



Doutzen Kroes, Elizabeth Hurley, and David Bonhomme, founder of Save the Elephants, with the Maasai.

## Wild at heart

It is very rare that a project comes along that manages to captivate and ignite the passion and commitment of the whole team. But that was exactly the reaction last summer, when I shared an email from New York model agent David Bonhomme. He and his partner, Trish Goff, had just returned from Samburu in Kenya, where they had spent time with the Douglas-Hamilton family, founders of Save the Elephants, and learned about the urgent challenges facing the elephant population. "We have to do something with PORTER," he wrote. "And you have to go to Africa to meet the family. They are amazing!"

What I didn't know was that I was already aware

of the work of the Douglas-Hamiltons, having been to university with their daughter, Saba. I wasn't aware, however, of the severity of the current situation, or the Elephant Crisis Fund which was set up in 2013 by STE and the Wildlife Conservation Network. David had also introduced one of his most influential models, Doutzen Kroes, to the family, and following her own visits to Samburu, she has become deeply involved with the ECF, fronting the #KnotOnMyPlanet campaign with Tiffany & Co., and joining Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton on stage at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting last September.

This March, I thus found myself in a tiny twin-prop plane heading to Samburu, with Doutzen at my side. Our mission: to create a portfolio for PORTER that would bring the plight of the elephants to a wider audience. The trip was to use a much-overused word, epic, and it was a rare privilege to get so close to elephants in the wild. We also witnessed firsthand the devastating effect of the illegal killings, which really drove home the threat these majestic creatures—who play such a crucial role in our ecosystem—face. As Saba poignantly writes in the issue: how would we feel if we were the generation to let the largest land mammal on earth be wiped out?

We are delighted to be working with Tiffany & Co. to launch an exclusive line of elephant charms that will also be sold on Net-A-Porter.com, with all profits going to the ECF. I hope you don't mind my hijacking this issue to get behind this cause, and wish you all inspiring and happy travels wherever the summer months take you.

*Lucy Yeomans*  
Editor-in-Chief

this SUMMER I'm looking forward to...

1 Wearing my Tiffany & Co. elephant charm with pride, as all profits go straight to the Elephant Crisis Fund. Available at Net-A-Porter.com and at Tiffany & Co. stores worldwide.



Charm by Tiffany & Co., from £465, from a selection at Net-A-Porter.com



Dress by Burberry, £1,295, at Net-A-Porter.com

2 Being inspired by the elegant muted palette of Meryl Streep's wardrobe in *Out of Africa*. I'll throw a light tan leather jacket over a cream lace dress—the perfect complement to lightly bronzed limbs.

Escaping instyle this summer? Scan & Shop more must-have pieces with the NET-A-PORTER APP

Jacket by Ralph Lauren, £2,500



Sandals by Chloe, £495, at Net-A-Porter.com



Watch by Cartier, £18,500, at Net-A-Porter.com

3 Escaping with Arundhati Roy's long-awaited second novel, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, a love story which promises to grip from the first page. (Penguin, £19)



Body Oil by St. Tropez, £25

SEE IT, SCAN IT, SHOP IT

## contributors



The PORTER team on location in Kenya for this issue's Save the Elephants special



Vincent  
van de  
Wijngaard

Vincent van de Wijngaard's captivating and romantic images have featured in *Vogue*, *CR Fashion Book* and *Interview*. The Dutchman studied photography at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague and his work has since been exhibited worldwide. He shot PORTER's magnificent 53-page *Save the Elephants* special, which starts on page 75. *What do you like most about summer?* Being outside, particularly early in the morning and late in the afternoon. *Your all-time favorite vacation?* Sulawesi, an island in Indonesia—I was 16 and nothing had been mapped out yet. *Where would you most like to visit and why?* Egypt, and in particular the region of Nubia. I would like to follow in the footsteps of the early explorer Giovanni Battista Belzoni. *What is your desert island must-have?* If I couldn't take a camera, then it would have to be a pencil and paper.



David  
Bonnouvier

David Bonnouvier, the mastermind behind PORTER's *Save the Elephants* project, set up one of the world's leading model agencies, DNA Model Management, which represents some of the industry's top models. *What do you like most about summer?* Walking barefoot. *Your all-time favorite vacation?* Probably New Year's Eve 1999/2000 on Harbour Island. *Where would you most like to visit and why?* Virunga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for its landscape and its wildlife. *What is your desert island must-have?* I am sentimentally attached to too many things and people to qualify for this question. No desert island for me.

We get  
to know  
some  
of our  
summer  
escape  
issue's  
creative  
stars...



Linda  
Yablonsky

Art critic and author Linda Yablonsky talks to artist of the moment Sarah Morris on page 128. *What do you like most about summer?* The freedom of wearing lightweight clothes. *Your all-time favorite vacation?* Lamu Island in Kenya. *What destination do you most want to visit and why?* Patagonia—because I imagine it to be so different to anything I've experienced. *Your desert island must-have?* Sunscreen.



Aoife  
O'Brien

Aoife O'Brien is a contributing editor of *The Irish Times* magazine *The Glass*. Born in Africa, she writes about how its scenery has inspired so many photographers on page 105. *What do you like most about summer?* Everyone loosens up a bit. *Where was your best vacation?* The Aran island of Inis Meáin. *Where would you most like to visit?* Being a jazz-head, it has to be New Orleans. *Your desert island must-have?* Tweezers.

# Porter

*Summer Escape 2017*



The elephant is nature's great masterpiece but its very survival is under threat. In a 53-page special, PORTER visits northern Kenya to report on the crisis facing these majestic creatures, who without our protection could disappear in a single generation. We travel with Save the Elephants ambassador Doutzen Kroes and fellow Dutch model Imaan Hammam to the breathtaking Samburu National Reserve to meet the family who have made the elephants' survival their life's work



Dress by Chloé,  
£2,429; brought in  
Tiffany & Co., £145.  
From a selection at  
[Net-A-Porter.com](http://Net-A-Porter.com)

# Fragile World

When Dutch supermodel Doutzen Kroes heard about the crisis facing elephants and the effect their loss would have on our planet, she was compelled to get involved. Here, she travels with *Lucy Yeomans* to the nerve center of the Save the Elephants operation in Kenya to meet conservationist Saba Douglas-Hamilton who, with her family and the local Samburu people, is fighting tirelessly to keep the species alive

*Photography by Vincent van de Wijnngaard  
Fashion editor Julia von Boehm*

I couldn't walk on concrete every day, I couldn't live in a city. It would choke me," says Saba Douglas-Hamilton as we stand watching the sunrise in the Samburu National Reserve in northern Kenya, the silhouette of the nearby mountains just visible in the early morning light. "This," she says, surveying the unending landscape, "feeds my soul."

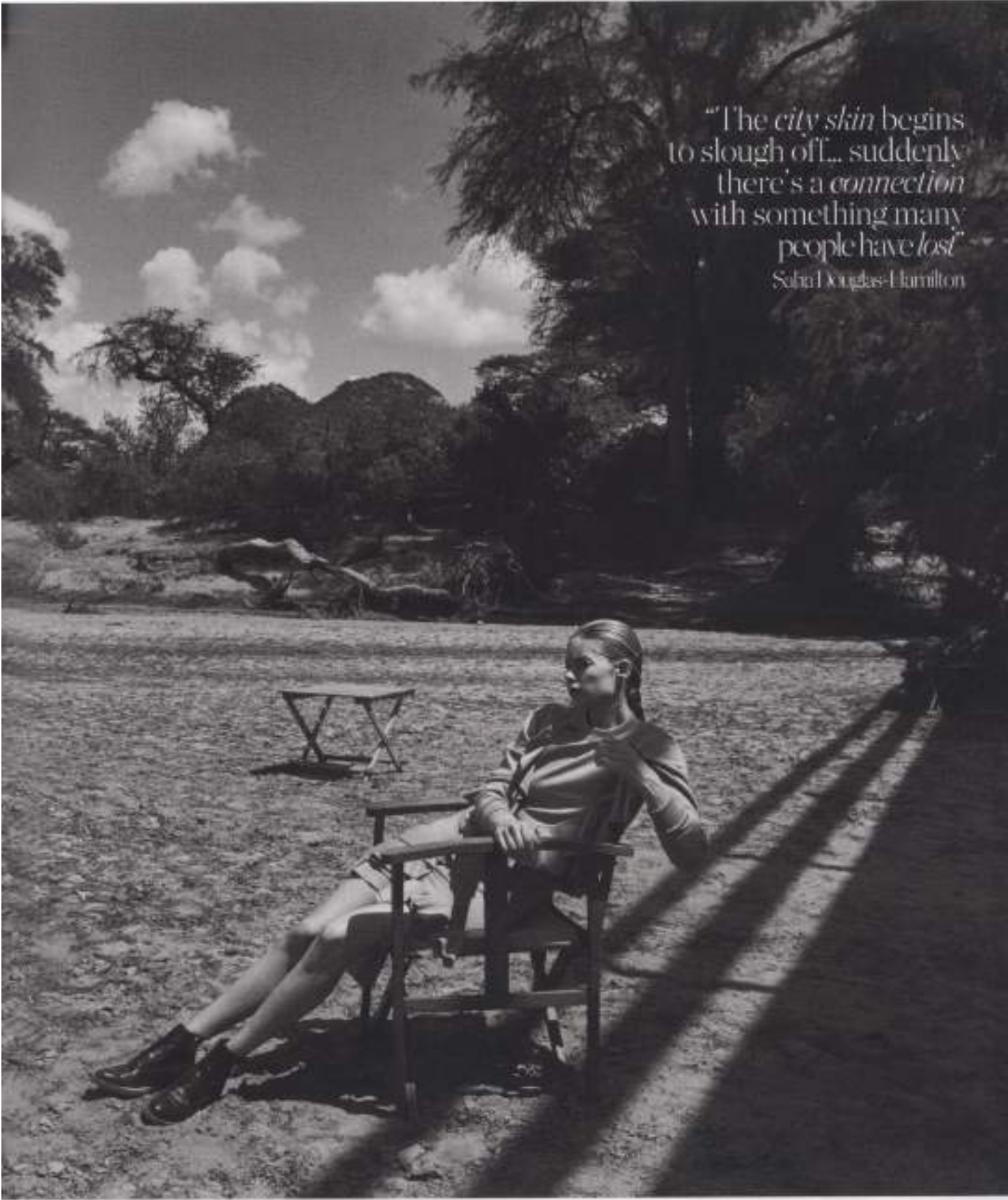
The conservationist, wildlife filmmaker and Save the Elephants campaigner and I are watching Dutch supermodels Doutzen Kroes and Inaam Hammam pose for the PORTER shoot. Against the vast, acacia-dotted wilderness, with a herd of elephants just coming into view, the two models resemble exquisite birds of paradise, the vivid colors of their dresses soaring through the dawn mist.

Despite having only arrived yesterday (along with Doutzen, the PORTER crew and my four-year-old daughter Red), and the mammoth task in front of us, Africa is already working its magic and I feel a rare sense of peace. Saba tells me how much she loves watching the effect Africa has on people. "The city skin begins to slough off... suddenly there's a connection again with the wild world, something many people have lost."

It has been nearly 20 years since Saba and I first met at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. I will never forget our first encounter: It was at a first-term ball and all of us girls were trussed up in 1990s taffeta creations. Then in walked this mesmerizing young woman in a simple orange, figure-skimming cotton sheath, feathers casually placed in her hair. We were transfixed. I got to know the Kenyan-born beauty better the following year when we were cast as witches in *Macbeth*. Saba worked with the director on a hypnotic tribal dance: lit by torchlight, on the ruins of St Andrews' castle. During rehearsals, I learned about Saba's childhood in Africa, and the work her father Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton, an >

SUNRISE IN SAMBURU RESERVE  
Watching the sunrise over a vast plain in the  
Samburu National Reserve in northern Kenya, Saba Douglas-  
Hamilton says the unending landscape "feeds my soul."





"The *city skin* begins  
to slough off... suddenly  
there's a *connection*  
with something many  
people have *lost*"  
Sabra Douglas-Hamilton

acclaimed zoologist and conservationist, was doing with Save the Elephants, the NGO he had set up to secure a future for the elephants. In the coming years I would watch Saba present wildlife programs; and I heard from mutual friends how she'd married handsome British conservationist and author Frank Pope, and that they had settled in Kenya over 10 years ago. They joined her parents to work with STE, which set up the Elephant Crisis Fund in 2013 with the Wildlife Conservation Network in response to the escalating threat from poaching and trading in ivory. I never imagined, however, that our paths would one day cross again quite like this.

