

KENYA – A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER'S FANTASYLAND

Richard Seeley Photography

Agenda

- Overview of Adventure
- Wildlife Short Stories
- Image Gallery
- What Was in my Camera Bag?
- Photo Safari Considerations
- Show

The True Size of Africa

A small contribution in the fight against rampant *Immappancy*, by Kai Krause

Graphic layout for visualization only (some countries are cut and rotated)
But the conclusions are very accurate: refer to table below for exact data

COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km ²
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.285
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Italy	301
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	243
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
TOTAL	30.102
AFRICA	30.221

In addition to the well known social issues of *illiteracy* and *innumeracy*, there also should be such a concept as "*immappancy*", meaning *insufficient geographical knowledge*.

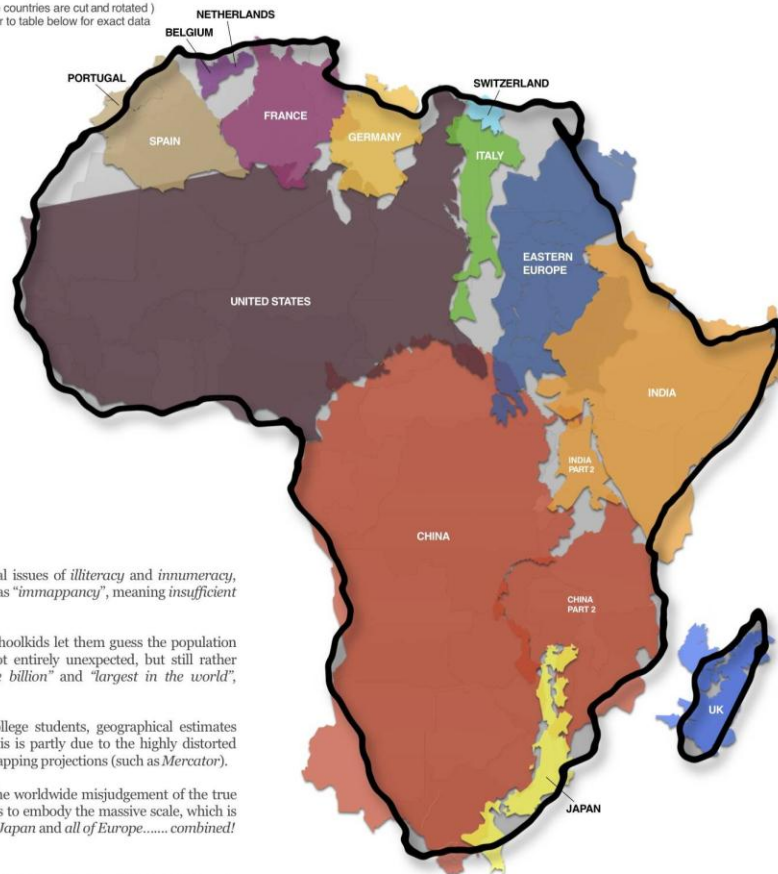
A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose "*1-2 billion*" and "*largest in the world*", respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were often off by factors of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as *Mercator*).

A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of *Africa*. This single image tries to embody the massive scale, which is larger than the *USA*, *China*, *India*, *Japan* and *all of Europe*..... combined!

Top 100 Countries

Area in square kilometers, Percentage of World Total
Sources: Britannica, Wikipedia, Almanac 2010





The Itinerary – August 23 to Sept 5, 2011; 13 days of continuous photoshooting; 4 National Parks/Game Preserves – Amboseli, Lake Nakuru, Samburu, Masai Mara



The Photographers...

Rod Chandler, Judith Monteferrante, Roger Salisbury, Rich Seeley, Bob Karcz



The Safari Vehicle
What are we shooting?



Hippo



Photographing Flamingos on Lake Nakuru

A rare time when we were not photographing from our vehicles



The Driver/Guides – This is Ben, our lead driver



Wilson was our second driver/guide – quite the character!



Best to leave the driving to them!



“Tented Camps” – not exactly roughing it!



The tents were similarly outfitted...



All the comforts of home!



Meals were always freshly prepared...



And served outdoors whenever possible.



Some camps had no fences to keep wildlife out

An Eland



So we had to be escorted by armed guards



Often the camp prepared a picnic breakfast or lunch



“Buffet on the Hood” with minimal wildlife around...
“safe zones”



Air travel is a little different...



The TSA would be mortified...



This airstrip had all the accoutrements...



Including the opportunity to shop!



