

7. YOUNG GIRL

Location: Mondesa Township, Swakopmund, Namibia

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 28-135mm f3.5-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 50mm, f9, 1/160 sec, ISO 100

Description: At first this young girl was very serious and wouldn't smile for me. But after showing her a couple of photos of herself she really opened up.

8. NILE CROCODILE

Location: Chobe National Park, Botswana

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 210mm, f5.6, 1/800 sec, ISO 200

Description: This crocodile was basking in the warmth of the late afternoon sun. On a boat, we quietly pulled in to the riverbank. We waited patiently for its mouth and eyes to be open at the same time.

9. SOLITARY BULL

Location: Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 100mm, f9.0, 1/400 sec, ISO 200

Description: Taken while I was lying on my stomach next to the vehicle. Getting down low to the ground gives the perspective of a much larger animal. He came so close he could almost touch us with his trunk — not for the faint hearted.



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Claire Vial has a wild time when it comes to her photography. She enjoys nothing more than mixing her two passions of capturing wildlife and the great outdoors

An internationally published author, photographer and African wildlife safari guide, Claire Vial has more than 50 children's books on animals published in America, Australia and New Zealand. She grew up on Auckland's North Shore and like many children had a passion for animals. After completing a zoology degree in 1993, Claire headed to Africa as a conservation volunteer

based in Botswana.

The country's infamous Okavango Delta was Claire's stepping stone into the world of wildlife photography. "It was while I was in Botswana I learnt about photography," she says. "I bought my first SLR, a Canon EOS 100, and quickly discovered wildlife photographers literally go through rolls and rolls of film to get that elusive 'wow' photo." Returning to New Zealand she teamed up with



1. LIONESS

Location: Etosha National Park, Namibia

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 400mm, f7.1, 1/500 sec, ISO 200

Description: Taken in late afternoon light, this lioness was casually walking across a grassy plain.

2. YOUNG VERVET MONKEYS

Location: Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 275mm, f7.1, 1/400 sec, ISO 200

Description: These cheeky young monkeys were basking in the warmth of the early morning sun. We sat there watching them as they sat in the trees watching us.

3. MOTHER HIPPO AND YOUNG

Location: Chobe National Park, Botswana

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 150mm, f5.6, 1/640 sec, ISO 200

Description: I was on a boat when I took this photo. It is rare to see such a young hippo, especially out of the water. Its mother was not very happy with us getting so close and subsequently charged our boat.

Graham Meadows and started publishing non-fiction educational children's books on mammals, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and birds, using some of her photos.

