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## WILDFILE

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FLORA AND FAUNA

# A wild life

Some more of Africa's top guides share their love for the bush



### Pilatwe 'Pilot' Manga

**Where:** Kingfisher Safaris, Botswana

**Time guiding:** 27 years

#### What is the scariest wildlife encounter you have had?

Being charged by a herd of elephants while I was out on a walking safari.

#### A funny one?

You can sometimes catch ellies doing something naughty... and I tell you, they don't like you watching them!

#### Is there an animal that you would like to see but haven't yet?

A pangolin. Having been a guide for 27 years and a camp hand for five years before that, I am starting to believe they are not real, despite all the photographs I see and the stories I hear.

#### What is next on your bucket list?

Namibia. I've been there many times but it was many years ago and I want to reconnect with its incredible deserts and visit Etosha National Park.

#### JOIN THE DISCUSSION

What has been your most exciting wildlife encounter? Email your answer to editor@travelfricamag.com.



### William Partois Santian

**Where:** Saruni, Masai Mara, Kenya

**Time guiding:** 14 years

#### What is the most exciting or scary wildlife encounter you have had?

Coming across a pride of lions with cubs on foot. Lionesses with young can be very aggressive.

#### Is there an animal you would like to see but haven't yet?

An okapi. In part, it resembles a zebra; in part, a horse – but this



## How does a female crowned lapwing protect her young?

Samuel 'Brown' Lengalai of Elewana's Loisaba Tented Camp in Laikipia, Kenya, tells us

The mother crowned lapwing usually lays one or two eggs on the ground in the open. They look like rocks so are camouflaged. She is very protective of her brood and will even pretend that her wings are broken to draw a predator's attention away from them.

strange-looking animal's closest relative is actually the giraffe.

#### What is next on your bucket list?

Botswana's Okavango Delta.



### Bahati Martin Laizer

**Where:** Wild Frontiers, Tanzania

**Time guiding:** 7 years

#### What animal are you most excited about spotting on safari?

Cheetah.

#### Tell us a fun fact about them

They are the fastest land animal in the world, reaching a speed of up to 120km per hour, and can accelerate from 0 to 100km per hour in just three seconds.

#### What is next on your bucket list?

To go to South Africa and visit the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site.



### Liwonde Faluweki

**Where:** Robin Pope Safaris, Malawi

**Time guiding:** 6 years

#### What animal are you most excited about spotting on safari?

A black rhino. We currently have 18 here.

#### Is there an animal that you would like to see but haven't yet?

I would love to see a white rhino one day.

#### Tell us a local fable from the bush

The story goes that you always see hippo yawning when they are in the river because they promised God that they would live in the water without eating fish. So that is their way of showing him that they are keeping their promise.

#### What is next on your bucket list?

Before 'kicking my bucket', I'd like to see Kilimanjaro, so I can describe it to my family and guests.