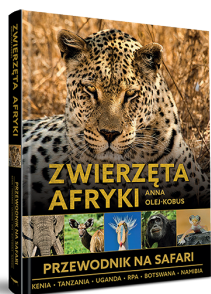




**Anna Olej-Kobus,  
MA**

A graduate in Romance Studies, Anna Olej-Kobus has spent the last 20 years working as a journalist and photographer for some of Poland's leading magazines and publishers, including *National Geographic*. She is the author of a number of acclaimed albums in Polish, on such themes as Namibia, Burma, and Kenya, as well as the iconic US Route 66. In English she has published *Burma: A Golden Tear*. Her work has won numerous prizes, including the Magellan Award, Golden Pen, Golden Jasmine, and Travel Book of the Year. [anka@afrykanka.pl](mailto:anka@afrykanka.pl)  
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# The Wildlife of Africa

An extraordinary safari guide – a wonderful resource in Polish for everyone who loves to go “animal hunting” armed with a camera.

**T**he more we know, the better we understand the world around us. This holds particularly true when observing animals on a safari, especially for first-timers. Initially, there is awe: look, a giraffe! Its sheer size is astonishing, its elegance captivating. Discovering more, however, requires more time or a knowledgeable guide. For example, oxpeckers may be seen feasting on a giraffe's neck, while wagtails dart between its hooves, snapping up disturbed insects. Before the mating season begins, it turns out that males taste the urine of females to assess their fertility, not wanting to invest in a mate with little chance of passing on their genes. A safari allows one to observe animals' behaviors in their natural habitat and learn many things – for instance, that ostriches never actually bury their head in the sand (because they can defend themselves with a powerful kick from their strong legs).

I developed the book *Zwierzęta Afryki: Przewodnik na safari* (Animals of Africa. A Safari Guide) not only to show Polish readers the basic facts concerning animal growth and habits, but also to convey a wealth of additional information. Beyond just presenting fac-

tual knowledge, the book also beautifully illustrates each species, revealing the rich complexity of the local fauna. Readers can grow to love hippos or come to understand the social structures of hyena clans. The book also incorporates cultural contexts, including animal-related legends, proverbs, and varied perceptions by indigenous peoples. It uses both scientific (Latin) and common names, as well as English names commonly used by safari guides, making this a pioneering publication in Polish for all those fascinated by African wildlife.

The guide covers over 400 species, from elephants to ants, with each chapter thoroughly consulted with field specialists. While primarily showcasing animals frequently seen on safaris, it also features lesser-known and seldom-seen species such as pangolins, shoebills, and African wild dogs. Over 600 photographs are included to assist with identification.

Despite its reputation, Africa is not overly dangerous. Animals generally maintain a considerable distance from humans, and this book helps bring readers closer to the exotic realm of African fauna. ■



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