



WILD EYE: A Life in Photographs with Beverly and Dereck Joubert

STUDENT PRESENTATION STUDY GUIDE

Werklund
Centre



Meet the Explorers



Award-winning filmmakers and National Geographic Explorers at Large, Dereck and Beverly Joubert, have dedicated the last four decades to conservation work across 30 countries. For their work, they were awarded a Presidential Order of Merit by Botswana's president, Seretse Khama Ian Khama. Their wildlife films have earned 23 Emmy nominations, nine Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award, a Wildscreen Panda Award, a World Ecology Award, the Mervin Jones Fellow Award from Lions Club International, and the 2021 Explorers Club Medial — the club's highest honour. In addition to their highly acclaimed films, the Jouberts have established numerous initiatives aimed at protecting wildlife. They are the founders of Great Plains, a tourism-based conservation company that manages over 1.5 million acres of wild lands in Africa. Great Plains has 14 camps in Kenya, Botswana and Zimbabwe, providing protected habitat for an estimated 2-3% of Africa's elephants, lions, giraffe and other wildlife, as well as employment to over 800 people. The Jouberts' initiatives under the Great Plains Foundation extend to community work, including feeding over 11,800 children each day, sending women to India for training, supporting schools and teachers, running conservation camps for kids, and building bridges.

In partnership with National Geographic, the Jouberts founded the Big Cats Initiative in 2009, a long-term effort to halt the decline of big cats in the wild and protect the ecosystems they inhabit. Another initiative, Rhinos without Borders, has resulted in the successful translocation of dozens of rhinos from high poaching zones in South Africa to Botswana. Over 60 rhino calves have been born from the relocated group. The pair also started Project Ranger to fund rangers in the field during the COVID-19 pandemic, distributing nearly \$2,000,000 to the men and women in the field and their families. The Jouberts' wildlife films have been seen by millions around the world, and were even sent into outer space as examples of our planet.

Fun Facts about Beverly and Dereck Joubert

Source: [Great Plains Foundation. From the Field. 2025.](#)

Beverly and Dereck Joubert started the Big Cats Initiative with National Geographic

In 2009, they co-founded this global program to protect big cats like lions, cheetahs, and tigers, which are disappearing fast due to poaching, habitat loss, and human conflict.

- 6,010 hours on patrol in Botswana protecting wildlife
- 5 Elephants were collared in Sapi Reserve, Zimbabwe
- 23 women trained as Rangers
- 49,286 Indigenous trees planted for canopy and riverbank restoration
- 6.2 million meals have been donated to young people in rural schools in Kenya

They've spent over 40 years living among wild animals

Dereck and Beverly live and work mostly in Botswana's Okavango Delta, one of the wildest places on Earth. They've dedicated their lives to observing and protecting big cats like lions, leopards, and cheetahs — often spending months in the bush!

They help rescue and rewild animals

The Jouberts work with local communities and governments to rescue orphaned or injured big cats and return them to the wild — a process called rewilding. They also help set up safe wildlife corridors where animals can roam freely.

They believe storytelling is a conservation tool

Dereck and Beverly use film, photography, and writing to tell the stories of animals. They believe if people fall in love with these animals through stories, they will want to protect them for future generations.

