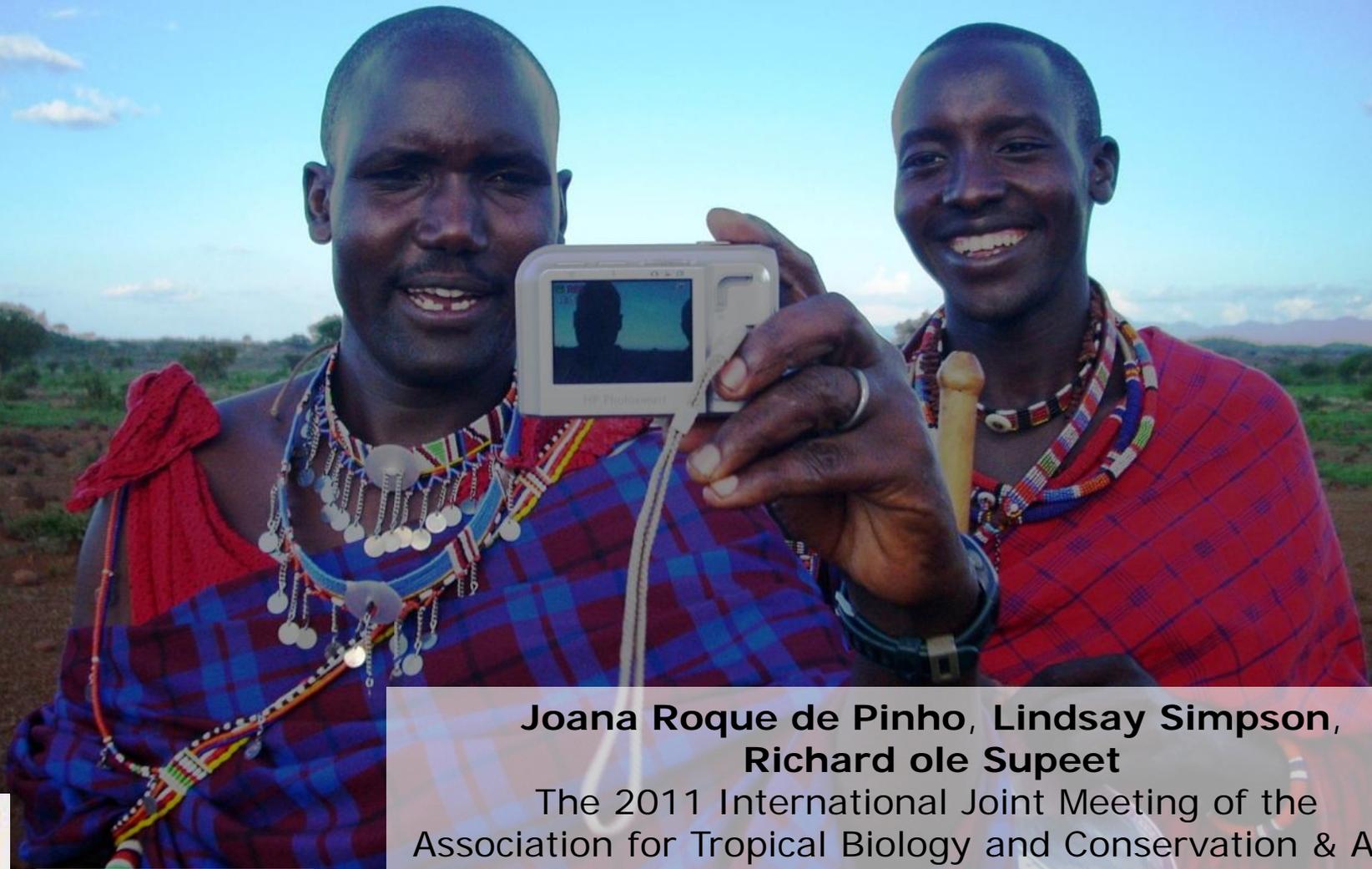


# "Through our Eyes": Participatory Photography and Maasai Perspectives on Climate Change and Conservation in southern Kenya



