



Charlton McCallum
S·A·F·A·R·I·S

Festive Season Newsletter

**VISIT US AT THE 2020 SHOWS: DALLAS: 2216 | RENO: 1471/73
SALZBURG, AUSTRIA: 0304**

Dear friends

The rains have finally broken and new green grass has come through thankfully putting an end to what has been a pretty bad drought in the whole region. Zimbabwe was not spared and the drought had catastrophic consequences in many areas. Luckily for us Dande has so many year round springs that water was not an issue at all. Luckily the solar boreholes we put up in our drier areas like the Dande East and ward 1 have managed to not only see the game through but has resulted in an amazing increase in game throughout these areas



The good news is CMS finally managed to roll over our leases and as a result we are in the process of some big developments in a number of departments. To list a few we are up grading Matombo camp with new dining room and up grading the tents. We are turning Mukanga and Karunga into solar powered camps and will more than likely do the same at Matomobo. We have also decided, as nice as the fly camp in Nyakasanga is, to make it a little more comfortable and buy a new fishing boat for there.

As for the hunting it has been an excellent season in every department. We were most pleased to see our reducing of buffalo quotas starting to really pay off. In reality it has taken nearly 10 years of hugely reduced quotas after the last operators shot 120 bulls a season for two season to start to see the dugga boys coming back. The proof was nearly all the buff we took were good solid bulls!

BUFFALO













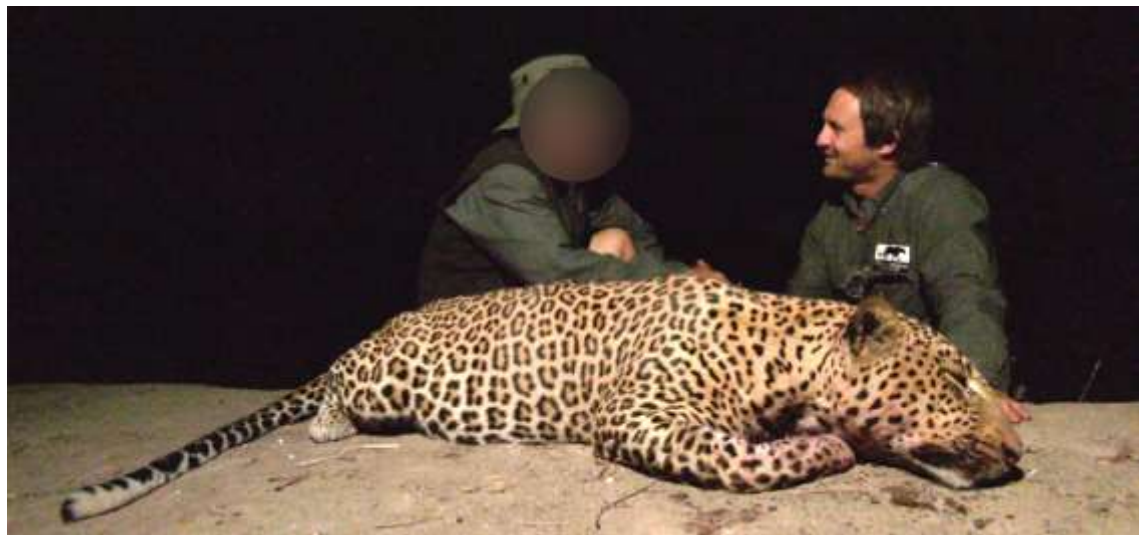
Despite having 5 lions on license in Dande we only choose to shoot two as we feel that that is the right amount in our area that will not affect the numbers. It was Lens turn to hunt the lions this year and he shot two good 7-year-old lions. The one that had slightly less main was a monster with a skull measurement of 26.5". Which will I think make it the biggest lion shot in Zimbabwe this year.

LION



This year we decided to hunt only 6 leopards partly due to the fact that we struggled to sell our leopards as we insist that leopards are sold with either a buffalo or a tuskless. We managed to shoot 5 leopards with one failure, which I believe would have been successful if the client had stayed the full 14 days but unfortunately he had business commitments and could only stay 12 days. Having only taken 5 nice cats this year it bodes well for next season!

LEOPARD





The ban on elephant still takes its toll on Zim with not many clients prepared to shoot an elephant and not take the ivory back home. We did a few Ele bull hunts in Dande, which were excellent, and in reality the value for money is hard to beat! We also did our two Kazuma hunts late season. The first one went very well with a beautiful 60 Lbs shot on the very first day. The second hunt, which ended today unfortunately, failed as the rains came and the elephants all headed back into Botswana. The tuskless were all 100% successful also.

ELEPHANT



Plains game croc and hippo were amazing – we shot some monster crocs as well as big hippo and with the dry year the plains game numbers were defiantly up with some great trophies been taken especially in the kudu and bushbuck departments

PLAINS GAME







Next year is an exciting year for us as we have signed 50% of the Nyakasanga quota, which we can hunt from our fly camp. The more that I hunt the more I realize that the large unfenced areas of Africa where you hunt your game on foot using excellent trackers is really the only way it should be done. In light of this Nyakasanga as well as Dande have to rate as probably the two best areas in Zimbabwe for pure ethical hunting. We also have a lion available in Nyakasanga which I am sure, considering the amazing lions we saw this year, will result in a monster cat been taken.





We have also bought a few croc and hippo packages from Chewore North who are our neighbours and who have not hunted for 5 years so we expect to take some excellent croc and hippo there.

This year we hunted the very first legally hunted Roan in Zimbabwe and our client successful took a very old trophy. It was a learning curve as Allan said Roan are probably the most switched on of the plains game he has ever hunted. We think that with about 200 Roan in our East area and more coming into a remote solar pan we put in this year that we will have a great hunt next season and the lucky client will shoot a great trophy. This hunt is still available!

ROAN



On a sadder note we say good bye to Len Taylor who has been a great PH and friend of ours for the last couple of years. Len will be moving up to Botswana where we wish him the best of luck and many big eles in the future!

DAPU

DAPU grows from strength to strength and really has become a very effective anti-poaching unit. We are hugely grateful to the many generous donors who keep DAPU afloat. Despite this we still only generate 50% of running costs through these generous donations with the following 50% coming out of CMS, which is taxing us to the limit, and to the point we simply may have to downscale DAPU a little. This will be a great shame as I think it is fair to say that DAPU is probably the most effect anti-poaching unit in the Zambezi valley by far. Their results this year has been outstanding. Apart from the everyday snare removals the numbers of arrests have been excellent. While we applaud this it is these arrests that financially are hard on the company as there are financial benefits to the anti-poaching teams for them. In the month of November alone there were several arrests made for a number of animal's snared/ killed which included a few Kudu a pregnant lioness and a leopard plus other plains game. In rewards alone this cost CMS thousands of dollars that month, the one DAPU cruiser still on the road did 7000 km alone! However at the end of the day we have to thank Bongji and his 22 dedicated game scouts for hard work and super results.



CMS would like to thank all the friends that hunted with us last year and look forward to a great 2020 season which starts early with a lion hunt in March! Myles, Allan and I will be at the shows so please pop in for a chat!

Cheers for now
Buzz & the CMS team