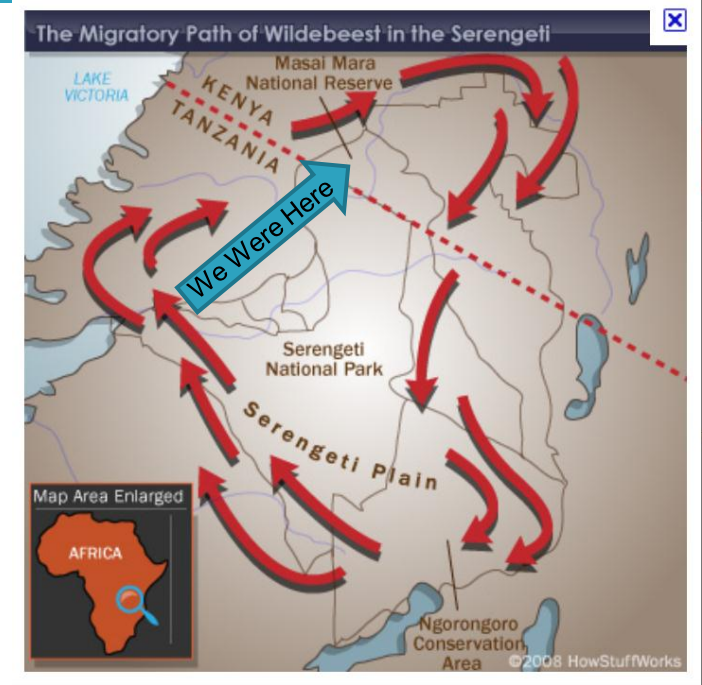
It says “Bye-Bye” – but we know we’ll be back!

Wildlife Short Stories

- ❑ The Great Wildebeest Migration
- ❑ Elephant Stampede
- ❑ Launching Leopard
- ❑ How Close Were Those Animals?

Great Wildebeest Migration

- Known as the greatest wildlife show on earth
- 1.5 – 2.0 Million wildebeest and 200,000 zebras
 - ▣ Moving in a constant annual cycle
 - ▣ No beginning or end
- Follow the rainfall pattern in search of nourishing grass
- 400,000 calves are born Jan-Feb in the Serengeti all within a few weeks
- In 3-5 hours after birth calves are ready to run with the herd
- Mid May to late July traveling north across border to the Masai Mara National Game Reserve



Mara River Crossing

- Mid July to mid Oct herd resides in the Masai Mara Game Reserve
- While grazing they will cross the Mara river many times back and forth because the “grass is greener on the other side”
 - ▣ No set schedule, sometimes twice in a day or no crossings for days.
- We arrived minutes before the tipping point
- We photographed from the edge of the ravine as they descended and crossed the river



Herd Masses and Reaches Tipping Point



Plunging Into the River

The Crossing



Hazards

- ❑ Strong current
- ❑ Drownings
- ❑ Crocodiles



Mara River Crossing Video

[Link to
Video](#)



Return to the Serengeti

- ❑ Mid-Oct to November travel back to Serengeti National park in Tanzania
- ❑ The cycle continues



Elephant Stampede

- ❑ One of the photographers noticed a dust cloud on the horizon
- ❑ Road repair crew probably caused elephant herd to panic
- ❑ Headed straight for our vehicles, then fortunately, veered off to our right
- ❑ We were awestruck and it was only our second day!

Elephant Stampede Video

Elephant Stampede

[Link to
Video](#)



Launching Leopard – So Close

- ❑ Leopard alert on radio
- ❑ Several vehicles arrive on scene
- ❑ Ben our driver positions us in front of leopard
- ❑ Just walks by and ignores us
- ❑ Driver relocates vehicle another 100 yds ahead
- ❑ 4-5 stops while tracking the leopard
- ❑ Masai Mara



Launching Leopard – Hyena Alert

- ❑ Leopards and Hyenas are mortal enemies
- ❑ Hyenas hunt in packs (clans)
- ❑ Leopards are lone hunters
- ❑ Hyenas will attack and kill a leopard



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Launching Leopard – Collision Course



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Launching Leopard – Hyenas in Pursuit



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Launching Leopard – Gaining Distance



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Launching Leopard – Ready to Leap



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Launching Leopard – Launch and Escape



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Launching Leopard – On the Lookout

- For the story in video see my blog post:
- <http://wp.me/pH66m-ka>



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Just How Close Are Those Animals?



