

N50/7/2

J.S. du Preez

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Ecologist, (Etosha)
P.O. OKAUKUEJO,
Via Outjo.

23rd January, 1973.

The Director,
Nature Conservation and Tourism,
P/B 13186,
WINDHOEK

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE: ETOSHA, JANUARY 1973

1. The Piper Super Cub, with Mr. M. de Jager as pilot, was made available for this purpose from January 17th to 19th inclusive. Two flights per day were carried out in an attempt to cover most of the areas removed from well-travelled roads. Information gained from road patrols are included in this report as this was an attempt to discover the distribution of the game.

2. Weather. Thunderstorm conditions existed in the afternoons, thereby limiting flying to the morning and early afternoon. Very little rain was encountered although certain areas appeared to have had considerable rain. Some of the western pans had open water while others appeared decidedly muddy. Only in a few areas has the grass responded to the meagre rains: a few square miles to the north of Okondeka, in the vicinity to the south of Batia; along the southern boundary from Mooiplaas to near Gobaub; Olifantsbad area, the southern boundary in the vicinity of Mara and Obab and in Owambo. Grazing is in extremely poor condition, especially so in Khoabendes and Kaross and in the winter grazing areas along the perimeter of the Pan and Andoni.

3. Flamingo (Greater ?) were seen on the Ekuma and Oshigambo Rivers as well as the Andoni waterhole. Estimated total is under 1,000 birds.

4. Fences and breaks. Twenty three breaks were counted between Kowaris and the southern border of Kaross. Two breaks were in Kaross itself. Onde Roan was seen less than $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the one break. Elephants were seen standing 30 yards north of the border near Onaisso and a

large herd was seen near Onaisso. In this area the fence has not yet been erected. Elephants are going to cause many and continuous breaks in this area.

5. Andoni. Most of the game on Andoni drink at the Andoni waterhole. Only a few zebra were seen at the northernward drinking place. At least half, if not more of the game on Andoni (estimated at near 5,000 head of zebra and wildebeest) were north of the border. At one place about 50 wildebeest were seen lying in an old quarry a mile from the tarred road.

6. Births. All species appear to have started 2 - 3 weeks later than usual. Zebra foals are rare except at Andoni. Wildebeest calves are also rare other than at Andoni. Springbok calves are not plentiful. Gemsbok and Hartebeest appear to be normal. Of the impala 3 young were reported at Namutoni during the middle of January and a few were seen on Khoabendes. No ran with calves were seen. Birth statistics will be checked.

7. Distribution. See attached maps. Wildebeest and zebra are concentrated mainly on areas where new grass is appearing (see Weather) and on Andoni. The general impression is that, due to the poor veld condition, the grazers have dispersed in search of better grazing. No big concentrations of springbok were seen. Gemsbok and hartebeest are also widely dispersed with occasional herds of gemsbok. A few scattered eland were seen, mostly bulls.

8. Kaross / Khoabendes. Khoabendes had approximately 40 roan and 30 impala. On Kaross most of the game was found south of Karosshoek and the mountainous areas to the south and west of Sebrapomp. Numerous eland yearling calves were seen in the herd. A few widely separated roan were also seen. The following numbers were counted:-

Roan:	56	Impala:	46
Mountain zebra:	52	Zebra:	116
Giraffe:	72	Kudu:	32
Gemsbok:	185	Rhino:	8
Eland:	+87	Ostrich:	20