It was a chance visit to Elephant Watch Camp (the eco lodge set up by Iain's wife Oria), by David Bonnouvrier, founder of DNA Model Management in New York, and his American partner and former model Trish Goff, that set the PORTER collaboration in motion. David and Trish, inspired by Save the Elephants' work, returned to New York determined to get the fashion world behind the cause. Doutzen Kroes, the Victoria's Secrets star, had been following his Instagram posts and wanted to know more. "David told me to go to Africa and meet the Douglas-Hamiltons," says Doutzen. "I think even he was surprised how quickly I organized that first trip." After a week at Elephant Watch Camp, Doutzen returned similarly inspired, and she, David and Trish devised a campaign, #KnotOnMyPlanet, which they launched with Tiffany & Co. in New York last September, and which has already helped to raise close to \$2m for the Elephant Crisis Fund. It was at that launch, attended by fashion's great and good, as well as Leonardo Di Caprio who has since donated \$3m to the cause, that Trish, David, Doutzen and I first met to discuss our plan and how best we could shine a light on the plight of the elephants and the work of the Douglas-Hamiltons. >

#### MONITORING THE ELEPHANT POPULATION

The elephants are kept on the radar of STE using radio-tracking collars - pioneered by Iain Douglas-Hamilton - which reveal the grand scale of elephant life and allow rangers to follow herds in close-to real time and defend them in high risk areas

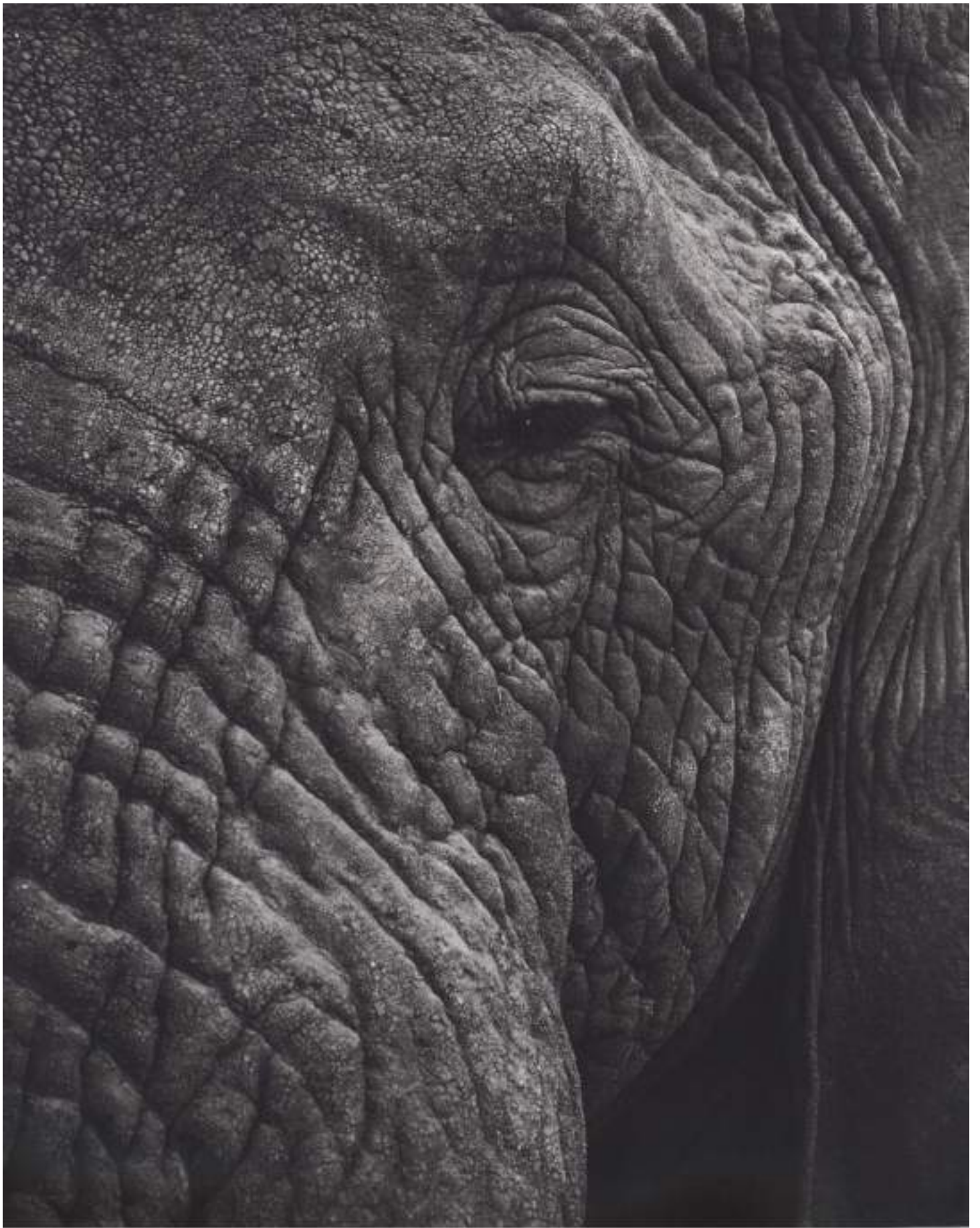


"David told me to *go to Africa...* I think even he was *surprised* how quickly I organized that *first trip*"

Doutzen Kroes

Dress, £1,870,  
and jacket,  
£2,025, both  
by Céline







*Saba Douglas-Hamilton* grew up with elephants – and is passionate that future generations should do so too. Here, she explains the threats these awe-inspiring mammals face and what we can do to save them.

**S**leeping under the stars, apart from the others in a dry riverbed, I had been blissfully alone. Then he suddenly loomed out from the darkness towards me, towering so close that he blocked out half the night sky. There was nowhere to run in the treacherously wet sand. All I could do was play dead and wait his verdict of my scent – a dangerous human. Entirely at his mercy and helpless on the ground in front of him, I was astonished when the giant bull elephant decided to spare my life. And rather than crush me with his knees or skewer me through with a tusk, after a long and heart-stopping moment of utter stillness standing directly above me, he reached out his trunk and instead baptized me from head to toe in his breath before sailing silently away in the moonlight.

I'd grown up with elephants as part of my extended family, as my father – Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton – was among the first wave of zoologists dispatched to study the behavior of animals in the wild in the mid-1960s. Jane Goodall got chimpanzees, George Schaller got lions, Dian Fossey got gorillas and my father got elephants. But that moment with the bull elephant in the riverbed was definitely when I felt most powerfully the particular mix of awesome strength, complex intelligence and compassionate gentleness that is the elephant.

Elephants are some of the most socially interesting and clever creatures on this planet. There's a mind that experiences the world in a very different way from ours but uncanny parallels exist. The chimpanzee is closer to us, the dolphin further away and the raven further still but throughout human history there has been something special about the intelligence of elephants that fascinates us. I see this time and again in northern Kenya, when I introduce people to elephants in the wild for the first time and witness their power to transform human hearts and souls. Moved to tears few people can really explain why.

But unlike my experience in the riverbed, it is elephants that need the mercy of humanity not the other way around. They are fast disappearing beneath the steamroller of human needs and desires, and without urgent help could disappear from the wild.

in our lifetime. Once they're gone, that's it. And if we allow elephants – the largest, most charismatic land mammal on our planet – to be wiped out, then what hope for the myriad smaller species that make our world the sole example of complex life that we know of in the universe?

Desire for 'white gold', as ivory is sometimes called, is behind the current crisis for elephants. It's nothing new. Africa's elephants north of the Sahara disappeared 2,000 years ago thanks to the appetite for ivory in Roman times. In the colonial era, harvesting elephants for their tusks became industrialized. By the 1970s and 1980s, America, Europe and Japan were the main markets.

Living among elephants in Tanzania my father suspected that the killing was unsustainable, so he broke off from his behavioral studies to measure what was going on. Few believed him at first, but when he published the data from his pan-African elephant census, it was beyond question. Eventually, in 1989 a worldwide ban on international trade in ivory was put in place.

That should have been the end of the elephant ivory troubles, and it was for a period. But a misguided decision to allow a one-off sale of tusks in 2008 sparked a new demand in China. By 2010 over 30,000 elephants a year were being killed, their lives sucked from the savannas and forests through smuggling networks to feed an insatiable market. By 2014 the price of ivory had reached a new record high of over £1,600 a kilo (\$2,100/kilo).

The impact across Africa has been devastating. The continent's second largest elephant population, in the Selous in Tanzania, was reduced by 60 percent in just five years. The vast forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo have largely been emptied of elephants, with only five to ten thousand thought to remain. These elusive giants are the only species that disperse the seeds of some of the larger trees – without them the structure of the forest is likely to change forever. Forests that we have unknowingly relied upon for millennia as the lungs of our planet.

My father established Save the Elephants in 1993 to continue his mission to understand and protect elephants with the power of science. Following elephants using radio-tracking collars – a particular specialty that he pioneered – is an example of how research can protect them. Initially the collars revealed the grand scale of elephants' lives. Now they allow rangers to follow herds in close to real time and defend them in high-risk areas much as a shepherd would its flock. This technology has now been built up into a system that's being deployed in national parks across Africa to help defend not just elephants but all wildlife.

But there's one thing that will help save elephants more than any other: collaboration. Thanks to its global nature and the criminal syndicates involved in trade, ivory is an issue too big for any one organization – or even nations – to tackle on its own. But together we have a chance.

In 2013 with our partners the Wildlife Conservation Network, we set up the Elephant Crisis Fund. The idea was to fuel the dreams of small, dedicated groups on the front line across Africa, and focus the bigger organizations that have enormous power to create change. One hundred percent of all donations go straight to the field. Free from the constraints of a single organization, the fund has grown fast to become a powerful force for elephants.

More than 45 different organizations have been supported in their work to stop the killing of elephants, stop the trafficking of ivory and stop demand in end markets across some 25 countries around the world.

This coalition for elephants has had some great successes from the grassroots level to the biggest arenas. One small group has managed to carve out Congo's first new national park in 40 years and has seen elephants repopulating areas of forest they'd not been seen in for many years. This year saw key members of one of East Africa's biggest crime families – the Akashas – implicated in large-scale ivory smuggling, as well as the drug trade, and extradited to face justice in the US. And most important of all, by the end of 2017 China has agreed to close down all of its ivory retail shops and end domestic trade.

There's still a long way to go but the coalition is growing. Last year the fashion industry joined the ranks. Doutzen Kroes came to meet the elephants at our research site in Sumburu National Reserve and immediately understood what was at stake. She became the magnificent figurehead for a movement across the industry that united behind a campaign to end the madness. And now, she has returned with *PORTER* magazine to shoot this issue and further raise awareness.

If elephants are going to have a future they're going to need the whole world on their side. Just as that magnificent bull in a moonlit riverbed showed me his mercy, I believe that by joining hands and taking steps together, we too can save the elephants and fight to preserve the fabric of life on which we all depend. ■

### Bernard Lesirin, senior guide and community liaison at Elephant Watch Camp

It was via a school friend, who was sponsored by Save the Elephants' educational scholarship program, that

Bernard Lesirin (pictured right with Sabo Douglas-Hamilton) first learned about the work of the foundation.

Living some 270km further north, he managed to get himself to the center by visiting a cousin who was a park ranger in Sumburu National Reserve. "I was a very shy little boy," he says of his first meeting with Chris Douglas-Hamilton nearly 10 years ago, "but all I knew was that I wanted to work with elephants."

He secured a job as an intern, where in addition to studying for his guiding qualification, he learnt how to individually identify elephants. "Elephants' ears have unique characters and patterns – holes, marks and tears – so it becomes very easy to identify them," he says. "But you can also go on their personalities or the shape of their foreheads, bodies and size of their tusks." He still treasures every encounter.

"Elephants are special and part of our clan." In the last couple of years Bernard's role has taken him to London and Marrakech, where he spoke about Elephant Watch Camp at a travel fair. "I went with Chris to communicate with all the travel agents about what we have here, how special it is and how we can bring our message about conservation and elephants to more people." His most

frightening moment with an elephant? "Whenever I bump into a young bull searching for acacia seed pods in the camp. I've had to run very fast quite a few times!"



TEAMWORK  
Saba Douglas-  
Hamilton talks to  
the senior guide-  
and community  
liaison at Elephant  
Watch Camp.  
Bernard Lassiter

## Day 1

The moment our twin-prop plane touches down in Samburu, we are thrust into an intoxicating new world. Samburu warriors greet us on the dusty airstrip, their brightly colored kikoi and layers of beads gleaming in the blazing sun. My daughter jumps excitedly into the arms of a warrior – and for the next few days extracting her is nigh on impossible. On the 30-minute drive to Elephant Watch Camp, we pass giraffe, dik-diks and blue guinea fowl, and spy elephant in the distance.

The welcome at the camp is just as warm. Conceived and designed by Oria in 2001 as a place to host donors and visitors interested in the work of Save the Elephants, Elephant Watch Camp is a luxurious, eco-friendly retreat where guests can learn about elephants and get close them. "It's not for tourism," Saba tells me. "The point is to bring people here and introduce them to elephants in a safe but intimate way. I'm like a conservation recruitment agent," she laughs. "People often want to help, but they feel impotent. We unlock the door, show how to take the first steps and fire up the heart."

One look at model Imaan Hammam, who arrived a couple of days before us at her agent David's suggestion and is already sporting one of the camp's elephant-print kimonos, and it is clear this first-time visitor to Kenya has been well and truly hooked. "Look," beams one of fashion's most exciting new faces, waving her iPhone. "Last night I saw elephants, it was just magical."

For me, it's a treat after all these years to catch up with Saba, who runs the camp with her husband Frank, now CEO of STE, and to meet their three children, Selkie, seven, and twins Mayian and Luna, five. "Let's take Red to visit the safari school," she grins, as she leads me down tree-lined paths to >

### THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

Flying into Samburu on a twin-prop plane gives a powerful sense of the vast expanse of landscape: "An intoxicating new world," says PORTER's editor-in-chief Lucy Yeomans.



Inset: ELJAO 0501,  
LORC, and puma 1290  
all by Prada S.P.A.  
Porter 0005-10  
Prada 0005-10  
by C. March 0005

A woman with dark hair is walking across a dry, sandy landscape towards the left. She is wearing a tan-colored suit consisting of a jacket and trousers, cinched at the waist with a wide brown belt. The background features a line of green bushes and trees under a clear blue sky. A long shadow of the woman is cast onto the ground behind her to the right.

