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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,840

On this episode of Destination Truth, Josh travels to the northern jungles of Cambodia

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00:00:05,840 --> 00:00:11,520

on the trail of a half-man, half-ape creature that is terrorizing small villages.

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00:00:11,520 --> 00:00:13,040

Did he look like this?

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00:00:13,040 --> 00:00:14,560

The first look like a monkey.

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00:00:14,560 --> 00:00:16,560

And we're within that perimeter. We just keep swimming.

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00:00:18,720 --> 00:00:25,120

Next, the team heads to Africa, where locals say a dinosaur is stalking fishermen in northern Zambia.

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00:00:25,120 --> 00:00:34,160

Will Josh get to the bottom of the story, or will he find the evidence has gone extinct?

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00:00:34,160 --> 00:00:39,280

I got something red hot in the water. Something just cruised right by the thermal.

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00:00:43,120 --> 00:00:48,640

I'm Josh Gates. In my travels, I've seen some unexplainable things which have raised strange

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00:00:48,640 --> 00:00:54,480

questions. Now I've pulled together a team armed with the latest technology in the search for answers.

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00:00:55,280 --> 00:00:59,440

I'm not sure what's out there waiting for me, but I know what I'm looking for. The truth.

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00:01:02,560 --> 00:01:07,600

You know the story of Tarzan. Half-man, half-ape, surviving in the jungle with only a loincloth

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00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:12,800

and some bananas. Well, the people of Cambodia say they have a real Tarzan living in their jungles,

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00:01:12,800 --> 00:01:16,880

but he's not the good guy we all remember from the movies. Here are the facts.

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00:01:16,880 --> 00:01:21,520

Residents in a small Cambodian village spotted an ape-like wild man running through the outskirts

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00:01:21,520 --> 00:01:26,320

of their town. They describe this wild man as a hairy humanoid creature and say he is terrorized

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00:01:26,320 --> 00:01:31,360

the region by attacking livestock and stealing food for years. But this time the wild man was

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00:01:31,360 --> 00:01:36,640

spotted with a female companion. Eyewitnesses say she had hair down to her knees, was covered in filth,

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00:01:36,640 --> 00:01:42,400

and was completely naked. Now get this, the villagers managed to capture the girl. After

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00:01:42,400 --> 00:01:47,200

being cleaned up, she was identified by a local man as his daughter, who vanished into the forest

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00:01:47,200 --> 00:01:52,240

18 years ago. As for the wild man, he escaped from the heroic villagers and was last seen

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00:01:52,240 --> 00:01:57,360

running back into the jungle. This incredible story has made international headlines and I was

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00:01:57,360 --> 00:02:02,960

more than intrigued. Is there an ape man living in the forests of Cambodia? Could this girl who has

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00:02:02,960 --> 00:02:08,880

still yet to speak a word to anyone provide some answers? Casey would be our lead cameraman,

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00:02:08,880 --> 00:02:13,520

Brad would serve as our field producer, and Araceli joined us as lead assistant.

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00:02:14,480 --> 00:02:18,080

My team and I headed out to launch an investigation before the trail got cold.

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00:02:18,640 --> 00:02:23,040

We flew across the Pacific to the city of Phnom Penh, the capital of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

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00:02:23,040 --> 00:02:26,560

where we met up with the rest of our crew. Our luggage on the other hand went somewhere else

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00:02:26,560 --> 00:02:30,400

entirely. There's a lot of things that are going to hurt us if we don't get that gear.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:34,000

That's not good. I don't have a boom pole.

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00:02:35,680 --> 00:02:42,320

Nothing just got in. I don't have a pair of underwear. That sucks. That'll give myself.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:47,600

Sound Apartments good. What a team player, right? I'm sorry.

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00:02:49,360 --> 00:02:51,280

Let's go in and see what we can pick up for the investigation.

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00:02:56,400 --> 00:03:03,440

Do you have any, do you have any nets? Nets? No, we're not rope. Do you sell rope?

35

00:03:04,880 --> 00:03:07,360

Steel cages? Cages? Do you sell cages here?

36

00:03:07,760 --> 00:03:14,000

How do you sell them? Like metal cages. Do you sell those? Do you sell total room bars?

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00:03:15,040 --> 00:03:17,520

Yeah. Oh, perfect. Yeah.

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00:03:21,280 --> 00:03:26,080

We got him. Just because he's a wild man doesn't mean he wouldn't appreciate some fine duty-free

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00:03:26,080 --> 00:03:30,880

chocolates. As dawn arrived, so did our missing luggage. We were back on track.

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00:03:31,440 --> 00:03:36,160

Our first order of business was to sit down with writer Nick Ray. Nick is a respected journalist

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00:03:36,240 --> 00:03:40,560

who broke the story of the wild man and the jungle girl. I wanted to know if he believed

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00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:44,720

there could really be a wild man in the woods or if there was an alternate explanation.

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00:03:44,720 --> 00:03:50,080

Nick is the authority on this story and badass enough to pull off a scarf in a hundred degree heat.

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00:03:50,080 --> 00:03:53,360

The story broke out that this girl had emerged from the jungle and one of the

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:59,120

jari people was adamant that he saw her with another companion who was bigger and probably

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00:03:59,120 --> 00:04:03,760

male like a jungle man with sort of almost long dreadlocked, tousaled hair and loin cloth. You

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00:04:03,760 --> 00:04:07,520

know, somebody really, you know, forest person. What do you what do you think's happening out here?

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00:04:07,520 --> 00:04:11,680

I think one theory because when soon after she was found she had scarring on the wrist

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00:04:11,680 --> 00:04:14,880

and that was consistent with two things. It's either consistent with a snare,

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00:04:14,880 --> 00:04:17,920

like an animal trap of which there are many in the forest. But of course there's another

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00:04:17,920 --> 00:04:22,720

interpretation which is is this the mark of binding and that she was chained up for long

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00:04:22,720 --> 00:04:26,400

periods and then eventually escaped. There's a lot of possibilities but I think, you know,

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00:04:26,400 --> 00:04:31,360

jungle man or captive in some way or shape or form are the most likely, I think.

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00:04:31,360 --> 00:04:34,880

Nick told us that we could find the girl in the northern village of Oyedao.

