



SOUTH WEST AFRICA ADMINISTRATION

WHITE PAPER

on the

ACTIVITIES OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES

for

1975

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM 1975

### INTRODUCTION

In spite of limiting factors such as inflation, fuel restrictions, fluctuations in the staff position and a shortage of accommodation during peak periods, the Division could, once again, show considerable progress in both the areas of nature conservation and tourism. Naturally problems were also experienced.

As far as nature conservation is concerned, the following peaks and problems were experienced:

- \* A new Ordinance (No.4 of 1975) came into operation during the year, It contains Sweeping changes which are mainly aimed at giving the former greater powers of disposal over his game.

- \* A number of countries, of which South West Africa is one, signed an agreement in Washington in terms of which international trade in endangered species of fauna and flora will, in future, be strictly controlled.

- \* Two farms were bought out in order to extend the boundaries of the Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park. Negotiations to purchase a third farm are progressing well.

- \* The white rhinoceros, the only game species which has become extinct in South West Africa, was reintroduced in the Waterberg Plateau Park. The harvest of Operation Roan has been reaped in the form of progeny which was translocated from the Etosha National Park to the Waterberg Plateau Park.

- \* Experiments in connection with the night calling of game were concluded and regulations in this connection will be announced in 1976. The total turnover of game farming in the Territory amounted to "approximately R5 million.

- \* Mining concessions in conservation area are retarding development, especially in the Namib Desert Park of the area of which over 90% is subject to prospecting concession.

As for as tourism is concerned, 1975 will be remembered for the following reasons:

- \* Test camps and resorts controlled by the Division, Visited by 341 218 persons, i.e., 61 132 persons,

Or 21, 90%, more than the previous year. Direct revenue for the Administration from this source amounted to R1 819 460,91, an increase of 73,37% over 1974.

A major change in the holiday pattern of Transvelers, after the alteration in their school terms, and conditions in neighbouring states, attracted a considerable number of new visitors to South West Africa. The number of visitors to the West Coast alone increased by 30 80%.

\* From this year onwards all restaurants in game parks and resorts will be operated by the Administration. The public was generally satisfied with the service and reasonable prices. One hundred and ninety-six thousand, four hundred and ninety meals were served.

\* Regulations to facilitate control over the National West Coast Tourist Recreation Resort were announced during the year. Good co-operation between the public and officials of the Division was striking and a general feeling of appreciation for the services rendered by the Division was encountered.

\* Good progress is being made with Gross Barmen Hot Springs Resort and it should be completed towards the end of 1976.

\* Contrary to other undertakings; the Administration managed not to introduce higher tariffs in game parks and resorts, in spite of increased costs. Cost increases are such, however, that adjustments will must be made.

A spate of tourists and major fluctuations in the staff position created problems in the Reservations Office but, despite this, 1 231 claims to the value of R26 639, 75 were finalised. Next year reservations will probably be computerised, and this should obviate most problems.

#### Tourism statistics

The following table gives a summary of tourism statistics and revenue for 1975:

GAME PARK, CAMP OR RESORT	NUMBER OF VISITORS	INCREASE OR DECREASE OVER 1974	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	INCREASE OR DECREASE OVER 1974	AVERAGE OCCUPAN- CY	INCREASE OR DECREASE OVER 1974	REVENUE	INCREASE OR DECREASE OVER 1974
Etosha	49 051	+23%	18 936	+37,08%	73%	+9%	941 513	+76,85%
Von Bach	5 846	-30%	1 515	-32,63%	N.V.T.	N.V.T.	1 214,30	-45,67%
Dean Vil- joen	92 187	+0,19%	27 249	+12,04%	75%	+10,0%	78 460	+17,9%
Hardap	52 232	+26%	15 822	+22,60%	54%	+3,6%	253 626	+38,3%
Ai-Ais	21 385	+125%	5 933	+108,60%	35%	+112,32%	188 348	+116,4%
Torrebaii	814	+3%	219	+23,88%	-	-	9 289	+45,13%
Keap Kruis	9 658	+25%	1 991	+20,28%	-	-	3 810	12,60%
Jakkals- puts	5 076	+33%	1 184	+30,91%	-	-	6 839	+28,18%
Myl 14	2 706	-12%	606	-10,67%	-	-	7 875	-8,29%
Myl 4	14 470	+28%	3 733	+25,86%	-	-	44 544	+31,71%
Swakop	22 990	+27%	6 010	+33,24%	67%	+32,3%	205 020	+39,06%
Dolfyn- strand	807	+24%	100	+19,43%	-	-	-	-
Namib en Sandvis	19 819	+44%	-	-	-	-	9 644	+32,86%
Lüderitz	2 600	+87%	751	+91,82%	159%	+132%	14 941	+46,40%

Altogether 12 438 caravans visited eleven camps or resorts in comparison with the 7 722 of 1974, i.e., an increase of 61,05%. It therefore appears that there is a definite tendency in favour of caravans. Touring bus figures increased by only 7,18%, a fact which indicates more or less normal growth.