*"People want to do  
something but they feel  
impotent. We unlock  
the door, remake  
the connection and  
fire up the heart"*  
Saba Douglas-Hamilton

a small hut, covered with banners bearing heraldic shields, times-table charts and children's paintings. Inside, sitting with their teacher, are her children. They stop for break time – Selkie is taught how to throw a knife by a warrior and the twins climb the vines sprawling up acacia trees.

Saba and Frank's lifestyle is a simple one. Compared to the guests' exquisitely decorated tented cottages, the family's quarters are far more basic: netted tents, rush matting and camp beds for the three girls. Hooks aside, it's a pared-down, possession-free zone.

Later that evening over supper on the banks of the Ewaso Ng'iro river, which has completely dried up thanks to a severe drought, Saba explains the family's participation in Save the Elephants. "My sister Dudu is the spook coordinating the Elephant Crisis Fund's work on anti-trafficking. I specialize in telling the story and linking it to the bigger picture, my father is the scientist and big strategic thinker, Frank is CEO and Oria is, well, the mighty matriarch." The other crucial element, she stresses, is the 40-strong team around the world; including front-line scientist Chris Thonless, who is also director of the ECF, and spends his time penetrating some of the remotest and most troubled regions of Africa to find the right people to help. Back home the family's principal partners are the Samburu people. Indeed, it is this very involvement, the deep friendships and respectful collaborations that exist between the Douglas-Hamiltons and the Samburu that strikes me most in the days that follow.

## Day 2

We wake at 4.30am and creep out of our tents in the pitch-black, recalling Saba's words to always check surrounding >

### FOUNDERS OF SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Acclaimed conservationists Iain and his Italian wife Oria Douglas-Hamilton, inspiring in the work they have done in Kenya and Tanzania; here with their three grandchildren, Selkie, seven, and twins Maylin and Luna, five



Dr. Iain & Oria Douglas-Hamilton, 45 years and 47, all be 40 years



trees just in case there is an elephant or another creature grazing or sleeping among them. We are all hoping to shoot Doutzen's solo cover with an elephant in the frame, and there has been much discussion since we arrived as to how this will happen – unlike those who feature in countless photographic and film shoots, these are wild African elephants. "The best person to make it happen is Saba," Bernard Leserin, the Samburu warrior who is driving our jeep today, confirms. "Some elephants are aggressive, some are shy; Saba knows which is which." An experienced guide, Bernard is one of two Samburu accompanying us on today's mission. Saba drives the last jeep, with Doutzen, Imaan and renowned Dutch photographer Vincent van der Wijngaard.

We eat a breakfast of boiled eggs, banana bread and fruit while we wait for the sun to come up (the models and crew wrapped in Douglas-Hamilton tartan blankets). Bernard explains how STE has named each of the 1,000 or so elephants and their families that use the reserve. "We have the Swahili ladies, the Spices, the Hard Woods, the Artists, the Winds... and," he pauses, "I always love seeing the Royals – with Anastasia and Cleopatra – who are, quite unusually for elephants, joint matriarchs of the herd." Saba chips in, "We could use codes to ID them, but names help you to connect with them as characters, to see them as individuals."

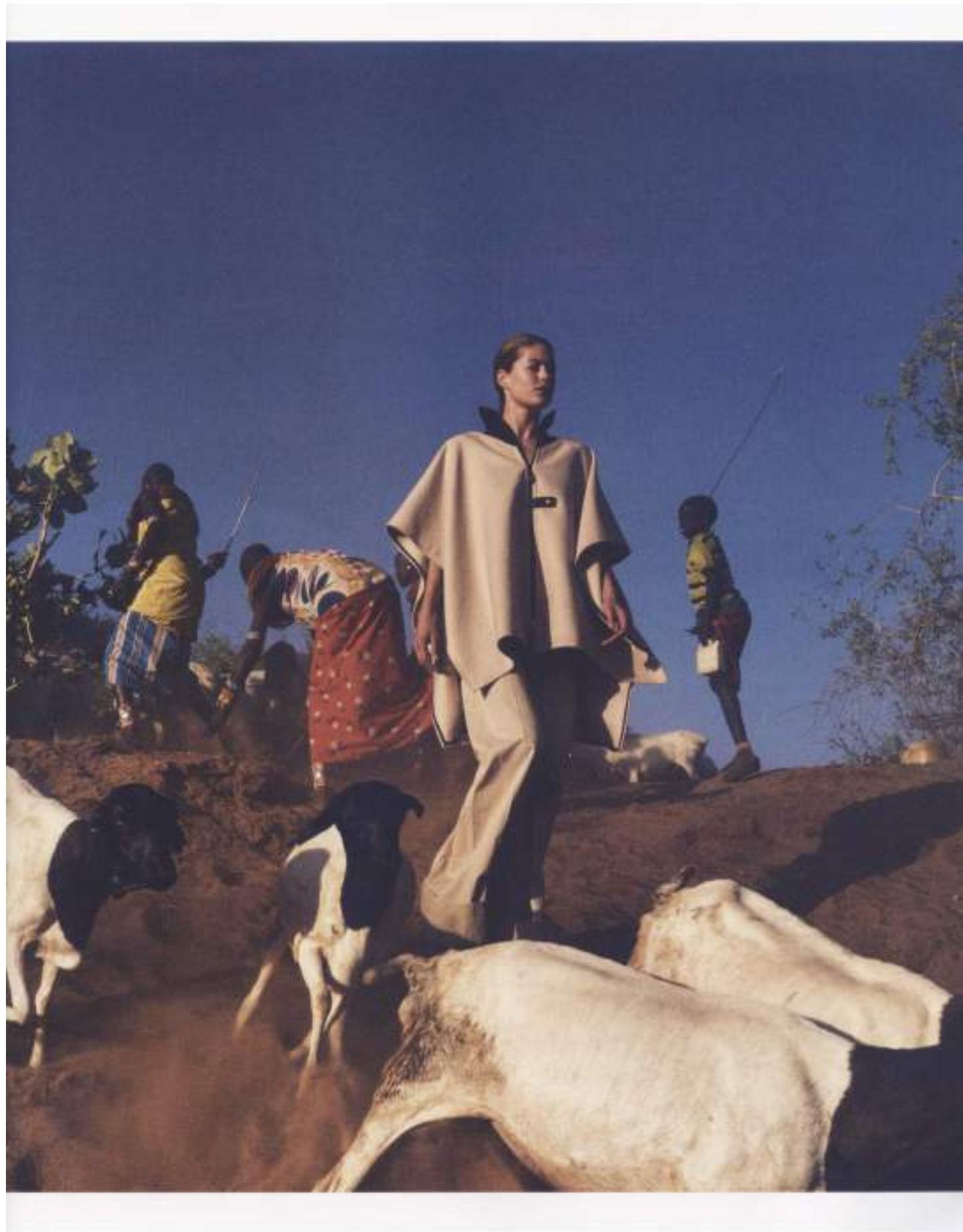
With shots of the two models together completed, we try to locate a suitable elephant family for the solo cover and en route listen to snatches of radio conversation in a mixture of English, Samburu and Swahili. Elephants successfully located, Saba directs the jeeps into position like a grand master plotting their next chess move. She tells Doutzen to get out of the car and stand silently next to the open door so the photographer can get a shot as the elephants walk behind. >

#### A FAMILY AFFAIR

Saba and her husband – the British conservationist and author Frank Pope (below), who is now CEO of Save the Elephants – settled in Kenya over 10 years ago to work with her parents



Photo by Lurie  
 Visit on 23.00h  
 prints by Nina  
 Black 1682



A fashion advertisement featuring a model standing in a vast, arid desert landscape under a clear blue sky. The model is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and a matching pleated skirt. The background shows rolling hills and sparse desert vegetation. The lighting is soft, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

Blouse, £475, and  
skirt, £745, both  
by Christopher  
Kane; shoes by  
Joseph £400, at  
Net-A-Porter.com



Getting so close to these majestic animals is a rare treat and the atmosphere is one of excitement and awe. All is going to plan until a lone bull elephant, hidden in the dense trees behind us, looms suddenly across our vehicles and trumpets the alarm. The mother elephant, who had been wandering peacefully behind Doutzen, begins to menace the car and Saba signals her to run. It's an adrenalin-filled moment. "I have never seen anyone move so fast in my life," Bernard jokes afterward to Doutzen, who, in a fraction of a second, somehow managed to vault back into the car, even in her fitted full-length dress. "I was the only one who couldn't see what was going on with the elephants," Doutzen tells me later. "I had to trust Saba 100 percent and just keep looking into her eyes."

Doutzen's unflappable response is remarkable and we continue to witness her game spirit throughout the day. In one shot, she climbs a tree with Saba, both pretending to be baboons (which helps calm the elephants), lying low on the branch so the elephants below can't make out their human >

#### Serenoy Letoije, senior guide and assistant operations manager at Elephant Watch Camp

"I went to one of the schools that Save the Elephants supports," Serenoy (Ockon) explains as we set off on a game drive. "This is my area and I have always admired the work of Save the Elephants and wanted to work for them." He set up a meeting with Ota, who called him the next day to offer him an internship he has been part of the team at Elephant Watch Camp for 10 years now. Soon we come across the lion lair under a cluster of trees. Serenoy believes there are four here, a mother and her cubs, sleeping in the undergrowth. Serenoy updates Lion Watch Cameraby NGO every time he spots a lion. He is able to identify them by their whisker spots and scratches on their ears, and enters the sighting into the Lion Watch app, which will feed the data back to the program to monitor the pride and raise awareness about lion conservation to visitors on safari. "My father is very proud of me," he says, as we drive back to camp. His career highlight? "Being employed at Elephant Watch Camp. Iam, Ota, Saba and Frank are like my family. They have high expectations and want you to be a success."



silhouettes. It is gripping to watch the elephants pass so close to them. On the drive back to the camp, there is a mood of excitement. The most challenging shots are in the bag.

In the evening we are joined by Frank, who has flown in from investigating an elephant death, and Iain and Oria from their home in Nairobi. The little ones are thrilled to see their father and grandparents and the whole family disappears for a stroll up the dry riverbed, before joining us for a lively dinner, where Iain and Oria are bombarded with questions about their life and work. They are impressive, charming and impossibly energetic (it's hard to believe they are both in their mid-seventies), and we all listen, entranced by Oria's tales of adventures and Iain's prognosis on the elephant crisis.

A sobering moment comes after dinner; an elephant poaching incident has been discovered further north and David Daballen, Iain and Frank's right-hand man and head of field operations who had gone to investigate, has not been in touch for 24 hours. "It's volatile up there," explains Iain. "And these killings are for ivory. The situation has been a lot better here in Kenya recently, but this shows you can never be complacent." The story of what happened will unfold over the course of our trip.

## Day 3

I have picked up lots of interesting facts about the work of Save the Elephants – and the crisis facing the animals – but it is a privilege to finally get the complete picture from Iain, the godfather of elephant research and conservation, who I talk to after breakfast. As always, he is clutching his iPhone and, like Imaan a few days earlier, he is keen to show me something on it. "As you can see technology plays a great

part in our lives," he says showing me images of elephant icons and detailed maps of Samburu (Save the Elephants works closely with Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen's company Vulcan, a key supporter and co-creator of the Save the Elephants Tracking App). "I can see, for example, where this young bull was a few hours ago."

Iain, who admits he got into elephants by accident ("I went to Africa in the 1960s to study lions but was told George Schaller already had them and was asked if I would like elephants instead!"), was the first to track them using radio collars, which now provide a near-instantaneous GPS location. He can also tell if an elephant has been immobile for an unnaturally long period, a warning that it might be in trouble. Longer term, the data helps to build a better knowledge of elephant behavior.

"There are two very practical reasons for tracking them," says Iain. "One is to protect them from poachers – if the anti-poaching people have an idea of where the elephants are moving they can organize patrols preemptively." The second is to help prevent crop raiding, the other main reason why elephants are killed illegally. Iain shows me some charts on his laptop monitoring the movements of Tim, "a big tusker" from a region where there is a huge crop-raiding problem. "The Kenya Wildlife Service and some other NGOs asked us if we could help by tracking him. So we collared him and set up a whole load of buffer zones; when one is crossed a signal is sent to the rangers. This one's called the OS line – the Oh Shit line," he laughs, "which means he's now in the crops and needs to be headed off by the anti-crop-raiding patrol."

Iain is a gifted raconteur who manages to weave science, statistics and anecdotes into an easily comprehensible and palatable stream. It serves him well, as an important part of his life and an element that is critical to the success of Save the Elephants is lobbying governments, securing funding, encouraging collaboration and generally building momentum. He describes the many hoops that he and others jumped through in order to explain the impact of the ivory trade to the Chinese government and persuade them to ban it – the mass slaughter of elephants since 2008 was largely driven by the increasing demand for ivory in China. Iain shows me two anti-poaching videos created with Chinese basketball star Yao Ming and actress Li Bingbing, both influential public figures who have visited Save the Elephants in Samburu. They are powerful and very moving and Iain believes they, along with high level lobbying, had an important effect. After many years of sharing the stories and the data, last year the Chinese ban on ivory was finally announced. "We can't say it was cause and effect, but we can say that we made the effort and the law changed," Iain concludes. "We should show them to your team," he adds with a wink, "to motivate them a bit."

