

TANZANIA

TROUBLED WATER

*THE INVISIBLE ENEMY
OF A TANZANIAN PARADISE*

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MOUTH OF THE PANGANI RIVER. FISHERMEN ON THEIR WAY TO THE INDIAN OCEAN.

AT THE MOUTH OF THE PANGANI RIVER, IN TANZANIA, GLOBAL WARMING IS SOMETHING QUITE REAL: YOU CAN LITERALLY DRINK IT. THE INDIAN OCEAN IS RISING FROM DECADES, SIPHONING AWAY FRESH WATER AND LEAKING SALT WATER INTO AQUIFERS AND WELLS. NOW THIS PROCESS IS SPEEDING UP: A LITER OF WATER COLLECTED FROM THE RIVER MAY CONTAIN UP TO 2,000 MILLIGRAMS OF TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS), WHEN THE ACCEPTABLE VALUE FOR SAFE FRESH WATER, ACCORDING TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, SHOULD NOT EXCEED 800 MILLIGRAMS. EVEN THE TASTE IS BAD BUT LOCALS, MOSTLY FISHERMEN, DRINK IT SLOWLY LIKE A BAD, DANGEROUS MEDICINE AND, MORE AND MORE OFTEN, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES AT THE HOSPITAL WITH DEHYDRATION PROBLEMS DUE TO THE CONTAMINATION OF THE AQUIFERS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET ITS OWN PARAMETERS TO DEFINE FRESH WATER, BUT INVITES THE LOCALS TO MOVE FROM THE AREA AND TO GO LIVING FURTHER INLAND. GRUDGE AND CONFLICTS ARE GROWING IN THE TOWN OF PANGANI AND IN THE RIVER AREA, ANYWAY, AS IN THE INLAND A FISHERMAN CAN'T DO HIS JOB, FARMERS AND LIVESTOCK KEEPERS HAVE THEIR WATER-RELATED PROBLEMS TOO: MANY OF THEM SIMPLE CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE AWAY AND THE IDEA TO BUILD BARRIERS TO PROTECT THE WELLS FROM SALTY WATER IS NOT YET ON ITS WAY BECAUSE NO FUNDS SEEM TO BE AVAILABLE.

THE TOWN OF PANGANI LOOKS LIKE A PARADISE, WITH PALMS AND A SLOW PACE LIFE, BUT THE OCEAN WATER ALREADY PUSHED CROCODILES FAR FROM THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER, AND THE SAND NOW SHOWS THE COLOURS AND A BRIGHTNESS THAT THE ELDERLIES DO NOT RECOGNISE ANYMORE – THERE'S A GROWING AMOUNT OF MINERALS IN THE SOIL. THERE'S AN INVISIBLE ENEMY GOING AROUND IN THIS BEAUTIFUL SIDE OF THE AFRICAN COAST, GIVING SIGNS OF ITS PRESENCE THAT FEW CAN READ BUT WHICH EVERYONE STARTED TO HATE.



TWO PIKI PIKI (THE AFRICAN MOTORCYCLE TAXIS) WAITING FOR SOME CLIENTS.



A YOUNG MAN IN TOWN.



THE PANGANI FERRY-BOAT CONNECTING THE TWO RIVER BANKS. IT'S USED MAINLY BY RESIDENTS AND STREET TRADERS.



A PALM LEAF ON A BANK OF THE RIVER. SINCE FISHING IS EXPERIENCING A DEEP CRISIS, THE COCONUT INDUSTRY IS TODAY THE MAIN ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.



A KID SELLING BOILED EGGS ALONG THE RIVER.



A CLASS IN THE PANGANI SCHOOL.



A KID RESTING BY THE RIVER.



MOUTH OF THE PANGANI RIVER.



A GROUP OF KIDS WATCHING A FOOTBALL GAME.



