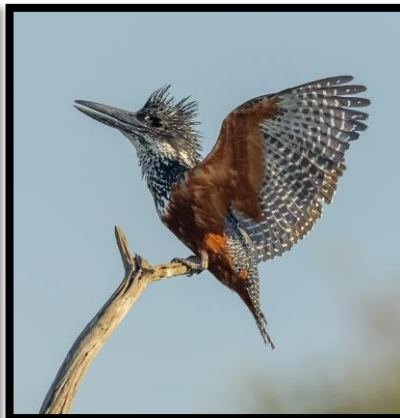
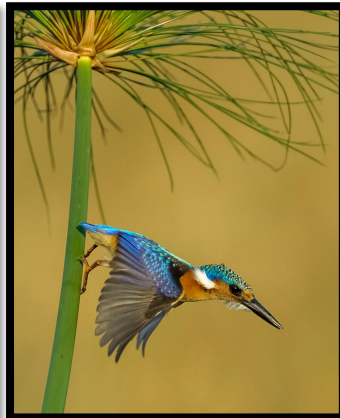


# Learnings from an African Wildlife Photo Safari

Richard Pilcher



17<sup>th</sup> October 2017

# Overview

- Introduction
- Equipment & Camera Settings
- 6 Key Considerations
- Selected Images
- Processing Workflow
- Conclusions

# Introduction

# Why Chobe National Park?

- To photograph birds in flight (BIF)
- Excellent bird life with many species
- Large elephant population
- Ideal shooting platform on boat with adjustable chair & tripod
- Photographic equipment provided
- Local knowledge





# Chobe National Park / Victoria Falls Region



# Equipment and Camera Settings



# Equipment

Nikon D700  
600mm F4 lens

Canon 5D MkIII  
70 – 200mm F2.8



# Camera settings

Settings	Mike Atkinson "Bird Photography"	Chobe Photo Safari Default settings	Comments
Mode	Aperture Priority	Aperture Priority	
Aperture	Widest lens will allow – F4 <sup>1</sup>	<b>F8</b> <sup>1</sup>	<sup>1</sup> Smaller aperture when > DOF required
Shutter Speed	Set by aperture priority	Set by aperture priority	
ISO	Typically 200 to 400	<b>1250</b> <sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup> Ensure speed ≤ 1/8000 <sup>th</sup> sec in open sky
Metering Mode	Evaluative or Matrix	Matrix or Evaluative	Nikon / Canon
Exposure Compensation	No comment	<b>EV -1.3 for Nikon</b> <b>EV -0.3 for Canon</b>	Negative EV protects blowout of whites & boosts shutter speed
Auto focus mode	AI Servo or Continuous AF	Continuous AF - C AI Servo	i) Nikon ii) Canon
AF point selection	Normally centre point	<b>i) Full point auto selection</b> <b>ii) 21 focus points dynamic AF-area</b>	i) For open sky with no background distractions ii) Birds in flight generally
Image Format	RAW	RAW	
White balance	Auto	Auto	
Drive Mode	Continuous	Continuous	i) Nikon D700 – 5 frames / sec ii) Canon 5Dmk3 – 6 frames / sec



# Exposure Compensation

Importance of shooting at  $-EV$  cannot be over emphasized

1. Protects the whites

2. Boost to shutter speed

- Allows you to work at highest possible shutter speed which is paramount in wildlife photography
- Option to adjust aperture and / or ISO quickly when required

Eg. For the same aperture and ISO:

- EV 0 = 1/2000 sec
  - EV -1 = 1/4000 sec
- } 1 stop

# Importance of Continuous Drive Mode

Shooting rate 5 per sec



0

0.2

0.4

Time Seconds

# 6 Key Considerations

- Fill the frame
- Composing the shot
- Image blur
- Depth of field
- Knowledge of animals/birds
- Keep it simple with constant review

Lighting is always important



# Fill the frame



Lack of detail in cropped image

Bird does not fill enough of the frame in uncropped image



# Composing the shot

Background distracts  
from key point of interest



Complementary background  
and good profile





# Avoiding Image Blur

Don't be concerned selecting max shutter speed

1/8000<sup>th</sup> sec @ f8.0, ISO 1000, EV -1.3 & 600mm





# Depth of field

In this case f8.0 was inadequate. There was however scope to increase DOF.



