

Dit is baie belangrik dat die vel nie uitdroog nie. Die toediening van naftalïen aan geslagte velle is noodsaaklik om "pink verrotting" te voorkom. Dit is 'n swamorganisme wat die vel nutteloos maak.

Die normale praktyk in Oudtshoorn is om volstruise op 'n ouderdom van 14 maande te slag. Dit word veral gedoen weens die goeie kwaliteit vel wat op die stadium geproduseer word. Die vleis en vere is 'n bykomstigheid. Daar moet egter op gelet word dat die volstruise intensief gevoer word. 'n Wilde volstruis se vel sal dalk nie op die ouderdom kwalifiseer nie weens die minimum grootte wat aan die kwaliteit van velle gekoppel word.

Dit is moeilik om 'n ideale tyd aan te beveel wanneer wilde volstruise geslag kan word. Net voor die jaarlikse broeiseisoen lyk die volstruise se veredels op sy mooiste en behoort daar dus min onvolgroeide vere te wees wat die vel se kwaliteit kan beïnvloed. Om die jaarlikse broeiseisoen te voorspel is egter moeilik en sal daar in hierdie geval slegs op waarnemings in die veld staatgemaak kan word.

Indien diere geskiet moet word, moet dit verkieslik deur middel van 'n kopskoot geskied. Ook moet dit op 'n redelike kort afstand gedoen word, sodat die voël dadelik bereik kan word, voordat hy met sy gespartel sy hele vel en vere beskadig.

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AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT IN BUSHMANLAND

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South West Africa's Bushmanland occupies the north-west corner of the Kalahari desert, and is part of the traditional roaming grounds of the !Xung Bushmen. They are regarded one of the indigenous people of this country, and the Odendaal commission therefore allocated them the area known today as Bushmanland.

It is approximately 2 million hectares in area. There are very few natural resources present in this area. In keeping with the rest of the Kalahari there is no permanent surface water worthy of particular note. The veld varies from forests (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) in the west, to the savanna/sand seringa (*Burkea africanum*) in the east. There are a few cubic metres of fellable timber, but the trees are too spread out to be of much commercial value. There are no commercially viable mineral deposits.

The soil also varies from sand to lime to the clays of the omurambas. The rainfall is equally unpredictable, the average precipitation being in the region of 450 mm *per annum*.

From the above it can be seen that any development, agricultural or otherwise, is severely handicapped by the lack of resources and infrastructure.

The development of Bushmanland began with the arrival of the first European commissioner at Tsumkwe in 1960. He introduced goats and chickens to the Bushmen settled in the area. These unfortunately were unable to breed fast enough to survive the depredations of both the Bushmen and the local predators. The scheme was thus not very successful.

In the meantime the Bushmen had begun giving up their nomadic way of life. The fence between SWA and Botswana was spanned, cutting off game migration and also cutting through Bushman migration routes. The influence from the native peoples to the north of then was strong, as can be seen by the style of huts now being erected in the little settlements. The Bushmen still, however, prefer to sleep around their fires than in the constructed huts.

A second agricultural scheme was initiated in the late seventies, consisting of a wagon wheel system with Tsumkwe as the hub. Each family living in Tsumkwe was given a section that consisted of an arable section and a section for cattle. This scheme was also not very successful, due to inability to understand farming practices and lack of education prevalent among the Bushmen.

The majority of Bushmen in Eastern Bushmanland are centred around the main settlement at Tsumkwe. The smaller settlements are sited around a water supply and are scattered unevenly throughout the region. The living conditions within the camps are squalid in the extreme. This is primarily the result of a too rapid transition from nomadism to a sedentary life.

The task before the developers is therefore to try to improve the quality of life for these people. A limited amount of development within Tsumkwe itself has resulted in the establishment of a clinic and a school.

The main agricultural drive towards development was started in 1980 by the Department of Agriculture. This scheme consists of a demonstration farm of some 3600 ha in area, situated 6 km west of Tsumkwe. This farm is divided into 36 paddocks of 100 ha each, arranged around a central point where the handling facilities are situated.

The idea behind this farm is to employ interested Bushmen for a certain period of time, and in that time to teach them

the basic principles of animal husbandry and pasture management. Thereafter such Bushmen as are still interested will be established on farms of their own.

There have been numerous problems in the establishment of this farm not least of which has been the problem with predators. "Lion-proof" kraals have been built in an attempt to keep them out, and the outer fences have been electrified. This has proved only partially effective in protecting the cattle. The other problem is that of elephants breaking down fencing.

The current herd of cattle owned by the demonstration farm, stands at around 200 head. The object is to breed a herd that has a resistance to the local parasites and diseases and to make these animals available to potential farmers at a nominal fee. At present the herd is a hotch potch mixture of Sangas, Brahmans and liquorice allsorts, but the latter two are being slowly weeded out; to end a pure Sanga herd.

A further problem has been the drilling for water. Three boreholes are providing the farm with water for the stock.

A further source of development is taking place under the auspices of Nature Conservation. This entails the partial development of eastern Bushmanland into a nature reserve.

One small camp has been constructed at Klein Dobe, north of Tsumkwe. It is envisaged that this area could be utilized as a resource of development, and could generate considerable income in the form of tourists.

So this is where the current development level in Bushmanland stands. It is obvious that it must go on. These people must be helped to become viable and productive in this modern world, so many millenia removed from the one they have known.



A typical Bushman settlement in Bushmanland.



The living conditions in a Bushman settlement.



An old Bushman.

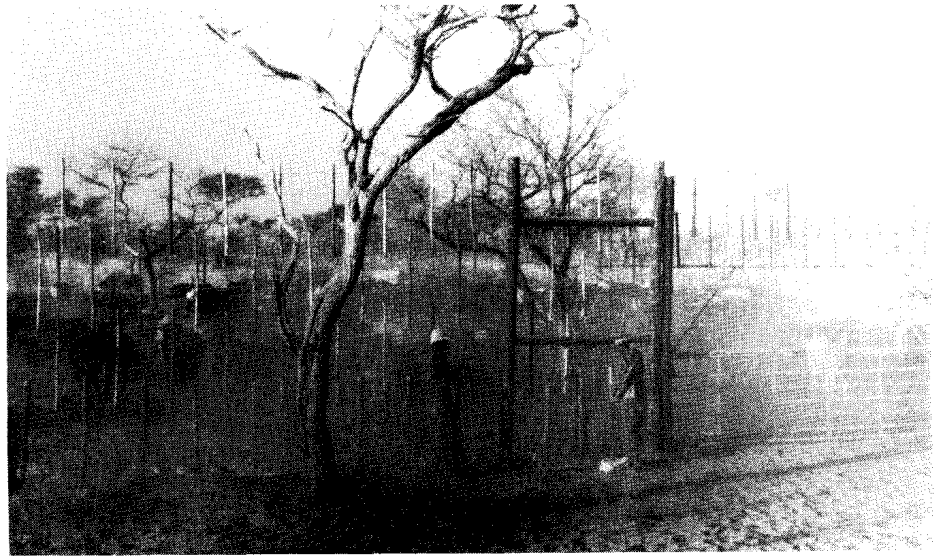


A simple water pump supplying a Bushman settlement.



The cattle herd of the Departement of Agriculture.

A "Lion-proof" cattle kraal.



The Nature Conservation Camp at Klein Dobe.