



South West Africa Administration

WHITE PAPER

on the

ACTIVITIES OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES

for

1971

NATURE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM

GENERAL REVIEW

The most important occasions of the year were the reopening of Ai-Ais Hot Springs, expanding of the Waterberg Plateau Park, the proclamation of the Skeleton Coast Park and the translocation of a sufficient number of black-faced impala to ensure the survival of these rare animals.

The number of visitors to the game parks, resorts and attractions of the Administration increased for the nine-tenth successive year. A total of 215 736 visitors were recorded this year compared with 185 238 in 1970. Ten years ago, the number was only 10 729. It must again be emphasised that these represent the total number of visitors to the game parks and resorts of the Administration and not number of visitors to the Territory. Great numbers of people had to be refused entry during the peak periods because of lack of accommodation. It should also be emphasised that it is still the policy of the Administration not to encourage tourism through publicity until all accommodation establishments have been graded and the planned rest camps and resorts have been completed.

A committee of investigation has been appointed to determine the exact value of tourism for the Territory in terms of revenue, what can further be done and what state expenditure -- at what pace -- is justified. The committee will start its investigation in 1972.

The number of caravans visiting the game parks and resorts more than doubled from 1 830 to 4 193. Despite more and improved caravan parks the demand could not be met and more extensions were planned for 1972. Caravanners impede matters because many of them do not book in advance and do not take into consideration that facilities in caravan parks are designed for a certain number of people.

The fact that approximately 20% of the more or less 13 000 people who visited the West Coast with caravans and tents from South Africa, shows an increase in interest in West Coast from outside our borders. However, it aggravates the pollution problem. The angling fish sources of over-exploitation and appropriate steps are envisioned for 1972 in order to conserve this asset for tourism.

The value of the game was emphasised by the fact that licensed dealers earned R111 700, 00 from game export. In addition, farmers had a total revenue of R186 600,00 from the sales of game and game carcasses and hunting licenses. The value of hides or venison used by the farmers themselves is not included in this figure.

Applications for the shooting of protected game that caused damage and the culling of game on unfenced farms decreased from 9202 in 1970 to 4 449 in 1971. There are two main reasons for this: The fact that the northern part of the Territory had good general rains and the fact that there was a sharp decrease in the number of game present in the Sperrgebiet and the Khomas-Highland.

Some important research projects were completed because of which nature conservation policy could be either formulated or adapted.

The last remaining black rhinos in farming areas were taken to safety in the Etosha National Park.

Although progress was made with the grading of accommodation establishments most of them still do not comply with the minimum requirements, mainly because structural alterations take time and money. The hotel industry 's biggest complaint remains the lack of trained personnel which has an adverse influence on the quality of service rendered. A gladdening fact is that six students are at present enrolled for the course in hotel management at the Witwatersrand Technical College, three of them with bursaries from the Administration. Progress has also been made with the planning of training facilities for Owambo hotel staff by the Bantu Development Corporation after consultation with the Administration.

The question of clashing interests between nature conservation and mining activities in game parks led to negotiations by the authorities concerned and a policy acceptable to both parties, has been decided upon.

Matters still creating problems, and will receive more intensive attention in 1972, are:

- (a) Poaching in game reserves and on state land, especially where these areas are not fenced yet.
- (b) Smuggling of game animals, birds and protected plants, which gives rise to great concern.
- (c) The status of the bergesebra; and
- (d) Unlicensed and instances bringing hunters from the Republic and overseas and illegally providing them with accommodation and transport against payment.

Tourism

More and more people make use of organised tours to the Etosha National Park. A company that introduced regular flights to the park at the start of the season, transported 261 visitors on 55 flights. The total number of aeroplanes that landed in the park increased from 79 in 1970 to 147 in 1971. The number of motor coaches also increased by 268 from 329 in 1970 to 597 in 1971.

During the year, 24 761 visitors were signed in at Okaukuejo, 20 338 at Halali and 33 341 at Namutoni, a total of 78 440 which was 16 424 more than the 62 016 of the previous year. Of this total 14 547 visited the park for the day only. These day visitors were mostly people who could not obtain accommodation in any of the rest camps and then rushed through the park.

