



South West Africa Administration

WHITE PAPER

on the

ACTIVITIES OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES

for

1974

Nature Conservation and Tourism

Although fewer tourists visited the Administration's game parks and recreation resorts during 1974 - mainly as a result of the fuel restrictions - highlights were attained in other spheres which will not be easily surpassed. A review is given in the following paragraphs of the Division's activities, its achievements, difficulties and problems experienced during the year.

TOURISM

The 280 086 individual visitors who visited the game parks and recreation resorts represent a reduction of 2,3 per cent as against the previous year. The revenue derived from this source (R1 049 459) represented, however, an increase of 3 per cent owing to the April increase in accommodation tariffs. Another point worth mentioning is that the bed nights showed an increase. This is due to more people having made use of tour buses which, in turn, must have brought about an increase in fuel savings. The number of tourist buses showed an increase of 95%. Furthermore, more tourists visited game parks and recreation resorts at times other than school holidays.

New regulations, aimed at improved management of visitors to the west coast, were announced during the year. The co-operation received from the public was striking. A general feeling of appreciation for the services rendered by the Division to the public could be perceived everywhere.

From the inception of restaurants in the game parks in 1968, they were managed by private individuals on a contract basis. Although they provided a very necessary and welcome service to the public, problems and complaints in respect of service were numerous, with the result that the Administration decided that the Division should manage the restaurants from 1975 as it had been managing the shops for many years.

As from 1 December the Administration hired space in 'Enke Haus' in Windhoek to accommodate the Reservation Office. The old offices had for some years, been too small and inconvenient.

The municipal bungalows at Luderitz were taken over by the Administration 1 February. A Senior Tourist Officer, a Tourist Officer and two Woman Administrative Assistants were placed in charge to manage the bungalows.

For control purposes unoccupied state land along the coast between the Namib Desert Park in the south and the Skeleton Coast Park in the north was proclaimed the National West Coast Tourist Recreation Area, in terms of the provision of the Accommodation Establishments and Tourism Ordinance of 1973. Similarly, steps were taken to proclaim the state land around Lüderitz. It has already been named 'Diamond Coast Tourist Recreation Area'.

Contractors started in May with the construction of a modern rest camp with facilities at the Gross Barmen Hot Springs. This is a three year contract a rest camp will be opened to the public in 1977.

The Etosha National Park had a total of 38 390 visitors during the year. Of this, 14 361 were day visitors. 28 534 visited Namutoni, 22 605 Okaukuejo and 18 63 Halali.

An average bungalow occupancy of 64% was maintained at the three rest camps. Of the 12 582 tourist vehicles which entered the Park, 484 were tour buses. There were 1 276 caravans, and 85 aircraft landed at Okaukuejo, 27 at Halali and 28 at Namutoni.

The revenue derived from entrance fees and accommodation was R154 590. Tourist shops had a turnover of R330 360.

The Hardap Recreation Resort, which is open throughout the year, had 41 519 visitors of whom 22 030 were day visitors. Bungalow occupancy was 50%.

Accommodation and entrance fees netted R66 297 while the restaurant and tourist shop had a turnover of R117 012. 123 fishing licences were sold.

The Daan Viljoen Game Park remains a popular resort, especially for inhabitants of Windhoek. 90 485 visitors visited this game park during the year. Of these 79 620 were day visitors. The Bungalow occupancy was 65%.

Accommodation and entrance fees amounted to R57 240 while the restaurant, the management of which had been taken over on 1 November, had a turnover of R9 304. 240 fishing licences were sold.

As a result of the exceptional rains of January, Ai-Ais Hot Springs again had floods. The extent of the damage was such that the camp could only be opened to the public on 26 June instead of 16 March. As a consequence of the time lost, the total number of visitors dropped from 17 909 in 1973 to 9 505 in 1974, of whom 1 081 were day visitors.

Tourists from the Republic of South Africa still use Ai-Ais as a halfway stop. Of the total number of visitors, 83% were from South West Africa and 4% were foreigners.

