



only 100m from camp and he was obviously well aware of, and could probably see us as well. The tom was patrolling the boundary of his territory because he'd stop every few yards to call. As those deep rasping sounds filled the winter night we sat spellbound, thrilled by something that you'll only experience in Africa. Hearing a leopard call while being in a South African hunting camp was a first for me and I have hunted all over our country.

I fell in love with Mark's place and the simple but stylish bush camp. While modern lodges have their place, a tented camp with paraffin lamps, friendly evening fires and dinners under black skies studded with stars truly exudes that mystical African ambience that I look for whenever I leave the city lights behind. This really is a place where you can mend a weary soul.

Mark has a deep love for his "piece of heaven in Zululand" and although he cares deeply for his animals, is adamant that sustainable utilization is the only way to conserve our wildlife. He is one of the old school, dedicated to ethical walk-and-stalk hunting and certainly not a man who is prepared to turn a blind eye for a few dollars more. His hunting operation indeed shines from afar.

All hunting at Umkanyakude Safaris is done on foot and Mark caters for a maximum of two hunters per hunt. Non-hunting spouses and children are of course welcome. Mark also encourages father and son hunts, believing that young hunters are the future of the sport and the ones that need to understand from an early age what sustainable utilization is all about. Mark's prices are very fair, the hunting on his property excellent and I highly recommend Umkanyakude Safaris. Contact Dr Mark Sutherland on 083-643-2861 (ah) or email him at <scholar1@mweb.co.za>.