



Convention on
Biological Diversity



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

INSPIRED BY NATURE

Celebrating Biodiversity
with Haikus





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FOREWORD

This book has been prepared to help celebrate the *International Day for Biological Diversity* on May 22, 2017, and this year's theme of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism.

Biodiversity provides the essential foundations for our very existence, livelihoods, and prosperity. It provides us with clean water, air, soil, food, medicine, and resources for jobs and growth. It underpins global tourism – one of the world's fastest growing industries with tremendous potential for contributing to sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development. Biodiversity enriches our lives and culture with its many surprises and breathtaking wildlife, instilling in us a sense of wonder, excitement, peace, and happiness. We, of course, are a part of biodiversity, too, sharing this finite and astonishingly beautiful planet with all other species, great and small.

"The pen is mightier than the sword."
By expressing our affinity for nature through the haiku and images of this publication, we hope to contribute to broader efforts to conserve our natural gems and shared heritage.



Once in a lifetime
Let nature inspire us all
We'll rise up and act

- Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer
Global Environment Facility

It's the web of life
Makes biodiversity
A tourism delight

- Cristiana Paşca Palmer
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

Whistles. Dance. Ruffles.
Showing off turquoise blue feet
Darwin in my soul

- Adriana Dinu
Executive Coordinator
UNDP Global Environmental Finance



INTRODUCTION

Poetry, like literature, philosophy, music, design, and all the creative arts, is often inspired by nature – landscapes, wildlife, and the natural world we live in.

Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry that also takes nature as its focus. It is based on a system of three lines and a set syllable pattern. The first and last lines of a haiku have five syllables and the middle line has seven syllables. This 5-7-5 pattern provides a simple structure around which moving images can be woven together to reflect a common respect, admiration, and love for all living things on our shared planet. This simplicity of haiku helps convey the profound beauty of the world around us.

In this book, we celebrate the diversity of life on Earth with a collection of 82 haikus, contributed

by 66 friends, family and colleagues from UNDP and partners. Through this art and poetry, we renew our shared commitment to protecting and preserving the environment, and to leaving an equally diverse world for generations to come.

A Haiku is a thought often written down in one inspired moment that lingers on in the mind and imagination of the author and all who read it. Sharing such collective forms of expression and appreciation are essential to conserving our natural treasures.

We hope you enjoy these haikus – and perhaps they will inspire a new collection!


Tim Scott and Midori Paxton





MAGIC MOMENTS





Awe-struck eyes take in
Nature's generous landscapes
I remain spellbound

- Alexandra Fischer

Flaps from frostless pane
Red breast, white ground, not a sound
Like late snow, soon gone

- Yuqiong Zhou

Sunrise, dawn chorus.
Awake. Listen to the birds
Don't check your phone yet.
- Paul Harrison



Blue jay flairs its grace
Just swift visit at a time
How it stays surprise
- Midori Paxton

Scarlet tanager
Blood-red flash, bright green foliage
Spring migration awe

- Lucas Black





Desert Flower

Small, so beautiful
Fierce desert heat spares no soul
Yet, there you stand. Bold

- Inela Weeks

Wind soil water air
So much life everywhere
We barely know it

- Amy Fraenkel

As the sun sets down
Lone wild bird calls upon friends
A moment to share!!

- Sofie Flensburg

Stony plains expanse
Nature providing pasture
On which all depend

- Lisa Farroway

Nochtli

Thick skinned prickly pear
Ready to take offense, but
Soft and sweet inside.

- Ciara Daniels





New Guinea

Sing sing. Kina shells
Flowers, feathers, fur adorn
Bilums draped. Wantoks.

- Penny Stock

Mud up to my knees
Lake ice melted to land edge
Spring is here up north

- Colleen Corrigan

Elephants

Gigantic beauty
Roam dusty plains, lush forests
Still they pursue me

- Phemo Karen Kgomo



SOARING MOUNTAINS

Path in the mountains
The sky and the shapes are blurred
Looking for Fuji

- Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Ice Mountain

Mighty I may seem
Heat weakens me everyday
Will I see you still?

