

SAFARI NJEMA NEWS LETTER 2006 NO3

Dear Fellow hunters and friends

I have just returned from Tanzania for a 5 day break. When one hunts for 2 months continually this is a well-deserved break and I can also give you some info on the hunts. I started off hunting in the Selous game reserve, I must say this is a very difficult year as it only stopped raining 2 weeks ago as opposed to 3 months ago. Needless to say everything is still green and nothing can be burned, with the grass over our heads standing on the back of the Land Cruiser it is difficult to see even Elephant.

The Season in Tanzania jumped off to a great start and Vladimir a Russian client took a great 30" hippo and a 7-inch Bush pig. Then Mark and Todd arrived in camp for their buffalo. What an adventure. The buffalo with all the long grass, now live in the thick forest and this make visibility good to 15 yards. Following buffalo in 10 feet high grass is no fun and then they change that for the forest where they know they have all the advantage of sight and smell. We must have done 50 stalks on these buffalo and every time they got the better of us. Needless to say both Mark and Todd had hair rising buffalo hunts with lots of bullets being put into them.

With the start of Lee Fosters hunt I told him it will be difficult with the change in weather but he is always up for a challenge. Wanting to hunt Leopard, Elephant and Hippo was not going to be easy. Especially when he told me "I don't want to shoot a hippo in the water" My words to my friend was "Lee they always charge when you see them on land or in a little creek bed"

The next day we went looking for hippo. In the creek bed we bumped one but he ran off through the long grass and we could not even get a look at him. Then we found one in a bend in the creek in a pool as big as a bathtub just big enough for him to put his head under the water. Well I need to see the tusks and I cant so the solution is to cut a stick, sharpen it and poke his behind so his head will came up. While I was hanging on a branch doing the honours with the stick every one was looking for the head. The next moment the Hippo exploded out of the water charging right toward Lee. At 4 yards Lee's 500-nitro hit him in the head, knocked him down and he immediately followed up with a second shot.

As the end of the safari approached us I told Lee "I'm sorry but I cant find you an elephant, this is the last day of your safari and I'm not optimistic". As you can imagine, we were very disappointed and drove out to clean up the old blinds and bait. Then one mile from camp, last hour of the last day, there he was walking over the road the elephant that I was looking for. We jumped off the truck, ran after him for about 900 yards then the bull turned and faced us. The next moment he came and two shots from the 500 stopped him at 20Yards. Remember hunting is like fishing you wont get them from the dock or sitting in camp. If you are out there there, there is always a chance. Well done Lee

This year in the Selous is an excellent year to hunt cats and every PH I've spoken to tells me that they have shot some excellent lion and leopard. My opinion is that when the grass is long cats like to walk riverbeds and roads and make it easier to lure them to the bait. As far as the rest of TZ is going the west is very dry and hippo and crock are dying out, many sititunga also, all the big buffalo have moved and it is difficult to find them.

I return to TZ in a few days time and I am looking forward to a busy and challenging next few months ahead of me, hopefully it will be a safe and successful time for all of us. I trust that this letter finds you in good health.

Until next time, happy hunting!

Best regards
SAFARI NJEMA "SAFE JOURNEY"