Their films help save animals

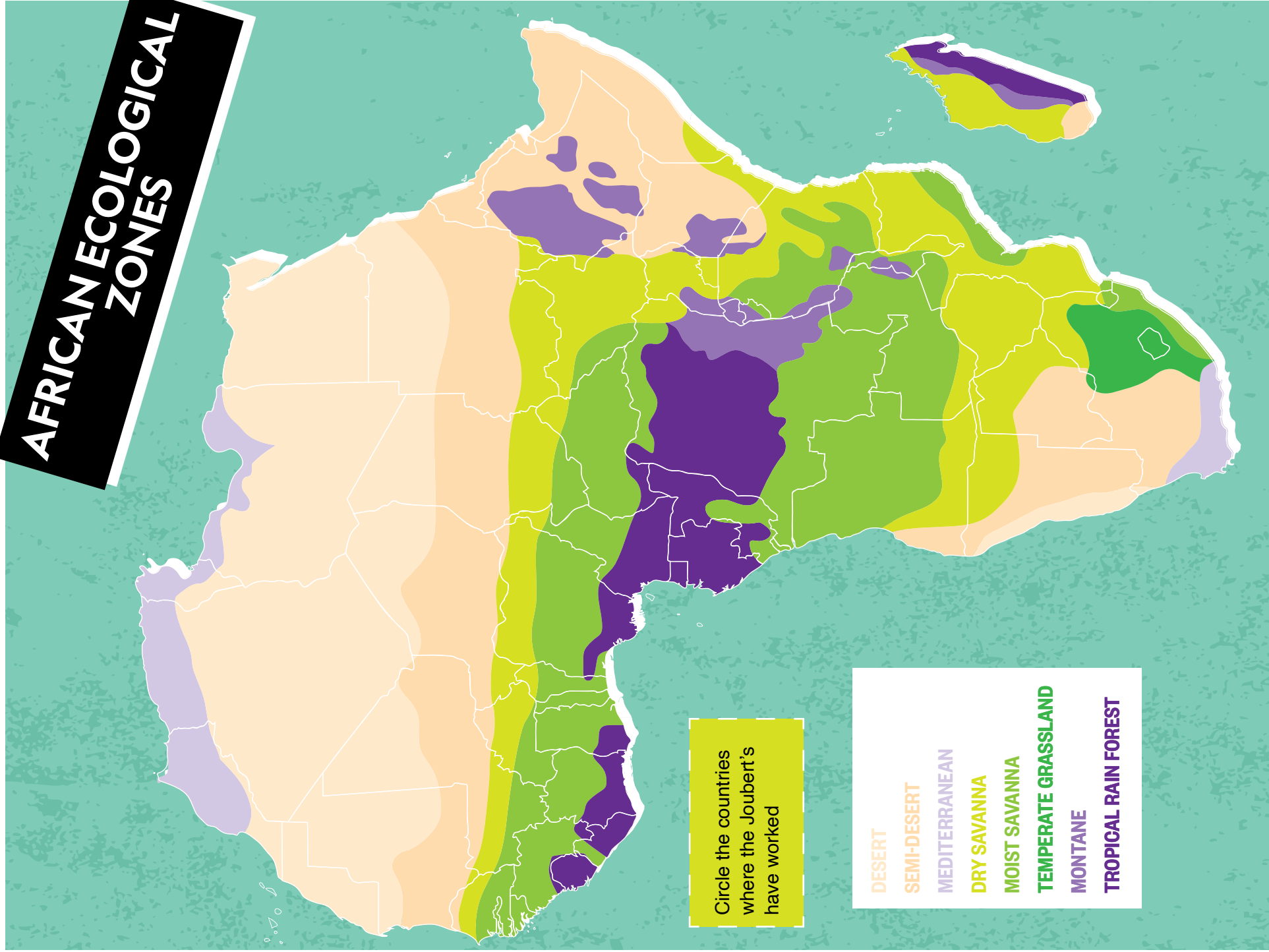
Their award-winning documentaries (like *Eternal Enemies* and *Eye of the Leopard*) have been shown around the world and inspire people to care about wildlife. These stories often lead to real conservation action, such as creating protected areas.



Beverly + Dereck Joubert Resources

- » TED. [Beverly + Dereck Joubert: Life Lessons from big cats.](#) YouTube.
- » Great Plains Conservation. [The Luxury of Space and Time in the Greatest Safari Show on Earth.](#) YouTube
- » Great Plains Conservation. [A message from Dereck and Beverly Joubert.](#) YouTube.
- » Follow the Explorer!
- » [@beverlyjoubert @dereckjoubert](#)
- Great Plains Conservation Conservation + Community Initiatives
 - » [Big Cats Initiative: Protecting habitat for Big Cats across Africa](#)
 - » [Community Health Support](#)
 - » [Rhinos without borders](#)
 - » [Sapi Reserve Restoration, 118,000 hectares](#)

AFRICAN ECOLOGICAL ZONES



WHERE ARE THE JOUBERTS?

SEMI-DESERT DRY SAVANNA MONTANE
MOIST SAVANNA TEMPERATE GRASSLAND

KENYA

Known for: Maasai Mara, Amboseli, and iconic safari landscapes.

Wildlife focus: Big cats, elephants, rhinos, giraffes.
Cultures: Kikuyu, Luo, Maasai, Luhya, Kamba, and more.

TANZANIA

Known for: Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Wildlife focus: Wildebeest migration, lions, cheetahs.
Cultures: Over 120 groups including Maasai, Chaga, and Zaramo.

ZAMBIA

Home to: South Luangwa and Kafue National Parks.

Wildlife focus: Leopards and diverse ecosystems.

Cultures: Bemba, Lozi, Tonga, Chewa, and others.

Did You Know? Over 70 ethnic groups can be found in Zambia

ZIMBABWE

Known for: Hwange National Park and Victoria Falls.

Wildlife focus: Lions, elephants, painted dogs.

Cultures: Shona, Ndebele, and over a dozen others.

Did You Know? Home to 16 official languages

BOTSWANA

Known for: Lions, leopards, elephants, and the pristine Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Cultures: Tswana, San (Bushmen), Kalanga, Herero, Bayei.

