

DATE AND PLACE OF HUNT

Report ID: 6695

Weapon Rifle
Used:

How Hunt Was Guided
Conducted?

Date of Apr 1 2008 to Apr 17 2008
Hunt:

Place of Benin - Area/Concession: Djona area
Hunt:

OUTFITTER, GUIDE AND BOOKING AGENT DETAILS

Outfitter (or safari company): Jose Chelet, Safaris Chelet. Consolat Del Mar 12-03700. Denia, Spain. Tel. 34-96-578-0500. Fax 34-96-578-9357. E-mail: chelet@telefonica.net, Web: www.safaris-chelet.com

Personal Guide (if any): Patrick Rival

Booking Agent (if any):

Trip Arrangements
(if self-guided):

License Required:

GAME DESCRIPTION

Major Game Animals Taken: Buffalo - Availability: Abundant - Trophy Size: NW Savannah buffalo. Medium.

Roan - Availability: Abundant - Trophy Size: Western roan. Medium.

Hartebeest - Trophy Size: Western hartebeest. Very big.

Bushbuck, Harnessed - Trophy Size: New SCI World Record.

Kob, de Buffon - Trophy Size: Medium.

Reedbuck - Trophy Size: Nagor reedbuck. Medium.

Warthog - Trophy Size: Red warthog. Small.

Game Sought But Not Taken: Species: Duiker - Reason for Lack of Success: Grimms duiker. Didn't have a shotgun. They run too fast for scoped rifle.

Game Condition Comments: Jose Chelet has greatly improved the game populations in his area since he bought it with anti-poaching and cooperation with locals.

SERVICE RATINGS (excellent, good, fair or poor)

Quality of Outfit: Good	Guide/PH Ability: Excellent
Condition of Camp: Good	Condition of Equipment: Good
Quality of Food: Excellent	Trophy Care: Excellent
Name of Airline: Delta and Air France	Airline Service: Good
Airline Comments: Gun and bag arrived promptly both ways due in large part by International Journeys who did paperwork before flights.	

COSTS

Hunting Fees: For 12 hunting days.	Amount: \$13700
Trophy Fees:	Amount: \$8000
Permits/Licenses:	Amount: \$0
Commercial Airfares:	Amount: \$2600
Charter Airfares:	Amount: \$0
Other Costs: CITES \$3,150, Tips \$1,500, Motels \$200.	Amount: \$4850
	Total: \$29150

SUMMARY REMARKS

Problems of Hunt:

Highlights of Hunt: Buffalo hunt - these are cheeky, tough critters that hang in the thick stuff. Ours charged.

Equipment Be prepared for mid-day 115 heat or more.
Recommendations:

Would You Recommend This Hunt to a Friend? Yes

Why? Benin is an undiscovered gem with great West African game and Chelet does a great job. I'm booked with them in 2009 in Cameroon.

HUNTER INFORMATION

Hunter Name: Bruce Keller

Contact Information: Tel. 830-995-4449 - PO Box 291346, Kerrville, TX 78029 - E-mail: kilrkelr@hctc.net

Hunting Experience: Considerable.

Physical Condition: Excellent.

IMPORTANT NOTES (actions taken if hunter unhappy with hunt)

Notified Outfitter? N/A **Notified Personal Guide?** N/A **Notified Booking Agent?** N/A

Seeking any kind of restitution or other settlement from agent, outfitter or guide? N/A

If Seeking Restitution, What is Sought?

ADDITIONAL HUNTER COMMENTS AND/OR OUTFITTER/BOOKING AGENT REBUTTAL

Enclosed you will find a hunt report for a safari I just returned from in the country of Benin in West Africa. The report gives an overview of the hunt in general, but as this is a country that is still in its infancy as far as hosting American hunters, I thought it will be of some value to expand on some points.

I booked this hunt at the 2007 SCI Convention directly with the safari operator, who had a booth at the show. I was recommended this company by my old friend, Dr. Phil Ripepi, who had hunted with them previously. He loved the country and the hunting when he was there, and when he heard that I was going to book with them, he said he would go along with me.

The experience turned out to be everything he told me it would be. This is a destination for the experienced African hunter who is looking for a good bag of West African game. The hunting is not easy, due to the lack of burning and density of vegetation and though some game is spotted from the vehicle while driving to the hunting areas, it is usually on the run, and vanishes quickly into the thick cover. Most hunting, especially buffalo, is done by picking up fresh tracks in the early morning and following them. It generally took two to four hours to catch up with the herd, where they are found lying up in the shade during the heat of the day. Herds range from 20-50 animals, and sorting out a shootable bull in the thick stuff is extremely difficult. Once they are up and moving, it's almost impossible to single out one for an ethical shot without wounding it or hitting more than one. We preferred to look for a single track or small bachelor herd, which was not as common as

finding a large group, but afforded a better opportunity to isolate a good bull for a shot. The terrain is quite flat, so stalking is not physically difficult, but the extreme heat, often in the 105-115 degree range, makes extended stalks arduous, and constant hydration is critical.

The western roan is a very desirable West African species that most people have pursued in the CAR or Cameroon where success rates are rarely near 100 percent. In Benin, however, one can expect to see 20-75 each day, and the biggest problem is shooting too early. Another species found there is the western Hartebeest. During our hunt, we encountered two different variations of these animals. One is the dark reddish, solid colored one that is common to the CAR and Cameroon. The one I shot, which is quite numerous in the areas we hunted, is a lighter brown color with a distinctive white chevron that runs between the eyes across the bridge of the nose. The eyes also have white halos around them. After enough of these are taken by sport hunters, SCI might want to look into this as a possible different subspecies for inclusion as a separate record book category. The harnessed bushbuck are quite numerous also, and we encountered several very large males while tracking buffalo in the more heavily vegetated areas. One in particular got my trackers and PH very excited, prompting me to forgo the buffalo at the moment and take the shot. We later discovered that he beats the SCI World Record by over an inch, making him a great bonus to the safari. Interestingly, later in the hunt we encountered another huge male bushbuck, and after watching him for 15 minutes, decided that he was even longer than the one I shot, though not quite as massive, so I let him walk.