Revenue derived from accommodation and entrance fees amounted to R30 925. The shop and restaurant had a turnover of R54 390 while the mineral baths brought in R1 708, 87 angling licences were sold.

The spectacular Fish River Canyon remains a major attraction. Of the 6 239 tourists who signed the tourist book (there is no caretaker yet), 2 867 were from the R. S. A., 1 864 from S. W. A. and 1 508 were foreigners. The number of vehicles was 2 897.

During 1974 the West Coast attracted 59 102 visitors not counting those who utilised hotels, boarding houses or friends' accommodation. It is, however, some 5 000 lower than the previous year.

18 040 tourists made use of the Administration's bungalows at Swakopmund. The percentage of occupancy was 35% and R147 432 was derived from this source.

The ultra-modern caravan park at Mile 4 accommodated 11 304 visitors. 20 457 caravan parking spaces were hired out, an occupancy of 15%. The total income derived from this caravan park was 33 820.

Jakkalsputz, only a short distance from Hentiesbaal, attracted 4 798 visitors. 5 748 camping sites were ; out at R2 869 and the shop, showers, water and wood sales resulted in a further R2 466.

With scarcely any facilities available along the coast north of the Omaruru River, some 2 205 visitors camped in this area between Christmas and New Year. 158 caravans and 376 tents were counted here.

The 793 visitors who camped at Torra Bay, paid R1 807 fees and camping sites. The shop, petrol, wood and water sales amounted to a further R4 593. Only 2% of the visitors were from the Republic, the rest were from S. W. A.

The Coloured coastal resort, Dolfynstrand accommodated 649 visitors. Revenue from camping sites amounted to R267 while water and wood sales brought in R106.

The Cape Cross Seal Reserve remains a popular tourist attraction. 7 678 visitors paid R3 244 in entrance fees to view the seals.

Of the 13 758 persons who visited the Namib Desert Park, 9 630 went to Sandvis, the popular angling spot. Entrance fees amounted to R7 259.

During the year 8 412 visitors visited the Von Bach Recreation Resort and paid R2 235 in entrance fees.

The bungalows at Lüderitz, which the Administration took over from the municipality, grossed R10 205 and 1 390 visitors were accommodated.

The Tourist Office in Windhoek and Swakopmund issued permits to 2 269 persons to visit various sights (especially Bushman paintings and engravings) in Damaraland.

Fifty-seven visitors to rest camps were warned for regulation infringements. Nine cases were prosecuted and R205 was paid in fines.

Nature Conservation

Poaching remains a headache. Illegal hunting on roads and mainly during the night is becoming a major problem. Even cattle are being shot and, in many cases, only the hindquarters and loins are removed. The Nature Conservation Division and the S. A. Police have been co-operating closely and in some cases the aid of property owners was also enlisted. Regardless of heavy fines and the confiscation of rifles and other accessories, no reduction in poaching activities is apparent. The height of impertinence was reached in the case of a young girl who killed a kudu with a, 22 rifle on state land adjoining a game park.

An attempt was made to calculate the monetary value of game killed by poachers. Only cases in which the actual carcasses, or recognizable remains of poached animals were found were used in these calculations. The value of the game is based upon local current market prices and the result is as follows:

Species	No.	Price per species	Value
Kudu	143	R150	R 21 450
Zebra	83	R170	R 14 110
Gemsbok	25	R150	R 3 750
Eland	2	R350	R 700
Springbok	49	R 50	R 2 450
Steenbok/ Duiker	5	R10	R 50
		Total	R 42 510

Once again elephant, at various times, entered farms from Etosha, Kaokoland and Owambo and caused damage. Where they broke through the game-proof fence of Etosha, they created opportunities for lions to enter the farms wthey also caused havoc amongst the farmers 'stock. This problem will only be solved when the fence which is being strengthened to make it elephant-proof, is completed.

Nevertheless, the Nature Conservation Division acted quickly when cases were brought to its attention. Three rogue elephant which had continually broken the fence were killed, while 43 others were chased back into the game park. Unfortunately, 44 marauding lions were killed by farmers, some with the aid of poison.