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00:04:34,880 --> 00:04:39,760

If we could get to her, maybe she could tell me where I might find the wild man. The problem was

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00:04:39,760 --> 00:04:44,000

she hadn't spoken a single word of Cambodian or any other language since she was found.

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:47,440

I knew I'd have my work cut out for me but we'd chartered a plane that would take us to

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00:04:47,440 --> 00:04:50,400

Ratnakeery. We'd have to drive the rest of the way to Oyedao.

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00:04:52,800 --> 00:04:57,520

The flight was a harsh reminder about just how dense, uncharged and mysterious the terrain of

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00:04:57,520 --> 00:05:02,400

Cambodia really is. Could something be living down there in the jungle that science has yet

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00:05:02,400 --> 00:05:07,520

to catalog? Is it possible an intelligent species could elude being photographed or captured?

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00:05:07,520 --> 00:05:12,160

We landed on a tiny airstrip and transferred to 4x4s. The journey to Oyedao where the girl

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00:05:12,160 --> 00:05:17,840

lives with her father was just beginning. We passed evidence that not everyone who took

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00:05:17,840 --> 00:05:22,240

this road made it to their destination. Although why anyone would try to travel through the jungle

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00:05:22,240 --> 00:05:24,240

in a busted Toyota Corolla is beyond me.

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00:05:44,720 --> 00:05:47,840

We stopped at an outdoor market to refuel the jeeps and get a bite to eat.

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00:05:48,560 --> 00:05:55,440

These are big fried spiders. Yeah they're really good. So it's all about folks.

68

00:05:59,680 --> 00:06:00,720

That is a good spider.

69

00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:03,760

Tastes like chicken.

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00:06:06,560 --> 00:06:07,360

I almost washed it.

71

00:06:09,920 --> 00:06:11,200

She's got a muscle through it a little.

72

00:06:12,160 --> 00:06:13,760

Alright pass the pallet.

73

00:06:16,080 --> 00:06:18,640

Brad? T-bono's doing for sure.

74

00:06:24,640 --> 00:06:25,120

Right here?

75

00:06:28,240 --> 00:06:31,920

That's hard. You don't want that. Take the legs. Legs are good.

76

00:06:34,880 --> 00:06:36,320

Yeah they're very good.

77

00:06:36,720 --> 00:06:37,220

Good.

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00:06:40,240 --> 00:06:45,440

Alright enough of that. After what can only be described as the worst fast food ever,

79

00:06:45,440 --> 00:06:48,080

we pressed on to Oyedao and then the rain came.

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00:06:49,520 --> 00:06:54,000

The rainstorm posed a serious threat to our progress since the muddy roads could become impassable.

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00:06:55,360 --> 00:06:59,600

Despite warnings from the locals to wait until the rain stopped, I wanted to get to the heart of

82

00:06:59,600 --> 00:07:04,240

this story as soon as possible. So we pressed on, drove through the night and finally arrived

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00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:08,320

in Oyedao by morning. A local man took me to where the jungle girl lived with her father.

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00:07:09,200 --> 00:07:13,760

If the girl in fact spent time with the wild man, I hope she could provide me with clues

85

00:07:13,760 --> 00:07:20,160

on how to find him. We were just steps away from crucial information to our investigation.

86

00:07:35,200 --> 00:07:38,000

Is that your uncle? Is this his daughter?

87

00:07:42,880 --> 00:07:47,200

She was found near this village and when he saw her, he knew it was her immediately.

88

00:07:50,720 --> 00:07:56,080

He goes to see her in the jungle. She doesn't remember him and he doesn't remember his daughter

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00:07:56,080 --> 00:08:02,080

also because of my dusty and then he brings her to take a shower and then he sees the map on her leg.

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00:08:02,800 --> 00:08:07,760

The scar? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Now one of the people that was there when she was found

91

00:08:07,760 --> 00:08:12,880

saw her with his hairy creature. Does he think that maybe she was with this jungle man?

92

00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:22,080

Okay, does he believe that she knows where he is?

93

00:08:22,560 --> 00:08:26,720

He's not sure. He doesn't know about it. He cannot tell.

94

00:08:27,360 --> 00:08:30,320

So, but is she speaking at all? Is she able to use any language?

95

00:08:33,600 --> 00:08:38,480

Since the girl couldn't speak, I asked the father if she had given him any clues as to the whereabouts

96

00:08:38,480 --> 00:08:43,680

of the wild man. He showed me some pictures that the girl had recently drawn. Were these drawings

97

00:08:43,680 --> 00:08:49,600

the girl's depiction of the wild man? It was unclear. The drawings and the girl's sedentary

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00:08:49,680 --> 00:08:54,240

and utterly non-communicative behavior were unsettling. The locals claim this was a result

99

00:08:54,240 --> 00:08:59,280

of her living in the jungle for the last 18 years. If that's true, she would have needed someone's

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00:08:59,280 --> 00:09:05,200

help to survive. But how to prove it? If she'd been gone 18 years and I could prove she's this

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00:09:05,200 --> 00:09:10,160

man's missing daughter, that could go a long way in establishing that someone or something

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00:09:10,160 --> 00:09:15,360

may have helped her to survive in the wild all of those years. The only way to prove these two

103

00:09:15,360 --> 00:09:19,360

were father and daughter was by taking a saliva sample and comparing the DNA.

104

00:09:20,240 --> 00:09:24,160

Getting the girl to understand that we wanted her to spit in a bag was no easy task.

105

00:09:28,640 --> 00:09:29,040

Like that.

106

00:09:35,200 --> 00:09:35,600

Like that.

107

00:09:36,560 --> 00:09:37,040

Like that.

108

00:09:41,520 --> 00:09:45,760

No, let's not, let's not, let's not give her that. That's, that's okay. I tell you what, I'll,

109

00:09:45,760 --> 00:09:49,680

I'll, I'll help her with the apple. I don't think she needs a huge cleaver to cut that up with.

110

00:09:49,680 --> 00:09:50,960

I think Mel needs to bleed.

111

00:09:58,080 --> 00:10:02,640

We wouldn't have the results of the DNA test until we got back to the states. In the meantime,

112

00:10:02,640 --> 00:10:06,480

the father pointed me in the direction of the village where the girl was originally found and

113

00:10:06,480 --> 00:10:11,520

where the wild man was last seen running back into the jungle. He also told me about a man who

114

00:10:11,520 --> 00:10:16,560

claimed to have had a run in with the wild man just days ago. It was only a short diversion from where

115

00:10:16,560 --> 00:10:21,520

we were headed, but there were no roads from here on in. So we had to find a more comical form of

116

00:10:21,520 --> 00:10:22,320

transportation.