This is undesirable and considerable is being given to limiting the number of day visitors, as is being done elsewhere.

The percentage of visitors from the Republic increased slightly from 46% of the total to 48%, while the number of overseas visitors increased steadily; they represented 11.5% of the total as against 9.4% in 1970 and 5% in 1969. The number of caravans increased from 839 to 1083. Improved amenities for visitors with caravans were put into service at all three rest camps.

The revenue derived from the shops, filling stations and rent for the restaurants amounted to R252 025, 43 as against R169 943, 17 in 1970. The revenue derived from entry fees and accommodation was R50 644, 39.

The number of visitors to the present rest camp at the Hardap Recreation Resort stabilised at 44 232 compared with 44 279 in 1970. Of the total number 26 044 visited the resort for the day only. The number of overseas visitors increased by 81 to 637 and 14 004 came from the Republic. The caravans increased from 830 to 1 140.

The revenue derived from entry fees and accommodation was R15 818, 15 and from 627 fishing licenses R313, 50.

The new rest camp is still under construction. It is hoped that the camp will be opened towards the end of 1972. The tarred road leading from the main road has been completed and put into service.

The number of visitors to the Daan Viljoen Game Park decreased because the rest camp was closed from 14 April to 26 June while internal roads were being tarred, as well as the fact that the new road from Windhoek to the gate is still under construction. There were 44 502 visitors compared with 48 874 in 1970. However, the number of caravans increased from 161 to 873. The revenue derived from entry fees accommodation amounted to R13 301, 93 and from 46 fishing licenses was R23.

During the year all the buildings were cleaned. After connecting the game park to Windhoek 's power supply, refrigerators and stoves were installed in the bungalows with geysers in both the bungalows and field kitchens.

The new rest camp at the Ai-Ais Hot Spring was opened to the public on 16 March after the resort was closed in 1968 for building operations. Of the 14 508 visitors to the resort during the season of 1971, 9 819 came from the Republic, and 225 from overseas. A total of 937 caravans, 17 aeroplanes and 10 motor coaches were signed in.

The average length of stay was considerably longer than in the other rest camps; some visitors even stayed a month.

The shop, filling station, restaurant and mineral baths netted R59 426, 16. The baths proved popular, and 19 369 sessions were sold (at 10c per session). The revenue derived from entry fees and accommodation was R18 711, 92. The 85 fishing licences netted R42, 50.

The day following the opening of the camp to the public, a wind storm caused considerable damage. Twenty of the 40 tents were damaged to such an extent that they had to be replaced.

The new rest camp officially opened by the then Administration, the Honourable J. G. H van der Wath, on 26 June.

The visitors 's book at the main lookout-point at the Fish River Canyon was signed by 8 841 visitors compared with 8 093 in 1970. Of the total number 5 718 came from the Republic and 399 from overseas Altogether 143 people undertook down the canyon.

The number of visitors to the West Coast is steadily increasing. Apart from those accommodated in hotels, boarding-houses, bungalows or by friends, a total number of 13 000 holidayed in caravans and tents along the coast.

The overnight camping site at Mile 14 attracted 2281 visitors (168 of them from the Republic) and 160 caravans throughout the year. The revenue from camping fees (at R1, 00 per vehicle per month) and the sale of water and wood came to R732,31 . The camping site was enlarged and more toilets, dressing cubicles, barbeques and cement tables were erected.

A start was also made with the development of overnight camping sites at Jakkalsputz and Mile 72.

The following information on the coastal towns gives an indication of the increasing popularity of the coast:

In the caravan park at Mile 4, Swakopmund, 5 616 people camped in 741 caravans and 754 tents -- 884, or 15,7% were from the Republic. Altogether 1 700 visitors stayed in the municipal bungalows. Of the 1 681 campers in Walvis Bay's municipal caravan park 1 237 or 73,5% were from the Republic, as well as 163 of the 225 caravans. The bungalows at Luderitz accommodated 1 455 holiday makers, of whom 58 were from the Republic.

The fishing resort of Torra Bay attracted 439 campers (51) from the Republic) which were 141 fewer than the previous year, mainly as a result of the fact that many farmers of the north-west had stayed at home because of the drought. The revenue derived from entry fees, camping fees, the shop and filling station was R2 484,62.

