



9th January 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you all had a safe and relaxing Festive Season.

2009 came and before we knew it, it was gone. We have now completed our 5th Season in Mozambique and it was the most successful to date. Over this past holiday time, I got some time to reflect back on it.

What was immediately apparent when looking through my photos was the progress we have managed to achieve in the past year. This would not have been possible without the help of many special people out there. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making it possible

This includes you the clients, who even with the world economy being in turmoil, you stuck by your passion and dug deep and came out and hunted with us. For those of you who did, you were repaid with the best hunting we have had so far in Kambako over the past 5 seasons. I will go into an in depth analysis of the season further down in this newsletter.

Then there is everybody involved in the Niassa Reserve who without you, we would not be here today and without you, there would be no Niassa Reserve. It is the cold truth and as each year goes by, as we learn more and more about the difficulties of operating and hunting in a remote wilderness where African politics seems to place hurdles on every corner for us to stumble upon (and then again, there aren't too many nice long straights to pick up speed on either!!). It is with your dedicated assistance and guidance that keeps pushing us forward. I think it is only right to name and thank from the bottom of my heart a few of the dedicated people that we owe so much to: Anabela Rodrigues (Head of the Reserve), Vernon Booth, Agostinho Jorge, David Chambal, Sandra Almeida, Paula Gomes, Wim Ebersohn, Keith and Colleen Begg and all the others who play an important part in keeping things rolling.

Then there are all those in Kambako who have time and time again gone beyond the normal call of duty in order to get the job done. Due to that extra mile gone by all

involved, I can confidently say we are now back on track to getting to where we want to be..... The #1 Operator in the Niassa Reserve and the whole of Mozambique!

A special thanks to the Kambako team:

My partners – CC, Jeff, Sam and Ted. For being there with me and having the common focal point and not shying away at a time of a recession but doing the opposite and investing more, knowing fully well that when the recession turns we will come out way above everybody else. I can safely say after this past season with the number and calibre of clients we had, we are already ahead in the race. The future is looking very bright for Kambako.

Irving, without you we would be running a 2nd hand equipment sale yard full of broken machinery and not a hunting operation. Your contribution in the past 7 months to Kambako can not be measured.

The Professional Hunters - Johnnie and Stu, without you all our clients would not have those Great memories and fantastic trophies that are on there way home to them. Yet again, you both had an awesome season.

Cheryl, what can we say, you were dropped in the deep end and you came through it still talking and cheerful. You have transformed the Beach Lodge into a very special place.

The Appies - Pepe and Daniel, you should be proud of yourselves, you are getting there and once Irv, Johnnie and Stu are finished with you, you will be a real asset to the hunting industry.

Road Department - Alfie, without you I would still be listening to the whining of two grown PH's complaining how the roads are destroying their vehicles. Well done, frequently from all over I have heard compliments on our roads. This is all thanks to you. Kambako Bush Foreman – Macheke, your quiet but firm way of dealing with the labour and in getting the job done is truly remarkable. Well done and thank you.

The Pilots – John / Simon / Warren / Chris – Thanks for ferrying our precious clients and cargo safely throughout the season.

THE SEASON

We had a total of 29 hunting clients who hunted for 369 days and 13 non – hunting observers and 9 eco-tourists. The season started off with the same team from the previous year in place, who arrived in Mozambique to a situation where we had lower than normal rains which allowed the grass to dry out quicker and we got on top of our early season burning practices. By the time of the arrival of our first clients in June, the PH's were ready for them.

First hunt of the year: The Sardarov Party



This first hunt was probably the biggest hunt that Mozambique has ever experienced. It consisted of 4 hunters hunting 4 concession areas totally over 1,150,000 hectares (2,5 million acres). It was a logistic nightmare but we pulled it off and the Sardarov party shot several fine trophies including this 77lb elephant, leopard, hippos, crocs etc. The success of the safari was confirmed when these same clients returned in November with another friend to hunt again for a further 9 days.