- Annabelle Trinidad





The Red Panda

A forest clearing
High on a misty mountain
A white mask stares back

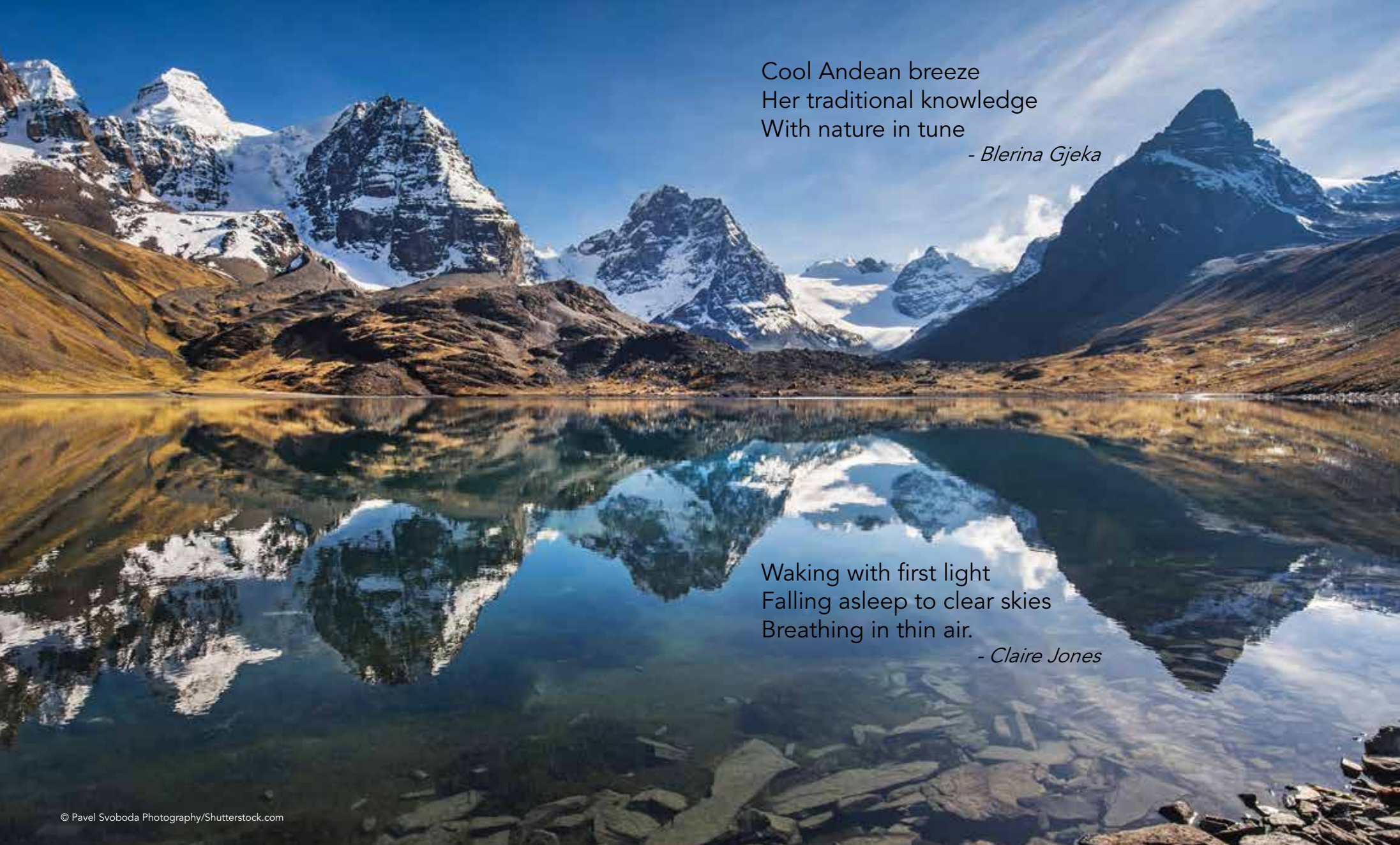
- John Farrington

Ballad of the birds
They fly free, traversing peaks
Winter migration

- Doley Tshering

These lakes clear throughout
My footsteps echo on tall walls
And secrets pass on.

