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Houston Safari Club  
Mr. Chris Susilovich, Executive Director  
4615 S.W. Freeway  
Suite 805  
Houston, TX 77027  
[chris@houstonsafariclub.org](mailto:chris@houstonsafariclub.org)

Dallas Safari Club  
Mr. Chris Hudson, Director  
13709 Gamma Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75244  
[hunterhudson@att.net](mailto:hunterhudson@att.net)

Western Expedition  
Eric Hanshew  
7460 East Quill Lane  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
[eric@westernexpedition.com](mailto:eric@westernexpedition.com)

AfricanHunting.com  
Jerome Philippe  
[info@africanhunting.com](mailto:info@africanhunting.com)

The Hunting Report  
12182 S. W. 128 Street  
Miami, FL 33186, USA  
800-272-5656  
305-253-5301  
[www.huntingreport.com](http://www.huntingreport.com)  
[Editorial@HuntingReport.com](mailto:Editorial@HuntingReport.com)

**Gene Campbell African Safari 2012**  
**Impala African Safari's w/ Arnold Payne "Nightmare"**

I know I have spent more time putting this together than Impala African Safari's spent on preparing my Safari. I have tried to provide as accurate info as possible.

I attended the Safari Club International Las Vegas show January 2012 along with my wife. I have hunted exclusively with one Safari company, and decided it was time to try something different. I have taken 28 species of plains game and had not been back to Africa since 2006. I thought it was time to step it up and hunt dangerous game. I happened to come across Impala African Safaris and Arnold Payne.

After some discussions I decided to book a buffalo hunt, but then some additional discussions and salesmanship from Arnold Payne he convinced me to look at a Leopard hunt. He had showed me specials advertised and continued to push the Leopard hunt even though I really wasn't interested. I looked at booking a Leopard hunt and buffalo hunt consecutively after I had looked through some of his albums. I saw a guy there (I won't mention his name) that I know pretty well and thought if he went with him that I am in good hands. I found out that he didn't really hunt with him, but that he had hunted through one of the concessions even though I was told that he hunted with him several times during our conversation. Arnold Payne continually described himself as a partner and as an owner which I'm coming to a conclusion is not the truth. Eventually, what I found out is he's just a booking agent. Even though on several occasions he described himself as an owner.

So let the "nightmare" journey began now knowing that I was going back to Africa I decided to contact a friend of mine and see if he would like to join me on this hunt. After a lot of

discussion with my friend I called Arnold Payne and said I have somebody that would like to go on a plains game hunt. I understood that there were still show specials available so based on the information that we had he booked a 10 plains game package with IAS. Once again I have several discussions and sent e-mails to Arnold Payne asking him where we were going to hunt and asking several times what area of Zimbabwe we were going to hunt. I wanted to get an idea so I can convey it to my friend who was making his first trip there. After I wasn't getting emails returned I started to come to the conclusion that I probably had made a mistake, fortunately I was smart enough to cancel the buffalo hunt at this time, unfortunately I would not bail out on my friend.

After additional e-mails asking questions with no direct answers, we were down to the last couple of weeks before we were going to leave. Another red flag there might be a problem was the booking of airline tickets. We had been given one price that Arnold quoted us and we were under the understanding that was the price; however an additional \$500 each was billed to our credit cards. Unfortunately knowing we could not make any changes or we might jeopardize the Safari we were stuck with this. I provided Arnold with one last email prior to our departure. I'm sure you get the feel and the spirit of what was happening at this time. The email provided was broken down below.

(Email was sent August 9,2012.)

*Okay Arnold here it goes, you wanted it in e-mail so here it is.*

*I'm extremely disappointed in the lack of information, or the spin doctor I get on the information that I receive. Let's get clear right now, this is has nothing to do with the money. So let's go back to several communications prior I did ask you for some information on the base camp or photo showing what it looked like you gave me very little general information. Secondly you stated to us, come be my guest at my new concession at Lake Kariba, which we agreed too and then we received an additional \$1,500+ charge for each of us for two (2) days. I should've known at that time and should have stopped then.*

*We inquired about a video service you did not at any time express in any detail what that included; was it one videographer, was it two videographers, were we to share one videographer. You stated he worked for you and that he would be in camp. Your e-mail today states that there is a videographer team! I'm confused..... if they exclusively work for you wouldn't you control the cost, but you never provided us with detailed information on what that cost was, or how it would be handled. We appreciated the effort made to sweeten the deal in regards to bird hunting. Neither one of us are interested bird hunting though. We wanted information on a videographer.*

*Just a reminder Arnold, this is not my first Safari. In fact just yesterday I was sitting with a friend of mine who had in March just completed his 10th safari. He sits on the board of the LA chapter of SC and he knows you personally. We were discussing some of the costs. He's taken three Leopard, he was shaking his head when he saw the cost for the pre baiting I won't tell you what he said about the costs. You and I discussed at SCI I didn't want to spend three days baiting so you made recommendations at that*

time I understand there's baiting costs, reasonable costs, to shoot some ratty impala that nobody wants to take. This shouldn't cost \$2,400.

