Stirling SAFARIS

Newsletter

AUGUST 2024

WELCOME BACK to the Stirling newsletter.

We hope you all are doing well.

This issue is filled with exciting updates, nice-to-knows, valuable insights and useful information.

We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you!

Please feel free to share this newsletter with fellow hunters.

The season thus far has been certainly one to remember.
It has been a season with top-notch trophies and a season where we have made dreams come true. It has also been a season where many old friends visited and where fresh friendships with new clients were forged. There were also a few clients who couldn't make it back this year as much as they wanted too. You guys were missed and we look forward to seeing you in 2025. But the season is far from over!
To the old and new faces who have booked their next hunt - thank you for your support and welcome aboard.
Prepare yourselves for the adventure of a lifetime

Many of you have been on this journey with us from the beginning. You have followed our progress and built our dream with us. We would like to thank you for believing in us, allowing us to make your hunting dreams come true and live out our passion.

The first rains have fallen, all be it in little bits, but we are thankful none the less. The animals are looking great!
Below is a link to a collaboration of South African artists on the classic "Toto" song.
If this does not get you excited for

AFRICA ...

LATE SEASON DEALS

At the end of every safari season many great deals emerge as landowners bargain out game that did not get taken. Often these deals involve dangerous game and premium plains game of which quotas are appearing to expire. If you are an experienced safari traveler that can quickly mobilize and arrive at Stirling before the end of 2024, Roland is likely able to find you an excellent opportunity at the specialized game that you seek. Contact Roland soon and let him know what you may be interested in pursuing.

PLAN A HUNT FOR 2025

NOW is the time to book your 2025 hunt with Stirling Safaris. As you know, each Stirling hunt is exclusive to the individual hunter (and his party). We do not double book or overlap book so that each hunter can receive our undivided attention. It is important that you book early so that the dates that you desire are not already committed to another hunter.
Contact Stirling soon so that we can lock in your preferred dates.

"I hope you have an experience that alters the course of your life, because after Africa, nothing has ever been the same..."

– Suzanne Evans

SPREAD THE WORD

Enjoyed your hunt with us?

Why not share your experience and receive a discount?

We want to thank you for continuing to trust Stirling Safaris to make your hunting dreams a reality. It's loyal clients/friends like you who keep us going and we appreciate your continued support!

As a "Thank You" Stirling Safaris now offers a referral program.

Refer a fellow hunter and receive a $600 dollar discount on your next hunt for spreading the word.
As a bonus your friend will get a 5% discount on their hunt total as well.

It's a win-win!

CLICK HERE TO SEE WHAT OUR HUNTERS HAVE TO SAY

OFF THE WALL

Some of our clients, have recently received their past trophies from Stirling.

Choose an attractive floor pedestal for your next mount. Our trusted taxidermist will create a masterpiece. Compliment your mount by adding artistic features/inserts from your trophy backskin, or create a multifunctional storage cabinet. The sky is the limit with a floor pedestal mount.

Kudu pedestal mount combo is the perfect way to display your Kudu should you have limited ceiling height or restricted wall space.

RECENT HUNT

THE ELUSIVE GREY GHOST

Kudu wasn't originally on the list for this client but when we spotted this guy on a trail camera, he couldn't resist. But can you blame him?

He took this giant on one of our neighboring concessions in the Kalahari.
This ancient bull had beautiful ivory flaring tips and measured just short of 60 inches! He was taken at a distance of 120 yards at last light.

Kudu often 'freeze' in dense bush and have a remarkable ability to melt away into the shadows. They have not developed the reputation as the 'grey ghosts of the African bush' for nothing!

THE SUBLIME STEENBUCK

Animal of opportunity!

We crossed paths with this giant Steenbuck on a beautiful afternoon scouting for Kudu close to the Botswana border.
He measured 5 inches and was taken with a .375 at about 40 yards with one shot. Congratulations to Bruce Martin on this exceptional trophy.

