



South West Africa Administration

WHITE PAPER

on the

ACTIVITIES OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES

for

1973

NATURE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM

GENERAL REVIEW.

As far as tourism is concerned, 1973 was generally a good year. The number of visitors to most of the Administration's rest camps increased and West Coast, especially, was crowded. The bodies dealing directly with tourism - such as the public transport sector, the private airways, bus tour companies and the accommodation establishments - also reported a year of increasing growth, stressing the value of tourism as a source of income.

Mainly because of taking over the bungalows at Swakopmund from the municipality, the Administration has almost as many beds available as the private sector - the Administration's number went up from 1 133 in 1972 to 2 193, while the number of beds in private accommodation establishments rose from 2 318 to 2 498. The Administration's camping and caravan sites also increased sharply from 399 to 1 179, a result of taking over the caravan park at Swakopmund, enlarging the over-night camping site at Mile 14 and building a new, similar site at Jakkalsputz.

No new rest camps were undertaken during the year. The policy of rather improving the existing rest camps with a view to complying with the trading requirements was adhered to.

The investigation into the role played by tourism in the economy of South West Africa carried out by the bureau for Economic Research of the University of Stellenbosch was completed. The report indicates that tourism is a growing factor in the economy which should be exploited systematically. The average occupation percentage of the private accommodation establishments remained constant because of an increase not only in the number of tourists, but also in the number of beds, although one establishment was gutted by fire and two closed down of their own free will. Progress with the grading of establishments was slow because many of them were engaged in structural alterations which demand time and money. Many of the loans granted by the Administration were not used for expansions, but for improvements and introducing more facilities such as bathrooms and toilets. The Accommodation Establishments and Tourism Ordinance was reviewed and now makes provision for stricter action against establishments which do not comply with the minimum requirements on 31 December, unless they have good reasons.

The Ordinance also makes provision for the creation of and control over tourist recreation areas. The first area to be proclaimed was the National West Coast Tourist Recreation Area, situated between the Namib Desert Dark to the south and the Skeleton Coast Park to the north. The purpose with the Ordinance is the conservation of the environment and the controlled development of the region concerned.

Many problems were experienced during the year, such as:

* In the Central Reservations Office of the Division the volume of work - mainly a result of the taking over of Swakopmund's 200 bungalows with their 960 beds and the caravan park with its 540 sites - increased so tremendously that handling by hand of all the reservations has become almost impossible. The possibility of installing a computer and telex system is now being investigated.

* The phenomenon peak periods with quiet periods in between which is still experienced at some places causes the bed occupation percentage to remain relatively low, even though people complain that they cannot get accommodation in holiday periods.

* Southwesterners complain that they cannot get accommodation in game parks and resorts during holidays because of great numbers of visitors from outside, especially the Republic; however, statistics show that 65,4% of the total number of visitors to the Administration's rest camps were from South West Africa, 29% from the Republic and 5,6% from overseas.

* Although the Administration's direct revenue from tourism increased to more than a million rand it is still relatively low because the tariffs were adapted years ago and the cost structure has risen on all levels in the meantime. As regards tourism the Administration is not interested in profit, but only tries to recover its working expenditure. The Administration cannot subsidise the public's holidays, therefore it has become necessary, unfortunately, to adjust the tariffs. The new tariffs will come into force on 1 April 1974; they are still lower than those for comparable facilities and services elsewhere,

* Caravan parks throughout South West Africa have problems because of the high cost of building and maintenance and the fact that they are also subject to the seasonal phenomenon, The matter is being investigated.

* Hotels experience high working expenditure because much of their stock is transported over long distances, usually from the Republic. They have to adjust their prices continually in order to survive, causing tourists from the Republic to complain to the Division; however, the service and prices compare favourably with those overseas.

* The main problem of the hotels is still the lack of trained non-white staff. The Executive Committee has approved the training of non-whites of local hotels in Windhoek by the Division as an experiment before considering the system for the rest of the Territory. Arrangements for this are being made.

* The Territory's old buildings - one of the most important elements giving it its continental atmosphere, and a great tourist attraction - are rapidly being replaced by modern structures, destroying its distinctiveness and causing tourists to complain.

