelophepa Healthcare trains are fully fitted with advanced technologies and expert healthcare, making affordable, accessible healthcare a reality for thousands that otherwise would not be able to receive these services.

tients.

Entire communities benefit from the project provided by the two trains, the activities by the Phelophepa teams reach the masses of people and influence everybody's lives with significant improvements. The local chiefs and spiritual leaders mostly cooperate with the healthcare professionals in an effort to destigmatize myths around life-threatening diseases. Traditional healers also get consulted and at times work hand in hand with the nurses to provide herbal treatments. Local labour from the communities is also used for general assistance.

A multitude of letters of appreciation, sent from the districts where Phelophepa is active, convey the gratitude of the people. Cllr. T. Jakobo, Major of the Setsoto Municipality, describes the "tireless efforts, hope and smiles this train brought to a multitude of our people". "The train", writes Kroonstad LOC Coordinator N. R. Thabe, "leaves a lasting legacy and touches the lives of so many people in positive ways". Mangaung District Manager N. Sondiyazi also confirms the importance of such a project: "The continued use of the service by the community confirms that the service is of good quality and it address the needs".

By the end of 2015, the two trains will have visited more than

seventy communities all over the country. The only province that will not be directly affected is Gauteng – the region of Johannesburg and Pretoria – due to its urban character. The locations to be visited were selected methodically which included statistical researches, the use of reports from the Ministry of Health and focus groups with the local civil societies. The route of the trains may change every year, as positive results render the communities independent from the provision of further aid.

The work of Phelophepa seems to have an extraordinary human impact and to shrink the gap between city life and the rural conditions. Such discrepancies are vast in the fast expanding South Africa, where the lifestyle of world class cities does not reach the remote shores of the Limpopo River or the depths of the Kalahari Desert.

"The community of Waterval Boven are overwhelmed by the improvements rendered to their lives", writes Chairperson S.G. Phetla. And Ms. Kandia adds: "Our Phelophepa staff leave their families behind and make great personal sacrifices to drive the Phelophepa services which are often life-changing. The patients often cover us with small gifts and tokens of appreciation and shower us with extreme affection".

In October, the two trains will stop for routine maintenance and for technical updates. In the beginning of 2016, they will be back on their track, carrying along a new load of hope and 'clean, good health'. 📍

BIOCARBON PARTNERS

COMMUNITY BASED FOREST PROTECTION PROJECTS

Godfrey Phiri knows deep in his heart that climate change will place greater pressure on African communities, particularly in Zambia, his homeland. "Zambia in the southern African region is a significant emitter of greenhouse gases that drive global warming," he says. "Reality is catching up with us, as seen in the semi-droughts and poor rainfall - resulting in poor crop yields. This is visible today and communities are feeling it."

Words: JANIS THERON

■ Godfrey Phiri, Senior Community Engagement Manager - BioCarbon Partners, facilitating community engagement at the center of community forest protection in Zambia.



For Phiri, climate change means diminished availability of food and natural resources, essential for human health, biodiversity health and ecosystem health in Zambia.

And he should know. Phiri has two university degrees one in Philosophy and another in Development Studies. He recently also qualified in Management, REDD+ Project implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation for Impact and Leadership. Over and above his background in community development, he is a Headman for the village of his birth and a well-spoken, charismatic advocate for community-based forest protection projects.

So what does it all mean, these titles and accolades, for someone who was brought up by his elder brother, who left his parents' house when he was a mere eight years old? It is a huge honor, when you consider that Godfrey comes from a very

time-honored background where traditional authorities had a huge influence on the lives of the local people.

"As a young boy, life was so fast but it was easy for me to catch up and easy to make adjustments," says Phiri. "Being Chewa and a Phiri I come from the aristocrats of the Chewa tribe and tradition had a great influence on me in Katete, a town which I later worked in, after graduating from University."

In those days he was an absentee Headman because he only visited his village, instead of staying there. The village Headman was the person appointed to administer an area that is usually a single village and he often had to act as mediator in personal disputes and relationships.

Phiri smiles: "I was born into this since my tribe is matrilineal and women are the depository of authority and kingship. In my tribe, as my mother's son, I take over from my uncle because according to the Chewa tribe I belong to my uncle - that is, my



mother's brother." Today, Godfrey Phiri has moved on, so to speak, and is employed by BioCarbon Partners (BCP), a social enterprise which works in countries like Zambia to try to kick start new approaches to its carbon projects by finding community-based solutions to deforestation, positively driving change. These projects come from a core philosophy of caring for people and environments and simultaneously find solutions to deforestation. These projects need to come from the community itself and they need to benefit the landscapes wherein these people live.

The core focus of BCP is on using innovative partnership-based 'Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation' (REDD+) projects – which is where Phiri comes into the picture.

"I got involved in community-based forest protection projects (CFP) by employment based on the qualification I have and the passion I have to use community-based natural resources management for local area development and to contribute to long term reduction in climate change," he says.

He can already see the impacts of climate change on local Zambians - there is increasing internal migration because a large number of people have left the southern province after clearing forests there and have gone in search of virgin land, causing deforestation in other areas. "This is going to affect people's lifestyles... My village has more than 26 families but, of late, many have moved into town for employment and just visit the village."

For Phiri it is therefore imperative that "we work to prepare communities to deal with the adverse impacts that climate change will bring about. " And REDD+ is one mechanism that can be used to greatly combat climate change, as it has both economic and climate improvement benefits. So how does one explain REDD+ in layman's terms? It is a worrying fact that deforestation (loss of natural trees and forests through unsustainable human impacts) and forest degradation (dilapidation of forests through human misuse) make up 17-29% of green house gas emissions

worldwide. And if humans start to reduce these causes of gas emissions, it will be one of the cheapest strategies to slow down climate change.

If we try to regrow forests on degraded lands where they have been removed, this can help to reduce the build-up of CO2 from the overloaded atmosphere by replacing biomass (plant and animal based materials).

"At BioCarbon Partners I am Senior Community Engagement Manager, facilitating community engagement as the center of community forest protection. It is my conviction the through BioCarbon Partners, Zambia's natural resource based value chains will make a great contribution to local economies, forest land cover and improve the country's biodiversity," says Phiri.

He is also adamant his work will greatly contribute towards the East and Central trans-frontier eco-system management, in a bid to improve the quality of water, increase rainfall, and enhance wildlife movement by enriching and extending wildlife corridors.

BCP's mission is to reduce poverty and enhance conservation through global forest carbon markets. The small company has more than 20 different types of community-based deforestation mitigation activities planned for completion in the Project Zone for their current pilot REDD+ activities in Rufunsa District – an area where deforestation rates are 11 times Zambia's national average of 250-300,000 hectares per year! BCP is now in the process of expanding their activities into the Eastern

Province of Zambia where they have a similar approach and will launch similar types of activities.

BCP has discovered that some 70% of households in this area depend on the production of charcoal and this dependency among households is as high as 90%.

"Community-based forest management also relates to tourism because forests are the habitat for wildlife and with healthy forests you have an improved biodiversity and increased tourism." says Phiri.

"Climate change is real and is perhaps the greatest threat to the viability of economies and communities. The ever increasing unsustainable consumption of forest based fuels, and infrastructure developments are driving deforestation. Global temperatures are predicted to rise by up to 5.8° C by 2100. This will result in a sea level rise of up to 88 cm and disrupt global weather and rainfall patterns. "

"Global sea level has risen by about 20 cm since reliable record keeping began in 1880. It is projected to rise between 50cm and 1.5 meters by 2100."

People need to learn how to adapt and cope with the expected impacts of climate change. We can all make adjustments in the ways we respond to actual or expected changes in climate. We can all work together to reduce the harmful effects – this Phiri terms community-based Adaptation.

"Our management style has been adaptive which contributed to our long term mission and vision. It is interesting and I love this job." 📍



Rolling Out Professional **PROCUREMENT** IN AFRICA

Spending on infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to reach \$180bn a year by 2025, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PWC) 2014 report. People need roads and railways, schools and hospitals, water, power and access to health services and medical supplies.

Words: ELAINE PORTEOUS



Public Private Partnerships (PPP)s combine the skills and resources of both the public and private sectors. Governments benefit from the operational expertise of the private sector so they can focus on policy, planning and regulation.

Spending in the public sector has been hampered by poor governance and compliance, limited awareness of risk factors and how to manage them. The reasons for this are plenty – lack of access to the right training and resources, poorly defined policies and minimum guidelines and supervision.

Until now, qualified procurement people working in the public sector in Africa have been unable to easily share their knowledge, challenges and solutions in a systematic and sustainable way. Change is now underway. Organizations like the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), the World Bank and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are taking bold steps to rectify these deficiencies.

The corruption challenge

"The misuse of entrusted power for private gain" is one accepted definition of corruption. Corruption in public procurement takes various forms: bribery, conflict of interest, abuse of privileged information, nepotism and acceptance of hospitality.

According to the YouGov Survey conducted by CIPS in 2014, corruption adds 25% to public procurement in developing countries in addition to other "leakage" due to fraud.

In the 2014 Transparency International (TI) list of Africa's most corrupt and unethical countries, Somalia, Angola, Libya, Sudan and South Sudan are the most corrupt, partly due to conflicts and fragile politics. José Ugaz, Chairman of TI said:

"Countries at the bottom need to adopt radical anti-corruption measures in favour of their people. Countries at the top of the index should make sure they don't export corrupt practices to underdeveloped countries."

Overcoming the obstacles

Supply contracts are generally unavailable for public scrutiny, rendering the contracting process vulnerable to corruption and mismanagement. A recent innovation is the Open Contracting Data Standard, supported by The World Bank, UNDP and USAID, which aims to enhance and promote more disclosure and better participation. This initiative, along with E-Procurement systems, greatly improves the effectiveness of the procurement process.

The UNDP and CIPS have entered into a partnership with the main objective of improving accountability, corporate governance and transparency in public procurement. Speaking on behalf of UNDP, Jens Wandel said "a licencing structure will ensure the profession gains formal recognition of its status and can attract higher calibre individuals". CIPS is the leading procurement and supply professional organization in the world with more than 100 000 members across the globe.

In the Regions

The government in South Africa has made a major move towards curbing wasteful spending, controlling corruption and making its supply chain sourcing processes more efficient. In 2013, a Chief Procurement Officer was appointed. His first big initiative was to launch an e-tender publication portal and a central supplier database, expected to save the state billions of rands. "The benefit for the private sector will be a reduction of red tape and administrative effort when doing business with government," a spokesman for The Treasury said.

In Ghana, the government has made great strides to reform its public procurement system holistically and tackle underlying issues affecting performance such as a patchwork legal framework, a weak civil service system, and a lack of access to



Until now, qualified procurement people working in the public sector in Africa have been unable to easily share their knowledge, challenges and solutions in a systematic and sustainable way.

information. A major contribution has been made by the World Bank in its Energy Development and Access Project where the development objective is to increase the population's access to electricity. In Nigeria, Babs Omotowa, CEO of Nigeria LNG Ltd and CIPS

“ There are many opportunities ahead as Africa’s economy grows. Local investment to build capacity and improved infrastructure will be critical. The long-term advantages of enhanced local development, alongside the empowerment of a generation to participate directly in their nation’s wealth of resource, are well worth pursuing.”

President, is optimistic about the role procurement will play in the future of Africa’s development. “There are many opportunities ahead as Africa’s economy grows. Local investment to build capacity and improved infrastructure will be critical. The long-term advantages of enhanced local development, alongside the empowerment of a generation to participate directly in their nation’s wealth of resource, are well worth pursuing.”

The East African Community (EAC) is seeking to adopt one public procurement procedure across Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. In the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) the World Bank reports that collaboration among the governments within MENA region is the key to realizing efficient procurement and good governance.

