

africa's **bowhunter**



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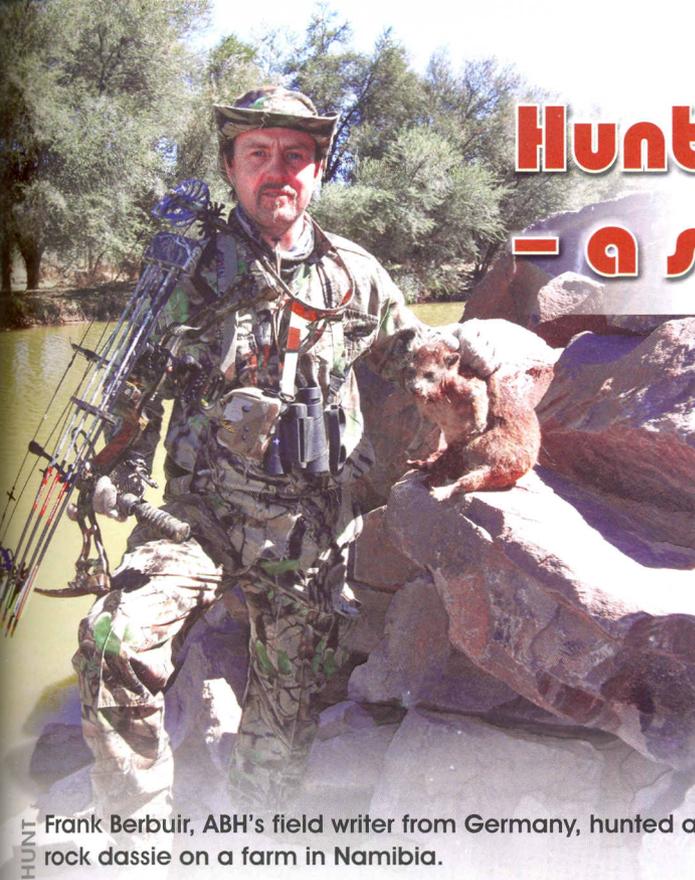


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GARLAND TROPHY

Hunting a rock dassie - a special challenge



HUNT Frank Berbuir, ABH's field writer from Germany, hunted a rock dassie on a farm in Namibia.

Nearly one and a half years had passed since my previous bow hunting adventure in Namibia, but eventually I made it back to Africa, back to Namibia to go bow hunting again.

This time we were a small "strictly bow hunting" group of three hunters organised and accompanied by Juergen from Wildlife Marketing. The other two bow hunters, Rolf and Gerd, had their wives with them. Rolf and Gerd were there for a non-trophy meat hunt. Juergen was more or less the organiser and my priority was to photograph and film for a new bow hunting DVD for Wildlife Marketing.

We arrived in Windhoek on Saturday morning at 6:00 am and Christian, the owner, farmer and PH of Farm Kachauchab, picked us up. After a short visit to the city and a quick stop at the gun shop and bow shop, we hit the road for the last 280 kilometres to Farm Kachauchab in the south of Namibia, near Maltahöhe.

Upon arrival we had a hearty welcome from all the guys on the farm and all of us were quickly in our hunting clothes to get out in the warm sun for the first afternoon hunt.

At 18:00, after sunset, the three bakkies returned. We all had seen lots of game and were again fascinated by nature in Africa. The Windhoek Lager ran down quickly, especially with the accompanying braai.

The next hunting days were adventurous and successful. Rolf and Gerd harvested five animals each – from springbok and blesbuck through warthog and jackal to quail. "Waidmannsheil" again. Besides the photographing and filming I could spend some time myself for bow hunting. I tried to walk-and-stalk the rock dassies that lived in one of the two "canyons" on the farm.

The previous time I had also tried to bow hunt them, but without success. These small animals have great eyesight – they

EQUIPMENT

• Bow:

71-pound Bowtech Tribute bow with Gripwerks Birdseye maple custom grip. PSE Top Gun F35 sight. Trophy Ridge drop-away rest. SVL camo stabiliser. Scott Wildcat release. Carbon Express Maxima Hunter 350 arrow. G5 Tekan II mechanical broadhead.

• Clothing:

Sniper Africa Camo

• Optics:

Zeiss Victory 10 x 40. Leupold RX-III Rangefinder

can even look directly into the sun – and when they detect you and sense danger they immediately hide in the many gaps and little caves between the rocks.

One afternoon I was stalking in an area called Swarte Modder along the banks of the Hudup river, which runs through Farm Kachauchab. Along the river bank you could find some trees and bushes for ambush. From time to time I glassed the rocks on the other side of the river. The river had plenty of water and the distance between the river bank on my side and the rocks on the other side was about 30 metres. I sat down behind a tree and glassed the rocks again when I suddenly saw one of these little critters sitting in the shade of a rock. I took my video camera and zoomed him in for some nice footage.

He still had not detected me and I ranged him at 31 metres.

Dead slow I pulled up my Bowtech Tribute and nocked in the Carbon Express Maxima Hunter arrow with the 125-grain G5 Tekan II broadhead. The dassie was still sitting under the rock and now facing in my direction, but he seemed to be more curious than frightened. In order not to spook the dassie I drew my bow in slow motion and set the pin on his body below the head. My heart was pumping when I pulled the trigger and sent the arrow on its journey.

A second later I heard a high "queek" and the dassie (*Klippschliefer* in German) and the arrow were gone. Through the binos I could see blood on the stone and concluded that he must have fallen down into a gap. Hopefully we would be able to reach him.

I packed my stuff and had to go along the canyon to a spot where I could cross the river via a dam wall to get to the top of the rocks and then to climb down to where the dassie hopefully lay.

When I reached the rocks I could fortunately pull the dassie out of the gap. The arrow had penetrated him and to my delight was still OK – horrido.

Besides the dassie, I was able to harvest a meat springbuck and a quail – but that is another story.

Take care and always good hunting – alles van die beste. ↗