

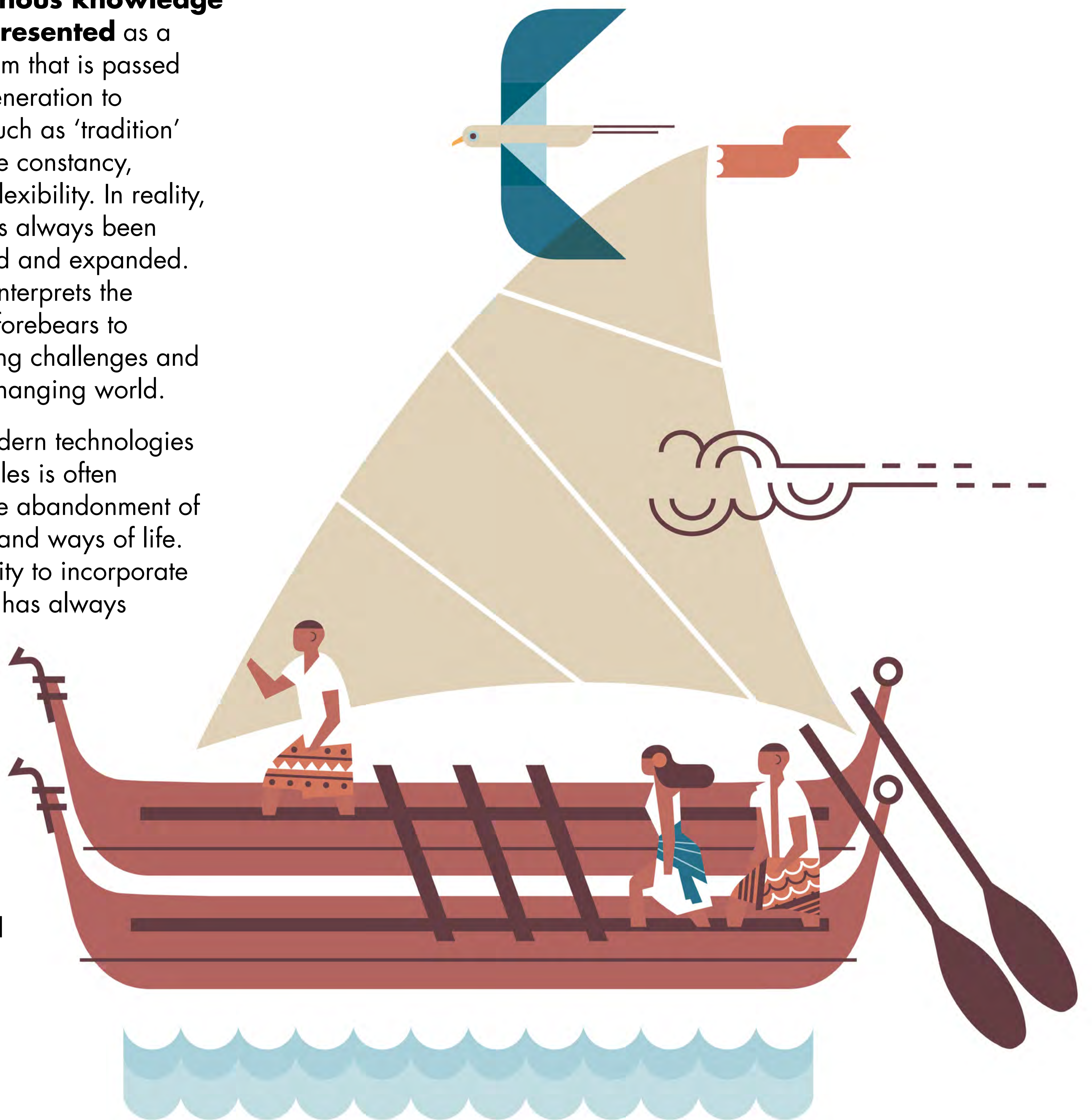
Dynamism

of 'traditional' knowledge

Local and indigenous knowledge is frequently represented

as a fixed body of wisdom that is passed down intact from generation to generation. Terms such as 'tradition' and 'heritage' evoke constancy, immutability and inflexibility. In reality, local knowledge has always been reassessed, renewed and expanded. Each generation reinterprets the knowledge of their forebears to confront the emerging challenges and opportunities of a changing world.

The adoption of modern technologies by indigenous peoples is often misinterpreted as the abandonment of their distinct values and ways of life. In reality, the capacity to incorporate new tools and skills has always been fundamental to the dynamism of indigenous cultures. Indeed, it is by blending new ways with old that many indigenous communities are able to uphold their unique lifestyles and worldviews.



MOTORISED TRANSPORT

allows Inuit in Canada to regain access to distant hunting territories.



© Douglas Nakashima

DUGOUT CANOES

with outboard motors support subsistence activities in Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands.



© Edvard Hviding

A FISHERMAN THROWS

a nylon cast net in the sandy shallows in Vanuatu.



© Francis R Hickey



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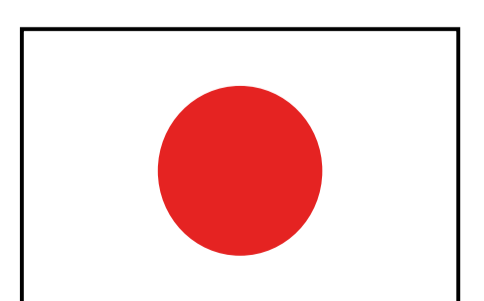
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