

N 50/7/2

N 50/7/23

72/04/18-27

72/04/26

72/04/27

Park

Koabendes

Kaross

Biologist (Etosha)
28/4/1972.

Director,
Nature Conservation & Tourism,
WINDHOEK.

Game Census - Etosha - April 1972.

1. Pilot - N. Maritz.
Total flying time - 55 hours as from 18/4/1972 to 27/4/1972.
Aircraft - Piper Super Cub.
2. The game reserve was divided into blocks to facilitate counting and refuelling. Areas of known game concentrations were enclosed in the smaller blocks. Flights were made along pre-determined strip, these strips being approximately 1 mile apart. Areas of low game concentrations were crossed by means of zigzag flight patterns. Actual counts were made with the use of the tape-recorder and processed after the census.
3. Weather and veld conditions. At present occasional showers and thunderstorms are still being experienced over this area. Many pans still have water, making the use of fountains by game unnecessary. Small areas of the pan itself - the Ekuma delta, Poacher's Point, Fisher's Pan and the drainage line in the pan - have water. The Ekuma, although full, is not draining into the pan. Most of the pans such as Ononjoke Pan and Nataka Pan, are full or half-full. Generally, the grass has recovered from the early, drought. However, the area around Adamax and westwards towards Charl Marais Dam appears barren and devoid of grass. Most of the fire-breaks are covered with grass and must be scraped within the next few months.

4. Animals counted.

	<u>Feb. 1970</u>	<u>Nov. 1970</u>	<u>Feb. 1971</u>	<u>April 1972</u>
Zebra	7,274	6,818	10,376	12,874
Wildebeest	4,789	3,586	3,740	3,194
Springbok	4,181	1,854	4,409	4,008
Gemsbok	1,582	1,064	1,717	2,612
Kudu	161	400	195	195
Ostrich	1,658	279	811	1,201
Eland	95	216	128	315
Giraffe	392	156	403	538
Elephant	494	232	124	447
Lions	10	21	22	40
Rhino	0	3	2	10
Roan	-	-	-	30
Hartebeest	126	16	241	203
Mountain Zebra	0	0	12	148
Impala	0	0	0	125

TOTAL 25,943

5. Remarks.

Although it appears that the zebra have increased by, 2,500 attention must be drawn to the fact that this might be due to an error in counting. It is suspected that 3,000 zebra, which had been counted at Leeubron, and moved to the target range and were counted again the following day.

Numerous newly born gemsbok and kudu calves were observed. Gemsbok usually calve early in the year and this observation raises some interesting possibilities, especially if it is borne in mind that the rains were 2 months late - delayed implantation or delayed birth? The kudu calves have confirmed the calving time of March.

The delayed rains might have been the reason for the high elephant count - they might have been prevented from migrating to the east and west by the lack of rain water.

6. Last year an helicopter- count was made of the Kaross quarantine camp and this count was now repeated with the Piper-Cub for comparative purposes. I do not have the totals obtained from the helicopter count - these can be obtained from dr. Hofmeyr - but below are the totals obtained from my count.

	<u>KAROSS</u>	<u>KHOABENDUS</u>	
Zebra	59	31	
Mountain Zebra	120	25	
Roan	16	64	
Springbok	1	0	
Gemsbok	293	6	
Eland	126	0	
Giraffe	173	1	
Ostrich	41	0	
Rhino	3	1	
Impala	52	71	
Kudu	46	3	
TOTAL	<u>940</u>	<u>202</u>	= 1142

