

Liberian Notes - Creative Report and Impressions.

Unfortunately, this time too, it is more of a bitter experience than an inspired report on a successful hunt and new exploits in the field of hunting trophies obtained. And the expectations were very high, judging by the trophy list sent by the organizers of the hunt: 6 duikers, a water deer, a bongo, a forest buffalo, two species of wild boars and a cat. All of them were coveted trophies in my hunting plans, but Alas ... they remained so.

From this entire list, we managed to see two duikers (bey and maxwell) and cats (civet and genet). The latter are indeed available here, but alas - they are not registered trophies. From the rest of the list, as I have already noted, during eight days of hunting I managed to see only two, and to shoot only one bey duiker, with very mediocre horns (half the trophy minimum SCI. we were even less.

What is the reason for such (great ...) achievements? Certainly in the great desire of the organizers of the hunt to lure the hunters, without any reason for their real catch. As it turned out later from conversations with them, they did not even see many of the animals from the list they submitted, but theoretically they are on the list of the fauna of Liberia. That's all the reason - if it's on the list, then theoretically they can be shot and, accordingly, why not take money for organizing the hunt for them.

But with the last (... organization) the organizers of the hunt were doing very, very mediocre, if not even worse.

Its essence consisted in the fact that the hunt took place every day in two rounds: daytime from three to six o'clock on the so-called. collings and nightlife from 9 pm to 1 or 2 am.

From a six-day hunt for collings (an average of ten collings a day) - it was possible to call the beast only once, and even then the female Maxwell Duiker - apparently came running with great thirst ... or deep melancholy, but twice someone ran by, more from fear than from the desire to meet us. When I asked how often they even managed to call duikers to call, my PH said that about ten percent, although my calculations showed from our practice that this is only one percent, and even that is ineffectual. By the way, the experience of hunting for collings in Cameroon and Ghana showed that about 30-40 percent of collings are successful, that is, animals resort to calling, another thing is that it is not always possible to shoot them.

Here one conclusion suggests itself - why drive the hunter in the heat through the forest, if you will see practically nothing, let alone shoot. Just show the visibility of work!

As for the night hunting, then it turned out to be very, very mediocre. During seven night hunts, only twice did we see the duikers beat, one of whom I shot. True enough, we saw genet and civet (two of them I took), but alas, not duikers. In most cases, the very exhausting night walks ended completely unsuccessfully - you see nothing, you hear nothing ..., but you get tired to death.

Once they tried to hunt a forest buffalo, but also to no avail. Although we arrived at the so-called. buffalo era immediately after a heavy rain, but no traces of buffaloes were seen. My practice says that before such a hunt, truckers are sent in advance to track down tracks, and not chase the hunter in search of them.

In a word, the organization of the hunt was the same ..., respectively, and the result is very, very mediocre, although the money was paid as for a real trophy hunt in Africa, without even any theoretical justification.

Well, in conclusion, about the living conditions. Alas, in my practice, but on the African safari alone, I have been more than ten times, these were the worst conditions.

Everything is very, very primitive, no hygiene, etc. etc....

What should follow from all this? In my opinion, it is necessary to more clearly stipulate the consequences of such unsuccessful hunts, and ask for unsuccessful hunts. Discussion of my adventures in Mexico, Canada, Ethiopia with my German colleagues leads them to absolute bewilderment. In their words, they would not have left horns and legs from these companies (meaning the receiving parties). Why are we Russians so proud and we forgive everyone. After all, this only makes them even more impudent and mock us, and certainly this does not add credibility to us among our colleagues at the international level.

With deep respect,
member of hunting clubs in Russia, Poland and Lithuania with forty five years of experience
Mechislav Klimovich