The crew watch the films before lunch. We've barely sat down to eat when Frank suggests a change of plan to the afternoon's schedule – to visit the carcass of an elephant found 50km away. Vincent and Doutzen think it's important that we go. I'm concerned about publishing this image, but in my heart know this is a story that has to be told, either in pictures or words, so join the trip. The necessary vehicles, >

### THE HARSH REALITY

Doutzen (below) faces the heart-wrenching and disturbing scene of the aftermath of an elephant killing, tusks intact, suggesting that rather than ivory poachers, the elephant could have been killed by a startled herdsman or caught in the crossfire of a tribe altercation



"Doutzen,  
Jerenimo and  
Frank go and see  
the *elephant* up  
close. Doutzen  
places a *sprig of  
green twigs* on  
what is left of its  
*forehead* and they  
stand together  
in *silence*"

Coat by See by  
Chloe, £730;  
Blouse by Zadig  
Voltaire, £290

A full-page fashion photograph of model Doutzen Kroes. She is wearing a white ribbed bodysuit and a brown and white houndstooth blazer. Her hair is pulled back, and she is looking off to the side with a serious expression. Her hands are clasped in front of her, and she is wearing a gold ring. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some structural elements.

"Coming here  
and getting  
*involved* with  
the elephants  
has made *sense*  
of my life"

Doutzen Kroes

Jacket, £1,400,  
and skirt, £1,175,  
both by Ralph  
Lauren Collection;  
bodysuit by  
Michael Kors  
Collection, £333

including the Save the Elephants four-seater bushplane, are quickly mobilized. The timings, Saba explains, are tight because we will need to land back in Samburu before sunset. "I was really nervous," Doutzen tells me later. "But I knew it was important that I saw this to make sense of everything we are doing." The atmosphere aboard the plane, with its red tail and perky elephant logo, is subdued. Doutzen and I are worried we will cry. "Don't worry," reassures Frank from the cockpit before we take off. "You're not alone. Iain cries at the drop of a hat!"

Frank touches the plane down on the dusty Shaba airstrip where we meet a jeep driven by ranger Jerenimo. I chat to Frank about his father-in-law. "His guiding star is data," he begins. "Data is what drives every decision we make. Back in the day people used to say he was crying wolf about the crisis facing the elephants. No one believed him. Now they do. Three years ago China was in complete denial, but thanks to the data, they eventually understood that this was real. All the state factories and shops selling ivory are now being closed."

Some 45 minutes later, we arrive at a stream surrounded by acacia trees. It's one of the most verdant, idyllic landscapes we have yet set foot in. The only signal that something is amiss are the vultures sitting menacingly in the trees ahead. We walk in silence up a slight hill and suddenly the body of the elephant comes into view. From one side, it looks as if it's just sleeping by a tree, but from the other, we can see the bloodied leg where it was shot and the remains of a trunk, clearly eaten away at by animals. "Hyenas probably," Jerenimo tells me later. Insects crawl over the open wound and the stench is retch-inducing. There are no words to describe the immediate feeling. Each one of us is silent, lost in thought. Doutzen tells me later it was the saddest day of her life. "Seeing something so beautiful, something that has taken so long to create, just lying dead there... it felt so completely unnecessary." The reasons behind the killing are as yet unclear. Frank and Jerenimo do not think it is a poaching death because the tusks were left intact. "It could have been a herdsman who just stumbled across an elephant and fired off his AK47 to scare it away," says Frank. "Or it could have got caught in the crossfire of a tribal altercation."

Doutzen goes with Jerenimo and Frank to see the elephant up close. She then places a sprig of green twigs on what is left of its forehead and they stand together in silence. Afterwards Jerenimo tells me about the ritual. "The Samburu have an elephant clan," he explains. "so we give respect when we see a carcass. We find some green twigs, place it on their head and say 'Sleep well our comrade.' That's also what elephants do when they find a dead person, they find a twig or a branch and place it on the body." My own tears, which I have managed to keep in check until this moment, suddenly begin to stream. Doutzen, who has also been crying, walks over to me and we hug each other for a few moments, both rendered completely speechless by what we have seen.

We are all silent on the plane ride home, processing what we have just seen. It is only when the plane circles Elephant Watch Camp and we catch sight of the children playing on the dry riverbed, waving up at us frantically with beaming grins, that the sombre mood lifts. >

## David Daballen, head of field operations, Samburu Camp

"It's not been a usual week," says David Daballen (below), attempting to summon a smile, as he pulls up a chair opposite me outside the Save the Elephants camp research center in Samburu, the elephant skulls laid out in lines in the sand behind him, a reminder of the very real danger he has just faced. Head of field operations and a member of the Save the Elephants team for nearly 18 years, David has just returned from the northeast, where he was investigating what turned out to be a large-scale elephant poaching incident, the likes of which has not been witnessed in this area for some years.

Six days earlier, David had been told by the Northern Rangelands Trust that some of the community rangers had heard reports of dead elephants from local herders. "Our mission was to actually see who had died and how they'd died. The poachers had picked who even had big tusks in the group. In this case, two older females, a 25-year-old male and a young male, all from the same group." He explains how they had collected skulls from AK47s. "The poachers were experienced, they got so close to the elephants, who were probably all just resting in the shade and just went here, here, straight at their heads." Finding the next site was tougher and more dangerous, involving a 10km trek through the 40-degree heat, guided by Samburu warriors who were herding and guarding their drought-stricken cattle. "We eventually found three more animals," David sighs wearily. "One very young bull lying next to the mother and then another 15 to 20-year-old male." On the day we met, the total amount was still unclear but David said, "We have now discovered 14, but there are more, definitely more."

After leaving school (where he was head boy), David wanted to become a ranger with the Kenya Wildlife Service. One day he came across a poster featuring Save the Elephants. "I got in touch and said, 'What do you guys do?'" They said, "Oh, we get to know elephants individually," and I said, "Wow, can I be an intern?" After six months they said, "Why don't you extend your internship for six months?" Six months? He grins. "Because 16 years! David can now identify over 500 Samburu elephants by sight. "A unique talent," says Iain Douglas-Hamilton. "I've learned so much about elephants, and about the rest of the world, from him. He has been a blessing in my life." David, who during his career with Save the Elephants has been featured in several films and documentaries (for the BBC, National Geographic...), sees being in the field as a continuous learning process. "It's been an amazing journey for me," he says. "I've seen ups and downs, sad and happy moments but I'm determined to just look forward and work for the future of elephants together with my team."



That night Oria and Sabu have planned a special surprise. We climb a nearby hilltop to join a group of about 40 Samburu warriors and women in a special ceremony in which a goat is sacrificed. Back at the camp a huge table has been laid out by the riverbed and a bonfire lit. Imann and Doutzen are the first to be pulled by the warriors when the dancing begins and soon we all find ourselves joining in the hypnotic chant. Seeing my daughter, who has definitely sloughed off her city skin, wearing only cut off denim shorts, her body and legs smeared with mud, swaying and jumping in the firelight between two ornately dressed warriors, totally lost in and bewitched by this extraordinary new world, is a moment I will never forget. It has been a day of highs and lows for us all.

## Day 4

It is our last morning and before we fly back to Nairobi, the team are capturing a few final shots of the special Tiffany & Co. elephant charms that will be sold globally from June to raise money for the fund. I still haven't visited the research center or talked with David Daballen, who thankfully had returned safely to Samburu in the night. So I jump in a jeep with Iain to get an update on the killings in the north.

We pull up to the research center, a cluster of huts and one partly open-sided building, the visitors' center, which Iain tells me was opened by Chelsea Clinton two years ago. The walls are covered with boards outlining some of the projects Save the Elephants is working on, including those the Elephant Crisis Fund has financed. But it is the seriously crumpled remains of a jeep that captures my attention. "Yes, that's what an elephant can do if he's really angry," Iain grins. "The two researchers in the cars were [CONTINUED ON PAGE 180]"

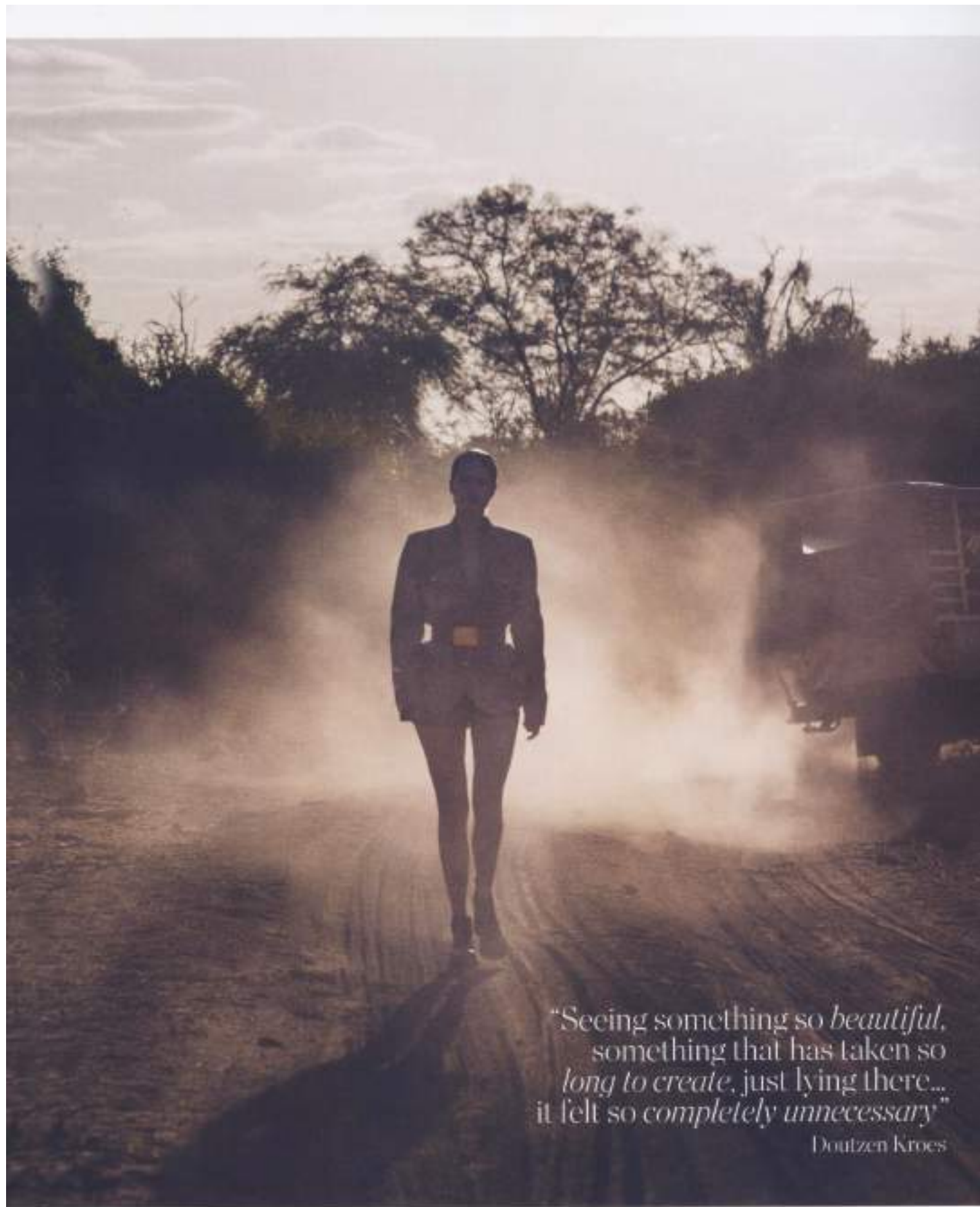
### COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Local goat herders in Samburu work closely with the community rangers, a vital resource in tracking the whereabouts of the elephants and reporting any casualties.



Jackpot by Michael  
Kors Collections  
£1,595 short-sleeve  
Zadie - Volante  
£140 shoes by  
Joseph, £445, at  
Net-A-Porter.com

Makeup Lotten Holmquist  
at Management Artists  
Hair Tomohiro Hashi at  
Management Artists  
Model Doutzen Kroes at  
DNA Model Management  
Isaac Hammam at DNA  
Model Management  
Production Bakke Kert, Shot  
on location at the Samburu  
National Reserve, Kenya in  
March 10, 2017. With thanks  
to Kenya Airways, Ole  
Sereni, Samburu Intrepid  
and Elephant Watch Camp



"Seeing something so *beautiful*,  
something that has taken so  
*long to create*, just lying there...  
it felt so *completely unnecessary*"

Doutzen Kroes



Clockwise from top, the Elephant Watch Camp's large alfresco dining table is prepared by one of the Samburu National Reserve's welcome team; Samburu tribespeople gather to watch the sun set over the north Kenyan plains; the camp's day beds, overlooking the Ewaso Ng'iro river, are the perfect place to reconnect with nature; an open-sided drawing room, made with sustainably harvested palm thatch, where guests can relax at the end of the day; all of the camp's en-suite tents are crafted from natural materials, including trees felled by elephants





## Elephant Watch Camp

When the jeep line pulls up at Elephant Watch Camp, a discreet cluster of part-tented, part-thatched houses on the lefty bank of the Ewaso Ng'iro river, you know you've arrived somewhere special. If you haven't yet encountered a herd of elephants or some meandering giraffe on the short drive from the airstrip, there is every chance you will in the grounds of the camp itself. And the sight of the Samburu welcome team, draped in vivid pink, red and blue shukas, arms and necks stacked with bracelets and necklaces, is both a visual and emotional treat. The gravity of the spectacle is more than matched by the warmth of the welcome. Any children in the party are quickly scooped up by the warriors—who are as friendly and gentle as they are fierce and proud—and are soon monkey-spotting near the riverbed or climbing *kgella* trees, while you relax with a refreshing chai and take in your beautiful new surroundings: the lofty thatched ceilings festooned with pink and red swathes of diaphanous fabric; the vast sofas and armchairs cradled from fallen trees and piled with vibrant elephant-embroidered throws and cushions; the coffee tables brimming with books; the rainbow-colored crystal glasses above the homely bar; and, of course, the view.