Next client in was Rolf Benninghoven who was booked through Mistral at the Dortmund Show. He took this fantastic Coutada tom leopard with PH Stu Taylor.

During the same time period, we had Andrey Poliakov booked through Ragozin Worldwide Hunting. Andrey was booked on a buffalo hunt and after 4 days, he was virtually finished having shot his buffalo and his other booked animals. Having an available elephant on quota in the Coutada, Andrey took up the challenge to hunt elephant for his remaining days. What happened on the first morning of the elephant hunt could have ended in tragedy but due to the very experienced PH, Johnnie Johnson and some quick accurate shooting, Johnnie managed to save the day and the clients. Johnnie, Andrey and George were onto a couple of bulls that had ventured up Sierra Nicage mountain. Being mid June, the bush was still thick in the mountain and the hunters had lost the tracks. They were walking in single file along a rocky creek when all of a sudden from 20 yards from the left the big bull broke cover and came down the embankment heading straight for Johnnie. Seeing magnificent ivory on the bull and with no time to think Johnnie shouted out "Shoot!!!!!" The rest is history, Johnnie waited for the last second before he perfectly placed his .458 monolithic solid into the bulls brain. The bull came to rest within 3 paces from Johnnie. A magnificent set of matching 70 lb tusks. It came to light later that this bull had been previously wounded by ivory poachers and thus the reason for the unprovoked charge.



At the end of June, we had David and Kimberley from the Chesapeake chapter arrive for a 10 day buffalo hunt. All went according to plan and a great time was had by all. 10 trophies were shot in 10 days.



Whilst the hunting season was continuing, there was a massive effort put in to complete the construction of the “Kambako Camp” which overlooks the Lugenda River. This included the construction of an indoor infinity pool for our client’s leisure. It did not take much and it was not long before we had past client and good friend Adam Christo from Australia packing his bags and head on over to build our pool in exchange for a buffalo hunt. If you know Adam, he takes his work as serious as he takes his hunting. There are no half measures with Adam. He planned on taking 2-3 weeks with the pool and then time to hunt his buffalo. After 9 weeks with us and several flight postponements, I think his girlfriend and family had just about given up getting Adam back. Adam completed the pool, shot a really old dugga boy that was aged 13+ yrs and also got Daniel onto the tiling around the pool, then decided he needed to sort out a sand filtration unit for the camp water. Adam, a big thank you from us all. For some of you who took the time to spend a day or two at our Beach Lodge, you will be happy to know that Adam is returning this year to build the Beach Lodge swimming pool.



In July, we had Eugene and Patti Bell from Pennsylvania come out on a leopard hunt. Once again, Johnnie kept our leopard success rate at 100% with the taking of a very fine tom on day 8 of the hunt. The tom was shot in fading light and after 2 hours of looking for it, it was decided to go back to camp and return in the am. Not long after arriving at the bait position, the leopard was found. Countless times the night before, people must have walked within a couple paces of the dead leopard. Unfortunately another leopard had been more successful during the night and had found it and decided to have a meal out of it, luckily only on the one side of it. Eugene will be mounting it with its right side out of view. During this trip, Patti put her shooting skills to practice and took a few fine plains game animals.



In next to hunt was Lee Grigson from Texas. What can we say, Stu and Lee got to hunt together and had an absolute ball. Lee bought the donated buffalo/ sable hunt at the SCI convention and upgraded to lion after being on the ground at Kambako and seeing the numerous lion tracks there. Please take the time to look at the recently updated website www.kambakosafaris.com . Lee is featured in the fabulous footage of the lion charge and under the Testimonial Section. The short video clip showing the lion charge is the last couple seconds of what turned out to be quite the lion hunt. Last afternoon after turning down 17 other male lions, Lee shoots this particular male lion and after much congradulations and high fives with the lion lying dead in front of them, the lion comes back to life!!!!!! Oooooops this was not meant to happen. Everybody had to re-gather their wits and follow up the once dead lion. Stu opted to follow up the wounded lion by using the vehicle. This is the footage you get to see.



