



WE BREED TRUST

**A SABLE BREEDING PINNACLE
IS WITHIN REACH**

THE PROVEN THABA THOLO SABLE BREEDING PROGRAMME PRODUCES EXCEPTIONAL GENETIC QUALITY

In December of 2004 a son of Koning was born. Alfa was a stunning sable bull and a prime example of the best of pure Zambian sable antelope. He featured a deep, glossy sable-black coat and beautifully curved, lengthy horns, eventually measuring no less than 50 inches.

Alfa's sire Koning was himself a remarkable offspring from one of the original sable cows imported directly from Zambia to Thaba Tholo.

While Koning was sold to Romaco Ranch, his sons Alfa and Motuna continued his legacy at Thaba Tholo. Alfa's first calves were born in May 2011 and judging from his offspring since then, his prepotency to breed only the best offspring has been proven repeatedly, with a progeny of 82 calves. In 2016 Thaba Tholo sold Alfa to another renowned sable breeder.

Four years after Alfa's sale, his offspring began showing undisputed promise of truly remarkable young sable. One such example of the pinnacle of elite breeding is Ndoda, introduced to the sable breeding industry in early 2021.

Ndoda measured 54.25" at an age of only five years and 10 months. His noble pedigree includes his 37" dam, who is an offspring from the legendary Dinaka.

Karabo is another leading young sable bull from the Alfa line. A half-sibling of Ndoda, Karabo already measured 51.25" at only 51 months. Remarkably, his horn shape is even more impressive than that of Ndoda, for instance boasting extraordinarily deep arches. The Karabo bloodline is impressive too, because not only is Alfa his sire, but his dam is a Monster offspring and Nike his grandsire.

55²/₈" NDODA
AT 7 YEARS 3 MONTHS



55¹/₈" KARABO
AT 5 YEARS 4 MONTHS



THABA THOLO BLOODLINE EXCELLENCE

Within the well-established and influential Thaba Tholo sable breeding programme, the combination of Koning and Nike bloodlines are now proven to produce an astoundingly high standard of genetically and phenotypically excellent quality offspring.

For Thaba Tholo our key objective is to develop a new sable generation that will enhance already well entrenched sable features ever more efficiently. This means managing our herds economically and responsibly within the broader agricultural and social environment within which we operate.



This striking young heifer was sold on our 2018 annual auction. She is an exceptional genetic fusion between Alfa (Koning) and Monster (Nike) bloodlines.



On auction in
2021

Dingane 50²/₈" at
6 years 7 months

Son of 50" Alfa and
34"+ Diana, daughter
of Dinaka

50⁶/₈" DINGANE

BREEDING BEST PRACTICE

A strategy of regularly purchasing replacement bulls, cows and heifers for your own herds to advance genetic quality and diversity is a significant investment in the future. It is therefore crucial to ensure that you receive adequate value for money when investing in sable to introduce to your farm.

We live in an agricultural world with ever better data availability that can assist in investment decision making. The performance metrics of a particular bull or cow should be made available to breeders so that they can use this data to determine the true genetic value of specific animals.

Higher prices for higher quality genetics can thus be paid upon the assurance that accurate data analytics offer.

The eye of the beholder can appreciate the phenotypical features of a perfect bull or cow, but breeding performance should be judged upon accurate data. Furthermore, aspects such as breeding and farm management along with production measurements will stand you in good stead.



VIRTUAL LIVE AUCTION WITH LIVESTREAM VIDEO ON WILDLIFEPRO

Bidding for the Thaba Tholo Virtual Live auction opens on the WildlifePro app at 08:00 on Monday, 13 September 2021 for pre-bidding. From 11:00 on Wednesday, 15 September 2021, the auctioneer will start closing the virtual live lots under his hammer, in order after one another, from lot 1 onwards.

TIMED AUCTION

The Thaba Tholo 2021 Timed Auction opens on the WildlifePro app at 08:00 on Monday, 13 September 2021. This timed auction starts closing lots automatically in groups of 10 lots every 15 minutes from 12:00 on Friday, 17 September 2021.

Bid with the WildlifePro app [<http://onelink.to/wildlifepro>]

COWS AND HEIFERS

Also keep the following factors in mind so that you can achieve your breeding goals to maintain almost perfect sable cows or heifers.

- Suitable environment - If a heifer or cow adapts well to their environment, they will deliver a healthy calf every year and still maintain a top-quality body condition throughout the year.
- Fruitfulness - The average inter-calving period (ICP) should not be more than 9.5 to 10 months. Heifers should on average give birth to a first calf at the age of 2.5 years.

When a cow is in good condition when she calves, she needs at least a month or two rest to begin cycling again. To achieve this goal, she needs to conceive in the early days of the breeding season and calve in the first few of days of calving season. If she calves in low condition, her recovery period after calving is longer, reducing the likelihood of her conceiving early in the breeding season.

* Production - If a cow adapts well to her environment and calves when she needs to, the calf adds greater value to your herd.

Therefore, she must be able to provide sufficient nutrients to her calf so that it can reach its genetic potential.



BULLS

When selecting a new breeding bull, keep these three important guidelines in mind.

- Good body confirmation with an appropriate temperament.
- Superior genetic quality, so that offspring will have all the desirable features of top bulls.
- Reproductively sound so that he can produce an adequate quantity of good quality semen along with the desire to attend to female sables optimally.

The introduction of top bulls to your herd will result in them producing superior progeny. Genetic improvement is permanent, which means your own genetic lines will continue to improve over time.

It's also important to remember that your breeding bull is your herd's ultimate athlete and should be treated as such. This can be achieved by conditioning them far in advance. Bulls have a major influence on the performance of the herd; therefore, they need to remain healthy and active for the duration of the breeding season.

In order to guarantee genetic improvement in your herd you must select new animals to introduce into your breeding programme based on appropriate breeding objectives. This means, ideally, to purchase animals with an optimal feature list, along with the data to prove their prepotency. In this way, a sound investment in the future is certain.



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