**Joana Roque de Pinho, Lindsay Simpson,  
Richard ole Supeet**

The 2011 International Joint Meeting of the  
Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation & Africa  
Section of the Society for Conservation Biology  
Arusha, Tanzania, June 16<sup>th</sup>



MY  
CARD

MY  
LIFE





# VOGUE

WIND & BODY ADVENTURES  
Kiera Knightley

## 45 Best Dressed Girls of Summer

### KIERA KNIGHTLEY

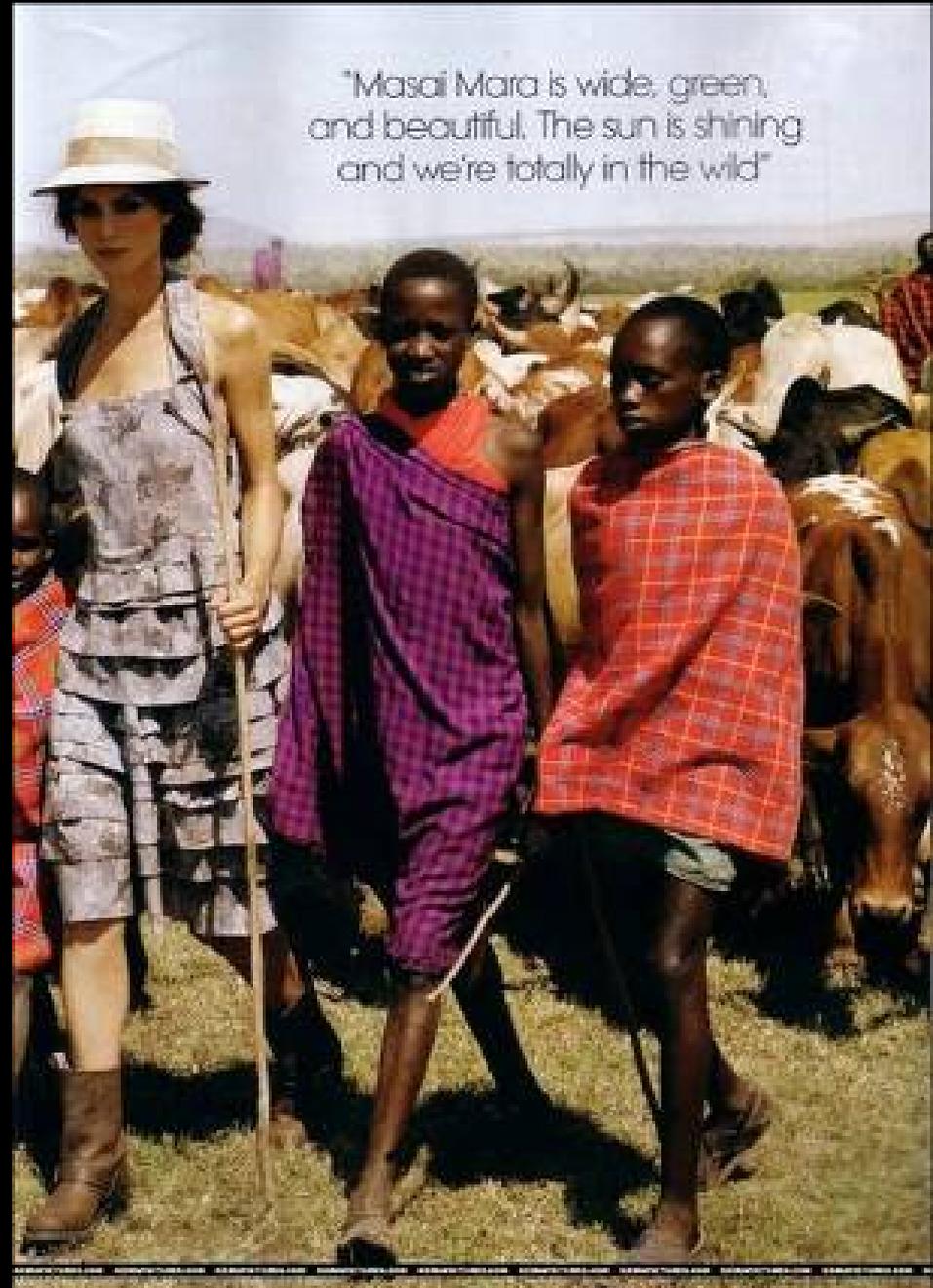
- NICOLE KIDMAN
- KATE HUDSON
- GWYNETH PALTROW
- KATE MOSS
- KIRSTEN DUNST
- NATALIA VODIANOVA
- SIENNA MILLER
- MUCCIA PRADA
- & MORE