The horns of a Steenbuck ram must extend beyond the the tips of the ears on a "past prime buck". Steenbuck flee in zigzag lines and usually look back at you once- the hunter must be prepared for this moment. Add the Tiny Ten to your next safari.

LOCAL NEWS

THE PERFECT COMPLEMENT TO YOUR SAFARI EXPERIENCE

FOR THE LADIES (AND GENTLEMEN)

Whether you're a hunter looking to recharge and soothe tired muscles after a long day of tracking game or a -non-hunter seeking some relaxation and pampering - the on-site spa treatments now offered are the perfect solution.

Enjoy a range of luxurious in-chalet-treatments conducted by a skilled therapist.
You can choose from a variety of rejuvenating treatments.

Treatment pricelist on request.
Booking is essential.

CAPTURE YOUR HUNTING EXPERIENCE

Your African hunting safari will certainly produce many one-in-a-lifetime moments that will be nearly impossible to be shared with words alone. But with visual storytelling through a personal safari video, you can capture your experience and relive the excitement of your hunt.
Videography is a great and affordable way to treasure and share the memories of your African hunting safari for a lifetime.

We work with independent, discreet, and highly professional expert videographers that use the latest technology and equipment to guarantee high-quality footage and end results.

Different packages are available on request.
Booking in advance is essential.

YOU CAN VIEW ONE OF OUR RECENT SAFARIS FILMED BY AFRICAN TROPHY PRODUCTIONS HERE

remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel

LOCAL NEWS

ONE YEAR FLEW BY

We celebrated little Richann's first birthday in July with some close friends and family.
How is he one already? It feels like yesterday that we brought him home on one of the coldest nights the Kalahari has seen in many years.

He had an absolute blast.
It was so much fun.

As much as it can be bittersweet watching him grow and learn, each new stage brings its own set of joys and challenges.

We are so grateful for the joy, love and memories this little guy is bringing to our lives.
We now can't imagine our lives before him.

&... HE RECENTLY STARTED WALKING!

🥹

LEANDRI'S PRIDE & JOY

STIRLING SAFARIS NOW HAS A LITTLE CURIO SHOP

TAKE YOUR SAFARI HOME WITH YOU!
Discover a delightful array of fascinating objects, trinkets and clothing that serve as mementoes of your dream safari.
"Curios From Stirling" sells a wide range of branded products and locally crafted keepsakes.
Take a piece of your African safari with you, making the memories linger long after your return home. Or purchase a unique and meaningful gift for your loved ones missing out on this bucket-list adventure.
We accept cash or you can add the sale amount to your final bill.

COOKING STIRLING STYLE

FEATURED RECIPE

"VETKOEK" (FRIED DOUGH) AND CURRIED MINCE

If there is anything quintessentially South African it must be vetkoek and curried mince! I challenge you to find a single South African that doesn't like vetkoek, it is such a versatile vehicle for all kinds of toppings. Curried mince, chicken mayonnaise, golden syrup, strawberry jam...you can just about add anything to vetkoek and it will be delicious. Granted it isn't the most healthy of food considering it is deep fried but this is the type of food you make once in a while, perhaps for a large crowd or maybe just for a lazy Sunday evening supper but one thing is for certain. There will never be any leftovers when you do make them.

ingredients

FOR THE VETKOEK

- 5 cups all purpose flour (plus additional for dusting)
- 10ml salt
- 30ml sugar
- 7g packet of instant yeast
- 2 cups lukewarm water
- Oil for deep frying