117

00:10:33,040 --> 00:10:36,720

This is what you call first class travel.

118

00:10:38,400 --> 00:10:42,960

I went to talk to the man who claimed he saw the wild man and like my five ton friend here,

119

00:10:42,960 --> 00:10:48,320

I'm all ears. I understand that you had an experience where you saw this jungle man,

120

00:10:48,320 --> 00:10:51,840

yes? And this jungle man that he saw, what did the jungle man look like?

121

00:10:57,600 --> 00:11:02,080

So the jungle man that he saw, did he look like this?

122

00:11:03,600 --> 00:11:07,040

He said it's similar like this.

123

00:11:08,560 --> 00:11:12,400

Kong said the wild man was headed in the direction of the village where locals spotted him and

124

00:11:12,400 --> 00:11:17,120

captured the girl. Good news since that's exactly where I was headed. Maybe the villagers there

125

00:11:17,120 --> 00:11:22,160

who spotted the wild man could put me on his trail with any luck I'd have my own wild man encounter.

126

00:11:25,280 --> 00:11:29,600

He was one of the woodcutters that was out there who saw the girl with the jungle man?

127

00:11:30,240 --> 00:11:36,000

Wow. Yeah, he's the man that he saw jungle man and woman. Now it was on this side of the village,

128

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:42,640

right? No, no, no, no. On this side. I spoke with some other people in the village who claimed to

129

00:11:42,640 --> 00:11:47,600

have their own run-ins with the wild man. They all said the same thing. He appears to be half human,

130

00:11:47,600 --> 00:11:53,440

half ape. He wears no clothes, walks upright and the locals are terrified of him. He comes out at

131

00:11:53,440 --> 00:11:57,600

night along the edge of the village looking for food and will steal anything he finds to eat.

132

00:11:58,240 --> 00:12:03,280

He's even been known to attack livestock. On each occasion, he made his escape back into the

133

00:12:03,280 --> 00:12:07,360

forest to the west of the village. The sun was setting so we had to move quickly to the west

134

00:12:07,360 --> 00:12:11,760

where the villagers claimed the wild man has been known to emerge from the jungle. That's where we'd

135

00:12:11,760 --> 00:12:15,840

set up our investigation for the night. The only way to get there was over this less than

136

00:12:15,840 --> 00:12:19,040

sturdy looking makeshift bridge. Got some dicey wood over here.

137

00:12:19,520 --> 00:12:30,080

And that is how you do that. We arrived at the spot where numerous villagers have seen the wild

138

00:12:30,080 --> 00:12:34,960

man coming and going. Here was the plan. Araceli and I would head out on an initial sweep of the

139

00:12:34,960 --> 00:12:39,520

perimeter along with Erica and Paunch who would operate camera and audio. Our thermal imager

140

00:12:39,520 --> 00:12:44,000

would pick up anything alive and moving out there in the darkness. Brad and Casey would stay at

141

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:48,640

base camp and monitor four cameras that covered a 360 degree view of our camp,

142

00:12:48,640 --> 00:12:52,800

including one camera that was aimed at a bowl of food left as bait for the wild man.

143

00:12:53,760 --> 00:12:59,040

Many species of large cats inhabit this area, so we need everyone to keep eyes and ears open

144

00:12:59,040 --> 00:13:13,840

for any signs of tigers on the prowl.

145

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:20,240

It's just so interesting as if they keep coming back to this point to the wild man.

146

00:13:20,240 --> 00:13:27,040

There's just so little physical evidence. And you know the thing that's looking down there,

147

00:13:28,160 --> 00:13:35,840

that's big. It's big enough like it looks like a group. That's big.

148

00:13:36,080 --> 00:13:44,080

Oh no, that's moving. That's moving. That's moving.

149

00:13:46,960 --> 00:13:48,400

Stop, stop, stop, stop, stop. That's walking.

150

00:13:50,320 --> 00:13:55,040

Base camp, this is Josh. I'm picking up something hot.

151

00:13:56,240 --> 00:14:00,880

Kind of proceeding with extreme caution here. All right, copy that. Stay in contact.

152

00:14:00,880 --> 00:14:07,360

Let's just move sort of slow and steady here. Should we go closer? Yeah, come on.

153

00:14:08,240 --> 00:14:13,600

Do you want to let Shusha get in front? No, I think Shusha maybe you should not go in front,

154

00:14:13,600 --> 00:14:18,720

but I don't really know what it is. Stop, stop, stop, stop, stop, stop, stop.

155

00:14:23,760 --> 00:14:25,760

Whatever it is, it peeled off into the tree line.

156

00:14:25,760 --> 00:14:29,760

I got nothing on here.

157

00:14:39,360 --> 00:14:44,400

Whenever we saw on the thermal imager disappeared quickly. We looked all around the area but couldn't

158

00:14:44,400 --> 00:14:48,320

find whatever it was. We decided to head back to base to analyze the footage.

159

00:14:48,560 --> 00:14:56,560

Keep that thing out. I got it. It's not picking anything up.

160

00:15:02,080 --> 00:15:02,560

What was that?

161

00:15:06,320 --> 00:15:10,880

Base camp, this is Josh. We're coming back now. We got some stuff going bump in the bushes.

162

00:15:11,520 --> 00:15:14,880

We need to kind of figure out our best approach to this. We're going to track back towards you guys now.

163

00:15:19,120 --> 00:15:23,920

You just stay close to me.

164

00:15:29,200 --> 00:15:33,040

All right, we need a little bit of a regroup here. There is something big.

165

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:40,080

Yeah, I mean something's walking around out there so let's look at what we found on the

166

00:15:40,080 --> 00:15:44,560

tape before we go. Let's peel this stuff off and see what we can see.

167

00:15:49,760 --> 00:15:52,800

It's weird. It's like sometimes I look at it and it looks like it's looking around.

168

00:15:54,400 --> 00:16:00,240

That's it. It peeled off into the tree line. I think the thing to do is once we get new

169

00:16:00,240 --> 00:16:04,160

tapes in the cameras and everything reloaded, maybe just take another flight down that road.