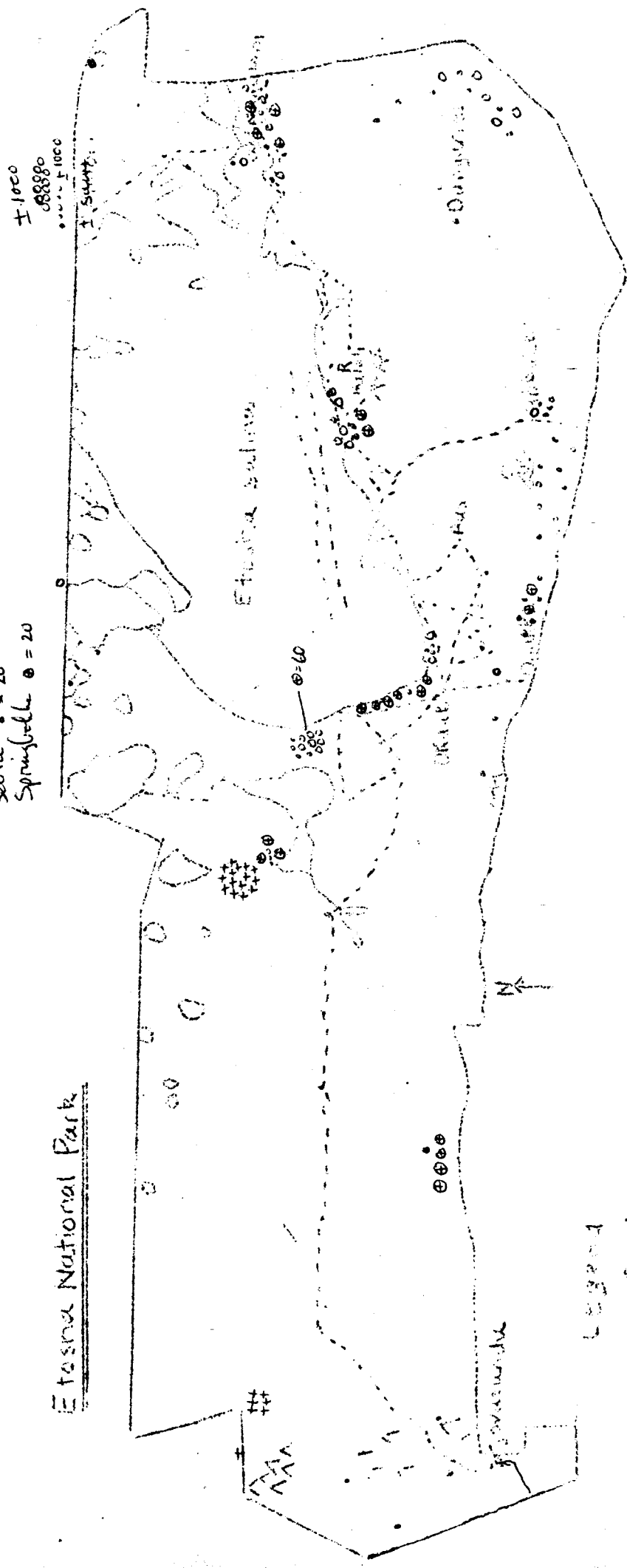
9. In conclusion I would like to stress once more the importance of doing at least one or two helicopter counts this year.

J.S. DU PREEZ

17/1/75
AM.

- Rhino = R
- Olfante + = 10
- Willabuste o = 20
- Selva • = 20
- Springbelle ⊙ = 20