### HOT-WEATHER FASHION MADE EASY

Strappy Sandals, Bright Bikinis, Sexy Cover-Ups

### Desperate Housewife

### COMIC CONFESSIONS OF A HARRIED MOTHER OF THREE



"Masai Mara is wide, green, and beautiful. The sun is shining and we're totally in the wild"

# Instead, Maasai as the photographers

Center for Collaborative Conservation Fellowship  
(Colorado State University)

**Goal:** local perceptions and knowledge of interactions  
between local livelihoods and wildlife and conservation



Photo: Naomi Jackson

The **2008-2009 drought**  
through local eyes

Effects

Coping strategies

Human-wildlife interactions



Photo: Daudi Oloomoni

# Participatory Photography

The Photovoice method (Wang & Burris 1994)

<http://www.photovoice.org/>

## Picture taking + story telling

To give voice to marginalized groups  
& minorities

## Theoretical background

Paulo Freire – *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1972)

Feminist theory

Photojournalism

Narrative analysis

## Objectives

Dialogue & critical reflection on community problems,  
solutions based on local knowledge and perceptions

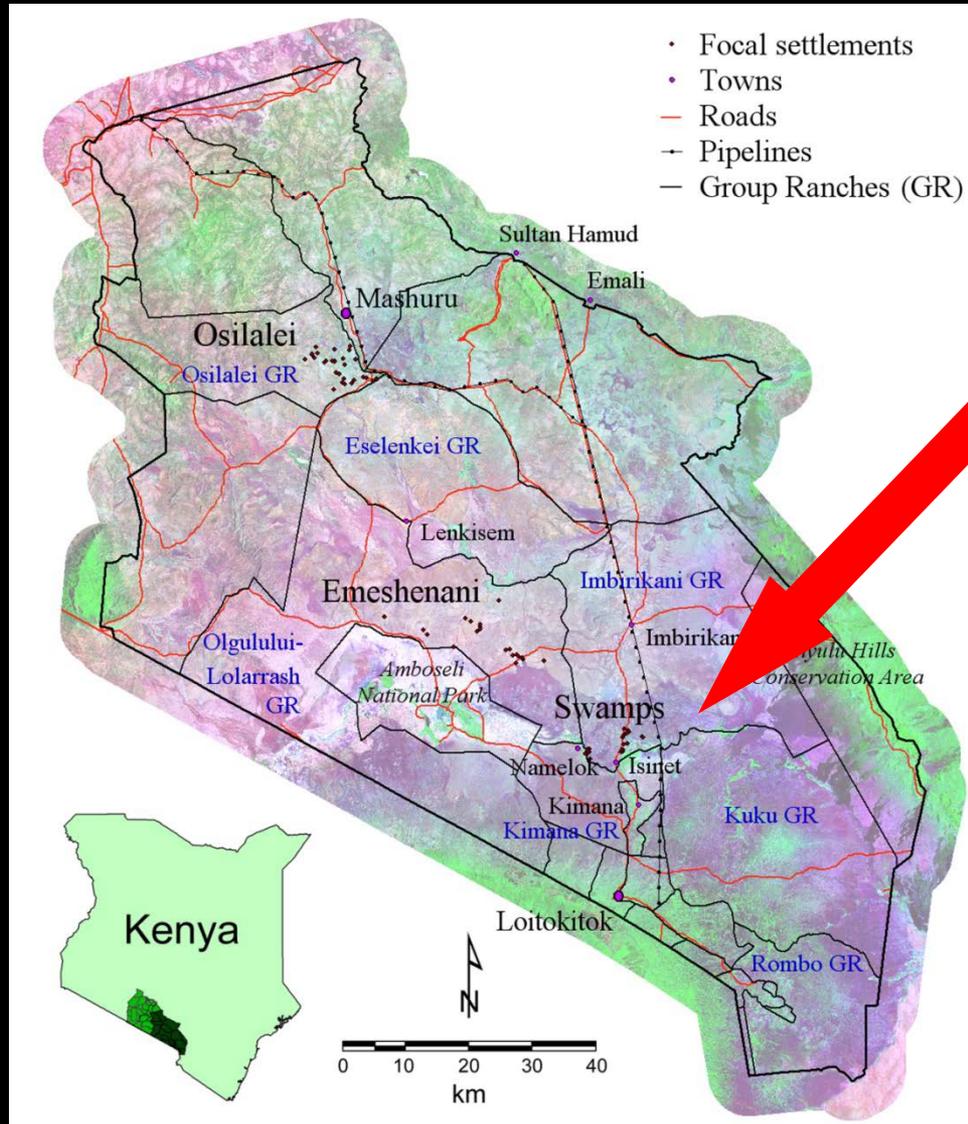
Local people as catalysts of change

Reach policy-makers & promote collaboration

Photo: J. Katapa