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) combine the skills and resources of both the public and private sectors. Governments benefit from the operational expertise of the private sector so they can focus on policy, planning and regulation. One notable on-going project is the Renewable Energy Independent Power Procurement Program (REIPPPP) in South Africa, driven by The Department of Energy (DoE). The economic benefit of the program has outweighed the costs with competitively priced and clean electricity generated for the country of more than 2000MW. Other PPP achievements have been in water supply, irrigation and education. 



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Africa's Banking Sector

MOVING ALONG WITH THE FLOW?

The banking sector in Africa is poised for take-off and is providing great growth opportunities to those organizations that are bold enough to climb aboard. Up until recently, global major banks like Barclays and Standard Chartered have led the way but mostly through focusing on safer and high-margin activities in corporate and business banking. This has been very lucrative; the average return on capital in Africa is heading towards 25%, the highest rate available in the world.

Words: ELAINE PORTEOUS

Not much has been done to support the man-in-the-street. African-based banks and insurance companies with Pan-African ambitions have the potential to transform the lives of millions of consumers across the continent. Their identified markets are the under-banked sector, i.e. lower income people, and the under-insured, both areas are still relatively unexplored, except in South Africa.

Risk vs Reward

The faint-hearted or risk-averse companies need not apply. Reasons why global banks and insurance companies have not expanded at great speed into African countries has been because of political instability, economic disruption and over-regulation as well as perceived limited profit potential.

The former head of Barclays, Bob Diamond and the Ugandan entrepreneur Ashish Thakkar co-founded Atlas Mara in 2013. CEO John Vitalo said in an interview, "We're building the premier sub-Saharan African financial institution by making a number of acquisitions to establish our geographic footprint, then we will integrate and grow those acquisitions." So far Atlas Mara has operations in seven

African countries, including Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Botswana. They have just announced their first profit for the last financial year at US\$4.1m.

Pan-African initiatives

South African based banks still dominate the upper reaches of the Top 50 African banks table. Ecobank, with its origins in Togo, is the Pan African bank with the broadest geographical reach, followed by Standard Bank of South Africa which has the biggest asset base. Nigerian banks also figure highly; the Central Bank of Nigeria and the First Bank of Nigeria are both present in more than 10 countries. Much of Nigeria's own growing population lacks access to basic banking services such as deposit and savings accounts, consumer and car loans, and other credit. Nigeria presents a huge banking opportunity for investors.

Five Kenyan banks are among the ten African banks with the highest return on assets. Kenya leads micro-lending (loans to small and medium enterprises) by value in Africa – higher than South Africa. Its main business bank, Kenya Commercial Bank is now expanding into South Sudan. Outside sub-Saharan Africa, banks from Morocco such as Attijariwafa Bank and some from Egypt are pursuing Pan-



Experts say many bank branches across Africa will soon come to look like an Apple store.

African strategies.

Technology

A big opportunity for the banks will be technology to obtain access to the under-banked, i.e.: online banking, mobile money, cell phone banking. The telecommunications sector has been the leader in these innovations, developing the solutions for banks to implement, particularly in East Africa.

Kenya's Safaricom launched the hugely successful M-Pesa mobile money transfer platform. M-Pesa now has more than 18 million active users, but Kenyans also use rival services such as Zap and yu-Cash. Equity Bank, Kenya's largest bank by customer base, is hoping to provide some competition to M-Pesa to attract new customers and encourage more transactions.

The under-insured

The level of penetration of insurance in Africa is very low, even in relatively affluent countries. Outside Southern Africa, only 1.5% of the population on average has insurance, with one exception being Kenya, which has become an insurance success story at a coverage of >3%. Some African countries with a large Muslim population may support Takaful, a risk management approach based on Shari'ah principles, which is not yet fully available. Insurance penetration in

Ethiopia is <1%.

Insurance CEOs are seeing more opportunities in the industry than a few years ago. "The fact that people have a longer life expectancy and have more wealth to protect present insurers with opportunities," says Victor Muguto, Long-Term Insurance Leader for PwC Africa. Most insurers seem to be opting for low risk solutions such as joint ventures and alliances, especially in heavily regulated countries rather than investing directly.

Micro-insurance is an opportunity for traditionally conservative insurers to enter the African markets. It is a way to protect poor people against risk (accident, illness, funeral cover for death in the family, natural disasters, etc.) in exchange for low insurance premium payments.

Private Equity

As a result of a decline in perceived risks in Africa, the private equity sector is enjoying a mini-boom. Consumer-focused businesses are attractive propositions especially telecoms and food production, and even financial services.

The consensus is that development in the financial services sector will come from the consumer and retail banking sectors where the projected growth is 15% year-on-year due to urbanization and a rapidly emerging middle class. The insurance sector is expected to follow suit, albeit at a slower rate. 

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Africa's global Bank



New approach to enterprise development will unlock more funding for SMEs

Enterprise development - the focus of the latest changes to B-BBEE legislation - will inevitably be bedevilled by the SME sector while it remains unable to obtain easier finance, a stumbling block that has to be resolved, or entrepreneurs will continue battling to establish sustainable enterprises, with which to create the thousands of jobs required to stimulate growth in South Africa.

Words: KRISTIE OMAR

■ The basic change has been in the criteria for making loans available for smaller businesses.



So says, Eldon Pillay, Manager, Growth and Acquisition Finance at Standard Bank who states that the key to a more vibrant SME sector is not only increased support from the major corporate sector, but also a move away from the 'vanilla' debt finance options and loans that have been used in the past for a sector that has the potential to create and provide sustainable jobs in our economy.

"The latest move in BEE scoring places emphasis on corporate involvement in supplier and enterprise development to broaden the national business base. This will require provision of support and funding to skilled people to move into business.

Allied to this is the necessity to help reduce the traditionally high failure rate of small businesses in South Africa. Central to any progress being achieved in this regard is the need for reducing the risk associated with lending to a group of peo-

ple who may have occupational skills and passion, but who sometimes lack the business knowledge to successfully manage and grow a business.”

Management of risk, always a major consideration for bank financing of SME operations, force commercial banks to insist on business plans, collateral and personal investment in a business backed by a repayment plan before funding is considered.

“With major businesses being required to use up to 3% of post-tax earnings to help promote enterprise growth, we need to not only review the way we offer financial support to smaller enterprises, but also bolster this with moving away from ‘playing it safe’ by sticking with businesses that have a low-cost and less risky entry points.”

Usually these “safe” businesses become suppliers to corporations and offer services such as security, cleaning and catering, or are tied into contracts with corporations that do not allow expansion and development –such as being an ‘owner-driver’. Consequently, although many enterprises supply bigger companies with everyday necessities, these do not add much value to a corporations’ output.

“There is a growing need for the development of businesses that add value and are more capable of sustainable growth and increasing their market share to a larger audience.” Believing that a turnaround in the present SME finance model policy required a more proactive stance to finance, has led Standard Bank to examine the options open to it, through in-built expertise, namely applying to the enterprise development sector, the financial solutions traditionally found only in the corporate banking sector.

The basic change has been in the criteria for making loans available for smaller businesses. “We believe that the main question to be asked when assessing a loan should be: Can you pay back the loan as opposed to the traditional questions of “What collateral do you have and what deposits can you put down?” Also, will it create jobs and help absorb more people into the economy?” says Mr Pillay. “Asking these questions and then satisfying ourselves that an enterprise can pay back a loan, even if this is not achievable in the traditional instalment sense, that enables the ‘loan gates’ to figuratively open.”

“We look to see if we can reasonably accurately predict future cash flow and then see how best to mitigate the risks in the business and then decide, if we can, and how we can make a loan based on this information. The decision then essentially becomes a lend-

■ Management of risk, always a major consideration for bank financing of SME operations, has meant that commercial banks require business plans, collateral and personal investment in a business backed by a repayment plan before funding is considered.




“ With major businesses being required to use up to 3% of post-tax earnings to help promote enterprise growth, we need to not only review the way we offer financial support to smaller enterprises, but also bolster this with moving away from ‘playing it safe’ by sticking with businesses that have a low-cost and less risky entry point.”

ing offering that is “business unusual” similar to a corporate and investment banking proposition - something that was previously unavailable to the enterprise development and SME markets.

“Normally when allocating loans to small companies, we have looked backwards into their history when making decisions. What we are attempting to do is to change our thinking, to see if we can accurately look forward and make decisions based on the potential business, which could be in the form of offered contracts or supply agreements. Being satisfied that these are sound, will mean financing can be made available.”

Leveraging off the legislated need for major companies to assist small enterprises by applying a new thought process to lending and offering easier access to finance achieves what was difficult in the past, satisfying all the requirements to successfully get support from mainstream financial institutions. Reality dictates that there will be times when additional leveraging is required to achieve the primary objective of creating jobs. When considering a loan, we may find that the entrepreneur’s cash flows predicted will only have the capability of repaying, say 80%, of the loan during the specified period.

“Our answer to this has been the setting up a mechanism, funded entirely by Standard Bank, which secures the outstanding 20%. Effectively we create the collateral required to make the operating loan achievable. This outstanding portion can then be refinanced at the end of the existing loan agreement.”

“Our intention is to create a financial ‘vortex’ in which money is more easily available in the economy. As it is injected, it creates jobs and opportunities, stimulating spending and further job creation. The faster funds become available, the quicker the benefits of increased activity and employment creation will be felt,” Mr Pillay concluded. 





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Zimbabwe Minister Calls for Tourism Tax Reduction

Zimbabwe's Minister of Tourism Walter Mzembe has appealed to the Government to reduce the controversial 15% VAT on tourism accommodation for foreign tourists to 5%, in order to grow the sector. Earlier this year, Mzembe lobbied to have the tax removed altogether.

Words: KRISTIE OMAR



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zemberi was quoted in the *New Zimbabwe* as saying: "I bring from the sector a suggestion to incrementally introduce VAT within a range of 5% to 15% aligned to our 2020 vision to give the industry an opportunity to recover and grow rather than to impose abruptly a full blown 15% tax that will certainly kill

the goose."

Tourism industry players have applauded Mzembe's 'bold' initiative, which they say shows his deep understanding of tourism and the benefits it can bring to his country's GDP, says Nigel Vere Nicoll, Chief Executive of the African Travel and Tourism Association (Atta): "Atta has always recommended a reduction in VAT within Africa on tourism, as it is proven that countries with lower VAT rates emerge as more competitive destinations for potential

visitors, as well as encouraging a greater volume of domestic travel and tourism.” The impact of the VAT, which was introduced in January this year, has been felt throughout the Zimbabwean tourism sector.

Africa Albida Tourism Chief Executive Ross Kennedy explains, with all new taxes, levies and fees, it takes some time for the impact to be genuinely felt, and meaningfully measured in any considered manner. However after seven months of collecting stats and receiving travel trade feedback, Kennedy says it is now clear that the introduction of 15% VAT has caused the Zimbabwe tourism industry some negative responses and down turn in arrivals. 📍

■ One of Africa's best kept secrets, our guide said, “Zimbabwe is still Africa undiscovered with a timeless sense of wilderness.



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Zimbabwe's minister of Tourism and Hospitality
Industry Engr Walter Mzembi.

MZEMBI

RE-ELECTED UNWTO CAF CHAIRMAN

Zimbabwe's minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry Engr Walter Mzembi has been unanimously re-elected by African countries as the Chairman of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Regional Commission for Africa (CAF). Engr Mzembi's re-election was endorsed in the 57th meeting of the CAF which was presided over by the UNWTO Secretary General Dr Taleb Rifai.

Words: SUGAR CHAGONDA

The 57th Commission for Africa meeting was part of the agenda of the on-going 21st session of the UNWTO General Assembly being held in Medellin, Colombia.

Addressing the meeting on his CAF report, Engr Walter Mzembi, who has been given a fresh mandate to lead the continent for the next two years, challenged African countries to continue working together and collaborate effectively for the elimination of all ills that continue to negatively affect the brand equity of the continent. To this end, the CAF Chairman made a clarion call to source markets to remove travel advisories that discourage travel to Africa, saying this reduces potential revenue to the concerned countries.

