

EXPERIENCE: I WAS SWALLOWED BY A HIPPO (magazine)

'There was no transition at all, no sense of approaching danger. It was as if I had suddenly gone blind and deaf'

By Paul Templer

The hippo who tried to kill me wasn't a stranger – he and I had met before a number of times. I was 27 and owned a business taking clients down the Zambezi river near Victoria Falls. I'd been working this stretch of river for years, and the grouchy old two-ton bull had carried out the occasional half-hearted attack. I'd learned to avoid him. Hippos are territorial and I knew where he was most likely to be at any given time.

That day I'd taken clients out with three apprentice guides – Mike, Ben and Evans – all in kayaks. We were near the end of the tour, the light was softening and we were taking in the tranquillity. The solid whack I felt behind me took me by surprise.

I turned just in time to see Evans, who had been flung out of his boat, flying through the air. His boat, with his two clients still in it, had been lifted half out of the water on the back of the huge bull hippo.

Practise comparing language features

TROPHY HUNTING IN AFRICA (website)

Hunting by early European explorers and settlers in Africa was uncontrolled and had devastating impacts on some wildlife species.

The blue buck (*Hippotragus leucophaeus*) and quagga (*Equus quagga*) went extinct, for example, and other species such as elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) were greatly reduced in number and distribution. During the late 19th century, there was an increasing realization of the need to preserve remaining game stocks, and by the early 20th century, hunters played a vital role in the establishment of some of Africa's most famous protected areas.

Trophy hunting is viable in several countries that receive few conventional tourists (e.g. CAR, Chad, and Ethiopia), and in remote parts of countries that are popular among tourists (e.g. northwest South Africa, and southern Tanzania).

In Botswana, 74% of the wildlife estate relies on revenues from consumptive wildlife utilization. Hunting is able to generate revenues under a wider range of scenarios than ecotourism, including remote areas lacking infrastructure, attractive scenery, or high densities of viewable wildlife, areas experiencing political instability.