



South West Africa Administration

WHITE PAPER

on the

ACTIVITIES OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES

for

1972

NATURE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM AND TOURISM

GENERAL REVIEW

In spite of the unfavourable economic situation through-out the Western world and rising costs in general , the number of visitors to the Administration 's game parks and resorts did not diminish. Although tariffs were not raised the revenue increased sharply.

The West Coast, especially, was crowded -- the number of visitors doubled, with the result that the problem of pollution worsened and at times necessitated drastic action against certain members of the public.

The Daan Viljoen Park also came under great pressure, especially water completion of the tarred road from Windhoek towards the end of the year. A levelling off in numbers of visitors could be noticed at the Etosha National Park, which indicated that the available accommodation in the three rest camps is being utilised almost to the optimum.

The funds available for building was used to improve and expand the facilities in the existing rest camps rather than to start the building of a new rest camp.

The flood experienced early in the year at the Hardap Recreation Resort devastated the whole of the old rest camp below the dam wall except for a few buildings and caused damage to the extent of about R150 000,00. At the Ai-Ais Hot Springs floodwaters also caused extensive damage although the main building, which was designed with a view to the possibility of such floods, was not endangered. Here the cost of repairs, as well as certain steps to prevent future flood damage, amounted to approximately R255 000,00. Despite the temporary closing these two camps the number of visitors to the game parks, resorts and attractions of the Administration increased from 215 736 in 1971 to 228 916 in 1972 and the revenue derived from entry fees, accommodation and trade activities increased from R546 274, 19 to R860 440, 07

The first phase of the investigation into the role played by tourism in the economy of Southwest Africa carried out by the Bureau for Economic structure of the Territory – was completed. The final report on the direct and indirect revenue derived from tourism will be completed during the coming year.

In the field of research some important projects were completed, and new ones initiated, amongst others a series of foot and mouth tests on eland in the Waterberg Plateau Park. Tenders were awarded for extensions to the Namib Desert Research station at Gobabeb and for a research and Nature conservation complex at Okaukuejo.

The Sartorius von Bach Dam and Waterberg Plateau Park were proclaimed nature conservation areas.

Law enforcement was intensified especially to combat poaching and smuggling of protected plants, but at the same time provision was made in a long felt need when a pamphlet on the nature conservation legislation was made available.

The revenue due to farmers, game dealers and Administration derived from the sale and export of game, the sale of game carcasses, hides, etc. increased to nearly R1 million.

Half the hotels in Southwest Africa – mostly country hotels – have now been graded. There are still 85 of all the registered accommodation establishments not complying with the minimum requirements for grading chiefly because they are still engaged on structural alterations.

Tourism

This section experienced on the one hand a set-back, on the other a move ahead during the year; towards the end of the year the takeover of tourist facilities at Swakopmund by the Administration was finalised and the development of overnight camping sites along the rest of the coast progressed.

The total number of aeroplanes that landed in the Etosha National Park decreased from 147 in 1971 to 130. The number of motor coaches also decreased from 597 in 1971 to 540.

During the year, 25 227 visitors were signed in at Okaukuejo, 22 576 at Halali and 33 866 at Namutoni – a total of 81 669 which was 3229 more than the 78 440 of the previous year. Of this total 14 315 visited the Park for the day only.

The percentage of visitors from the Republic again increased slightly from 48% of the total to 49, 2%.

The number of caravans increased from 1 083 to 1 336.

The revenue derived from the shops, filling stations and rent for the restaurants amounted to R317 235, 60 as against R 252 025, 43 in 1971. The revenue derived from entry fees and accommodation increased from R50 644, 39 to R56 969, 92.

On 16 March the flood at the Hardap Recreation Resort destroyed the old rest camp below the wall, except for a few buildings. Everything was then put into operation to finish the bungalows in the new rest camp on the plateau as soon as possible and at the beginning of April the first visitors were accommodated there. Fortunately the office buildings were accommodated there were intact and they are still in operation. Owing to unforeseen problems the new office building, restaurant and swimming pool could not yet be put into service.

As a result, the temporary closing of the rest camp the number of visitors decreased from 44 232 in 1971 to 38 730; of this total 24 036 visited the Resort for a day only. 13 180 visitors came from the Republic. The number of caravans decreased from 1 140 to 655.

In spite of visitors to the Daan Viljoen Game Park increased sharply from 44 502 in 1971 to 68 380.