Etosha National Park



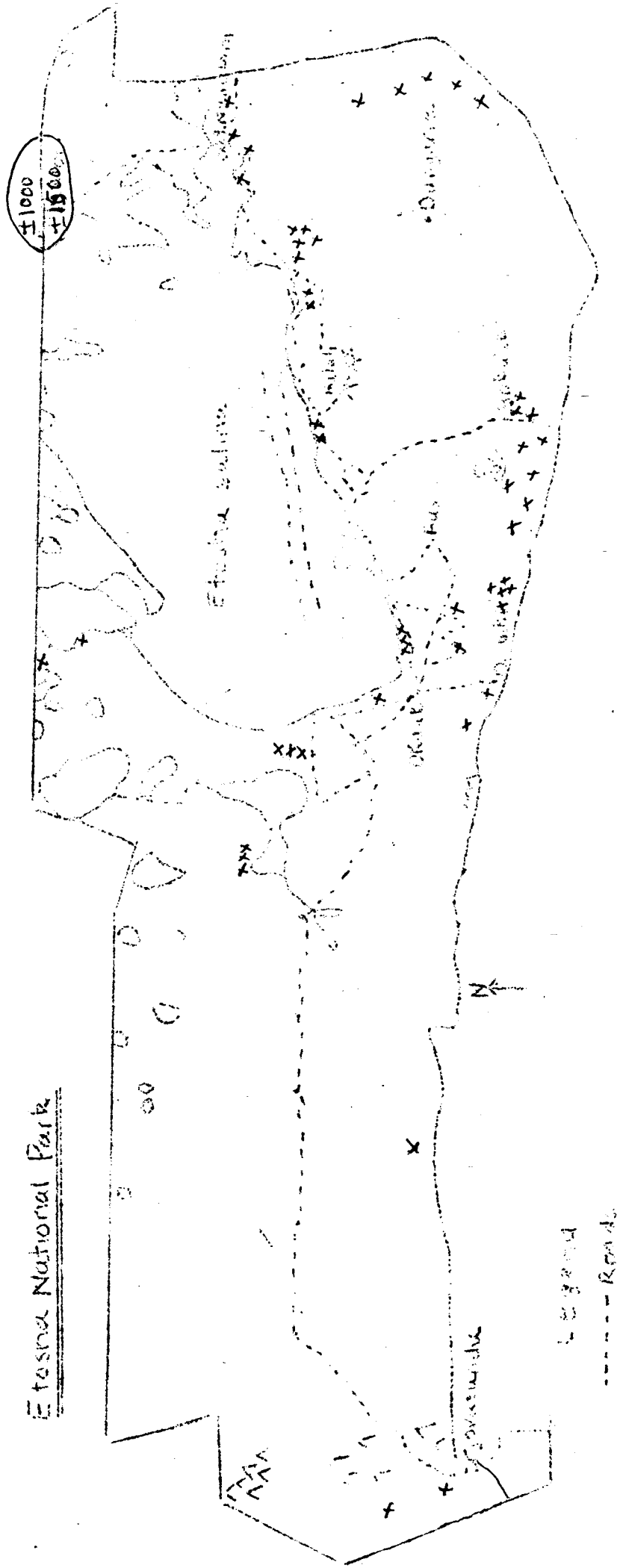
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68880
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Legend

--- Roads

Concentration areas: Mainly Andoni north and south of the border; scattered over rest of reserve mainly along southern border.