* A great problem at the West Coast is still the littering, fish wasting and vandalism. In contrast to the Administration's other rest camps, the bungalows at Swakopmund and the caravan park at Mile 4 suffered badly through vandalism. Life-ropes were cut from their coils on a large scale and ablution blocks and bungalows dirtied and damaged excessively. Pollution along the coast - officials had to remove lorry-loads of litter during holiday periods - will be counteracted effectively if proposed Republic legislation under delegated authority will, it is hoped, come into force next year.

Nature conservation, the basis for tourism in South West Africa, experienced a difficult year as a result of a poor rainy season, especially in the north. In most of the game parks grazing was poor and especially in the Namib Desert Park many game died.

The fact that considerable fewer hunting licences were taken out than in the previous year, could mean one of two things: either the farmers allow people to hunt without licences, or they attach more importance to their game, especially after the sharp increase in the price of meat and an intensive information campaign by the Division. The latter seems to be the most probable in the light of the fact that less than half of the previous year's number of hides were exported.

On the other hand considerably more licences for trophy hunting, which forms a growing source of income for both farmers and safari companies, were issued. Draft regulations to control trophy hunting were drawn up and the public was invited to comment on them before they will be promulgated next year.

Since completion of the fence on the Etosha's northern border the whole game park is now fenced in, causing management problems and more intensive research, also because the game park is an ecological unit no longer.

Elephants breaking through the fence, doing damage on neighbouring farms and lions going through the breaks, still pose a problem in spite of the fact that a large part of the fence was re-enforced by adding three wires and that nature conservators spent more time keeping elephants away from the farms. Seven culprits had to be shot. Owing to the success of an experimental elephant fence in the north-eastern corner of the park the Executive Committee approved that 20 km of elephant fence be erected per annum at places where the animals break through .

Another problem for nature conservation is concessions for prospecting and mining in parks. It not only hampers nature conservation activities, but makes planning, development and control very difficult. In the Skeleton Coast Park there are three concessions covering 891 000 ha and in the Namib Desert Park eight concessions cover 27 000 ha. More concessions in both parks are under consideration. The Honourable, the Minister of Mines visited the areas concerned and, after high level discussions , gave the assurance that in future concessions in parks would only be granted if it was of national importance, and after consulting the Administration.

Good progress was made during the year with the building of research centres- The one at Okaukuejo in the Etosha National Park, where ecological research over a wide field will be done. Gomes, was completed and the one at Gobabeb, where local and visiting overseas scientists do desert research, was extensively expanded. More attention was paid to research on game catching techniques and drugs, thus relatively fewer game was caught than in the previous year.

On the recommendation of the South West Africa Planning Advisory Board a team of experts started a study of the Kuiseb River system in an effort to determine the influence of man on ecology as well as the maximum utilisation of this resource: A consulting engineer was also appointed by the Administration and interested bodies to investigate the alarming sanding-up of the Walvis Bay lagoon and to make recommendations.

In a full-scale survey of the numbers and distribution of various species of game, birds, plants and a fresh-water fish in South West Africa, 2 876 of some 5 000 questionnaires which were distributed among farmers, were returned. The final report will be completed next year, but

according to interim findings 25% of the farmers complain about poaching on their farms and approximately 40% of them are interested in obtaining fresh-water fish for their dams.

This year members of the research staff for the first time attended international conferences abroad.

Tourism

The number of visitors to the Administration's game parks and resorts increased by 57 810 from 228 916 in 1972 to 286 726. This may be ascribed mainly to the taking over of Swakopmund's tourist accommodation, the fact that the Von Bach Recreation Resort was open throughout the year as against two months of the previous year, the greater crowding of the Daan Viljoen Game Park and the West Coast, the fact that the Hardap and Ai-Ais were not closed part of the year's was the case last year, and the extension of the visiting time at Cape Cross.

The Administration's revenue from accommodation, entry fees and trade activities were R1 018 659, 77 as against R 860 440, 07 in 1972.

Of the 38 630 visitors who entered the Etosha National Park through the two gates during the season, 17 637 visited the park for the day only. A total of 25 016 visitors were signed in at Okaukuejo, 20 545 at Halali and 32 239 at Namutoni. The bed occupation percentage for the three rest camps was ostensibly low because there are large dormitories for youth and touring groups which often are used by small families and are seldom utilised to the full outside the holiday periods; the same applies to the large bungalows. The average bed occupation (bungalows, dormitories, and tents) for three camps was 47%. A total of 50 664 bed-nights were sold, as well as 6 797 camping site nights and 5 911 caravan site nights.