Especially towards the end of the year, after the whole length of the new tarred road was put into service on 15 December, and because of an exceptional heat wave, the rest camp was crowded out during weekends. The number of caravans also increased from 873 to 1856. The revenue derived from entry fees and accommodation was R23 547,92 as against the R13 301,93 of the previous year and 62 fishing licences were sold for R31,00.

On 16 March, the day that the season should have begun, the Ai-Ais Hot Springs was closed because of the flooding of the Fish River. Officials worked day and night to safeguard especially the main building with sandbags and when the floodwaters reached the resort on 19 March, damage was done only to the low-lying part of the camp. The camp was actually designed with a view to the possibility of such a flood. Yet considerable damage was done to ablution blocks, dormitories and especially the power and water systems. Large portions of the filled-up terrain were also eroded.

The restoration work was completed towards the end of June and the camp was re-opened on 7 July. In the four months left of the season 8 577 people visited the resort. There were 644 caravans and 38 aeroplanes as against 937 and 17 respectively in the previous year.

Despite the decrease in the number of visitors, the revenue derived from the shop, filling station,

Restaurant and mineral baths were almost the same as in 1971: R58 702, 13 as against %59 426, 16 in 1971. The revenue derived from entry fees and accommodation decreased from R18 711, 92. A total of 29 fishing licences were issued.

The visitors' book at the main lookout-point at the Fish River Canyon was signed by 6 306 visitors compared with 8 841 in 1971. Altogether 282 people in 42 groups undertook hikes down the canyon.

The West Coast experienced an exceptional crowd. The number of people holidaying in caravans and tents – apart from those accommodated in hotels, boarding – houses, bungalows or by friends – almost doubled from 13 000 in 1971 to 24 444 in 1972.

The overnight camping site at Mile 14 attracted 3 269 visitors (161 of them from the Republic) as against 2 281 the previous year. The revenue increased remarkably because the tariff of R1, 00 per site per month was changed to 50c per site per day. In addition, showers were provided at 25c per turn. The total revenue from camping fees and the sale of water and wood was R3 283, 69 compared with R732, 31 in 1971.

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

In the caravan park at Mile 4, Swakopmund, 12 937 people camped in 3 346 caravans and tents. The municipal bungalows accommodated 38 871 holidaymakers.

The fishing resort of Torra Bay attracted 506 campers (44 from the Republic) as against 439 in 1971. The revenue derived from entry fees, camping fees, the shop and filling station doubled from R2 484, 62 to R4 925, 49.

Apart from the above-mentioned sites with amenities, an estimated 3 500 people (compared with 1600 last year) camped between Walvis Bay and Jakkalsputz was prohibited this year.

Of the 14 128 visitors to the Namib Desert Park, 11 051 went to Sandwich Harbour. The corresponding figures for last year were 17 701 and 14 414. Despite the decrease, the revenue more than doubled from R5 024, 37 to R11 621, 90.

As from December the Cape Cross Seal Reserve could be visited daily, whereas in the past it had been open only on Wednesday and Saturdays. Altogether 6 308 visitors in 1 256 vehicles were counted as against 4 792 in 762 vehicles the previous year. The revenue was R2 627, 32 compared with last year 's R762, 00.

Dolfynstrand, the overnight camping site between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, was opened on 1 December. Because all the camping sites and amenities were not yet completed, a provisional tariff of R1, 00 per site per month was imposed – as was the case with Mile 14 last year. This tariff will be reviewed once all the construction work has been completed, probably during next year, During December there were 211 campers.

The Von Bach Recreation Resort was proclaimed in June and a start was made immediately with the development of facilities for day camping. Entry fees were levied from 1 November and the revenue derived from 832 visitors amounted to R401, 09.

The accommodation fees paid in at the Reservation Office in Windhoek amounted to R135 579, 31 as against R03 973, 10 in 1971.

The direct tourism revenue for the Administration from entry fees, accommodation, trade activities and royalties from oil companies was R860 440, 07 compared with R546 74, 19 in 1971.

Nature Conservation

The value of live game sold by farmers increased sharply. Permits were issued for the capture and sale of the following species:

Giraffe	184
Eland	445
Ostrich	261
Gemsbok	389
Blue wildebeest	24
Zebra	137
Hartebeest	316
Springbok	1 250
Kudu	124
Duiker	4

Calculated at the Administration 's prices when selling game to farmers, the farmers netted R219 445, 00 from the sale of the above species. Farmers, however, obtain higher prices on the average.

Licensed game dealers earned R 215 250, 00 from the export of game. The value was calculated at the average prices given by the dealers. They paid export levies to the amount of R8 376, 00 to the Administration.