## GAME RESERVES AND RESORTS

### Etosha

Of the 49 051 visitors who entered the Etosha National Park through the gates at Okaukuejo and Namutoni, 52% came from the Republic, 32,08% came from South West and 15,92% from abroad. Only 102 aircraft, 76 less than during 1974, landed in the Park. Most other forms of transport increased, however, and the increase in the number of caravans, which amounted to 157,4% at Namutoni, was especially striking.

Although a considerable number of persons were warned only 8 were prosecuted for offences and fines amounting to R125,00 were imposed.

Three veld fires, driven by a strong wind, spread to Etosha from the neighbouring homelands in spite of a twenty metre wide fire break. Ten veld fires were started by lightning and one at Otjovasandu was obviously the result of arson. A total of approximately 436 104 ha of grazing was destroyed by the 14 fires. Three elephants were burnt to death. It is not known how many other animals were killed by fires because scavengers and vultures quickly consume the carcasses.

A census to determine the number of lions was completed and it was found that there were approximately 350 of these animals in the Park.

Anthrax caused sporadic deaths amongst game animals. Wildebeest are particularly vulnerable to the disease and accounted for about 45% of all deaths.

To facilitate management in the park, sites for eleven additional boreholes were indicated west of Okaukuejo by geologists of the Geological Surveys Division. These holes will probably be sunk and equipped during 1976.

At one stage all nine nature conservators in Etosha were engaged on elephant problems on elephant problems while more complaints came pouring in. From sheer necessity the aid of a Defence Force helicopter had to be enlisted. The elephant problem was aggravated by the fact that lions entered farms through breaks made by elephants in the boundary fences. The Division was compelled to destroy 16 elephants but 58 were driven back to the Park with the aid of horses and the helicopter. Forty-three lions were killed by farmers and 3 by the Division. Twenty-three were driven back to the park by a nature conservator. In total 3 160 man hours were devoted to the lion and elephant problems.

Twenty kilometres of elephant-proof fencing, in three equal parts opposite the farms "Eindpaal", "Grensplaas" a "Mara" was erected on the southern boundary of the park.

Thirty-two kilometres of new tourist roads and 125 kilometres of new firebreaks were constructed in the western and north-western parts of the Park.

A project on the plant ecology of the Park is nearing completion. Special attention was given to the carrying capacity of the various grazing areas of the Park, A new project, to determine the effect of veld fires on the vegetation, has already begun.

Twenty caravan sites were laid out at each of the entrance gates and the tent camp site at Okaukuejo was completed. Two hundred and fifty trees were planted at Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni.

#### Hardap Recreation Resort

This resort was open to the public all through the year. The percentage of visitors from the Republic was 51, 4, from abroad 2, 70 and from Southwest 45, 90. The increase of 25, 80% in visitors can be ascribed to the fact that this complex is now generally known. Fresh water angling remains a popular activity and 1 102 fishing licences were sold. Sixteen visitors were warned against infringements, but none were prosecuted, and no fines were imposed.

Repairs to flood damaged caravan park facilities and the provision of recreation facilities such as play parks and boats will receive attention during 1976.

The game park is overpopulated with kudus. Thirty-nine of these animals were culled during the night and put at the disposal of Administration restaurants. The meat and other products were in great demand. The game park is very popular with visitors and is regularly visited.

Two boreholes which were sunk on the plateau, as well as two more in another locality, were dry. Provision of water on the plateau will now have to be deferred until such time as water can be pumped from the dam.

Baboon numbers are being strictly controlled and the resident population is kept at 85. Coyote getters are for jackals which dig holes under the fence. Hyrax numbers are constantly reduced because there is over-population and vegetation is being severely damaged. Especially at the rest camp.