170

00:16:06,160 --> 00:16:09,040

I don't think I'll help and I'm already kind of freaked out about what's there.

171

00:16:09,680 --> 00:16:12,720

I'm cool to head out. I think you might be better out there.

172

00:16:13,600 --> 00:16:17,600

Okay, I'll cover your back. Ponce you're going to come and roll sound.

173

00:16:17,600 --> 00:16:21,520

Shush and Selly, you guys stay back at base camp. We'll see you soon.

174

00:16:25,200 --> 00:16:29,200

You guys keep watching the monitor.

175

00:16:39,040 --> 00:16:51,680

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

176

00:16:54,080 --> 00:16:56,800

Mad ridiculous amounts of ants, Josh. Watch out.

177

00:16:57,360 --> 00:17:03,520

Fire ants. Fight.

178

00:17:11,280 --> 00:17:14,880

You know, we know we have a perimeter that we want to search here and we're within that

179

00:17:14,880 --> 00:17:19,440

perimeter and we just keep swinging. Holy s***.

180

00:17:20,240 --> 00:17:38,080

Right there. Right there. Are you looking at something cruised right there? I swear to God.

181

00:17:38,080 --> 00:17:53,040

Holy s***. Come in. Come in. Are you guys okay?

182

00:17:57,120 --> 00:17:58,480

Base to Josh, please come in.

183

00:18:04,240 --> 00:18:05,680

Josh, come in. Do you read?

184

00:18:08,320 --> 00:18:20,880

I don't know what we're doing. I don't know. Is anybody copying? We're definitely getting

185

00:18:20,880 --> 00:18:23,200

worried. We cannot hear any contact from you.

186

00:18:26,720 --> 00:18:29,200

Yeah, we copy. We're just trying to investigate something here.

187

00:18:31,600 --> 00:18:32,480

Okay, good. Thanks.

188

00:18:32,480 --> 00:18:48,400

What did you see? It's like a dark figure right through that clearing right there.

189

00:19:02,480 --> 00:19:13,360

Stop.

190

00:19:15,360 --> 00:19:16,400

Something's right up in there.

191

00:19:20,240 --> 00:19:22,400

Holy s***.

192

00:19:23,760 --> 00:19:28,400

Looks like it's moving. It does look like it's a warfight right there.

193

00:19:32,480 --> 00:19:45,280

It was huge. Yeah, there's something bumping around in there for sure. There's just no way to

194

00:19:45,280 --> 00:20:02,080

get a better shot up here. But definitely something moving around that was giving off heat in there.

195

00:20:02,080 --> 00:20:17,040

After a few hours of searching in the thick jungle brush, we couldn't find any footprints or any

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00:20:17,040 --> 00:20:22,000

other evidence of the dark figure Brad thought he saw. We decided to head back to camp. With the

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00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:26,640

sun on the horizon and the crew exhausted, I ended the investigation with a lot of work left to be

198

00:20:26,640 --> 00:20:32,560

done. I took the saliva samples I collected from the jungle girl and her father back to the

199

00:20:32,560 --> 00:20:37,120

states for DNA testing. If they are in fact biologically related, then it would at least

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00:20:37,120 --> 00:20:42,240

validate that she had survived in hiding for 18 years, undoubtedly with someone's help.

201

00:20:42,240 --> 00:20:46,160

If on the other hand she is not the man's daughter, her entire story would be cast and

202

00:20:46,160 --> 00:20:51,280

in doubt. We met with Dr. MJ Hajinapur from Gene Trek Genetics to find out the results of the

203

00:20:51,280 --> 00:20:58,880

paternity test. The first thing we do is to run a what we call viability test. In most cases,

204

00:20:58,880 --> 00:21:06,960

these samples may not have enough DNA. Were you able to determine viability? Was there enough DNA

205

00:21:06,960 --> 00:21:16,080

in the sample? The lab report says that either the DNA was not sufficient or it was degraded because

206

00:21:16,080 --> 00:21:23,120

of heat or maybe the person drank something before the test. But it looks like for now

207

00:21:23,920 --> 00:21:28,960

we have no answers. Alright, so we're going to have to go back to Cambodia to get some more DNA.

208

00:21:28,960 --> 00:21:34,400

Because she ate an apple before we collected her DNA, the sample became too degraded to analyze.

209

00:21:34,400 --> 00:21:39,200

For now, the truth behind the jungle girl's story would remain a mystery. Our last piece of

210

00:21:39,200 --> 00:21:44,240

evidence was a tantalizing hit on our thermal imager. Casey is set to work on enhancing the footage.

211

00:21:44,240 --> 00:21:49,120

You caught this just as it was kind of going off into the woods down this trail here. We pushed in

212

00:21:51,360 --> 00:21:55,600

really hard to tell kind of what we we have there. I worked on it with some image enhancing software

213

00:21:55,600 --> 00:22:02,720

to clean it up a little bit. And as you can see, that's the clean version. A little bit more definition

214

00:22:02,720 --> 00:22:07,120

as you see something kind of popping out at the bottom there, but still really tough to tell.

215

00:22:07,120 --> 00:22:11,920

Looking at it, it doesn't readily appear to be a quadruped, but it also doesn't really look like

216

00:22:11,920 --> 00:22:16,960

it's humanoid. I mean, I don't know what to make of it. Right. You know, that is one of the shortcomings

217

00:22:16,960 --> 00:22:20,560

of that thermal imager, at least from that range, is that we just don't get a lot of definition. No.

218

00:22:21,120 --> 00:22:26,080

That could be, you know, a limb, but it's very difficult to kind of determine what that is. And

219

00:22:26,080 --> 00:22:31,200

this is right as it was kind of sneaking off into the into the forest. Well, that remains a mystery

220

00:22:31,200 --> 00:22:36,240

then that that one is still still a question mark. Without being able to clean up the thermal image

221

00:22:36,240 --> 00:22:40,080

further, we may never know what was lurking in the jungles with us that night, although the most

222

00:22:40,080 --> 00:22:44,960

probable creature would be a tiger, which leaves me feeling lucky to be in one piece. Also, it is

223

00:22:44,960 --> 00:22:49,440

unclear if the traumatized girl I met in Oya-Dow had been living in the jungle by herself or not,

224

00:22:49,440 --> 00:22:53,760

but the multiple eyewitnesses who saw her in the company of a wild man were credible to me.

