

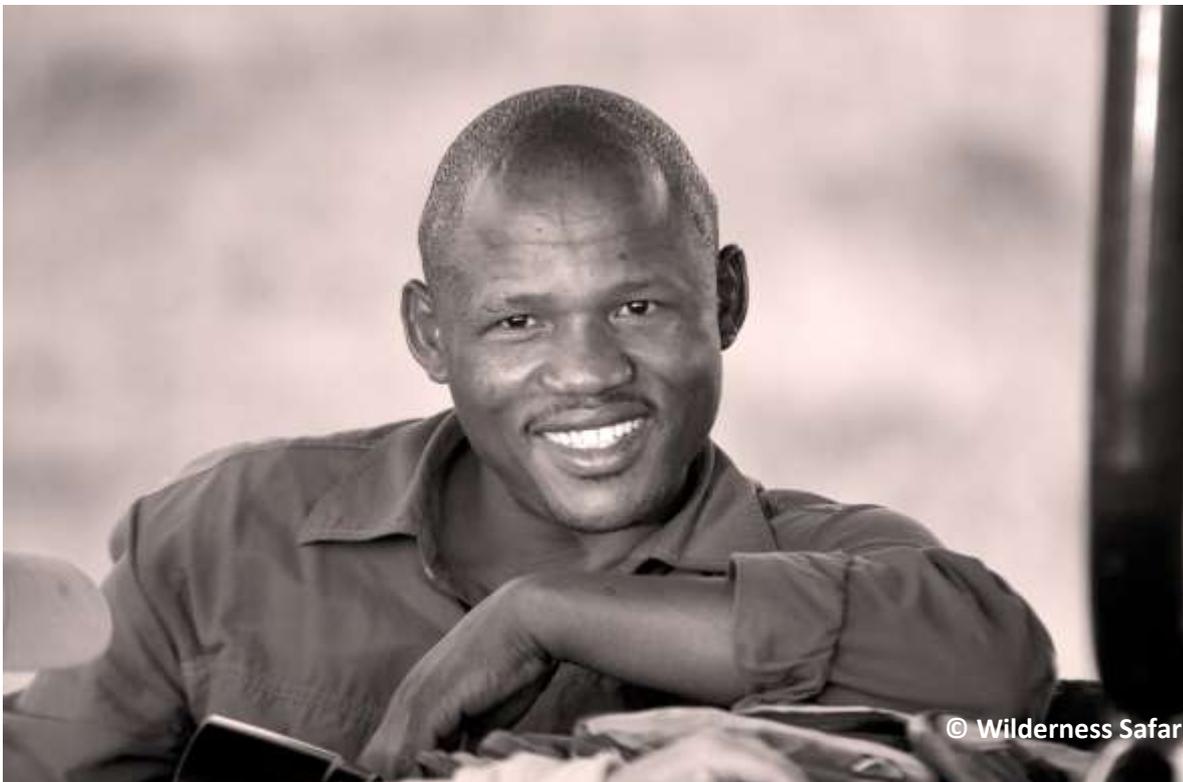
Episode 3: Kane Motswana, Okavango Bushman and Safari Guide

Show Notes

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This podcast is brought to you by [African Family Safaris](http://www.africanfamilysafaris.com). Richard Field has been a safari guide for 20 years, and in the Life on Safari podcast he talks with safari guides and conservationists about their day-to-day life in the bush. The hope is that through these remarkable conversations, wild Africa will creep under your skin.



Kane Motswana is a Bushman from the Okavango Delta in northern Botswana. His family were nomadic hunter gatherers, and he was born under a tree. He is now one of the finest safari guides in Africa, with a completely unique perspective and approach.

In this conversation we start by chatting to Kane about his early days. he shares stories of hunting reedbuck and warthogs with his friends, and running 26kms through the bush to get to school - and how strange life was when he first made it to a big town. It is a life that resembles the movie 'The God's Must be Crazy'!

We then move into his life working in the ecotourism industry. And this is where the conversation really goes to a whole new level. Kane talks about the importance of his spiritual connection to his ancestors and how they assist in guiding him through the

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wilderness and creating remarkable experiences for people. He talks about how his ancestors communicate to him - sometimes through a small bird called a cardinal woodpecker, and sometimes in his dreams. On one occasion his ancestors forced him to get his guests out of bed early, and they found a pride of lions about to kill a buffalo.

In conjunction with his wife Kay, he has set up a Tour Operating company called Safari Embassy www.safariembassy.com. Kane is also working hard to set up his own safari camp in the Okavango Delta. Stand by for details on that.



Selected Links from the Episode

- About Kane
 - [Great Plains Conservation](#) (where Kane was working from 2012-2015)
 - Kane's Facebook page: [Kane the Bushman](#)
 - Kane is best accessed through his website www.safariembassy.com
 - To engage Kane as a guide for your own safari, contact us at <http://africanfamilysafaris.com/contact/> or contact Kane via Facebook: [Kane the Bushman](#)
- The movie Kane talks about: [The Gods Must Be Crazy](#)
- Conservation organisations Kane refers to:
 - [Rhinos Without Borders](#)
 - [Great Plains Conservation](#) runs [Kids Conservation Camp](#) for local kids
 - [Wilderness Safaris](#) runs [Children in the Wilderness](#)
 - [Wilderness Botswana Rhino Project](#)
- Learn more about [Wilderness Safaris](#)

