



P.O. Box 1274

PIET RETIEF

2380

RSA

Tel: +27 82 906 1349

Fax: +27 86 463 7242

e-mail: kotie@shikra-safaris.com

Reg. No. 2001/088579/23

Dear friends

NEWSLETTER FOR THE 2019 HUNTING SEASON

This year again raced by in a flash! 2019 was characterized by the extreme drought (apparently the worst drought in more than 100 years!) that southern Africa is currently experiencing - which also had an influence on the hunting industry as many animals have died - and it is the old animals (trophies) that die first.

The year was also characterized by the continuing and severe attacks on hunting, and political instability world-wide. One of my European clients and his wife e.g. received extreme threats from the animal rightists and which almost ruined his career. Germany seems to be particularly hard hit by this evil attitude from animal rightists which apparently use facial recognition programs to identify and threaten hunters from pictures posted on social media.

We all have to stand together to combat this onslaught against hunting, otherwise we will lose it forever. It is hunting alone that guarantees the continued existence of wild animals in most areas of Africa.

The negative effects of the banning of trophy hunting, was well illustrated by the stopping of Elephant hunting in Botswana in the recent past. As soon as the hunters left, the poachers moved in. The poachers enlisted the trackers of the professional hunters that left. This was the only way for the unemployed trackers and their families to survive. The poachers then also proceeded to poison some of the elephant carcasses to destroy the vultures that will lead the authorities to the carcasses. Lions and hyenas were also poisoned as secondary casualties.

On a more positive note - our hunting season kicked off in January when we were visited by a hunter and old friend from Austria. Wilfried hunted a Bushbuck (his favourite animal) as well as a Mountain Reedbuck, Plains Zebra, Grey Duiker (a really big trophy) as well as a Sable Antelope. He also took a Rusty-spotted Genet.



We also hosted an old friend and his wife from The Netherlands that took 2 Warthog



After our return from Europe at the end of February some time was spend on reserve management in our own hunting area Mkhunyanane in Mpumalanga Province.

At the beginning of **March** we hunted Elephant in the Gonarezhou area of south-eastern Zimbabwe with a Polish client. Although we saw a 50 pounder the client declined the opportunity and elected to come back later in September to try for a bigger trophy. This time he took a bigger one. He also took a Hippopotamus bull.



We also hosted 3 German clients from the Dresden area in our Mkhunyanane area and surrounds. The hunters (**Mike and friends**) took Nyala, Grey Duiker, Common Reedbuck, Mountain Reedbuck, Blesbuck, Cape Eland and Black Wildebeest.



At the beginning of **April** we hunted in our Northern Cape area with an elderly German hunter (80 years plus) and his lovely wife. He has hunted all over the world and took the most trophy species of any hunter I personally know.

Dr Frieder was essentially with us for a culling hunt, since some animals had to be reduced due to the drought. He took non-trophy Blue Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest, Waterbuck, Kudu, Black Wildebeest and Springbuck.

As usual he was an excellent companion and we particularly enjoyed him being accompanied by his better half (not her in the picture below!).



We also hosted **Dries van Collier** with his Belgian clients for Blue Wildebeest, Blesbuck and impala.

During this time we also hunted again in Zimbabwe with an old friend from Austria for Elephant. Jo.. took a bull Elephant, Spotted Hyena, Limpopo Bushbuck and a Giraffe.

The area where we hunted crawled with Elephant and borders on Botswana in southwestern Zimbabwe. It was a delightful safari in wonderful surroundings on the Limpopo River.

A lot of tracking after elephant was done which led to the successful conclusion of the hunt.



April's last hunt was with a delightful old friend - again from Germany (Bavaria) and again we hunted in our Karoo area.

Rudi hunted a beautiful Scimitar-horned Oryx bull and then he and Charl went to KwaZulu-Natal for a Spotted Hyena which was only shot after several difficult nights.

Rudi also took 4 Warthog in this 30 000 ha hunting area. They then moved to our Mkhunyanane area and hunted a Serval cat and a Bushpig boar. This was a most extraordinary safari over 3 provinces and 100% successful.



In **May**, our next group of **8 Bulgarian** hunters arrived at Bloemfontein airport via OR Tambo in Johannesburg for a hunt in the Karoo some 220km to the south.

They took between them Scimitar-horned Oryx, Lechwe, Barbary Sheep, Cape and Livingston Eland, Black wildebeest, Hartmann Zebra, Springbuck, Normal Oryx, Mountain Reedbuck, Blesbuck, Warthog, Kudu, Waterbuck, Red Hartebeest, Blue Wildebeest, Nyala, Impala and Sable Antelope - in total 42 trophies.



