Photography from the developing/majority world - how it differs from other representations

Does photography from African countries conform to stereotypes? To what extent does negative representation of the continent have a social impact?

1) Do you think that Zambia, and Africa as a continent, is represented negatively in the international media?

   No, I do not think that Zambia is represented negatively in international media.

   I think the current focus of international media is extremes. Mostly, this is biased towards negative extremes – disasters, genocide etc. In this sense, Zambia rarely has anything "newsworthy".

2) Do you think that stereotypes are often reinforced? Can you give an example?

   Yes, I do think that stereotypes are reinforced.

   For example, the peaceful and sometimes naïve nature of Zambians is being taken advantage by people who are using Zambian women to traffic drugs.

3) Do you think this has any impact on society in general? If yes, why?

   This is a difficult question. I understand "stereotype" as a projection from an outside observer. Perhaps, this impacts society in the way an outsider interacts with locals.

   This could be an interesting research question.

4) Do you think there is any difference between the way local photographers take pictures representing the country / continent, and the way foreigners represent it?

   Yes, I do think there is a difference.

   I think local photographers have a more functional take on photography. They take photographs for an immediate pay-off.
   I think foreigners seem to take photograph of Zambia for sentimental reasons.

5) Do you try and represent a different view of Zambia or Africa when you make photographs?

   No. I take pictures and let the observer make judgments about the representations.

6) If yes, how do you do this? Do you encounter any challenges in doing this?

7) If you could change current stereotypes of Africa, what would they be and why?

No, I would not change any stereotypes of Zambia. The things I would want to change in Zambia are things to do with our culture.

I feel that changing the stereotype would be like changing the perception. Changing the culture would be changing the reality.

One can argue that "perception IS reality" but that is likely outside the scope of this survey!