A population study of the angling fishes of Hardap dam was completed during the year and results will be published in "Madoqua" during 1976. The development of the fish breeding station progressed very well and in addition to a shed four dams were completed and five more are virtually completed. A storm water canal, as well as a bridge over the canal, was also completed. During 1976 attention will be given to the fish fauna of the Fish River.

#### Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park

Overnight camping facilities in Naukluft were completed and have been taken into use. Only organised groups of accredited outdoor recreation organisations are at present allowed into the park.

Rainfall in the park was below average and, as consequence kudus are suffering.

Two black employees who caught a zebra in a cable snare were prosecuted, found guilty and sentenced to R400,00 or 180 days.

The Park was primarily established for the preservation of the rare mountain zebra. On property already belonging to the Administration these animals currently number approximately 970.

#### Daan Viljoen Game Park

As in the past, this Game Park is still the only nearby week-end refuge for the inhabitancy of Windhoek. During 1975 it was visited by 92 187

Persons of whom 75 478 were day-visitors, mostly from Southwest. The number of visitors from the Republic increased by 23, 00% to 17 543. Twelve persons were warned against contraventions, and one was fined R15, 00 and barred from the park for six months.

The combating of erosion received high priority and 72 gabions of a total length of 626 metres, were built during the year.

The rainfall was 50% less than the previous year but grazing is still in a reasonably good condition. Forage-trees have been over-utilised by browsers and their numbers will have to be decreased.

Two veld fires, which were quickly extinguished, occurred. Only 3, 4 ha of grazing was destroyed.

Eight blue-wildebeest were caught and transferred to Waterberg. Seven oryx and 6 springboks were sold to farmers and 4 impala, and 4 springboks were transferred to the game park behind the Administration Buildings. One impala lamb was born here in December. Vandals also set this little park alight and more than 50% of its area was destroyed by the fire.

#### Ai-Ais Hot Springs and the Fish River Canyon

In contrast with 1974 when it had been open to the public for part of the season only this resort was open to visitors from 16 March to 31 October during 1975.

Nobody was prosecuted for contraventions, but a considerable number of people were warned.

Safeguarding against floods and the re-planning of low-lying areas are still receiving attention.

The spectacular Fish River Canyon is still visited by many tourists. Approximately 15 800 persons called here during the year and 664 people took part in 54 walking tours. Stricter control measures on the sizes of groups, pollution and overnight camping have become necessary. At a time when wilderness areas and trails are enjoying attention world-wide, the canyon is of great importance to Southwest. It is therefore essential that tourist activities should be properly organised and controlled in order that this asset may be duly utilized.

### Von Bach Recreation Resort

The game park was completely fenced in with a 2, 5m game- and jackal-proof fence. Approximately 200 kudus were fenced in.

A qualitative plant survey was done by the Assistant Nature Conservator with a view to bringing different species into the park later. The Park will then also serve as a reservoir from which game will be supplied to farmers.

### Waterberg Plateau Park

Extensive plans were drawn up to provide water on top of the plateau where there are no permanent sources. One storage dam of corrugated iron has already been completed and will serve as a drinking place for Game.

Soil erosion on the farm Okatjikora is causing concern and will receive attention during 1976.

A primary survey of the plant ecology of the park has been completed.

Work on a new airstrip has not been completed.

### The West Coast

Except for Mile 14, where figures have dropped by 12, 20%, the number of visitors to all West Coast resorts increased. Owing to fuel concessions, weekend visits to the Coast resorts have again become possible and are more regularly undertaken by people from the interior. Forty-two per cent of the visitors to the coast camped outside the approved areas north of Henties Bay.

Accommodation is in great demand, especially during peak periods. The bed-occupancy rate of private accommodation establishments in Swakopmund (62, 70%) even exceeded that of Windhoek (47, 80%).



## Namib Desert Park

Of the 19 819 persons who visited the Namib Desert Park, 14 150 also went to the popular angling resort Sandvis. Entrance fees totalling R9 587, 75 were collected.

Practically no rain recorded for 1975. Grazing is poor but sufficient for the year.

Boreholes which were sunk behind Saagberg were dry and the Division is investigating the possibility of supplying this area with water from the Gaub River. Three storage dams of corrugated iron were constructed as drinking places for game.

Virtually the whole of the park is being prospected for uranium. Consequently, planning and development is being retarded and control is made considerably more difficult.

