

PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, Zambian life and happening things And especially for those who just like looking at pictures

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The Story Behind the Picture:

# Environmental Photographer of the Year 2015 -Awards Exhibition

In this **PhotoMail**, news from an international photo awards exhibition.

In recent years, there has emerged a plethora of photo competitions - most of them with the apparent objective of making money for their organisers by way of entry fees. But a few are major awards which are more properly committed to the support and promotion of photography and it's uses as an important communication tool, so their entry fees are nil. One of these is the Environmental Photographer of the Year Awards ('EPOTY' Awards).

The photograph below has been selected as a 2015 finalist and is included in the Award's exhibition at the Royal Geographic Society London, and then in an exhibition tour. The winners of the awards will be selected from the exhibited work and announced at the exhibition preview event in June.

The photograph shows a beautiful, natural scene with Man apparently at peace with Nature. But the story behind the picture tells of something quite different...



Fisherman & White Water, Luapula River, D R Congo/Zambia Border

The overall theme of the EPOTY Awards is "social and natural issues of the environment", and the objective is "to enhance understanding of the causes, consequences and solutions to climate change and social inequality".

The finalists are selected to form the Awards' exhibition of up to 100 photographs, usually from a worldwide entry of over 10,000. The finalists' and award winners' work is widely publicised in the international press and media.

EPOTY is supported and organised by:

Atkins, the international design, projects and environmental consultancy CIWEM, the Chartered Institute of Water & Environmental Management Forestry Commission England; and, Forest Art Works

## THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE

The above photograph is from the long term Spirit of the Land panoramic photography project & exhibitions on the remote Africa landscape and the people who live off it. This subsistence fisherman is rod-and-line fishing for very small fish because that is all that's left in this over-fished section of the river.

Uncontrolled and unsustainable fishing with small aperture gill nets is threatening even big rivers such

as this on the D R Congo/Zambia border. Now, netting using anti-malaria bed nets donated by international aid agencies is widespread (see picture below from the same area) and this exacerbates an already serious problem - such nets removing not just small fish but also all fingerlings and even the fish eggs, thus quite literally killing a once rich river and threatening the health and survival of many riverside populations.



used to make wedding dresses.

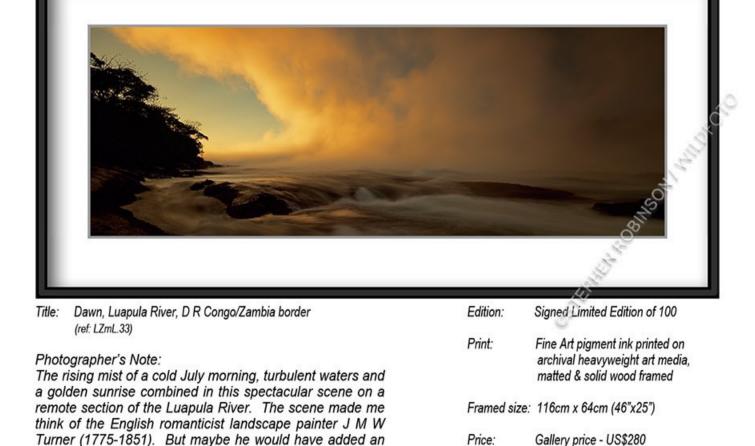
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**PHOTOGRAPHER** 

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www.Spirit-of-the-Land.com

FOR HIRE Stephen Robinson is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in

corporate, industrial,

Advertisement

old steamboat emerging through the mist ...

#### donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and

promotional media. Medium format panoramic photography and aerial work are specialities. speciality,

This commercial work supports his nature photography landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his

well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Landscape Africa B&W - the land in monochrome

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and the stories behind the pictures

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