Giraffes are still a nuisance on farms where they cause damage to fences. Permits for the destruction of 42 giraffe were issued to farmers.

Mountain zebra and ostrich still occur in large numbers on certain farms where they cause considerable damage to be grazing. Permits were issued to farmers for the destruction of 1 246 zebra and 1 011 ostriches.

To enable farmers to exercise greater control over problem animals such as jackal and lynx, 4 courses in the use and handling of coyote-getters were offered and 41 persons gained certificates of competency.

Baboons are becoming a greater nuisance, especially in the Karasberg Mountains where they breed unhindered because of the impassable terrain and the fact that their natural enemy, the leopard, has been nearly exterminated.

The demand for live game remains big and Division 's game-catching team cannot meet even the local demand. The first game auction in the history of the Territory was undertaken by a private company. At the auction 225 head of game were sold for approximately R60 000 and 80% of the game sold went to purchasers within the Territory.

Game sold by farmers, according to calculations, fetched R606 125: -

Giraffe	R 180 600
Eland	R 171 900
Gemsbok	R 126 750
Hartebeest	R 54 250
Springbok	R 37 750
Kudu	R 16 500
Zebra	R 10 370
Ostrich	R 6 030
Other	1 775

The two licenced game dealers exported game to the value of R189 000.

Game meat and hides remain in demand. The Division, in co-operation with the Department of Agricultural Technical Services initiated a project to test the possibility of marketing game meat both locally and overseas. Both outlets appear to be promising, especially regarding springbok carcasses. As for the gemsbok, kudu, eland, and hartebeest carcasses marketed, it appears that prepared cuts would be more marketable, probably because of the unmanageable size of the carcasses.

The calculated income from game meat, disregarding the above-mentioned project, was as follows: -

Springbok	R 190 260
Gemsbok	R 58 000
Kudu	R 32 900
Ostrich	R 6 100
Hartebeest	R 4 300
Eland	R 2 500
Other	R 150
	R 294 210

During the year 30 459 game hides were exported: -

Springbok	21 162
Gemsbok	5 398
Kudu	2 010
Zebra	575
Ostrich	510
Jackal	439
Hartebeest	133
Other	232

The calculated value, according to auction prices in Port Elizabeth, was R117 821.

Trophy hunting brought the Administration revenue of R7 625 from permit fees. It is a difficult task to calculate what income the farmers derived from the 305 permits issued as prices differed from place to place. However, it is calculated to be more than R40 000.

The sale of 3 379 hunting permits during the hunting season provided the ADMINISTRATION WITH REVENUE OF r 689, 50, while R26 339 was paid to farmers on whose farms persons hunted (according to the present licensing system).

According to calculations, farmers killed about 10 564 springbok, 4 374 kudu and 265 gemsboks during the year for their own consumption or for ratios. The license fees for these animals would have been R158 389.

In summary, the turnover derived from game and game products (together with game captured and sold by the Division) during the year was as follows: -

Income for farmers from live game	R	606 125
“ “ “ “ game hides	R	117 821
“ “ “ “ game meat	R	275 210
“ “ “ “ “ licences	R	26 339
“ “ “ “ trophies	R	40 000
“ Of game dealers	R	189 000
Revenue of Administration (export taxes game hides)	R	5 701
“ “ “ (export taxes game)	R	2 480
“ “ “ (trophy hunting permits)	R	7 625
“ “ “ (hunting licences)	R	1 690
“ “ “ (sale of game to farmers)	R	25 300
Game shot by farmers for own consumption (rations)	R	158 389
		R1 455 680

Considering the number of game on private farms, the following may be noted:

- (a) 31 meetings of farmer 's unions were attended by senior officials of the Division.
- (b) 16 lectures and talks were given, and these were attended by 656 persons.
- (c) 154 farms were visited for instruction and advice purposes; or to investigate complaints.
- (d) 30 persons were charged and 98 warned, fines and admissions of guilt amounting to R5 280 were collected.
- (e) In the Etosha National Park 142 persons were charged for exceeding the speed limit and R2 527 was received in fines. A person who warned tourists of a speed trap was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment without the option of a fine. The sentence was, however suspended for 3 years.
- (f) Regarding the development work in game parks (excluding rest camps), the following may be noted: -

Etosha National Park

Fifteen kilometres of elephant proof fencing was erected on the southern boundary. This fence has, to date, been 100% effective.

