

 **Print This Report**

DATE AND PLACE OF HUNT

Report ID: 9960

**Weapon Rifle
Used:**

**How Hunt Was Guided
Conducted?**

Date of Hunt: January 3, 2015 to January 12, 2015

**Place of Cameroon -
Hunt:**

Hunt Area: Kourouk, Area 24

OUTFITTER, GUIDE AND BOOKING AGENT DETAILS

Outfitter (or safari company): Jose Chelet; Safaris Chelet. Consolat Del Mar 12-03700; Denia; Spain; Tel. 011 34-96-578-0500; Fax: 34-96-578-9357; Email: chelet@newsafaris.com; Web www.safaris-chelet.com

Personal Guide (if any): Hancke Hudson

Booking Agent (if any):

**Trip Arrangements
(if self-guided):**

License Required:

GAME DESCRIPTION

Major Game Animals Taken: Buffalo, West Savannah - Availability: Average - Trophy Size: SCI Bronze

Kob - Availability: Abundant - Trophy Size: SCI Bronze

Waterbuck, Sing Sing - Availability: Abundant - Trophy Size: SCI Bronze

Oribi - Availability: Scarce - Trophy Size: SCI Bronze

Hog, Red River - Availability: Scarce - Trophy Size: SCI Bronze

Game Sought But Not Taken: Roan, Western - Availability: No opportunity -- only a few seen

Reedbuck, Nagor - Availability: None seen

Bushbuck, Harnessed - Availability: No opportunity -- filled

license

Game Condition Game is in good condition and there are mature trophies.

Comments: Trophy sizes were not large, but that may have been due to being very early in the season.

SERVICE RATINGS (excellent, good, fair or poor)

Quality of Outfit: Excellent **Guide/PH Ability:** Excellent
Condition of Camp: Excellent **Condition of Equipment:** Excellent
Quality of Food: Excellent **Trophy Care:** Excellent
Name of Airline: Air France and CamairCo **Airline Service:** Excellent

Airline Comments: Air France through Paris to Douala is very easy. CamairCo from Douala to hunting area flies only a couple of times a week and schedules are not great -- two stops on what otherwise would be a one hour flight. But service is good, notwithstanding the usually bureaucracy at local airports.

COSTS

Hunting Fees: 10-Day hunt (was a donation hunt)	Amount:	\$16000
Trophy Fees: Five animals with 15% tax	Amount:	\$7641
Permits/Licenses: Hunting License, VISA, Rifle Permit & Ins.	Amount:	\$2070
Commercial Airfares: Air France Premium Economy + CamairCo Business	Amount:	\$3858
Charter Airfares:	Amount:	\$0
Other Costs: Dip/Pack to Paris, Meet/Greet	Amount:	\$1918
	Total:	\$0

SUMMARY REMARKS

Problems of Hunt: No Problems. Everything went well. I was the second client of the season (with the first overlapping with me by a couple of days). As it was early season, much of the grass burning was still underway and visibility was limited on several days due to smoke and dust. The eland and roan had not really moved into the area yet either. On the plus side, the weather was very good with cool, crisp mornings and warm (but not at all hot) afternoons. Trophy sizes (scores) were not exceptional, but all trophies were old, mature animals which at the end of the day is most important.

Highlights of Hunt: Being in West Africa and seeing the sights of rural village life during the long drives to and from camp. Taking five unique species. Chasing the

buffalo in the river bed.

**Equipment
Recommendations:**

None in particular. Good boots and fresh socks for long walks -- I was on my feet on the trail an average of six hours a day for one to four hours at a time. Typical African safari camp style hunt and service so not a lot of gear is required. This was early season so the daytime temperatures were not too hot. Later in the season it gets very hot so a good hat and proper clothing is a must. I did not take a jacket, but as the mornings were very cool, I resorted to borrowing one. Be aware that there are tsetse flies and they do bite!! Having some Benzedrine or cortisone cream is a good idea. Long sleeves and pants help, but those little buggers still manage to get everywhere. I don't react well to bug bites, so did a lot of scratching!!

Would You Recommend This Hunt to a Friend? yes

Why? Excellent operation and good hunting area. Cameroon is remote and this is not the luxury Southern Africa style lodge with all the amenities. It is, however, the real deal of wilderness hunting with no fences, people or other distractions -- plus one of the few safe places you can take some of the West African game species. I did not hunt Lord Derby Eland (not on the donation license) but the fellow in camp with me did not get his. Apparently, it may have been a bit too early in the season and the new foliage was not out enough to attract them. Having said that, I just learned that the fellow after me got a good one early in his hunt. I did have roan on my license and did not get an opportunity at one, but the fellow who did not get the eland got one, so it just goes to prove that luck plays a large part in hunting!!

HUNTER INFORMATION

Hunter Name: Scott Swasey

Contact Information: Tel. 925-964-9040 - 1005 HORIZON CT, DANVILLE, California
USA, 94506 E-mail: scott.swasey@sbcglobal.net

Hunting Experience: Rather extensive now -- five continents and 70 species entries in the SCI Record Book.

Physical Condition: Good for my age, but don't underestimate the value of training to stay fit for these hunts.

IMPORTANT NOTES (actions taken if hunter unhappy with hunt)

Notified Outfitter? no **Notified Personal Guide?** no **Notified Booking Agent?** no
Seeking any kind of restitution or other settlement from agent, outfitter or guide? no
If Seeking Restitution, What is Sought?

ADDITIONAL HUNTER COMMENTS AND/OR OUTFITTER/BOOKING AGENT REBUTTAL

The Chelet family are wonderful folks and dedicated hunters -- three generations worth. They graciously donated this hunt to the Golden Gate Chapter of SCI and I purchased it at the March 2014 Fundraiser. Several of my friends have hunted with them and gave them good marks, as do I.

The Cameroon hunting is real wilderness hunting with more than ample creature comforts in camp. Stephan, the young German chef, prepared many wonderful meals from all the game meat available. The camp is quite safe, picturesque and comfortable.

The staff is quite capable in all respects. I marveled at the attention of the skinner who fleshed each skin to perfection.

It does take some time to get to camp. The air transport is via Air France through Paris which is very convenient, but depending on the departure point may require a layover in Paris. For me, spending the afternoon of New Years Eve on the Champs Elysee was very tough to take!!

Once in Douala, a layover is again necessary before getting local CamairCo flights north. Once in the north, it is either four or six hours from the airport in Ngaoundere or Garoua, respectively, and the first hour of that drive is simply to get from camp to the public road! The drive is mostly on dirt roads, but the scenery of rural African villages is quite something.

A note with regard to traveling with a firearm. France has no concerns at all, but you need to be sure to have advised Air France well before departure. Once in France, they don't seem to have any issues and when I told the customs agent I had a hunting rifle he simply asked if I had my papers and then let me pass. It's a different matter in Cameroon. It's not difficult, it just takes a lot of time at each airport. Safaris Chelet referred me to Iles y Voyages in Paris to secure my visa and rifle permit. Although it was expensive, the process went well and efficiently. They also provided an escort service at each airport which facilitated everything -- more than I really appreciate I am sure!!

Bottom line, if you want to step up to a real African hunting adventure (or if you are after a Lord Derby Eland or other unique West African species) then I heartily recommend Safaris Chelet.