"I wanted to create something different, a place where our guests could come and join us in our life and learn more about elephants and conservation," explains Ori Douglas-Hamilton, as we look through the trees to the dusty burnt orange river bed, through which a group of elephants happen to be passing. The "matriarch," as her daughters call her, of the Douglas-Hamilton clan, Ori, a conservationist, designer and author, first set up the camp in 2001 as somewhere for her and her husband, Iain, and visitors to stay following the opening of the Save the Elephants research camp. "I wanted something that was intimate and real, and had a low footprint on the environment," she says. "I used all the trees that had fallen or been pushed over the by the elephants to build with. I used only local things that the nomads use, like these belts," she points to a strap on a chair. "Camel herders use these to tie up their bedding on top of their camels. Everything had to be locally sourced or recycled. That was my vision."

Today, Elephant Watch Camp, which is now run by Ori's daughter Saba (who is also special projects director of Save the Elephants), boasts six luxurious-tented bedrooms—each decorated in a similarly vibrant style to the main drawing room. Guests can enjoy hot showers in the eco-waste, open-air shower rooms (water is poured from animal motif-decorated, upside-down, watering-can-style contraptions)—as well as some of the best cooking I've ever tasted in Africa, a mouthwatering fusion of Italian and Kenyan fare, much of which is freshly picked from Ori's organic vegetable garden. In the evenings, lanterns lead guests down to a large dining table by the riverbed and a huge fire, where more can be learned from the Samburu or a member of the Douglas-Hamilton family about the elephant community.

Getting people to love these majestic creatures is, after all, the real purpose of Elephant Watch Camp, as Saba, the most welcoming, informed and beguiling of hosts, tells me as we watch the sun rise on a game drive the next morning. "I call it our honey-trip. We want to bring people here, feed them well and ensure they leave as elephant lovers and conservationists." *Lary Issenou*  
From \$700 per night, [elephantwatchcamp.com](http://elephantwatchcamp.com)

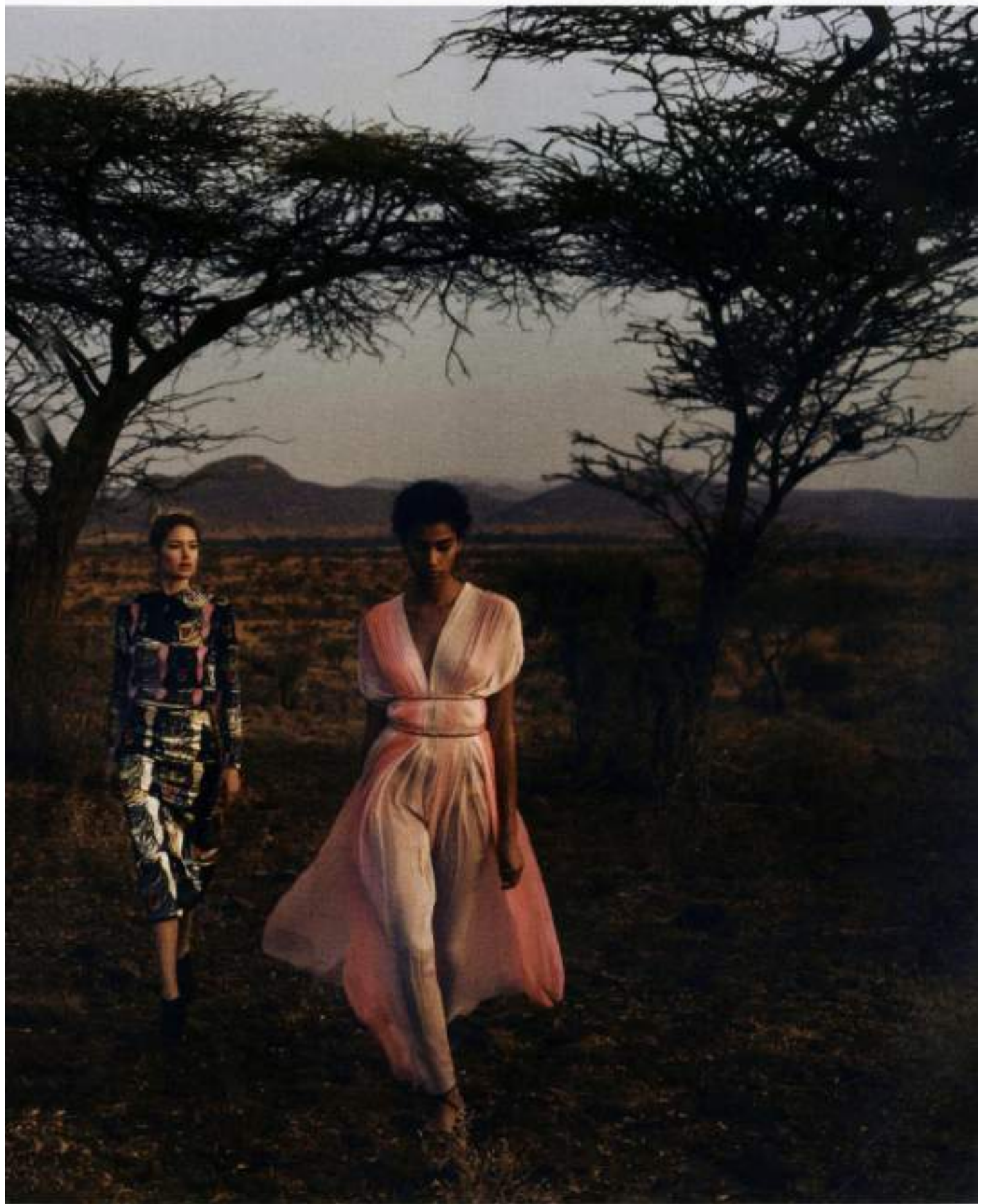


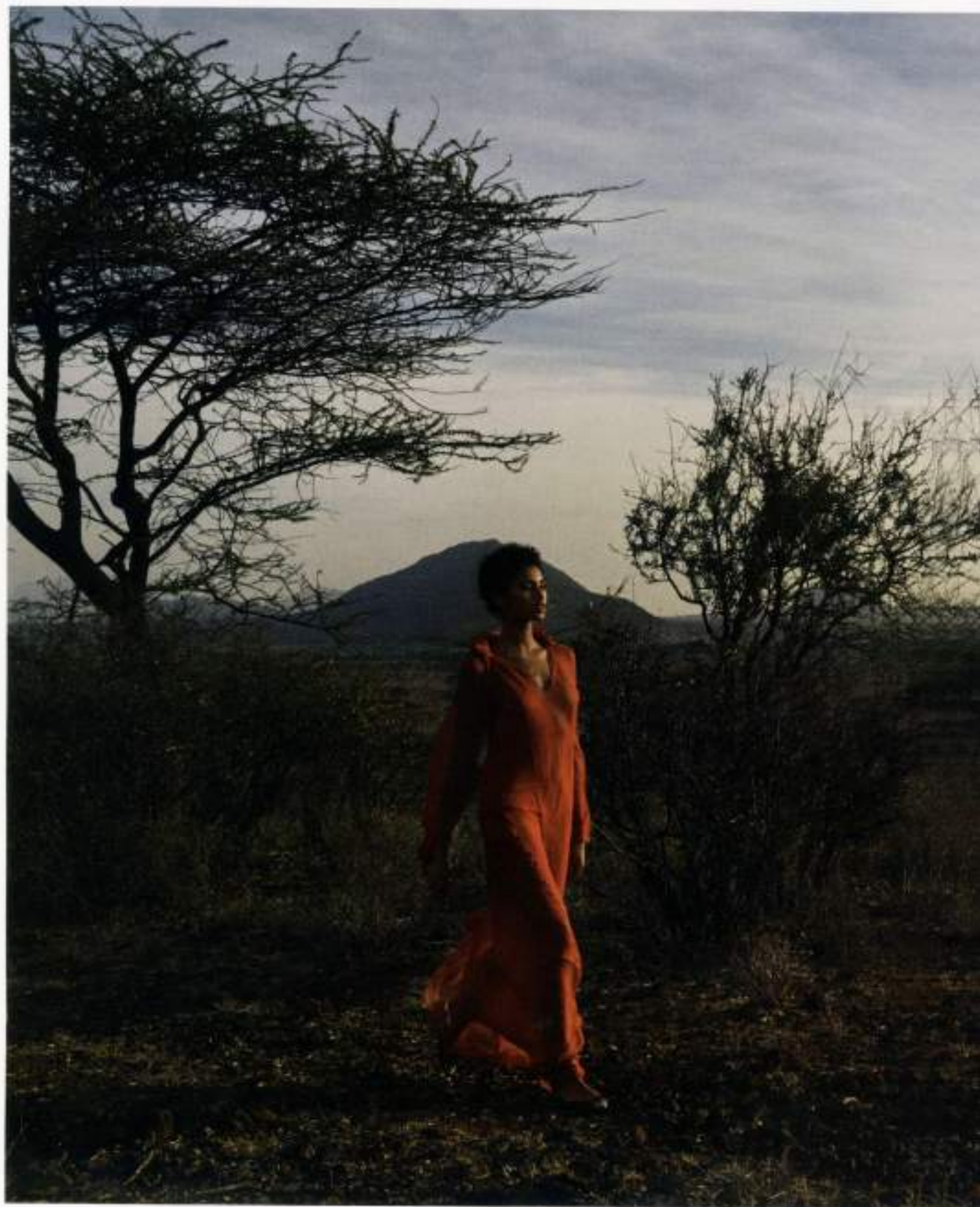
born to  
be *wild*

Under the vast  
expanse of the  
African skies,  
feel the power  
and the glory of  
richly embellished  
separates and  
voluminous  
dresses in soft,  
sunset shades

Deutzen (left)  
wears blouse by  
Gucci, £279; skirt by  
Gucci, £1,228; at  
Net-A-Porter.com  
shoes by Dior, £290.  
Iman (right) wears  
dress, £8,900,  
and shoes, £60,  
both by Dior

*Photography by Vincent van de Walle  
Fashion editor: Julia von Döhlen*







Dress by Lamylin  
£11,700 at Net-A-Porter.com shoes  
by Dior, £1,600

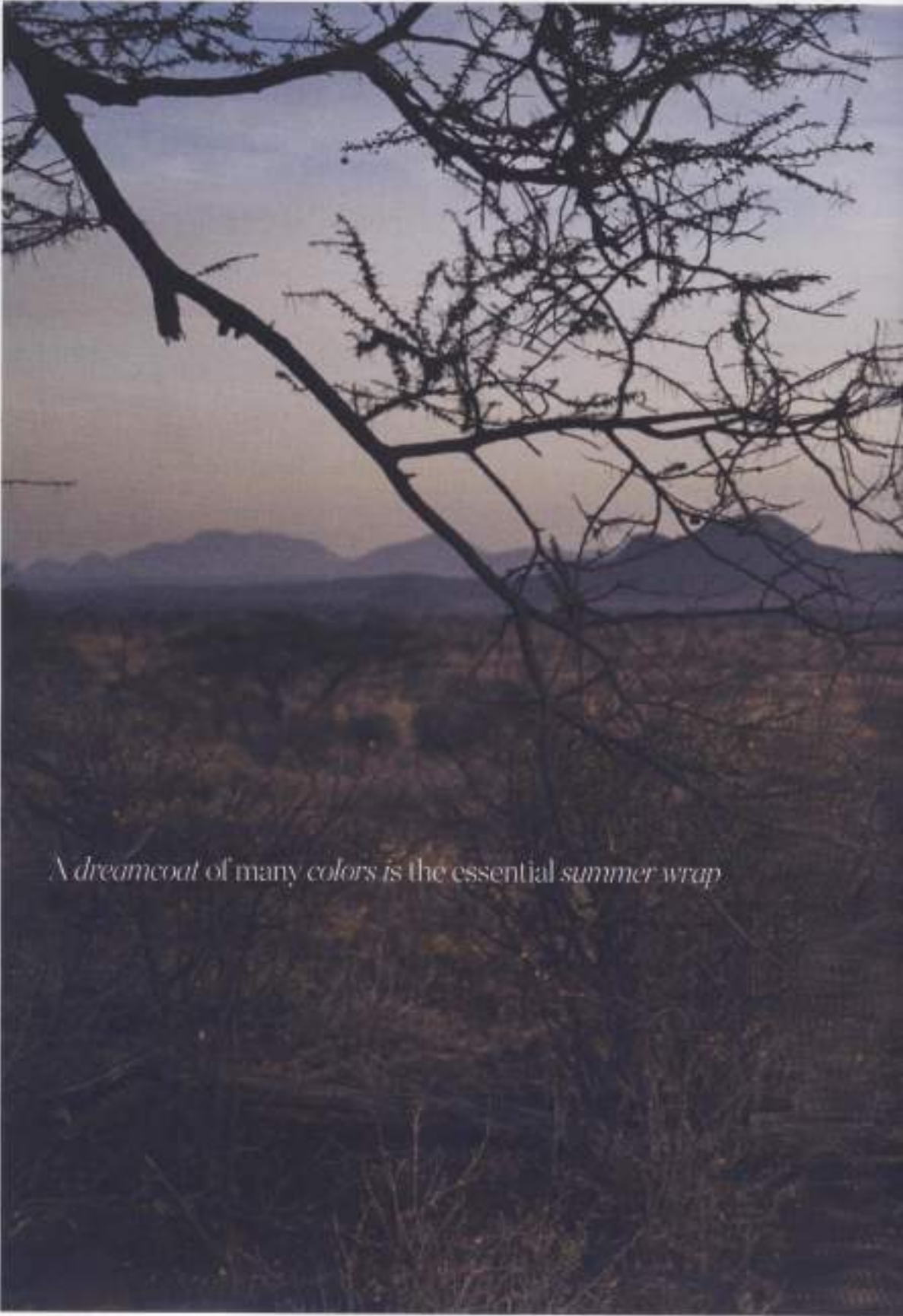
## africa reigns

Wake up in the African bush, check your heartbeat - it's now a drumbeat. Look at the sky reaching blue and orange, eternally in all directions, then smell the heat of the earth coaxed up by sun after rain. Africa takes over the senses, then like a siren, calls you back. I was born in Africa and am enchanted every time I return to this vast continent crowned by the beauty of its light and skies.