FOR THE CURRIED MINCE

- 500g minced beef
- 15ml olive oil
- 1 large onion diced
- 3 cloves of garlic finely minced
- 5ml ground ginger
- 2.5ml smoked paprika
- 5ml black pepper
- 5ml ground coriander
- 2.5ml ground cumin
- 15ml mild curry powder
- 30ml tomato paste
- 30ml chutney or smooth apricot jam
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 medium potato diced
- 1 cup frozen diced mixed peas & carrots
- Salt to taste

instructions

FOR THE VETKOEK

1. Add the flour, sugar, yeast and salt into a bowl.
2. Slowly add the water whilst mixing until you have a shaggy dough transfer to a floured surface and bring the dough together.
3. No need to knead unless you want to use the dough immediately.
4. If using the dough on the same day knead briefly for 5 minutes and then cover and let proof for 40 minutes.
5. If leaving overnight, transfer the dough to a bowl and cover with plastic wrap.
6. Let proof in the fridge overnight.
7. When ready to make the vetkoek preheat your oil in a large heavy based pot to 180 degrees c (350 degrees f) divide dough into equal size pieces. I aim for a ball just under a tennis ball size flatten the ball so that when cooking it doesn't take too long to cook the interior.
8. Place each flattened ball into the oil and cook until golden, flip as needed until each side is golden brown.
9. Place on a cooling rack and allow any excess oil to drain.
10. Repeat the cooking process until all the dough is cooked.

FOR THE CURRIED MINCE

1. In a medium pot heat oil on high heat.
2. Add the mince and fry until browned (this may take a while).
3. Add the chopped onions and fry until soft.
4. Add the garlic, ginger, paprika, black pepper, ground coriander, ground cumin and curry powder and cook for 5 minutes stirring constantly.
5. Add the chopped onions and fry until soft.
6. Add the garlic, ginger, paprika, black pepper, ground coriander, ground cumin and curry powder and cook for 5 minutes stirring constantly.
7. Add salt to taste Cover and simmer for 30 minutes.

8. Add the potatoes, and mixed veg and mix through.
9. Cover and cook for an additional 30 minutes.
10. Curry should be thick with very little water left, if not uncover and simmer until you reach the desired consistency.

You may find that the dough flips by itself, this is because air has been trapped inside the vetkoek. To brown you may need to hold the un-browned side down for a while to cook fully.

TO SERVE

Cut the vetkoek in half and fill with the slightly cooled curried mince mixture or filling of your choice (chicken mayo, ham and cheese etc). For dessert spread golden syrup or jam onto the vetkoek and enjoy!

STIRLING'S SHOOTING STICKS

Almost all of the initial shots at game on a Stirling safari will be taken with the hunter steadying the rifle on shooting sticks. While Roland keeps a Bog DeathGrip aluminum tripod for hunts from blinds (leopard, crocodile, long range mountain game), the majority of the stalking hunts will be conducted utilizing the simple wood stick tripod. It is imperative that the hunter practice on shooting sticks prior to coming to Africa.

It is easy to duplicate Stirling's shooting sticks so that the hunter can practice prior to the safari. The components are: one 65 1/2 inch hardwood dowel (3/4 inches in diameter), two 68 1/2 inch hardwood dowels (3/4 inches in diameter), and one piece of bicycle inner tube rubber (1 inch wide X 36 inches long). Lash the three dowel rods together at the tip of the shortest stick. Experiment with different patterns of lashing until you get a pattern that allows the sticks to be propped out while leaving a steady "V" top to rest the rifle in.

After your rifle is zeroed from a bench, all of your at-home practice shooting sessions should be done from the sticks. Familiarization with the sticks will greatly increase your odds at clean kills.

U.S. CUSTOMS 4457 FIREARMS FORM

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION
FOR PERSONAL EFFECTS TAKEN ABROAD
19 CFR 148.1

Number

Name of Owner | Address of Owner

Description of Articles

I certify that the information shown hereon is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Owner

Port | Date | Signature of CBP Official

Certifying officer shall draw lines through all unused spaces with ink.

CBP Form 4457 (08/06)

The U.S. Customs has removed the expiration date from their 4457 form. While this seems good for the hunter in that they think now that it is now unnecessary to frequently visit the U.S. Customs for an updated form, the South African Police have initiated a policy to not accept forms older than one year. Sorry guys, you still have to go to the U.S. Customs office annually.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE SECRETARY BIRD

Like so many creatures who call Africa their home, the Secretary bird is unique. It's one thing to see it in a photograph, but quite another to see it in its own habitat.