And one other thing I really feel is degrading, you making the statement that you've given me an extraordinarily discounted leopard hunt is insulting not once but twice in your communication. Once again this is not my first Safari. To make this statement that you have to bait or you have no chance of taking a leopard is unbelievable. Since you made the statement in your previous e-mails that you need to pre-bait way ahead of time, I thought that's what we discussed at Sci. You also stated the pH that we were getting were coming in the day we fly in, so obviously there was never any intention of pre-baiting.

It's kind of funny that even my wife mentioned this because I made such a big deal about it so once again I'm confused..... You know there was another option after pre-baiting Arnold for the \$2,400. I could have shot one maybe two trophies and you could use the carcasses for additional baits.

Arnold, you kept telling me you know your business, and you had stated you had some of the best clients in the world. We're just too small businessman trying to have a good time. Arnold at this time we are both very apprehensive about the Safari.

One more thing, having conversations about my payment to you through e-mail with José was inappropriate. Arnold you have employees like we do and I want to give them the opportunity to make sure they continue to work. I'm sure they have families and by us canceling it doesn't allow them the opportunity to do that or take care of their families. José needs to have a fantastic time. So you decide on how it can be done. For me, well we'll see how it goes and I will send you your money once you have acknowledged you have received this e-mail. So now you have received your e-mail I'd still like a personal phone call.

Fortunately we just had a few normal bumps and bruises while traveling with firearms. As we left LAX August 29, 2012 for 11:45 p.m. departure bound for JFK, New York it's amazing no one knows how to handle a firearm at JFK, New York. (Arriving at JFK on August 30, 2012 at 7:59 a.m.) We departed JFK at 11:15 a.m. August 30, 2012 and arrived at Jobo International Airport on August 31, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. Scheduled flight to Bulawayo and arrived in Bulawayo at 12:05 p.m. August 31, 2012, but once through customs, visas, etc. firearms inspection it was late afternoon before we left the airport.

Arnold Payne along with his driver met us outside the airport, after a quick greeting we were off. I went to camp, but before we left Arnold said, "See you in a couple of days to make sure everyone is settled in." At this point we still really don't know where we are going, but we ended up on the Umzingwane River just above the dam. After much research I did not find out till after the Safari the name of this property is Denlynion and this concession is run by Tiki Drummond. From what I understand this property along with their own Bubiana Conservancy is ran by the Drummond family, a gentleman by the name of Ian Ferguson is the owner of this property Denlynion Ranch, also the owner of a property known as Benifer Estates. This information might seem irrelevant but all will in end so let's get to the Leopard hunt.

A discounted Leopard hunt, as Arnold Payne described it. I didn't really realize that a discounted Leopard hunt meant miniscule or almost absolute inability to take a Leopard, as you saw in the previous e-mail between myself and Arnold Payne of IAS. So let me provide you with information as to why I came to this conclusion. First it is agreed Arnold Payne was to provide six pre-baits a week prior to my arrival which did not take place. Second (let's enter in Graham

Mayger our pH), he stated he arrived two days before our arrival and he put up two impala baits, and had found a dead calf Eland in a snare that had been dead for a couple of days so he used this as part of the baiting in two other locations. So you can see that the agreement to pre-bait was not met and our pH Graham Mayger advised that someone possibly the prior hunters on the ranch had baited in our area a couple weeks prior meaning that somebody was hunting Leopard prior to my arrival. After that it only gets better from here. After checking our baits the first morning I had noticed another truck on the property with five men on it. Graham thought possibly they were checking water pumps. As my buddy was hunting plains game during the day I notice I heard a couple of shots close by, I'd mention this to Graham and he thought it might be coming from the next concession over. I truly believe that's what he thought, but unfortunately I didn't think so. This been my third Safari I had noticed the game was really skittish and I understand how these animals move and when they're pressured how they respond. This was a really unusual day in day out for the next four or five days. We checked baits, replaced baits and I would like to make it really clear that Graham Mayger did everything he possibly could to try to make this a successful Leopard hunt. He was the best thing about the Safari along with his crew Dominik and Fabian. They worked extremely hard, but unfortunately they had never hunted this ranch. Unfortunately this concession was in very poor condition and from what I am told this is Drummonds first year. Unfortunately on the sixth day we were checking bait in the afternoon, and a gentleman walked up to me as I was walking back to the truck and said have you got that Leopard yet, and we've seen three of your baits coming out of the riverbed below. Four other gentleman from what I understood had been hunting the same areas that we had been hunting and had been in my baits walking through these areas chasing plains game. Now some of the concerns I had were coming to fruition and I think everyone was in shock that there was another party hunting on this ranch. As it was made really clear by Arnold Payne no one, absolutely no one would be hunting on this ranch but me and my buddy. So once again after three prior conversations no one knows what is going on. There's absolutely no ranch manager, or no management on this property to communicate to anyone our concerns. By the seventh day the handwriting was on the wall no Arnold Payne, no one. What was amazing was one of the gentlemen in the other party was the head game scout for the ranch from what I was told.