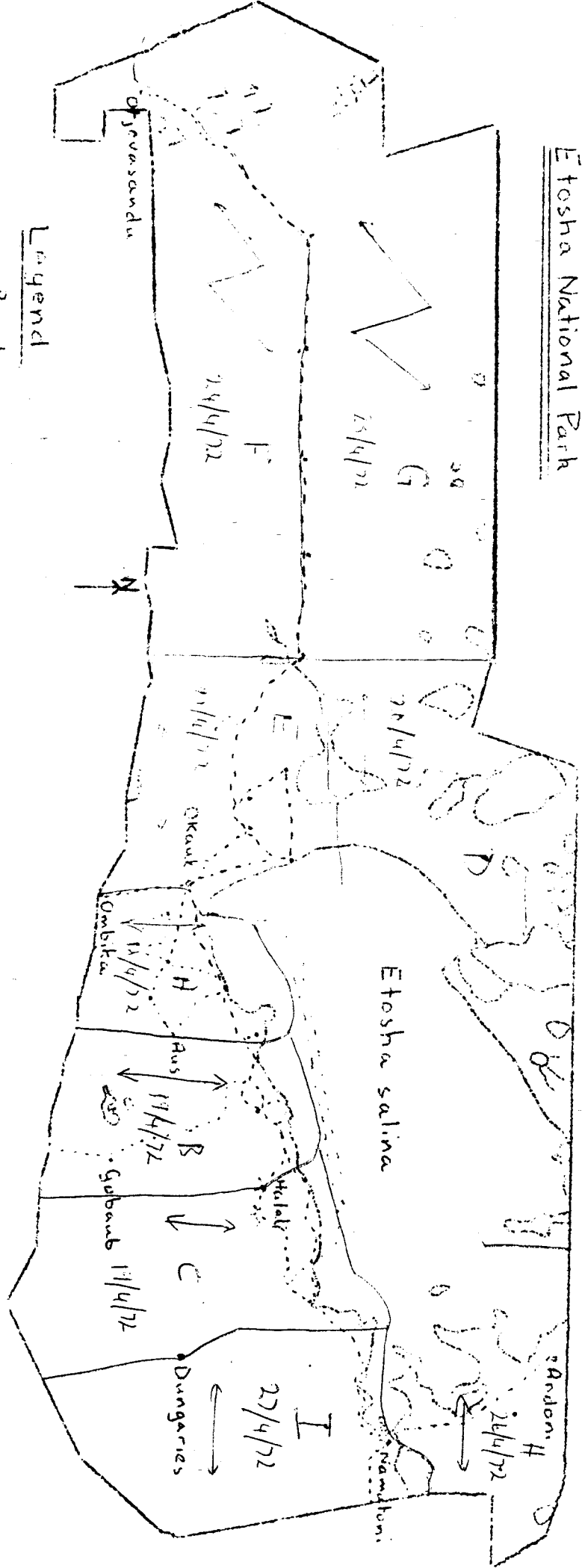
7. Difficulties are experienced with various game species and the counting procedure:

- Zebra are often found in large numbers making
- Eland individual counts impossible.
- Springbok
- Kudu - scattered in bush and tend to hide from the aeroplane.

The other species occur in smaller numbers or family parties and are easy to count individually.

J.S. DU PREEZ.