- Jesse Chapman-Bruschini

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a range of rugged, snow-covered mountains under a clear blue sky. The mountains are reflected in a still body of water in the foreground, which also shows some rocky terrain at the bottom. The lighting suggests early morning or late afternoon, with warm tones on the lower slopes.

Cool Andean breeze
Her traditional knowledge
With nature in tune

- Blerina Gjeka

Waking with first light
Falling asleep to clear skies
Breathing in thin air.

- Claire Jones



FOREST SECRETS



Hidden in the bush
Far away in Sumatra
A graceful Pitta

- Jean-Marc Sinnassamy



A large flock of scarlet ibis is captured in flight over a body of water. The birds are in various stages of flight, with wings spread, creating a sense of movement. The background is a dense, lush green forest. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the birds and the forest. The overall scene is vibrant and dynamic.

Scarlet Ibis

Your precious presence
Your color, your home and flight
Marvelous delight

- Maria Gabriela Pinto

Forest softly sings
Rays of light turn into gold
Vibrant life surrounds

- Mari Matsumoto



Light as an idea
Magnificent spatuletail
You do not seem real

- Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Trees growing more green
Happiness breathing fresh air
No chainsaws, but birds

- Saskia Marijnissen

Welcome to the bees
Pollinating free of cost
As precious as gold

- Doley Tshering



MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS



Ten seconds of stripes
Gaur, langur led me to you
Forest shaking roar
- Midori Paxton

Liquid gold beats down
Tawny tigress bathes herself
In puddles of light
- Erin Charles

Glowing in the night,
Tigers in Bhutan's forests,
Roar with happiness
- Tashi Dorji



Snow leopard travels
Beyond political fence
The Mountain Envoys!
- Koustubh Sharma

Penetrating eyes
Ravishing, elusive ghost
Silent roar of snow
- Adriana Dinu

Grandeur of peaks
Mountain ghost, so called great cat
Complement, perfect!
- Doley Tshering



White-laced evergreens
Overlook fresh-made paw tracks
Heading out to dine

- *Tim Scott*

Who will love the snails?
Sliming slowly beautiful
Come out of your shell
- *Tony Whitten*

Chameleon vision
One eye on what is to come
The other looks back
- *Julie Larsen Maher*

Coat of rust, white, black,
Feeding all, their young and old.
Teach us, wild dog.
- *Jessie Mee*





Crocodilo

No one touches me
Calm respect but sudden fear
And I touch many

- Santiago Carrizosa

Harpy Eagle

Majesty in gray
In a sea of green and blue
Nothing else like you

- Edwin Chipsen

Only steppe tulips
Singing the sad saiga song
The horns' white powder
- *Adriana Dinu*

Hushed silence. Dry heat.
Bush breaks into life ahead.
Rhino! Take cover!
- *Paul Harrison*

Tent, sleeping, tremble
Breaking night calm, oh, it is
Hippopotamus!
- *Sakhile Koketso*