Apart from the above-mentioned sites with amenities, an estimated 1 600 people camped elsewhere along the coast between Walvis Bay and the Ugab River.

The Division's tourist office was moved from Walvis Bay to Swakopmund to deliver a more effective service.

To facilitate fishing outings to Sandwich Harbour in the Namib Desert Park a new permit system was tried out. Permits books were sold to filling stations at Swakopmund and Walvis Bay where permits could be obtained at all hours, apart from those still obtainable during normal office hours at the magistrate's office at Walvis Bay and the tourist office at Swakopmund.

Of the 17 701 people who visited the Namib Desert Park, 14 414 went to Sandwich Harbour. The corresponding figures were 17 240 and 15 009. The slight decrease in number of visitors to Sandwich Harbour may be attributed to the fact that the entry fees were doubled. The revenue increased from R3 385,00 to R5 024 , 37.

The Cape Cross Seal Reserve was visited by 4 792 people in 762 vehicles. Several large groups came by bus and some youth groups by lorry. The figures for the previous year were 4 156 and 694. Of this year's total number 1 001 were from the Republic and 227 from overseas. The revenue was R762,00.

The accommodation fees paid in at the Reservation Office in Windhoek amounted to R103 973,10.

The direct revenue from tourism for the Administration was as follows:

accommodation and entry fees	209 514, 62
Trade activities	313 149, 57
Royalties: oil companies	23 425, 00
Fines in rest camp	185, 00
Total	546 274, 19

NATURE CONSERVATION

More and more profits are being derived from the Administration's policy that game should have a direct monetary value for the farm owners. Farmers thus netted an estimated income of R186 600,00 throughout the year from the sale of live game, game carcasses, hunting licence fees and trophy hunters. This amount was calculated according to the licence value of the different game species for which licences were issued and could be considerably higher. The licensed game dealers netted close to R111 700,00 from the export of game. The estimated revenue from the export of 54 538 hides, also estimated at average values, was R65 855,00. Among others 31 207 springbok and 16 689 kudu hides were exported. The total revenue for farmers and dealers was R364 155,00.

The Administration's direct revenue from the administrative fees was as follows:

Levies on export of 520 head of game	2 066, 00
Licences for 124 trophy hunters	3 100, 00
Levies on export of hides	1 075, 81
473 hunting licences	520, 50
788 freshwater fishing licences	394, 00
Sale of game to farmers	732, 00
Total	7 888, 31

Farmers obtained permits for the sale of 441 head of live and 7 313 game carcasses from which they netted an estimated R24 830,00 and R99 878,00 respectively. Trophy hunters brought the farmers an estimated revenue of R55 500,00 and local hunters -- in the season of two months -- R7 395,00.

The protection of grazing, farmers obtained permits for shooting 4 449 head of game. Most of these were for zebra, namely 2 210. Permits were also issued for the shooting of 105 giraffes, 632 ostriches, 50 hartebeest, 535 gemsbok, 519 kudu and 398 springbok; the latter four species on unfenced farms.

For the capturing and keeping of birds 146 permits were issued.

At Eros Airport 20 kites and three guineafowls were shot ensure the safety of planes. No game were shot at the other airports.

The purchase of 44 704 hectares at the Waterberg Plateau Park was approved during the year.

The Skeleton Coast Park, consisting of 8 000 square kilometres, from the Ugab to the Hoanib River was proclaimed.

During the year 24 new private game parks were proclaimed, bringing the total to 120 covering altogether 915 183 hectares, comprising 173 farms or portions of farms.

Eight new honorary nature conservators were appointed bringing the total to 73. The honorary nature conservators again rendered valuable free services with their reports, inspections and aid to the Administration.

As a result of good rains the grazing in the Etosha National Park is exceptionally good. The improved system of fire breaks resulted in veld-fires being controlled more speedily and only 98 938 hectares was destroyed as against 204 869 hectares during the previous year. In the Otjovasandu area nine boreholes were drilled and windmills will be erected in the near future.

