

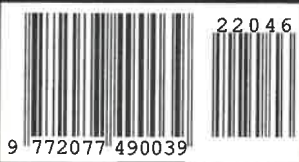
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HUNTING THE GREAT CONTINENT OF AFRICA





A  
**CAPE ELAND**  
with Bow and Arrow

*By Frank Berbuir*



*Rough bushveld*

*A decade has past since my first bowhunt in Southern Africa. Since that I came back every year and also in August 2014, I was back again in South Africa to hunt once more with my good friend Izak Vos from Vos Safaris.. But I write this while deeply mourning a great outfitter, guide and highly experienced professional hunter with rifle and bow hunts, who became a wonderful and truly honest friend during all our past hunts together. It is with great sadness I have to say that Izak Vos, also a loving husband and father, passed away suddenly on 22 June 2022 at the age of 39 in a quad accident.*

**W**e hunted several locations in the past days of this trip and had some great encounters with giraffe, steenbok, zebra, nyala, kudu, warthog, wildebeest and more. One day we had an encounter with a one-and-a-half meter monitor lizard that found our rural accommodation very interesting and wanted to get into it. Another night we hear roaring lions. What a great experience. Luckily, they were not interested in us but rather in their kill, of a young giraffe, as we found out the next morning.

Essentially, we were looking for eland, and I had my reliable and trusty Elite GT 500 bow, set at 90 pounds draw weight with the Easton Full Metal Jacket 250 Dangerous Game arrows and the Muzzy Phantom SS 200 grain broadhead with a total arrow weight of 800 grains. I had felt comfortable before with this equipment and bow setup and with all the shooting and practices went very well the months before.

We had tried to stalk the eland for some days without success because one of the group always spotted us before we could get closer, and our chances were gone. So we set up a trail camera at a waterhole where the eland frequently roamed and found out that they mostly came in very late at night, close to midnight or even later. Nevertheless, over the last three days, their behavior had changed, and they came in earlier, probably due to the changing weather conditions and an upcoming wind at night. Therefore, our hope was that they would come in before sunset.

On the third afternoon in the blind, it looked promising as if the hunting gods were in our favor when a small group of eland walked slowly to the waterhole. There was a large bull with them, and I was amazed when I saw how big and impressive an eland



*Our ambush natural blind*

## Highly strung



*Our ambush natural blind*

can be. The group were at the waterhole and, although, highly excited I nocked in the arrow quietly and pulled my bow calmly and smoothly to full draw.

I moved slightly to the shooting window and settled the pin of my sight on the vital area over the front shoulder.

As the bull stood broadside and still at 32 meters, I finally squeezed the trigger of my Scott release and let the arrow loose. A second later, it had penetrated fully inside the eland's body. The bull jumped and started running. Luckily, we could follow his flight and saw that after 50 meters he began staggering before he disappeared behind a bush.

"Excellent Frank, you got him," Izak whispered and patted my back. "Let's give us a break and him time." That was good, giving me time to relieve my tension and excitement. When the last eland left the waterhole, we stepped out of our blind and followed the tracks of the bull.

We found him dead about 20 meters behind the bush where he had disappeared. I felt overwhelmed when I saw the huge antelope in front of me. What an experience with bow and arrow. For some trophy photos, we arranged him nicely and that evening under the always-beautiful South African sunset, the beer tasted excellent.

One more time thank you very much to Izak for the great organization, his experience and company and all the nice people I had the opportunity to meet during this fantastic time.

Always good hunting, shoot straight, Waidmannsheil and "Alles van die beste".



*Beautiful South African landscape*



*Happy hunter and PH with the eland bull*

German hunter Frank Berbuir is passionate about the outdoors and hunting – especially bowhunting, which he has practised for more than 23 years. Although he has bowhunted in several countries, he has become addicted to hunting in Africa since his first safari in 2004. Frank is a mechanical engineer and risk manager in the automotive industry. 🦋

### *Monitor lizard in the house*



#### **Equipment:**

**Bow:** Elite GT 500 @ 90#

**Arrow:** Easton Full Metal Jacket 250 Dangerous Game with heavier inserts

**Broadhead:** Muzzy Phantom SS 2-Blade @ 200 grain

**Optics:** Zeiss Victory Binocular & Nikon Rangefinder

**Release:** Scott

**Camo:** Sniper Africa

The common eland (*Taurotragus oryx*), also known as the southern eland or eland antelope, is a savannah and plains antelope found in East and Southern Africa. It is a species of the family Bovidae and genus *Taurotragus*. An adult male is around 1.6 meters or 5 foot tall at the shoulder. Females are 20 centimeters or 8" inch shorter. It can weigh up to 942 kg respectively 2,077 pounds. It is the second-largest antelope in the world, being slightly smaller on average than the giant eland. Both bulls and cows have horns, the bull's horns being significantly shorter than those of the female. The eland is very alert and often very challenging to hunt as it flees at the first sign of danger. They are often found in groups of 8 to 12 animals, but very large flocks are also common. Taking their size into account, they are incredibly athletic and can easily jump over a fence of 2.5 meters. They can live up to 15 to 20 years old. Its diet is primarily grasses and leaves. Common elands form herds of up to 500, but are not territorial and its preferred habitat is savannah, woodlands, and open and montane grasslands; it avoids dense forests. It uses loud barks, visual and postural movements and the flehmen response to communicate and warn others of danger. It is native to Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Cape Eland are often included in "Spiral Horn" and plains game hunting.