UNDERWATER WONDERS





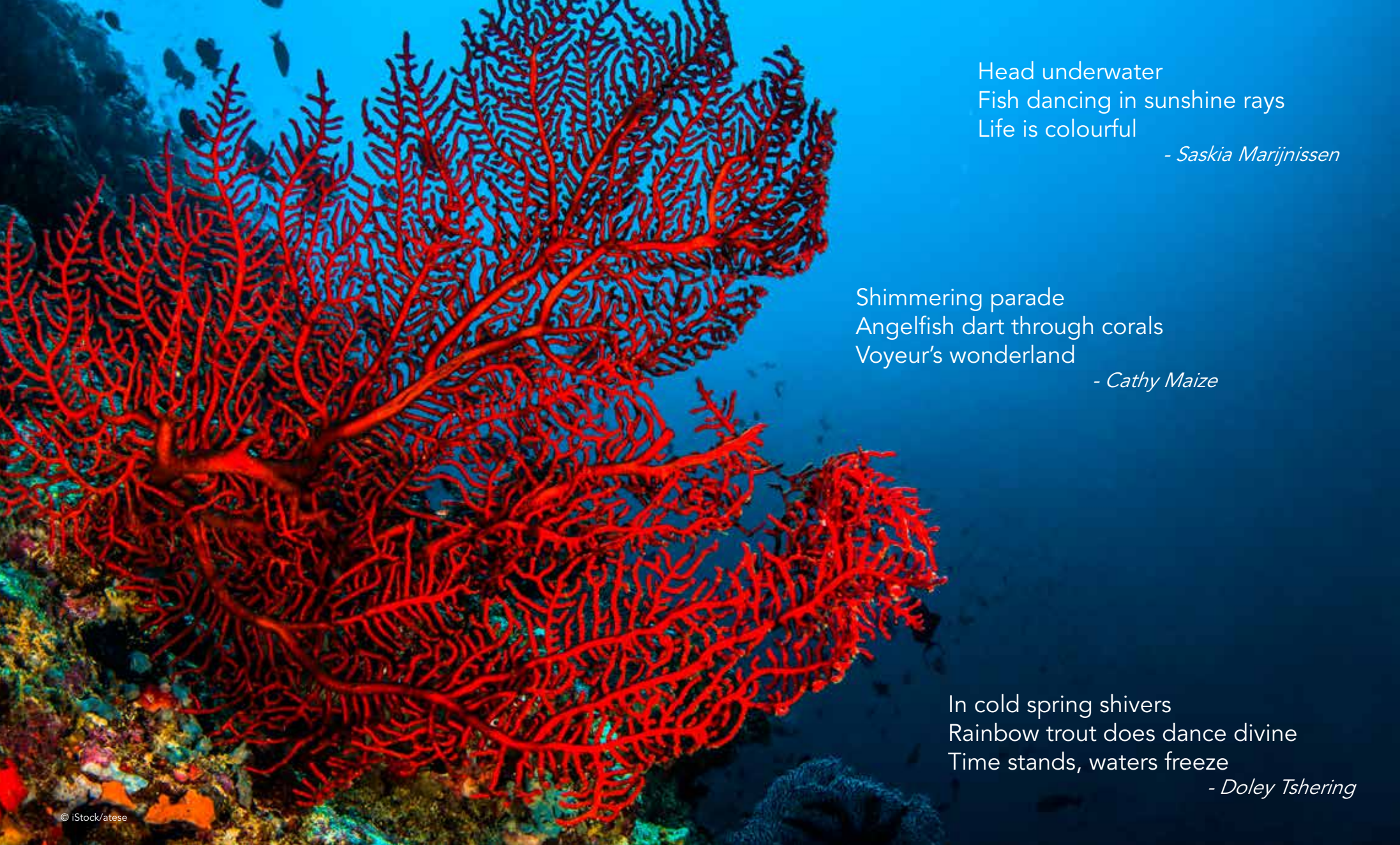
Kaikoura

Dancing in the sun
Free spirit of the waters
We laugh, enchanted.

- Mahtab Haider

Swim with the whale sharks
Kick as she glides effortless
How long will she stay?