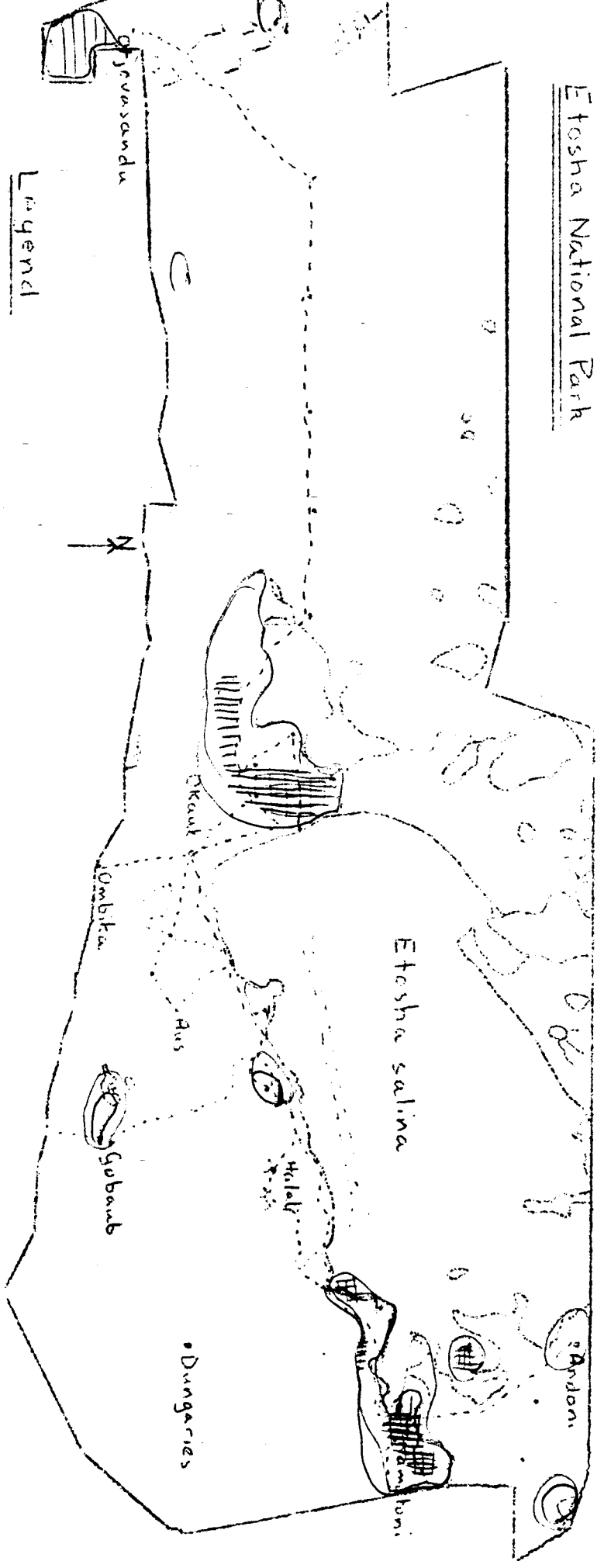
Etosha National Park



Survey tracks and flight plans

April 1972

Etosha National Park



Legend

----- Roads

Plains salina

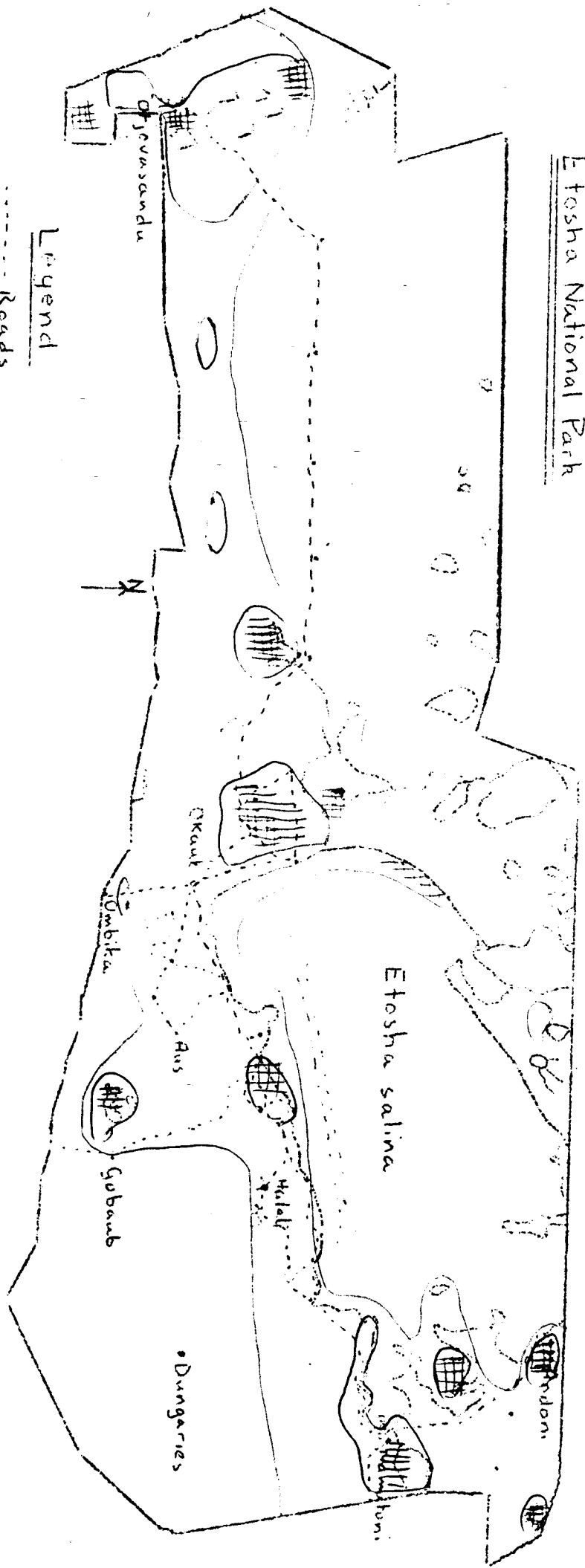