Eight overnight camping sites complete with facilities were laid out and three more have been planned. They are popular with the public.

The Department of Posts and Telecommunications was obliged to erect two microwave towers in the park. After various investigations and consultations, permission was granted by the Executive Committee for the towers to be erected in the least conspicuous spots possible.

## Skeleton Coast Park

Reconnaissance to find and chart sights worth seeing is continuing.

Rabies made its appearance for the first time in many years and took considerable toll of the jackal population.

The parks staff assisted in the rescue operation when Portuguese refugees from the Kunene were transported along the Skeleton Coast to Möwe Bay.

## Lüderitz

Three day-camping sites, one at Grosse Bucht and two at Agaatstrand, were completed and a fourth, at Esse Bucht is under construction. The barbecue facilities at these sites were designed and practical and effective.

Many of the bungalows were renovated, supplied with new hot systems and furniture and repainted. A new temporary ablution block for women is also being built and the entire camp has been cleaned up.

The old Post Office was taken over by the Division and will serve as an office complex once it has been renovated to its original style by the Works Department.

Permission has also been obtained to renovate the old light house an historical monument on Haifisch Island and utilise it for accommodation purposes. Access roads have already been improved and stopping places were gravelled. Protective walls, to make the area safe for tourists, were built.

Negotiations were entered into with the Department of Industries with the intention of appointing officials of the Division as Fisheries officers. Law enforcement in coastal areas where nature conservation legislation is not applicable, will thereby be facilitated.

Owing to representations by the Administration, a Southwest Africa Diamond Industries Protection Amendment Act was accepted by the Government. As a result, tourist attractions and unique natural phenomena in Diamon Areas may in future be opened to tourists.

### Regional Services

To enable farmers to exercise better control over problem animals, eleven courses were held to instruct farmers in the use of coyote getters, trap guns and jackal cannons. One hundred and fifty-one persons passed the course.

Coyote getters are being successfully used in the control of jackals and caracals, but it is useless against baboons. These animals are becoming a serious problem in the Khomas Hochland and in the Karas Mountains. The only effective control method is still an organised hunt with firearms but in the mountainous areas even this method is of limited use. When the opportunity presents itself, experiments will be conducted to track and destroy theses animals with a helicopter.

### Game farming

Good rains fell in hatches during the year, with the result that certain farmers had to exercise greater control over their grazing. As a protective measure 1 364 zebras and 1 501 ostriches were shot. Permission was also granted for 50 giraffes to be shot as these animals proved to be a nuisance on various farms where they broke fences, especially those of water camps. Since having been placed on the protected list in July 340 hartebeest have also been killed.

There are often conjectures on the value of game. Therefore, a complete analysis of revenue from this source is given below. Values are based on the average prices obtained at a local auction. Live game is still in demand and demand greatly exceeds supply. Farmers in the Territory exported the following game species and numbers to the Republic:

53 eland	R 24 592
294 oryx	R 87 024
52 hartebeest	R 13 520
6 giraffe	R 6 750
13 kudu	R 2 925
182 springbok	R 11 472
600 Total	R152 283

The following game animals were imported by farmers:

553 blesbuck, 413 impala, 30 nyala, 15 deer and 10 rhinos.

The demand for venison was good and constant. Owing to a surplus of meat overseas, no carcasses were exported during 1975. Enquiries from German buyers were, however, received towards the end of the year. The requirements of the local market could not be met, mainly because of the late promulgation of the consolidated Ordinance which provides for night-culling of game. The following carcasses were marketed by farmers:

6 eland	R	897, 00
1063 oryx	R	76 004, 50
58 hartebeest	R	3 393, 00
787 Kudu	R	60 386, 00
12 zebra	R	1 860,60
9925 springbok	R	178 650,00
107 ostriches	R	6 741, 00
45 warthog	R	206,50
12003 TOTAL	R	328 138, 00

Many of the above game were culled during the night. After further experiments in this regard the Division is satisfied that the system has been thoroughly tested. Regulations to make provision for night-culling have therefore been drawn up and will it is hoped be promulgated early in 1976.

At an auction held by a private enterprise near Otjiwarongo, 310 head of game yielded a turnover of R88 042, 00. Almost three-quarters (73, 80%) of the animals were purchased by farmers in the Territory. The following average prices were obtained:

Springbok	R	97, 50
Oryx	R	296, 00
Plain's zebra	R	368, 33
Ostrich	R	93, 00
Eland	R	464, 00
Giraffe	R	1 235, 00
Hartebeest	R	117, 75
Mountain zebra	R	444, 00
Kudu	R	225, 42
Blue wildebeest	R	570, 00

Traders also exported game to the value of R198 635, 00. Levies on these exports earned R18 259, 40 for Administration.