A MAN HOLDING WHAT'S LEFT OF A HIPPO. CROCODILES AND HIPPOS WERE COMMONLY PRESENT IN THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER BUT NOW, BECAUSE OF THE GROWING SALINITY OF RIVER'S WATER, THEY MOVED FAR FROM THE MOUTH OR, RARELY, SWIM DEEPER.



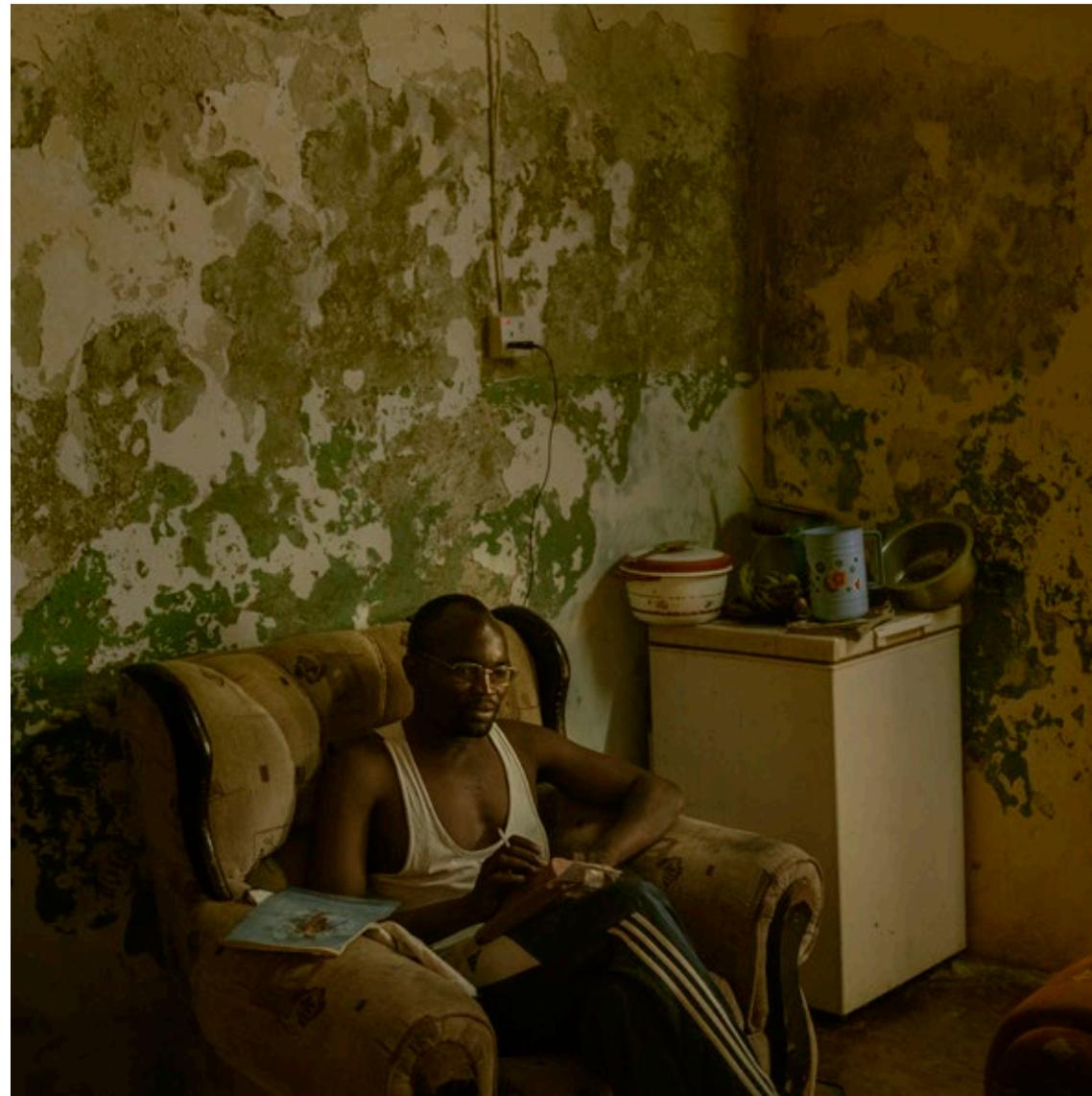
A GIRL PLAYING IN A VILLAGE NORTH OF THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER. THE KIDS LIVING IN THE VILLAGES AROUND THE TOWN OF PANGANI DO NOT GO TO SCHOOL.



