



South West Africa Administration

WHITE PAPER

on the

ACTIVITIES OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES

for

1970

NATURE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM

GENERAL REVIEW

The year 1970 proved once more that nature conservation and tourism are growing assets to South West Africa.

In the field of tourism the traditional phenomenon of peak periods during the school holidays - with quiet periods in between was absent in almost all the rest camps. For the first time the Etosha National Park was practically booked out throughout the season. The Hardap Recreation Resort and Daan Viljoen Game Park reached saturation point. The new rest Camp at the Ai-Ais Hot Springs (which will be opened to the Public on 16 March 1971) was nearly fully booked shortly after reservations opened on 1 September 1970,.

A total of 185, 238 visitors were dealt with in the rest camps of the Administration's various game parks and resorts compared with 156,746 in 1969 and 144,605 in 1968, The above figure represents the total number of all visitors signed in at the rest camps and is not an indication of the number of people who visited the Territory Of South West Africa. It is impossible to give the number of such visitors because most people visit more than one camp and are signed in at every visit. Many also visit the same camp (e.g. the Daan Viljoen Game Park) more than once.

Approximately 7,000 applications for accommodation had to be refused.

General complaints of the tourists, as revealed in questionnaires and letters, were about –

the fact that rest camps are fully booked a year in advance;

the restriction on the number of days per rest camp during the winter school holidays (especially from tourists travelling far) ; this is, however, essential to give more people the opportunity of visiting the game parks and resorts;

the lack of accommodation in the larger centres (especially Windhoek and Keetmanshoop) on the main tourist routes and the poor service and high prices often encountered.

The position will improve when the proposed rest camps at Gross-Barmen Hot Springs and Otjovasandu are completed, the existing accommodation establishments are graded and those envisaged by the private sector are built and brought into operation.

Another feature of the year was the increase of 80.9 percent in the number of overseas tourists who visited the game parks and resorts. According to surveys made, approximately 14, 000 of all the visitors from overseas who arrived in the Republic and Southwest Africa by air, had Windhoek as ultimate destination. The main complaint of overseas visitors, namely that the Etosha National Park is closed during the rainy season, will be eliminated when the programmed tarred road through the game park is completed and one or more rest camps can be opened throughout the year.

The first overnight camping site developed by this Branch on the West Coast was opened in December and an analysis made of questionnaires filled in by visitors to the coast show more sites with more amenities are desired.

In the field of nature conservation, the translocation of rare and threatened wildlife species came into stride.

Farmers in marginal areas, especially along the edge of the Namib Desert and the Khomas Highland, encountered serious problems with game during the drought, mainly because more fences had been erected thus preventing the game to trek after pasture and water as in the past.

From the year 's statistics it is clear, however, that more and more farm owners realise the monetary value of game. Some famers collected thousands of rand from hunting licences, trophy hunters and from the sale of game and game carcasses.

Poaching, also along public roads, is still carried out on an alarming scale. To combat such poaching, it is intended to close any loopholes in the legislation during the coming year.

An area of 4, 587 hectares has been bought at the Waterberg for addition to the existing nature reserve.

The Research section started several projects, the most important of which are studies of the kudu danger on the roads and of the mountain zebra, in an endeavour to find solutions to the problems posed by these animals.

An alarming phenomenon is the silting up of the Walvis Bay lagoon with the possible disastrous results for the famous bird life there.

Six accommodation establishments were graded during the year, among them the first guest in southern Africa. In spite of long extensions granted to hotels to comply with the minimum requirements, several made no effort to do so, and steps had to be taken against some of them.

The total revenue for the Administration from nature conservation and tourism sources amounted to R 382, 695. The millions of rand in indirect revenue could not be calculated.

Tourism

The increase in numbers of motor coaches and aeroplanes visiting the Etosha National Park reflects the growing popularity of organised group visits. In the case of motor coaches, the increase was 60 per cent and in that of aeroplanes, 56 per cent. Two companies decided to introduce regular flights to the Etosha Park. From 1971 onwards more bus groups can be accommodated at Okaukuejo and Halali after completion of special quarters at the two camps for this purpose.