Waterberg Plateau Park

Some 46 km of fencing was erected on top of the mountain and the park is, except for some possible descend points along the broken southern rim of the plateau, completely fenced in.

Skeleton Coast Park

Reconnaissance of shipwrecks, other sights and game drinking places has been completed with the intention of mapping a route for the public when the park is opened to the public.

Namib Desert Park

Corrugated iron reservoirs and improved drinking troughs were erected at existing boreholes and a new borehole was similarly equipped. To complete the water distribution points work has started on 3 additional boreholes, which, should water be found, will be completed during 1975.

The wall of the dam at Tinkas was raised by 2 metres to double the capacity of the dam. Eight overnight camping areas were constructed at strategic points. This will, however, only be completed during 1975.

Mountain Zebra Park Naukluft

Twelve kilometres of game-proof fencing was completed while the camping areas are nearing completion. The final details of the camping sites are being attended to by the Tourism Section.

Hardap Recreation Resort

To utilise the western plateau, 2 boreholes were sunk in the past. Both were dry and 2 more will have to be sunk during 1975 and equipped, should water be found.

Tourists were allowed into the game park area of this resort for the first-time during June. For their convenience two parking areas with the required facilities were constructed and a picnic area was also equipped. It is much favoured by the tourists.

Von Bach Recreation Resort

The boundaries were cleared, and fences will be erected during 1975. A consignment of fencing material has been received.

Approximately 31 meters of gabions have been built to combat soil erosion.

Rainfall figures for the year are as follows: -

Namutoni	689 mm
Halali	838 mm
Okaukuejo	633 mm
Otjovasandu	523 mm
Waterberg	721 mm
Daan Viljoen	964 mm
Hardap	458 mm
Naukluft	547 mm
Skeleton Coast Park	75 mm
Namib Desert Park	83 mm

There is no shortage of grazing in any of the game parks and in most cases the grazing is better than it had been for some years.

Two veld fires occurred in the Etosha National Park and about 1100 ha was destroyed. Both fires were started by lightning. Three veld fires occurred in the Namib Desert Park, destroying 6 400 ha of grazing. One was started by lightning, and it is suspected that the other two were started by negligent travellers.

Research

1974 was an important year for the Research Section. Two major research complexes were inaugurated, these being the Desert Research Station Gobabeb and the Etosha Ecological Institute. The first-mentioned institution followed on expansion valued at R450 000 to the old research station erected by the C. S. I. R. and later taken over by the Administration. Prof. C. van der Merwe-Brink, President of the C. S. I. R. and Mr. A. Brinkman, M. E. C., officiated at the proceedings.

The Etosha Ecological Institute, erected at a cost of R227 000 at Okaukuejo, was officially opened on 17 September by Mr. A. Brinkman, M. E. C.

This Institute, with facilities for advanced research in the Etosha National Park, has already been visited by hundreds of both official and private individuals, and foreign scientists have also worked there.

This section also acted as host for the annual Professional Officers Meeting of the four Nature Conservation branches of the provinces of the R. S.A. A series of progress reports were read, and a number of practical demonstrations were held. The occasion was a great success.

The technical staff of the section was enlarged from five to five and a nature conservator was permanently transferred to the sub-section Landscape Planning.

Two senior Professional Officers were sent abroad at the Administration 's expense. One went to the United States of America for further post-doctoral studies at the University of California (Davis) while another attended the 16th International Orthological Congress held in Canberra, Australia.