# Knowledge of animals/birds Anticipation & some luck



# Keep it simple with constant review

- Pre-select settings best for prevailing conditions
- Often no time to make big changes
- Constantly review settings in viewfinder
- Constantly review images on screen
- Stay calm and don't get carried away by the moment and forget basics

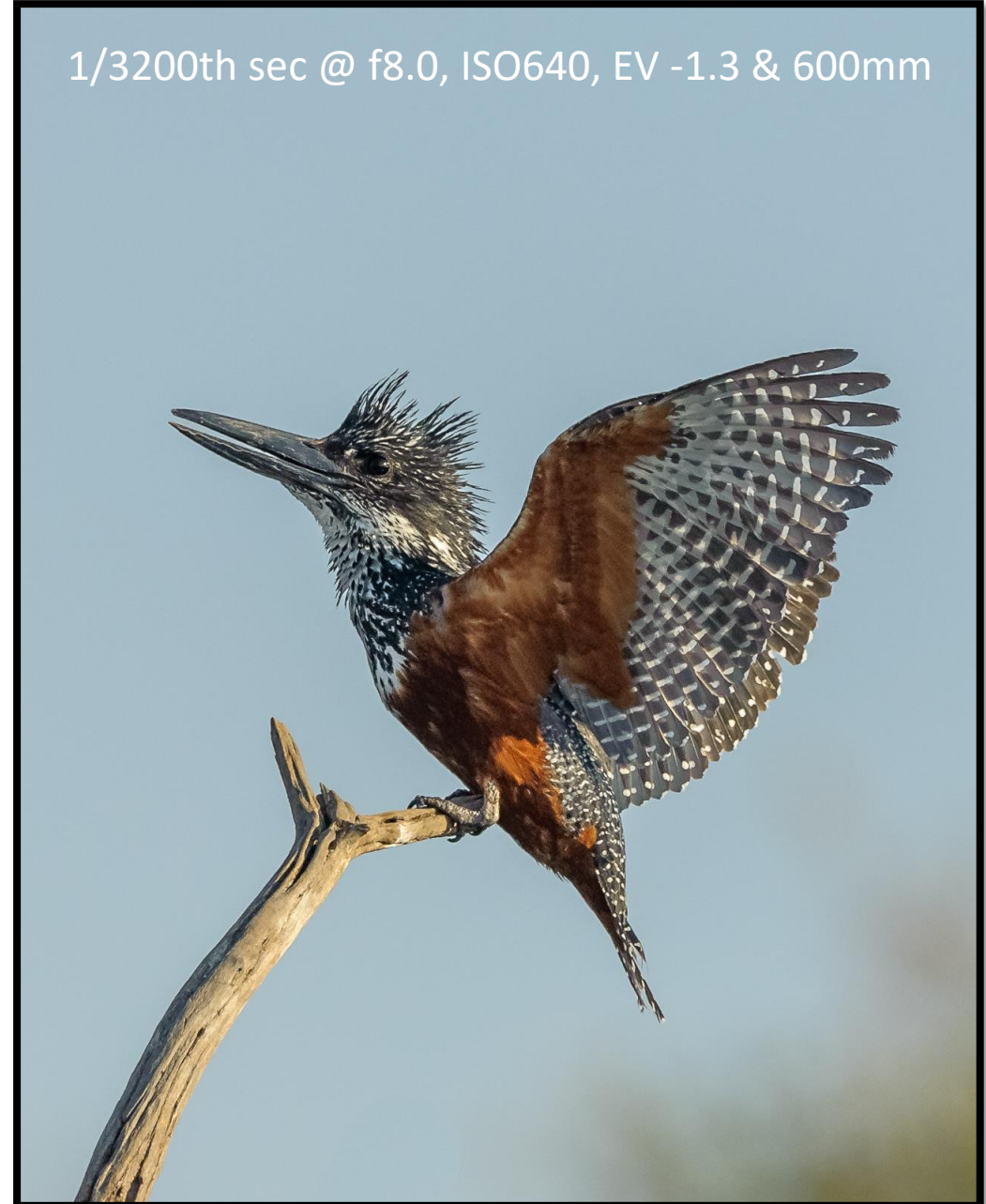


# Selected Images

1/3200th sec @ f8.0, ISO1250, EV -1.3 & 600m



1/3200th sec @ f8.0, ISO640, EV -1.3 & 600mm



1/5000<sup>th</sup> sec @ f8.0, ISO1250, EV -1.3 & 600mm





1/6400<sup>th</sup> sec f8.0, ISO 100, EV -1.3 & 600mm





1/5000<sup>th</sup> sec @f7.1, ISO1250, EV-0.7 & 200mm











1/1600<sup>th</sup> sec @ f9.0, ISO 1600, EV -0.3 & 200mm





1/5000<sup>th</sup> sec f8.0, ISO 1250, EV -1.3 & 600mm



1/2000<sup>th</sup> sec f13.0, ISO 1250, EV -1.3 & 600mm



1/8000 sec @ f8.0, ISO 1250, EV -1.3 & 600mm



1/6400 sec @ f8.0 ISO 1250, EV -1.3 & 600mm





1/3200<sup>th</sup> sec @ f8.0, ISO 640, EV -1.3 & 600mm



1/8000<sup>th</sup> sec @ f8.0, ISO 1250, EV -1.3 & 600mm