"It is safe to visit African countries, including those that were affected by diseases like ebola. I wish to call upon those source markets that issued negative travel advisories to remove them to allow smooth growth of tourism and economic recovery of the concerned countries," he said.

The latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer for the first half of 2015 shows that Africa's international tourist numbers in this half declined by an estimated 6% as a result of the decrease in arrivals to North Africa (-7%), as well as sub-Saharan Africa (-5%), amid security concerns and the ebola contagion effect. Some of the tragic incidents on the continent includes unrest and terror attacks in Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia and South Africa where there were xenophobic attacks.

Minister Mzembi also bemoaned the intolerable carnage of wildlife mainly through poaching. He said this, was being amplified by trade in wildlife products across Africa, that has become a menace to the growth of tourism and sustainable management of natural resources in Africa

"We need to take measures that enhance sustainable management of our natural resources for posterity. The most pressing issues we are grappling with today are high levels of wildlife poaching, environmental degradation and illegal trade in wildlife products. I fully support efforts to mobilise the entire global tourism industry and lead the international anti poaching coalition to deal with the problem. We need to harness the work of conservation organisations and create synergies that enhance sustainable management, conservation, preservation and ultimately leverage on our natural assets, to improve economic value accruing from our biodiversity and to improve the lives of our communities in Africa," said Minister Mzembi.

Commenting on Zimbabwe's re-election the deputy chairperson of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority board Mr James Muzangaza said its a clear brand endorsement for a country that was recently awarded with an African rising destination award. "We are pleased with this development as it makes the job of the zta more easier. Zimbabwe brand in Africa is becoming more popular and its a stepping stone for both the person of the Minister and the destination Zimbabwe to achieve more at international level," said Muzangaza.

Zimbabwe and Zambia are the current co- President of the UNWTO General Assembly since the time Victoria Falls and Livingstone hosted the event in 2013. The two countries are set to hand over the Presidency to Colombia at the end this General Assembly.

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NEW SANI PASS ROAD WILL BOOST TOURIST TRAFFIC BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND LESOTHO

The 33 kilometre trip up the Sani Pass to the highest pub in Africa and onwards into the 'Mountain Kingdom' will become more accessible and act as a magnet to boost visitor numbers when the job of laying asphalt on the twisting gravel surface that links South Africa and Lesotho is completed.

Words: TIDIMALO SHABALALA

Anounced in 2014, the laying of an asphalt surface at an estimated cost of R 887 million is already well underway, but it will be some time before the project is completed and provide a more 'driveable' link between KwaZulu Natal and Lesotho, says Mpaiphele Maqutu, Chief Executive Officer at the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation, who added the estimated completion date for the project is 2016.

"Once completed, the road will act as an attraction to a broader base of tourists and bring new prosperity and economic development to the Kingdom.

"This project will bring to life what was envisaged when the South African and Lesotho governments agreed that tarring the road made sense—both from an environmental and economic viewpoints. A gravel road deteriorates and is degraded by traffic and constantly changing weather. Grading to repair the surface has to take place on a regular basis. This over the years has placed constraints on the free flow of people between the two countries and the economic prosperity of Lesotho, something that is beneficial to both countries."

From a tourist viewpoint, says Maqutu, it is doubtful whether the improvement of the surface will lead to a decline in tourist traffic as has been claimed in some circles. He points out that the road, full of hairpin bends that wind in on themselves, will still remain a challenge to motorists who get a thrill from driving up the pass.

"We have no doubt that increasing numbers of tourists will take to the road. All that will change, however, will be the fact that instead of just having a drink at the pub at the road's summit, more will be encouraged to drive into Lesotho and experience the unique beauty of Africa's highest kingdom.

"This improved access will make Afriski, Africa's biggest snow-ski resort more accessible to enthusiasts who previously entered Lesotho through the Free State, and offer the added benefit to enjoy the Sani Pass."

At Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation we believe that the development will encourage more visitors to enjoy our land of mountains and discover more about the country whose entire area lies at altitudes ranging between 1,400 and 3,482 metres above sea level.

"Access via Sani Pass will, we believe, also encourage rather than discourage adventure tourists. The drive up the pass will be easier, but the new road will also bring closer features such as the Thabana-Ntlenyana mountain, at 3 482m, the highest plateau in Southern Africa. Also the 192 metre single waterfall drop of Malet-sunyane together with the world's highest abseiling cliff. At 204 metres, this edifice presents a challenge that few adventure tourists will want to miss.

"Making all this more accessible to visitors simply makes sense."

The tarring of the Sani Pass road is also a major step forward in encouraging South Africans and international tourists to make Lesotho a destination of choice, a formal programme that was recently launched in the country and is steadily gathering momentum.

"Opening the likes of Letseng diamond mine area, which boasts the world's finest carat rated diamonds, to tourism through the Sani road development, will mean bringing the benefits of sustainable jobs and economic development to this area.

"Adding more tourist accommodation and conference facilities in Maseru, another major focus, will also add momentum to the drive of increasing Lesotho's status as an African tourist destination in its own right," says Mr Maqutu. ■



The Sani pass road - once completed, the road will act as an attraction to a broader base of tourists and bring new prosperity and economic development to the Lesotho kingdom.





Organisers of Change-a-Life Cycle Tour Hail Zimbabwe

Words: **BRUCE GERMAINE**

Organisers and participants in the Change-a-life cycle tour have praised Zimbabwe, saying it is an irresistible destination and a symbol of regional tourism that offers a unique and fabulous experience. Tour Director Ursula du Plooy said, Zimbabwe has irresistible features to include it in tours, especially its unique landscapes, friendly people and supporting institutions. “We had prominent South African business executives taking part in this excursion, which is essentially a charity initiative.

They cycled along various routes through Zambia and Zimbabwe and we are getting mostly positive feedback from the participants, most of whom previously only read about Zimbabwe. It is gratifying to know, most of them are promising to come back with their families. Zimbabwe has magnificent scenery, we have been seeing so much wildlife and the the people are so friendly, it was so amazing. Zimbabwe is definitely an irresistible destination for such expeditions”, said Ursula du Plooy. Her sentiments were echoed by most of the participants who

were in the country for the first time. The Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered in Africa Mr Ferdi Pieterse said that it was a challenging experience, cycling for 540 kms: "It was a very exciting experiencing, we enjoyed the warm and excellent hospitality of the local people and seeing wild animals while riding. It was really exhausting, but I wouldn't mind doing it over and over again in support of the charity, and of course for the unique experience with the wildlife so close to nature."

The 72 cyclists were welcomed at the finishing point in Kariba, at Andora Harbour, by the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Retired Brigadier General Walter Kanhangwa and the Chief Executive of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, Mr Karikoga Kaseke. Addressing the organisers and participants the Deputy Minister stressed Government's commitment to support such events that promote the good image of the country.

"I hope your experience during this tour will motivate you to consider sending your corporate teams to our beautiful destination for incentive travel. As Government we are ready to sup-

port such programmes. Our team that worked closely with the local organisers will always be at your disposal should you decide to host your future events," said the Deputy Minister Kanhangwa. The tour, which took place from the 4th to the 9th of September 2015, attracted 72 of South Africa's top executives which included one Zimbabwean, Innocent Dutiuro of Bain & Company, a Strategy Consultancy firm based in Johannesburg.

The the 540 kms they cycled, took them through Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park, Binga, Chirundu, Kariba and many other areas.

This event was launched by Computershare in 2007 after the tragic murder of Mike Thomson who was one of its senior managers. Proceeds from the event are channelled towards projects aimed at combating crime, as well as providing leadership skills to talented youngsters in difficult social and economic circumstances. The coming of this event to Zimbabwe has been celebrated mainly by players in the tourism and hospitality sector as another window to market Zimbabwe to the South African market.



What a fantastic race! Beautiful weather, great scenery and no wind, Team Loaded, Mark Thompson and Clinton Viret, both enjoyed the Cycle Tour.



■ South Africa's tourism sector has developed into one of the most important pillars of the Country's economy in terms of growth. In comparison with other emerging economies of the world, this industry contributes significantly towards the creation of employment, growing the economy and developing entrepreneurs. It presents opportunities for self-employment, contributing to rural and urban development and foreign exchange earnings.

SA still lags behind in responsible tourism



South Africa lags behind many other countries when it comes to responsible tourism. A lack of accredited tourism products makes it difficult to compile packages for tourists seeking to travel responsibly. This emerged from a panel discussion at this year's SATSA Conference.

Words: KRISTIE OMAR

Rung Button, Sales & Operations Director at ITT Inspirations, pointed out that responsible purchasing is a way of life in Europe, with many consumers opting to pay extra for products that have been Fair Trade certified. She said it was unfortunate that there are not enough tourism products that are certified. "With only one or two certified products for example in KwaZulu Natal, how can I possibly do an offering for my clients overseas?" However, Button also pointed out that the process to get certifications was both onerous and expensive. Craig Drysdale, Global Sales Manager at Thompsons Africa, said responsible tourism was a strategic approach for Thompsons Africa. "Responsible tourism is an ongoing subject that some businesses embrace and some businesses don't," he said. "Whatever we take out of tourism, from a nature point of view, we have got to put back in it." Facilitator Paul Miedema, MD Calabash Tours, put large tour operators in the hot seat, questioning why these companies did not employ a person dedicated to responsible tourism, or even have a 'responsible tourism' policy. A few delegates in attendance suggested that there were many community initiatives that operators had put in place to give back to the community. However, Miedema said that while these were commendable, it was necessary to separate charity from responsible tourism, emphasising again that many large companies lacked a responsible tourism policy. Concluding the session, Miedema said that rightly or wrongly, the industry was perceived as dominated by privileged white people and this needs to change. 📌



NOMAD AFRICA MAGAZINE PARTNERS TALANA MUSEUM CELEBRATIONS



Nomad Africa magazine, one of Africa's fastest growing publications, recently partnered with Talana Museum to celebrate the Battle of Talana Hill, hosted yearly by the Talana Museum in Dundee, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

Words: MARTIN CHEMHERE & FREDERICK ERASMUS
Photographs: JOHN MENSAH



Participants dressed in various costumes at the event.



■ Piping the lament as officials parade through the town of Dundee led by the Pipe Band, followed by re-enactors, cultural groups, cars and motor cycles, to start this year's Talana live event.

The celebrations were held from 16 to 18 October, attracting scores of tourists, cultural enthusiasts, historians, Boer War experts and locals who offered their devotion and support, to the commemoration of the Battle of Talana that occurred on the 20th of October 1899. Nomad Africa Magazine is elegant, luxurious, and decidedly pan-Africanist; targeting the tourism, travel, social, political, cultural and business fields, prevailing in

Africa. It is our mission to tell the currently applicable, positive story of Africa and this occasion at Talana was very relevant, allowing Nomad Africa Magazine to record and report on the Museum's weekend program and the re-enactment of the Battle of Talana Hill. South Africa, like the rest of Africa has a history steeped in misinformation and exaggerations, hence Nomad Africa Magazine welcomed the opportunity to retell Talana Hill with pride, and



■ British soldiers hiding at the armoury as one soldier fires shots at Boer soldiers during the re-enactment of the battle of Talana.

from an African perspective.

Throughout the three day event, large crowds keenly participated in the proceedings or followed the ongoing events with undisguised enthusiasm, indicating how much South Africans as well as international visitors held dear to their hearts, that part of the history that also influenced the road, which led to our Country's independence and freedom.

This human element resonated with Talana Museum's slogan of being "The place to be seen" and "One of the best museums in South Africa." Not an idle boast, this museum is the winner of the 2015 Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence.

All year round throngs of visitors to the museum brave the African sun on Talana Battlefield, in northern Kwa-Zulu Natal, where the sounds of guns rang out a long time ago, marking the beginning of the first major battle of the 2nd Anglo Boer war.

The 2nd Anglo Boer War was not merely another war in South Africa's tapestry of conflict, but a major event that left a lasting legacy on our nation's modern history. The Museum's website sincerely states: "Now the battlefield is silent. Lonely monuments, a quiet cemetery and a magnificent museum are left as our reminders of the past."