This is one of Africa's weirdest birds. It struts about the Savannah with the head of an eagle and the legs of a stork. The Secretary bird is a bird of prey, but unlike other raptors it has long legs, wings and a tail.

- The single species of its family, the bird gets its name from its crest of long feathers that look like the quill pens 19th century office workers used to tuck behind their ears. The secretary bird's English name was once thought to come from when Europeans first spotted these birds. Back then, male secretaries wore gray tailcoats and dark knee-length pants. They also used goose-quill pens that they carried behind their ears.

- The Secretary bird is widespread throughout Africa south of the Sahara.

- Standing up to 4ft tall, the Secretary Bird's tail has two black central streamers. Its most distinctive feature are the 20 black crest feathers, resembling quill pens stuck behind it's (invisible) ears. The head of the Secretary Bird (with it's yellowish bare patch) and shape of the beak are very similar to those of the Caracara.

- They have very long eyelashes.

- Secretary birds are monogamous and pair for life.

- It finds most of its food on the ground and has a partiality for snakes. It grabs the snake with its strong toes and beats it to death on the ground, while protecting itself from bites with its large wings. Finally, it seizes its prey and hurls it into the air several times to stun it. Secretary birds use the thickened soles of their feet to stamp on their prey, stunning it and then swallowing it whole.

DID YOU KNOW?

FUN KALAHARI DESERT FACTS

With wide-open, barren landscapes and starry, quiet nights, the Kalahari Desert is an adventurer's dream destination. This fascinating desert offers an unforgettable hunting safari experience and exceptional photographic opportunities for observers.

#1 The Kalahari is not a complete desert

The Kalahari is not a desert in the strictest sense of the word, because of the amount of rainfall it receives annually. It receives about double the amount of rainfall a true desert receives, making the Kalahari Desert more accommodating to plant and animal life. The parched sand absorbs any moisture that remains after the wet season and many species of plants and shrubs thrive from this higher level of rainfall.

#2 The Kalahari Desert crosses multiple countries

The massive Kalahari Desert spans 930,000km², an area twice the size of California state. It covers most of Botswana, the Northern Cape province of South Africa, and eastern Namibia. Spanning over several countries, the Kalahari Desert offers hunting experiences unlike any others in Africa. Each region provides a unique experience.

#3 The Kalahari is rich in biodiversity

The wildlife found in the Kalahari has adapted to survive the arid conditions of the desert.