Of the 9 857 tourist vehicles which entered through the two gates, 247 were motor vehicles. There were 663 caravans. On the ai-field at Okaukuejo 69 aeroplanes landed and at Halali and Namutoni 33 each.

The revenue from entry fees and accommodation was R146 841, 03 and that from activities R337 238, 82.

The new rest camp at the Hardap Recreation Resort was fully put into service. After the flood damage and temporary closing in 1972, when 38 730 people visited the resort, the number of visitors increased to 43 724 this year; of these, 25 367 visited the resort for the day only. The average bed occupation (bungalows and dormitories) was 47%. A total of 15 483 bed nights, 1 502 camping site nights and 849 caravan site nights were sold.

The revenue derived from accommodation and entry fees was R33 378, 87 and that derived from trade activities, R80 590, 43. The 669 fishing licences issued, brought IN r334, 50.

The Daan Viljoen Game Park was exceptionally crowded because of the tarred road (which was put into service in December 1972). The day-visitors alone this year (68 516) were more than last year's total (68 480).

A total of 98 222 people visited the Game Park. The bed occupation (bungalows) was 75%; 13 421 nights, 5 480 camping site nights and 3 583 caravan site nights were sold.

Accommodation and entry fees brought in R40 079, 94, and the 263 fishing licences which were experienced because the boreholes grew much weaker; a new water supply system had to be laid on.

Problems with drinking water were experienced because the boreholes grew much weaker; a new water supply system had to be laid on.

After the Ai-Ais Hot Springs had to be closed for a long time in the previous year owing to flood damage, and the number of visitors had dropped to 8 577, the number increased again in 1973 to 17 909; 1 249 visited the Springs for the day only. Of the total 77, 6% came from the Republic and 2, 0% from abroad. The average bed occupation (flats, caravans, dormitories, and tents) was 51%. A total of 27 264 bed nights, 3 882 camping site nights and 2 070 caravan site nights were sold.

The revenue derived from accommodation and entry fees was R45 568,85 and that from trade activities, R105 656,92.

The mineral baths netted R1 755,00 (at 10¢ per session) and the 85 fishing licences R42,50.

The visitors' book at the Fish River Canyon was signed by 8 495 visitors of whom 50,4% came from the Republic and 12,9% from overseas.

The number of people holidaying in caravans and tents at the West Coast - apart from those accommodated in hotels, boarding-houses, bungalows or by friends and relatives - increased from 24 444 in 1972 to 29 580.

The bungalows at Swakopmund which were taken over by the Administration on 1 February, accommodated 21 475 visitors in the eleven months. The average bed occupation was 54,03%. In the 11 months 25 965 bed nights were sold. The revenue derived from accommodation and sale of wood was R128 452, 75.

At Mile 4 the 12 530 visitors paid R34 573, 05 for camping sites and wood; 18 036 camping and caravan site nights were sold.

The overnight camping site at Mile 14 was enlarged by 120 sites just before the start of the December holidays. There 2937 visitors; 5690 site nights were sold. The sites brought in R3 880, 90 and the emergency shop, showers, petrol, water, and wood sales R2 816, 11.

A month before the start of the summer holidays it was decided to develop Jakkalsputz as an overnight camping site also. A hundred and twenty sites with Facilities were constructed in record time and a direct road to Henties Bay was built. In the month of its existence the site was visited by 1 281 campers; 7 151 site nights were sold. The revenue was R2 249, 65.

The 488 people who camped at Torra Bay in the Skeleton Coast Park, paid R1 410,50 for entry fees and camping sites. Here the visitors from the Republic numbered only 0.8% of the total. The revenue derived from the shop, filling station and wood and water sales was R4 866, 13.

A total of 839 persons camped at the overnight camping site at Dolfynstrand. The revenue amounted to R177, 15.

The visiting times for the Cape Cross Seal Reserve was extended. Previously the public could view the seals only from 16 December until the end of January; and only on Wednesdays and Saturdays; now the reserve is open every day from 16 December until the end of February and from March to the end of June every Saturday and over long weekends every day. Picnic facilities for day-visitors were erected. The number of visitors this year was 8 457 as against 6 308 in 1972. The revenue amounted to R3 703,95. A fly-in safari company had Cape Cross on its route for the first time this year.