The Nagor reedbuck and West African Buffon kob are rather scarce in this area, and I took the only mature males I saw of each species. They also have a warthog that they call a red warthog. The females, which are closed to hunting, are distinctively orange in color. The males, of which I took an average boar, are a light pinkish color, though I believe this is due in large part to the red dirt they root in. They do, however, have long, blond and black mane which is different from the normal, dark warthogs, but I do not believe they are a different subspecies.

Chelet Safaris may not be one of the bigger safari operators in Africa, but they prove the point that size doesn't matter. They do a wonderful job of providing a first class experience while hunting in a very unique and interesting country. We were satisfied with the hunt that we are planning on hunting with them in the Cameroon in 2009.

Incluido usted encontrará un informe de la caza para un safari que acabo de volver en del país de Benin en África del oeste. El informe da una descripción de la caza generalmente pero como éste es un país que todavía está en su infancia hasta el recibimiento de cazadores americanos, pensé que estará de un cierto valor a ampliarse en algunos puntos. Reservé esta caza en la convención de 2007 SCI directamente con el operador del safari, que tenía una cabina en la demostración. Mi viejo amigo me recomendó esta compañía, el Dr. Phil Ripepi, que había buscado con ellos previamente. Él amó el país y la caza cuando él estaba allí, y cuando él oyó que iba a reservar con ellos, él dijo que él iría junto con mí. La experiencia resultó ser toda que él me dijo que fuera. Esto es una destinación para el cazador africano experimentado que está buscando un buen bolso del juego africano del oeste. La caza no es fácil, debido a la carencia de quemarse y a la densidad de la vegetación yaunque un cierto juego se mancha del vehículo mientras que conduce a las áreas de la caza, está generalmente en el funcionamiento, y desaparece rápidamente en la cubierta gruesa. La mayoría de la caza, especialmente búfalo, es hecha escogiendo encima de pistas frescas por la mañana temprana y después de ellas. Llevó generalmente dos a cuatro horas coge para arriba

con la manada, donde se encuentran el mentir para arriba en la cortina durante el calor del día. Las manadas se extienden a partir de 20-50 animales, y clasificar hacia fuera un toro shootable en la materia gruesa es extremadamente difícil. Una vez que sean ascendentes y móviles, es casi imposible seleccionar uno para un tiro ético sin herirlo o golpear más de uno. Preferimos buscar una manada limitada o pequeña del soltero, que no era tan común como encontrando a un grupogrande, pero produjimos una oportunidad mejor de aislar un buen toro para un tiro. El terreno es absolutamente plano, así que el acecho no es físicamente difícil, pero el calor extremo, a menudo en la gama del grado 105-115, marcas amplió los tallos arduos, y la hidración constante si es crítico. El roan occidental es una especie africana del oeste muy deseable que la mayoría de la gente ha perseguido en el COCHE o el Camerún donde están las tarifas del éxito raramente cerca de 100 por ciento. En Benin, sin embargo, uno puede esperar ver 20-75 cada día, y el problema más grande está tirando demasiado temprano. Otra especie encontrada allí es el Hartebeest occidental. Durante nuestra caza, encontramos dos diversas variaciones de estos animales. Uno es el rojizo oscuro, el sólido coloreó uno que es común al COCHE y alCamerún. El que tiré, que es absolutamente numeroso en las áreas buscamos, es un color marrón más ligero con un galón blanco distintivo que funcione entre los ojos a través del puente de la nariz. Los ojos también tienen halos blancos alrededor de ellos. Después de que bastantes de éstos sean tomados por los cazadores del deporte, SCI pudo desear mirar en esto como diversa subespecie posible para la inclusión mientras que una categoría separada del libro de registro. El bushbuck enjaezado es absolutamente numeroso también, y encontramos a varios varones muy grandes mientras que seguían el búfalo en vegetated más pesadamente áreas. Uno particularmente consiguió mis perseguidores y pH muy excitados, incitándome renunciar el búfalo en el momento y tomar el tiro. Descubrimos más adelante que él bate el expediente de mundo de SCI cerca sobre una pulgada, haciéndole una gran prima al safari. Interesante, en la caza encontramos más adelante otro bushbuck masculino enorme, y después de mirarlo por 15 minutos, decidido que él era incluso más largo que de el yo tiró, aunque no absolutamente como masivo, así que lo dejé caminar. El reedbuck de Nagor y el kob africano del oeste de Buffon son algo escasos en esta área, y me tomé a únicos varones maduros sierra de cada especie. También tienen un warthog que llaman un warthog rojo. Las hembras, que están cerradas a la caza, son distintivo naranja en color. Los varones, de quienes tomé un verraco medio, son un color rosáceo ligero, aunque creo que esto es debido en parte grande a la suciedad roja ellos arraigan el pulg. , Sin embargo, tienenla de largo, rubia y negra melena que es diferente de los warthogs normales, oscuros, pero no creo que ella es diversas subespecies. Los safaris de Chelet no pueden ser uno de los operadores más grandes del safari en África, sino que prueban el punto que lo hace el tamaño