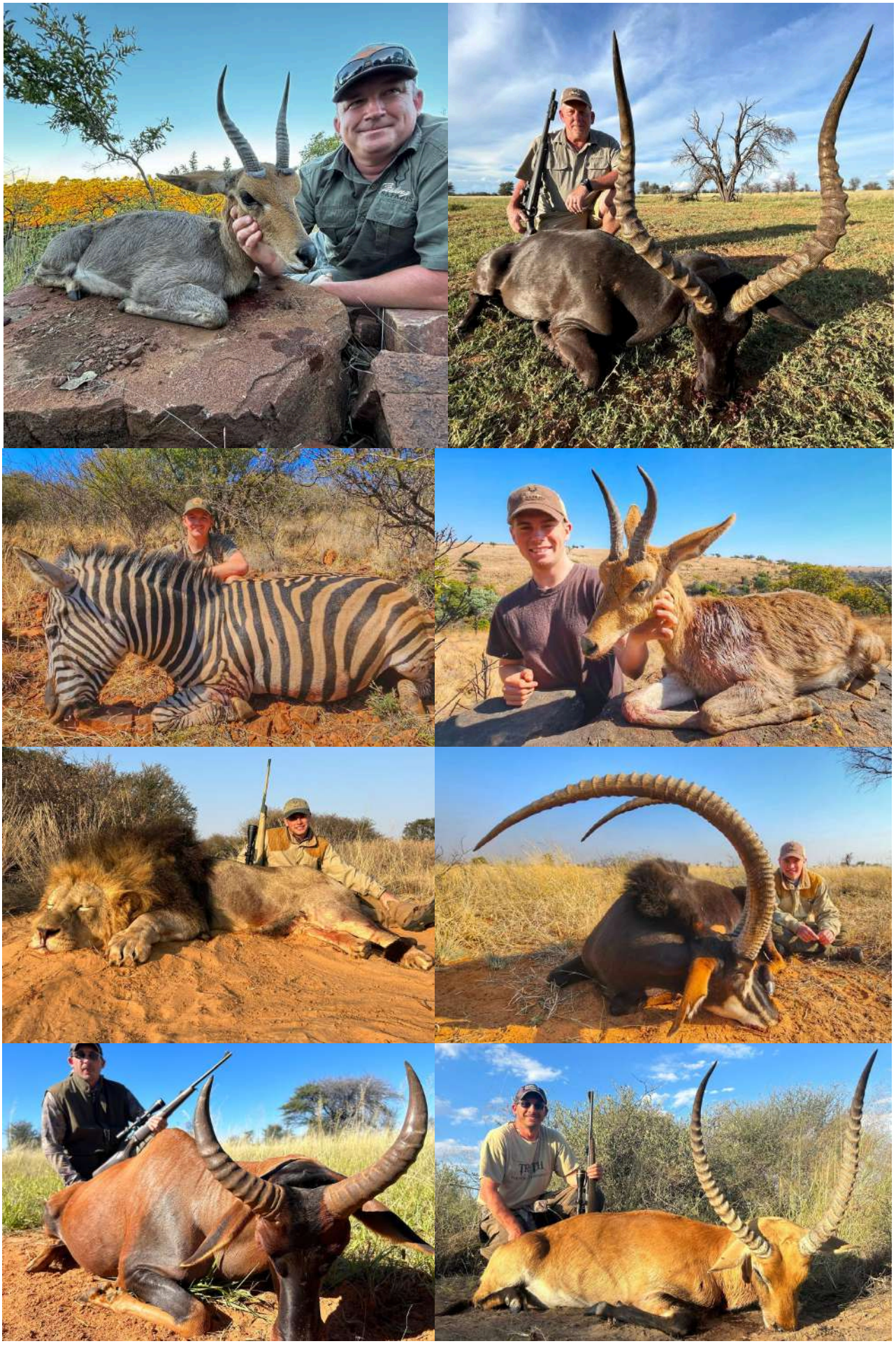
#4 A river runs through the Kalahari Desert