- David Meyers



Head underwater
Fish dancing in sunshine rays
Life is colourful


- Saskia Marijnissen

Shimmering parade
Angelfish dart through corals
Voyeur's wonderland

- Cathy Maize

In cold spring shivers
Rainbow trout does dance divine
Time stands, waters freeze

- Doley Tshering



Blue of unseen whale
Ocean of knowing you there
Indian sea glory

- Jose Troya

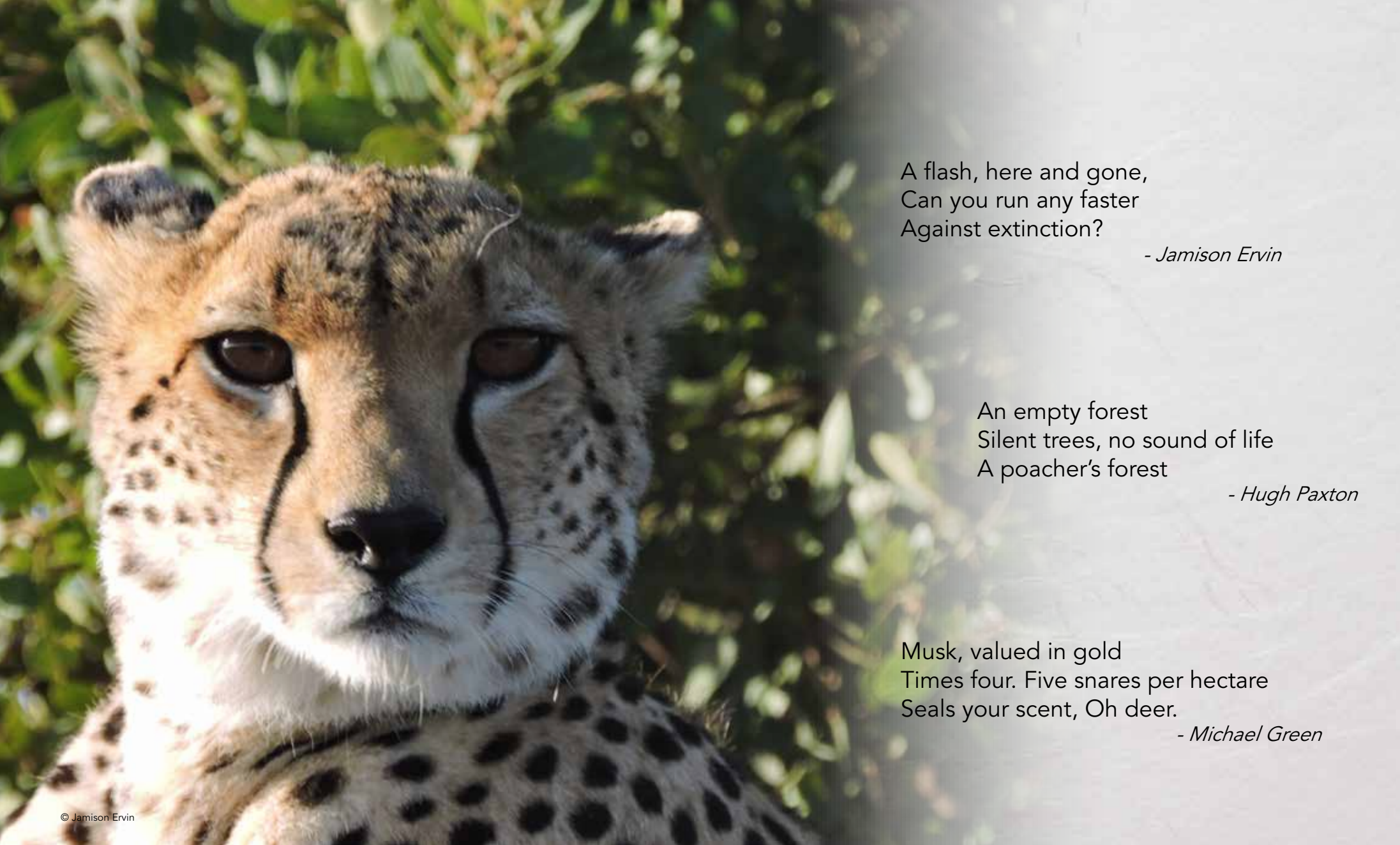
Blind by destiny
Leaping in their joyous course
Indus dolphins swim

- Tehmina Akhtar



AT RISK





A flash, here and gone,
Can you run any faster
Against extinction?

