



Charlton McCallum
S·A·F·A·R·I·S

June 2015 Hunting Season Newsletter

Dear friends,

As we approach the end of the first quarter we look back on what has been a hard but in many cases productive few months of hunting. The “hard” part came about due to unbelievably heavy and late rains in April. Normally the roads and camps are open by end of April but with 13 “ of rain in mid April all the roads we had painstakingly fixed were washed away and camps flooded for the second time!!!



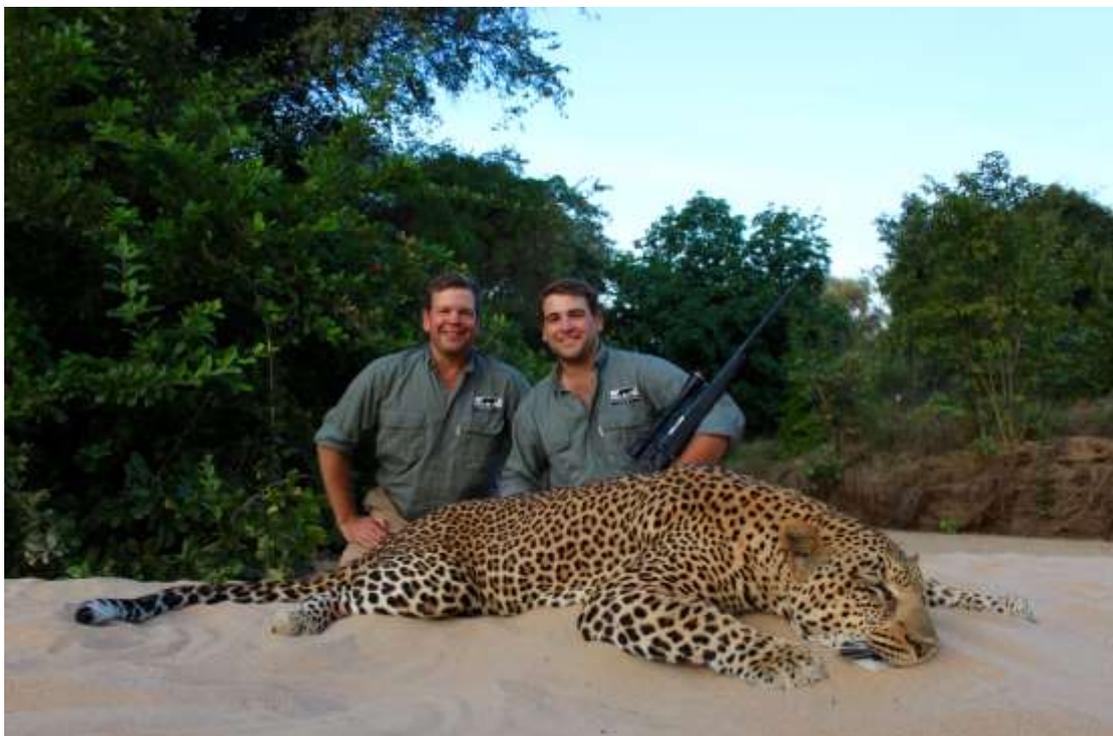
Pans full with heavy rains

This rain meant that for a long period we were not able to hunt west of the Manyemu River which we could not cross. As many of you know the Manyemu River, which is the river that Mururu camp is on, divides the area in half resulting in us having to concentrate East of it. Getting stuck, digging and winching were daily occurrences for most part of the early season hunts



Getting stuck!

We really like to concentrate on the elephant and leopard hunts early as we have found that the success rate on them is higher earlier rather than later. With regards to the leopard we are 100% been 4 from 4- all nice big Toms and 3 of them in day light hours which is wonderful.



Dave & Pearce M with a monster leopard



Tony T with Alan with his trophy leopard



Carsten J with another beauty



Jack D with his trophy leopard

The buff that went with the leopard have been excellent quality but hard in the thick bush and long grass. There have been many hours of crawling through the jesse chasing large herds and Dugga boys but in all cases except one persistence has paid off and we have got some excellent trophies! We did have only our second failure on buffalo ever on a shortened buff hunt- however the charming lady, despite no lack of effort or will had a broken toe and getting around was very difficult for her.



Mark A with a beautiful deep bull



Trever M & Alan with an outstanding 44" dugga boy



Johnathan C with a nice 40" bull



Wilson H with a beautiful 39" dugga boy



Darryl T with an incredible 42" bull



Tony T with a real old dugga boy

The elephant hunting is a point of concern. While we still have some quality hunts the poaching in Mozambique as well as the Chewore is without doubt starting to have an effect. We have had 2 failed elephant hunts this year and that was through no fault of anyone's other than the fact that we despite looking at a lot of bulls we did not find a suitable trophy. We can only hope that National Parks in The Chewore and also the operator in Mozambique step up their anti-poaching efforts and get control over the escalating problem. This problem is not restricted to the Valley alone but is an African problem!

As for the several successful elephant hunts we have had- they have certainly been hard earned! I take my hat off to the amazing trackers that make this possible - without them one would have no chance of getting a trophy bull- they are truly amazing and an example was tracking the same bull for 3 days before killing it. Those of you that know how hard the tracking is in the Valley, combined with the long grass of early season will appreciate what a feat that was.



Johnny J & his trophy elephant



Mike J & his trophy



Jim & Joyce W with their trophy elephant



Wilson H with his old trophy elephant bull

Plains game as expected early season with the extra thick bush and long grass has been lean but with the ample food and water we do expect that later in the season we will be having some good bags coming in!



Carsten J with his very old kudu bull



Jack D & his old sable bull



Johnny J with a big valley impala



Johnathan C with an amazing 18" bushbuck



Johnathan C with a zebra



Wilson H with a big warthog

We are also delighted to have Chooks Langerman join us as Camp Manageress. In the 3 months she has been with us she has turned what I think is fair to say was a well-run area, into the best run hunting area I know! It is a pleasure having someone as competent as Chooks in every department and having Bongsi as her “right hand man” and over-seeing DAPU has really taken the pressure off the CMS PH who can now totally focus on the hunting! Chooks is also a very warm caring person and the two

wives that have hunted with us have really enjoyed having female company in the evenings also!

DAPU

Bongi has now taken over DAPU in the North from Siraaj and has continued the sterling work. Hundreds of snares have been picked up this year already and a several poachers arrested. Muno is running DAPU in the East now and also doing a good job. We are very grateful to all who continue to generously donate to DAPU. Running an anti-poaching operation is an expensive ordeal and without the help from you all we would not be able to continue with DAPU and considering the 6000 odd snares picked up, +- 30 meat poachers arrested, 6 elephant poachers eliminated etc. over the last 3 years- if DAPU were to cease to exist the Dande would end up been another waste land- so thanks to you all and the scouts who continue to put their lives on the line. For more information on DAPU please read our quarterly newsletter. [Click here.](#)

As we approach the mid-season we hope that we do not have any more unexpected rains and the bush thins out a bit! We look forward to having the next lot of friends join us on their hunts!!



All the best, do keep in touch
– Buzz, Myles and the CMS team