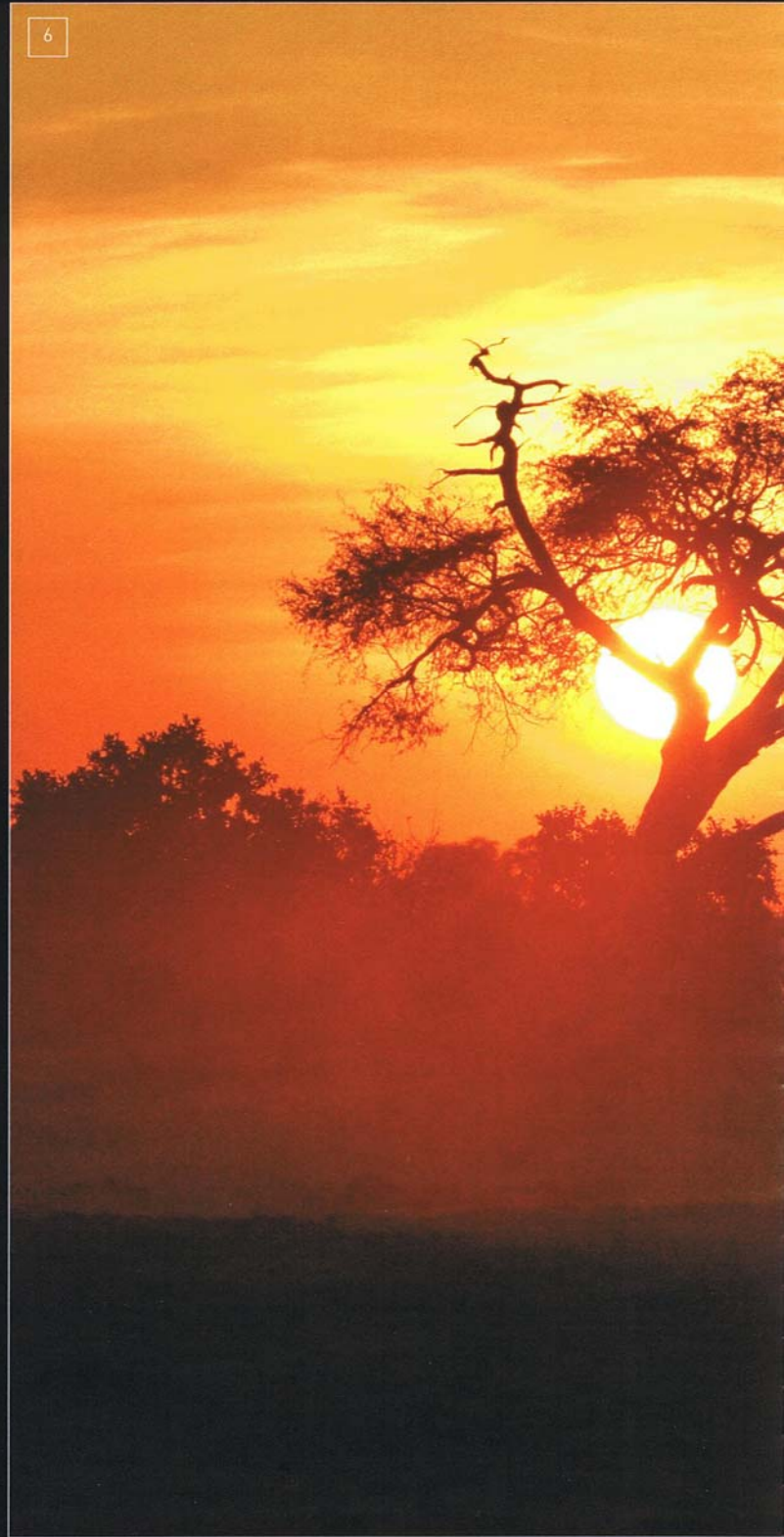
"Being able use my photos in children's books has been a huge highlight. It is humbling to be able to capture and share some of Africa's spectacular wildlife with so many children and adults."

Today Claire operates a travel business taking groups of enthusiastic Kiwis on safari to Africa.

"When I am away on safari I use digital cameras. In some ways it has

made life easier. However, digital technology still has its challenges in the bush, especially when you have no power."

To see more of Claire's work, visit: www.africanwildlifepictures.com and www.africansafaris.co.nz





4. STALLIONS FIGHTING

Location: Etosha National Park, Namibia

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 400mm, f10, 1/800 sec, ISO 400

Description: These two zebra stallions were fighting a short distance from the vehicle. With late afternoon sun and dust in the air, I increased the ISO to capture the movement.

5. LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER

Location: Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 400mm, f6.3, 1/320 sec, ISO 200

Description: This is the national bird of Botswana, and one of my favourites. In flight, the lilac-breasted roller is even more spectacular

6. AMARULA SHOT

Location: Savuti, Botswana

Camera: Canon 20D

Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm f4-5.6 IS USM

Settings: 150mm, f5.6, 1/3200 sec, ISO 400

Description: Sunsets and sunrises in Africa can be exquisite. We positioned ourselves at a waterhole surrounded by elephants and waited for the sun to set. With the help of some cloud on the horizon and lots of dust in the air the colours emerged naturally.