



Episode 1: Map Ives, National Rhino Coordinator of Botswana

This podcast is brought to you by [African Family Safaris](#). 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 life in the bush. The hope is that through these remarkable conversations, wild Africa will creep under your skin.



Map Ives is one of Africa's legendary safari characters. He is also the man in the hot seat when it comes to rhino conservation in Botswana. Throughout Africa, rhinos are being shot and killed at an average of 3.5 a day. The situation is beyond serious. Botswana's role in global rhino conservation is growing by the day. Black and white rhinos from throughout southern Africa are being relocated to Botswana, effectively for safe keeping. Botswana also has the largest elephant population on the planet, so it seems inevitable that the criminal poaching syndicates will soon focus their attention on Botswana. How will this small country cope?

In the interview Map paints a very stark, real picture. He talks in detail about the

structure and nature of the poaching syndicates, but also the coordinated multi-national approach in place which is working hard to protect the rhinos. He explains why Botswana is viewed as a safe haven, but why the country will need much greater international assistance in the coming years. He also lets you know how YOU can help.

It's a fascinating interview, which certainly gives hope for Africa's rhino population. But as Map rightly points out, if we are to turn the situation around it will require all of us to be ambassadors for rhinos.

I hope you enjoy the interview, but even more I hope it moves you to add your voice.

Enjoy!



Selected Links from the Episode

- Learn more about [Wilderness Safaris](#)
- 1960 [YouTube clip](#) about rescuing the rhino from Lake Kariba by the Rupert Fothergill/Operation Noah team
- The book: [A Hunter's Wanderings in Africa](#) by Frederick Courtney Selous
- The book: [Killing for Profit: Exposing the Illegal Rhino Horn Trade](#) by Julian Rademeyer
- Find out more about organisations working to conserve rhinos
 - [Thokomela! Botswana Endangered Wildlife Trust](#)
 - [Rhino Conservation Botswana](#)
 - [Wilderness Botswana Rhino Project](#)

- [Malilangwe Trust](#)

Show Notes

- How rhinos were partly responsible for Map's working in the bush [4:12]
- The time Map was head-butted by a black rhino [8:24]
- History of rhinos in northern Botswana [11:49]
- Poaching episodes in the early 80s [14:34]
- From reintroduction to relocation. Why is it now necessary to relocate? [16:03]
- New poaching epidemic: From begging for rhinos to being offered them from all over southern Africa [19:00]
- Are South Africa's rhinos a lost cause? [23:06]
- Four-pronged multi-national conservation effort: breeding, anti-poaching, interrupting trafficking, awareness [23:35]
- Sympathy for the trigger man [27:38]
- The rungs on the ladder of sophisticated poaching syndicates [30:44]
- War in South Africa [32:22]
- Big picture of what might happen ecologically if we lose rhino [33:45]
- Will Botswana be the target? Political and financial assistance needed. [34:50]
- Map's role with the Botswana Defence Force [36:15]
- Shoot-to-kill? Are these the standing orders of the anti-poaching forces? [39:32]
- Links between rhino poaching and elephant poaching [41:44]
- Presence of anti-poaching units in border, safari and tourist areas [42:22]
- How people can help [43:40]
- The positive influence of tourism on conservation [46:36]

People Mentioned in This Podcast

- [Map Ives](#)
- [Ian Khama](#)
- [Tshekedi Khama II](#)
- Rupert Fothergill (Operation Noah)
- [Ian Player](#)
- Grant Woodrow (Wilderness Safaris)
- [Prince William, Duke of Cambridge](#)
- [David Beckham](#)
- [Jackie Chan](#)

Selected Places and Vocabulary Mentioned in This Podcast

- Selected places mentioned: Botswana, Linyanti-Cuando, Okavango, Boma Camp, Kruger Park, Kwazulu-Natal, Madikwe, Pilanesburg, Malilangwe, Bubiana Conservancy, Eastern Capes, Northwest Parks
- Selected vocabulary: *Ubuntu*-humanity or fellow feeling; kindness, *Batswana*-people of Botswana



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