Show Notes

- Kane talks about how he was born under a tree [5:42]
- The difference between an Okavango and Kalahari Bushman [6:20]
- Kane's early days at school [7:34]
- Kane's cousin is attacked by a lion at school [10:16]
- Early life with his nomadic, hunter-gatherer family [13:10]
- How to hunt a reedbuck [18:34]
- Spiritual connection with ancestors [23:18]
- Kane's role in establishing ecotourism for within his community [31:22]
- On working as a camp manager [34:07]
- Kane's first game drive [35:21]
- Kane's day to day life working at Selinda Explorers Camp [42:02]
- How his spiritual connection to his ancestors impacts his guiding [46:25]
- Early morning lions hunting buffalo [47:58]
- Canoeing with Dereck Joubert & being surrounded by elephants [52:31]
- The spiritual importance of the Cardinal Woodpecker [53:26]
- Having to be in the 'right form' to call your ancestors [56:08]
- How anyone can be guided by their ancestors [58:32]

- The major conservation issues for Kane [1:01:55]
- Three tips for wanting to do a safari [1:07:47]

People Mentioned in This Podcast

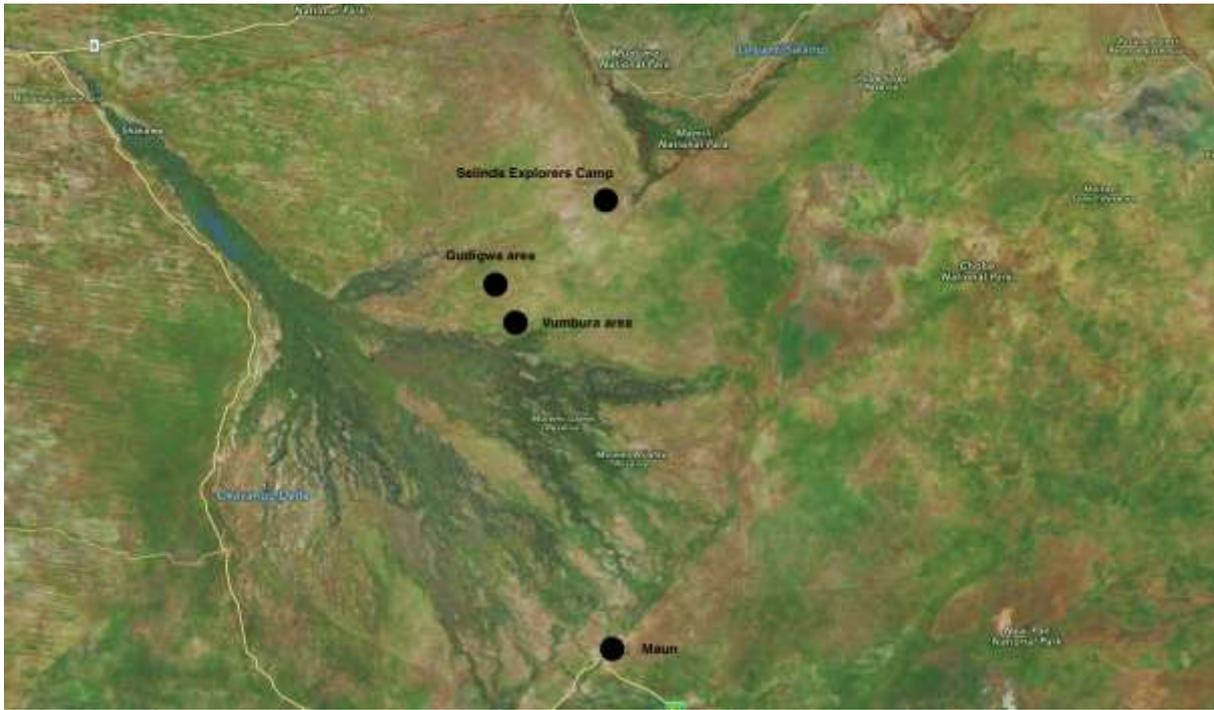
- [Dereck Joubert](#)

Selected Places and Vocabulary Mentioned in This Podcast

- What's a concession? A concession is an area of land which has been allocated as an exclusive Wildlife Management Area. These are leased to safari companies for varying lengths of time – formerly 15 years, but this has been extended in recent years. Each WMA in northern Botswana is given a number eg NG14 or NG26.
- Selected places mentioned: Maun, Gudigwa, Selinda, Xhamoxhwii (*settlement where Kane was born*), Okavango, Kalahari, NG16 (concession area), [Motswiri Camp](#), Gorokom, Kwando, Mokombe, Gaborone, Vumbura, Duba, Kaporota, Vundum Tiki and Kaporota Camp (*now closed*), Duba Plains (*now [Duba Expedition](#)*), Old Vumbura (*now closed*), [Little Vumbura](#), Linyanti, Savute Marsh, Kasane, Chobe River, [Explorers](#) (*Kane is talking about [Selinda Explorers](#)*), [DumaTau](#) (camp), [Sabi Sand](#) (*reserve in South Africa adjacent to the [Kruger National Park](#)*), [Jack's Camp](#), Magkadigkadi Pans
- Selected vocabulary: Skorokoro-*an old vehicle generally used for collecting firewood*, mokoro-*canoe used in the Okavango Delta that is moved by someone standing in the stern and pushing with a pole*
- Selected birds and animals mentioned: Cardinal woodpecker (the *Gangwa* – *the main bird*), spring hares, scrub hares, warthog, reedbuck
- Selected food mentioned: jackalberries, wild bird plum, wild honey



Map of Botswana including the Okavango, Chobe, Linyanti & Selinda



Map of northern Botswana showing Gudigwa, Selinda Explorers, Vumbura and Maun.



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