It is this and other events that form our legacy, which Nomad Africa Magazine exposes across Africa in a bid to inform the World how things were in the past and how they are now. To do that, Nomad Africa Magazine's journalists sampled all the museum's



■ British soldiers fire shots at Boer soldiers as crowd of spectators watch with keen interest during the re-enactment of the battle of Talana.



■ A dead British soldier during the re-enactment of the battle of Talana. The crowd of visitors watched with keen interest.





■ Piping the lament and lowering of flags at the Talana cemetery as a British soldier places red roses in honour of the fallen heroes of the Talana Battle.

offerings, including self-guided historical hiking trails across the battlefield and up Talana Hill, to the remains of the gun emplacements, the Boer cannon road and British forts on the top of the hill.

The editorial team witnessed a re-enactment of the battle of Talana, and marveled at the museum's all-inclusive historical records, wherein credit is given to all the brave people, men and women of all races, who lost their lives in this conflict which influenced South Africa in its aftermath.

This importance of Talana Hill Battle was further immortalised with the erection in 1999 of a Memorial Wall of Peace and Reconciliation in Dundee, to commemorate the centenary of the 2nd Anglo Boer War.

The theme for this year's event was: "Bringing History to Life."

A programme called 'Night at the Museum' (excluding Ben Stiller and his dinosaurs), offered time with story-telling and photo shows of 'ghosts' gone by and experiences of life in the Boer, British and even Voortrekker camps. There were also scary rides in 'Ghost Trains', which had the children whooping.

Cultural pavilions covered Zulu, Indian and German aspects of customs and traditions, food, dance, clothing and markets, many supported by demonstrations as well as historical talks.

Especially interesting was The 'Mine Workers March' which apprised visitors of this unique part of our history. These men walked 2km to the museum with commentary along the way, relating to that historical march undertaken by the Zulu mine workers, all the way from Johannesburg to Hattingspruit in Natal in 1899.

Nomad Africa Magazine discovered how the efficacy of Talana Museum has touched many international visitors which is clearly demonstrated by the comments of "Gargled" of Southampton, England, who commented online, under the heading "Worth the detour."

"A good museum which welcomes visitors with no axe to grind on local history (and there are a lot of axes around). The Anglo Boer War is a bit of history which changed a lot in Britain. The museum allows you to come to your own conclusions about British scorched earth policy, and of the





■ Nomad Africa Magazine journalist, Jane Sikwe, poses with two British red coat soldiers at the event.



■ NomadTV presenter, Elizabeth Mojabeng in front of the Talana Museum.

first comprehensive use of concentration camps. The early disastrous performance of the British army led to major changes in organization and tactics. It also left deep bruises in SA which were unfortunately exploited by the Apartheid government, which obscured their deeper meaning. Talana museum helps one through this maze." Brilliant!

Talana Museum has raised the bar very high by curating an all-embracing African spectacle, which is actually homage to the reason for Nomad Africa Magazine's birth. A display that deserves all the publicity we can muster to help dispel the negative perceptions which the world has held of Africa, and to replace it with positive insight.

Nomad Africa Magazine was invited to this event by Talana Museum, which is testament to our increasing and valuable con-

tribution to the retelling of the African story to the outside world.

On the other hand, Talana Museum is a repository of many of South Africa's most valuable histories, that we find it appropriate to have been involved in this year's celebrations here in Dundee," said Associate Publisher Dieter Gottert.

Feature Editor Freddie Erasmus echoed, that the occasion was an opportunity to witness, not only of the re-enactment of South African history, which was specially programmed for the present, but also to go back in time by touring the Museum's sites, which are so rich in detail of our country as well as the rest of Africa.

Nomad Africa magazine is looking for partners and investors from across Africa. This way we will unite to amplify the true pan-African story. 📍



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THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

130 Years After

It was driven by adventure, greed, delusions of grandeur, dreams of empires, need for resources, trade improvement, often overloads of ignorance, and the total absence of empathy, forethought, or consideration. The 'Scramble for Africa' a 130 years ago, marked by the infamous 'Berlin Conference', wound up in February 1885, was the climactic culmination of European imperialism into Africa.

Words: **FREDERICK ERASMUS**

eight European nations had invaded Africa and established colonies in it, long before the historically acclaimed "Scramble". They left indelible marks on the African Continent; the languages, cultures, and governments of all African countries occupied. In most cases,

the European languages and governmental systems supplanted the indigenous African language and traditional governmental systems. The occupier's Language remained entrenched, prevailing as the current official language of many of the Countries colonised.

To identify any form of genuine indigenous governance by Africans of Africa, free of any European interference, history has to be retraced to the year 33BC, during Roman Imperialism. That was after Mark Anthony had made some memorable whoopee with Queen Cleopatra VII, and his rival, Octavian, finally defeated him, deposed the famous queen Cleo, and annexed the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt into the Roman Empire. That was the advent of European invasions, for millennia to follow.

From then, it took 14 centuries before the Portuguese Empire captured Ceuta in 1415, and later the creation of Angola and Mozambique, probably the first two European colonies in Africa. Until approximately 1870, colonial invasion did not have much in the way of intensity or development, except along the coast line. Till then the Continent had not presented much economic or political value to Europe, they were trading posts at most.


After 1875 however, competition for raw materials by the European powers sparked bitter rivalry for conquest and expansion into the African interior. The Berlin Conference of 1885 laid down the rules for partitioning of Africa between the European powers.

There were only two noteworthy independent states which retained sovereignty throughout this scrambling frenzy for occupancy in Africa; they were Liberia and Ethiopia. Liberia began

its independence in 1847 as a colony of liberated African-American slaves. Ethiopia on the other hand is an ancient nation which maintained its national independence throughout the centuries, except for a brief invasion by the Italians under Mussolini from 1936 to 1941.

That made Ethiopia the only notable exception, a strategically placed state at the horn of Africa. By the early 1870s, Ethiopia was in danger of invasion from the British, French, and Italians. In fear of an invasion, Emperor Menelik II hatched a daring plan: He exploited European rivalries for the benefit of his country. He played one against the other to obtain the modern weapons he needed to protect his Country. He gave minor concessions to France in return for weapons, then did the same with the Italians for more weapons. Soon, Britain and even Russia joined in the arms race. Throughout the 1880s, Ethiopia grew stronger and stronger as the scramble for Africa went on around it. However, by the early 1890s, Menelik's plans began to falter and war became imminent, but Ethiopia, nevertheless remained independent.

With reference to the 'Scrambling' era, the renowned author Joseph Conrad wrote in his 1905 novel the Heart of Darkness, that by the 1890s, most of Africa's "dark places" had been placed under European control, and the European powers were stretched thin, trying to administer and protect massive, far-flung empires. Cracks were beginning to appear in their systems: riots, wars, and the wholesale abandonment of commercial enterprises caused havoc in their empires. Things were falling apart. Conrad suggested, that was the natural result when men are allowed to operate outside a civilised social system of checks and balances: power, especially power over other human beings, inevitably corrupts.

Had there not been a 'Scrambling for (and of) Africa', the present crisis enveloping the North of Africa, which has become the springboard for hundreds-of-thousands of refugees, may never have come about; had Africans been left to create their own future destiny, so many years ago. 



PARTITIONING AND CONSEQUENCES

The legacy from the 'Scramble' is possibly the worst and most haunting of all; the reason why Africa, after 60 years of freedom, still cannot come to rest. Most contemporary African states are composed of diverse peoples with relatives that are in neighbouring states, with the result, separatism develops after the fabricated partitioning and dissolution. Separatists want to go back into their natural grouping.

Words: **FREDERICK ERASMUS**



King Leopold II. His greed resulted in the creation of the 'Congo Free State' in late 1870's. He became the most gruesome perpetrator of atrocities among those he 'protected'. The Congo Butcher.

Leopold's greed was the artist of this gargantuan anomaly, a canvas of enormous proportions; an unmanageable state of 2,345,410 square kilometres. It possesses enormously rich resources, which automatically make the present rulers opposed to any suggestion of separation; the same greed as the 'Scramblers' before. It also composes very diverse peoples and languages and is constantly engaged in civil wars, still raging to this day.

Separatism is active in Namibia now (independent from South Africa in 1990). The horrors of Biafra, 1967-1970, remain fresh in memory, trying to leave Nigeria, which had become independent in 1960. The worst example was also the first; the heist of and nonsensical demarcation of the Congo Democratic Republic, regaining independence in 1960.

Likewise the Sudan, 2,505,810 sq kms, independent since 1956 also engaged in constant civil wars and the modern tragedy of Darfur returns to the headlines regularly. Zimbabwe, with a heartless nonagenarian despot at its helm, also hovers on the brink of division, and there are numerous others.

The only definite success has been Eritrea, acquiring independence from Ethiopia in 1991, which proved separatism can work. Eritrea had been merged with Ethiopia since 1952.

Eritrea has indicated, separatism per se is not necessarily a bad idea, and it may herald a new future for Africa. Possibly, an end to artificial states may be written in our future? Who knows?

Lingering Hardships

Many historians, such as Olayemi Akinwumi from Nasarawa State University in Nigeria, see the conference as the crucible for present and future inner African conflicts.

"In African Studies, many of us believe that the foundation for present day crises in Africa was actually laid by the 1884/85 Berlin Conference. The partition was done without any consideration for the history of the society.

"The Berlin Conference was Africa's undoing in more ways than one. The colonial powers superimposed their domains on the African continent. By the time independence returned to Africa from 1950, the realm had acquired a legacy of political fragmentation that could neither be eliminated nor made to operate satisfactorily."

In the 1960s, as African countries gradually gained their independence, African politicians could have changed the colonial borders. But they desisted from doing so. A large majority of politicians around 1960 decided, "if we do that we will open up Pandora's Box". They were probably right, look at all the problems Africa has had over the last 80 years, and there have been numerous conflicts within states but hardly any between states. When examining African conflicts, the colonial power that occupied a particular tract of land - the Belgians, French, British, Portuguese or Germans - is less relevant than the significance of belonging to specific ethnic groups which colonial powers often pitted against each other.

Ethnic allegiances were far more open and flexible in the 1st half 19th century than they are today. In pre-colonial Rwanda, the

Hutu and Tutsi were social groups and it was possible to switch from one to the other. It was the Colonial Rule that cemented the division of the population, of which one of the consequences was the horrifying 1994 genocide.

In 2010 - on the 125th anniversary of the Berlin Conference, representatives from many African states in Berlin called for reparations for the colonial era. The arbitrary division of the continent among European powers, which ignored African laws, culture, sovereignty and institutions, was a crime against humanity, they declared in a statement. They called for the funding of monuments at historic sites, the return of land and other resources which had been stolen, the restitution of cultural treasures and a public, historical recognition that Colonialism and the crimes committed under it were horrendous crimes against humanity. Now, at its 130th anniversary nothing has come of all this. The historians from Nigeria and Germany are not surprised. "There is much talk of reparations for the slave trade and the Holocaust. But little mention is ever made of the crimes committed by the European colonial powers during the hundred years or more they spent in colonised Africa.

Olayemi Akinwumi doesn't believe there will ever be any reparations forthcoming, of any sort, shape or form.

The European Conference delegates decided how to divide Africa, with no regard to any of the ethnic, linguistic or religious practices. Collectively they ignored African tribes, laws, cultures, sovereignty and institutions, which in itself was a monstrous crime. That division of Africa set the stage for a myriad of the conflicts Africa still faces to this day.

The irony of the whole debacle lies in the fact that the instigator of this catastrophe, the one who wanted to do the 'correct and

Leopold's greed was the artist of this gargantuan anomaly, a canvas of enormous proportions; an unmanageable state of 2,345,410 square kilometres. It possesses enormously rich resources, which automatically make the present rulers opposed to any suggestion of separation; the same greed as the 'Scramblers' before.