Main Ethnic Group: Tswana— makes up around 80% of the population.

Did You Know? The San people are among the oldest continuous cultures in the world, with deep knowledge of the land and wildlife.

MAIN BASE FOR
DERECK & BEVERLY
(OKAVANGO DELTA)

SAVANNA ANIMAL FACTS

Leopards are expert climbers

Leopards often drag their food into trees to keep it safe from other predators like lions and hyenas. They are strong, stealthy, and very good at hiding.



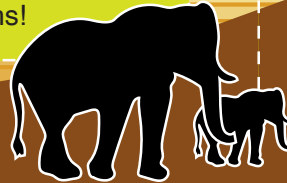
Leopards are the very secretive big cats

Leopards are solitary and quiet, which makes them hard to spot in the wild. Their spotted coats help them blend into trees and tall grass, making them excellent hunters who rely on stealth rather than speed.



Elephants are ecosystem engineers

When elephants knock over trees or dig for water, they create homes and water sources for other animals. Their actions help shape the landscape for entire ecosystems!



"An elephant never forgets!"

Elephants can remember paths to water, places they've visited, and even other elephants they haven't seen in years.

Giraffes only need 5–30 minutes of sleep a day!

Giraffes often sleep standing up and take short naps. They stay alert to watch for predators like lions.



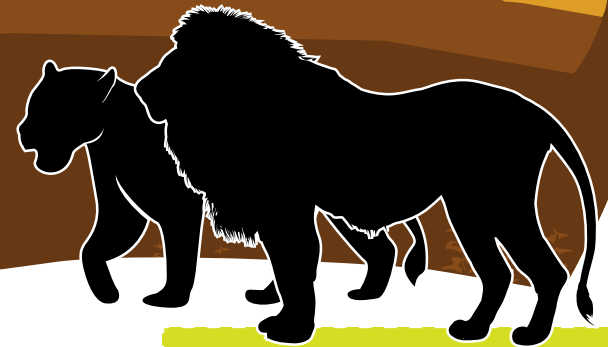
Cheetahs are the fastest land animals

Cheetahs can run up to 112 km/h (70 mph), but only for short bursts. They use their speed and sharp eyesight to chase down prey in open spaces like the savannah.



Lions are the only big cats that live in groups called prides

A group of lions is called a pride, and it can have up to 30 members! Lions work together to hunt, protect each other, and raise their cubs — a lot like a family.



LOCAL CONNECTIONS

WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS

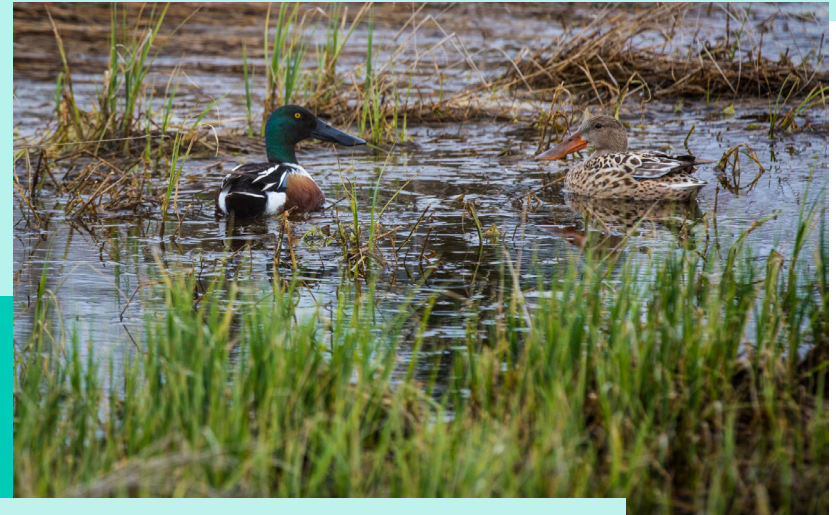
- » [Ralph Klein Park](#)
- » [Pearce Estate Park](#)
- » [Bridlewood Wetlands](#)
- » [Inglewood Bird Sanctuary](#)

ANIMAL LIFE CYCLES

- » [Calgary's Wildlife](#)
- » [The Calgary Wildlife ORG.](#)
- » [Bison in Banff](#)
- » Waterton Lakes National Park – [Protecting Species](#)

INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS – BLACKFOOT PEOPLE AND BUFFALO

- » Alberta Innovates [Sacred Science - Blood Tribe Buffalo Restoration Project](#). YouTube
- » BBC Earth Explore [Blackfoot Caretakers of the Land](#). Youtube
- » Glenbow Museum. [How we lived with the Land](#). Website
- » Rocky View School. (2021) [Elder Saa'kokoto – shares about names and responsibility](#). YouTube
- » USAY Calgary (2021) [The Buffalo Story](#). YouTube
- » Vaga Brothers [THE BLACKFOOT NATION | Canada's First Nations](#). YouTube



VISIT A WETLAND

Visit a wetland near you! Ralph Klein Park, Pearce Estate Park, Bridlewood Wetlands or Inglewood Bird Sanctuary are all Calgary wetlands

What animal life cycles are supported by Calgary's wetlands?