1/5000<sup>th</sup> sec @ f8.0, ISO1250, -1.3EV & 600mm



1/4000<sup>th</sup> sec @ f8.0, ISO1000, -1.3EV & 600mm











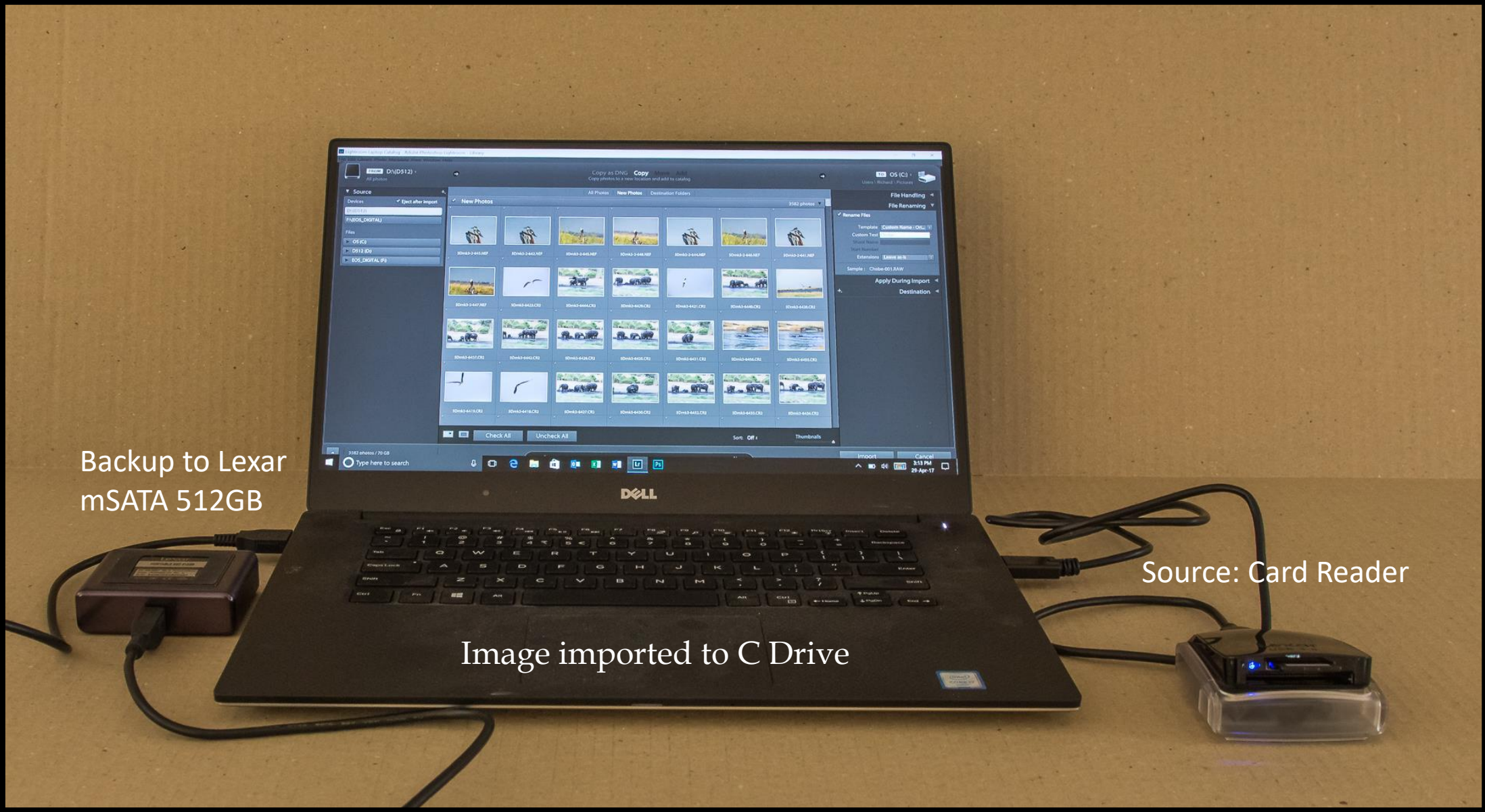
# Processing Workflow

Typically took 250 images / 3 hour shooting session

- Import images from CF or SD card to Lightroom
- Lightroom presets
- Setting up smart collection criteria:
  - Initial Selection
  - Edited
  - Key wording plus rating

Note: Smart collection requires a unique identifier to limit selection to appropriate images

# Import images from SD or CF cards to Lightroom



Backup to Lexar  
mSATA 512GB

Source: Card Reader

Image imported to C Drive

# Lightroom settings for image import

The screenshot displays the Adobe Photoshop Lightroom import dialog. The interface is divided into several key sections:

- Source:** Located on the left, it shows the source as 'D:\(D512)'. A red arrow points to this section with the label 'Source: Card Reader'.
- Grid:** The central area shows a grid of photo thumbnails. The 'New Photos' tab is selected and circled in red. A red arrow points to the grid with the label 'Custom Name: Original file number'. A tooltip for a selected image shows: 'D700-6972.NEF', '03-Sep-16 8:57:23 AM (7 months ago)', and '18 MB'. A red arrow points to the grid with the label 'Custom Name: Original file number'.
- File Handling:** On the right, this section includes options for 'Build Previews' (Minimal), 'Don't Import Suspected Duplicates' (checked), and 'Make a Second Copy To:' (checked, pointing to 'E:\5Dmk3 Backup Chobe'). A red arrow points to this section with the label 'Make a Second Copy To: E:\5Dmk3 Backup Chobe'.
- File Renaming:** Also on the right, it shows 'Rename Files' (checked) with a 'Custom Name - Ori...' template. A red arrow points to this section with the label 'Custom Name: Original file number'.
- Apply During Import:** This section includes 'Develop Settings' (Import Preset Wildlife), 'Metadata' (None), and 'Keywords' (Chobe).
- Destination:** At the bottom right, it shows 'Into Subfolder' (unchecked) and 'Organize' (Into one folder).

At the bottom of the dialog, there are 'Import' and 'Cancel' buttons. The status bar at the very bottom indicates '3582 photos / 70 GB' and 'Import Preset: None'.



