

# NEWS

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## **NAT GEO WILD GREENLIGHTS *BIG GAME OF THRONES*<sup>wt</sup>, A WILDLIFE EPIC STARRING RIVAL ANIMAL CLANS BATTLING FOR SUPREMACY**

**Years in the Making, Miniseries Event Will Uncover the  
Characters and Storylines in the Live-or-Die Life of Remote Africa**

### ***Big Game of Thrones* Premieres in 2016**

**(WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 29, 2015)** HBO's hit series "Game of Thrones" is renowned for its fascinating characters and plot twists that tell a fantastical story in a magical world. Nat Geo WILD's **Big Game of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup> needs no magic to tell its real-life story of ruthless predators and powerful prey whose interconnected lives expose rivalries, betrayals, battles, struggles and triumphs. It is a never-ending crusade for survival with characters so wild and conflict so cutthroat that no fiction can do it justice. **Big Game of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup>, the epic miniseries event produced by Icon Films in association with Natural History Unit Botswana, will premiere on Nat Geo WILD globally in 2016.

"HBO can tell its lawyers to stand down, a new title is forthcoming," said Geoff Daniels, executive vice president and general manager of Nat Geo WILD. "When we developed the series, we immediately saw the parallels with 'Game of Thrones' and the name stuck as our working title. It is a natural fit for our story of the kings of the savannah fighting for the throne, complete with brutal violence, unexpected deaths, surprising characters and even interfamily romance."

**Big Game of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup> is a departure from traditional wildlife shows that observe from afar. Award-winning producer Brad Bestelink was born and raised in Botswana and is intimately familiar with his homeland's national parks and private concessions. He tracked the animals featured in **Big Games of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup> every day for years to uncover their specific stories and hone in on their brutal confrontations.

**Big Game of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup> takes place in Savute, a remote corner of Africa where animals are pitted against each other in a circle of unending conflict. There are ruthless predators — lions, leopards, hyenas and wild dogs — who stop at nothing to get ahead in the game of life or death. Their survival depends on the giant herds of powerful prey — buffalo, elephant and zebra — that have roamed Savute's kingdoms in search of sustenance, season after season, millennium after millennium ... and drought is coming.

**Big Game of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup> features the most colossal clashes between these rival clans. Every episode presents a battle from a different predator's or prey's perspective. Each viewing adds richness to the story as we understand the motives behind each animal player's moves. This is a world where no one stays on top and the prey also have their day of reckoning.

Forty square miles of remote African Savannah is up for grabs every day with competing animal clans taking natural law to its limit and beyond. This is **Big Game of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup>.

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**Big Game of Thrones**<sup>wt</sup> is produced by Icon Films in association with Natural History Film Unit Botswana for Nat Geo WILD. Icon Films executive producers are Harry Marshall and Laura Marshall. Natural History Film Unit Botswana producer is Brad Bestelink. For Nat Geo WILD, executive producer is Ashley Hoppin, senior vice president of development and production is Janet Han Vissering, and executive vice president and general manager is Geoff Daniels.

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**About Nat Geo WILD**

For more than 30 years, National Geographic has been the leader in wildlife programming. The networks **Nat Geo WILD** and **Nat Geo WILD HD**, launched in 2010, offer intimate encounters with nature's ferocious fighters and gentle creatures of land, sea and air that draw upon the cutting-edge work of the many explorers, filmmakers and scientists of the National Geographic Society. Part of the National Geographic Channels US, based in Washington, D.C., the networks are a joint venture between National Geographic and Fox Cable Networks. In 2001, National Geographic Channel (NGC) debuted, and 10 years later, Spanish-language network Nat Geo Mundo was unveiled. The Channels have carriage with all of the nation's major cable, telco and satellite television providers, with Nat Geo WILD currently available in 57 million U.S. homes. Globally, Nat Geo WILD is available in more than 192 million homes in 134 countries and 37 languages. For more information, visit [natgeowild.com](http://natgeowild.com), find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/NatGeoWild](https://facebook.com/NatGeoWild) or follow @NatGeoWild on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NatGeoWild) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/natgeowild).

**About Icon Films**

Icon Films has produced over 300 hours of factual programming for the U.K. and international markets, working with broadcasters including the BBC, Channel 4, Five, ITV, National Geographic, Discovery Networks, Arte and PBS. Icon Films has a reputation for originality, excellence and entertainment across the breadth of factual genres including science, history, exploration and natural history. Recent productions include "River Monsters" (Animal Planet US), "Africa's Fishing Leopards" (BBC), "Spawn of Jaws 2: the Birth" (Discovery Channel), **Survive the Tribe** (National Geographic Channels) and "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.

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