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The magazine for the bowhunter, ranch owner and archer

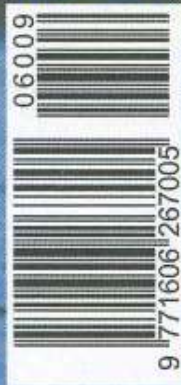
# BOWHUNTER

*& archer*

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## Hunting the kudu

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By Frank Berbuir (Germany)

Having hunted wild boar several times successfully in France with my outfitter and friend Chris Mozolowski, a polish guy living in Switzerland for many years, asked me if I would be interested in an even more exciting and challenging African game hunt with bow and arrow.

Sounds good, I thought and after some investigations and phone calls I told Chris, "Okay, let's do it."

After planning, checking and preparing for this great new adventure in April 2004 I, from Germany, found myself in Namibia on the hunting farm Okapunja, together with Chris and other avid bowhunters from Switzerland and Russia.

Experienced PH Gustav Bauer and his wife Uschi, two lovely people, manage the farm, situated 30 kilometres northwest from Otavi. The warm welcome and hospitality on their property ([www.okapunja.com](http://www.okapunja.com)) is outstanding, as is Uschi's food.

As a novice bowhunter in Africa we spent the first day on extended game drives to become acquainted with the wonderful farm and the beautiful landscape. At that time of the year the African bush was green and plentiful and the wildlife magnificent.

Twenty eight species can be hunted on Okapunja and its concession farms, which total 22 000 hectares.

After familiarising myself with the hides, game and surroundings at different waterholes, on the third day at 9:00 am a trophy oryx bull came in range of sight, around 100 metres from our

## Bowhunt in Namibia on Okapunja

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location. Gustav and I checked him out with the binoculars and he whispered: "This is a real good one."

Yeah, I thought and the following second my heart began pounding like a sledgehammer.

"Ok, Frank be cool, get ready", I said to myself as the oryx bull approached. My adrenalin level accelerated like a rocket into the sky as the bull came within shooting distance. He nervously checked out the situation, walking around the waterhole and salt stone. Thanks to Gustav's patience and experience I remained calm. We were so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Good things come to those who wait and finally the oryx stood slightly quartering-away at 21 metres. I released the Beman ICS Camo Hunter arrow tipped with a 125-grain three-blade Muzzy broadhead from my 65-pound Mathews SQ2 bow.

I placed the arrow well and it hit both lungs of the animal. The oryx pulled up like an aircraft and ran into the bush and he went down 200 metres from where the shot was taken.

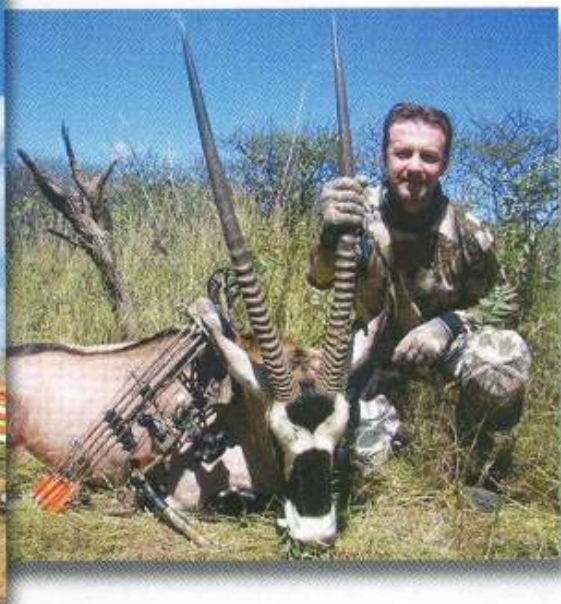
When we found him I felt like the luckiest guy on earth – and had become an African hunter.

By the way, this trophy oryx bull scored a Gold Medal ACC on the SCI NAPHA ranking.

After a trip to the famous Etosha National Park three days later, Gustav and I went very early, at 5:30 am, to a ground blind to wait for kudu or warthog. We set up our stuff in the blind and enjoyed a wonderful sunrise, even though we were still tired. At 6:20 am an unsuspecting large warthog came out of the bush.

"Frank, there's your boar," Gustav whispered in my ear.

I had to move fast because the warthog had only come to scoop some water. While Gustav switched on the video camera I quickly grabbed my bow, nocked an arrow and was ready.



Frank with the guinea-fowl (left) and the fine oryx (right) he shot.

The boar was moving away, so we blew a short whistle, hoping the pig would stop. Fortunately, he was curious and stopped for a deadly second, long enough for me to place a quartering-away shot from 25 metres with a 125-grain Wasp Jakhammer mechanical broadhead equipped Beman arrow, from my Mathews SQ2 bow.

The animal string-jumped a little and the broadhead hit the upper lungs and cut the aorta. The warthog was down after 70 metres, a fine trophy that is now in my den.

On the last day of my hunt, after also shooting a sick kudu cow for Gustav, I bagged a helmeted guinea-fowl. They are tough birds to hunt, but after four misses I finally shot one from 22 metres with a Judo.

I had a fascinating, exciting and challenging time on Okapunya with Gustav, Uschi and Chris, as well as with the other guys in the group. Gustav, Uschi and I became friends and the decision for me to come back and hunt kudu bull and impala ram was crystal clear, but that's another story.

Shoot straight!

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