The number of game skins exported, especially those of huntable game, has increased noticeably. Taken in conjunction with the skins processed by the tannery in Swakopmund,

- (i) Springbok skins show an increase of 278%,
- (ii) Oryx skins an increase of 321%, and
- (iii) Kudus skins an increase of 448% against the figures of 1974.

The sudden upward tendency is, on the one hand, possibly attributable to the fact that the license system of hunting during an official season was discontinued during the year. On the other hand, it must be brought into line with the fact that game herds have reached their projected optimum numbers on certain farms and therefore had to be culled.

The following game skins were exported: springbok 57 546, hartebeest 627, ostrich 26, giraffe 2, leopard 40, other cats 243, reedbuck 6, warthog 59, python 32, otter 10, Oryx 197, eland 33, blue wildebeest 10, impala 48, cheetah 89, steenbok and duiker 33, blesbuck 78, hyaena 1, other snakes 24, hyrax 67, kudu 4 643, zebra 211, jackal 305, lion 26, crocodile 19 and other 65.

The value of the above skins, calculated according to average or auction price was R294 674, 00.

Levies on the export of skins earned R11 667, 00 for the Administration.

The country was visited by 38 more trophy hunters than the previous year. The number of trophies hunted (541) show an increase of 22, 67% over 1974 (419).

This increase may be partly ascribed to the large number of record class trophies which were obtained. Of the trophies taken, 28, 40% (154) were in the Roland Ward class, as against 19, 80% (83) in 1974. Of the 125 hartebeest which were shot, no fewer than 95 (76, 00%) were in the Roland Ward class. Other trophies in this class included: 51 springboks from a total of 127, 4 kudus from a total of 90, one oryx from a total of 76 and 3 steenbok from a total of eleven.

It is difficult to assess the income of farmers from the 343 permits which were issued as prices differ from farm to farm. However, the estimated income, based on average prices, was around R98 460, 00. The Administration 's revenue from trophy hunting was R8 575, 00.

The total turnover from game during 1975 can therefore be summarised as follows:

(a) The farmer

Gross income, live game exported	R	152 283, 00
Gross value of carcasses	R	328 138, 00
Gross value of trophies (estimated)	R	98 460, 00
Gross value of skins	R	294 674, 00
Skins processed by tannery	R	43 788, 15
Gross value of live game sold in the Territory	R	411 075, 00
Game sold at private auction	R	88 042, 00
Sub-total	R	1 416 460, 15

(b) Dealers

Value of game exported	R	198 635, 00
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(c) The Administration

Levy on game exported	R	18 259, 40
Levy on skins exported	R	11 667, 00
Revenue from trophy hunting	R	8 575,00
Sub-total	R	38 501, 40

Sub-total (a)	R	1 416 460, 15
Sub-total (b)	R	198 635, 00
Sub-total (c)	R	38 501, 40
Income from game Total	R	1 653 596, 55

Except for the above commercial purposes, farmers also shoot game throughout the year for their own use as well as for rations for their employees. The saving in sheep, goats or cattle which otherwise would have had to be slaughtered for this purpose, amounted to R 3 751 222, 50 during the year. In the following calculation, based on market prices, the number of game skins marketed and processed have been taken as the number of animals shot for private use, as rations and hunters:

59 002 springbok, average mass 20 kg @ 90c per kg:	R	1 062 036, 00
6 457 oryx, average mass 110 kg @ 65c per kg	R	461 675, 50
24 214 kudu, average mass 120 kg @ 65c per kg	R	1 888 692, 00
1 332 hartebeest, average mass 90 kg @ 65c per kg	R	77 922, 00
51 blue wildebeest, average mass 90 kg @ 65c per kg	R	2 938, 00
637 zebra, average mass 310 kg @ 50c per kg	R	128 355, 50
1 083 ostrich, average mass 70 kg @ 65c per kg	R	49 276, 50
537 eland, average mass 230 kg @ 65c per kg	R	80 281, 50
	R	3 751 222, 50

If the above amount is added to the income from game, the total turnover of game farming adds up to R5 404 819, 05 for 1975.