Group of Ovambo men in traditional dress. Circa 1910. Portugal and Germany drew the southern Angola border in 1886, thus locating the Ovakwanyama, Ombadja, Dombondola, Kafima and Evale on the Portuguese side, and leaving other Ovambo in northern Namibia. In 1890, however, the international boundary was adjusted, the new line dividing the Kwanyama kingdom in two and leaving just one third of their number in northern Namibia. The border has seen a further three adjustments, each time involving major movement of refugees to and fro, fleeing one or other of the colonial administrations.

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Ovambo people in their village. The stagnation of the economy of southern Angola right up to the late 1960s meant the mines of Namibia became the chief centre of employment for the population over a wide area of southern Angola.

legal' deed, Leopold II, was also the most gruesome perpetrator of atrocities among his 'protectorates'.

Leopold II, who had financed the expeditions that staked Belgium's claim in Berlin, embarked on ruthless exploitation. His enforcers mobilized almost the entire Congolese populations to gather rubber, kill elephants for their ivory, and build public works to improve export routes. For failing to meet their production quotas, entire communities were massacred. Killing and maiming became routine in a colony in which horror was the one common denominator.

After the Slave Trade, King Leopold's reign of terror was Africa's most severe demographic disaster. In 1908 the Belgium government and the Roman Catholic Church pursuing their selfish, often competing interests, together with a growing global outcry, they managed to call a halt to those horrors. Not before 10 million+ Congolese had been slaughtered.

Leopold may have been the worst perpetrator during this period, however he was not alone. Each and every one of the main "cui bono" (a rhetorical Latin legal phrase used to describe, whoever appears to have the most to gain from a crime is probably the culprit.) were butchers in their own right.

During the preceding two centuries, again as agreed, the European powers did not supply or sell modern weapons to African nations, to pre-empt successful retaliation from them. This paid massive dividends during the 'Scramble'. Whenever locals resisted atrocities, armed with spears, knives, knob-kerries and the odd cast off blunderbuss, the indigenous people were like targets on a shooting range, while a handful of machinegun-armed invaders would cut swathes through the ranks of the brave na-

tives, valiantly protecting their own. Not bothered with ceremony over the dead, it has been chronicled, the results of such carnages were broadly known as vulture fests. ☠

In 2010 - on the 125th anniversary of the Berlin Conference, representatives from many African states in Berlin called for reparations for the colonial era. The arbitrary division of the continent among European powers, which ignored African laws, culture, sovereignty and institutions, was a crime against humanity, they admitted in a statement.



THE BERLIN CONFERENCE

1884 – 1885



The time was 1884 – 1885, 130 years ago and the place was Germany. During that period when Europe's search for minerals and markets had become insatiable. Greed and selfish acquisitiveness, supported by illusions of grandeur were also reasons for the Berlin Conference. One conquistador, protecting his ill begotten gains was the principal instigator; King Leopold II, and his gain was the Congo.

Words: FREDERICK ERASMUS

before the conference, European diplomacy treated African indigenous people in the same manner as the New World natives, forming trade relationships with tribal chiefs. By the mid-19th century, Europeans considered Africa to be disputed territory ripe for exploration, trade, and settlement by their colonists. With the exception of trading along the coasts, the mineral, economic, and strategic worth of the Continent was essentially unidentified.

Historians generally agree, the Scramble for Africa began with King Leopold II of Belgium who had read a report in 1876, how the rich mineral resources and other natural treasures of the Congo Basin, could return an entrepreneurial capitalist substantial profits. Leopold founded the International African Association, followed in 1878 by the International Congo Society, with defined economic goals. Léopold secretly bought off the foreign investors in the Congo Society, to pursue his personal imperialistic goals, with the Society serving primarily as a philanthropic front, neatly concealing the driving corruption behind the facade.

Hidden behind that altruistic front Leopold ordered his minions to assume control over the Congo Basin. Concurrently fearing intervention or annexation by more powerful co-European competition, the wily Leopold pre-empted such action and applied for international recognition of his property in the Congo. His application to 'legalise' and safeguard his stake, was the main reason for the Conference. It was however not that simplistic and many other parties and factors influenced the decision.

The more important was the Portuguese manipulation, which played greatly in Leopold's favour.

Other overlapping considerations for the 'Scramble' to divide Africa were; its size, riches, resources, and strategic importance, a prime candidate for conquest by ambitious European empires. Although Africa is remote from Europe and other continental powers, it is completely surrounded by oceans and could be invaded by other Nations from countless directions. That was a very important consideration.

The Industrial Revolution (1760 – 1840) intensified the drive for overseas territories, cheap labour, raw material, and new markets which required rules for dealing with one another, to avoid constant bloodshed while competing for Africa's resources. The Berlin Conference established those stabilising ground rules.

Another reason; left out of the European race for colonies till

recently, Germany had also launched expeditions of its own, which scared the holies out of British and French statesmen. Hostility was flying high amongst the European Nations, which could have precipitated a major war. To avoid such a war was also reason for the Conference to solve the African problems. As it turned out that prevention of war was temporary. The unavoidable tensions led to a succession of crises, which finally exploded in August 1914 (well after the Scramble), when previous rivalries and alliances created a domino effect that drew the major European nations into the First World War, anyway. Supported by Britain and Portugal, Otto von Bismarck, German Chancellor, called on the following Countries' representatives: Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden-Norway (union until 1905), the Ottoman Empire and the United States to take part in the Berlin Conference in 1884, to formulate joint policies on the African continent.

Under the guise of harmonious collaboration, most delegates colluded among themselves, before and during the Conference, to jockey for position in this criminal race of dash & grab. Not surprising, the more powerful were the guiltier during these underhanded shenanigans, where lies and corruption were the only common denominators. Portugal first got into bed with Britain, then the French tried to go one up colluding with Britain. France changed sides and snuggled up to Germany, which Britain tried to outsmart and did the same with Germany. Then France trying to cover their wickets went and joined forces with Italy. Corruption on corruption, followed by corruption. In the end the two greatest conspirators also took the most prized bounty.

A smirking Europe gathered at the Berlin Conference to create policy on imperial claims. After much political wrangling, Leopold got what he wanted, he had his territory publicly endorsed, and renamed the 'Congo Free State'. The Conference further decreed that for future imperialist claims to garner international recognition, "effective occupation" would be required: no longer would plunging a flag into the ground, qualify land as occupied. It also created some definition for "effective occupation," noting that significant "economic development" was required. More baloney.

The crux to most problems created then, and still thriving now, was the principle which allowed Europeans to "conquer" Africa and reap willfully, without requiring that they do even the least possible, to assist or develop the inhabitants of the Continent!

In the Magna Carta of 1215, "the greatest constitutional document of all times -- the foundation of the freedom of the individual against the arbitrary authority of the despot" by which the competing Nations' own governments were purportedly shaped, was completely disregarded.

Fourteen European Nations met at the Berlin Conference to decide how Africa was to be divided; among themselves, of course. Not a single African delegate was invited, or present.

The Focus of the Conference

The conference was held in Berlin between November 15, 1884 and February 26, 1885, under the leadership of German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Although 'controlling the slave trade and promoting humanitarian idealism' were promoted robustly as the focus of the conference, they were merely glanced over and the conference only passed empty resolutions, vaguely referring to ending the slave trade and providing for the welfare of Africa. As seen, the result of the Conference, the 'Berlin Act' was solely a means of dividing the continent of Africa between the European powers, for selfish gain:

Article 34 of the Berlin Act states that any European nation that took possession of an African coast, or named themselves as "protectorate" of one, had to inform the other powers of the Berlin Act of this action. If this was not done then their claim would not be recognized. This article introduced the "spheres of influence" doctrine, the control of a coast also meant that they would control the hinterland to an almost unlimited distance.

Article 35 determined that in order to occupy a coastal possession, the Nation also had to prove that they controlled sufficient authority there to protect existing rights such as freedom of trade and transit. This was called the doctrine of "effective occupation" and it made the conquest of Africa a less bloody process.

The Berlin Act brought important changes to international affairs. It created the rules for "effective occupation" of conquered lands, ensuring that the division of Africa would take place without war among the European powers. Through the Berlin Act, the European powers justified dividing a continent among them without considering the desires of the indigenous peoples.

The Berlin Conference and its resultant Law are the clearest examples of the assumptions and preconceptions of this era, and its effects on Africa explicit today.

The Results

Of the 14 represented Nations and coalitions, only six basically shared the spoils.

Great Britain desired a Cape-to-Cairo collection of colonies and almost succeeded though their control of Egypt, Sudan (Anglo-Egyptian Sudan), Uganda, Kenya (British East Africa), South Africa, Botswana, Zambia & Zimbabwe (formerly North- & South Rhodesia). The British also controlled Nigeria and Ghana (Gold Coast).

France took much of western Africa, from Mauritania to Chad (French West Africa) and Gabon and the Republic of Congo

Supported by Britain and Portugal, Otto von Bismarck, German Chancellor, called on the following Countries' representatives: Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden–Norway (union until 1905), the Ottoman Empire and the United States to take part in the Berlin Conference in 1884; to formulate joint policies on the African continent.

(French Equatorial Africa). Belgium and King Leopold II controlled the Democratic Republic of Congo (Belgian Congo).

Portugal took Mozambique in the east and Angola in the west. Italy's holdings were Somalia (Italian Somaliland) and a portion of Ethiopia. Germany took Namibia (German Southwest Africa) and Tanzania (German East Africa). Spain claimed the smallest territory - Equatorial Guinea (Rio Muni).

When African nations began to gain independence during the Post World War II Era, their post-colonial economic structures remained undiversified and linear. In most cases, the bulk of a nation's economy relied on cash crops or natural resources. The decolonization process kept independent African nations at the mercy of colonial powers due to structurally-dependent economic relations. Structural Adjustment Programs lead to the privatization and liberalisation of many African political and economic systems, forcefully pushing Africa into the global capitalist market. The economic decline in the 1990s fostered democratisation by the World Bank intervention in the political and economic affairs of Africa once again. All of these factors led to Africa's forced development, still under Western ideological systems of economics and politics. Is Africa free yet?

In the era of globalisation, many African countries have emerged as petro-states. These are nations with an economic and political partnership between Transnational Oil Companies and the ruling elite class in oil-rich African nations. During this oil-glut period numerous International Petro Conglomerates used their unlimited fortunes to invest in controlling land internationally, and contracted much of Africa, again, into an impe-



Queen Elizabeth meets students during a trip to Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa, in 1955.

Fourteen European Nations met at the Berlin Conference to decide how Africa was to be divided; among themselves, of course. Not a single African delegate was invited, or present.

rial, albeit neo-imperial subservient position. The most apparent of the petro-powers are the Chinese state oil companies which entered Africa's highly competitive oil sec-

tor. China National Petrol Corporation purchased 40% of Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company. Furthermore, Sudan exports 50-60% of its domestically produced oil to China, making up 7% of China's imports. China has also been purchasing equity shares in African oil fields, invested in industry related infrastructure development and acquired continental oil concessions throughout Africa. Apart from oil, China has contracted to and bought every metal Africa could offer, including our scrap, producing goods and exporting finished steel products back to Africa, at prices which Africa could not even compete at production level. That is causing job and securities losses to the point, South Africa's major steel producers have, or are on the brink of closure, with a quarter million people facing re-trenchment. ❏



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THE AMELIORATION OF AFRICA

On 9.9.1999, the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity issued a Declaration calling for the establishment of an African Union. Their view, to accelerate the process of integration on the continent, to enable it to play its rightful role in the global economy.

While also addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems, compounded as they are, by certain negative aspects of globalisation.

To rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonisation and discrimination; to promote unity and solidarity among African States; to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States and to promote international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.