Regarding research activities, the following points may be mentioned: -

Problem animals

- (a) During the year the detailed dassie (*Procavia capensis*) project was initiated as these animals enjoy priority. With completion of the preliminary investigations into the problem, a thorough literature study and project planning were made. Other aspects of the project that have received or are receiving attention are field trials to evaluate control methods, the acquisition of the required research equipment and liaison with other interested parties, amongst others the Veterinary Services Division of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services and the S. A Medical Research Institute.
- (b) The problem of kudu on the public roads has received attention for some years now and will, it is hoped, be completed during 1975 when the results of two experiments have been evaluated. These experiments are (1) an additional fence to be erected next to existing fences and (2) the erection of a series of reflectors along the road.
- (c) A project dealing with the ecology of elephant was initiated by a Senior Professional Officer. Although he has been absent on study leave since August 1974, the project was continued, and 49 elephants were immobilised and marked to study their migration routes.
- (d) A list of future problem animal projects was compiled. This list will be revised from time to time as priorities change in the future.

Data on the bio-economics of migratory birds of prey (kites) were also gathered.

The chromosome analysis, which forms part of various projects, also made good headway with the commissioning of a new and better suited microscope. One publication on the chromosomes of the penguin is nearing completion, as is a publication on a chromosome preparation technique which is rendering reliable results with various new staining techniques. Practical use of this technique for the identification of eggs, evolutionary relations and sex determination was successfully made during the year.

Botany

The project dealing with status and distribution of *Pachypodium namaquanum* (Halfmens) was completed but must still be published. A project dealing with the plant-ecology of the Waterberg Plateau Park was begun.

Grazing

Attention was given to the following projects: -

(a) Plant ecology of the Etosha National:

Approximately 60 vegetation plots were sampled for soil and vegetation compositions. Field work of this research project is nearing completion.

(b) Grazing problems in the Etosha National Park:

Research to determine the carrying capacity of the summer grazing areas of Gemsbokvlakte, Charitsaub and Andoni plains, continues.

Horticulture

The Southwest Nature Garden had a 125 mm rainfall within 20 minutes on the 17 January 1974 and suffered much damage to paths and the wall of the dam was also washed away. All development work was set back for at least one year. It took most of 1974 to repair the damage.

During the year some 6 000 aloes were transplanted from the Namib to the Nature Garden.

The proposed gardens at the Etosha Ecological Institute were planned, set out and planted. A large variety of indigenous plants were planted, and a recovery was laid out.

At Gobabeb the Namib research station, a complete beautification lay-out was planned. The entrance to the station was improved with a rockery and planted with indigenous plants. The master plans, horticulturally speaking of the Gross Barmen Hot Water Springs are progressing well, as it is the master planning of the West Coast where a beginning was made with the planting of trees at Mile 4.

The master plans for Hardap are 85% completed. Only those for the boat mooring place and restaurant are still incomplete.

A start was also made with the development of the game park behind the Administration buildings. Nearly all exotic trees have been removed.

Game Capture

During the period June – August, the game catching team caught the following: -

Elephant	49
Plains Zebra	55
Mountain Zebra	49
Eland	37
Kudu	108
Hartebeest	340
Gemsbok	81
Roan	2
Reedbuck	1
Total	722

The elephants were caught in the Etosha National Park (immobilised), marked and released. The aim is to study their migratory patterns.

Many of the animals mentioned were caught in the Kaross Part and removed to areas outside that part where the grazing is better.

The rest are animals which were caught and sold to farmers for restocking their farms. The revenue received from this source was made up as follows: -

41 plains zebras @ R100 each	R4 100
44 mountain zebras @ R100 each	R 4 400
280 hartebeest @ R60 each	R16 800

Publications

The Research Section was also responsible for the following scientific publications which appeared during the year: -

- *1. "Developments in the capture and airlift of roan antelope *Hippotragus equinus* under narcosis to the Etosha National Park."
 - *2. "The reedbuck, *Redunca arundinum* (Boddaert 1785): a new record for the Etosha National Park."
 3. "Differentiating between Lesser and Greater Flamingo chicks for ringing purposes."
 4. "Hand-rearing abandoned Lesser Flamingos".
 5. "The status of the Jackass Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* on Halifax Island off Southwest Africa."
 6. "Flamingo breeding on the Etosha Pan, Southwest Africa."
 - *7. "Notes on Leptotyphlops in Southwest Africa."
 - *8. "Some aquatic vertebrates from the Namib Desert, Southwest Africa."
 9. "A first record of *Aloe buettneri* in Southern Africa."
 10. "A 'thornless' *Aloe hereroensis*."
 - *11. "Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* in Southwest Africa."
 - *12. "The nest and eggs of Bradfield 's swift."
- * These articles were published in Madoqua.