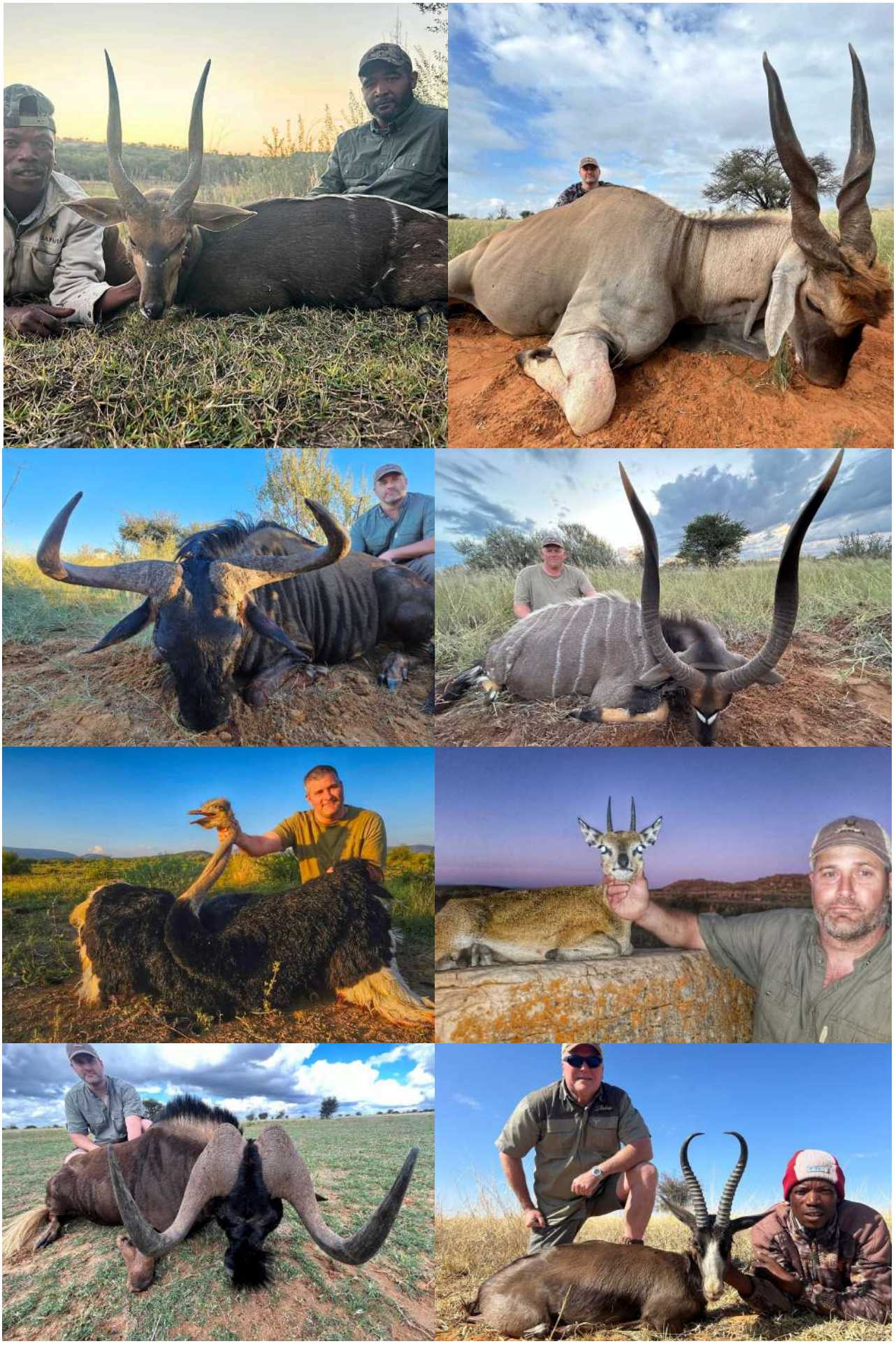
The Okavango River flows through the land, starting from Angola and draining into the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana. The Okavango Delta in Botswana is the fourth-longest river in Africa.