○ = Distribution

○ = Concentration Area

Blue Mallee

April 1972

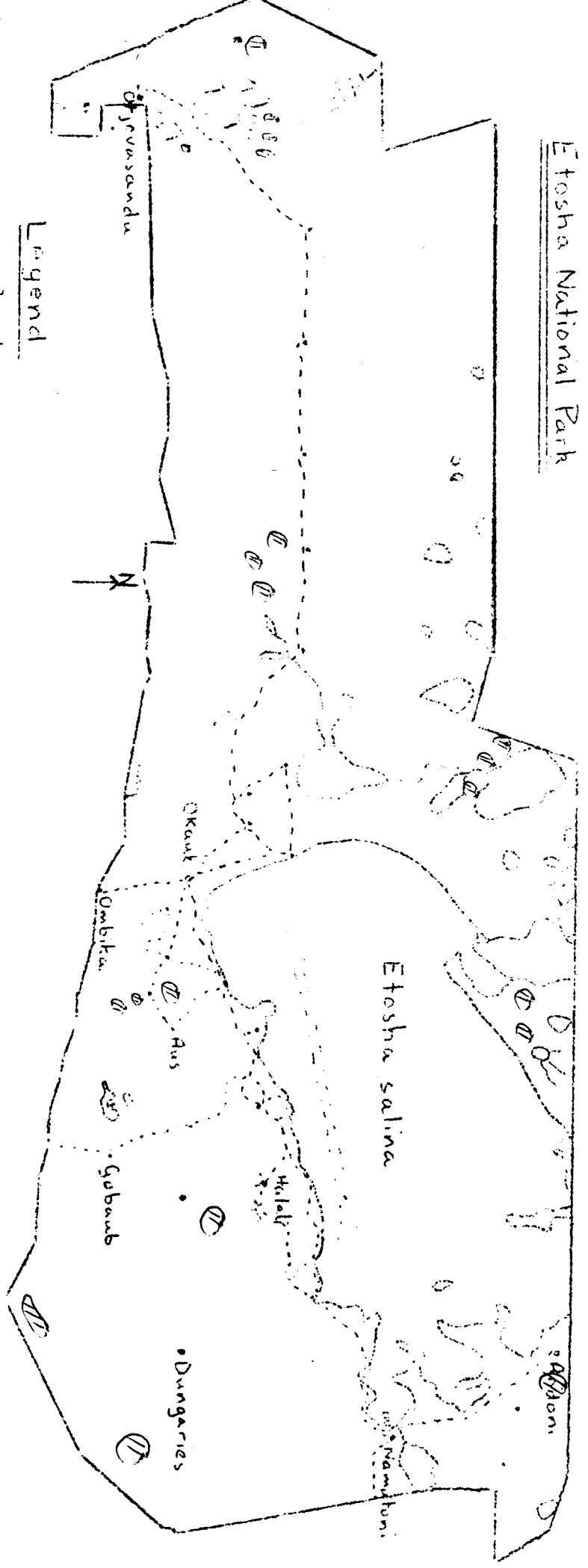
Etosha National Park



Legend

- Roads
- Springs
- Distribution
- Cone areas
- Springs
- Distribution
- Cone areas

