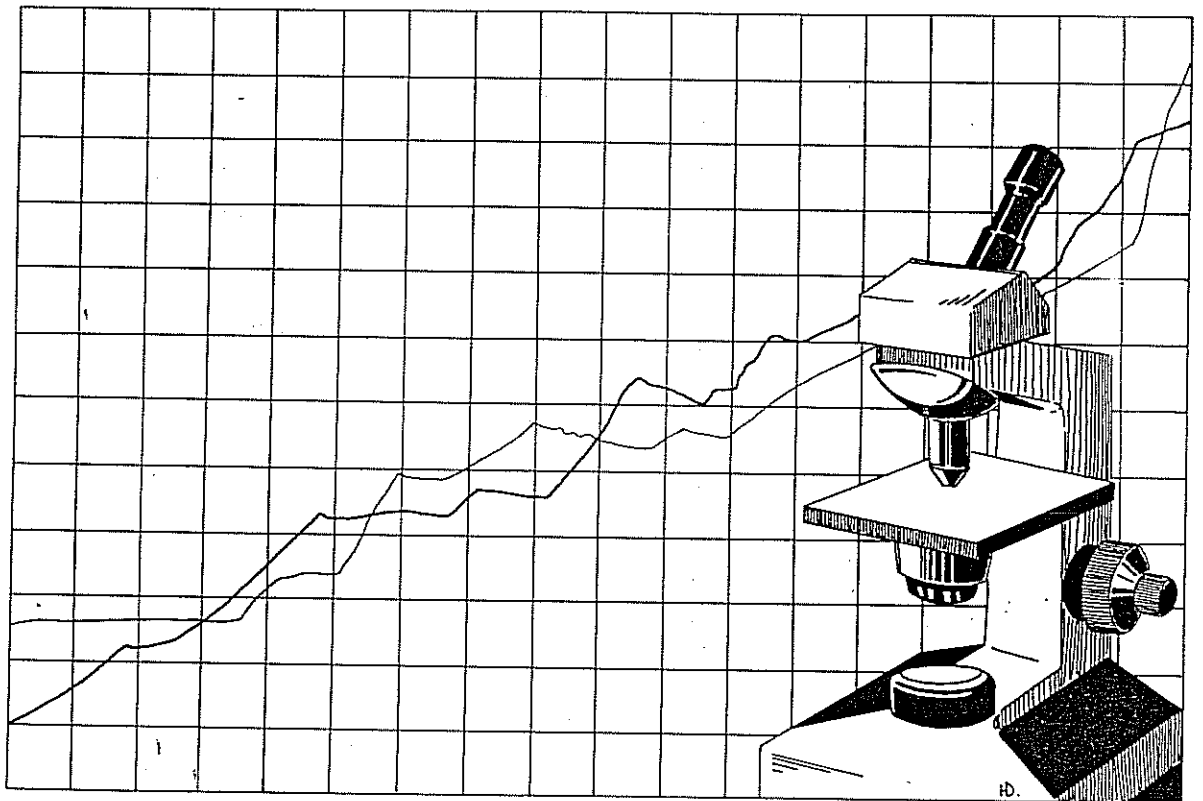




REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

RESEARCH



- POLICY DOCUMENT -

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM
PRIVATE BAG 13306
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

