



## Episode 4: Ian Michler on Canned Hunting and Making “Blood Lions”, Part 1

### 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.*



Ian Michler is an ardent conservationist, widely renowned for his investigative journalism over the last 18 years that has helped expose the 'Canned' lion hunting industry in South Africa. He has also been heavily involved in the making of the movie 'Blood Lions' which was released in July 2015. This is the first of a special double episode, where Ian talks in detail about predator breeding and canned hunting, and his own personal experiences in working to uncover the truth of this sordid industry. It has meant many battles, and often putting himself into the 'lions den' - behind electrified fences and locked gates, where there are guns, lions and people who deal in brutality. It is an amazing conversation - I hope you enjoy it.



*Life on Safari Podcast, 20 May 2016*

## Selected Links from the Episode

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- [Blood Lions](#) website and official [Facebook](#) page
- [Watch](#) or [purchase](#) “Blood Lions” via Amazon, or via links on [Blood Lions](#) website
- The film trailer is [here](#)
- The 1997 episode of [The Cook Report](#) is entitled “Making a Killing”
- Links to South African Predator Breeders Association (now [South African Predator Association](#)), and [Professional Hunters Association of South Africa](#)
- Links to [IFAW](#) (International Fund for Animal Welfare) and [SAMPEO](#) and [Wildlands](#)
- Ian references the magazines [National Geo\[graphic\]](#) and [Africa Geographic](#)
- Travel trade shows mentioned are [ITB Berlin](#), [World Travel Market Africa](#), and [We Are Africa](#)
- The property Camorhi: Per Ian Michler, this property has since been sold, and as of May 2016, is a great lion sanctuary called [Lions Rock](#). It features in the film.

## Show Notes

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- The origins of the term ‘canned hunting’ [3:22]
- Early justifications for canned hunting [9:09]
- Linking canned hunting with predator breeding [13:05]
- Ian talking about early days as a journalist [20:51]
- Recognition for Peter Borchert and Eve Gracie from Africa Geographic [23:28]
- Finding and communicating with sources [30:42]
- Court ruling in favour of canned hunters [34:19]
- The greater hunting community changes their response to canned hunting [39:20]
- On perceived conservation value of canned hunting [45:38]
- The life of a captive bred lion – cub petting, walking with lions, canned hunting, bone trade [50:27]
- Laundering lions [55:54]
- Role/complicity of tourism industry [57:39]
- Volunteer scam [61:03]

## People Mentioned in This Podcast

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- [Roger Cook](#)
- [Marthinus Van Schalkwyk](#)
- [Peter Borchert](#)
- Eve Gracie
- [Sarah Borchert](#)
- [Dr Andrew Venter](#)
- [Garry Kelly](#)
- [Paul Stones](#)

## Selected Places and Vocabulary Mentioned in This Podcast

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- What is “**canned hunting**”? Also referred to as “**captive hunting**”, canned hunting is any form of trophy hunting where hunters shoot trophy animals within confined areas, ensuring they had no or little chance of escape. Today, canned hunting is widespread in South Africa, where large numbers of wild animals are being bred in captivity to be killed in captivity or confined areas. This is different from “fair chase” hunting.
- What is “**trophy hunting**”? Trophy hunting is the selective hunting of wild game for human recreation. The trophy is the animal or part of the animal kept, and usually displayed. The primary game sought is usually the oldest and most mature animal from a given population.
- What is the **lion bone trade**? “The lion bone trade is a relatively new revenue stream for the breeders and farmers and has come about as lion bones are now being used as an alternative to tiger bones in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). TCM used tiger bones immersed in vats of liquid, often rice wine to produce a tonic called ‘tiger bone wine’ that was prescribed for rheumatism, arthritis and other joint and bone ailments. Because trade was impacting on wild tiger populations, the Chinese government banned the trade in tiger parts back in 1993.” Quote from [here](#).
- Selected places mentioned: Botswana, Okavango Delta, South Africa, Free State, Camorhi (now closed, see Selected Links above), Bethlehem, Kenya, Johannesburg, Cape Town, OR Tambo International Airport, Mozambique



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