During the year, 19, 590 visitors were signed at Okaukuejo, 15, 302 at Halali and 27, 124 at Namutoni. As reported earlier on, this does not reflect the number of visitors to the park, because most people visit more than one camp and are signed in each time. Of the total number just over 16, 000 visited the Park for the day only. The total came to 16,241 more than the total for 1969.

As was the case in the previous year, 46 per cent of the total number of visitors to the Etosha Park came from the Republic. The number of overseas visitors, however, increased by 81.4 per cent; they represented 9.4 per cent of the total as against 5 per cent last year. The number of caravans increased by 78 per cent; with 482 the previous year.

Separate amenities for visitors with caravans were provided at all three rest camps and will be put into use in 1971.

The revenue derived from accommodation, entry fees, shops, filling stations and entry fees, shops, filling stations and rent for the restaurants amounted to R 249,941.

In all three rest camps improvements were especially aimed at having them complying with the prescribed standards for accommodation establishments.

This program is nearly complete. The enlargement of the restaurants and improvements to the electricity and sanitary systems were planned and will be undertaken in the coming year.

The number of visitors to the Hardap Recreation Resort increased from 38, 625 in 1969 to 44, 279. Here too the caravans showed a steady increase from 625 to 830. Overseas visitors increased from 294 to 556. The total revenue was R18, 482.

Apart from the usual activities provision was also made for accommodation, camping and caravan sites with amenities for the approximately 8,000 people who attended the Water Festival in October. Construction of the new rest camp was delayed considerably because of unforeseen circumstances, and it is expected that the camp will now be opened in 1972 only.

Trespassers paid fines totalling R 35. Another 21 were warned because of minor offences.

After a decrease in 1969 because the swimming pool was empty for a long time, the number of visitors to the Daan Viljoen Game Park increased by 7, 450 to 48, 874. During the year 11, 709 vehicles passed through the gate. The number of caravans increased from 117 to 161. The revenue was R19, 535.

An improvement in the electricity system was brought about by connecting the Game Park to Windhoek 's power supply. As a result, hereof refrigerators could be installed in all the bungalows.

The camp is experiencing a shortage of drinking water and the Department of Water Affairs is investigating possibilities for a new water supply scheme.

The new rest camp at Ai-Ais Hot Springs was handed over a start could be made with the equipping of the camp and the finishing off and beautification of the grounds. The air trip, 13 km from Ai-Ais, was constructed to carry aeroplanes up to the size of a Dakota. Two private concerns-initiated plans for introducing regular flights.

The visitor's book at the main lookout-point at the Fish River Canyon was signed by 8, 093 visitors, 803 more than the previous year. It is clear, however, that all the visitors do not sign the book, as an automatic counter in use registered 1,600 vehicles at the main lookout-point in the 4 ½ months from September to the middle of January.

Altogether 68 people undertook hikes down the Canyon.

The first overnight camping site developed at Mile 1 on the West Coast attracted 935 campers with 235 vehicles during the summer holiday season. The revenue from camping fees (at R1 per vehicle per camping sites proved to be too few and it has been decided to double the number. Planning of four other camping sites along the coast up to Mile 108 has been completed.

An analysis of several thousand questionnaires filled in by visitors to the coast showed that 85 per cent of the people want more amenities such as sanitation, drinking water, wash and shower and rubbish removal facilities. They are prepared to pay more for it. Ninety-one per cent suggested that persons littering the coast should be punished severely.

A new feature as far as the West Coast is concerned, was the considerable number of visitors from the Republic. Of the 2, 225 people with 159 caravans visiting the municipal camping site and bungalows at Swakopmund, an estimated 15 per cent were from the Republic. Of the 334 campers at Walvis Bay 's caravan park, 292 were from the Republic, as well as 65 out of 87 caravans. The bungalows at Lüderitz accommodated 390 holiday makers, 20 of which who were from the Republic. The fact that only two caravans visited this seaside town, is attributed to the poor road.

The popularity of Sandwich Harbour in the Namib Desert Park as an angling resort is still growing. During the year and summer holiday season 15, 009 of the 17, 240 people who visited the Namib Desert Park went to Sandwich Harbour. The total revenue was R 3, 385.