In the Daan Viljoen Game Park the grazing varies from fair to good. In the game park section of the Hardap Recreation Resort the grazing, that was over-utilised for years before it was purchased, is recovering slowly. The bush still shows signs of over-grazing, Experiments are being done to re-establish plant-life on barren patches.

Poor rainfall in the vicinity of the Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park resulted in farmers asking for more permits for the shooting of Zebra. Many of the animals fled to the Park causing a heavy demand on grazing. Especially the kudu had a hard time this year.

The Namib Desert Park had generally very little rain and in parts none. The grazing position is critical and the game fled to farming areas and State land.

The measured rainfall for 1971 in the game parks and resorts of the Administration was as follows:

Etosha National Park:

Okaukuejo	281, 6 mm.
Halali	340, 8 mm.
Namutoni	309, 6 mm.
Otjovasandu	44, 6 mm.
Daan Viljoen Game Park	248, 5 mm.
Hardap Recreation Resort	110, 0 mm.
Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park	15, 0 mm.

The condition of the game is satisfactory in all game parks except in the Namib Desert Park.

Game caused trouble again on farms bordering the Etosha National Park. Nature conservators drove back 111 elephant and shot 3 obdurate troublemakers. A special elephant-proof fence over a distance of 24 km between the park and the farm Onguma was completed as an experiment. Its effectiveness will only be known after the next rainy season.

More lions could be drugged on bordering farms and returned to the park after nature conservators were trained in the use of dart-guns and drugs, which earlier could only be used by the State Veterinarian in the Etosha Park. Altogether 32 lions were either drugged and taken back, chased back or lured back with carcasses. Throughout the year 29 lions were shot on farms as against 87 last year. During a recent survey 420 lions were counted in the park, and throughout the year 56 cubs. More lions are sighted these days than a few years ago.

After a group of lions had been driven from a camp at Otjovasandu reserved for scarce species such as the roan and black-faced impala, two cubs were discovered and caused a sensation because they were suspected of being mountain lion. They were sent to the University of Pretoria where they are now being studied.

Magistrates paid out a total of R22 362,00 for the hides of vermin.

The game capture team caught and translocated the following game species:

Black rhino	20
Black-faced impala	145
Springbok	189
Eland	10
Total	364

The use of a helicopter proved imperative because of the rough terrain and sparse scattering of the rhino and black-faced impala. Drop-nets were used for the first time in catching the impala and springbok and injuries were reduced substantially.

For the transportation of the black-faced impala over very bad roads and in hot weather, fans were installed in large crates with power units on top. This method contributed considerably to the successful translocation from Enyandi in Kaokoland to Otjovasandu.

Altogether 122 springbok were sold to farmers for R732,00.

Throughout the Territory 114 people were accused of contraventions of the Nature Conservation Ordinance and of game park regulations. The fines amounted to R34 367,00. A further 184 people were given warnings.

Early in the year a system of courses and lectures to farmers was introduced. Six courses were conducted in the use of the coyote-getter and 72 farmers obtained diplomas. Six lectures were delivered on legislation and the protection and utilisation of game. Nature conservators received in-service training in horsemanship, game capturing, diagnosis and control of game diseases, botany, pasturage, ornithology, fresh water fish and law enforcement.

The Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1967 was amended substantially by Ordinance 21 of 1971, mainly to remove technical hitches and close loopholes. One of the most important amendments was that gifts of game may now only be presented during the hunting season and not throughout the year, as was previously the case. However, there is now no prohibition on presenting of gifts of venison weighing less than 10 kg throughout the year, or gifts of venison by owners or occupiers to their parents or children. A further amendment provides that all game in game Parks or on land belonging to the Administration is considered protected game. A farmer has no ownership over the game on his farm if the farm is not fenced sufficiently, and is under such circumstances not allowed to let anyone else hunt or capture game on the farm.

The Nature Conservation Board has a new chairman, namely Mr. A. Brinkman, M.E.C, in the place of the late Mr. E.A. Nel, M. E.C., who died in November 1970. Two meetings of the board were held during the year: one in Windhoek and one at Swakopmund. An extensive inspection trip was also through the Namib Desert Park and along the West Coast investigate certain problems in loco and have interviews with bodies concerned.