Words: FREDERICK ERASMUS

amelioration and consummate self-reliance undoubtedly are still the majority Africans' dream. It is attainable, it will however have to take passages from the 'Freedom Charter' and apply them to succeed; The people shall govern; All national groups shall have equal rights; The land shall be shared among those who work it; All shall be equal before the law; There shall be peace and friendship. Those are the noble and essential aspirations, mandatory if Africa is ever going to finally be rid of the curse of 'The Scramble for Africa'. There are literally scores of organisations who endeavour themselves for the restitution of Africa. However, the true driving force, the one founded by Africans, for Africans, and solely about Africa, with no other underlying agendas, is The African Union (AU). Borne from the OAU, the Organisation of African Unity, the founding

While Africa may never have a squeaky clean continent, Africa can be turned into a safer and fair haven where people want to live and belong, freed of corruption. In turn they will volunteer their part to ensure that the scourge of theft, fraud and corruption be curtailed to the lowest possible level.

of the African Union was an event of great magnitude in the institutional evolution of our continent.

The Member States of the African Union are the 54 sovereign states that have ratified or acceded to the Constitutive Act of the African Union. (Only one member state, the Central African Republic, had been suspended due to a coup d'état and political struggles). Indeed, a Continental organization, the AU provide an effective forum that enables all Member States to adopt coordinated positions on matters of common concern to the Continent, in international fora and defend the interests of Africa effectively.

The AU has been instrumental in Governments working together more frequently, especially across shared borders to curb drug and human traffic, laundering of money, entry of illegal immigrants or the escape of fugitives. Those partnerships have paid off handsomely and have made great inroads to prevent corruption which very often require cross boarder activity to be successful. Certain actions are made compulsory by law and far heavier penalties are enforced by the courts.

Internally and internationally the highest officials of different States have joined hands and shared resources, which have also paid dividends. While Africa may never have a squeaky clean continent, Africa can be turned into a safer and fair haven where people want to live and belong, freed of corruption. In turn they will volunteer their part to ensure that the scourge of theft, fraud and corruption be curtailed to the lowest possible level.

Through the AU's Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, the Continent has worked and spoken as one with undivided determination in forging an international consensus in support of the liberation struggle, and the fight against inequality and dominance. The AU has forged commercial and cultural partnerships with virtually every important Nation on the Globe, of which the most rewarding to date has been with China. ☒



中非合作论坛第五届部长级会议开幕式

Opening Ceremony of the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

Cérémonie d'ouverture de la 5^e Conférence ministérielle du Forum sur la Coopération sino-africaine

Beijing, 19 July 2012 2012年7月19日 北京 Beijing, 19 juillet 2012



The Scramble for Africa inflicted wounds on the Continent, some of which have healed, and others may still, but the scars will remain forever on Africa's landscapes, like old veteran soldiers. Africa must not allow itself to be similarly mutilated, over again.

THE CHINESE ROMANCE AND REVELATION

“China-Africa Cooperation Forum (FOCAC) has already passed its 60th anniversary, aiming to strengthen consultation and expand cooperation within a pragmatic framework and to promote political dialogue and economic cooperation with a view to seek mutual reinforcement and cooperation.” We Africans have to ensure the emphasis remains on the ‘mutual’, and Africa needs to align and keep the sights of the partnership, primarily on the strategic objectives of the African Union, and its own Nations.

Words: FREDERICK ERASMUS

africa is, without a doubt, the richest continent on the Planet. Africa has the minerals, raw materials, and a massive, specifically youthful labour force; progressing to self-sufficient intellectuals, and most important, Africa has the arable land area for food production to feed half the world population, once it is productively managed.

The Scramble for Africa inflicted wounds on the Continent, some of which have healed, and others may still, but the scars will remain forever on Africa's landscapes, like old veteran soldiers. Africa must not allow itself to be similarly mutilated, over again. China has committed more than \$80bn to aid and development projects in Africa in the past decade. Such beneficence have been dubbed Beijing's escalating soft power "charm offensive", to secure political and economic clout and favour on the continent. Chinese development finance in Africa involves at least 1,700 projects in 50 countries since 2000. No one goes untouched.

A prime example of Chinese benevolence is the magnificent new African Union Conference and Office Complex built by the Chinese government, free of charge for the African Union and commissioned in January 2012, as testimony to the real value this

partnership brings to Africa.

We all appreciate the support, yet the question needs asking: "How will the favours be repaid"?

Beijing's unrelenting prospecting for natural resources needs to be scrutinised, over China's motives in Africa. Virtually zero information on mining projects is publicly available, but reports and photos from visiting business people prove some of the most advanced mines have been established in various locations. On the other hand, what is publicly announced with regular fanfare, are the details of transport, storage and energy initiatives as well as the hundreds of millions of dollars China put towards health, education and cultural projects; towards the upliftment of Africans, which are highly appreciated by all.

Another prime example is an important link between South Africa and Lesotho one of the prime tourist attraction in the South, the Sani Pass. A memorandum of understanding signed between both Governments in 2005 to improve commercial, social and economic opportunities between the two countries through increased accessibility, included the Sani Pass.

At the summit is the Highest Pub in Africa, at nearly 3 kilometres above sea level.

The upgrade was put into action and the Sani Pass was to be changed forever.



A multitude of professionals: engineers, quantity surveyors, designers and operators, plus a plethora of entrepreneurs, desert African economies annually for overseas positions, due to a lack of local opportunities. Despite that, Chinese Companies managed to win the Sani Pass R1 billion+ (US\$122 million at the time) contract from the two Governments.

Another screaming example is the recent 360 kilometre highway between Windhoek and Swakopmund in Namibia, which was awarded to the Chinese. There are more than 40 known Chinese companies permanently established in Africa. With \$3 billion investment, which is not bad. In return, it is estimated the Chinese rake in around \$4+ billion per annum. Not bad either.

Revelation

Africa is in the midst of its 2nd colonisation, which was not forced on Africa, it was caused by Africa.

Africa should not think every Chinese action is a philanthropic charity; they are investments; and dividends are expected. This time the colonisers do not 'scramble' and loot, they have been invited to pick.

These benefactors are not altruistic missionaries, they are from the top echelon of science, engineering, planning, development, economists and finance; they Give to Take.

While all of Africa receives so much from China, Africa will be contracted to the point that it will eventually be completely man-

While all of Africa receives so much from China, Africa will be contracted to the point that it will eventually be completely managed. One cannot even begin to calculate, how much the Chinese have already 'given' to the Natives, without Africa knowing what the price tag will be.

aged. One cannot even begin to calculate, how much the Chinese have already 'given' to the Natives, without Africa knowing what the price tag will be.

The Chinese offer Africa 'baubles' in the forms of city and rural developments, road transport and railways to improve the mining of our resources, which will mostly be exported to China, raw or semi refined. How many mineral refinement plants have been 'donated', which are up & running, yet?

China then 'imports', not exports, (due to their immense presence) into Africa, everything Africa desires, at prices much cheaper than Africans can begin to manufacture them. Therefore: 'Why should Africa manufacture?'

The few instances where products and crops reach its final form internally, the cream will be for the Chinese national consumption, at most favourable rates and conditions, compared to, and possibly also the exclusion, of any other foreign partners.

The 'Scramblers' during the 1800's came to only take, while the Chinese came to GIVE, extravagantly.

Their Taking is still to come, the form and volume still unknown, but be assured, it is part of the plan.

The few developments mentioned here, taking place all over Africa, and scores are driven, steered and controlled by Chinese brain power, while no doubt thousands of labour jobs are created for the locals. Then they rightfully enjoy a reasonable standard of living, with which to purchase Chinese merchandise abundantly. Africa gain materialistically; not in knowledge nor experience. Africa is slowly selling its birth right for survival.

The 'patron' becomes a permanent cog in the African Development Machine; not because Africa actually wants him there, because Africa no longer has a choice. Africa should be for the Africans, developed by Africans, to be shared equitably with those who supported us in getting there. A market based on fairness, not self-enrichment.

As Africans we must all rally behind the African Union, be proud of the fact that Africa is the 'richest continent'; not in bank balances, but in what Africa possess as its birth right; stop allowing its riches to be taken and developed elsewhere. Africa has to be willing and become able to create the facilities to develop and manufacture its resources internally, to the point that it will become a Manufacturing & Export Power in the future.

That will achieve the negation of the 'Scramble for Africa', so that we may prosper in the Cradle of Human Kind. 🇸



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THE NISSAN IDS CONCEPT

Recently at the Tokyo Motor Show 2015, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. unveiled a concept vehicle that embodies Nissan's vision of the future of autonomous driving and zero emission EVs: the Nissan IDS Concept.

Words: LEWIS KINGSTON

Presenting at the show, Nissan president and CEO Carlos Ghosn said: "Nissan's forthcoming technologies will revolutionise the relationship between car and driver, and future mobility."

After leading the development and expansion of EV technology, Nissan once again stands at the forefront of automotive technology.

By integrating advanced vehicle control and safety technologies with cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI), Nissan is among the leaders developing practical, real-world applications of autonomous drive technology.

In August 2013, Ghosn said that by 2020 Nissan plans to equip innovative autonomous drive technology on multiple vehicles. Progress is well on track to achieve this goal.

Nissan Intelligent Driving is Nissan's concept of autonomous drive technology and represents what Nissan believes next-generation vehicles should be. "Nissan Intelligent Driving improves a driver's ability to see, think and react. It compensates for human error, which causes more than 90 percent of all car accidents. As a result, time spent behind the wheel is safer, cleaner, more efficient and more fun," continued Ghosn.

By 2020, expect to see Nissan Intelligent Driving technology deployed on cars in cities around the world.

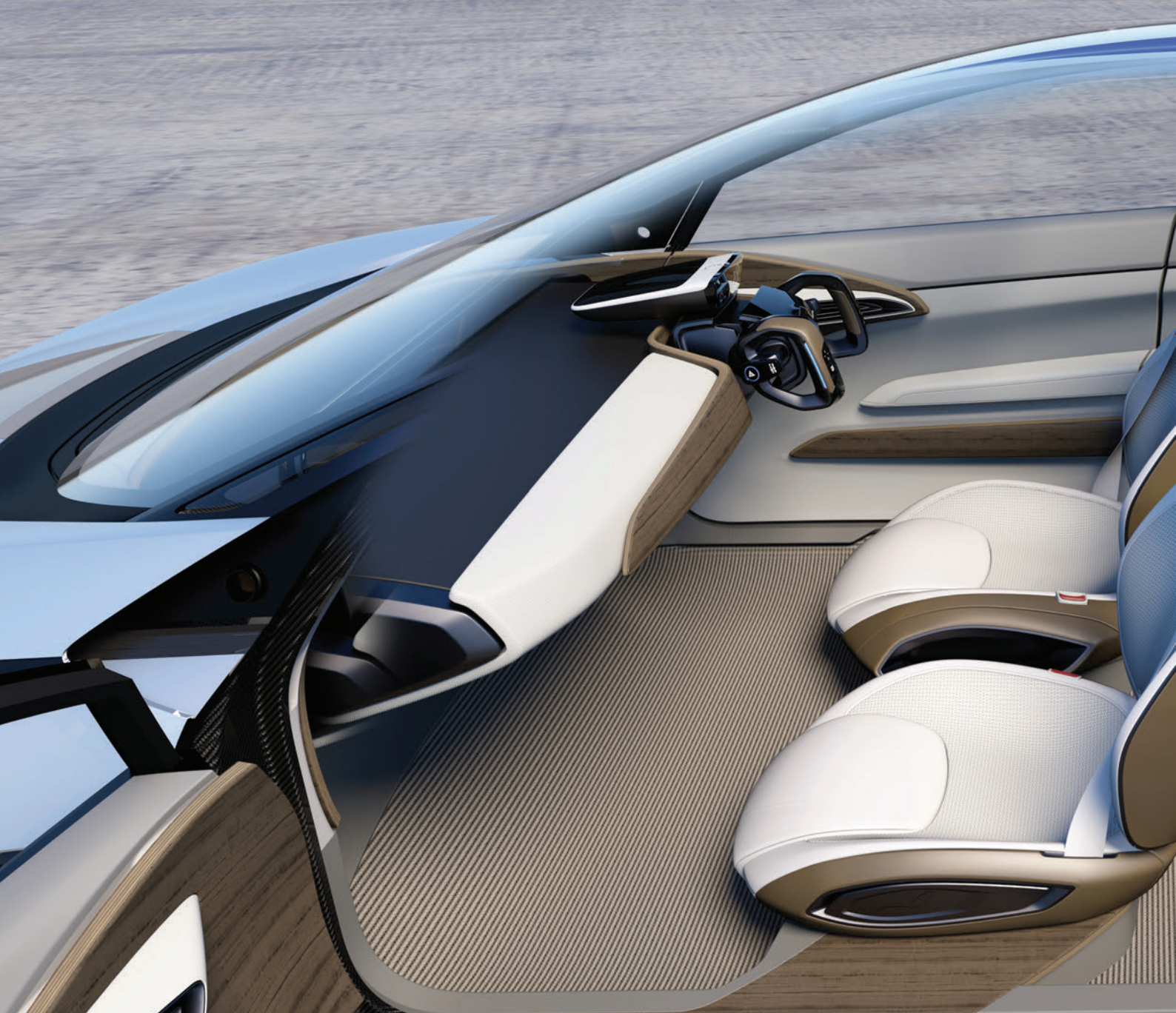
The Nissan IDS experience

Some have compared a future with autonomous drive to living in a world of conveyer belts that simply ferry people from point A to B, but the Nissan IDS Concept promises a very different vision of tomorrow. Even when the driver selects Piloted Drive and turns over driving to the vehicle, the car's performance – from accelerating to braking to cornering – imitates the driver's own style and preferences.