Verreaux's Eagle Owlet Fledgling
About 50 feet away



Practicing Flight
Zoomed to 200mm

Eagle Owlet – moved in closer



25-30 feet





Must be Something Closer



10-15 feet

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PHOTO BY BETH SEELEY

Even Closer

My Polar Bear Guide – Way Too Close



My Polar Bear Guide – Escaped to tell the story



Image Gallery

- Top 20 images from more than 12,000 images and 80 video clips taken over 13 days of photoshooting

The Three Amigos

- Masai Mara Game Reserve



THE THREE AMIGOS

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Galloping Flamingos

- Greater Flamingos
- Lake Navaisha
- For story behind the image:
- <http://wp.me/pH66m-jJ>



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GALLOPING FLAMINGOS

Giraffe Crossing

- ❑ Reticulated Giraffe
- ❑ Most beautiful of the three types
- ❑ Three types
 - ▣ Masai
 - ▣ Rothchild
 - ▣ Reticulated
- ❑ Tallest Mammal on earth
- ❑ Samburu Game Reserve



GIRAFFE CROSSING

Lilac Breasted Roller

- Rolling motion in flight during courtship



LILAC BREASTED ROLLER PERCHED

Lapping Lioness

- Google “Lapping Lioness” for my blog post of the story behind this event and the concept of a Cinemagraph



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LAPPING LIONESS

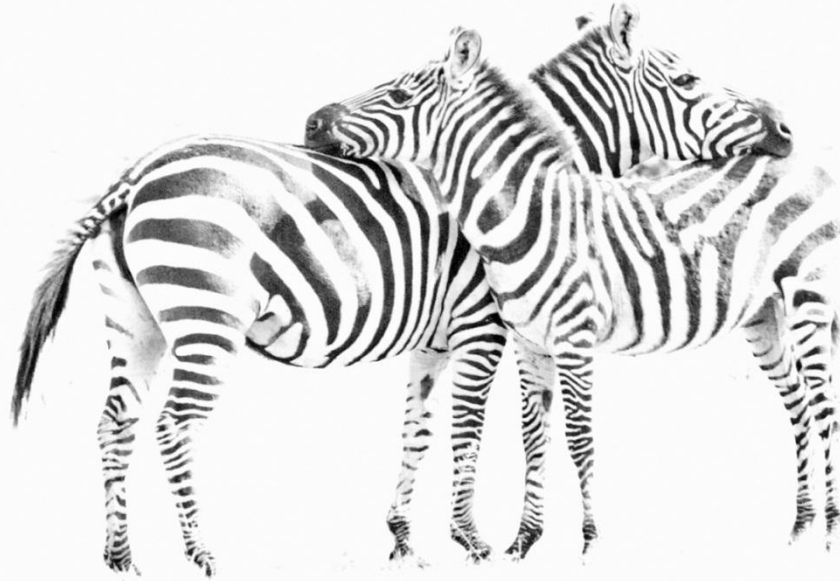
Lapping Lioness

- A Cinemagraph
- A still image that has moving parts



Zebra Welcome

- ❑ Predator watch
- ❑ Each has the other's back
- ❑ Or is it butt?



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ZEBRA WELCOME

Un-Easy Rider



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UN-EASY RIDER

Remember to Wash Behind Your Ears

- Most social of the cat family
- Live in Prides of up to 6-8 lionesses, cubs and several male lions.



Best Buddies

- Cute critters
- Video of cubs playing:
- <http://youtu.be/usRPaQZSSXo?hd=1>



BEST BUDDIES

Necking

- ❑ Adolescent males establishing dominance hierarchy
- ❑ Swinging heads and intertwining necks as a form of mild battle
- ❑ Can get serious in the presence of oestrus female
- ❑ Slow motion, yet elegant and seems so civilized
- ❑ Video of giraffes necking
<http://youtu.be/HKpqfRCy3Lo?hd=1>



Elephant Knot (Greeting)



ELEPHANT KNOT (GREETING)

Ruffled Feathers – Gray Crowned Crane

- Endangered
species



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RUFFLED FEATHERS - GRAY CROWN CRANE

Prey Alert

- A pride of lions are on alert as potential prey have caught their attentions
- Masai Mara Game Reserve



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PREY ALERT

Protected View



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PROTECTED VIEW

Four of a Kind



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FOUR OF A KIND

Cheetah Charm

- ❑ Distinctive tearmarks
- ❑ Fastest land speed of any living animal
- ❑ My favorite