Of the 19 965 visitors to the Namib Desert Park, 15 982 went to Sandvis.- Permits to the amount of R7 647,65 were issued.

The Von Bach Recreation Resort was visited by 11950 people, all of them day-visitors because there are no overnight facilities. It has been decided for the time being to construct only day camping sites and to give the development and handling of them out on tender to private enterprise. It was also decided that water sports clubs and youth groups could erect their own facilities in their areas along the dam. The revenue derived from entry fees was R2 227, 20 for the year.

There was a total of 192 cases of trespassing in all the rest camps. In 107 cases the trespassers were warned; the 85 who were fined, paid R1 588,00.

NATURE CONSERVATION

The value of live game sold by farmers almost doubled, while the value of carcasses sold and of hunting licences issued decreased sharply.

The clearest sign that the farmers do not readily shoot game or allow others to shoot any longer, is the tremendous decrease in the export of hides. In 1973 only 17 767 hides were exported as against 53 922 in the previous year. More private persons and bodies applied for permits to capture, sell and export game and prices of up to R600,00 per eland were fetched.

Farmers who allowed trophy hunters to shoot on their farms utilised this source of income better by generally setting their prices for trophy animals higher. None the less, the lower revenue derived from the sale of carcasses and hides, as well as from hunting licences (1 534 were issued as against 4 577 in 1972) cause the total revenue derived from game to decrease from more than R900 000,00 to an estimated R785 543, 00.

Law enforcement

Poaching at night along main roads increased, probably as a result of higher meat prices and the fact that farmers do not allow hunting and do not sell carcasses readily any longer. Especially along tarred roads and the three through-roads through the Namib Desert. Park poaching has become a problem. On one inspection 18 slaughter sites were found along one road in the Namib Desert Park.

A total of 292 people were charged with contravening the Nature Conservation Ordinance and 274 were found guilty. The fines totalled R8 602,00. Another 178 persons were warned.

The whole of the Nature Conservation Ordinance was reviewed and extended. After receipt of the public's comments it will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The existing regulations under the Ordinance were also amended ; a chapter on problem animals such as dassies, baboons, caracals, black-backed jackals and Cape wild dogs, among others, was inserted to replace the outdated Ordinance on the Extermination of Vermin (32 of 1965) and to make extermination and control more effective.

Game parks and reserves

In the Etosha National Park elephants and lions gave the nature conservators a lot of problems and work. During the year 98 elephants and 72 lions were driven and taken back to the Park from adjoining farms. Seven elephants which kept on giving trouble had to be shot.

After completion of the fence on the northern boundary the Administration, as a gesture of good-will, donated several hundreds head of game to the Owambo government for the latter to start its own game park.

Etosha experienced a poor rainy season and the grazing was generally sparse. The animals congregated at the waterholes earlier than usual and the veld is over-grazed badly in places.

The new tarred road in the Daan Viljoen Game Park caused visitors to start driving dangerously fast in the Park and the rest camp, so that a gatsometer had to be purchased. Two serious motor accidents one of them fatal, occurred. A visitor swimming in the dam - which is prohibited - drowned.

Here the water and grazing situation was also poor, towards the end of the year all three dams were almost dry.

In the Hardap Game Reserve satisfactory results were obtained in the fight against erosion by packing gabions (stones rolled in the chicken mesh to prevent them being washed away). Grass was settled with success on the so-called floors (hard, barren spots). The number of kudus will have to be reduced soon because they increased well and there is not sufficient bush for them; the lemon thorn was seriously over-grazed.

During the year 21 mountain zebras and number of eland which were captured elsewhere, were translocated to this reserve.

In the Waterberg Plateau Park, which is still closed for the public, fire-breaks were marked off and cleared. The material for the eastern boundary was ordered: Tenders for erecting the fence will be invited in the coming year.

The Naukluft Mountain zebra Park was enlarged by 12 166 ha by buying the farm Die Valle. Negotiations for the buying of another two farms adjoining the park, were finalised. After that the park will extend to 57 409 ha.

In the Namib Desert Park an air-field was built at the famous Welwitschia flats for use by air safaris and picnic facilities were constructed. With the two camping sites that were completed during the years there are now five official camping sites in the Park.

The reeds and rushes at the Sandvies Lagoon, which is a breeding place for aquatic birds, started dying on a large scale, probably as a result of salinisation caused by water draining from the Kuiseb River. It can do the remarkable birdlife untold damage.