Research

The Division's Chief Professional Officer and its ichthyologist paid a visit to the Republic to extend knowledge regarding the combating of problem animals, utilising of game, construction of fish-breeding dams and establishing contacts with other research and nature conservation bodies. The State Veterinarian of Etosha Park the Kruger National Park to obtain information on combating of anthrax. Other officials attended symposiums and congresses and delivered papers.

Birds

An unexpected opportunity presented itself this year to study flamingos, more especially their breeding habitats, when more than a million birds congregated on the Etosha Pan. Some of the facts that became known this year, has come to light for the first time. No large-scale rescue operation was necessary, as was the case in 1969, because there was sufficient water in the Ekuma delta area. The chicks rescued themselves with an unbelievable feat of walking 80 km across the Barren Pan and were underway by the parent birds.

White pelicans also bred on a large scale for the first time near Poacher 's Point on the Pan. They were driven from their natural breeding places in the Oponomo Lake in Owambo where great numbers of chicks are killed for food and their parent birds hunted by dogs. The pelicans raised their chicks with reasonable success on the Etosha Pan, but their main source of food is still the Oponomo.

Observations were made in co-operation with the Ornithological Study Group of the S. W. A. Scientific Society on the jackass penguin of the West Coast, one of the rarest penguin species of the world. The penguins' numbers have decreased to a critical point mainly because of oil pollution in the sea, insecticides in their food chain, over-exploitation of the guano, disturbance of the breeding colonies and fishing activities.

A permanent bird ringing project in conjunction with the National Bird Unit of the C. S. I. R progressed well. Altogether 1 720 birds of 62 species were ringed.

The field work of a three-year project to establish the breeding seasons and limiting factors of a representative number of birds of various localities in Southwest was completed towards the middle of the year. The data are now being analysed.

Eggs of aquatic birds were collected on the Etosha Pan as part of a project on pollution. The eggs were analysed to determine the presence of dangerous chemicals and it is alarming that small quantities of at least three types of insecticide were found.

Plants

About a quarter of the surface of the Etosha National Park was charted in order to study the vegetation of the park. This is of importance for determining the carrying capacity and for grazing management, especially once the Park has been full fenced in.

A survey was made of the ecology and distribution of the aloes of the south. The purpose of the project is to determine whether any of the aloe species are threatened and to draw a proper distribution chart. The field work for the project has been completed, except for possible follow-up work. In addition the geomorphological background have been described. The climatology of the research area is at present being investigated.

The basic planning of the Southwest Nature Garden in Windhoek has been completed in co-operation with an expert, Mr. H. Herre of Stellenbosch.

Fresh water fish

A short term project to determine the species occurring in the Fish River, has been completed, Nine species were found. In the Daan Viljoen Game Park an investigation into the poor angling results and the preponderance of small fish was completed. A report with findings and recommendations was drafted.

At the Hardap Dam the research with a view to offering the angler good fish for sport and eating is still proceeding. .

Game diseases

It has been established beyond doubt that anthrax is now endemic in the Etosha National Park. The number of deaths due to this disease increased by almost 100 compared with last year. The worst outbreak was at Andoni. The carcasses were as far as possible, incinerated and the drinking places disinfected. For the first time in the Etosha's history anthrax was also diagnosed in two cheetah. The research in conjunction with Onderstepoort is being continued.

For the first time known Newcastle disease was found in game birds kept in cages, Strict measures were taken, and no spreading of the disease was observed.

Problem animals

In the study of the danger posed by kudu on the roads valuable information was gathered on the number of accidents in the past few years, time and place of the accidents and fatal and other injuries. The road between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo was used as study area and a survey was made of all water resources along the road. A correlation was found between water close to the road and the presence of kudu. Attention is now being paid to the behaviour patterns and distribution of the kudu in South West Africa.

The project on the mountain zebra, that trouble farmers in times of drought, was completed towards the end of the year. The purpose was to learn more about the behaviour, habits, needs and population dynamics of this rare species in order to find a solution to the farmers' problems and at the same time ensure the survival of the mountain zebra. Attention is now being paid to the report that was submitted.