Let me give you a little bit of information on the condition of the ranch. Several kilometers of fence line are cut and torn down. There were more cattle on this ranch than game, I didn't realize it was going to be a cattle ranch including goats. Skokie the cook and the two gals that worked at the farmhouse did a terrific job, unfortunately the conditions were really poor. I've never been on a Safari were I was served the spam sandwich. The reason for this was because Arnold Payne was two days late with provisions from what I was told. I'm paying premium dangerous game daily rates and I'm getting a spam sandwich. Once again no management, none, zero and this concession is run down and has not been maintained. The location of the farmhouse and view was great, but it needs a lot of attention.

Let's get back to the Leopard hunt. So after the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11th day we pretty much knew with the amount of traffic that been at the baits on the ranch this Leopard hunt was a joke. After much discussion with Arnold Payne once he showed up I realized I was dealing with only his diplomacy or spin meaning he had no answers for what had just taken place. Again I asked why are there other hunters on this ranch. This is not ethical or safe. I wonder now if it's a good time to talk about the elephant, no I will get back to that later. Did I mention on this ranch there's been so many snares every time we went on a hunt I picked up wire or a snare almost every single time. So once we had come to the conclusion the Leopard hunt was a total loss our pH

Graham Mayger contacted Tiki Drummond who I had mentioned early on the first day. I wanted to take a water buck and fortunately Mr. Drummond work things out and allowed me to hunt on his concession at the Bubiana Conservancy. Fortunately after pursuing a water buck all day we took a nice animal on the last hour of our hunt. In my opinion Mr. Drummond was very courteous and professional and I don't think he knew of what we were going through although he is responsible for this concession based on what I'm told. Maybe a good time to talk about the elephant now LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR NOW DO NOT BOOK A LEOPARD HUNT ON THIS CONCESSION OR WITH Arnold Payne AND IMPALA AFRICAN SAFARIS PERIOD.

After further discussion with the head game scout on this property (Denlynion Ranch) Drummond concession he stated to me he worked on this ranch for 11 years and stated to me the last time a Leopard was taken on this ranch was over four years ago. On the 10th day we are checking baits mind you around 8:00am two days after the run-in with the other hunting party we get a call from Ian Ferguson the owner of the ranch he calls from the property known as Benifer Estates and says they have a nuisance elephant problem would I like to come help take care of this problem clephant at a cost of \$2,500 US, I'll leave it at that.

I know after returning from Safari and further communication with other hunters that have hunted with IAS and Arnold Payne this is another one of his M.O.'s to try to save Safari even after questioning him about it he distanced himself from the situation. I wonder if SITTES would be interested in the situation. If this had to pass the smell test something really rotten, part of the Safari included going to Lake Kariba to do some tiger fishing as you read previously Arnold Payne said come be my guest for two days of fishing before you leave to go home. Really what this meant was we have to transfer supplies and vehicles to accommodate new hunters coming into their camp. Come to find out the next day Arnold Payne is now our fishing guide. After an hour and a half on a small pontoon boat that never entered into the main lake an Arnold stated it was too hot let's go back to camp, I'm thinking to myself are you kidding me. I have fished my entire life and caught over 100 Marlin over 500 pounds after catching a 8 inch tiger fish I guess that's what he means by tiger fishing. Once again I'm caught up in his spin of his scam, even though he charges \$1,500 for myself and my buddy for transportation fees. Well after one full day of this we have had enough and we also made it clear from the beginning we wanted to go to Victoria Falls at the end of our Safari, he stated this might happen if we could be worked into his schedule. Another spin from Arnold Payne, unfortunately the way we were treated in camp. Well our Safari is over and the Camp atmosphere it was almost intolerable and we asked to be transferred to Victoria Falls per original agreement. Finally the next morning Tiki Drummond went out of camp into the local town and made some sort of arrangements with what only can be described as a "rolling coffin" taxi van basically with very little tire tread. At this point we are happy to get out of camp and basically washed their hands of us. Unbelievable to abandon your client while still under Safari. Basically here's a taxi and see-yah, never less we made it to Victoria Falls after a five and half to six hour drive. Fortunately for us our van driver was a honorable person and a true guide along with his assistant we made it the falls just before closing leaving us to fend for ourselves. We worked out plane tickets from the falls to Jobo Int. for the next day avoiding a six-hour drive back to Bulawayo another two hours to Jobo Int. I can't thank enough the people that work at Victoria Falls airport also to a local travel agent he went way out of his way to help us. IAS did not even check on us to make sure we made it home

safely. Once again do not book a hunt with Impala African Safaris and this used car salesman Arnold Payne. You might not ever complete your Safari

Gene Campbell

P.S. He made a direct statement to me about the problems he's having with SCI. He stated, "Safari Club International doesn't have any concern for hunter complaints all they care about is that you get your trophies."