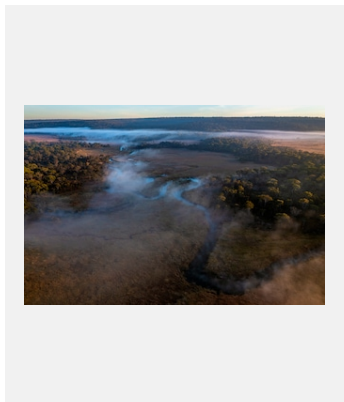


STEVE BOYES AND THE GREAT SPINE OF AFRICA SERIES OF EXPEDITIONS

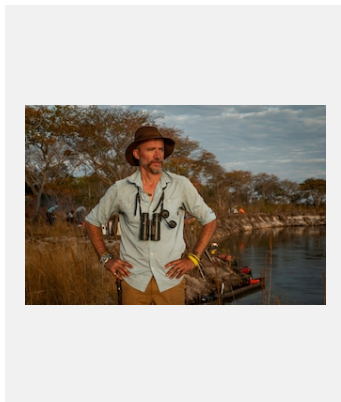
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Aerial view of the upper reaches of the Lungwevungu River. Steve Boyes, leader of the Great Spine of Africa project, believes this river in Angola to be the furthest source of the mighty Zambezi river.

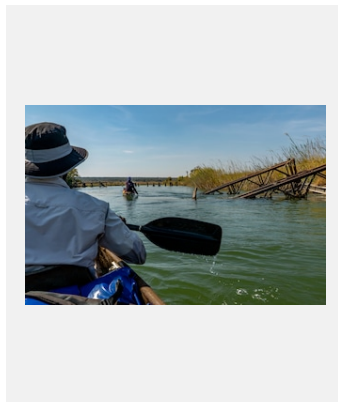
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Steve Boyes is leader of the 2019 Rolex National Geographic Explorers of the Year, the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project team, and now leader of the Great Spine of Africa project, a series of expeditions scientifically documenting the great river basins of Africa; The Okavango, Zambezi, Congo, Niger and Nile.

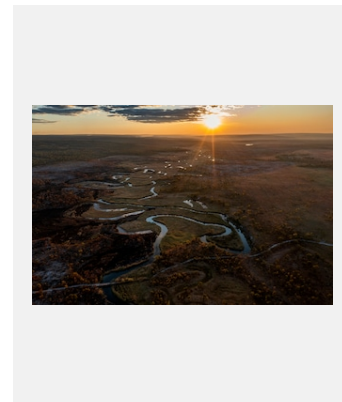
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The Lungwevungu expedition team, lead by Steve Boyes, travel in mekoro, a type of dugout canoe traditionally used in the Okavango Delta, southern Africa.

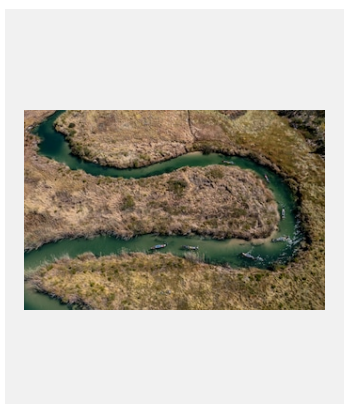
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Aerial view of the sun setting over the thin and winding upper reaches of Lungwevungu River, Angola.

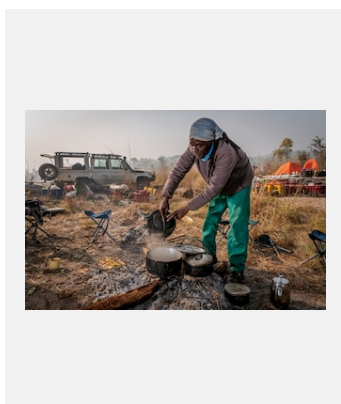
Credits: © National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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The Lungwevungu expedition team traverse the river from its source in Angola to the border with Zambia.

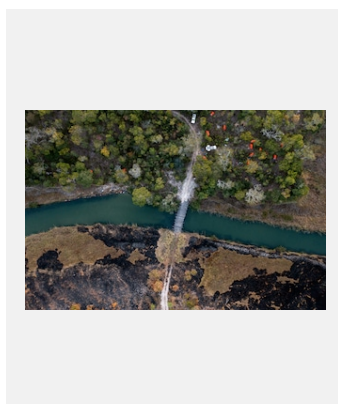
Credits: © National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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Camp Manager and Canoe Captain Gobonamang 'GB' Kgetho prepares camp after a long day of paddling the mekoro.

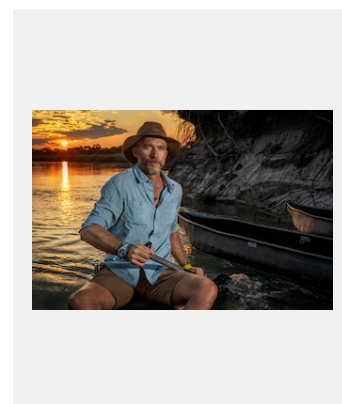
Credits: © National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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The Lungwevungu expedition team camp alongside the river each night of the six-week expedition. These sites were scouted for road access and safety from landmines by a team weeks ahead of the launch.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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Steve Boyes, is leading the Great Spine of Africa project. Having traversed the significant rivers of the Okavango River Basin, he will now expand into new basins throughout Africa.

Credits: © National Geographic/Jen Guyton

Contact sheet

STEVE BOYES AND THE GREAT SPINE OF AFRICA SERIES OF EXPEDITIONS



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Steve Boyes using an advanced instrument to collect water quality data about the Lungwevungu River.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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Ecologist and expedition team member, Rob Taylor, lays out a fyke net in order to count the fish species living in the river.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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Research Director Rainer von Brandis and Research Manager Götz Neef deploy an acoustic doppler current profiler along the Lungwevungu River, to profile the riverbed and measure its flow.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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Götz Neef, Research Manager, filters the river water in order to collect an environmental DNA sample which will be used to detect which species across many taxa are present in the river.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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Steve Boyes and Kerllen Costa, the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project Angola Country Director, lead this first expedition down the Lungwevungu River in their mekoro (dugout canoes) as part of this early work of the Great Spine of Africa series of expeditions.

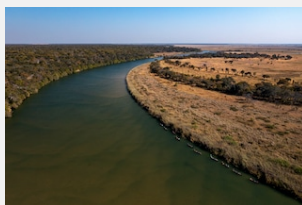
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As the Lungwevungu River gets wider, the rapids get stronger and Kerllen Costa has to find the navigable lines to pass safely through.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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The Lungwevungu expedition team is navigating the length of the river from its source in Angola to the border with Zambia to scientifically document it for the first time.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton



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Steve Boyes and the expedition team celebrate as they reach the bank on the final day of the Lungwevungu expedition, where the river crosses the border from Angola into Zambia and joins the Zambezi River.

Credits: ©National Geographic/Jen Guyton