

Tracking Big Game in the Masai Mara



“Infrared technology played a crucial role in the crew’s ability to find, track and ultimately to film the animals”

Colin Jackson, BBC producer of Big Cats

Project: BBC Big Cats Live
Sector: Broadcast
Product: AEGIS Infrared Illuminators

Bosch’s AEGIS UFLED infrared (IR) illuminators were used by the BBC’s Natural History Unit to monitor the behaviour of the Marsh Pride of big cats at night, in Kenya’s world-famous Masai Mara game reserve.

The Big Cat Live series, broadcast on BBC One in October 2008, featured live web-casting that allowed audiences to watch footage 24-hours a day from the heart of Africa’s most famous reserve.

Thermal imaging technology was used to track the pride’s movement at long range. Once identified, AEGIS infrared illuminators mounted to a specially modified jeep allowed one brave cameraman to capture close-up, broadcast quality night-time video in total darkness.

The AEGIS Illuminators were used by the BBC throughout the filming of the 8 part series, presented by Kate Silverton, Jonathan Scott, Jackson Looseyia and Simon King.

Colin Jackson, the BBC producer of Big Cats Live says: “Infrared technology again played a crucial role in the crew’s ability to find, track and ultimately to film the animals. In using IR equipment this recording was able to go on throughout the night revealing a side of life that is rarely, if ever, seen.”



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