Publications

Numbers three and four of the Division's scientific periodical MADOQUA were published during the year. They contained the following articles:

Madoqua no, 3:

Notes on the Ecology and Behaviour of the Black Rhinoceros in South West Africa - E. Joubert & F.C. Eloff

Observations on the Habitat Preferences and Population Dynamics of the Black-Faced Impala Aepyceros petersi Bocage in South West Africa - E. Joubert

The Capture of Plains Zebra Equus burchelli antiquorum, H. Smith, 1841, with M-99 (Reckitt) and Tranquillisers in the Etosha National Park - H. Ebedes

Trionyx triunguis (Forsk.) a reptile new to the Southwest African Fauna - M.S. Penrith

Madoqua no. 4:

The Physiographic, Edaphic and Vegetative Characteristics found in the Western Etosha National Park – E. Joubert

The Past and Present Distribution and Status of the Black Rhinoceros Diceros bicornis Linn. 1758 in Southwest Africa — E. Joubert

A New Species of Linognathus (Anoplura: Linognathidae) from the Damara dikdik - J. A. Ledger

A New Species of Prolinognathus (Anoplura: Linognathidae) and a redescription of P. leptcephatus (Ehrenberg, 1828) - C. J. Taute.

ACCOMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS

The grading of accommodation establishments came into stride this year. Fourteen establishments were graded as against six in 1970 and four in 1969, so that 24 of the totals of 123 accommodation establishments in the Territory have been graded as follows:

One star	:	16 hotels
Two stars	:	1 motel
		3 hotels
		3 guest farms
Three stars	:	safari company

The Tourism Board, under chairmanship of Mr. A. Brinkman, M. E. C., met six times during the year. Applications for loans amounting to R8 355 482,00 were considered and ten loans amounting to R627 000,00 were recommended by the Board and approved by the Executive Committee

The 69 hotels and boarding-houses in South West Africa have a total number of 2 169 beds available. The average bed occupation for the year varied from 9% for the small hotels, away from the tourist routes, to 87% for the larger hotels.

A few lesser amendments were made to the Accommodation Establishments and Tourism Ordinance and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

New and renewed on-consumption licences and registrations netted the amount of R2 865,00.

PUBLICITY, INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

A new map illustrating the rest camps, drinking places and roads of the Etosha National Park with descriptions of the most important game species, birds and plants on the cover, was printed towards the middle of the year and is sold in the park at 10c each.

Towards the end of the year a start was made with the updating and revision of the Tourist Guide. Approximately 90 000 of these Guides have already been distributed.

Visiting journalists, photographers and film units were received. The most important being Anglia Television, who made films of the rhino capture operation and the driving of elephants. Jamie Uys is working on a documentary film on wildlife.

Articles written by professional officers were checked and edited for various periodicals. Brochures and articles written by other bodies on the South Africa were checked to eliminate errors. Hundreds of enquiries were answered.

The Division 's internal newsletter as well as

Land service groups were again organised for the various rest camps and lectured. Film shows, lectures and talks were also given to various organisations, associations and youth groups.

The display in which the Administration participated at the Windhoek, Keetmanshoop and Otjiwarongo agricultural shows, won a first prize and a cup at Kheetmanshoop and a second prize in Windhoek. At Otjiwarongo no prizes were awarded.

GENERAL

Officials of the Division took part in the activities of several international, national and local committees, councils and societies, amongst others the National Committee for the International Biological Program, the Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilisation of the Soil, 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 Sub-Committee of the Pilot-Committee for Water Research in the S.W.A. Planning Advisory Board , Nature Conservation Board, Tourism Board, Tender Board, S.A. Society for Animal Production and the S.A. Medical Veterinary Association.

At the congress of the S.W.A. Veterinary Association in Windhoek a paper was delivered on "The Role of the Veterinarian in Nature Conservation". The Division was represented at a symposium held in the Umfolozi Game Reserve, Natal, in November. A paper was delivered on "The Problems Associated with the Capture, Translocation and Keeping of Wild Ungulates in South West Africa". At an international symposium held in Durban by the Zoological Society Of Southern Africa a paper was delivered on "Activity Patterns shown by the Hartmann zebra Equus zebra hartmanni in South West Africa with special reference to the influence of the Climate".