Planning of the approved Wennie Du Plessis rest camp in the Namib Desert Park is being delayed by the thus far unsuccessful search for a suitable water source. However, the search continues.

The Cape Cross Seal Reserve was visited by 4, 156 people in 894 vehicles as against 3, 045 visitors in 66 vehicles the previous season. Revenue came to R 894.

The fishing resort of Torra Bay attracted 580 campers compared with 497 in 1969. The average length of stay was 8 days. The revenue increased from R 2, 357 to R 3, 296.

NATURE CONSERVATION

For the protection of grazing, farmers throughout for the Territory obtained permits for shooting 3, 893 zebra, 2, 025 ostriches, 172 giraffes, 183 kudus, 404 gemsbuck, 2, 513 springboks and 12 steenboks.

Permits were issued for the export of 17, 724 hides to an approximate value of R 50, 000. The revenue for the Administration out of levies on the export of 760 head of game by the two licensed game dealers amounted to R 2, 323. There are no levies on the export of hides.

The first Administration's policy that game should have a monetary value for the farmer, started yielding profits. Farmers who allowed people with licences to hunt on their farms derived an income of R 10, 220 from it during the season of two months. The Administrative fee per license was R 417. The 109 trophy hunters who visited the Territory brought the Administration of approximately R 52, 000.

Permits were issued to farmers for the sale of 5, 407 head of live game and game carcasses amounting to more than R 154, 000.

269 permits were issued for capturing and keeping of game and birds. The 213 freshwater fishing licences issued, brought in R 106.

Game shot on State-owned airports to ensure the safety of plane, ame to:

J. G. Strijdom: Not available

Eros.....: 41 hawks

Grootfontein...: 3 duiker and 10 guinea fowls

During the year,23 private game and nature reserves were proclaimed, bringing the total to 96, including 120 farms and 18 portions of farms 767. 345 hectares in extent. In 1970 alone 182, 384 hectares were proclaimed.

Three new honorary nature reserves conservators were appointed, bringing the total to 65. Senator S. von Bach became the fourth life-long honorary nature conservator for southwest Africa. The honorary nature conservators again rendered valuable free services with their reports, inspections, and aid to the Branch.

Thirty traffic officers of the Territory were appointed nature conservators to help with enforcement of the law.

A periodic newsletter to honorary nature conservators was introduced to keep them informed about developments in the field of nature conservation and to provide a closer link between them and the Branch. Badges for honorary nature conservators and life long honorary nature conservators were designed and ordered.

Plot 908 behind the Administration Building in Windhoek, 10.8 hectares in extent and presented to the Administration by the Municipality of Windhoek, was proclaimed the South West Nature Park. The intention is to lay it out with South West Africa's indigenous plants.

Two highlights of the year were the translocating of black rhino and roan antelope. After representations by farmers in the Outjo and Welwitschia districts that the rhino were a nuisance and caused damage on their farms, 21 animals were translocated to the Etosha National Park. The roan antelope one of the threatened species of South West and Southern Africa, were caught in the vicinity of the Khaudum omuramba in the north-east. Altogether 74 were resettled at Otjovasandu in the west Of the Etosha Park. Shortly afterwards ten calves were born.

Grazing in the game parks in general was barely sufficient. The permanent vegetation suffered a set-back and it will require a few good rainy seasons to recover.

In the Etosha certain factors such as scattered rain_ falls, seasonal concentrations of game and availability of water caused certain portions, especially in the west, to deteriorate. At Hardap, with its limited game population, grazing was in general sufficient. Portions that had been extremely ill-used before the land was bought, are not yet being grazed in order to give the veld a chance to recover.

As only 132 mm. of rain fell during the whole of the year, grazing in the Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park was very poor and all types of game suffered during the last four months of the year. Many moved out and were shot. Breeding was poor.

The Namib Desert Park too had scattered rains only. Sufficient grazing and water in times of drought remains a problem, especially for the mountain zebra and gemsbuck.

In the Daan Viljoen Game Park the grazing was reasonable, but the culling of game progeny will have to be undertaken soon.