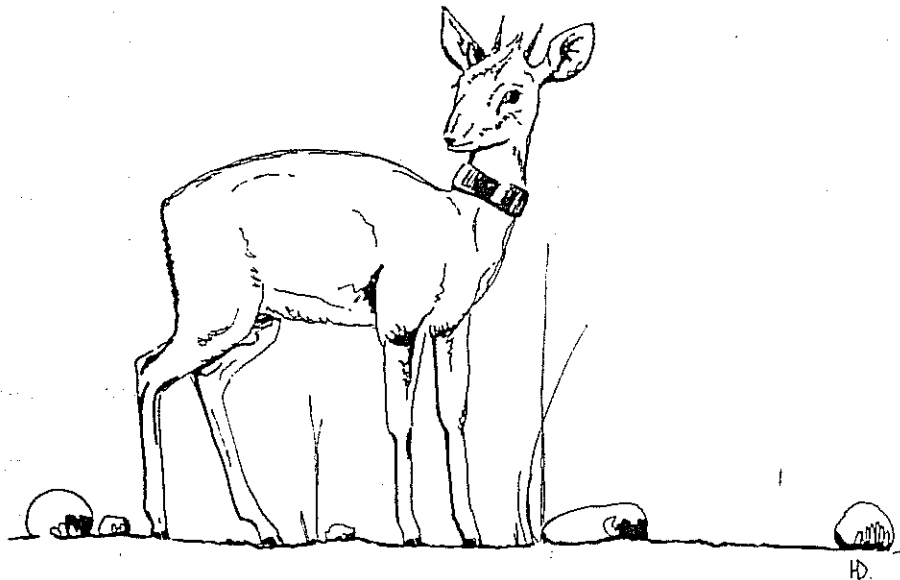
MAY 1994

1. PREAMBLE

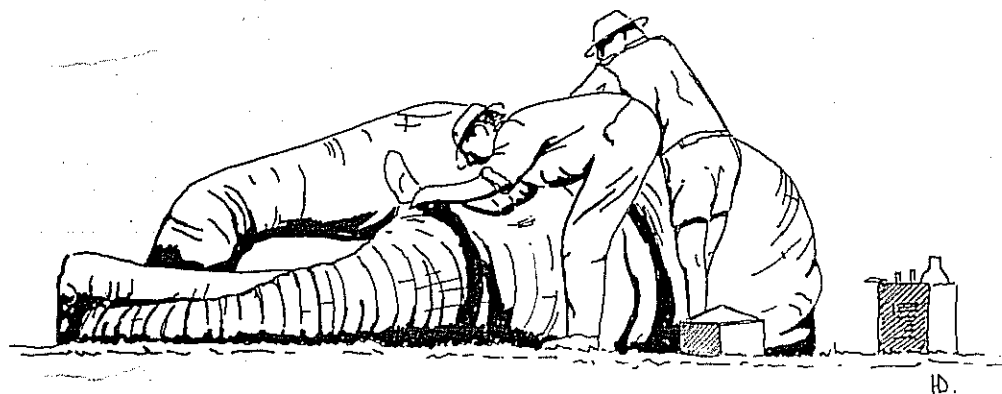
- 1.1 The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is directly responsible for the management of Namibia's natural resources for the sustainable benefit of its people and the global community. The Ministry has primary responsibility for the conservation of the nation's wildlife and woody vegetation, and for the management of all proclaimed state land. The Ministry recognises that management strategies must be sensitive to continually changing natural and human environments.
- 1.2 To meet these responsibilities, research shall be carried out as an essential component of any adaptive management strategy. Such research encompasses applied and experimental research, monitoring, data evaluation and information dissemination.
- 1.3 As a consequence of the above statements, a vigorous programme of research is supported by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, for its own research staff as well as for local and visiting scientists.

2. RESEARCH STRUCTURE

- 2.1 The staff structure and functioning of the Ministry's Research component should be in accordance with the overall organisational and administrative policy of the Ministry.
- 2.2 To meet the obligations of the Ministry with respect to natural resource management, the Ministry should support relevant research initiated by its staff, that of other Government Ministries, appropriate educational institutions and non-government organisations (NGOs) throughout Namibia. Similarly, contract scientists, consultants and volunteers are viewed as a potentially useful component of the Ministry's research effort.



- 2.3 Co-ordination, co-operation and information exchange among all researchers in environmental sciences, including those of the Ministry, other Government Ministries, educational institutions and NGOs, is seen as an essential part of the overall function of the Ministry.
- 2.4 To facilitate the transfer of, and access to, information for the adaptive management process, and to retain a high standard of professionalism, results from research, monitoring and evaluation should be presented in the form of reviewed publications in the international literature, popular books and articles, and unpublished reports lodged with recognised libraries.
- 2.5 The Ministry should provide library facilities to house books, journals, reprints, reports and maps covering relevant environmental topics. Such facilities should be available to all scientists and students working in this and related fields.
- 2.6 Areas protected by proclamation represent some of the best natural controls for scientific research. Therefore, research in these areas should be strongly encouraged. Furthermore, since protected areas are relatively secure, offering the potential for measuring long-term, natural changes, the Ministry should actively support all relevant environmental research, provided that local communities of plants and animals and the functioning of systems are not threatened in the process.



3. RESEARCH ORIENTATION

The following fields are recognised as National and Ministerial priorities:

3.1 Research in support of sustainable development

Such research includes, *inter alia*, economic and market research into land-use and natural resources (use by Namibians and the international community, as well as the resultant benefits to individuals, communities and the State), and resource dynamics (biotic and abiotic).

3.2 Research in support of land-use planning

Included are studies on the inter-relationships between socio-economic and biotic requirements, and research into conflicts arising therefrom (e.g. climate, fire, water, soil erosion, invasive alien plants and animals, deforestation, endangered species, increases in animal numbers, and animals that come into conflict with people). Studies on environmental impacts resulting from development programmes are included in this category.

3.3 Research into systems processes

This includes, *inter alia*, dynamics of soil, water, nutrients, energy, populations and ecosystems.

3.4 Research in support of biotic diversity management

Included are studies of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, geographic distribution, community and ecosystem interactions, and biology, ecology and life history studies on endangered and important species.

3.5 The placing of environmental research in Namibia within regional, continental (African) and global framework

This should be done by the use of internationally recognised techniques, by publishing in and having ready access to international journals, by participating in regional and international seminars and conferences, and by collaboration with international institutions.

