

Elefante Africano (Sp), *Afrikanischer Elefant* (G), *Eléphant d'Afrique* (F), *Afrikaans olifant* (Af). "Elephant" is from the Greek *elaphus*, the Latin *elephantus*, for this animal.

DESCRIPTION Bush elephant: (*male*) Shoulder height 10-13 feet (300-400 cm). Weight 9,000-13,000 pounds (4,000-6,000 kg). (*female*) Shoulder height 8-11 feet (240-340 cm). Weight 5,000-8,000 pounds (2,200-3,500 kg). Forest elephant: (*male*) Shoulder height 5-1/2 to 9 feet (170-280 cm). Weight 2,600-8,000 pounds (1,200-3,500 kg). (*female*) Shoulder height 5-8 feet (160-240 cm). Weight 2,000-6,500 pounds (900-3,000 kg).

The African elephant is larger than the Asian elephant (the one normally found in zoos and circuses), with much larger ears, a more convex forehead, a more sloping back so that the shoulders are the highest point of the animal, 21 pairs of ribs (instead of 19), a maximum of 26 vertebrae in the tail (instead of 33), and two prehensile projections at the tip of the trunk (instead of one).

BEHAVIOR Gregarious, with cows and calves always in family herds consisting of mothers, daughters and sisters. Bulls are often in bachelor groups, and old bulls are sometimes solitary. Most breeding seems to take place during the rainy season, though it may occur year-round. There is normally a single calf born after a gestation period of about 22 months. Newborn calves can stand in a half-hour, and travel with the herd in two days. Females are sexually mature at 14, and may bear 4-5 calves in a lifetime. Life expectancy is 50-70 years.

HABITAT From subdesert to rain forest, at altitudes from sea level to 12,000 feet (3,650 m), and sometimes even to 15,000 feet (4,570 m). Seldom found very far from water.

DISTRIBUTION Widespread throughout Africa from south of the Sahara to northern Namibia, northern Botswana and northeastern Transvaal in South Africa. The forest elephant lives in the rain forest of western and central Africa; the bush elephant is found in the rest of the range. Undetected and unscathed if no shootable bull is found-can be the finest sport in Africa or, for that matter, in the world.

TAXONOMIC NOTES As many as 25 subspecies of African elephants have been proposed; however, most authorities accept only two: bush elephant (*L. a. africana*) and forest elephant (*L. a. cyclotis*). At one time they were considered separate species; however, they interbreed where their ranges overlap, and many degrees of hybridization can be observed in these areas.

African Elephant

• the last shoot...



SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals and the
SCI Trophy Records Committee proudly presents
this certificate to:

Mechislav Klimovich

for taking a *Elephant*
with a Rifle measuring 77 1/2

On a hunt in *Namibia, Caprivi* on 06/29/2009
Measured by Mechislav Klimovich on 03/26/2012.

Your entry currently ranks *Photo Entry* trophy