Farmers who obtained permits to sell game carcasses netted approximately R171 496, 00, calculated at the prices of hunting licences.

The estimated revenue from the export of 53 922 hides was R218 732, 50. The administration received R4 695, 38 for levies on these exports.

During the two months hunting season 4 577 head of game were hunted with licences. The number of each species cannot be ascertained because the receivers of revenue do not keep these statistics. Thus, the exact income for the farmers can also not be calculated. If, however, a calculation is based on the percentage of hides marketed, the income must have been approximately R56 254, 00. The state only keeps an administrative fee of 50c per license and thus netted R2 288, 00 from the licences.

The increase in the number of bodies bringing trophy hunters to Southwest Africa as well as the variation in prices and the quality of services, led to an investigation into the whole matter. Legislation on trophy hunting is envisaged for 1973. A total of 209 trophy hunters visited Southwest Africa during the year, bringing the Administration a direct revenue of R5 225, 00. The income derived by farmers from these hunters charged by them vary so much. Taken at the average price for a trophy and at one trophy of each species per hunter, it amounted to approximately R62 700, 00.

Thus, the total income and revenue for the Territory from game, carcasses, hides and hunting licences were as follows:

Sale of live game by farmers	R219 445, 00
Export of game by dealers	215 250, 00
Sale of carcasses by farmers	171 496, 00
Export of hides by dealers	218 732, 50
Levies on export of hides (State)	4 695, 38
Hunting licence fees for farmers	56 254, 00
Levies on hunting licences (State)	2 288, 50
Trophy hunters' fees for farmers	62 700, 00
Levies on trophy hunting licences	5 225, 00
Sale of game by Administration	2 682, 00
Levies on export of game (State)	8 376, 00

A serious problem for the farmers is the lack of marketing facilities for venison in South West Africa. The matter was however referred to the South West African Agricultural Union.

In order to protect grazing permits were issued for shooting 3 091 head of game compared with 4 449 last year. For the capturing and keeping of birds 364 permits were issued and for collecting, transporting, donating, etc. of protected plants, 245 permits.

An area of 4 285 hectares around the Sartorius von Bach Dam as well as the Waterberg Plateau Park, 40 000 hectares in extent, were proclaimed as game reserves.

During the year 15 new private game parks were proclaimed, bringing the total to 135 covering altogether 1 018 552 hectares, comprising 190 farms or portions of farms.

Five new honorary nature conservators were appointed bringing the total to 78. The honorary nature conservators again rendered valuable free services with their reports, inspections and aid to the Administration.

With the exception of the Namib Desert Park the parks had in general an average rainfall. The Namib Desert Park only had a few scattered light showers, with the result that grazing is poor. Elephants from the Etosha National Park and the Mangetti area again caused trouble on neighbouring farms, but in most instances they were driven back by officers on horseback within a few days. More and more use is being made of horses for this type of work, especially where the terrain is unsuitable for vehicles and too dangerous to traverse on foot. Altogether 437 elephants and 31 lions were either driven back to the Park, or else transported or lured back with carcasses.

Magistrates paid out a total of R28 000,00 for the hides of vermin.

Owing to thorough systems of fire-breaks, veld-fires do not present the hazard in game parks that they had once been. In five fires caused by lightning in the Etosha park only 62 hectares were destroyed. In the Daan Viljoen Game three fires only destroyed one hectare; in the Sartorius von Bach Recreational Resort, where no fire-breaks have as yet been made, approximately 2000 hectares of grazing were destroyed.

Law enforcement was intensified this year, especially to combat poaching the smuggling of protected plants.

The Nature Conservation Board held three meetings during the year. At the time of the first meeting an inspection ' visit was paid to the Waterberg Plateau Park and the meeting was held in the Etosha National Park to discuss local problems.

RESEARCH

More research was done on game capture techniques and means and eland, springbok, gemsbok, zebra and rhino were captured and translocated successfully. More game was sold to farmers, namely 147 springbok, 46 gemsbok and 47 plains zebra. In addition 85 eland and some giraffe were taken from the Mangetti to the Waterberg Plateau Park, two rhinos to the Etosha National Park and 7 mountain zebra to the game park area of the Hardap Recreation Resort.

The use of a helicopter once more proved essential for capturing game. In the case of the eland a light aeroplane was also used to drive them over long distances.

During the 75 days that the eland were quarantined in the Mangetti, 21 calves were born.

On the Waterberg Plateau a quarantine camp of 12 hectares was erected, surrounded by a game-proof camp of 1 000 hectares. .