Whilst we had Lee in camp, we had the group consisting of CC, Ted, Hawk and Steve Rawson come hunting. As usual with CC and Ted, there is nothing high pressure about their presence. As it was Steve's first trip, he was out there hunting hard with PH Elemer and it paid off with 12 animals in as many days.



Stu's next client was Jim Keeline, a retired master guide from Alaska. He was after a leopard and a Niassa Wildebeeste and managed to go home with both.



Johnnie's next client was Eduardo Portelas. He came out on a 10 day hunt and shot his buffalo on day 5 and took a further 5 species.



Tony and Maria Ulmer from Mistral, Austria kept us busy this year and their next client with us was Andreas Muggenthaler. What a dream buffalo hunt he had..... 4 hours into the hunt on the first morning and he took an absolutely stunning 45 1/2" lone dugga boy.



This year we were graced with visits from Barbara Crown the Editor of “The Hunting Report” and from Roland Zeitler a well known hunting writer for the magazine "Jagen Weltweit" from Germany. Roland spent 10 days with us and hunted buffalo and wrote up an article on the hunting in Mozambique and particularly Kambako. Barbara visited with us for a few days in October and got a good insight into the operations of the Niassa Reserve. We hope to have Barbara and her husband back some time as a hunting client. Please read the articles written up by Barbara in the November and December issues of the Hunting Report. Extracts are in the Testimonial Section of the website.

During the time Barbara visited us, we had Werner Hartmann hunting Buffalo and Suni and Oleg Pokrovskiy hunting our Block B elephants. Werner was successful on his buffalo but unfortunately Oleg failed on finding any elephants big enough during his stay. I firmly believe with the rainy season being below average, our big bull movement in Block B was affected. We are confident this coming season we will be back on track and some monster bulls will be taken. Let’s not forget that between the Coutada and the bull we hunted in Block C, we still averaged 74 lbs this year.

At the beginning of November, we once again saw the return of the Sardarov hunting party. It was a very successful 9 day trip with 2 lions, 1 leopard and 6 buffalo being shot.





After a few days break, we had our regular repeat elephant client Alistair McLean arrive looking for that illusive monster. Which it proved to be once again and just to add insult to the injury, we heard during this safari that another Niassa operator had just taken a 101 lb elephant bull. Just after our safari, we got to hear about another elephant around the back of us been taken weighing in at 103 lbs. So yes you dedicated elephant hunters, these bulls do exist and the Niassa Reserve is the only place to come and hunt for them.

We were fortunate enough to pick up a very late booking from Rainer Schwarz from Blaser Safaris, Germany. Rainer sent out Philipp and Maria Harmer for 9 days, who both took very nice buffalo, a monster hippo, a stunning sable, eland and a bushbuck.





THE KAMBAKO TEAM

Between Irving overseeing the maintenance and construction in the camp, Johnnie and Stu on the ground as the main PH's, the trackers, the appies, Alfie, the builders, the carpenters, the thatchers and all the general staff and not forgetting Cheryl running the logistical side from Pemba, I would like to say from myself and Kambako a very big "thank you" from the bottom of my heart. From where we were as little as 6 months ago to where we are today we can honestly say that with team work ***"EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE"***.

For those of you who have been with us previously and even as recently as June this past year or who saw the start or heard about the changes we were planning to do, please do yourself a favour and look through the photo gallery section of www.kambakosafaris.com

From Kambako, we would like to thank each one of you who hunted with us and for those who haven't yet, all our booking agents, service providers and associates for all your continued support, fellowship and friendship. We all at Kambako Safaris wish you all a Prosperous, healthy, safe 2010. May it be a good one for us all.

Johnnie, Stu and myself will be at the SCI Convention in RENO in the main hall in booth #'s 139 / 141 and we look forward to seeing you all there. From there, Stu will be flying onto Australia to do the shows there and I will be attending the shows at Dortmund, Salzburg, Venetoria and Ficaar during February and March.

Best Wishes and Kindest Regards

Jumbo and all at Kambako