The measured rainfall for 1970 in the game and nature parks of the Administration was as follows:

Etosha National Park:

Okaukuejo	.....	359.5 mm
Halali	.....	276.2 mm
Namutoni	.....	381.3 mm.
Otjovasandu	.....	364.2 mm
Daan Viljoen Game Park	:	317.2 mm
Hardap Recreation Resort:	.....	90.5 mm
Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park: .	.....	132.1 mm

Farmers to the south and east of the Etosha experienced much trouble with elephant breaking the boundary fence to graze and drink on the farms. This problem and possible solutions therefor were discussed towards the end of the year with delegates of the border farmers.

During the year nature conservators on horse-back drove back 62 elephant to the Etosha Park (sometimes in peril of their lives) and shot six ceaseless trouble makers. Steps have already been taken to erect, as an rate experiment, a special elephant-proof fence in an where they continually cause damage.

Despite the game-proof fence which was specially strengthened with wire netting at a high cost, farmers along the border are troubled by lion going through breaks caused by elephant or holes burrowed by warthogs and causing damage on farms especially those with watering places and cattle concentrations near the fence. During the year the alarmingly high number of 87 lions were shot on farms along the border - a thing the park can scarcely afford.

Throughout the Territory predators are causing trouble and during the year 37 cheetahs, 5 leopards, 3 serval cats and 2 lynxes were caught on farms and taken to the Etosha. They were kept in cages for a few months to accustom them to the new environment before they were freed.

Magistrates paid out a total of R23,837 for the hides of vermin.

The game captured team caught the following game during the year:

Springbok	80
Rhino	21
Hartebeest	153
Gemsbuck	40
Warthogs	2
Roan Antelope	74
Tsessebe	2
Total	472

Game sold to farmers:

10 springboks

88 hartebeest

10 gemsbuck

Revenue: R2, 510

The other animals were resettled in game parks.

The decisive factor in the success attained with the translocation of rhino and roam antelope was the use of a helicopter and lorries with multi-lift backs that could be lowered and hoisted mechanically to the ground and back on to the vehicles.

Twelve pens were erected in the Etosha Park for the temporary keeping of translocated animals.

In the Namib Desert Park four boreholes were sunk to enable better utilisation of grazing and distribution of game, but no water was struck.

For several reasons the northern boarder of the Etosha National Park has not been fenced. The material has, however, been bought and delivered. Tenders were called for the fencing of the south-western portion of the park to resettle translocated game in safety.

There were seven veld fires in the Etosha Park but thanks to a system of fire-breaks and the availability of heavy equipment of the branch 's road building team, 791 square miles of grazing only was destroyed. Four of the fires were caused by lightning. In the Daan Viljoen Park lightning caused one fire. Approximately half a square mile was destroyed. There were no fires in the Namib Desert Park, at Hardap or at Naukluft.

Throughout the Territory 37 people were accused of contraventions of the Nature Conservation Ordinance, most of them for poaching and removing protected plants. The fines amounted to R950.

In the Etosha 92 people were accused of, amongst others, illegal hunting in the park, throwing stones at animals, leaving the roads, leaving their vehicles, and littering. The fines amounted to R2, 296. Vehicles, rifles, bows, knives and hunting lamps were confiscated.

The term of office of the nature Conservation Board expired on 17 June 1970 and aboard was composed on a representative basis to serve the interests of the community. Two meetings were held, one in Windhoek and one at Ai-Ais Hot Springs. At the latter leave was taken of senator S. von Bach, at the time M. E. C., who had been chairman of the Board for seven years.

Matters causing concern are large scale hunting without permits on farms; the smuggling of rare succulents out of the Territory; illegal trade in game (animals and birds), the wastage of fish along the coast and the pollution of the coast.

Prospecting and mining activities in the most important game parks and reserves of the Administration, which are hardly reconcilable with nature conservation practices, created special problems. The Administration is, however, attending to it and it is hoped that clashing interests will be reconciled.

Research

The activities in the field of research came into stride properly during the year despite insufficient facilities and a shortage of technical assistance.

Research stations

The planning of a research and administrative complex at Okaukuejo has been completed and it is hoped that construction will begin shortly. Laboratories at Walvis Bay have been furnished and brought into operation as a bird research station. Initial work is being done for the erection of a problem-animal research station at Gammams in the Daan Viljoen Game Park and a freshwater fish research station at Hardap.

