



Africa

KENYA /SOUTH AFRICA: Ready for battle – a member of the Kenyan Maasai Cricket Warriors prepares to take part in the Last Man Stands World Championships, which took place in April in Cape Town. None of the team members had travelled abroad until they took part in this tournament. They used the media attention to campaign against HIV, female genital mutilation and child marriage, all of which impact negatively on the communities in which they live. Through their participation in cricket, the players also hope to promote healthier lifestyle choices and spread awareness of HIV/AIDS among young people around the world.
Photo: Sean Wilson/Africa Media Online

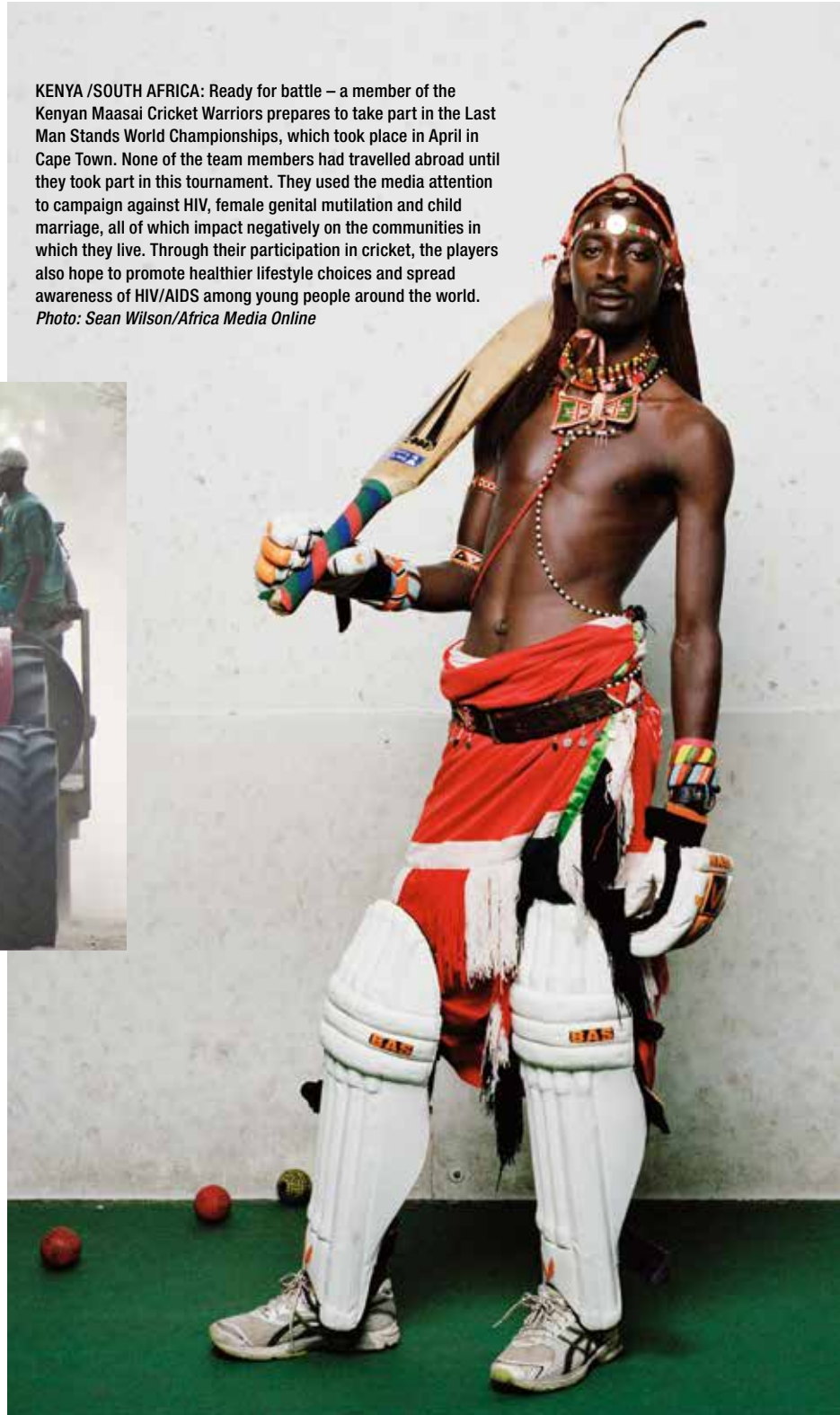


ZIMBABWE: An elephant carcass is transported out of Hwange National Park in Matabeleland North Province. Sadly, elephant carcasses are a not-uncommon sight during the dry season. Thousands of malnourished elephants compete to survive through the sweltering summer months. Hwange, the largest game reserve in Zimbabwe, is home to a vast array of wildlife, birds, trees and shrubs, but myriad factors, including prolonged periods of drought, human encroachment and diversion of water for human consumption, have produced catastrophic effects in the park. With up to 50,000 elephants battling their way through the harsh summer months, the park's management faces an impossible predicament, with many potential 'solutions' appearing futile.

Experts say that answers may include contraception, translocation and culling elephant numbers; the redistribution of land; and turning off the water for people. But the issue is a complex and poignant one, surrounded by question marks and opposing opinions.

Photo: Aaron Gekosi

Words: Aaron Gekosi/Gemma Catlin. www.imveloelephanttrust.com



SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN: A woman and her children take refuge in a cave to escape fighting between Sudanese troops and rebels in the Nuba mountains. The rebels had been aligned with the southern states during their struggle for independence. South Sudan seceded in January 2011 but the border could not be properly defined because of disagreements over the sovereignty of the oil-rich border regions.

Fighting between the rebels and the Sudanese army intensified in 2012, with up to 26 Nubian villages destroyed. Many women and children moved permanently into caves. Fields could not be planted because of the aerial bombardment, leaving the villagers both homeless and hungry.

An agreement between the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan was signed in September, which included the creation of a 10-kilometre demilitarized zone along the border. But the Nubian people remain united in their defiance against what they believe is a genocide of their people.

Photo: Dominic Nahr/Magnum Photos