

"I've got two children and I hate the thought of them having to grow up here. There's

a good role model because they don't see the need to get a job. It's a vicious circle."

Additional reporting: Phil Cardy



Edward said he found filming as exciting as hunting

Lion King Edward was first eco-royal

James Gillespie

HE IS known as the king who gave up his throne for love, but now a new and unexpected side of Edward VIII has emerged: the pioneering conservationist who fought to save the wildlife of Africa.

Film footage — some of it shot by Edward and which has never been seen in public — has been unearthed in the royal archives and shows the then Prince of Wales on his first safari in 1928.

When he returned to London he became the first of a long line of royals to become patron of an animal rights charity and made a rousing public speech (reproduced in *The Times*) against large-scale killing.

The film, due to be shown in a new Channel 4 documentary, *Edward VIII: The Lion King*, on May 28, shows for the first time the future king becoming a wildlife film maker and conservationist.

The early part shows him as an enthusiastic hunter. However, as his hunting experience grew so did his horror at the slaughter he witnessed. He swapped his hunting rifle for a cine camera

and found that filming the animals was as exciting — and dangerous — as hunting.

Wildlife photography was in its infancy and the prince took considerable risks to record the animals in their habitat. His images and experiences led to his campaign when he returned to Britain.

The prince agreed to become patron of the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire, one of the first conservation organisations, and backed a campaign to force the Tanganyikan authorities to close the Serengeti to hunting.

Professor Bill Adams, a Cambridge University conservationist, said: "Without this pressure from the Prince of Wales, I don't think there would have been any significant conservation in British colonial Africa." The prince was a celebrity just like Bono and Angelina Jolie today, and "transformed the campaign just by supporting it".

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