225

00:22:53,760 --> 00:22:57,920

As my team and I get ready to journey on to another mysterious case, we're left wondering if the

226

00:22:57,920 --> 00:23:03,040

wild man is really a half man, half ape living in the forest or if there is some other explanation.

227

00:23:03,040 --> 00:23:08,000

And you never know. In time, the answer might just come walking back out of the thick Cambodian jungle.

228

00:23:11,040 --> 00:23:14,000

Unless you've been living under a rock, you're familiar with Michael Crichton's

229

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:18,800

dino classic Jurassic Park. You know the story. Genetically engineered dinosaurs run amuck and

230

00:23:18,800 --> 00:23:22,640

make dinner out of us unsuspecting humans. Well, it turns out that we might not need

231

00:23:22,640 --> 00:23:27,920

science to make us a dinosaur. One could still exist. Locals throughout the Congo River basin and

232

00:23:27,920 --> 00:23:32,640

the swamps of northern Zambia say a real dinosaur has survived extinction and is alive and well

233

00:23:32,640 --> 00:23:37,200

in feeding on native fishermen. Known as the Mokavi Mbembe, there have been recorded sightings

234

00:23:37,200 --> 00:23:42,480

of this beast dating back nearly 300 years. Extensive expeditions were dispatched to the

235

00:23:42,480 --> 00:23:47,360

region throughout the 20th century, including a team from the Smithsonian. And then, for a time,

236

00:23:47,360 --> 00:23:53,360

the trail went cold. Until now, villagers around Lake Banguelu in northern Zambia have been coming

237

00:23:53,360 --> 00:23:57,760

forward in recent months with new and dramatic eyewitness accounts that have caught my attention.

238

00:23:57,760 --> 00:24:02,880

The heat on this story was back, and I knew I had to launch my own investigation. Along with Casey,

239

00:24:02,880 --> 00:24:07,520

our lead cameraman, producer Brad and lead assistant Araceli, we packed up the equipment

240

00:24:07,520 --> 00:24:11,600

and headed for Africa to investigate the curious claims of a living dinosaur. My

241

00:24:11,600 --> 00:24:17,040

team and I flew 21 hours from Los Angeles to the city of Lusaka Zambia in southern Africa.

242

00:24:17,040 --> 00:24:20,720

Eyewitnesses of the Mokali Mbembe say that the creature is reddish-brown,

243

00:24:20,720 --> 00:24:25,440

about the size of an elephant, and has an extremely long neck and tail. Throughout recorded history,

244

00:24:25,440 --> 00:24:30,480

Zambia has been home to hunter-gatherers, big game, and exotic wildlife. Could people in this

245

00:24:30,560 --> 00:24:37,200

isolated nation really be seeing a dinosaur that survived the last 65 million years? I was about to

246

00:24:37,200 --> 00:24:41,680

find out. We landed in the capital city of Lusaka, and we're still a long way from Lake

247

00:24:41,680 --> 00:24:45,920

Banguelu, the epicenter of the recent sightings. Welcome to Zambia!

248

00:24:47,760 --> 00:24:52,720

We wrangled a couple of 4x4s to take us to the northwestern shore of the lake. With a 10-hour

249

00:24:52,720 --> 00:24:57,040

drive ahead of us, we pulled off to try to find something to eat. What do you got here?

250

00:24:57,920 --> 00:25:02,640

Oh, I'll give you 50,000. I don't even know what you're selling. You're selling gross caterpillars.

251

00:25:02,640 --> 00:25:07,360

Tell me. People eat these. They good?

252

00:25:10,160 --> 00:25:11,520

Oh, they're gross.

253

00:25:14,960 --> 00:25:19,600

They good? Oh, they're gross.

254

00:25:19,920 --> 00:25:22,160

Oh, gross.

255

00:25:24,720 --> 00:25:27,520

With a belly full of caterpillars, we continued on to the lake.

256

00:25:29,280 --> 00:25:33,440

Things are bigger in Africa, and this lake is no exception. Roughly the size of Connecticut

257

00:25:33,440 --> 00:25:37,840

and ringed with swamp lands, this was going to be a challenge. With such a massive search area,

258

00:25:37,840 --> 00:25:42,400

even something as large as a dinosaur would be easy to miss. I needed to narrow my focus.

259

00:25:42,400 --> 00:25:46,080

So I talked with the director of the Lake's Nature Reserve, whose knowledge of the area could help

260

00:25:46,160 --> 00:25:50,800

me pinpoint where the Mokale might live. Has the lake and the swamps around it been very well

261

00:25:50,800 --> 00:25:56,080

explored or not very well explored? According to historical books, much has been done by the

262

00:25:56,080 --> 00:26:01,920

missionaries, and so we cannot tell that there's been actually a focus on just exploring and

263

00:26:01,920 --> 00:26:08,240

understanding its physical features beyond missionary work. Do you think there's a possibility

264

00:26:08,240 --> 00:26:12,800

that maybe something lives in the lake that has not been discovered? The swamp is so big.

265

00:26:13,680 --> 00:26:17,280

Probably if you sit so much, you can find something. Where do you think it would live?

266

00:26:18,080 --> 00:26:23,920

The swamps, because it's the most area that has got vegetation. I'm sure the swamps

267

00:26:23,920 --> 00:26:29,360

hasn't been explored to the extent. With the expert's confirmation that there could be something

268

00:26:29,360 --> 00:26:33,600

unidentified living here, I figured the vast swamp lands would be the most likely place this

269

00:26:33,600 --> 00:26:37,680

creature would call home. There's plenty of wildlife to feed on and endless places to hide

270

00:26:37,680 --> 00:26:42,160

due to the extensive vegetation in the water. No question, the southern swamps would be a

271

00:26:42,160 --> 00:26:47,280

dino-mite place to set up my investigation. But before I got my feet wet, I wanted to find out

272

00:26:47,280 --> 00:26:52,160

what the locals had to say about the idea of a dinosaur living in their swamp. I met with a man

273

00:26:52,160 --> 00:26:56,800

from the World Wildlife Fund who knows the southern swamp region of the lake better than anyone.