The increase in prices for game to a more realistic level did not deter interested farmers and there are still waiting lists for the various species.

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AN extensive survey of all game as well as aloes, freshwater fish and certain bird species was undertaken towards the end of the year. The main purpose of this survey is to obtain an idea of the numbers and distribution of the various game species, the trouble caused by problem animals and birds, the demand for freshwater fish, etc., to adapt policy and to attempt to find answers to problems. A total of 5 700 questionnaires in three es languages were sent to farmers all over the country. By the end of the year about one-third had been returned.

Problem animals

Progress was made in the study of the danger posed by kudu on the roads. There is no easy solution to the problem and research is being continued.

The elephant is one of the animals' causing problems for farmers adjacent to the Etosha National Park. During the year a study of their ecology, population, dynamics, and the behaviour was undertaken. The elephant-proof fence erected as an experiment over 24 km between the park and the farm Onguma, proved successful and the erection of more fences at problem sites was approved.

The south of the Territory is now plagued by dassies and the Division has started research on methods to combat this.

Game diseases

Anthrax is still on the rise in the Etosha National Park, and 311 deaths occurred during the past year as against 169 in the previous year. It has been ascertained those vultures carry the anthrax spores over vast distances. Experiments were carried out with the disinfection in cases of severe infection. Research continues in co-operation with the Department water Affairs – more than 300 water and mud samples were analysed during the year. Anthrax spores were found mainly in gravel pits and or small pans. The Otjovasandu area is, however, still free from this disease.

Rabies does not appear to be increasing. Sixteen positive cases were diagnosed during the year.

In the Waterberg Plateau Park 20 eland were put into a special boma for research on foot and mouth disease in co-operation with the Veterinary Services Branch of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services.

The experiments, started towards the end of the year, will be carried out over a period of eight months.

Birds

Analysis of the information gained in a project on the breeding seasons and limiting factors of a representative number of birds in the central part of Southwest Africa is still in progress.

Three years' field work on the birds of Sandwich Harbour has been completed and brought to light that there are at least 90 species (during a survey in 1960, 66 species were identified). A list of the birds is now being compiled, indicating which abound and which are scarce and where in the lagoon area a specific species can be seen.

In the permanent bird ringing project in conjunction with the National Bird Ringing Unit of the council for Scientific and Industrial Research of South Africa (C. S. I. R) 381 birds of 76 species were ringed. There were some interesting recoveries: two grey herons ringed on the Etosha Pan as nest chick on the guano platform at Walvis Bay was found near Moc amedes in Angola.

A newly designed pelican ring was approved by the C. S. I. R.

The standing up of the Walvis Bay lagoon not only threatens the thousands of sea birds, which form a great tourist attraction, but also all marine life. A provisional report on the problem was received from the C. S. I. R.

The 35 to 38 species of freshwater of birds as well as the vegetation at Sandwich Harbour are also threatened because the lagoon is presumably becoming brackish. Research is being carried out on the problem.

Plants

The project on the distribution of aloes in the south of Southwest Africa has been completed. A complete report with recommendations on the protection of certain threatened species is at present being studied.

In the study of the vegetation of the Etosha National Park about one half of the park has been charted and a provisional list of 380 plant species has been compiled. A project has also been started to analyse the problem of over-grazing summer grazing areas. According to the first indications the area around Namutoni is being over-grazed severely during summer.

Good progress has been made with the development of the Southwest Nature Garden in Windhoek. The planned trails have almost been completed; the same applies to the water supply system, which should be in service early in the coming year.

Fresh water fish

The collection of data in the study of the angling fish in the Hardap Dam has been completed. The data is now being processed and laboratory analyses being carried out.

The aim with the project is to build up the fish population in the dam to offer the angler good fish for sport as well as eating.

A site has been chosen for the planned fish breeding station and a contour survey has been completed. Plans were approved to convert the old tourist office below the dam wall into a laboratory and office.

During the year surveys were made in the Geingob and Von Bach Dams and the Aueigas Dam in the Daan Viljoen Game Park.

New projects

Several new projects were registered, e.g.:

The ecology of the lion, leopard, and cheetah in the Etosha National Park.

Foot and mouth disease experiments on eland in the Waterberg Plateau Park.

The status of the African Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus minor*) and the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron perenopterus*) in Southwest Africa;

the status and distribution of eagles in Southwest Africa.

Bioeconomy of rhinoceros-birds in Southwest Africa; and

A study of the *Bitis caudalis* (horned snake) in the Namib Desert Park.