Many have tried to capture its essence but few images have the soul-touching power of those of photographer and artist Peter Beard. Seduced by Africa as a teenager, the now 79-year-old returned in his twenties to make his home in Kenya. The visceral inspiration of his adopted land has produced magnificent and passionate collages of wildlife photographs and diary prose. And although he courted with Truman Capote, wrote with Andy Warhol, was painted by Francis Bacon and painted on by Salvador Dalí, Africa always pulled him back. It was there he discovered teenage Somali beauty Inan on a Nairobi street in the 1970s, who only agreed to be photographed if he paid her \$80,000 university tuition fees. Africa informed everything he did.

Capturing the raw phenomenon of wild animals under African skies has always been Beard's default and his shocking and heart-rendingly beautiful body of work, *The End Of The Game*, which depicts the mass-scale destruction of elephants and rhinos in Kenya's Tsavo National Park, remains a seminal photographic exploration of the relationship between man and animal. Eventually published in book form, it had another powerful purpose - that of conservation.

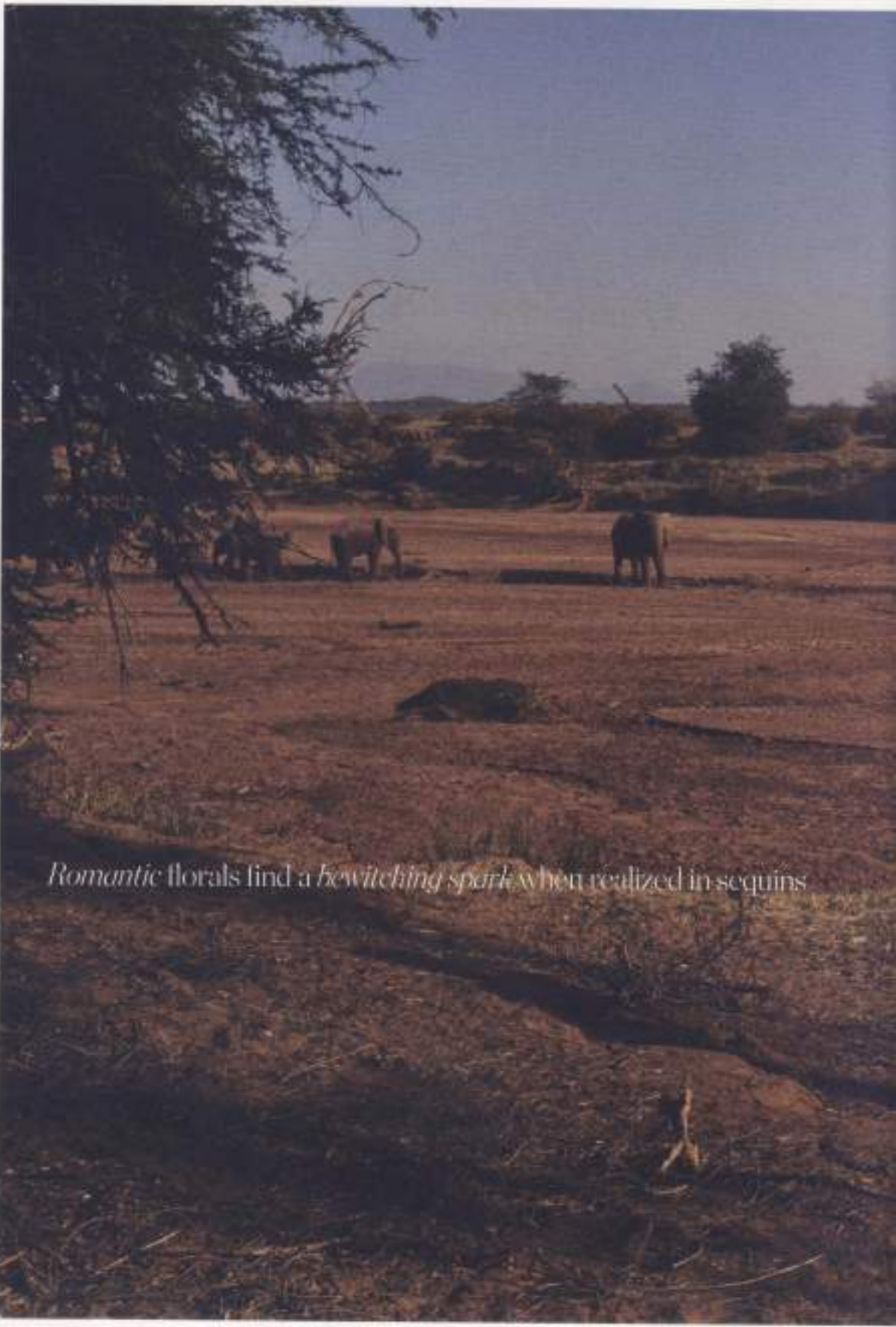
This magnificent continent continues to inspire game-changing photographic art, including the iconic black-and-white photographs of British photographer Nick Brandt, who in 1995, while directing a music video for Michael Jackson in Tanzania, fell in love with East Africa and its animals and began work on a trilogy of books dedicated to memorializing the elegance and grandeur of its wildlife before it disappears at the hands of man. Looking at his majestic portrait of a reclining lion facing a brewing Masai Mara storm, lit by scudding light behind dark clouds, you can almost feel the caress of African wind in your face. In the last of his trilogies, *Inherit The Dust*, he erected and photographed ghostly, life-size panels of his animal portraits in urban African wastelands with people wandering past the images oblivious to the symbolism. "This feeling, this belief that every animal and I are equal, affects me every time I frame one in my camera," he says. "My images are my elegy to these beautiful creatures, to this gut-wrenchingly beautiful world that is steadily, tragically vanishing before our eyes." Beautiful courageous African photography is shouting its way - the world must start to take heed. Words by Jojo O'Brien



*A dreamcoat of many colors is the essential summer wrap*

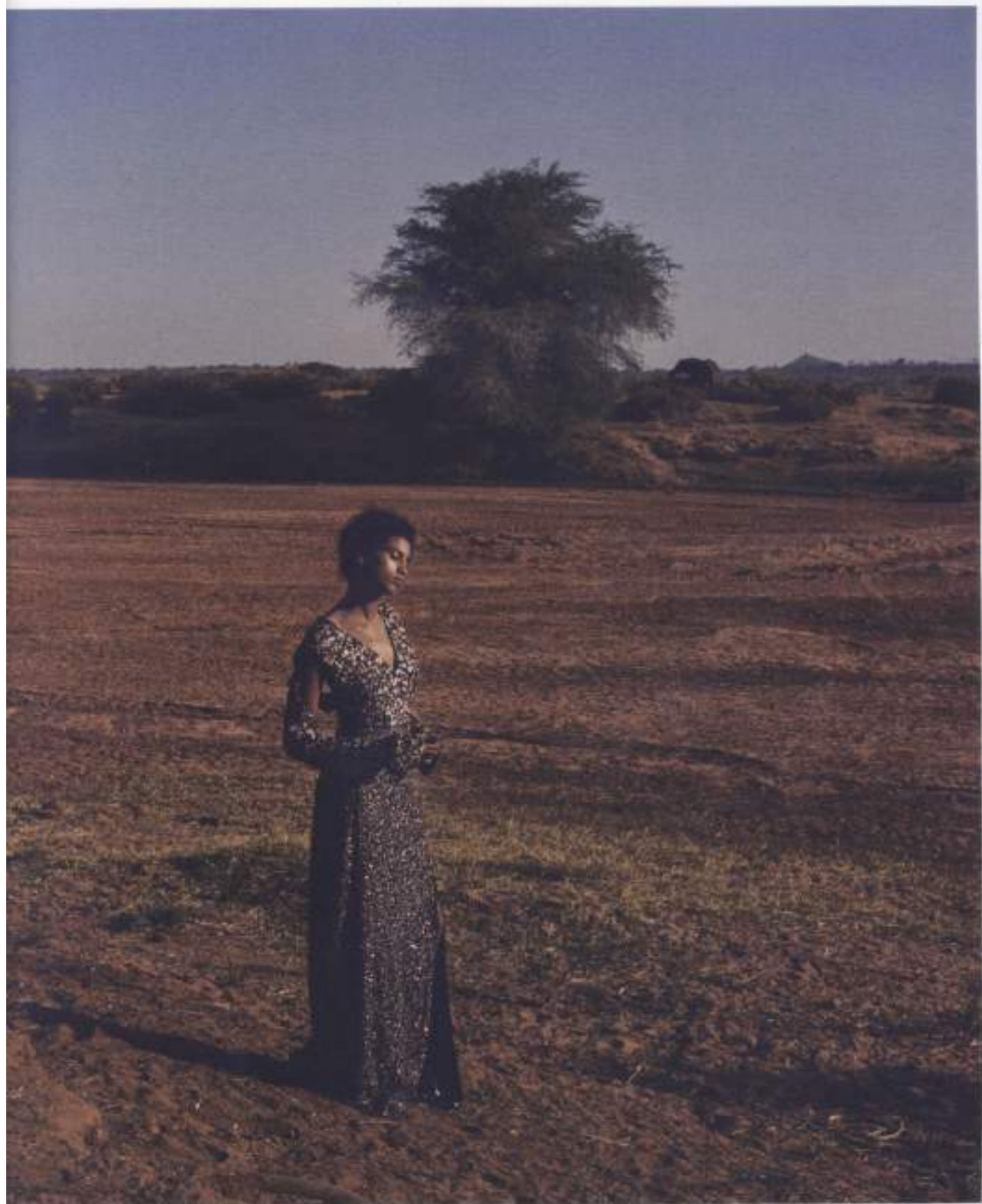
Coat, £17,000,  
and scarf, £490,  
both by Dior



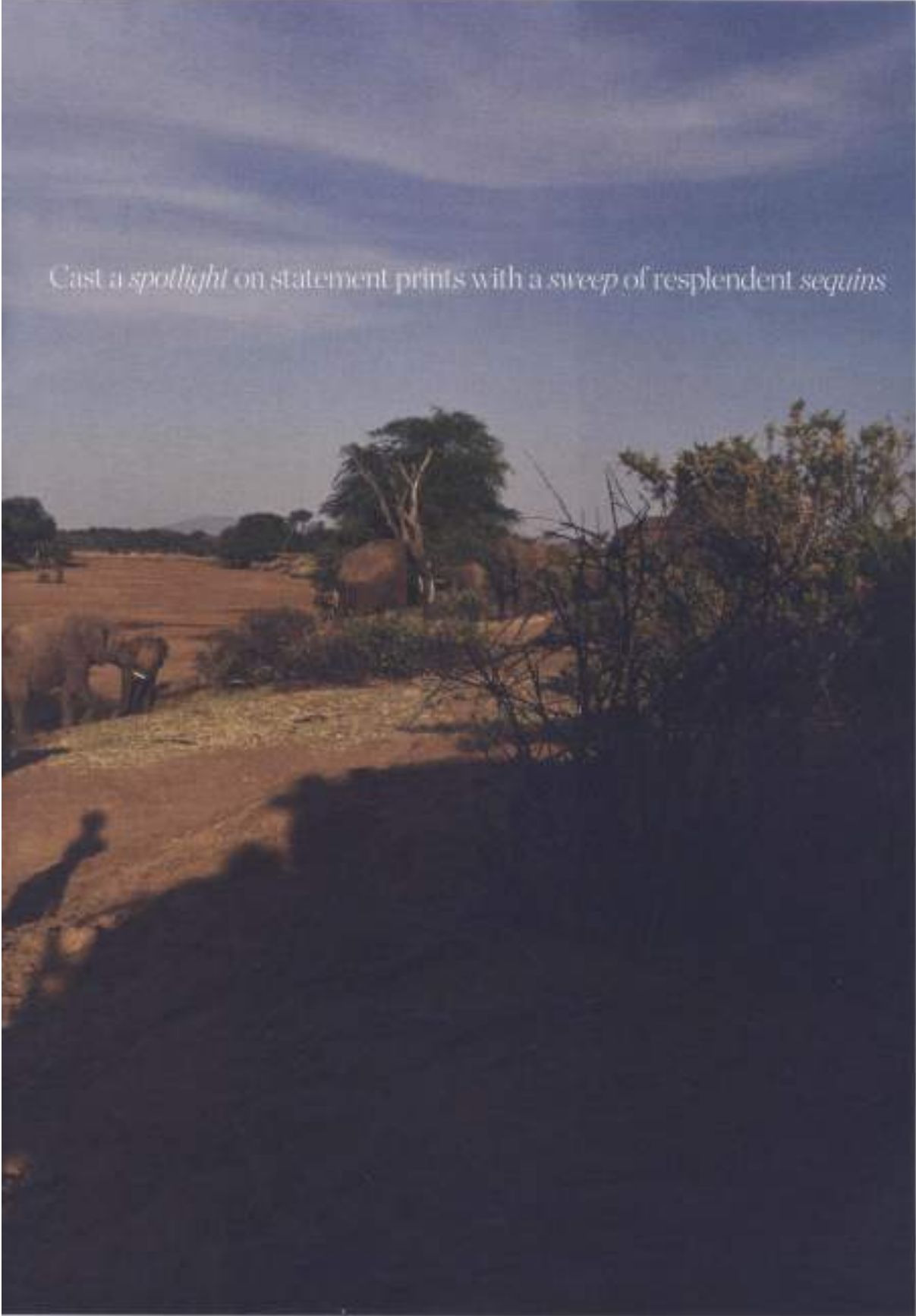
A photograph of a savanna landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, leafy tree on the left side. The ground is dry and brown, with some sparse vegetation. In the middle ground, three elephants are visible, standing in a line. To their right, a crocodile is lying on the ground. The background shows a hazy horizon with some distant trees and hills under a clear sky.

