

off the fence.

Modern Migrations

13 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. The Reason

The series start off with the historic framework of migrations introduced. In this episode we focus on the dynamics of the driving force of natural migrations. The seasonal movement of wild animals between pastures is a natural phenomenon, but not everywhere. There are places where man has to share habitat with wild animals, and here we are now forced to manage and conserve wild animals for survival in much smaller habitats. For each and every animal species there is a different style and technique used to capture and relocate. In this episode we meet the role players and are introduced to the different capture techniques.

2. Human Touch

The true meaning of conservation manifests when man and nature unite – separation is not an option. With the capture and relocation of wild animals the interaction is unavoidable, and a gentle human touch and compassion make this much more than a mere animal relocation. This episode focuses on the human involvement in what used to be a natural process.

3. Kudu & Waterbuck

In this episode we relocate two of the largest antelope species in Africa, the Kudu and the Waterbuck. Both these species requires a helicopter and very competent ground crew. For this we will travel to the World Heritage Site - the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

4. Black Rhino

Classified as critically endangered, these animals are known for their unpredictable and aggressive behaviour when approached or caught unaware. Join the capture team in an adventurous capture exercise at the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park.

5. Tiny Driving Antelope

One of the smallest antelope species – the red duiker thrives in the sub-tropical bushveld of the Kwa-Zulu Natal province. This very sensitive animal, the size of a large dog, will be captured in nets, gently removed and sent on their way to a new home.

6. Gentle Giants

For this episode we will travel to the Entabeni Safari Conservancy where a special family of African elephant awaits relocation. The family will be moved from a private conservation area as they have reached the carrying capacity of that area. The process is intense, dangerous and adrenalin packed!

7. Impala

A gregarious animal with a high reproduction rate generally leads to large numbers on reserves and are the staple diet for predators that keep their numbers in check. Common do not mean ordinary. See how these highly adapted and unique animals get loaded and gently treated to “migrate” to a new home.

8. White Rhino

Another member of Africa’s Big 5 - the white rhino. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife pioneered game capture of larger species with this iconic animal. Once on the brink of extinction, and today thanks to the conservation and breeding strategies, there are enough to relocate to other nature reserves to ensure the survival of this unique species.

9. Plains Game

The technique to capture wildebeest and zebra involves an experienced team, a helicopter and favourable weather conditions! A funnel is created by erecting a series of sail-nets down-wind from where the animals are. By means of careful and slow maneuvering, the helicopter pilot drives the herd straight into the funnel, directly into the vehicles...and on their way to a new home...

10. Giraffe

When the animal you need to capture has a very long neck and standing almost 5 meters high, and able to spot you a mile away, you need to adapt your strategy dramatically. Specially adapted funnels with extra high sails are used to guide the giraffe onto trucks, which will transport them to the new reserve.

11. Hogs, Hippos & Hyraxes

Game capture often exclude the small and hairy. In this episode the capture team is busy in Ithala Game Reserve where several warthogs need new pastures. The reserve reached its capacity for these comic animals, and the capture process is just as comical. A hardy animal, not to be messed with, will be captured in nets and “wheel barrowed” into crates for their journey to a new home. Meanwhile an interesting small animal, called a “dassie” or rock hyrax is lured into traps as they are becoming a menace in the Ntshondwe camp area. Not forgetting the hippos – a process that requires major patience and careful trotting...

12. Bushbuck & Buffalo

Being one of Africa's Big 5, the Buffalo is an animal that requires a well-experienced team to capture and load. There are two options, the safe option of using chemicals to immobilize the animal before loaded and moved to a new habitat, or the more complex way when the terrain requires this method, driving a herd into a capture funnel...strong enough to handle a very (notoriously) dangerous and strong animal. Its a very difficult process with very difficult animals. Bushbuck on the other hand proves to be much easier to capture...

13. Seasons End

In this episode of Modern Migrations we've reached the end of the capture season. However, before we reflect on the seasons' high's and low's it is history in the making when we will attempt to relocate a black rhino cow AND her calf simultaneously! For this we will go to the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park.