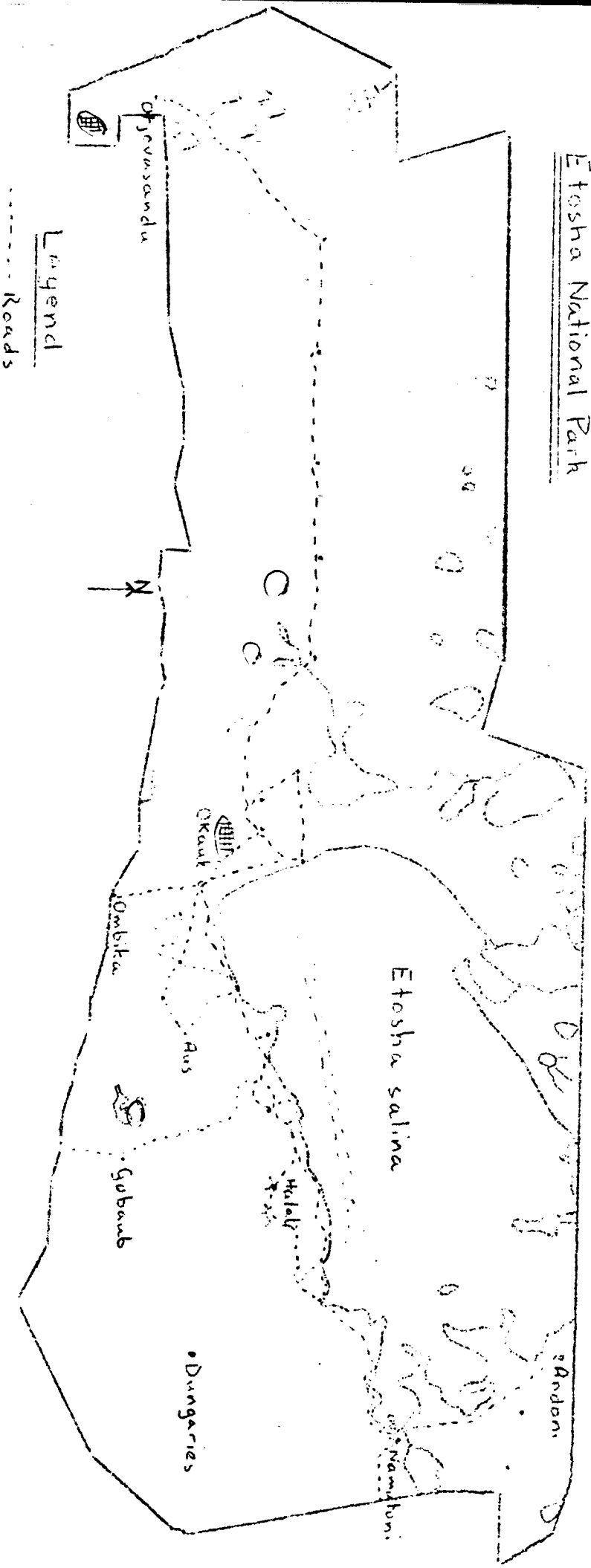
Etosha National Park



Legend

- Elephant
- ⊖ Herds
- Rhino
- individuals
- Roads

Etosha National Park



Legend

- Roads
- Eland
- Herds
- ⊞ Big herds