*Romantic florals find a bewitching spark when realized in sequins*

Dress by Altuzarra,  
\$16,950; boots by  
Louis Vuitton, \$7990



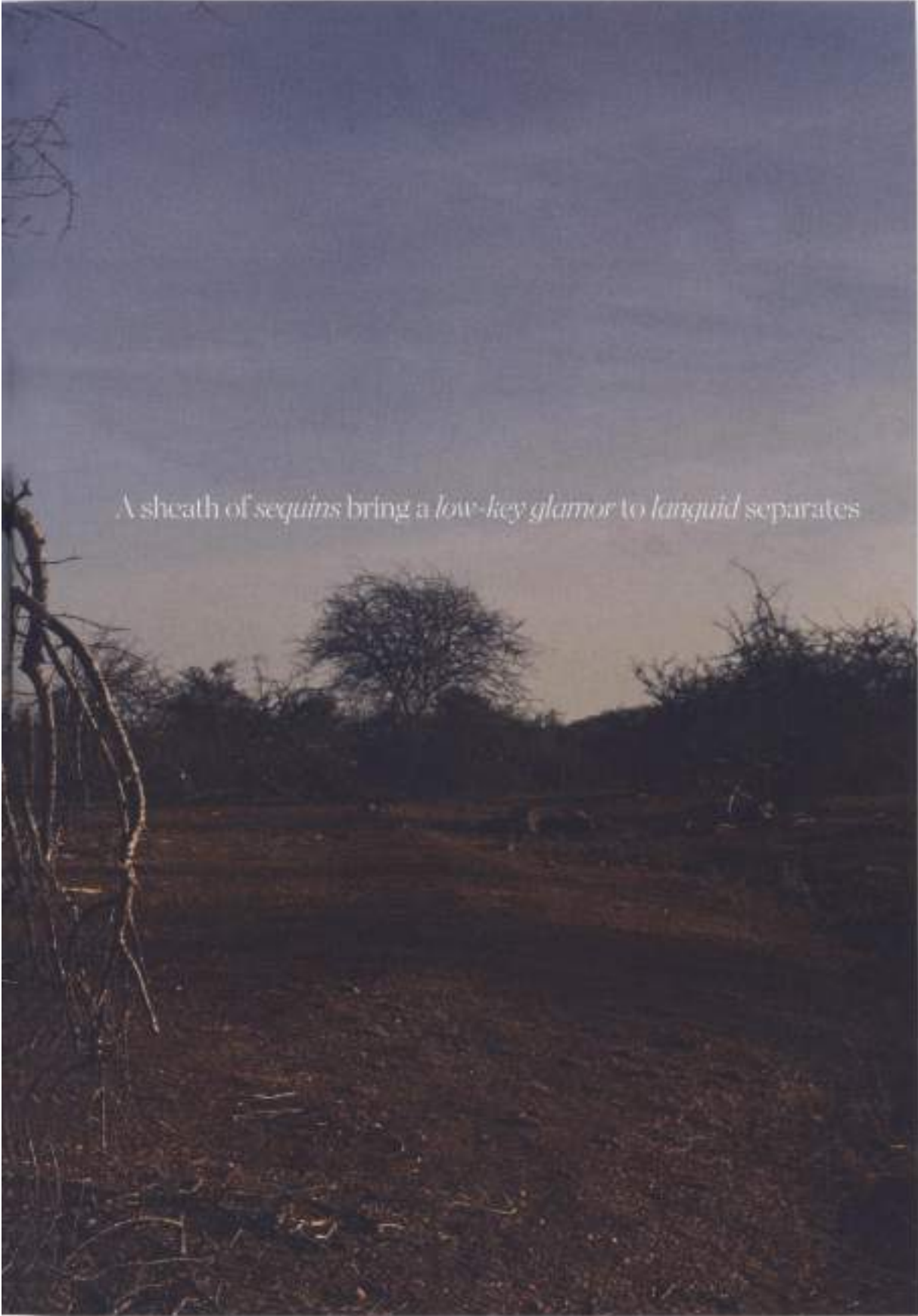




Cast a *spotlight* on statement prints with a sweep of resplendent *sequins*

Top, £758, and  
skirt, £486, both  
by Giambo





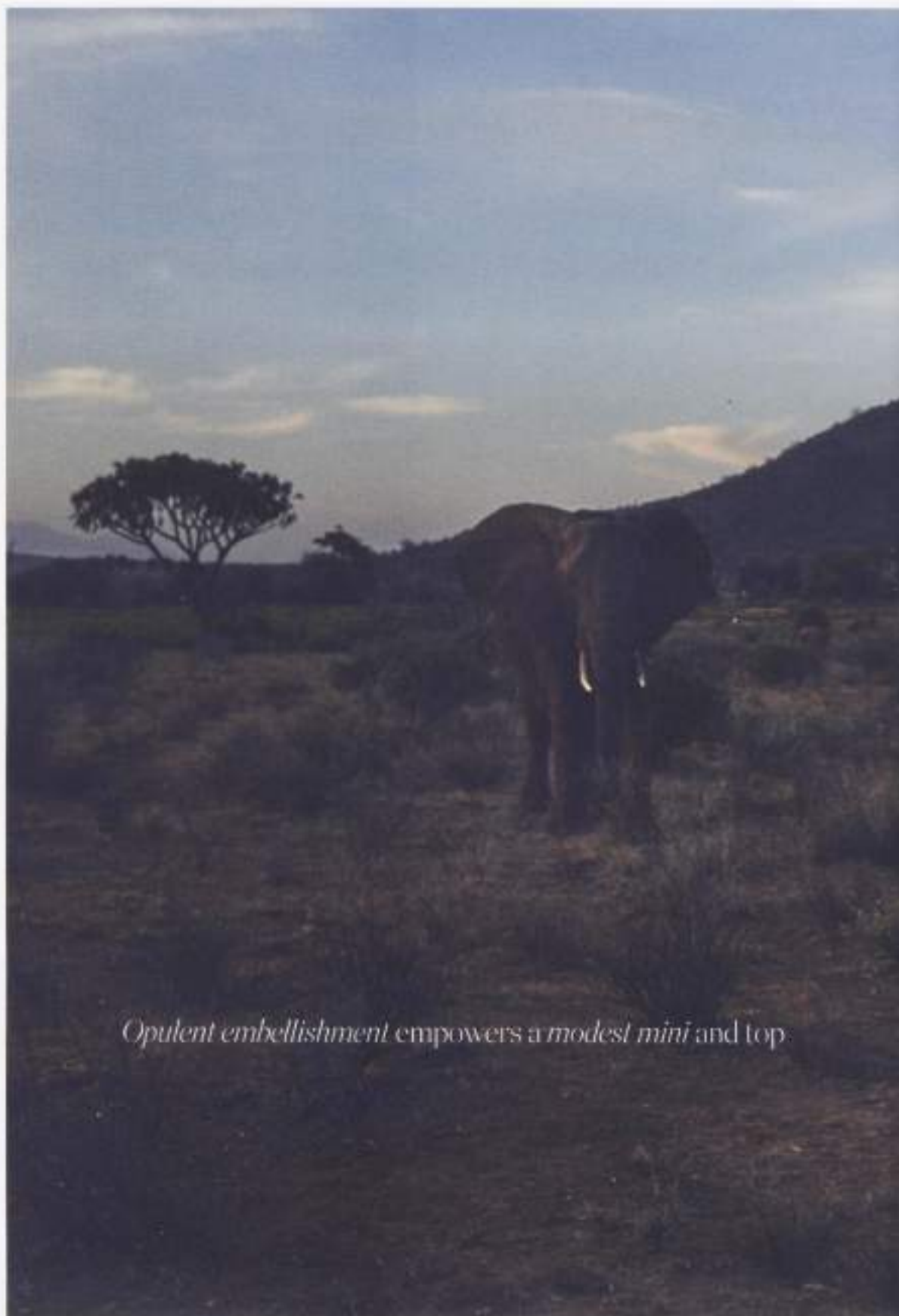
A sheath of sequins bring a *low-key glamor* to *languid* separates

Dress, £2,685,  
and pants, £495,  
both by Stella  
McCartney; shoes  
by Dior, £560;  
bag by Prada,  
£3,000, at Net-A-  
Porter.com

Top, £5,675,  
and skirt, £5,958,  
both by Versace

Makings: Lotten  
Holmquist at  
Management +  
Artists, Hair:  
Tundeayo Oshadi  
at Management +  
Artists, Models:  
Dontzen Kroes at  
DNA Model  
Management,  
Issuu Hammam  
at DNA Model  
Management,  
Production: Baker  
Kent. Shot on  
location at the  
Samburu National  
Reserve, Kenya on  
March 03, 2007.  
With thanks to:  
Kenya Airways,  
Ole Sereni,  
Samburu Intrepid  
and Elephant  
Watch Camp

*Opulent embellishment empowers a modest mini and top*







african  
queen

Intoxicating days  
in the Great Rift  
Valley call for sultry,  
anytime, anywhere  
swimwear paired  
with unexpected hits  
of decadent shine

*Photography by Vincent van de Wijnngaert  
Fashion editor: Julka van Bloedon*

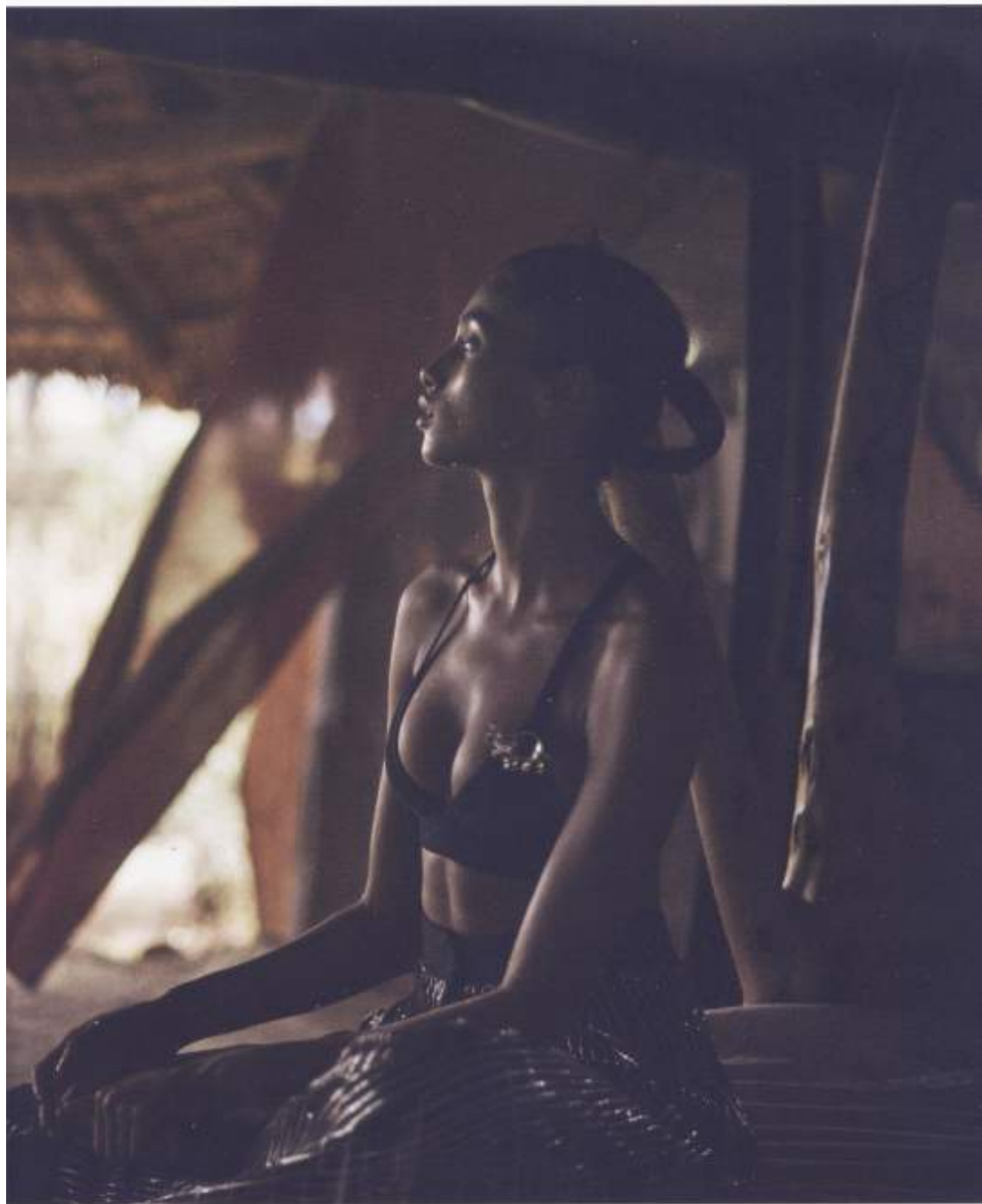
Swimsuit by Chanel  
El, 200; boots by Francesco  
Sergnamiglio, from 1430



