

The Perfect Shot: Mini Edition for Africa II

BY
KEVIN "DOCTARI" ROBERTSON



CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	4
Introduction	5
Elephant.....	6
Buffalo.....	12
Hippopotamus.....	18
Rhinoceros.....	24
Lion.....	30
Leopard.....	36
Nile Crocodile	42
Spotted Hyena	46
Giraffe.....	50
Eland.....	54
Greater Kudu	58
Zebra	62
Sable.....	66
Roan	70
Waterbuck.....	74
Blue Wildebeest.....	78
Bongo	82
Oryx/Gemsbok	86
Hartebeest	90
Black Wildebeest	94
Nyala.....	98
Reedbuck.....	102
Blesbok/Bontebok	106
Impala.....	110
Bushbuck	114
Springbok.....	118
Warthog	122
Duiker	126
Klipspringer	130
Steenbok.....	134
Grysbok	138
Appendixes	142



No shot at heart/lung area when front leg is in rearward position because the solid humerus bone covers much of the heart.

THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT

Loxodonta africana

Natural History — Member of the Big Five and the world's largest land mammal. Weighs up to seven tons and stands eleven feet or more at the shoulder. Dark gray skin provides excellent camouflage. Extremely nimble and fast for its size. Eyesight relatively poor, sense of smell phenomenal, hearing also very good. Walks great distances daily. Voracious and destructive feeders. Life expectancy 50 to 70 years. Preferred diet is grass. Has a daily food requirement of 500 pounds. Drinks regularly.

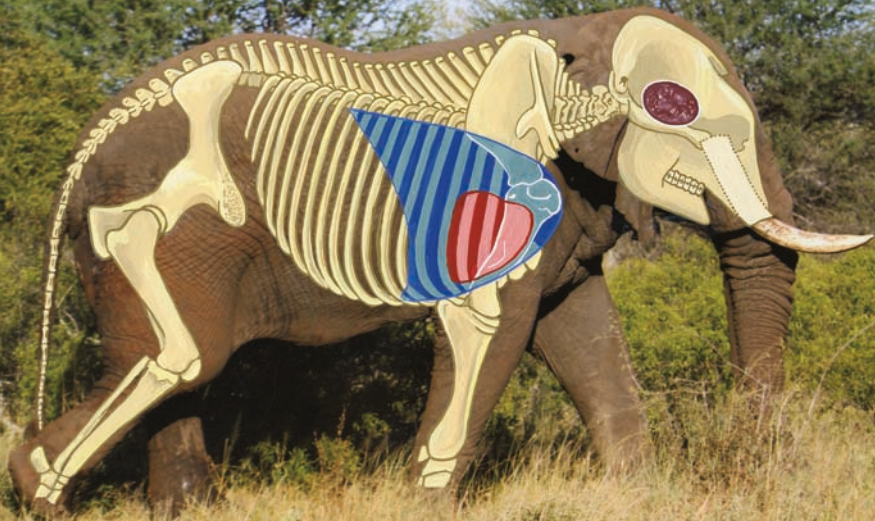
Sex Determination — Cows have a smaller body and thin, slender tusks; cows exhibit an almost 90-degree angle to foreheads. Mature bulls have large heads in relation to body size, with forehead rounded, not angled. Bulls usually found on their own or in company of a few other bulls and only occasionally with a herd of cows. Tuskless cows and those with young calves at side can be extremely aggressive.

Trophy Assessment — Ivory grows throughout life, so the older the elephant, the better the ivory. Old ivory also is denser, with a smaller nerve cavity. To judge weight of ivory, estimate diameter of tusk at lip in inches and multiply times three; that equals the circumference of tusk at lip. Multiply this, in feet, by estimated length of tusk along outside of curve from lip to tip and subtract 5 percent. Answer will be tusk's approximate weight in pounds. (Straight line from eye to lip is 2 feet.) SCI method (14); RW method (16).

The Hunt — Involves finding the right spoor and then tracking. You hunt an elephant with your legs! Toenail scuffmarks point forward, indicating direction of travel. Spoor size indicates body size and also age. Droppings are used to determine how close you are getting. Fresh dung is strong smelling, warm, wet, and yellowish green in color; changes to walnut brown as outer surface dries. Wind direction very important. Move slowly and quietly. Get in close for the first shot. Fifty paces is considered a long shot and 20–30 paces is about average.

Rifle, Caliber, and Bullet Selection — The legal minimum is the .375. Use only good-quality 300- or 350-grain solids. Little margin for shot-placement error with any caliber. For more knockdown effect, the various .40 calibers and 400- to 450-grain solids are a better option. The .458s and 500- or 550-grain solids at 2,150 fps are the best choice for clients while for PHs, if recoil is manageable, the various .500s with 525- to 600-grain solids provide the best “backup.”

Shot Placement — Side-on high heart/lung shot is safest with greatest margin for error. Top of heart and center of lungs are a hand’s width above and in front of the front leg “crease.” Take no shot when the front leg is positioned rearward as it covers heart with solid bone. Brain shot is impressive but difficult for the inexperienced. Side-on brain shot easier: Place in lower half of ear hole. Remember to compensate for upward-shooting angle if head is held higher than shooter’s eye level. Frontal brain shot more difficult and depends entirely on position of head at time of shot. Imagine a broomstick through ear holes. Shoot to cut broomstick in half. Hind legs always collapse first when brain shot successful. When front legs give way first, elephant only knocked out. Insurance shots are important. Always shoot again any elephant that drops to the shot. From the rear, a spinal shot is a good option as a backing shot and so is breaking a hip joint. A raking body shot is best when the elephant is angled away.



Anatomy diagram