

WORK PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

I WAS DRAWN TO STORIES OF ADVENTURE FROM THE TIME I COULD READ. THE FIRST CHAPTER BOOK I FINISHED WAS "THE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT SWAMP" BY MARJORIE A. ZAPF, WHICH TOLD THE FICTIONAL STORY OF A YOUNG BOY WHO SPENT HIS DAYS EXPLORING THE ALLIGATOR-FILLED SWAMPS OF THE OKEFENOKEE. GROWING UP IN A SHELTERED HOME IN KANSAS, THE BLEAK LANDSCAPE CREATED A BLANK CANVAS TO LET MY IMAGINATION RUN WILD, AND I IMMERSUED MYSELF IN THE VERY STORIES I READ. THESE STORIES WOULD EVOLVE AS MY PALATE FOR BOOKS GREW, AND I DISCOVERED THE NONFICTION WRITINGS OF THE GREAT AFRICAN EXPLORERS AND WRITERS, DAVID LIVINGSTONE, EWART GROGAN, HENRY STANLEY, PETER MATTHIESSEN, BERYL MARKHAM, AND MORE.

AFTER I IMPULSIVELY MOVED TO AFRICA AT 19 AND BEGAN MY UNEXPECTED CAREER AS A SAFARI GUIDE -WHERE I SPENT 5 YEARS HAVING CLOSE CALLS WITH WILD ANIMALS AND ARMED REBEL GROUPS- I KNEW I HAD FINALLY BEGUN LIVING THE LIFE OF ADVENTURE I HAD ALWAYS DREAMED OF AS A KID. AND WITH THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE THE WILD PLACES OF THE WORLD, CAME MY TRUE LIFE'S CALLING: TO SHARE MY OWN STORIES OF ADVENTURE WITH THE WORLD.



ALTHOUGH WRITING WAS THE MEDIUM OF MY CHOICE WHEN I FIRST STARTED MY STORYTELLING CAREER, I WAS ABLE TO QUICKLY ADD PHOTOGRAPHY TO MY SKILLSET AS WELL. SINCE MY FATHER WAS A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER, I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO INHERIT HIGH QUALITY HAND-ME-DOWN NIKON GEAR TO TAKE ON MY AFRICAN ADVENTURES. IT WAS THERE THAT I PERFECTED THE ART OF NATURE AND LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY. MY WORK HAS SINCE APPEARED IN NUMEROUS MAGAZINES AND MARKETING CONTENT FOR CONSERVATION GROUPS. MORE RECENTLY, I HAVE ADDED SHORT VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES AND PODCASTS TO MY STORYTELLING PORTFOLIO. IN THE FUTURE, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE VIDEOS A MORE SERIOUS PART OF MY CREATIVE PROJECTS.

TELLING STORIES IN AND OF ITSELF IS NOT A CALLING THAT BRINGS ME SATISFACTION; THERE MUST BE A DEEPER PURPOSE TO THOSE STORIES. FOR ME, THIS COMES IN TWO PARTS: FIRST, TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO GO OUT AND HAVE THEIR OWN ADVENTURES- JUST AS I WAS INSPIRED BY THE PAST GENERATIONS WHEN I WAS A KID. AND SECOND, I WANT TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO CARE ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD IN A WAY THAT WILL MOTIVATE THEM TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT IT.

WITH THE WORLD RAPIDLY CHANGING AND THE WILD PLACES GROWING INCREASINGLY MORE RARE, IT HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE CRUCIAL TIME TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE INTO JOINING THE COMMON GOAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION. FOR MY PART, I WILL CONTINUE SPREADING THIS MESSAGE THROUGH THE STORIES TAKING PLACE AMONG THESE WILD PLACES.