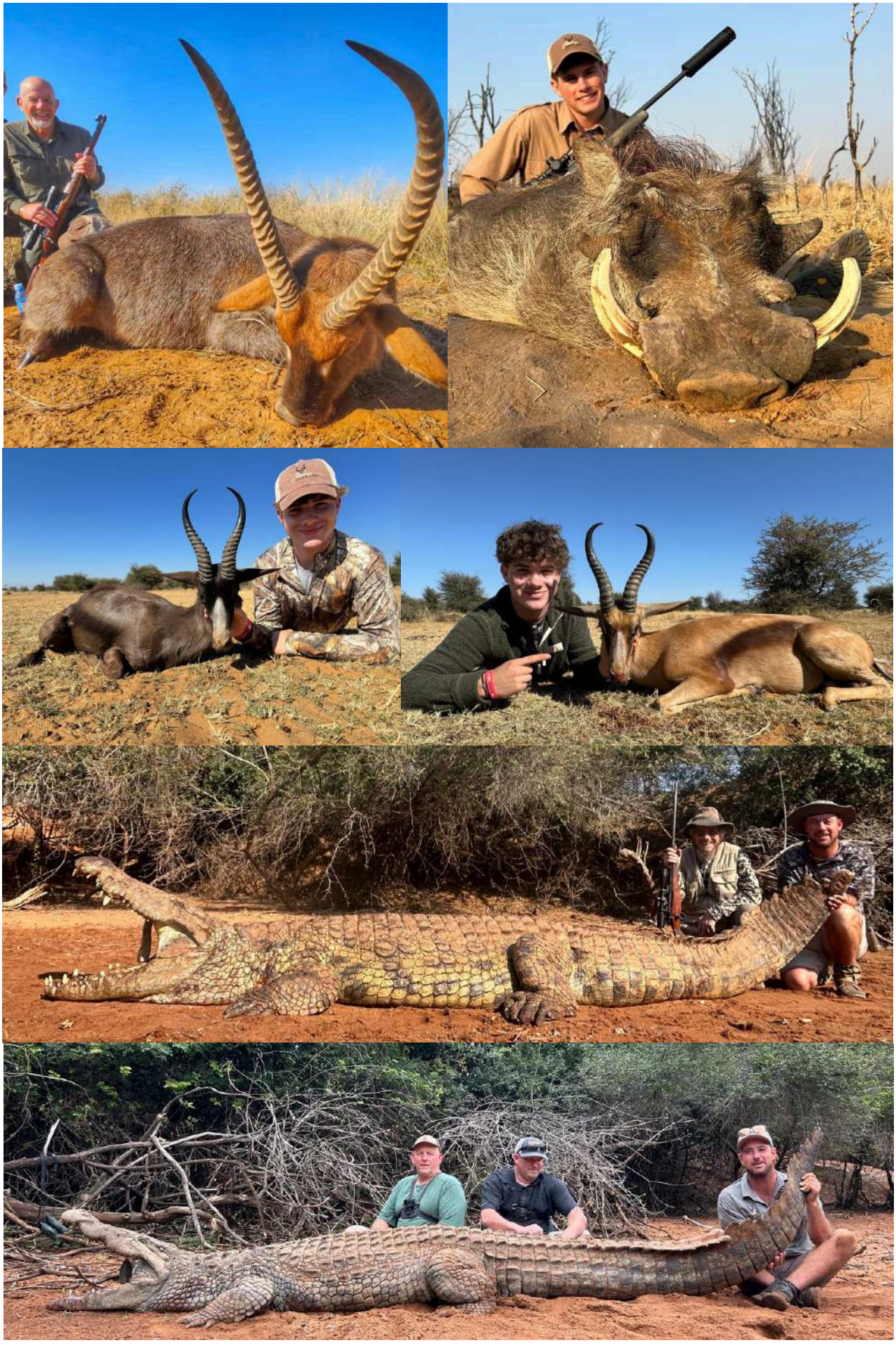
THE CAMEL THORN TREE

- The tree can grow up to 20 metres high. It is slow-growing, very hardy to drought and fairly frost-resistant.
- It produces ear-shaped pods, favoured by many herbivores including cattle. The seeds can be roasted and used as a substitute for coffee beans **(we assure you we haven't tried this)**.
- The name does not refer to a camel, but rather to the Afrikaans name of the giraffe ("kameelperd"), meaning "camel-horse". The name refers to the fact that giraffe commonly feed on the leaves with their specially-adapted tongue and lips that can avoid the thorns.

TROPHIES FRESH IN THE SALT







The Stirling team is dedicated to providing you with the best hunting experience, ensuring your safety and satisfaction.

Embark on a thrilling, true African safari with us and hunt Africa's most remarkable trophy game.

We offer quality plains game safaris and dangerous game hunts for all budgets, for the experienced hunter or the first-timer.

We invite you to join us as we take you on the experience of a lifetime.

Get in touch if you want something extraordinary hanging in your trophy room!

HAPPY HUNTING

Roland & The Stirling Team