A FARMER HAVING A BREAK SIT ON A PILE OF COCONUTS.



INSIDE THE OFFICE OF THE PRIEST OF THE CHURCH OF PANGANI.
THE TOWN HOSTS BOTH CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES.



A MAN IN HIS HOUSE READING A BOOK.



A GROUP OF WOMEN SINGING DURING THE HOLY MASS.



A YOUNG MAN IN TOWN.



MOUTH OF THE PANGANI RIVER. FISHERMEN LEAVING FOR SOME NIGHT FISHING.



A GIRL MOVING A BOAT FROM THE WATER.



A MAN RESTING UNDER A TREE ON THE RIVER BANK.



THREE MEN HAVING A BREAK FROM THEIR WORK IN A COCONUT FIELD.



A WOMAN COLLECTING WATER FROM THE RIVER. THIS WATER IS BRACKISH, BUT THOSE LIVING ALONG THE RIVER KEEP ON DRINKING IT AS THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVES.



TWO KIDS STUDYING AT HOME.



ONE OF THE STREET OF THE VILLAGE.



WORKERS LOADING SACKS FULL OF COCONUT.



A WOMAN COLLECTING WATER IN A LONELY VILLAGE ALONG THE RIVER.
THE WATER IS SALTY FOR MANY KILOMETRES FROM THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER UP,
AS THE OCEAN SEEPS IN.



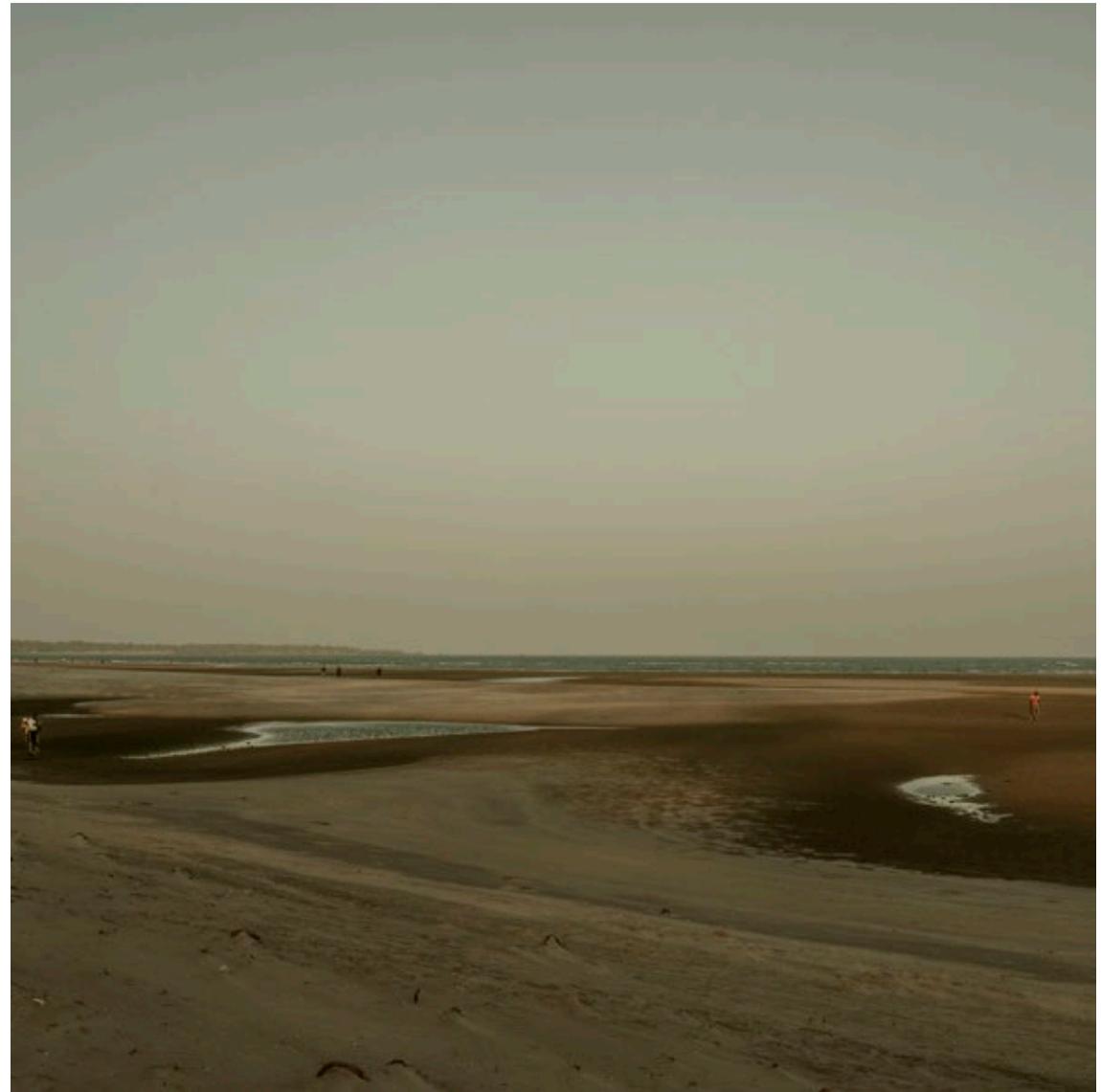
HAIRCUTS ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER.