The Skeleton Coast Park, which previously extended only from the Ugab to the Hoanib River, was expanded to include the coastal strip between the Hoanib and the Kunene River. The extent of the whole park is now approximately 16 000 sq. km. The buildings and equipment at Mowe Bay were taken over from the Department of Industrial Affairs and a nature conservator was stationed there. This part of the north coast will remain a wilderness area and will be let to a safari company on a tender basis so that the public can also visit it.

A survey of ship-wrecks (some of them centuries old) well as the game, water and places of interest is now being made.

This year staff were stationed at the Sartorius von Bach Dam for the first time. The fences, which were

In a bad state of repair, were amended, firebreaks were marked off and a survey of the game was made. Trespassing cattle caused much trouble.

Information and education

During the year an effort was made to give more information and education to the public. The 48 lectures given by nature conservators to especially farmers and youth groups, were attended by about 3 938 persons. The lectures usually co-incided with farmers 'days and were accompanied by wildlife films. Two courses in handling the coyote getter were given in the south and were attended b 29 farmers who received certificates.

Permits

The following permits were issued during the year:

Capture of game	464
Keeping of game	86
Keeping of birds	194
Export of game by farmers	68
Export by game dealers	49
Import of game	176
Shooting of game for sale	121
Shooting of game for protection of grazing	243
Export of hides	200
Collecting protected plants	39

The administration 's total revenue from levies on permits, licenses, export of hides, etc., was R50 626, 00.

General

During the ear 21 new private game parks were proclaimed, bringing the total to 156 covering altogether 1 120 175 ha, comprising 211 farms or portions of farms.

Twelve new honorary nature conservators were appointed, bringing the total to 90. An ideal of many years was realised when two conferences for honorary nature conservators were held – one for the north at Okaukuejo and one for the south at Hardap.

The Nature Conservation Board under chairmanship of Mr. A. Brinkman M. E. C., held two meetings.

Research

The first proper game census in the Etosha National Park was conducted with the aid of a helicopter. Previously a light aircraft was used but counts by helicopter are far more accurate. The elephant population has increased to 1300, creating problems for the Etosha with its relatively low carrying capacity. The number of blouwildebeest has dropped to a dangerous low of 3 717.

Of the approximately 5 000 questionnaires which were circulated among farmers towards the end of last year to get a picture of the numbers and distribution of game, birds, freshwater fish and certain plants, 2 876 were returned. The numbers have been ascertained and the distributions are now being put onto punched cards. The final report should be published early in 1974.

Problem's animals

An official was appointed to do fulltime research on problem animals. In the beginning he will give all his attention to the dassie plague in the south to find an effective antidote.

While the helicopter was in Etosha for the game census, it was used to immobilize 39 elephants. Bands with code numbers were put around their necks to ascertain when, where to and why they migrate. This will help indicate where elephant-proof fences should be erected to keep them from breaking out and will provide a basis for the maximum of the animals that can be protected in the park.

The study of the danger posed by kudu on the roads has been almost completed. Experiments with reflectors must be done early in 1974 and when these are completed, the results of the whole of the project will be analysed.

Game diseases

As a result of the drought, late rains and filling up of gravel holes in the Etosha, few cases of anthrax occurred. Only 140 positive cases were found as against 311 in the previous year. Fewer cases of rabies were also reported. The large number of deaths among gemsbok in the Namib Desert Park early in the year resulted from drought, a lack of water and the fact that the animals started eating poisonous plants out of desperation.

Game

Experiments in connection with the blood chemistry of Ungulates under stress progressed. In the case of springbok, it was found that those captured in nets were subject to excessive stress and injuries. Blood samples were taken of other game species as well but could not be analysed yet.

The field work of the research on eland in the Waterberg Plateau Park was completed but the results of the serum analysis, which was done in England, is not known yet.

Birds

The study of the physiological ecology of the Cape cormorant, which was started early in the year, is of economic interest as these birds eat the same fish species as those caught by the fishing boats.

In the permanent bird ringing project in conjunction with the C. S. I. R., 488 birds of 34 species were ringed.

Two projects which are in advanced stage and will be published soon, are "A comparative study of the breeding biology within and outside the Namib Desert Park" and "Chromosome studies of certain birds of the S. W. A. Fauna".

Research on the breeding biology, ecology, and economic status of the Namaqua sand-grouse as a huntable game bird was also started.