- *Jamison Ervin*

An empty forest
Silent trees, no sound of life
A poacher's forest

- *Hugh Paxton*

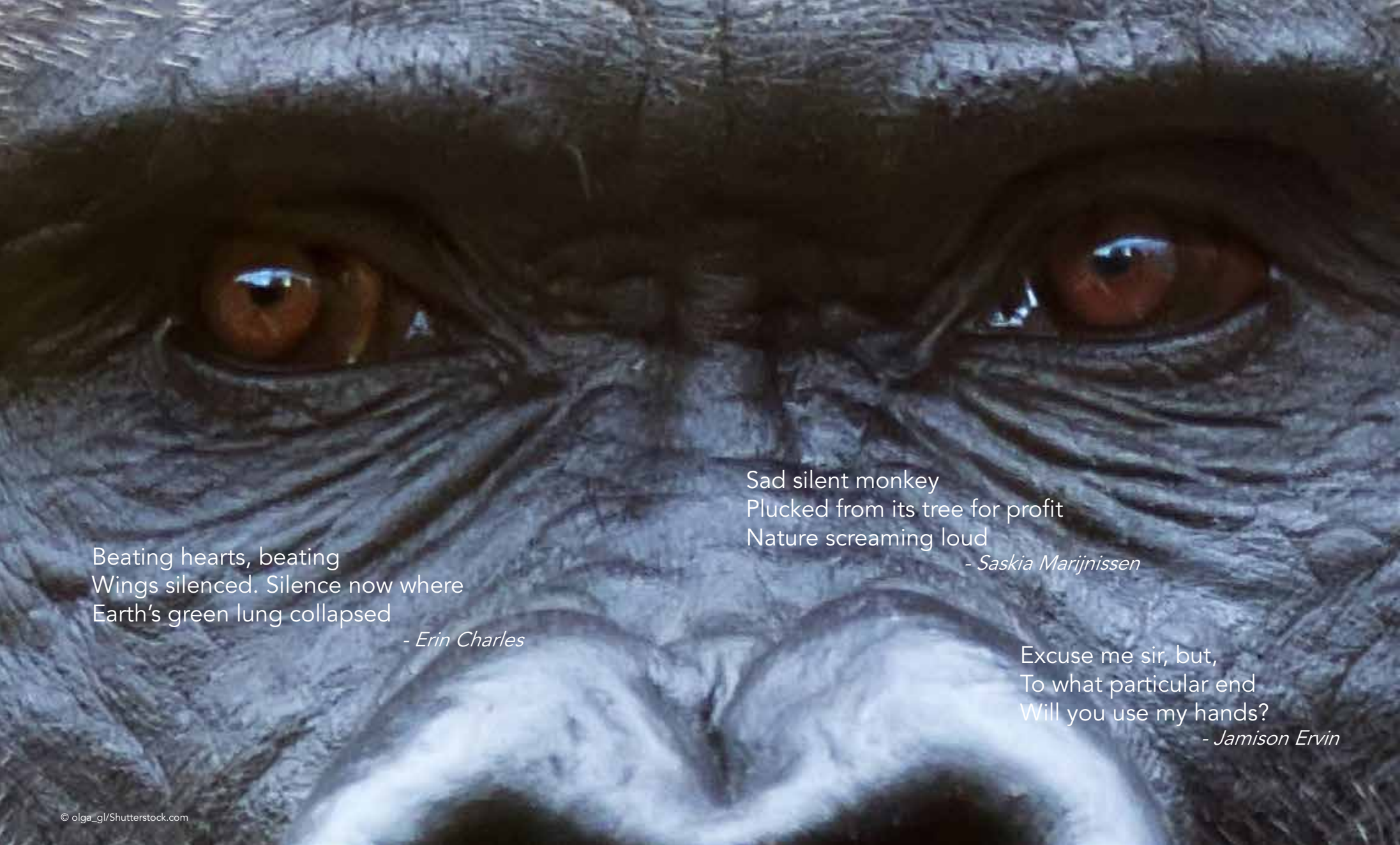
Musk, valued in gold
Times four. Five snares per hectare
Seals your scent, Oh deer.