Share your observations and discuss what makes these ecosystems special





IT'S SHOWTIME



The Show

**WILD EYE: A Life in Photographs with
Beverly and Dereck Joubert**

Monday, October 27, 2025 at 10:15 am
Jack Singer Concert Hall at Werklund Centre

During the Show

Think about or notice these things

- What kinds of animals do they film?
- How do the Jouberts get close to wild animals safely?
- What are some dangers big cats face in the wild?
- What emotions do you feel while watching the animals?
Excited? Curious? Concerned?

Think about your questions for the post-show Q&A!

Before the Show

Try an In classroom activity

Group Discussion

- What would you like to know from the Jouberts?
- How can we protect and conserve our lands and animals?
- What does it mean to live close to wildlife areas? What's our role in protecting them?

Create a Wonder Wall

- Spark curiosity and invite your students to 'post' questions on a Wonder Wall.
- Asking what they are curious to explore through the arts and how it might connect to WILD EYE
- Discuss as a class, investigate and bring back to learn as a group or notice during the show

After the Show

Reflect, Explore, and Create

Discussion Questions

1. Why do Beverly and Dereck think keystone animals like big cats and elephants are important?
2. What would happen if these animals disappeared?
3. How can people help protect animals even if they live far away?

Creative Activity

Write a letter to Beverly and Dereck Joubert.

Tell them your favorite part of their work and ask a question.



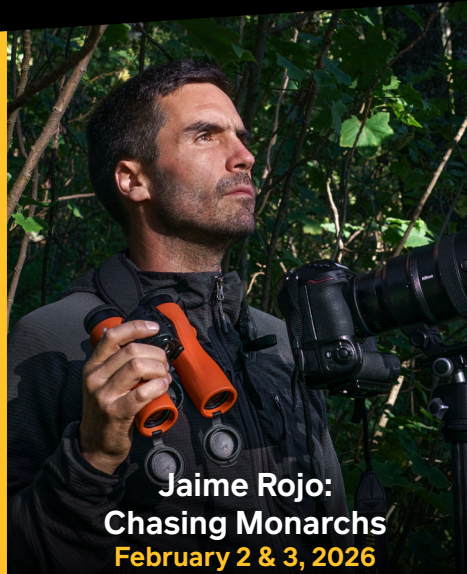
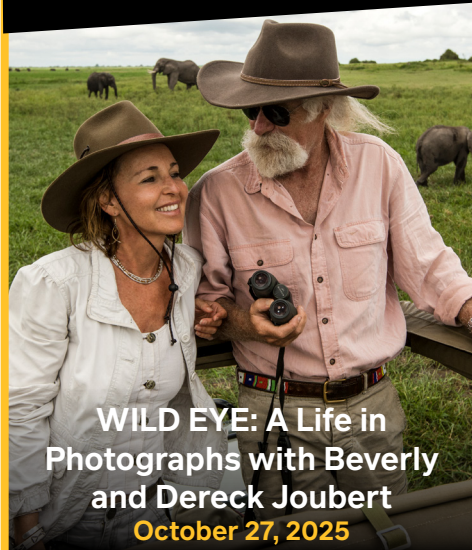
WILD WORDS

Source: National Geographic. [“Wildlife Filmmakers and Conservationists: Dereck and Beverly Joubert.”](#)

Conservation	Protecting animals and nature so they can survive
Poaching	Illegal hunting of animals
Rewilding	Helping animals live wild and free again, in places where they belong.
Ecosystem	A community of living things and their environment
Predator	An animal that hunts other animals to eat
Safari	A trip to see wild animals in their natural habitat, often in Africa
Prey	An animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal
Adaptation	A special feature or behavior that helps an animal survive
Habitat	The natural home or environment where an animal or plant lives
Camouflage	Colors or patterns that help an animal blend into its surroundings
Endangered	A type of animal or plant that is in danger of disappearing forever
Conservationist	A person who works to protect animals, plants, and nature
Wildlife	Animals that live and grow in nature, not as pets or on farms
Delta	A landform where a river spreads out into many small streams (Okavango Delta)
Biodiversity	The variety of all living things in a place — animals, plants, and more
Stewardship	Taking care of the Earth and everything that lives on it
Keystone Species	A species that has a big effect on its ecosystem (like lions or elephants)



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