We also hosted our first ever Australian client in Mkhunyane. Michael took a beautiful 54 inch kudu.



During June we had mostly South African hunters for meat hunting on our Mkhunyane Reserve. They took non-trophy kudu, Impala and Blesbuck. **Jaco Stone** from Piet Retief, however, took this nice trophy kudu bull.



July started with a hunter from The Netherlands, and he was mostly after our smaller carnivore trophies. We began the hunt in and around Mkhunyane and George took White-tailed Mongoose, Rusty-Spotted Genet, Cape (Large-spotted) Genet, Cape Fox, Porcupine, Black-backed Jackal and Bushpig.

He also took a Brown Hyena, Honey Badger and a 43 inch Sable Antelope.



The next two hunters from Croatia arrived in our Karoo area and between them took beautiful Sable Antelope, Barbary sheep, Springbuck, Scimitar-horned Oryx as well as a Small-spotted Genet, Porcupine and Springhare.



August we again hosted an old friend from Germany. **Theo** took a big Bushpig boar, Oribi, Vaalrhebuck, Roan Antelope, and an old Giraffe bull. He also hunted a Red Duiker in Kwazulu-Natal.



Our next group of 4 hunters in **September** was from the United Kingdom and led from the front by an old friend **Paul**. The primary quest was for trophy Warthog in our 30 000ha hunting area in Kwazulu-Natal. The group took 15 trophy Warthog in a week's hunting there.

The 4 hunters also hunted in our Mkhunyané Reserve and succeeded in getting Impala, Nyala and Zebra.





Also during September we had a group of old friends from Poland. Darek hunted the more difficult to obtain trophies and succeeded in obtaining a big male Brown Hyena, 2 Red Duiker, a Nyala bull, 2 Bushpigs and a Vervet Monkey. He also took 3 Crested Guinea fowl in Kwazulu-Natal (where he also hunted the Red Duiker).



We also had a friend from Australia which booked a 20 day safari primarily for Buffalo hunting. **Matt** took 3 very old Buffalo Bulls (2 in Kwazulu-Natal) and one in our Karoo area. One of these 3 bulls was wounded and ended up charging in extremely thick bush and managed to hit Charl on the back and then also attacked Matt before the bull was killed by Charl. Matt spent a week in hospital and 2 operations later proceed to hunt his 3rd Buffalo bull! What a brave man and we salute him. Matt also took a Nyala bull, Waterbuck bull, Kudu bull, Blue Wildebeest bull and a Bushbuck ram. He also hunted a magnificent 46 inch Sable bull.



In October we were visited by 2 hunters from Austria. Gerty's primary trophy was one big Buffalo bull. She hunted with Charl in Kwazulu-Natal and managed to get

the bull after 8 days of hard hunting in extremely thick bush. **Josef** took a good Nyala bull here. We then moved camp to Mkhunyane Reserve where Josef took a Bushbuck ram while Gerty took a beautiful big Common Reedbuck male.



Also during October we hosted 2 hunters from Croatia for Crocodile in Limpopo Province.



November began with a hunt by 2 Germans in our Karoo area. **Jan** and his brother **Lorenz** were young, keen and fit and we had one of the hardest hunts imaginable in the mountains next to the Vanderkloof Lake. We literally hunted from dawn to dusk for a week, taking only a day off in the middle.

The trophies taken consisted mostly of 2 each of Oryx, Cape Eland, Blesbuck, Blue Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest, Black Wildebeest, Waterbuck, Warthog and Springbuck. It took me a week to recover from this hunt.



Some trophies were taken in such remote mountainous areas that it was only possible to carry the horns and capes out, leaving the meat for the scavengers. This hunt was certainly a high note to end a season with two such nice and highly ethical hunters.



Our last hunt of the season was again in Zimbabwe. The Austrian client (who shall remain nameless for obvious reasons), took a beautiful and very old male Lion, male Leopard, Cape buffalo bull, Warthog and a Sharpe's Grysbuck.



And that then, my hunting friends is it, a full season with wonderful memories and friendships formed and others strengthened around a fire in the evenings, after delightful and hard days spent in some of the most beautiful areas of God's creation.

We look forward to see all our hunting friends in Europe where Charl and I will be attending the Jagd & Hund in Dortmund from 28 January - 1 February (Hall 7, stand 7.B22) and the Hohe Jagd & Fischerei in Salzburg Hall 08, stand 0418, from 20 - 23 February 2018.

I wish all of you a Blessed Christmas season and the best for 2020.

Best wishes

Kotie, Charl, Johandri and Hanlie Herholdt