274

00:26:56,800 --> 00:27:03,680

Tell me about some of the large animals that live in the lake. The hippo. The hippo. And the

275

00:27:03,680 --> 00:27:11,040

crocodiles. Crocodiles. Now how big do these hippos get? The weight could be about two tons.

276

00:27:11,040 --> 00:27:16,240

Two tons? And how long can they get? About two and a half meters. Two and a half meters. People

277

00:27:16,240 --> 00:27:20,240

claim that they've seen the mochele in a membe. He's out in the lake. Do you think maybe they're

278

00:27:20,240 --> 00:27:26,000

seeing just the tops of hippos or the tops of crocodiles? Probably. What would happen then if

279

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:30,960

I was in a small boat and I ran into a group of hippos? You can be attacked. I could be attacked.

280

00:27:30,960 --> 00:27:39,920

Yes. It will bite me? Bite? Yeah. Cut to? It will cut me into half into two pieces? Yes. Oh boy,

281

00:27:39,920 --> 00:27:44,080

that doesn't sound fun. Even though Jerome himself wasn't a believer, he pointed me in the

282

00:27:44,080 --> 00:27:48,480

direction of a nearby island where he said several of the villagers have reported run-ins with the

283

00:27:48,480 --> 00:27:52,640

mochele. The island was only a short distance from the southern swamps where I intended to

284

00:27:52,640 --> 00:28:00,560

investigate. And he even offered to take me there in his boat. How about these boats? Can we get a

285

00:28:00,560 --> 00:28:06,560

better price if we take these? There's this island that's populated and they claim to have had first

286

00:28:06,560 --> 00:28:11,760

hand encounters. And really that's our source point of eyewitnesses for this. Right. So we need to get

287

00:28:11,760 --> 00:28:16,320

to them and it's going to take two and a half hours and we got a lot of fuel. Sky full of clouds.

288

00:28:16,320 --> 00:28:21,200

Yeah, it's probably going to rain. I'm going to dump on us at some point. And they got crocs.

289

00:28:21,280 --> 00:28:25,840

They got hippos. They got mocheles. Well, yeah.

290

00:28:30,240 --> 00:28:45,440

Okay. One pole. Two poles. Three poles. Four poles. That's five. Six poles. It's prime. Seven.

291

00:28:46,400 --> 00:28:50,880

It's getting a little, uh, it's past 10. That's eight. And we're up on eight.

292

00:28:52,960 --> 00:28:54,080

And our motor's dead.

293

00:28:57,440 --> 00:29:01,360

We got our motor running and continued on to the island. Along the way, I stopped to talk to some

294

00:29:01,360 --> 00:29:05,440

local fishermen who spend every day on these waters to see if they recognize the mochele.

295

00:29:06,640 --> 00:29:09,200

We asked these guys if they've ever seen anything strange in the water.

296

00:29:10,160 --> 00:29:14,960

What do you say? Only hippos and crocodiles.

297

00:29:18,560 --> 00:29:22,320

Hello. Have you guys seen this? Mochele.

298

00:29:24,720 --> 00:29:26,800

Have you guys seen this? Mochele, vimembe.

299

00:29:28,880 --> 00:29:34,400

After a long, slow, and thankfully croc-free boat ride, we finally arrived at the island.

300

00:29:34,400 --> 00:29:38,160

I'd read claims that the creature is as big as an elephant, so I wanted to talk to some

301

00:29:38,160 --> 00:29:43,120

credible eyewitnesses who could help me determine just what exactly I'd be dealing with once we

302

00:29:43,120 --> 00:29:50,960

made it to the swamps. We're coming into the village here on this island, and my suspicion

303

00:29:50,960 --> 00:29:56,400

is that we are kind of barnabalos right now. Everything has stopped. Everyone has just stopped.

304

00:29:56,400 --> 00:30:00,080

Everything they're doing to stare at the three dumb white guys on their island.

305

00:30:01,520 --> 00:30:08,080

Where are we going? I saw, I see. All right, let's go. Okay. It's good. I didn't realize I was on

306

00:30:08,080 --> 00:30:13,520

wheelbarrow duty today. You can help me. I am helping you. I have a problem. Are you still

307

00:30:13,520 --> 00:30:17,520

screaming at me and I'm pushing your wheelbarrow? I don't understand. I see. Stepping onto the

308

00:30:17,520 --> 00:30:21,920

island was a lot like walking into a production of Peter Pan, a lot of kids.

309

00:30:27,120 --> 00:30:32,640

It's a pretty big island. It's like 11 kilometers across. Pretty well populated. Look at this cute guy.

310

00:30:38,480 --> 00:30:49,840

Are there any adults in this village? We're the adults. We're your parents. Everybody hears like nine.

311

00:30:52,320 --> 00:30:56,800

I waded my way through the island of Lost Boys and finally found an adult who I was relieved

312

00:30:56,800 --> 00:31:01,520

didn't have a hook for a hand. However, he did have a story about coming face to face with the Mokele.

313

00:31:01,680 --> 00:31:08,160

Okay. So it comes out of the water.

314

00:31:11,760 --> 00:31:14,160

And is it very dangerous? Is it a very aggressive creature?

315

00:31:18,160 --> 00:31:23,040

It can overturn a boat. Well, that's dangerous. I heard of another man in the village who also

316

00:31:23,040 --> 00:31:27,840

had an encounter with the Mokele and said that he knew exactly where we could find him back through

317

00:31:27,840 --> 00:31:34,720

the kids again. He says you wouldn't want to come close to it to the boat.

318

00:31:40,320 --> 00:31:44,240

So where specifically does this creature live? Where does it live? He went on to say he believes

319

00:31:44,240 --> 00:31:49,200

the Mokele lives in the nearby southern swamps consistent with the reports I heard. He added

320

00:31:49,200 --> 00:31:53,520

that the beast can also sometimes be seen in the open water surrounding the swamps so we didn't rule

321

00:31:53,520 --> 00:31:58,640

that area out either. I was amazed to see that other villagers all recognized the Mokele and

322

00:31:58,640 --> 00:32:03,440

pointed us to the southern province of the lake. The same area where both of our witnesses and our

323

00:32:03,440 --> 00:32:07,920

experts said the creature is known to live. It was clear my plan to search in the south was the

324

00:32:07,920 --> 00:32:12,320

best chance for success. With darkness coming, we would head to the southern swamps in the morning.