# Amboseli Ecosystem, Kajiado District, Kenya



July- Aug. 2009

Kalesirua community,  
Mbirikani Group Ranch

Photo: Ismael Karori



# Photo + Voice

- 1) Take photographs
- 2) Share & discuss meanings and stories of the photos
- 3) Communicate with outsiders





# Photographer in action



# Community workshop: sharing of photos & stories



# Community workshop: sharing of photos & stories





People & cattle struggling...

Photo: Joseph ole Shenaai



Wildlife struggling...

Photo: Isaac ole Mutunkei



Photo: Ismael ole Karori



"Warthogs never died from drought before..." Photo: Shadrack Metui



"This giraffe was trying to get inside our *boma* in order to eat the remains of the crops that we are feeding our goats with. It saw me and it went away *pole-pole* [slowly]. I took this picture to remind us that everything is hungry. You see, even the wild animals are trying to be fed at home!"

Photo: Lois Lanet



Human-wildlife conflicts...

Photo: Kilowa ole Korduni



Solomonie Mutunkai



"And there is no compensation..."

Photo: Solomon ole Mutunkei



Coping strategies...

Photo: Joseph ole Shenaai



Cows eating... trees??

Photo: Isaac ole Mutunkei



"A tree is your friend"

Photo: Malano ole Nkampus



"Our mothers are at *kibaruwa*..."