- *Michael Green*

Shoebill

Prehistoric bird
Gazing over troubled seas
Not alone just yet
- *Onno van den Heuvel*





Beating hearts, beating
Wings silenced. Silence now where
Earth's green lung collapsed

- Erin Charles

Sad silent monkey
Plucked from its tree for profit
Nature screaming loud

- Saskia Marijnissen

Excuse me sir, but,
To what particular end
Will you use my hands?

- Jamison Ervin

Chernobyl Wolves

Furry paws racing
Through no man's land draped in white
Where man lives no more

- Maxim Vergeichik

Old is the tortoise
He has seen the world change fast
While people act slow

- Saskia Marijnissen

Twittering of birds
Tweeting of bumble bees
Now bygone scenes

- Sarat Babu Gidda



Savage death, robbed horn
So that some man, somewhere, can
Mustar arousal

- Jamison Ervin

Forests to ashes
Hard wood furniture, pine not
Soft leaves will return

- Terence Hay-Edie





CHANGING WORLD





The mighty jumbo
Denuded and depleted
Stop illegal trade

- Christine Lippai & Nik Sekhran

Fins slicing water
Fins sliced out of the water
Who's the real killer?

- *Tim Scott*

Water planet's soul
Humans harmed it to risk
Allow to renew

- *Sarat Babu Gidda*

White are the corals
Gone are the reds, greens, yellows
Awake and change now

- *David Meyers*





Jigsaw puzzle spots
Kilimanjaro giraffe
Declining. Protect!
- Penny Stock


Mudslide

Disaster has come
But tree roots stand long and strong
Sadly there's just one

- Oscar Huertas



GLIMMERING HOPE



Sun on the water
And yes life renewed again
The gift of Heaven

- *Martin Palmer*

If you start looking,
You will always be amazed,
Life worth investment.

- *Marco Arlaud*

Mother Nature's love,
With snow-capped-peaks and water,
Brings peace, happiness

- *Tashi Dorji*



Planet out of synch
Forests and Oceans restore
Sustainable future
- Sarah Sekhran

Nature we love it
Nature we can destroy it
Nature we will save!
- Gillian Warrtier