In Manual Drive mode, the driver has control. The linear acceleration and cornering are pure and exhilarating. Yet behind the scenes, the Nissan IDS Concept continues to provide assistance. Sensors continually monitor conditions and assistance is available even while the driver is in control. In the event of imminent danger, Nissan IDS Concept will assist the driver in taking evasive action.

In addition to learning, the Nissan IDS Concept's AI communicates like an attentive partner. From information concerning traffic conditions, the driver's schedule to personal interests, Nissan IDS Concept's AI has what is needed to help create a driving experience that is comfortable, enjoyable and safe.





Design – Together, we ride

“A key point behind the Nissan IDS Concept is communication. For autonomous drive to become reality, as a society we have to consider not only communication between car and driver but also between cars and people. The Nissan IDS Concept's design embodies Nissan's vision of autonomous drive as expressed in the phrase together, we ride,” says Mitsunori Morita, Design Director.

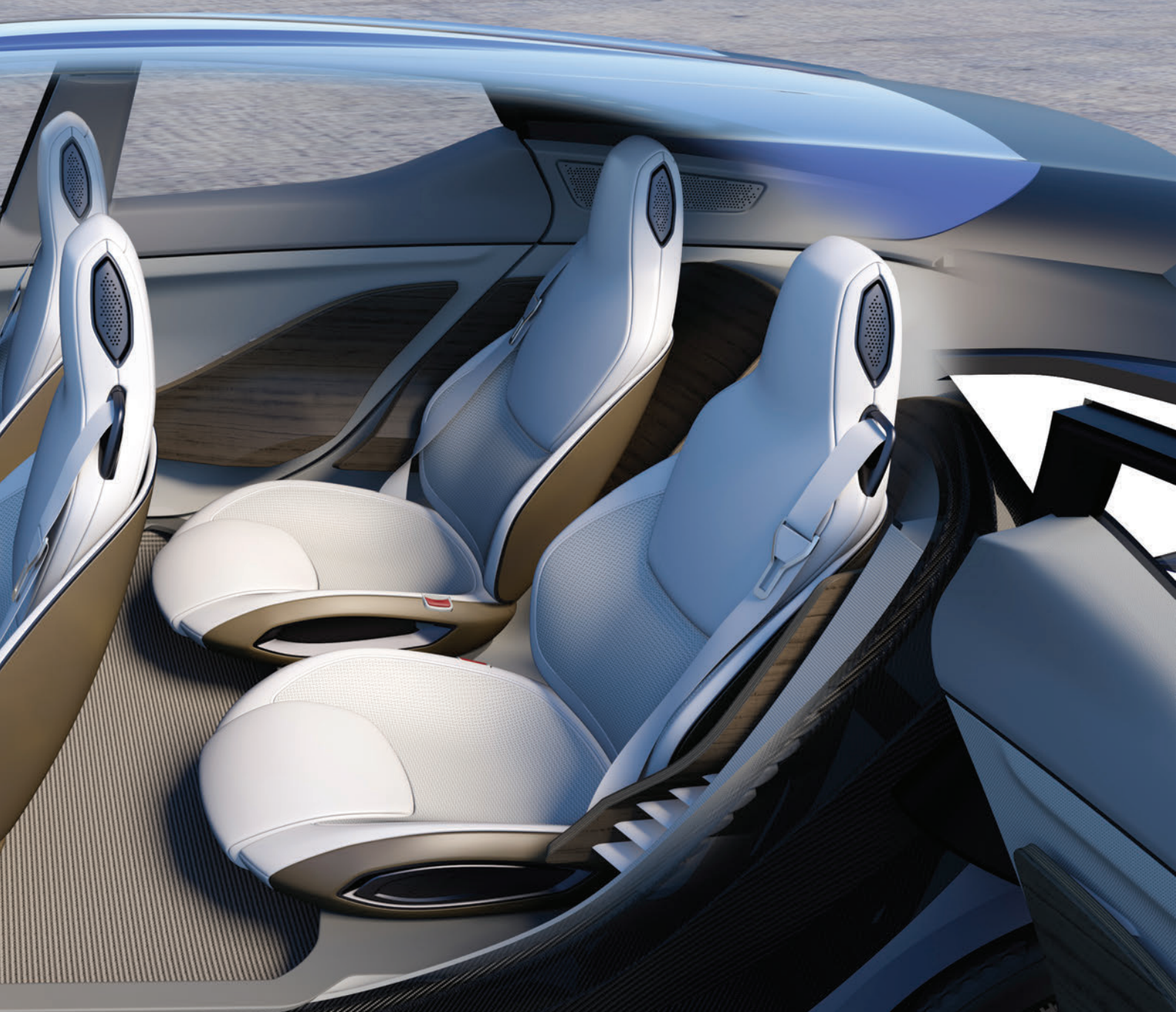
Two interiors enable two ways for the driver to enjoy the experience

Together, we ride is clearly demonstrated in the interior design. “The Nissan IDS Concept has different interiors depending on whether the driver opts for Piloted Drive or Manual Drive. This was something that we thought was absolutely necessary to ex-

press our idea of autonomous drive,” says Morita.

Even though it is a hatchback, the Nissan IDS Concept's long wheelbase enables comfortable seating space for four adults. But the cabin becomes even more spacious when the driver selects Piloted Drive. In this mode, the steering wheel recedes into the centre of the instrument panel and a large flat screen comes out. Various driving-related operations are handled by AI, voice and gestures from the driver. The interior, which comprises natural materials such as mesh leather, is illuminated by soft light. All four seats rotate slightly inward, facilitating easier conversation. It's like relaxing in a living room.

When the driver selects Manual Drive, the roomy interior transforms to put the driver in control. All seats face forward. The steering wheel, which takes styling cues from reins for horse riding, appears along with driving meters and a heads-up display



that shows route and other driving information. Interior lighting switches to blue, stimulating the ability to concentrate. Nissan's use of hollow-structure A-pillars helps ensure excellent visibility by reducing blind spots and also contributes to the feeling of open space.

"In every situation, it is about giving the driver more choices and greater control. And the driver will remain the focus of our technology development efforts," Ghosn said at the show.

The transformation to Manual Drive can be carried out with ease through a switch between the front seats called the PD Commander. This is the only control the driver can physically operate when the car is in Piloted Drive: when the driver is ready to take over driving, a physical action should initiate the change.

Exterior design – communication that creates confidence and harmony

For autonomous drive to be widely accepted, people need to fully trust the technology. Through its innovative communication capabilities, the Nissan IDS Concept promotes confidence and a sense of harmony for those outside the car as well. Various exterior lights and displays convey to pedestrians and others the car's awareness of its surroundings and signals its intentions. The car's silver side body line, for example, is actually an LED that Nissan calls the Intention Indicator. When pedestrians or cyclists are nearby, the strip shines red, signalling that the car is aware of them. Another electronic display, which faces outside from the instrument panel, can flash messages such as "After you" to pedestrians. This natural, harmonious system of communication signals a new future with cars.



Advanced aerodynamic performance for greater driving range

Design Director Mitsunori Morita says: "By the time Nissan Intelligent Driving technology is available on production cars, EVs will be able to go great distances on a single charge. Getting to this point will, of course, require the further evolution of batteries, but aerodynamic performance is also very important. We incorporated our most advanced aerodynamic technology in the design of the Nissan IDS Concept."

The height of the full carbon fibre body was constrained to 1,380 mm, sharply minimising aerodynamic drag (Cd). Positioning the tyres close to the corners of the body maximises interior space while enabling a wrap-around cabin design. Nissan selected large-diameter wheels for high-performance and sportiness, but used very thin 175-size tyres to minimise air and roll resistance. The wheels have a layered design suggestive of thin fins that create tiny vortexes of air flow on the wheel's surface. This design further contributes to smooth air flow.

The icicle pattern on the Nissan IDS Concept's grille symbolises a pure and clean design – perfect for an EV. Shaped like a stack of ice blocks, the grille pattern appears transparent. The car's bluish satin silver body colour heightens the impression of a comfortable and secure cabin space.

Highly evolved EV technology for long-distance driving

At Nissan's annual shareholders meeting in June, Executive Vice

President Hideyuki Sakamoto said: "Our zero emission strategy centres on EVs. We are pursuing improved electric powertrain technologies, such as motors, batteries and inverters, which will enable us to mass produce and market EVs that equal or surpass the convenience of petrol-powered cars."

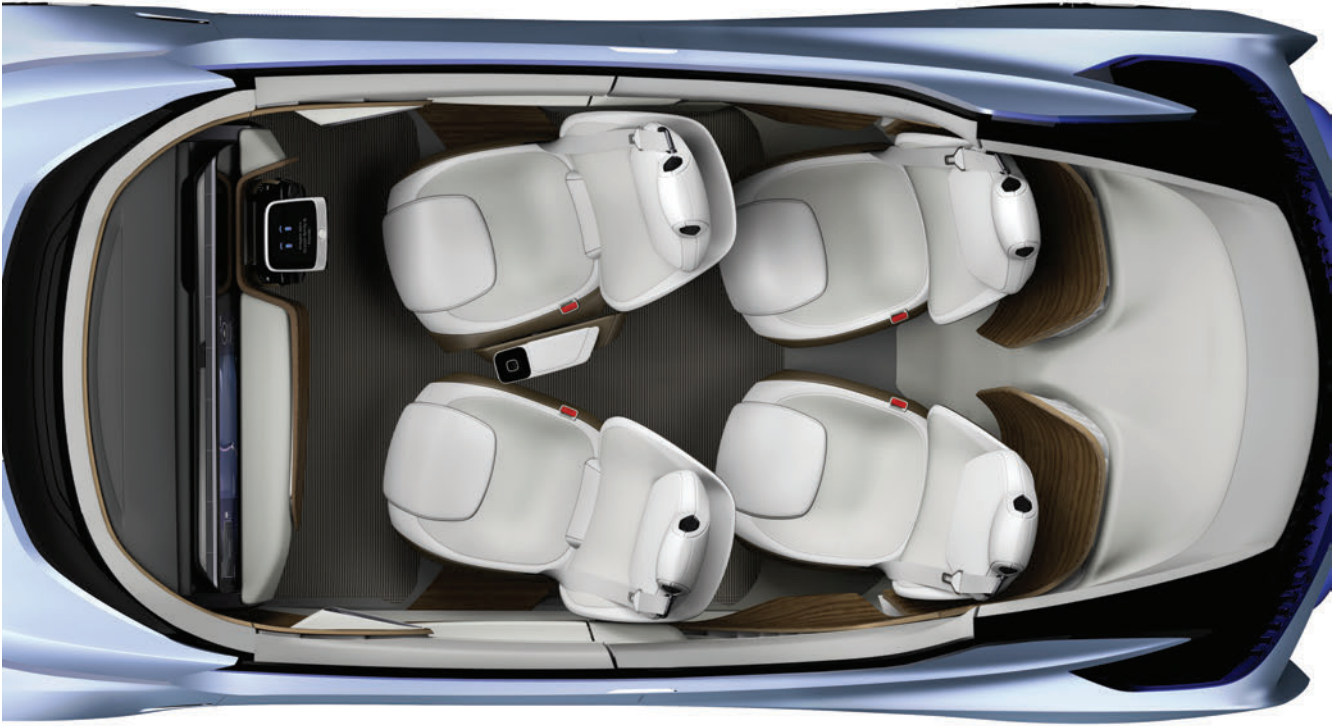
The Nissan IDS Concept is fitted with a high-capacity 60 kWh battery, and thanks to its outstanding aerodynamics, low stance, flowing form and reduced weight due to its full-carbon-fibre body, the vehicle is designed to also meet the need to drive long distances. Other technologies on the Nissan IDS Concept include Piloted Park that can be operated by smartphone or tablet, and wireless charging technologies. Through these, the driver can leave parking and charging to the car.