Photo: Musa ole Shenaai



The last cow

Photo: Joshua Katapa



Calf at home

Photo: Noah ole Kilelo





"The year people helped zebras to stand up..." Photo: Jackson ole Korduni



MAV

Peter ole Nkoyo



**"Let's clean the water points"**

Photo: Peter ole Nkoyo



**"Plant trees!"**

Photo: Kilowa ole Korduni



Post-drought - Nov. 2009

Photo: Richard ole Supeet



**"This was a bad drought like it had never happened in my life!"**

Photo: R. ole Supeet



MAASAI PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR CONSERVATION

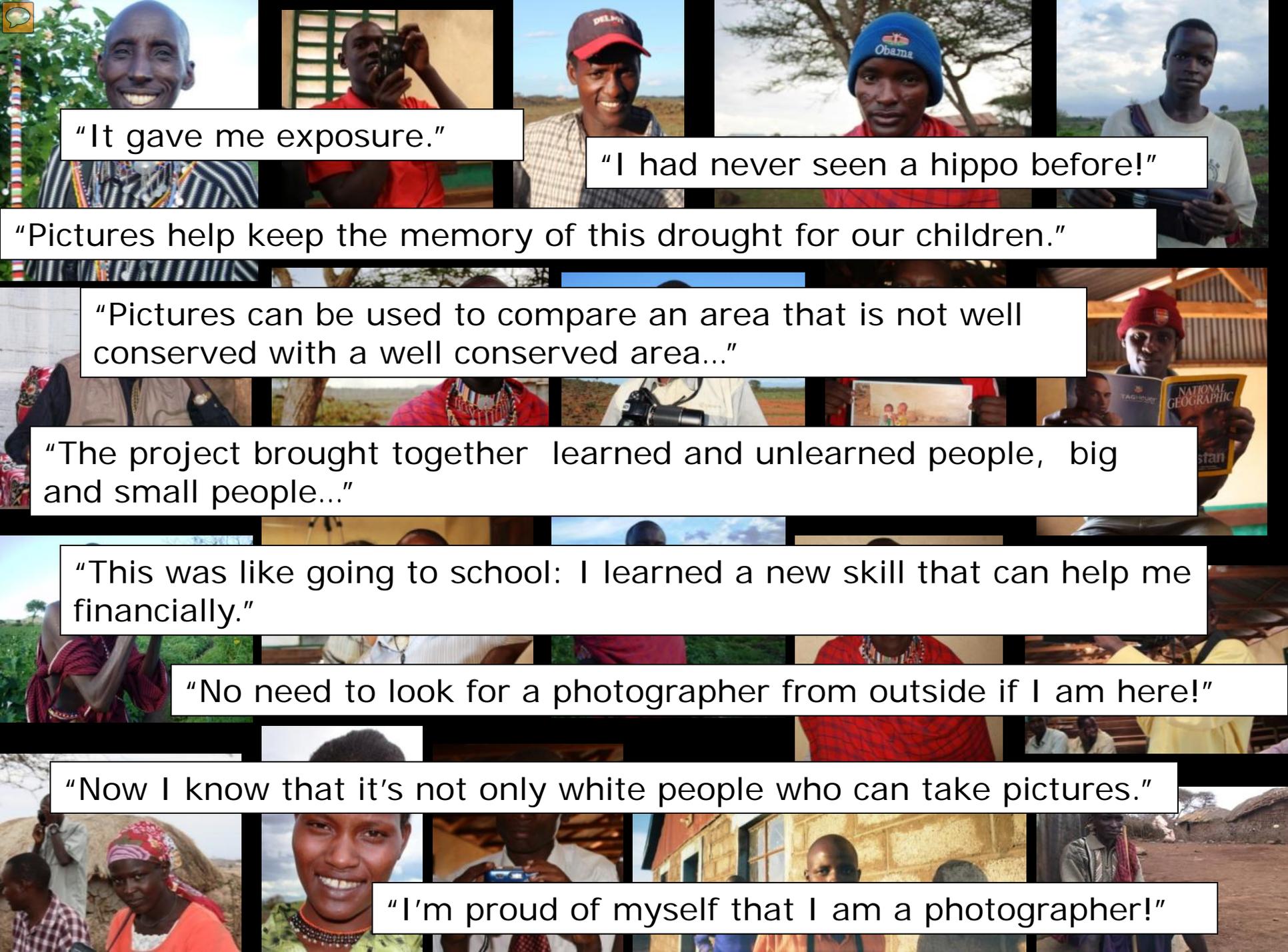


The Maasai Photographers for Conservation Association



# Some Maasai Photographers for Conservation





"It gave me exposure."

"I had never seen a hippo before!"

"Pictures help keep the memory of this drought for our children."

"Pictures can be used to compare an area that is not well conserved with a well conserved area..."

"The project brought together learned and unlearned people, big and small people..."

"This was like going to school: I learned a new skill that can help me financially."

"No need to look for a photographer from outside if I am here!"

"Now I know that it's not only white people who can take pictures."

"I'm proud of myself that I am a photographer!"



# Livelihoods & Conservation outcomes

Reflection on alternative income sources under climate change –  
future of pastoralism?

Ownership of camera + new skill = new income source

Learning experience (species, behaviors  
in a drought...)

