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# ASIAN Geographic™

## *On the Edge of Asia*

The Return of Film  
Vladivostok: On the Verge  
Threshold of Total Destruction

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**EDITORIAL**

PUBLISHER/EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

John THET • [thet@asiangeo.com](mailto:thet@asiangeo.com)

SENIOR EDITOR

Luisita S V MENDOZA • [luisita@asiangeo.com](mailto:luisita@asiangeo.com)

FEATURES EDITOR

Selina TAN • [selina@asiangeo.com](mailto:selina@asiangeo.com)

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Shreya GOPI • [shreya@asiangeo.com](mailto:shreya@asiangeo.com)

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Ian SELDRUP • [ian@asiangeo.com](mailto:ian@asiangeo.com)

**EDITORIAL INTERNS**

Aiswarya DEVI

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**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**

ADVERTISING/MARKETING MANAGER

Cassandra Ann DRAGON • [cassandra@asiangeo.com](mailto:cassandra@asiangeo.com)

NG Yuan Ting • [ting@asiangeo.com](mailto:ting@asiangeo.com)

EVENTS, PROGRAMS & CONFERENCE MANAGER

Elfrance PHANG • [elfrance@asiangeo.com](mailto:elfrance@asiangeo.com)

SENIOR EVENTS & MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Karter LEE • [karter@asiangeo.com](mailto:karter@asiangeo.com)

EVENTS & MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Guanyu LAU • [guan@asiangeo.com](mailto:guan@asiangeo.com)

**DESIGN**

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Eric WONG • [eric@asiangeo.com](mailto:eric@asiangeo.com)

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Justin ONG • [justin@asiangeo.com](mailto:justin@asiangeo.com)

WEB/IT OFFICER

Jonathan SOH • [jonathan.soh@asiangeo.com](mailto:jonathan.soh@asiangeo.com)

**CIRCULATION**

SENIOR CIRCULATION/DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Victor OW • [victor@asiangeo.com](mailto:victor@asiangeo.com)

CIRCULATION/ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE

Sheila DEVI • [sheila@asiangeo.com](mailto:sheila@asiangeo.com)

**FIELD EDITORS**

Doug Perrine • USA

YD Bar-Ness • Australia

Oliver Benjamin • Thailand

Renyung Ho • Singapore

Scott Bennett • Canada

Stephen Burrows • Hong Kong

Dr Rachel Einav • Israel

Zann Huizhen Huang • Middle East

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS**

Dr Simon Pollard • Dr Doug Fenner •

Dr Nicolas J Blicher • Dr Dionysius Sharma •

Dr Carl Grundy-Warr

\*\*\*

Editorial Submissions • [editor@asiangeo.com](mailto:editor@asiangeo.com)

Photo Submissions • [photo@asiangeo.com](mailto:photo@asiangeo.com)

Subscriptions • [sub@asiangeo.com](mailto:sub@asiangeo.com)

Advertising • [ads@asiangeo.com](mailto:ads@asiangeo.com)

Feedback • [info@asiangeo.com](mailto:info@asiangeo.com)

**PICTURESQUE**

## 20 Back from the Edge

Traditional film is still a favourite among creative photographers who seek to experiment with how the medium adds dynamism and depth to the message they aim to convey. Telling stories that unfold frame by frame, two photographers reach out to their audience beyond the edges of each negative to broaden horizons and remove the distance between the audience and the subject.

BY CHOW CHEE YONG (FOR SINGAPORE),  
WITH JUSTIN ONG (FOR JAKARTA)

**WILDLIFE**

## 68 An Old World Newly Discovered

The Greater Mekong region of Southeast Asia is a veritable treasure trove of new plant and animal species – at least for the time being. Having found more than 300 new species in the region between 2012 and 2013, scientists are battling against habitat loss, pollution and climate change to bring to light these and the many more mysterious species waiting to be discovered – before they disappear permanently.

BY JODI ROWLEY

**CARE**

## 84 Saving a Forest

It takes a village to save a national park. Follow the distinct “thwunk” of trees being felled as ASIAN Geographic charts the progress of the Kosi Gittim villagers who attempt to track down illegal loggers in Balpakram National Park – situated at the border between India and Bangladesh.

BY TRIPP BURWELL

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A valiant voyage on the very edge of Asia begins in the uplands of the continent, where altitudes come threateningly close to 9,000 metres. Moving beyond the familiar perspective of the dry land, explorers hit the submerged border that slopes gradually and extends to a deep, debilitating benthic environment – an area leading to forbidden, alien territory.

BY YD BAR-NESS

### 54 On the Edge of Happiness

Journeying across Vanuatu, listed number one on the Happy Planet Index, means learning never to go over the edge – especially on the crater rim of the alluring, unpredictable Mount Yasur. It is a nation where ecstatic Ni-Vanuatu wedding celebrations meet humbling reconciliation ceremonies in which conflicts are resolved and harmony must be restored before sundown.

BY WOO WAN LU

### 62 Edge of the world

One of the lesser-known cities that outlines Asia, marking where the continent gives way to the ocean, Vladivostok is a seven-day train journey from Moscow – at least until plans for a new high-speed line are realised. Once shut off from the rest of the world to protect Russia's strategic interests, this "San Francisco of the East" is now set to transform into a hub to foster vibrant trade throughout Asia.

BY SOPHIE IBBOTSON AND MAX LOVELL-HOARE

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#### ON THE COVER

A stunning sunset on the edge of Asia, at the Sigiriya Rock Fortress in Sri Lanka.

Photo: Getty Images/National Geographic Creative