*High-shine ingenuity  
add a touch of allure  
to vacation dressing*

Illustration by Leah  
Kline, \$79, at Nord-  
strom, A Porter.com  
pajama, Michael  
Kors, \$160, at  
Nordstrom, A  
Porter.com  
socks, A  
Porter.com  
selection, Nord-  
strom, A  
Porter.com



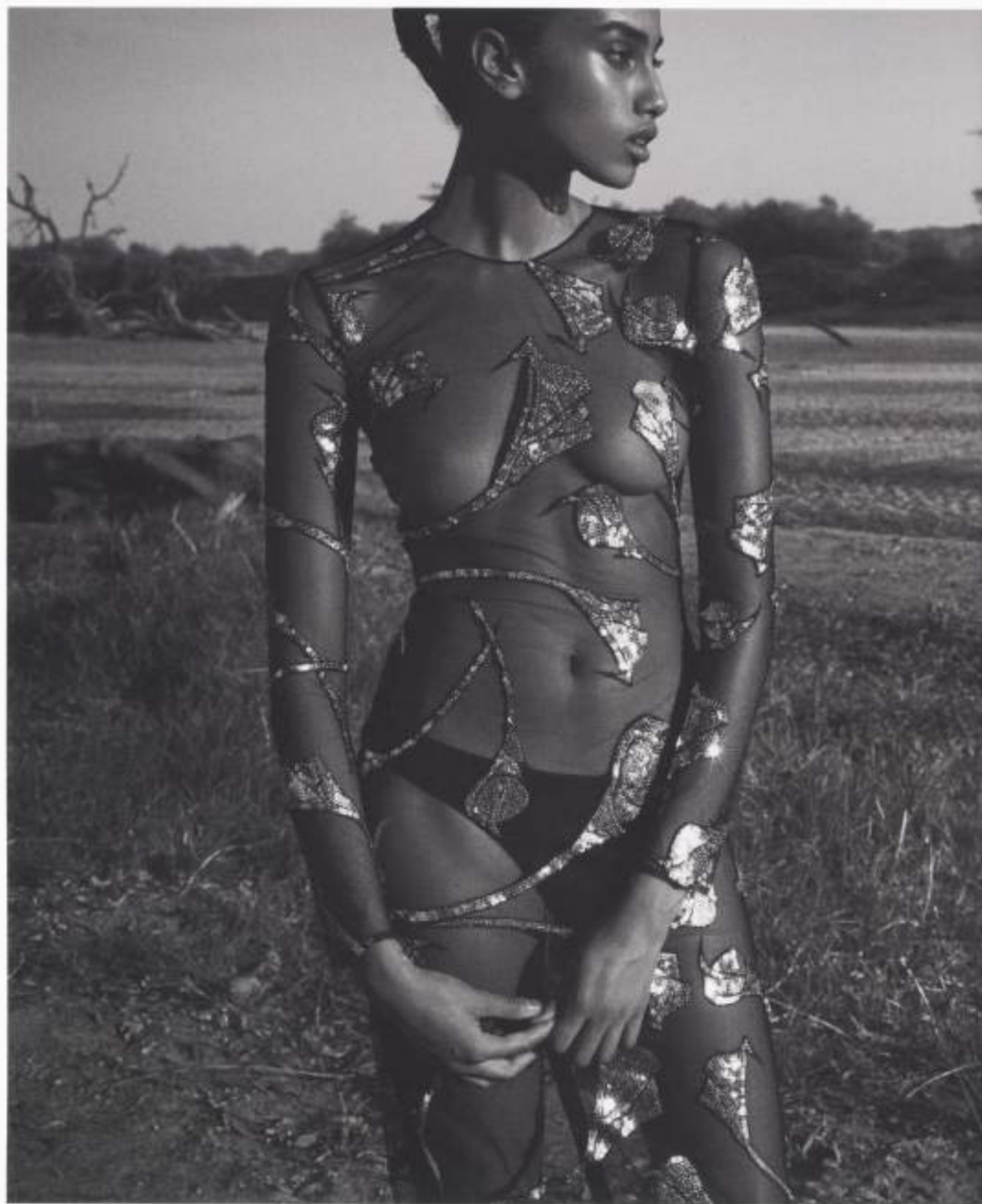


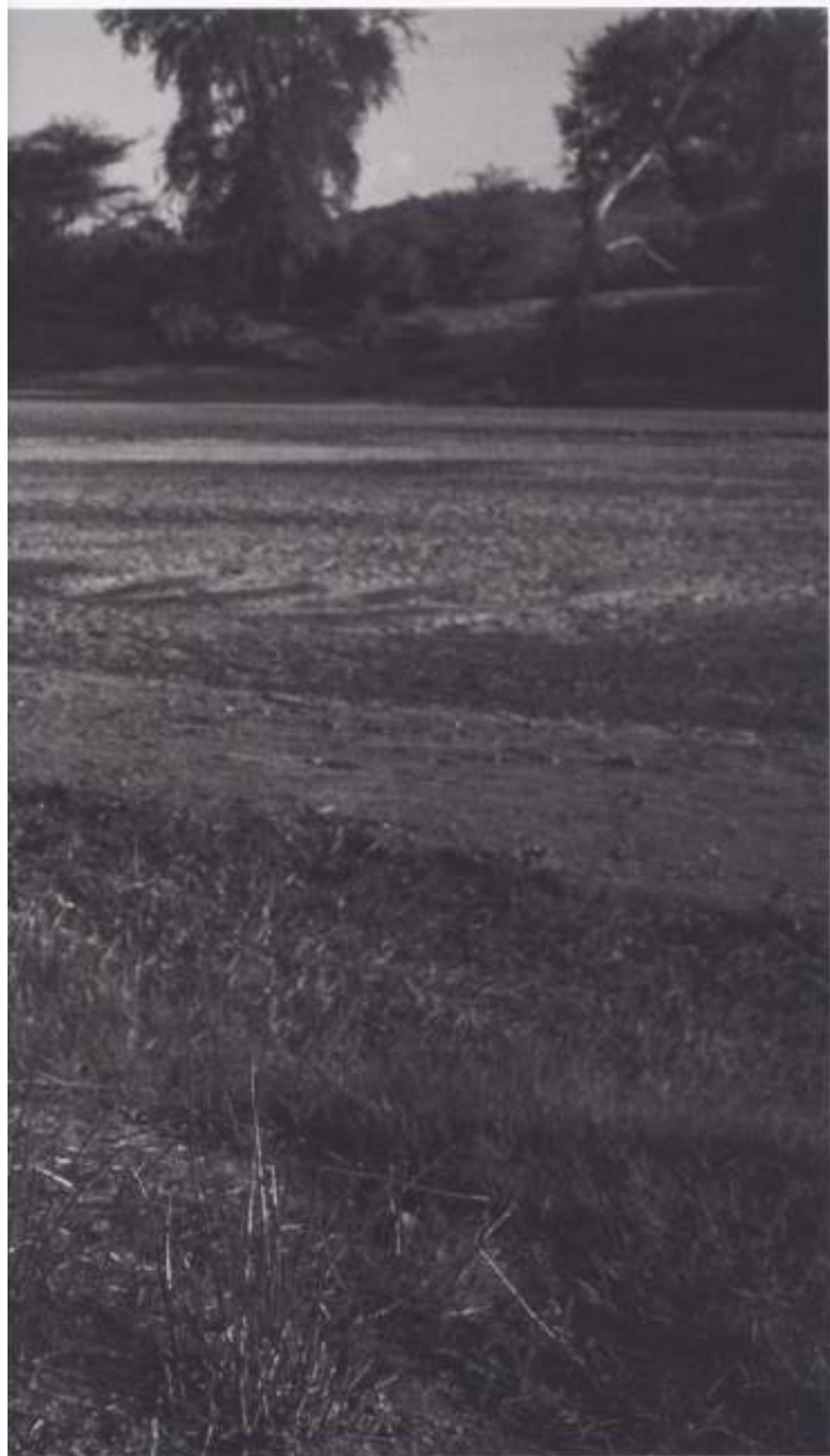


Bikini by Missoni, £242, at [Net-A-Porter.com](http://Net-A-Porter.com); shorts by Missoni, £390



Swimsuit by Agent Provocateur, £245

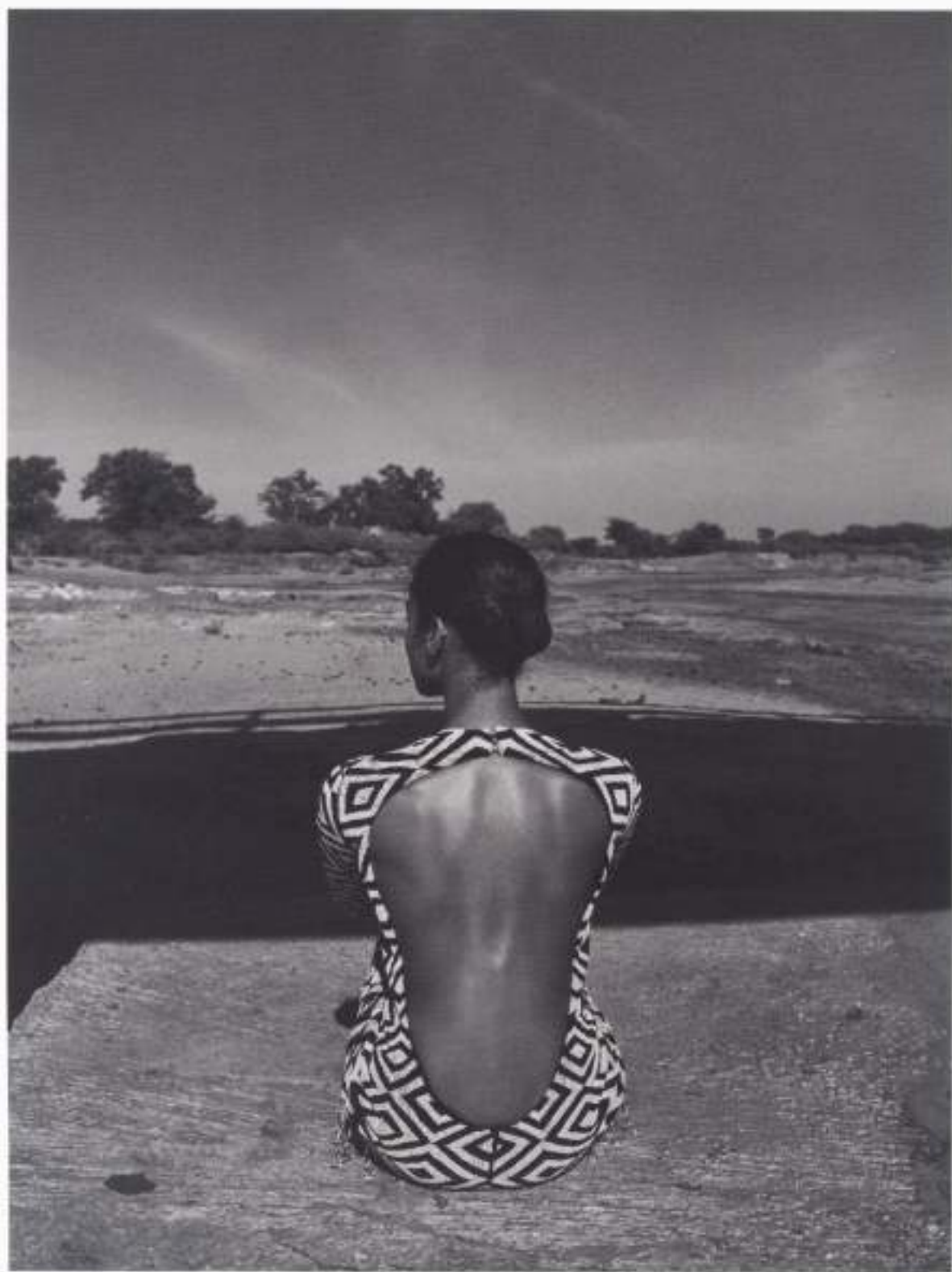




Invite the *evening* into  
*day* with a defiantly  
*decadent* cover-up

---

Dress by Mugler.  
£3,570. Briefs by  
Fres. £125. at  
[Not-A-Porter.com](http://Not-A-Porter.com)



*Dress by Nicholas Okwail POA; earrings, model's own*



Swimsuit by Adidas by Stella McCartney; £60, at [Not-A-Porter.com](http://Not-A-Porter.com); boots by Louis Vuitton, £980

Focus on the waist  
in a flirtatiously  
sliced one-piece

Swimsuit by  
Flagpole Swim,  
£275, at Net-A-  
Porter.com  
Makeup/Lashes:  
Hollmeyerist  
Management - Artists:  
Hair: Tomohito Ohashi  
at Management -  
Artists, Model: Inuit  
Humann at DNA  
Model Management  
Production: Baker Kerr,  
Shot on location at  
Elephant Watch Camp,  
Kenya on March 9,  
2017. With thanks to  
Kenya Airways, Ole  
Sereni, Namburu  
Intrepid and Elephant  
Watch Camp

