

Michael Sears

Short bio:

Michael Sears was born in Johannesburg, and grew up in Cape Town and Nairobi, Kenya. He is a mathematician by training. At the end of 2007 he retired from the Anglo American Corporation where he managed a remote sensing group. He has traveled widely in Southern and Central Africa, with Botswana always being a special favorite.

Long bio:

Michael was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, and grew up in Cape Town and Nairobi, Kenya. In the worst of the apartheid era, his family emigrated to Australia, where he studied mathematics. But Africa drew him back and he accepted a position at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg where he specialized in applications of mathematics in a variety of areas, including image analysis and ecological modeling. One of the more adventurous projects involved radio-tracking hunting lions through the Botswana night. Another was a system model for the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park.

He has traveled widely in Southern and Central Africa. Botswana has always been a special favorite with its magnificent conservation areas, dramatic scenery, and varied peoples. A long-held ambition was to capture the flavor of the country as the canvass of a novel.

From 1997 until his retirement at the end of 2007, he managed remote sensing at Anglo American Corporation, a major international mining house. Its associate – the diamond giant De Beers – has extensive interests in Botswana through the Debswana joint venture with the government. The mining and exploration threads in the first book draw on experiences in this context. He has now returned to the University as a visiting professor in computer science. He enjoys research, project work, and writing most when he's working with other people. He has worked with researchers in several countries on varied projects, managed teams in the academic and business arenas, and co-authored three novels with Stanley.

Although Michael still lives in Johannesburg, his mind is often in the African bush. He and Stanley often travel to the bush together. Birds are watched, wine is drunk, and plots develop.