# Lightroom Presets

Basic ▾

Treatment: **Color** | Black & White

WB: As Shot ▾

Temp 6850  
Tint -12

Tone **Auto**


Exposure 0.00  
Contrast +20

Highlights -50  
Shadows +75  
Whites +10  
Blacks -10

Presence

Clarity +15  
Vibrance +10  
Saturation 0

Detail ▾



Sharpening

Amount 90  
Radius 0.5  
Detail 50  
Masking 70

Noise Reduction

Luminance 15  
Detail 50  
Contrast 0

Color 90  
Detail 50  
Smoothness 50

Lens Corrections ▾

Basic | **Profile** | Color | Manual

Enable Profile Corrections  
Setup Custom ▾

Lens Profile

Make Nikon ▾  
Model Nikon AF-S NIKKOR 600... ▾  
Profile Adobe (Nikon AF-S NIKK... ▾

Amount

Distortion 100  
Vignetting 100

# Setting up Smart Collection Criteria in Lightroom

Initial selection of image for editing  
"Select 1 to 5"



After editing  
"Select 6"



Final with keywording  
plus rating "Select 7"

Smart Collection: **Chobe to edit**

Match **all** of the following rules:

- Rating is in range ★ . . . . . to ★★★★★
- Label Color is not red
- Label Color is not yellow
- Filename contains Chobe

Smart Collection: **Edited = Red (6)**

Match **all** of the following rules:

- Label Color is red
- Filename contains Chobe

Smart Collection: **Final Edited = Yellow (7)**

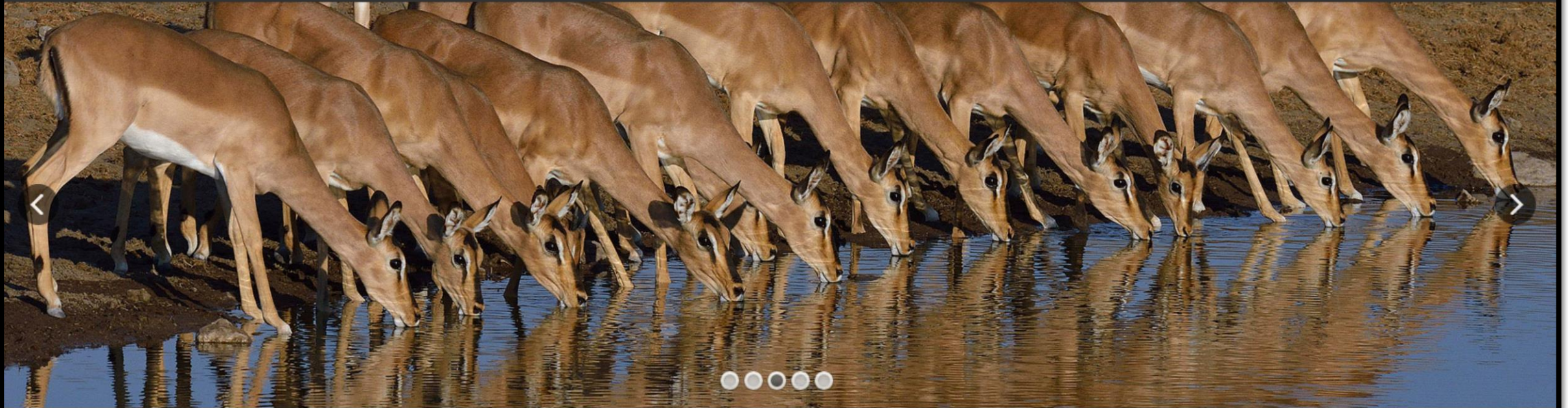
Match **all** of the following rules:

- Label Color is yellow
- Filename contains Chobe



# Editing process in Lightroom

- Crop as required
- Check white balance
- Adjust black and white sliders
- Assign key words plus ratings
- Transfer final images to a  
“Collection”



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A landscape photograph of a sunset. The sky is a gradient of orange and red, with a bright white sun on the right side. In the foreground, there are several large, dark silhouetted trees on the left and a body of water reflecting the light. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center-right area.

Thank You