

FROM *the* EDITOR

NATHAN LUMP

NO DOUBT people have always found the world around them complex, potentially overwhelming, and at least occasionally dispiriting. It's tempting to imagine golden ages, times in the past that simply felt untroubled, when all problems seemed easily solved and each day dawned brighter. Surely that's a mirage. And yet it's true that some periods are more tumultuous than others, marked by bigger challenges and more rapid changes.

I often feel lately that we are living in one of those topsy-turvy moments, and personally, I find it hard some days to stay optimistic. Our planet faces daunting threats, and it sometimes seems like our basic norms of decency do too. It's one reason I find the arrival of this year's National Geographic 33 so welcome.

For the second time, and in homage to our 33 founders, we are recognizing 33 individuals from around the globe who are using their influence, their ideas, and their actions to make a difference. Our list includes famous

faces doing something significant beyond their day jobs, National Geographic Explorers leveraging their boundary-pushing work to drive real impact, and exceptional entrepreneurs, thinkers, and advocates changing our notions of what's possible.

Reading about our honorees, I found myself feeling a stronger sense of hope. Their shared commitment to doing right by the Earth and the living things that inhabit it reminds me we all have the power to be not just observers but active participants in shaping a better collective future.

We've got some other great stories in these pages, including our cover feature on an extraordinary shipwreck in the Adriatic that may rewrite history, a dispatch from Abu Dhabi on the making of one of the world's most ambitious new museums, and more.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Lump'.