The take-over of the desert research Station at Gobabeb from the Namib Desert Research Association passed without a hitch. It is the only station of its kind south of the Sahara and it also accommodates the desert research unit of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The research program is financed by the C.S.I.R. and controlled by a pilot committee on which interested bodies are represented.

The founder and first director of the station, Dr. C. Koch, died in 1970 and was succeeded by Dr. M.K. Jensen.

Several scientists of world renown visited the station during the year. Their findings are published in the research publication of the Branch.

Birds

In the field of bird research a project to establish the breeding seasons and limiting factors of a representative number of bird groups of various localities in South West has almost been completed.

As far as sea bird research is concerned, extensive surveys on land and sea and from the air were made to establish the kinds of concentrations and breeding times of guano—producing birds.

A study of the birds at Sandwich Harbour brought to light the fact that there are approximately 2,000 migrating sand-plovers, 10,000 sea birds and 5,500 land and water birds at certain times of the year at this bird paradise; 82 different species have already been identified. Uncommon birds such as the black lake tern, the widgeon and the spoonbill were seen here for the first time.

From the information collected a picture of the proportion of species to numbers can already be formed.

With the aid of volunteers of the Southwest Africa Scientific Society more than 500 birds (37 species) were ringed to establish their migrating habits.

Plants

A study of vegetation of the Etosha National Park was initiated to determine carrying capacity and investigate grazing management. This matter will be of great importance when the park has been fully fenced in. Good progress has been made with a survey of rare and threatened plant species in south of Southwest Africa.

Fresh water fish

The fish population of the Fish River is being investigated. Scientific data about the Orange, Kunene and Okavango rivers are available, but little or no work has been done on the fish fauna of the Fish River.

Seven species have so far been found in the Hardap Dam and research is under way to offer the angler good fish for sport and eating.

Problem's animals

In the field of research on problem animals, studies of the mountain zebra and the kudu have progressed well. The numbers of mountain zebra are limited and according to investigations and surveys it is doubtful whether there are more than 7,000 of them left in South West Africa. They do damage to farms, especially in years of drought, and the research was aimed at a possible solution to the problems of farmers and at finding adequate nature conservation areas for preserving these animals for posterity. An interim report in this regard was submitted to the Executive Committee.

A study of the danger posed by kudu on the roads brought interesting facts and statistics to light. Part of the work is being done in cooperation with THE C.S.I.R. and a report will be published in 1971.

Game immobilisation

Good progress has been made with research on immobilisation, capture and transport of game. Exceptional success was achieved with the immobilisation of rhino and roan antelope. In the latter case it was the first time in history that so many immobilised animals were transported by air. Some of the roan were kept immobilised for up to six hours without adverse effects.

The effects of the translocation of black rhino, black-faced impala, roan antelope, leopard, cheetah, and other predators to the Etosha Park are being watched closely. The first mentioned three species have settled well up to now but problems are experienced with the predators which, like the proverbial cat, tend to return to their original habitats.

Game diseases

A preliminary report on anthrax research in the Etosha was written in 1970. The disease was diagnosed in eight cases in 1954. In 1968 269 animals died from it and although it decreased a little in 1969 and 1970, it still remains a threat. Research continues and in the meantime the locating and burning of infected carcasses and disinfecting of infected waters are carried out.

Game census

Regular game counts and air surveys revealed the following:

The game population at the Etosha remained static over the past two years, except in the case of the eland, whose numbers dropped sharply. This is attributed to poaching and the erection of game-proof fences;

The same applies to the eland in the north-eastern part of the Territory;

Mortality among wildebeest calves and zebra foals is high as a result of predation and drought;

The numbers of mountain zebra, gemsbuck, springbuck and ostriches decreased sharply;

A very high percentage of the giraffe on farms in the north-western part of the territory consists of bulls, resulting in an imbalance;

There are altogether approximately 600 elephants in the Kaokoveld and the Etosha Park; this figure was verified four times by counts over the past two years;

There are between 400 and 500 roan antelope, 100 tsessebe and 30 sable antelope in South West Africa.