325

00:32:16,560 --> 00:32:20,640

The captain informed me that he needed to make a quick pit stop. What is it that we're getting?

326

00:32:21,360 --> 00:32:24,960

Oh we're getting this mahogany table that's just sitting in the middle of an open field.

327

00:32:24,960 --> 00:32:30,480

Unbelievable. Look at this. Yeah, Africa never sees this. Look at this. You can't write this stuff.

328

00:32:33,920 --> 00:32:35,600

Where is this table supposed to fit?

329

00:32:41,360 --> 00:32:44,560

Yeah, this is gonna be this. This should be it.

330

00:32:50,960 --> 00:32:54,000

Where's Spartan plugs? Don't waste the Spartan plugs. I'm gonna start traveling with a big bag

331

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:58,960

of Spartan plugs on Destination Truth. You think he's gonna get it started? Well,

332

00:32:58,960 --> 00:33:06,560

let's hope he does because it's getting dark.

333

00:33:11,840 --> 00:33:16,560

You think he's gonna get it started? Well, let's hope he does because it's getting dark.

334

00:33:17,360 --> 00:33:22,080

We were able to get the boat running and get ourselves back on land before nightfall.

335

00:33:24,320 --> 00:33:28,960

The next day, my team and I readied ourselves to continue our search for the Mokaleum of Embe.

336

00:33:28,960 --> 00:33:33,520

Considering the remote area of the lake and the dangerous waters, our guide insisted we needed

337

00:33:33,520 --> 00:33:38,720

a bigger and faster boat in case we were attacked. Our new captain had heard many tales about the

338

00:33:38,720 --> 00:33:42,720

Mokaleum and seemed a little nervous about looking for it. While the team loaded up our

339

00:33:42,720 --> 00:33:49,120

equipment, he shared his own opinions about the creature with me. People believe that there is

340

00:33:49,120 --> 00:33:54,480

something that moves underwater and you hear the sound of the tremor. You know, the waves

341

00:33:54,480 --> 00:34:00,560

will move with it and people are actually letting them think the king of the lake. The king of the

342

00:34:00,560 --> 00:34:05,280

lake is passing. They don't know what it is. Do you think it's possible that there is some

343

00:34:05,280 --> 00:34:10,160

large creature that nobody has identified yet which lives here? No one knows what lies in the water.

344

00:34:12,720 --> 00:34:23,600

Music

345

00:34:33,680 --> 00:34:37,680

We rode for two hours across the lake to the southern swamp region where the witnesses told

346

00:34:37,760 --> 00:34:42,800

me they'd seen the Mokaleum. We talked to everyone in the area and they verified that they too had

347

00:34:42,800 --> 00:34:47,360

seen the Mokaleum in this region. Their stories were the same. Reported sightings occurred in

348

00:34:47,360 --> 00:34:51,760

both day and night. The creature was large, reddish brown and had the power to knock over a boat.

349

00:34:55,520 --> 00:34:58,560

After hours of searching the area, I spotted something.

350

00:34:59,280 --> 00:35:06,880

Music

351

00:35:06,880 --> 00:35:08,560

That is a big ass crocodile.

352

00:35:13,360 --> 00:35:15,280

That's not too much bean. Oh, here you are.

353

00:35:19,200 --> 00:35:23,520

How long was that guy you think? 10, 12 feet? Yeah, but it's 10 foot crocodile.

354

00:35:24,480 --> 00:35:32,000

Good lord. That thing was huge. Wow. Well, I guess I'm going to cancel my afternoon swim.

355

00:35:34,320 --> 00:35:38,640

Despite the captain's apprehension, we decided to keep searching for the Mokaleum in these croc

356

00:35:38,640 --> 00:35:51,440

infested waters. I see something big in the water. Can you pick that up on your camera?

357

00:35:53,520 --> 00:35:58,080

Where are you looking? Right here at my 12 o'clock. 12 o'clock? Right here. I see something in the water.

358

00:36:00,160 --> 00:36:01,120

Whatever it is, it looks big.

359

00:36:04,720 --> 00:36:09,920

Casey, whatever that is, it is much bigger than a crocodile. I'm just barely starting to get it.

360

00:36:12,720 --> 00:36:14,880

Whoa, see that pop up? Yeah, right there, right there.

361

00:36:19,840 --> 00:36:21,840

Whatever it is, I think it's moving. I think it's alive.

362

00:36:23,760 --> 00:36:26,480

Yeah, I've got it now. This thing on the left looks enormous.

363

00:36:28,160 --> 00:36:34,160

So enormous that it could flip our boat over. It looks as big as the boat from here, whatever it is.

364

00:36:42,080 --> 00:36:45,760

All right, let's put the handgun away for a minute. That dude just brandished your firearm.

365

00:36:46,320 --> 00:36:54,080

I just lost it too. I just lost everything.

366

00:37:05,360 --> 00:37:08,000

Everybody in the lookout, whatever it was, was right next to the boat.

367

00:37:16,080 --> 00:37:22,960

Whatever it was, it went back under. Whatever appeared right next to our boat vanished before we

368

00:37:22,960 --> 00:37:25,200

could identify it. Nothing to do but keep searching.

369

00:37:32,800 --> 00:37:36,720

We spent the rest of the day looking for what popped up from the water but had no luck.

370

00:37:36,720 --> 00:37:41,280

This was the epicenter of our investigation and I wasn't going anywhere. We kept our eyes on the

371

00:37:41,280 --> 00:37:49,440

water and day turned to night. We used an underwater sonar system to scan the lake beneath us

372

00:37:50,640 --> 00:37:54,960

and a hydrophone to record the sound. The rest of our investigation would be concentrated on the

373

00:37:54,960 --> 00:37:59,680

water's surface. Hoping whatever we saw would come back, we used our infrared cameras and night

374

00:37:59,680 --> 00:38:04,080

vision scope to pierce through the darkness. To further aid the search, we employ our floor

375

00:38:04,080 --> 00:38:08,720

thermal imager which detects living creatures by imaging the heat they give off. And finally,

376

00:38:08,720 --> 00:38:14,320

we used our most important investigation tools, our eyes and ears. Whatever we saw earlier was big

377

00:38:14,320 --> 00:38:24,640

and wouldn't be hard to miss if it surfaced anywhere near us.

