



Charlton McCallum
S·A·F·A·R·I·S

2015 Hunting Season Newsletter

Dear friends,

2015 has come and gone in a flash for CMS. It has been an interesting and challenging year for everyone in the industry with the shooting of “Cecil” and also the incredible ele bull down in the South of the country.

What it has done is put Zimbabwe, its operators and National Parks under the spot light. In the long run it is a positive situation for Zimbabwe as whether we like it or not the Anti-hunting groups are getting stronger and with the aid of social media networks they are getting more vocal and influential. It has forced Zimbabwe to make some radical decisions and changes such as getting extra permits for hunts, having national Parks game scouts present at all times etc- these have taken some getting used to and the odd hiccup here and there, but combined with Parks firing their whole Parks board with the intention of cleaning up their act I do believe that next year Zimbabwe will be the most sought after hunting destination again with affordable dangerous game hunting that is hassle free.

As for the hunting in the Dande we had a great year on buffalo leopard and lion. The quality for the buffalo were excellent and our policy of shooting hard top old bulls is really paying off and we have seen and taken some outstanding bulls









Leopard has always been a strong point in the Dande and we shoot 10 leopards a year and are normally successful on at least 9 which was the case again this year. The failure we had this year had a lot to do with too many lions eating all the baits. The nice thing this year was even in the communal areas where we are allowed to use a light the vast majority of our cats were shot in day light hours







This year we decided to only hunt 1 lion so as to give the lions a good break. It payed off with an excellent lion shot on the 4th day of the hunt. Lion hunting in the valley took a knock a few years back and since the implementing of the age limit (5 years old) we have seen some great improvements in quality. As a whole to date in our surrounding areas Chewore North shot 1 lion the South 1 Dande North 1 and Dande South 1. Considering that these areas used to shoot 4 or 5 males a year it has been a huge reduction and I think that we will see more monster cats coming out of the Valley again from next year onwards!



The elephant bull hunting which is so close to my heart has been hard this year. The continued poaching on all our fronts are taking its toll. While Dande is a little safe haven for elephants thanks for DAPU (we have lost 3 this year) elephants move and as soon as they are over our borders be it Mozambique or the Chewores they are at risk. We did get a few good bulls but like the lions we severely cut our quotas in the hope of building up our numbers. The tuskless hunting has been as good as usual with 100% success rate.







DAPU has with the help of some very generous donors has gone from strength to strength. We have yet again removed hundreds of snares and arrested several meat poachers including two *Zambian* elephant poachers who were sentenced to an effective 9 years and 2 months! The good news is that arrests as a whole have gone down and we put that to the fact that as DAPU becomes a bigger force to be dealt with there are less active poachers in our areas. Our hope is that the surrounding areas now contribute in their own way so as to support DAPU and that in the near future we will have the valley as a whole covered with an effective anti-poaching team like a DAPU. Please check out <http://cmsafaris.com/african-elephant-research/dande-anti-poaching.htm> for more general information on Dande and Myles will be compiling a full report on this year's results which we will send to you.

Finally CMS would like to thanks all our clients old and new and wish everyone a happy Xmas and new year. We look forward to seeing you at Dallas #2112 and SCI #5371/73/75 shows in 2016!

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

