Out of Africa

With a rash of recent films shot in Africa, it might seem that Hollywood just discovered the location. Not so. Directors have been using the varied terrain and sweeping landscapes since the ‘50s. Here’s a sampling.
WORLD STAGE: Zimbabwe stands in for South Africa in Morgan Freeman’s recreation of a small township for Bopha! (1993), the story of a black police officer during apartheid.

ROUGH GOING: Sydney Pollack filmed Out of Africa (1985), based on Isak Dinesen’s books, near Ngong Hills outside Nairobi, Kenya, where the author lived.

CAMEL TIME: Filming a comedy in Morocco with Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman was no laughing matter for Elaine May and her team on Ishtar (1987).

TRUE STORY: Terry George stages the U.N. peacekeeping forces protecting thousands of Tutsi refugees against Hutu militia in Hotel Rwanda (2004), shot in South Africa.

GOD HELP US: Fred Zinnemann directing Audrey Hepburn as a young woman living in a convent in The Nun’s Story (1959), shot in the Congo.
WHITE HUNTERS: Howard Hawks (right) plans a scene with John Wayne (left) in Hatari!, shot in Tanzania. In 1962, the story of a group of men trapping wild animals to sell to zoos was politically acceptable.

DESERT PATROL: Alejandro González Iñárritu tries to get his point across to an army of cast, crew and extras shooting Babel (2006) on location in Morocco.