

####PRESS RELEASE####

Icon Films recaptures Africa's lion kings for BBC & Animal Planet

(London – 5th May 2015) Leading independent UK TV production company Icon Films, in association with Natural History Film Unit Botswana have been commissioned by the BBC and Animal Planet US to produce a follow up to their award winning ‘Africa’s Giant Killers’ documentary.

Icon Films in association with Natural History Film Unit Botswana is to produce ‘The Return of the Giant Killers; Africa’s Lion Kings’, a one hour documentary film that reunites director cinematographer Brad Bestelink and film photographer Richard Uren to capture more extraordinary wildlife footage in the Savute Game Reserve in Botswana. The film will again form part of the BBC’s Natural World strand.

With its year-round water, Savute Marsh in northern Botswana attracts huge herds of grazers, especially during the dry season. The lions are easily sated during this time of plenty – until one exceptionally harsh year when the grass runs out, and the herds vanish. Desperate to remain in their territory, but with only elephants left to hunt, the resident lions have no choice but to take on Africa’s giants. Inspired by a fearless leader, their remarkable success as ‘giant killers’ enables them to stay in the marsh, but for how long?

Roger Webb, Natural World’s Strand Editor commissioned the documentary and is executive producer for the BBC. Executive producers of ‘The Return of the Giant Killers; Africa’s Lion Kings’ for Icon Films are Harry Marshall and Laura Marshall. BBC Worldwide will distribute the film for the world excluding the US where Animal Planet will air the film. The BBC will air the film in the UK.

“Good natural history films are all about seasonality, location and of course bringing together the best people to tell the story. Return of the Giant Killers needed this perfect storm of right time, right place and great talent. The result is an exceptional record of the beauty and the brutality of a unique event.” said Harry Marshall, Creative Director of Icon Films.

“Natural World is delighted to be telling the next chapter in the Giant Killers saga. With stunning cinematography and a powerful storyline this is sure to be another outstanding title from the Natural History Film Unit Botswana and the team at Icon Films” said Roger Webb, BBC Natural World’s Strand Editor.

The original film, ‘Africa’s Giant Killers’ won Best Natural History Programme at the Royal Television Society’s West of England 2014/15 Awards and Best Broadcast Feature at IWFF Missoula 2015.

####ENDS####

For more information on Icon Films and ‘*The Return of the Giant Killers; Africa’s Lion Kings*’ please contact Justin Crosby at Boom! PR on +44 (0) 203 176 6688/ +44 (0) 7966 228361 justin@boomdialogue.com

Notes to editors

Icon Films has produced over 300 hours of factual programming for the UK and international markets. Icon Films brings together funders and works with broadcasters including the BBC, Channel 4, Five, ITV, National Geographic, Discovery Networks, Arte and PBS. Its work is internationally distributed by ITV Studios Global Entertainment, BBC Worldwide, Zodiak Rights, FremantleMedia International and TCB Media Rights. Icon Films has a reputation for originality, excellence and entertainment across the breadth of factual genres including science, history, exploration and natural history.

Icon Films’ series for Animal Planet US, *River Monsters*, presented by angling explorer Jeremy Wade, is the best performing series in the network’s history and is now in its seventh series.

Other recent productions include *Africa’s Fishing Leopards* (BBC), *Spawn of Jaws 2 The Birth* (Discovery Channel), *Survive The Tribe* (National Geographic Channels), *Africa’s Giant Killers* (BBC).

Icon Films is run by a senior management team that includes Creative Director Harry Marshall, Managing Director Laura Marshall, Director of Production Andie Clare and Commercial Director Lucy Middelboe.