TWO WOMEN AND A BABY BOY IN A SMALL VILLAGE ALONG THE RIVER.



FIXING A CAR.



A VIEW OF THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER. THE PUDDLES CREATED BY THE HIGH TIDE ARE SOURCE OF FRESH WATER FOR THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA.



THE VILLAGE'S SCHOOLYARD.



A YOUNG MUSLIM MAN.



A YOUNG FISHERMAN SEWING ONE OF HIS NETS.



THREE FISHERMEN GOING HOME AFTER THEIR WORKDAY ON THE RIVER.



A KID HOLDING A CRAB HE JUST CAUGHT IN THE SWAMPS ALONG THE RIVER.



A KID FISHING IN THE SWAMP ALONG THE RIVER IN THE MANGROVE WOOD.



A FISHERMAN GOING BACK HOME AFTER A WORKDAY ON THE RIVER.



TWO FISHERMEN ON THE RIVER BANK.



CHECKING THE NETS BEFORE FISHING IN A VILLAGE ALONG THE RIVER.



THE RIVER IS INFESTED BY JELLYFISH DRAGGED BY THE OCEAN CURRENTS, MAKING QUITE DIFFICULT TO ENTER THE WATER AND AVOID THEIR STINGS.



A YOUNG MAN WAITING FOR HIS TURN TO PLAY BILLIARD IN A BAR OF THE TOWN.



A VIEW OF THE TOWN FROM THE RIVER.



