

SCRIPT ZEBRAS KENYA

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PR

A heavenly meal for the king of nature.
That's how a huge animal in Kenyan might look like.
4,000 zebras and 3,000 wildebeests are being moved from central Kenya to a game park in the South.
Kenya Wildlife Service, responsible for the game parks, is bringing the animals there to restock the Amboseli Park after the recent drought.
The lions and hyenas there don't have anything to eat anymore, and they started praying on the cattle of the local communities.
By implementing fresh zebras the Kenya government hopes to offer the lions fresh new meat, and to save the cattle.
The operation started this week, and is the biggest animal trans-location ever in Africa

SCRIPT

In the middle of this game reserve in central Kenya...
there is a canvas screen that is serving as a trap.

SOUNDBITE HELICOPTER

From the air groups of zebras are chased inside.

SOUNDBITE PUSHING ZEBRAS

The animals are then ushered into a tunnel.

SOUNDBITE JUMPING ZEBRA

The zebras are transported in containers, holding 30 beasts.
It's tight there, and all together it looks unfriendly to animals.

SOUNDBITE KICKING ZEBRAS IN CONTAINER

QUOTE Francis Gakuya, Kenya Wildlife Service

There is rising adrenaline because the animals don't even know what's happening to them.

But from the physiology of these animals we know the levels don't rise so much, and they're capable of withstanding capture and transportation.

Moving 4,000 zebras, and 3,000 wildebeests will cost 1 million Euro. Which will be paid from revenues of tourism in the game reserves. With a bit luck these animals will survive in the Amboseli Park.

QUOTE Charles Musyoka, Kenya Wildlife Service

Hoping we're not going to get another drought this year, then these animals are going to thrive very well within the park.

Still it remains guessing what the chances of survival really are. The starving carnivores in Amboseli can't wait for fresh meat. So the zebras seem to face a certain death there. According to Kenya Wildlife Service it's a part of nature.

QUOTE Charles Musyoka, Kenya Wildlife Service

It's not that we are taking them there to be crushed.

No, we're trying to restore that balance which has always been there within the Amboseli ecosystem

If all goes well the cattle of the population will not be attacked anymore. These zebras are still safe, because it takes 7 hours before they arrive. The whole operation will take one month.