Plants

A vegetation map of the Etosha National Park was completed. Research up to now indicates that the Namutoni and Leeubron areas are over-grazed and that the Andoni flats cannot sustain the number of game which occur there at certain times for those periods.

The fence around the Southwest Nature Garden was completed and trails were constructed over a distance of 1 760 m. The water supply system was extended by 970 m of pipeline. A total of 1 610 succulents of 16 species were collected throughout Southwest and transplanted in the Nature Garden.

The boundaries of a lichen reserve were marked off near the Cape Cross Seal Reserve.

Fresh-water fish

In the study of the fish species of the Hardap Dam with a view to developing the dam as a good fishing resort, data such as length, weight, sex, age, etc., of about 7 000 fish were processed and put onto punched cards at the Rand Afrikaans University.

Statistical processing of approximately 80 000 sets of data for several programs was completed by a computer.

Game catching

The game catching unit captured a total of 459 head of game during the year. Of these 194 were sold to farmers, netting R8 290 for the Administration. The rest were translocated to game parks. Six mountain zebras were sold to the Nature Conservation Department of the Cape Province. The numbers of the different game species Captured, were:

Springbok	215
Gemsbok	91
Hartebeest	77
Giraffe	2
Zebra	50
Black rhinoceros	11
Eland	5
Kudu	4
Ostrich	3
Steenbok	1

All the animals were removed from the little game park behind the Administration buildings in Windhoek because the park was seriously over-grazed. Game will again be introduced as soon as the grazing has recovered sufficiently.

New projects

Several new projects were started, such as:

- The Ecology, population dynamics and behaviour of the blue wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* in the Etosha National Park. The number of this species has shown an alarming decrease throughout Southwest Africa.
- Distribution of the elephant 's trunk *Pachypodium namaquanum* in Southwest Africa. This plant species is very popular with collectors, and little is known about its numbers and distribution.
- The ecology of the butterpits *Acanthosicyos horrida*. The project is of great importance regarding the interpretation of the whole of Namib ecology, especially in the light of the fact that the butterpits are one of the most important food-sources for both man and animal in the desert.

Research complexes

The Etosha Ecological Institute at Okaukuejo was completed and will be inaugurated next year. Extensions and improvements to the amount of more than R300 000, 00 at the Namib Research Institute at Gobabeb were also completed. The research station for problem animal research in the Daan Viljoen Game Park has passed the sketch plan stage and it is hoped that the final plans will be completed in 1974.

The planning of the fresh-water fish research and breeding station at Hardap, which will comprise 32 earth dams of several sizes as well as cement dams, was completed. The first of several phases for which the planning provides, was started in the year.

Publications

In addition, too the results of projects included in 15 scientific articles in the Division's research periodical Madoqua (which is distributed world-wide), articles were also supplied for the magazines "African Wildlife" and "Journal of Wildlife Management". A guidebook on the birds of the Daan Viljoen Game Park = the first of a planned series of guidebooks – was published in three languages and is sold in the shops in all the rest camps. The two state veterinary surgeons of the Division contributed to a handbook of care for game which is being distributed world-wide by the S. A Nature Foundation.

Congresses, symposiums, and lectures

National and international meetings were attended by professional officers of the Division who also read papers and seminars, among others the International Symposium on Wildlife Utilisation, held in Pretoria, for which the veterinary surgeon for Etosha was the secretary; the Third World Conference on Animal Production held in Melbourne, Australia; and the First International Symposium on Flamingos in Slim bridge, England. At the end of the latter symposium Southwest Africa 's delegate was chosen to serve in the World Working Group on Flamingos of the International Council for Bird Protection.

The Director was chosen as chairman for the next three years of the Standing Committee for Nature Conservation and Utilisation of the Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilisation of the soil, which this year held its meeting in Angola.

Professional officers gave 40 lectures at schools and to youth groups and other organisations. The lectures covered almost all aspects of nature conservations and the principles and applications of it.

Accommodation Establishments

Twelve hotels and one guest farm were graded during the year, so that 59 of the 96 accommodation establishments are now graded as follows:

One star	:	37 hotels
Two stars	.....	6 hotels
	.....	1 motel
	.....	3 guest farms
Three stars	:	1 hotel
	.....	1 guest farm
	.....	1 safari company

Some small establishments which did not see their way open to comply with the grading requirements, closed. There are still 30 hotels, 2 guest farms, 2 safari companies, 6 rest camps and 6 caravan parks which do not comply with the minimum requirements. Most of the can be graded soon, but some hotels still have much to do – they have structural problems which will take money and time to solve.