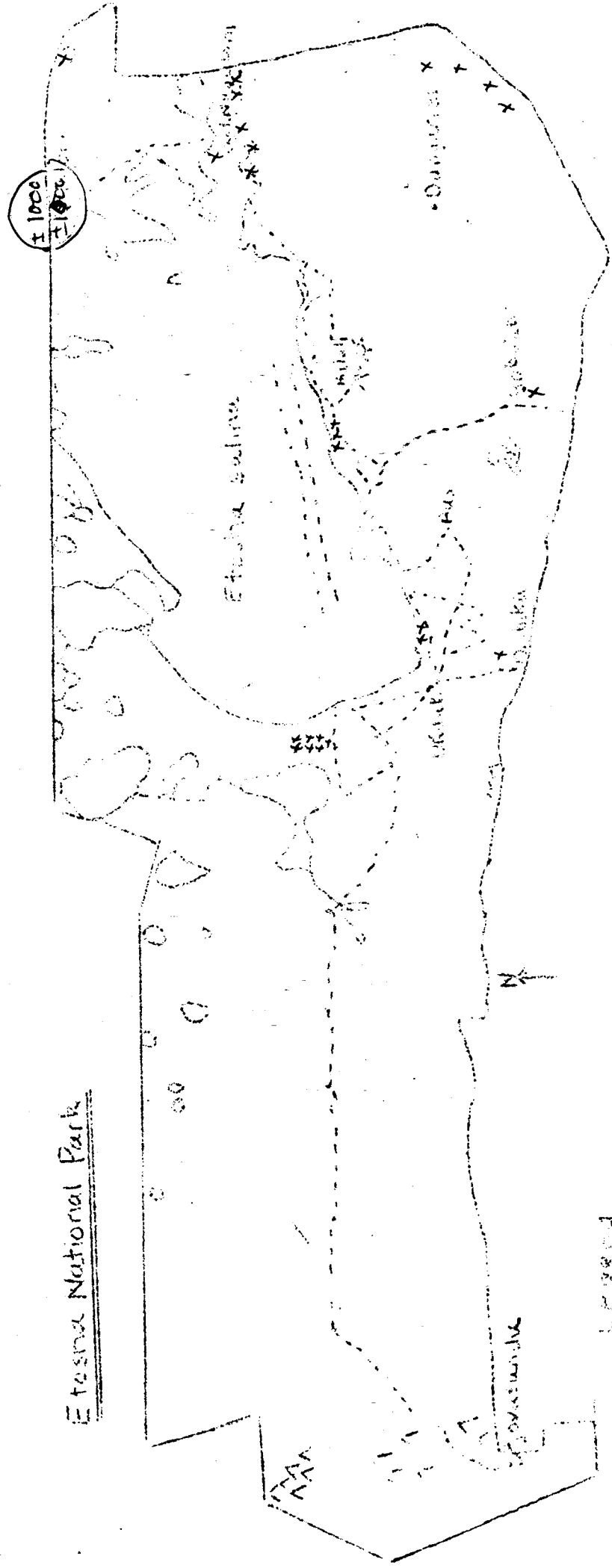
Zebra x = 20



Conc. areas: Isolated herds n. of Chardika, at Kapayumbidi, Oubika, Gataba & S. border
 main conc. N. S. S. of border at Andoni.

Wildbeest x = 20.

Etosha National Park



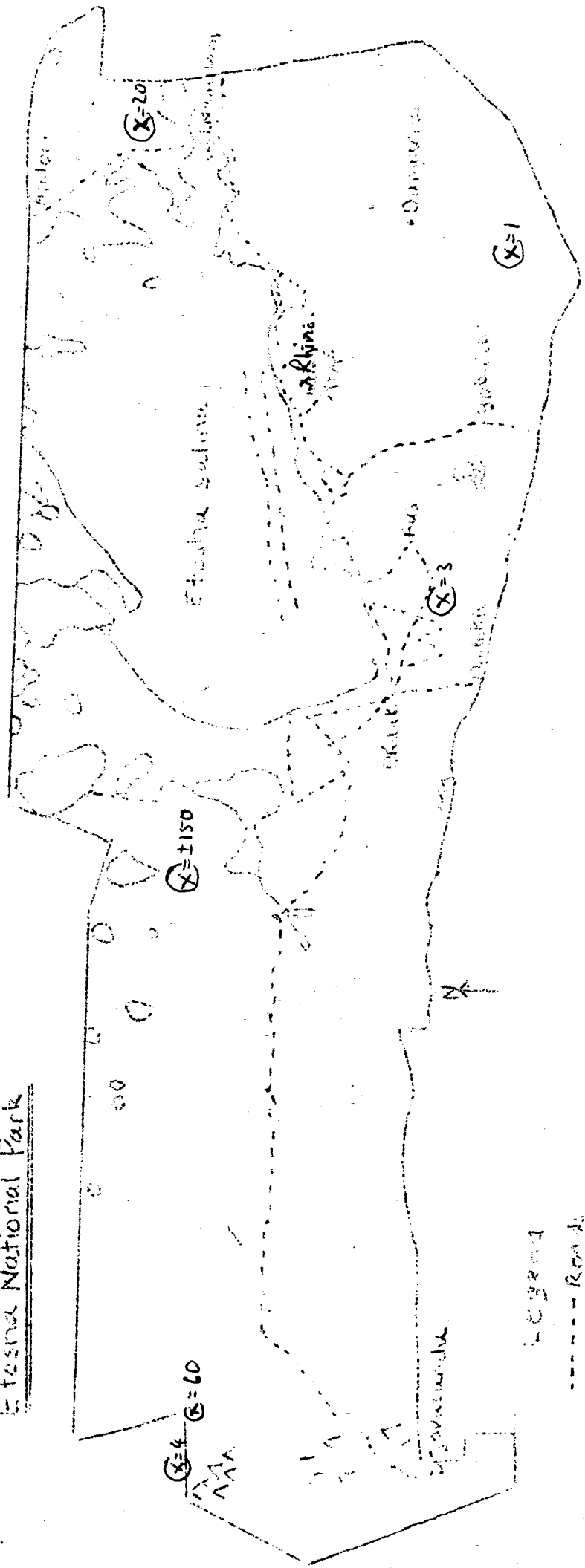
Legend
 - - - - Road

Main concentration areas: Otjovansand area (not seen), Onaisso and north of Okahakana. Most appear to have left Park.

Elephant x

Rhino: only one seen.

Etesima National Park



Legend
 - - - - Roads