Visitors

Scientists from several museums, universities, and research centres, South African as well as overseas, visited the parks and reserves of the Administration operation. Various projects were embarked on in cooperation with researchers of the Branch.

Publications

The second edition of the research periodical of the Branch was published in May. Numbers three and four are at the printers and the first of a series that will contain publications on desert research only was made ready for printing.

ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS

The Tourism Board changed chairman twice during the year, first as a result of the retirement of a Mr. S. von Bach, M. E. C. responsible for Nature Conservation and Tourism, and then the death of his successor, Mrs E. A. Nel, M.E.C.

During four meetings the Board considered 13 applications for loans amounting to R4,675,944. Of these, nine were for improvements to and enlargement of existing establishments, the rest for the building of new hotels. Of the applications recommended by the Board, seven amounting to R543,800 were approved by the Executive Committee up to 31 December 1970.

Six applications for grading were recommended and star gradings were granted as follows:

One star	:	four hotels
Two stars	:	one motel One guest farm

This brings the total of graded establishments in south West Africa to seven hotels, one motel, one guest farm and one safari company.

Despite the fact that regulations under the Accommodations Establishments and Tourism Ordinance, 1967, were promulgated as early as 2 December 1968, many a establishments are not yet complying with the requirements. The Branch has been patient so far, but from now on steps will have to be taken to see to it that establishments comply with the minimum requirements which comprise the lowest possible acceptable standards and have nothing to do with luxury.

Contrary to what was expected, the country hotels made the best progress in improving their facilities, and not those in urban areas.

The shortage of trained staff is still a big problem for the hotel industry. One student enrolled for 1971 for the course in hotel management at the Witwatersrand Technical College with an Administration bursary. A number of tentative applications for 1972 were received. Negotiations regarding the training of non-Whites for the hotel industry have progressed.

Many amendments were effected to the regulations under the Accommodation Establishments and Tourism Ordinance 1967. Most of them were aimed at greater simplicity in administrative functioning, but important gaps were also filled. Provision was for instance made for action against guests leaving hotels without paying their bills; against hoteliers who do not comply with specified requirements within given periods and against those who publish still misleading information about their establishments.

Certain amendments had to be made to the Liquor Ordinance (No. 2 of 1969). Under one of the amendments, the Director of Nature Conservation and Tourism may now issue on-consumption licences and renew existing ones. Previously these were issued by receivers of revenue after authorisation by the Director. Under another amendment guest farms, rest camps and caravan parks may also obtain on consumption licences. All liquor sales privileges now lapse automatically on the cancellation of a registration.

PUBLICITY, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The long awaited tourist guides were delivered by the printers early in the year. A new brochure on the Etosha National Park was printed and a new road map for visitors to the Etosha was prepared for printing. A provisional brochure for Ai-Ais with black and white photographs was designed. When the camp is ready a new brochure with colour photographs will be published.

Photographs of the game catching operations were taken and press releases drawn up. Hundreds of enquiries were replied to and brochures and articles written by other bodies on South West Africa were checked to eliminate errors. Four new films on the Etosha National Park, made by Anglia Television Limited of Britain, were received, as well as film by the South African Tourist Corporation, which won an award in America and the greatest part of which was made in the Etosha Park. Another film, whose première in Europe recently was attended by representatives of royal houses and governments, had been partly made in the Etosha Park.

Land service groups were again organised for the various rest camps and lectures were given to them. Film shows and lectures were also given to various organisations, associations and youth groups. Inservice training lectures were given to professional officers, nature conservators and tourist officers.

The display with which the Administration participated in the Windhoek and Keetmanshoop agricultural shows, won a first prize at Keetmanshoop.

GENERAL

Officials of the Branch took part in the activities of several committees, councils and societies, amongst others the National Committee for the International Biological Program, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the S.A. Nature Foundation, the National Co-ordinating and Advisory Committee for Fauna Research, the Pilot-Committee of the Desert Research Unit at Gobabeb, Technical SubCommittee of the. Pilot—Committee for Water Research an S.W.A., the S.W.A. Planning Advisory Board, Nature Conservation Board, Tourism Board, Tender Board, Tourism Committee, S.A. Society for Animal Production and the S.A. Medical Veterinary Association.