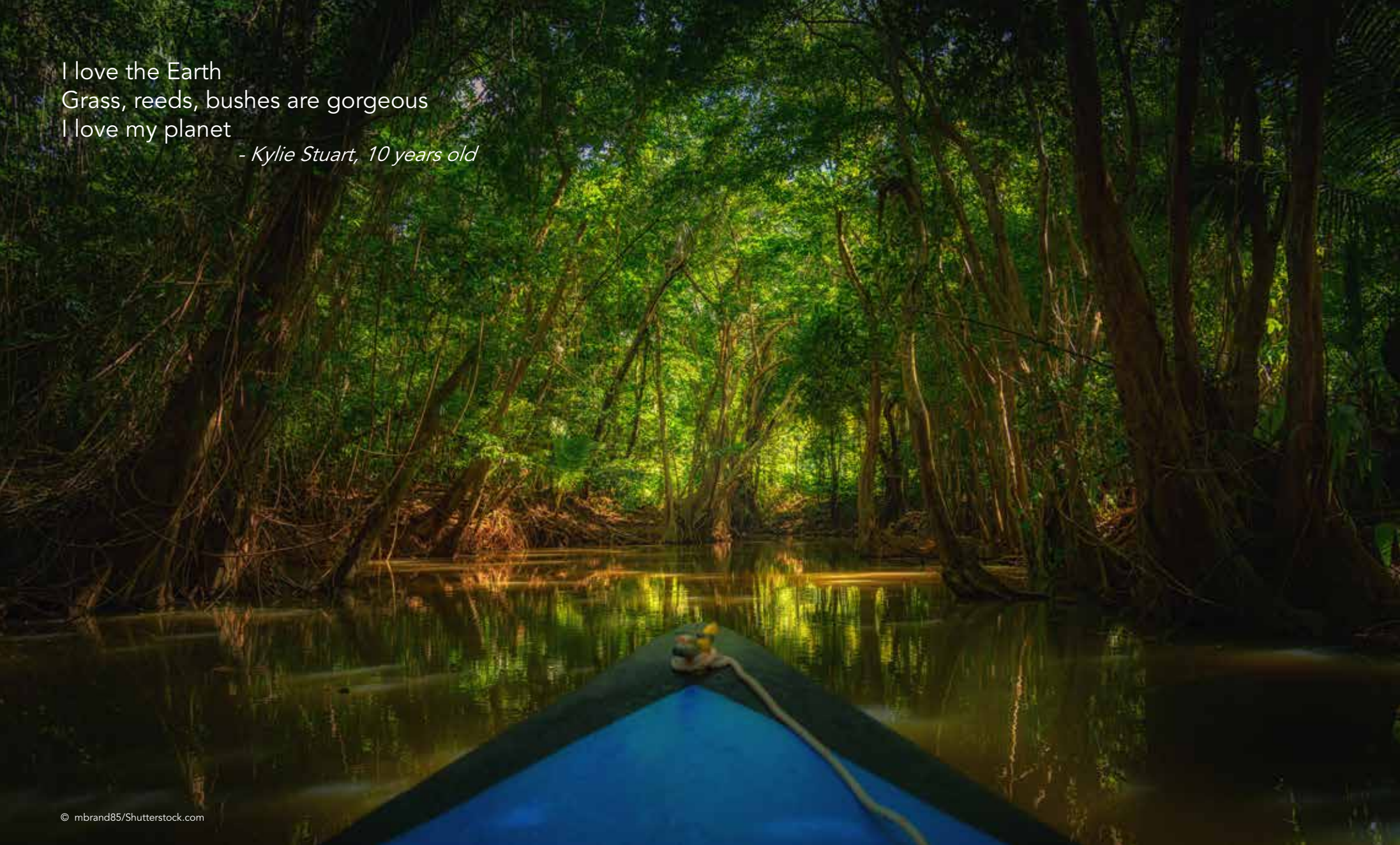
Community springs
Harmony with nature
Win win for all

- Yoko Watanabe



THROUGH YOUNG EYES

I love the Earth
Grass, reeds, bushes are gorgeous
I love my planet
- Kylie Stuart, 10 years old



Love is in the air
As beautiful leaves move
I love it so much

- Valeria Garcia, 10 years old

Majestueux tigres
Nés féroces et magnifiques
Toujours camouflés

- Lou-Anh Sinnassamy, 10 years old

Pretty white flowers
Growing on the light green grass
A delicious smell

- Amanda Da Re, 10 years old





Oh! Pink, blue, yellow
The colors of the nature,
Grass, lilacs, jasmine.

- Daphne Lapierre, 9 years old

Trees are amazing
Colours are in different leaves
Thoughts are in nature

- Alexandra Russoniello, 9 years old

In the forest breeze
It smells like spring here
Wind swishing over top

- Ellie Stevens, 10 years old





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