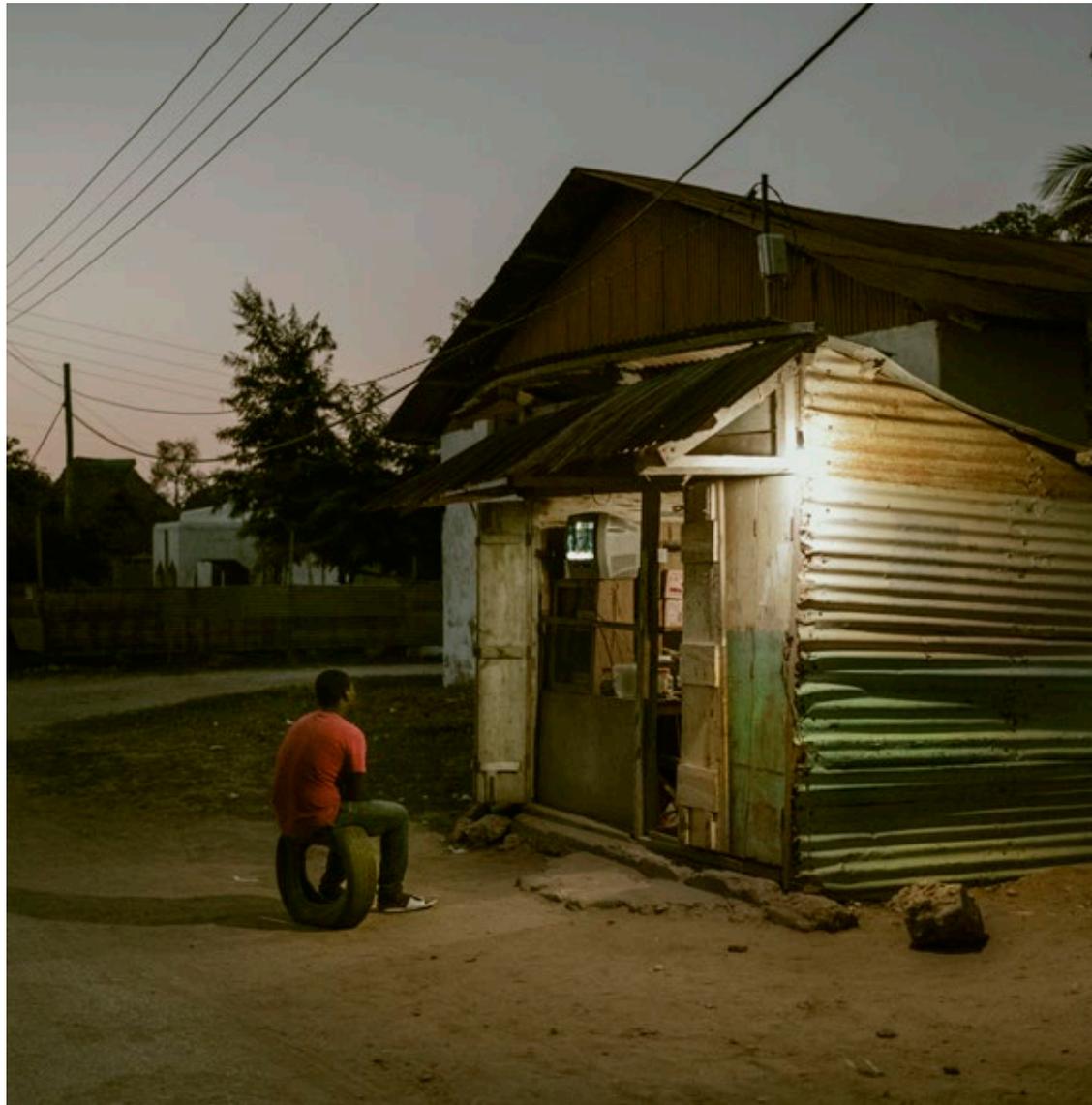
A GROUP OF PIKI PIKI AND OTHER WORKERS CROSSING THE RIVER ON THE ONLY FERRY-BOAT OF THE MOUTH AREA.



A DVD AND AUDIO CD SHOP.



BROTHER AND SISTER IN THEIR HOUSE.



WATCHING THE TV OUTSIDE A BAR IN TOWN.



A KID ON A BANK OF THE RIVER.



MANGROVE AT SUNSET ALONG THE RIVER.

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