The Tourism Board, under chairmanship of Mr. A Brinkman, M. E. C., met four times during the year. Six loans to the amount of R147 300, 00 were recommended by the Board and approved by the Executive Committee.

During the year a new hotel was built at Walvis Bay and in the Rehoboth Gebiet two old hotels were replaced by two new ones. A new hotel in Windhoek and one at Keetmanshoop are still under construction.

The average occupation figure varied from 10% for small country hotels, away from the tourist routes.

Another two courses in the hotel industry were introduced by the Witwatersrand Technical College and the Administration made two bursaries for each available for three courses annually.

Publicity, Information, and education

The new Tourist Guide and brochure on the Ai-Ais Hot Springs were delivered early in the year. A separate guide including all the tariffs, information on where and how reservations should be made, hints for visitors, a list of all the private accommodation establishments and descriptions of the various gradings was provisionally renewed; it will be printed as soon as the new tariffs become operative in 1974.

A new brochure on the Etosha National Park was given to the printers but owing to technical problems it will only be printed in January 1974. A brochure on the West Coast was made ready for printing except for some photographs and a start was made with a new brochure on the Legislative Assembly Building. Brochures and articles written on Southwest Africa by other bodies were checked and, where necessary, brought up to date.

Articles were written for the periodical "World Air-news", a special supplement on the South West published by Die Burger, the tourist supplement of Die Suidwester and the 1974 issue of the S. W. A. Annual. Several officials took part in S. A. B. C. programs.

Two new films of exceedingly high quality made by Anglia Television of England in Southwest Africa were received, namely "The Empty Desert" (on the reptiles and insects of the Namib) and "The Beachmaster" (on the seals of Cape Cross). This brings the total of wildlife films made by Anglia of which the division is in possession of prints for educational purposes to eleven. According to the producers the films have been seen by approximately 350 million people throughout the world. In addition, other companies such as Franz Lazi Films of Germany, Jamie Uys and Satour made films or parts of films in Southwest Africa. During the year Satour was given assistance when making its latest film "On the Third Day" (on the vegetation of South and Southwest Africa), which received awards abroad.

As regards education a total of 105 lectures with film or slide shows were given to school groups, farmers', and women's associations, touring groups, visiting scientists and tourists in the rest camps and a variety of clubs and organisations, reaching a total of 20 412 and adults and children. Most of the lectures had Our Green Heritage and environmental conservation as themes. Schools right through the Territory were visited. However, many requests from schools and societies had to be turned down.

The existing four land service groups working during the winter school holidays in the Etosha and at Hardap, were extended to six to include the West Coast (Swakopmund) and Ai-Ais. All youth movements are now involved in the Division's land service program.

This year show participation was limited to Windhoek's agricultural show. The display in conjunction with the Department of Forestry and with Our Green Heritage as theme, won a first prize.

Maintenance

In the Etosha National Park 18 km of new tourist roads and 20 km firebreaks were made. In the Von Bach Recreation Resort 10 km firebreaks were cleared and graded. The total distance of tourist roads and firebreaks which were maintained during the year by this section, was 2 987 km. In addition to 20 camping sites in the Etosha, 80 was constructed at Hardap, as well as 240 on the West Coast.

Four fish breeding dams were constructed at Hardap.

The northern boundary of the Etosha was fenced. Part of the fence extending over 250 km is game proof. The game-proof fence on the southern boundary of the park was reinforced over 150 km by adding three strands of wire. The south-eastern boundary of the Naukluft Zebra Park was closed over 10 km with a game-proof fence.

The number of vehicles, heavy implements, and other machines which the Division must maintain itself, increased to 76.

General

Officials of the Division took part in the activities of several committees, councils and societies, amongst others the South African Committee for the Conservation of the Environment, the National Committee for the 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 South West Africa, the Pilot-Committee of the National Bird Ringing Unit, the S. W. A Planning Advisory Board, the Standing Committee for the development of Nature Conservation and Tourism in Bantu Areas, Nature Conservation Board; Tourism Board, Tender Board, S. A. Society for Animal Production, S. A. Medical Veterinary Association, and the National Committee for Nature Conservation.