Research complexes

The research and nature conservation complex at Okaukuejo is under construction and should, in accordance with the contract, be completed towards the end of the next year. At Walvis Bay the Building of the Fishing Industry Research Institute was taken over for bird research and nature conservation. Replanning of the building has been carried out to utilize as much as possible. At the Hardap Dam the construction of fish breeding dams will be started early in 1973. Tenders were allocated for extensions to the existing research station at Gobabeb and the construction of three dwellings. In Windhoek the existing facilities have been improved somewhat. The planning of the complex for research, game breeding and quarantine in Gammams is being continued; however, water can be supplied only in 1974, a factor that will delay the whole project.

Publications

During the year three editions of the research periodical *Madoqua* were published: Numbers 5 and 6 of Series I, as well as the first number of Series II (the Koch memorial Edition). In addition to the 18 scientific articles in the above mentioned three numbers, the following three popular articles were published in the periodical *AFRICAN WILDLIFE*:

“The great Flamingo Trek”.

Pelicans Airfreight their Fish 100 kilometres”.

“Saving the Hartmann Zebra”.

An article on the problems regarding the capture and translocation of game in Southwest Africa was also written for the periodical *LAMMERGEYER*.

Accommodation Establishments

Fourteen establishments were graded during the year, so that 38 of the 123 establishments in the Territory have now been graded as follows:

One star : 29 hotels
Two stars : 1 motel
 : 4 hotels
 : 3 guest farms
Three stars : 1 safari company.

The tourism Board, under chairmanship of Mr. A. Brinkman, M. E. C., met five times during the year. Seventeen applications for loans amounting to R4 071 400, 00 were considered and 10 loans amounting to R800 300, 00 were recommended by the Board and approved by the Executive Committee. Since the Ordinance and regulations on accommodation establishments came into force a total of R2 534 000, 00 has been allocated to establishments in the form of loans for improvements.

Financial assistance was also given to a company who will start erecting a modern hotel with 50 rooms at Keetmanshoop early in 1973.

Statistics show that the occupation percentage of graded establishments is higher than that of ungraded establishments.

The accommodation Establishments and Tourism Ordinance is at present being reviewed.

Publicity, Information and Education

A pamphlet on the nature conservation legislation of Southwest Africa was made available towards the end of the year and immediately met with public approval.

The reprinting of the tourist guide was delayed because there was uncertainty about the question of permits, amenities, and tariffs for attractions in certain areas. However, the problem has since been solved and the guide should be printed early next year.

A brochure with black and white photographs was prepared and sent to the printers. It will be distributed before the commence of the next season on 16 March.

Two new films made in Southwest Africa by Anglia Television of Britain, were received:
"The Fence"

Dealing with the driving of elephant from farms to the Etosha, and “Air Support” which is mainly about the capture and translocation of roan antelope.

Articles on Ais-Ais Hot Springs, the Etosha National Park and Otjovasandu were written, on request, for Die Huisgenoot, Lantern and the 1973 edition of the S. W. A. Annual respectively.

The cover photograph for the telephone directory was supplied by the Division in conjunction with a professional photographer.

As regards education, more attention was paid to schools this year. Primary and high schools throughout the Territory were visited with film shows and lectures. A total of 71 lectures were given to schools, youth groups, farmers’ and women’s associations and other organisations. Thus 15 421 people were reached. In the process 43 355 km was travelled. Land service groups were again organised for the various rest camps.

The display with which the Administration participated at the Windhoek, Keetmanshoop and Otjiwarongo agricultural shows, won the cup permanently for neatness at Keetmanshoop, as well as a second prize.

General

Professional officers attended the professional officers’ meetings of the Nature Conservation departments of the Cape Province and Transvaal. A meeting of the National Bird Ringing Unit in Cape Town was also attended.

In addition to in-service training lectures for nature conservators, professional officers gave more than 30 lectures for youth groups and other organisations,

Officials of the Division again took part in the activities of several committee for the Conservation of the Environment, the National Committee for Environmental Sciences, the Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilisation of the Soil, the scientific Advisory Committee of the S. A. Nature Foundation, the Pilot-Committee of the Desert Research Unit at Gobabeb, the Technical Sub-Committee of the Pilot-Committee for Water Research in Southwest, the S. W. A. Planning Advisory Board, Nature Conservation Board, Tourism Board, Tender Board, S. A. Society for Animal Production, the S. A. Medical Veterinary Association and the Technical Sub-Committee for Nature Conservation Matters.