Nissan's targets – Zero traffic fatalities and zero emissions

In order for our car-based society to be sustainable, complex issues ranging from sustainable energy supplies to climate change, air pollution and traffic safety must be addressed. At Nissan, we have set zero fatalities and zero emissions as aspirational targets in our mission to help create a sustainable car-based society.


Over 90% of traffic accidents are caused by human error. Nissan IDS Concept's extensive system of sensors and AI are designed to provide enhanced safety performance compared to a human driver. This technology brings us a step closer to the goal of zero traffic fatalities.

EVs produce no CO2 emissions and their batteries can store en-



ergy from renewable sources and turn it into electricity for homes and buildings. As the number of EVs increases, entire communities will be able to harness their power as part of a sustainable energy plan. Then, as EVs come to play a central role in energy supply, we will come that much closer to becoming a zero emission society.

Nissan believes that the Nissan IDS Concept will evolve into a leading innovation for next generation mobility and our quest for making these "two zeroes" a reality.

Featuring Nissan's most advanced safety, driving-control and EV technology – all taken to a new level by AI – the Nissan IDS Concept is a compelling showcase of a promising future. 



DELTA'S

HUNTING TROPHY BAN DIVIDES SOUTH AFRICA

The American based Airliner, Delta Delta has announced a ban on hunt trophies on their flights from South Africa. The decision has divided the country between those who see the turn of the events as a victory for the conservation of nature and bio-diversity, and those who fear its economical impact on local sustainability.

Words: ALESSANDRO PARODI

The prohibition was announced by Delta Airlines on the 4th of August, with the following media statement: "Effective immediately, Delta will officially ban shipment of all lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros and buffalo trophies worldwide as freight." American Airlines and Air Canada swiftly followed suit, releasing equivalent statements on the same day. The five animals, known as the Big Five, are among the most characteristic symbols of South Africa. Famed for their majesty and fierceness, the Big Five were feared by the first European settlers, who hunted them to survive in the unwelcoming bushveld. History, however, has turned its tables on the old kings of southern Africa, which have been hunted or forced into captivity and are now to be safeguarded.

Immediate reactions followed Delta's ban. Both the South African and American society dissented between those who identify a lost potential in the game industry and those who call the 4th of August a landmark for the preservation of wildlife. Naturally, radical consequences are to be expected, as Delta was the main transporter of trophies to the United States. The USA is the largest consumer of wildlife hunting, importing, among other animals, about 64 percent of almost a thousand African lions legally killed every year.

It is unfortunate that, in the collective imaginary, the mighty Big Five still represent the wilderness of the continent and their sighting is an almost 'compulsory' achievement for any visitor to Africa. The bridge between enjoying their view and taking photos, to hunting them for an authentic safari 'souvenir' is, unfortunately too short. Despite the large number of game being killed in South Africa annually, the activity is regulated by both national and international laws, which, may be argued, ensure the sustainable conservation of the environment and fauna.

Against the backdrop of formal regulation is the practice of illegal poaching, which has been the root cause of the endangerment of the rhino species in South Africa.

The plague, not to be confused with other forms of hunting, has spread menacingly in the past years. The rhino losses are epidemic, fast driving them towards extinction. White rhinoceros especially are so treasured in the black market for their horn, which is hailed as a powerful remedy in Asian, especially Chinese medicine.

Adding to the woes of wildlife hunting and illegal poaching is the so called 'canned hunting'. The phrase defines a trophy hunt in which an animal is kept in a confined area, such as in a fenced-in area, to guarantee the hunter achieving a "kill" with virtually no effort and absolutely no risk

Canned hunting is more often used in the case of lions. The creation of reserves where they are bred and killed is accepted by the Law but has been opposed by South African public opinion, particularly sensitive to the defence of local nature.

Chris Mercer, Director of the Campaign Against Canned Hunting (CACH), describes the ban as "terribly important" to conserve local wildlife. He mentioned a specific victory which they gained with authorities in Australia, where importing lion trophies became illegal earlier this year.. And he adds: "the current laws are not working. Far more needs to change to arrest the catastrophic decline of wildlife in Africa,

■ Despite the large number of game being killed in South Africa annually, the activity is regulated by both national and international laws, which, may be argued, ensure the sustainable conservation of the environment and fauna.





particularly for rhino, lion and eland”.

Mercer, furthermore, salutes the step taken by Delta as having both financial and humanitarian benefits in the long run: “The market requires up to 30 percent of any country’s land, producing as little as 1 percent of the GDP. The same territories, adapted to farming, would boost the production of primary resources and increase employment”. Canned hunting is one of many industries built in Africa driven by foreign demand, whose objective does not consider the needs of locals.

Delta’s course is not being lauded by all stakeholders. Adri Kitshoff, CEO of the Professional Hunters’ Association of South Africa (PHASA), expresses the hope that Delta will reconsider its position: “There are strict regulations for hunting and the export of trophies. Delta’s embargo does not consider the entire picture and is driven by people’s emotions. Professional hunting has the scope of safeguarding biodiversity and does not diminish the gene pool of the animals”. United Parcel Service (UPS)’s public relations director Susan Rosenberg also criticized what has been termed as decisions based on emotions. To the Washington Post, Rosenberg stated: “There are many items shipped in international commerce that may spark controversy. The views on what is appropriate for shipment are as varied as the audiences that hold these

views”.

The impact of hunting on the local economy is conspicuous. Statistics by the Rhino Resource Centre (RRC) quantify that the “estimated average turnover per rhino hunted in the last four years (trophy fee plus daily rates for 10 days for hunter plus two observers) is about \$27 250 (using yearly average prices and exchange rates)”. Unofficial data refer to more than \$100 million spent in South Africa every year by hunters.

The main claim of CACH, however, is that hunting does not produce employment, as, in Mercer’s words, “only 3 or 4 employees are required in a reserve. Farming moves more human capital, but the policies introduced since 1994 made it more profitable for a land owner to convert into the game industry”.

Adri Kitshoff tackles the claim of hunting’s supposed positive environmental benefits, pointing out that “hunting takes place in marginal areas, where there was no farming. There is nothing else that the community can benefit from. In Botswana, where several hunting projects were stopped, tourism decreased and human conflict arose against the wild animals, which are now seen as pests”.

Charlaine Baartjes, Managing Director of EcoPartners, explains that many factors are related to trophy hunting and ethical reasons are not enough to judge Delta’s ban. “Some of the species need safe-

guarding, and their gene pool might be affected positively or negatively by policies about hunting. Other species are considered as pests in determined areas, as for example elephants in the north of the country. Furthermore, epidemiology has to be taken into account. In particular, the transport of water buffaloes is potentially harmful for the cattle as it can cause the spread of the foot and mouth disease”.

Delta Airlines did not release any further statements on the matter. The conduct of the company was implemented regardless of the legality of trophy hunting, as it followed popular pressure resulting from the killing of Zimbabwe’s beloved Cecil the Lion, by the American Walter Palmer. Nevertheless, the ban will change the shape of recreational travelling into South Africa and its application is likely to cause a reduction of hunting facilities in the country.

Despite the controversies on the effects of such decisions, the parties involved will have to take appropriate measures to ensure a sustainable transition. The changes should be made to result in an increased awareness about the state of wildlife in South Africa, rather than to the loss of interest about its conservation; rather develop alternative forms of tourism which will allow the increase of employment, rather than the economical downfall of the areas affected. ■

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Back Seat:

CAPE TOWN

HOLLYWOOD AWAY FROM HOLLYWOOD

Words: VANGILE MKHUSELI

The beauty of Cape Town, South Africa, attracts a lot of top-class Hollywood movies and other international movies as their chosen location for filming. Film makers have been filming top class movies in Cape Town for a while now. This is solely because Cape Town is super marvelous. its accommodating weather conditions, beautiful beaches, outstanding world class tourist attractions and being cost-effective to shoot a movie in Cape Town, provide the answers to the “how does it do it?” question.



Cape Town's beauty needs no introduction and it makes a lot of sense why it's more convenient to choose CT when making a Hollywood movie

outside of Hollywood. Not only is it so beautiful with lovely and friendly people, but its also convenient for film makers to film a world class movie in a world class city.

The movies that were filmed in Cape Town are star studded. The movie “Tiger House” was filmed in Wynberg in Cape Town. The movie is starring Kaya Scodelario, Dougray Scott and Ed Skrein. Another spectacular movie filmed in the mother city is “The Giver”. It's a sci-fiction movie released in August 2014 and was well received in box office. It stars Jeff Bridges, Meryl Streep and Katie Holmes with appearance from the multi-talented Taylor Swift. Cape Town is indeed a second home for Hollywood away from Hollywood.

“The Perfect Wave” was shot in Cape Town from 2013 to 2014. It was released last year, 2014 in various cinemas around

the world. It stars Cheryl Ladd, Patrick Lyster, and Rachel Hendrix just to name a few. The film made use of the beautiful beaches that Cape Town has to offer and Cape Town delivered as it is known to deliver.

To best understand the reason for the new trend of filming international movies in Cape Town, it is best to list the tourist attractions in and around Cape Town, which reveals the true secret.

One of the most amazing places the Cape has to offer is the Cape Point. Cape Point is the most south-westerly tip of Africa that is covered in endemic ‘fynbos’ and it's a home to many beautiful bays, some inaccessible beaches green hills and valleys. It is situated 60 KM outside of the city of Cape Town.

The most heralded tourist attraction in Cape Town, however remains the Table Mountain, selected as one of the new 7 Wonders of the World. It is indeed a true wonder and forms the focal point of the Table Mountain National Park. It has a level summit, nearly 3 kilometers from side to side, edged by cliffs all round.

Table Mountain is not just a beautiful site

to observe, it has a lot to offer and keep you entertained.

Take the five minutes cable car ride to the top of the mountain. While at the top, you can enjoy the great view, souvenir shopping, solitary hiking or a guided tour. The views are stupendous.

The Two Ocean Aquarium in Cape Town is a work of art. It has more than 3000 marine creatures on view which includes the great white sharks, turtles and penguins. The Two Ocean Aquarium is one of the finest aquariums in the world. Called Two Oceans, because it is located near where the two great oceans, the Indian and Atlantic meet, at the most southern tip of Africa . It has seven large exhibition galleries with large viewing windows showing where the two Oceans meet. This aquarium indeed contains so many wonders of marine life.

Foreign filmmakers are taking advantage of South Africa's diverse, unique locations and low production costs and favorable exchange rate. It is 40% cheaper to make movies in South Africa than in Europe or the United States. This is indeed a big advantage for the international filmmakers. 📍



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