Accommodation Establishments

Twelve hotels, one pension, one guest farm, one rest camp and one caravan were graded during the year and 66 of the 96 registered accommodation establishments are now graded as follows: -

One-star	:	47 hotels
		1 rest camp
		2 pensions
Two-star	:	6 hotels
		1 motel
		4 guest farms
		1 caravan park

Three-star : 2 hotels
1 safari undertaking
1 guest farm.

Two one-star hotels were degraded as they did no longer comply with the minimum requirements. Besides this there are 15 hotels, 1 motel, guest farm, 3 pensions, 3 rest camps, 1 caravan park and 6 safari undertakings which have not yet complied with the minimum requirements. Most of them will, however, be graded next year. At present two large luxury hotels are being built: one in Keetmanshoop and one in Windhoek.

The Tourism Board, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Brinkman, M. E. C. met 4 times during the year. Six loans, amounting to R391 400, were approved by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the Board.

The average occupancy varied from 5% for rural hotels to 90% for large hotels along main tourist routes.

Three courses in Hotel Management are being conducted by the Witwatersrand Technical College. Two bursaries in each were made available by the Administration. Two bursaries have been granted, indicating a lack of interest.

Maintenance

The landing strips at Namutoni, Halali and Otjovasandu (Etosha National Park) have been completely gravelled to improve their wet-weather utilisation.

In the game reserves and tourist recreation resorts some 3 389 km of roads were maintained.

On the West Coast a 10 km tourist road between Jakkalsputz and Henties Bay was also built. Unfortunately, this road carries more traffic than it was designed for s short cut to Swakopmund. It reduces the distance between these two points by 6 km but now it must be maintained continually.

180 camping sites were laid out at Mile 72, 240 at Mile 108 and terraces were built at both places as well as a general levelling of terrain made. The camping area at Mile 14 was considerably enlarged.

In the Etosha National Park, 6 drinking troughs were supplied with diesel pump units as windmills proved to be ineffective owing to windless days and an apparent increase in the elephant population.

48 km of game proof fencing was erected in the Waterberg Plateau Park and 15 km of elephant proof fencing was erected in the Etosha National Park at a place adjoining the farms Hestria and Renex.

Publicity, information, and education

A new brochure of the Etosha National Park was printed during the year and has proved most popular amongst potential visitors. New brochures for Hardap, and the West coast were also printed and are being distributed throughout the country. Brochures and articles on the Southwest Africa by private bodies were checked and brought up to date where necessary.

A profusely illustrated book on the birds of the Daan Viljoen Game Park was printed and is selling well in all the rest camps of the Administration.

As in the past, numerous lectures with films or slide shows were held at schools, farmers, and women 's agricultural meetings and for tour groups, visiting scientists, tourists at rest camps and a variety of clubs and organisations.

The land service camps for youth groups, held during the winter holidays at the Etosha National Park, Hardap, the West Coast and Ai-Ais were once again a great success and welcomed by all.

This year the Division participated only in the Windhoek agricultural show. The theme was fresh-water fish and their value. Fish from Southwest Africa were exhibited be a great attraction. Three murals illustrating the distribution of the fish and their adaptation to aquatic environments and feeding habits attracted hundreds of visitors.

General

Once again officials of the Division participated in and contributed to the activities of various committees, councils, and societies.

The Chief Professional Officer, at the request of the Angolan authorities, paid 2 weeks visit to Angola and their nature conservation areas. A report of his findings and impressions was submitted to Executive Committee.