



A Hunt that made a difference

Henrie Degenaar

Life Christian Adventure is all about combining Christianity with the outdoors. We live in a beautiful country where we are blessed with many activities where we come in contact with God's creation. Through different types of contributions, we would like to provide food and necessities to needy people and organizations. We focus mainly on children from financial disadvantaged and abusive families. Through camps and mentor programs we try to have a positive impact on their lives.

It was time for us to go hunt the eland cow that Johnny Bell had donated to LCA. The whole of February was spent planning this hunt. End of February, Johnny chose a good location for the pop-up blind, thus allowing enough time for the game to get used to the blind.

We left on Saturday for the farm, located in the Eastern Free State near Wepener. We arrived on the farm around 17:30. The hunting arrangement was that I will have a day and a half to try and shoot an eland cow with my bow from the blind, and if I was not successful by Monday afternoon around 14:00, we will hunt the eland with Johnny's 30-06 rifle.

Sunday just after dawn I was in the blind. I quickly ranged a few points to determine the distance I needed to set my sight, the distance would be between 20 – 25yards. At around 10:00 there was a herd of eland cows that walked past the blind, but did not even stop. No more than 30 minutes later a herd of oryx came in, one bull with five cows. They settled at 40yards. The rest of the day they ruled, no eland, springbuck, or blesbuck were allowed close to the salt lick.




That night, around the fire, I discussed the day's activities with Johnny and he gave permission to shoot a young eland bull, if one came in. He requested politely that I not shoot any of the big bulls on the farm.

I could not believe it when the first game to walk in the next morning, were 3 big eland bulls. The longer I watched them, the bigger they got, and eventually I took a few photos. I did not want to ruin the first LCA hunt by shooting the wrong animal. When I later showed the photos to Johnny, he indicated that they were shooters and not his trophy bulls!

The oryx came back, but this time they did not hinder any other game from coming in. I was still watching the oryx when a herd of 7 young eland bulls ran in from the back. They eventually settled and I lined up one of the youngsters, but before I could take the shot they became suspicious and left.

At 14:00 Johnny picked me up and after a few practice shots with the 30-06 we decided to go look for a young eland bull. We did not have to travel far before the eland was spotted, standing in a semi-dry pan. We got out of the vehicle and started to stalk them. There was enough cover between them and us which allowed us to get close enough for a shot. Johnny identified the bull and instructed me to shoot it. After a well placed shot, the bull went down a mere 30m away. The bull measured 27 inches and weighed 252kg.

The meat was processed into "biltong" and "droëwors". We sold everything, and the money was donated to an orphanage of Life Christian Foundation, The Promise Centre in Mozambique. 

Email: henrie@lifeca.org

Website: www.lifeca.org