Policy-makers: human-wildlife issues awareness

Maasai photographers as researchers

Creation of the Maasai Photographers for  
Conservation association



# Photo exhibits

## Through Our Eyes: an exhibit of Maasai and Samburu photographers

March 26-May 24, 2010  
First National Bank Gallery  
Morgan Library



Imaging and printing equipment to support this project were donated by Herwick Packard.



VALHALL  
ARTS

*Through Our Eyes:  
An exhibit of Maasai photographers*  
June 4 - Aug. 6, 2010

Receptions July 2  
and Aug. 6, 6-9 pm  
Documentary Film  
July 17, 1:00 pm  
at The Lyric Cinema

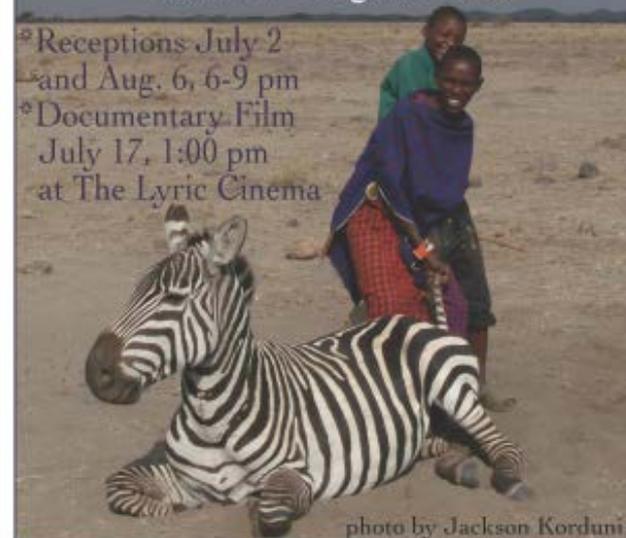


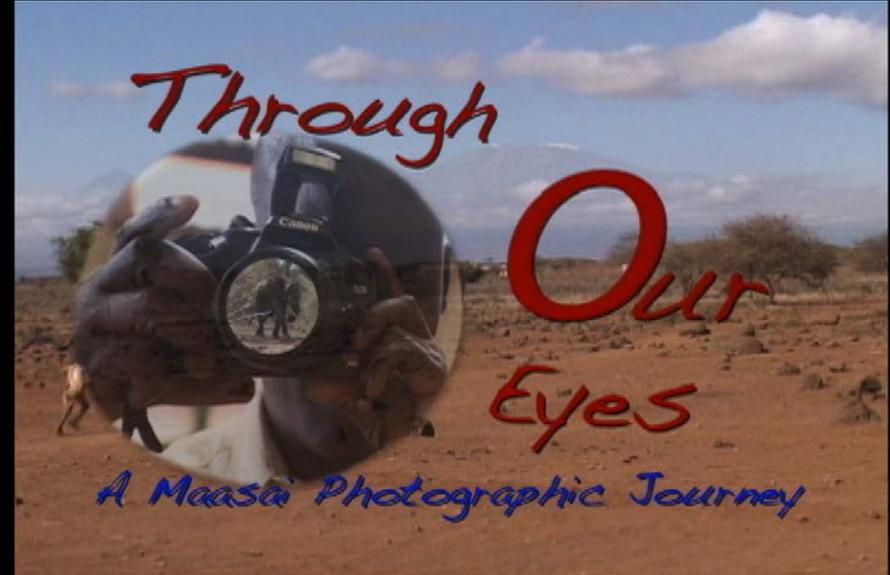
photo by Jackson Korduni

201 S. College Avenue, Plaza Level 2  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
www.valhallarts.com ~ 303-589-7372

# Documentary "Through our Eyes: a Maasai Photographic Journey"



Photo: Malano ole Nkampus





Thank you!  
Ashe oleng!

The Center for Collaborative Conservation, CSU  
Hewlett Packard (Fort Collins, USA)

Centro de Administração e Políticas Públicas, ISCSP

The many donors of cameras & material

The Kalesirua community

The Bashir family

James Njuguna

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maasai-Photographers-for-Conservation/450814545552>