378

00:38:32,480 --> 00:38:36,160

Case? Something kind of bobbing around up here. What do you got?

379

00:38:36,160 --> 00:38:39,440

I don't know, I just saw something like it rippled up right over there with that

380

00:38:40,400 --> 00:38:44,640

disturbance. Did you see that right there? I thought I saw something like a group of ripples

381

00:38:44,640 --> 00:38:48,480

that were just totally independent of anything else just right at the surface. Like there was

382

00:38:48,480 --> 00:38:57,680

something right there. I get nothing out of the thermal. Hear anything funny?

383

00:38:57,680 --> 00:39:03,920

Not hearing anything out of the ordinary. Just sounds like moving water.

384

00:39:07,600 --> 00:39:17,200

Nothing on the fish finder. A couple small fish.

385

00:39:21,360 --> 00:39:25,440

Casey, it sounded like something just thrashed the man up here. I got a whole bunch of bubbles

386

00:39:25,440 --> 00:39:29,120

coming up on the front camera. White bubbles all over the surface.

387

00:39:32,880 --> 00:39:34,960

Something was definitely around the boat.

388

00:39:43,520 --> 00:39:46,080

Whoa. Hear something?

389

00:39:46,080 --> 00:39:50,880

I'm trying to shut my light out. I don't know what we've sat far.

390

00:39:52,080 --> 00:39:53,200

Yo, Josh? Yeah?

391

00:39:53,200 --> 00:39:58,160

I just had something huge pass under the boat, long. Pick it up with the fish finder.

392

00:39:58,160 --> 00:40:02,080

Look what goes off to our right. See him bubbles all over the camera.

393

00:40:02,080 --> 00:40:06,320

I got something funny in the thermal right here. I got something red hot in the water.

394

00:40:07,120 --> 00:40:09,760

Something just cruised right by on the thermal. Red hot.

395

00:40:09,760 --> 00:40:18,960

I got something funny in the thermal right here. I got something red hot in the water.

396

00:40:19,760 --> 00:40:22,400

Something just cruised right by on the thermal. Red hot.

397

00:40:31,280 --> 00:40:34,800

Whatever it is, I don't see it anymore. Yeah, I don't have anything here.

398

00:40:34,800 --> 00:40:36,640

Nothing on the fish finder? No.

399

00:40:36,720 --> 00:40:42,240

I mean, there's not a doubt in my mind that something just cruised by this boat.

400

00:40:43,680 --> 00:40:48,000

It was still unclear what we were seeing in the open water near the southern swamps.

401

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:51,280

We waited several more hours, but whatever it was didn't return.

402

00:40:51,280 --> 00:40:55,200

I needed to take our footage back to the States and see if we could enhance the quality to give

403

00:40:55,200 --> 00:40:59,760

me a better look at whatever surfaced out there. And what about the hit on the thermal imager?

404

00:40:59,760 --> 00:41:03,520

Was that evidence that would help me to get to the bottom of this story? I couldn't be sure.

405

00:41:04,480 --> 00:41:08,800

We made the next flight from Lusaka to Los Angeles and digitized all of our footage into the

406

00:41:08,800 --> 00:41:13,680

computer to get a clearer picture of what we saw in Zambia. Well, what do we got?

407

00:41:13,680 --> 00:41:18,240

I've been able to enhance the thermal. Great. I'm from the water. You picked up something in

408

00:41:18,240 --> 00:41:24,240

the bottom left there at one point. It starts there. We have to push in a little bit blurry.

409

00:41:24,240 --> 00:41:27,920

And with some image enhancing software, we're able to clean that picture up.

410

00:41:34,080 --> 00:41:38,480

Top to toe, what it really is, is definitely something hot in the mix of everything else that's

411

00:41:38,480 --> 00:41:42,640

in the water there. Yeah, I mean, it certainly looks organic. I think cleaning up a little bit

412

00:41:42,640 --> 00:41:46,160

is giving us a little detail on the top, but there's no real characteristic features there

413

00:41:46,160 --> 00:41:49,840

that we can kind of hang our hat on. I'm not really prepared to say what that is.

414

00:41:50,560 --> 00:41:54,720

With the thermal evidence in conclusive, we decided to look at the video footage we recorded

415

00:41:54,720 --> 00:42:00,240

during the day. So what I did is I froze it here. I was able to push it on it quite a bit.

416

00:42:01,200 --> 00:42:02,320

And then on the cleanup.

417

00:42:07,120 --> 00:42:13,040

Go on the hold. A hippo. A hippo. That is a hippo. Certainly the appearance when we were out there

418

00:42:13,040 --> 00:42:18,000

was actually of looking at, you know, two parts of one creature. Right. And what we're now actually

419

00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:22,320

seeing is that we've got two different hippos that have breached the surface here. But certainly

420

00:42:22,320 --> 00:42:26,240

the way that their heads just clear above the waterline, it looks like you're looking at almost

421

00:42:26,320 --> 00:42:30,320

something serpentine. It's an arch in the water. Yeah. And I think the people in this lake, they

422

00:42:30,320 --> 00:42:34,240

know of this myth, they see something like this, which certainly we couldn't identify. And that's

423

00:42:34,240 --> 00:42:38,560

I think how this legend gets more and more heat on it until people are really just, you know,

424

00:42:38,560 --> 00:42:45,040

believing it. Well, I think we can lay the mochile to rest. I think so. Hippos.

425

00:42:46,800 --> 00:42:51,040

It is impossible to trace the beginnings of the story of the mochile in a bembe, although it isn't

426

00:42:51,040 --> 00:42:55,920

hard to imagine tales of mysterious creatures in these exotic swamps. Hippos and crocodiles are

427

00:42:55,920 --> 00:43:00,160

difficult to identify from the surface. And when grouped together, they can appear to be a much

428

00:43:00,160 --> 00:43:04,720

larger creature. The confusion and excitement we felt when we spotted something in the water

429

00:43:04,720 --> 00:43:08,800

is exactly the type of encounter that has propagated this legend for centuries.

430

00:43:08,800 --> 00:43:12,800

Hopefully this investigation will put an end to the hysteria of a living dinosaur in Lake

431

00:43:12,800 --> 00:43:17,200

Benguelu. Besides, a two ton hippo flipping your boat is scary enough.