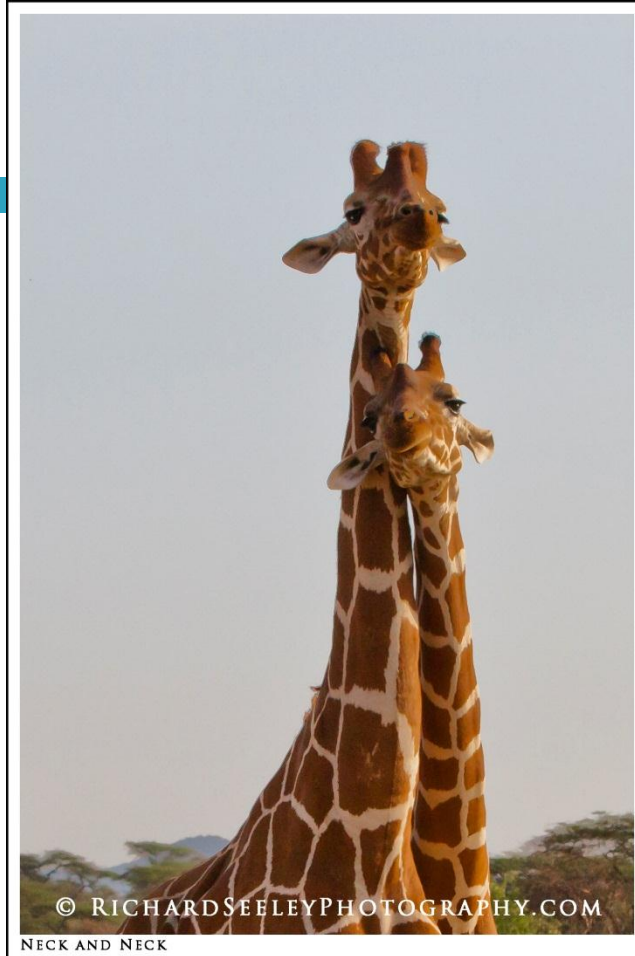
Cheetah on the Hunt



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CHEETAH ON THE HUNT

Neck and Neck



Acacia Sunrise



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ACACIA SUNRISE

What was in My Camera Bags?

- ❑ Small Back Pack – carry on - fits under airplane seat
 - ▣ Canon 5D Mark 2 body – landscape, slow moving animals, portraits
 - ▣ Canon 24-105 F/4 IS L - landscape
 - ▣ Canon 70-200 F/2.8 IS L lens – mid distance
 - ▣ Polarizer, 1.4x Teleconverter, leatherman, cable release
 - ▣ Toshiba Portege laptop (2.4 gh, 640 TB h/d, 4 GB Ram, 13 in screen, 3.2 lbs) with Win7, Adobe CS 5, Adobe Bridge
 - ▣ 1 TB portable backup drive, card reader, Hoodman Eye Loupe
 - ▣ Spare batteries, 3 16GB 80mb/s compact flash cards, 3 8GB cards

What was in My Camera Bags?

- Think Tank Domestic (rollerboard) – carry on - stowed in overhead compartment
 - ▣ Canon 7D body – fast action
 - ▣ Canon 500mm F4 IS L lens – long distance
 - ▣ Canon 100-400 IS L Lens – mid to long, but did not use
 - ▣ Wimberley gimbaled tripod head (WH-200)
 - ▣ Canon flash unit, camera battery charger

What was in My Camera Bags?

- Travel Pro (rollerboard) - fits in overhead compartment, but travels as checked luggage
 - ▣ Gitzo Tripod (GT3541LS), carbon fiber, 4 segments, fully compressed just fits in Travel Pro luggage diagonally
 - ▣ Travel power strip, electricity adaptors
 - ▣ Personal items for 30 days of travel thru UK, France and Kenya.

Photo Safari Considerations

- Use operator by reference only:
 - ▣ www.DKGrandSafaris.com
 - ▣ Or go with a guided tour – Mangelsen, Art Wolf, Lindblad, many others
- Type of vehicle is very important
 - ▣ Pop up top – it does rain and the sun can be brutal
 - ▣ Fully enclosed to protect from dust
 - ▣ One photographer per row in the vehicle
- Other
 - ▣ Beanbags – so that you do not have to pack any
 - ▣ Breakfast on the road

Safari Spring Show

- ❑ Creations Art Gallery, Louisville, Colorado
- ❑ April 6-May 31, 2012
- ❑ Reception April 6, 6-9p
- ❑ My African prints will be on display
- ❑ Leave your email address with me to receive announcement

For More Images and Videos

- ❑ www.richardseeleyphotography.com
- ❑ www.richardseeleyphotography.wordpress.com
- ❑ <http://richardseeleyphotography.wordpress.com/2011/09/28/kenya-wildlife-videos/>
- ❑ <http://richardseeleyphotography.wordpress.com/2011/09/19/africa/>
- ❑ Will make a .pdf of this presentation available. Links will be active in the .pdf