#### Information and Law Enforcement

- (a) Thirty-two farmers' Society meetings were attended by senior officials of the Division.
- (b) Twenty-seven lectures and talks were given to a total of 1 767 persons.
- (c) Four hundred and ninety-two farms were visited to give information and make recommendations in connections with game.
- (d) One hundred and eighteen persons were prosecuted for poaching.
- (e) One hundred and eighty-nine persons were prosecuted for other contraventions of the Ordinance (speeding excluded).
- (f) One hundred and forty-six persons were prosecuted for speeding in the Etosha National Park and 82 more were warned.

Total fines for speeding came to R4 203,00 while fines for poaching and other contraventions came to R30 503, 00.

Poaching remains a major problem, despite heavy penalties which are imposed by magistrates' courts. In one case a vehicle and rifles to the value of R14 610, 00 were confiscated. Two white women in Okahandja were given severe penalties for illegally hunting at night while a third woman was prosecuted in Otjiwarongo for the same offence. The culprits mostly hunt at night along the roads and even cattle and other livestock are not spared. In one instance an expensive saddlehorse was shot and killed from the road.

An attempt was once again made to express farmer 's game losses due to poaching in monetary terms. Only cases where carcasses or head and feet were found, have been calculated. In approximately 39% of reported poaching cases only blood stains were found and because it could not be determined with uncertainty what had been shot,

these cases are excluded from the calculations. Since only a small percentage of all poaching cases are reported or solved, and the fact that livestock is killed, losses caused by illegal hunting could be as much as 200% more than calculated. The following definite cases were reported:

168 kudus @ R225 each	R	37 800, 00
80 oryx @ R296 each	R	23 680, 00
9 elands @ R464 each	R	4 176, 00
146 springboks @ R97 each	R	14 162, 00
6 hartebeest @ R260 each	R	1 560, 00
11 steenbok & duiker @ R20 each	R	220, 00
11 ostriches @ R93 each	R	1 023, 00
14 zebras @ R406 each	R	14 406, 00
Total estimated losses	R	97 027, 00

#### Research

The Kuiseb River Project is now registered with the National Committee for Environmental Sciences as a project of national importance. The Director has been appointed Chairman of the Kuiseb System Committee which consists of representatives of Nature Conservation and Tourism, Agriculture Technical Services, Geological Survey, Water Affairs, National Education (State Museum), Forestry, C. S. I. R. (Water Research and DERU) and the Weather Bureau.

The following approved projects were continued:

- (i) The project on the hyrax (*Procavia capensis*): A start was made with field work and attention was given to population dynamics, reproduction and feeding ecology. The accent fell on collection of material and data which will be analysed in 1976. Another aspect of the project, the epidemiology of cutaneous leishmaniasis, was tackled with the co-operation of the South African Institute of Medical Research. The disease was isolated from the hyrax for the first time this year. A second aspect of the project was a study of external and internal parasites in cooperation with the division of Veterinary Service Division.
- (ii) (ii) The Kudu Project:  
  
Surveys to determine the heaviest concentration of kudu were carried out along the road from J. G. Strijdom Airport to Gobabis in order that the erection of reflectors and experimental fences may be tackled early in 1976.
- (iii) The on the ecology of the elephant:  
Nearly 100 elephants were marked with neck bands so that their movements and behaviour could be studied. Although the neck bands remained in place, numbers

on the neck bands, to distinguish individuals, had become illegible. Another problem was that, although movements of marked elephants could be followed quite well inside the park, no information could be obtained on their movements once they had left the Park, in spite of many hours spent on aerial observations. The possibility of using radio transmitters is now being considered. A professional officer will be working on this project full-time.

(iv) Project on the cheetah:

This project is being carried out in the Etosha National Park by a post-graduate student at the University of Pretoria. A considerable amount of interesting information concerning diet and behaviour has already been obtained.

A study of the ecology and population dynamics of the blue wildebeest in the Etosha National Park is continuing, as is the compilation of a distribution and occurrence list of smaller animals.

### Birds

The project on the bioeconomy of birds of prey is continuing. A new technique, a camera which automatically takes a photograph every 90 seconds, was used at different nests. The initial study was done on the black-breasted snake eagle and a comprehensive record of how frequently and with what chicks were fed was obtained. It was found that each is fed with up to three snakes per day.

The marking of vultures, as part of a national project, did not make much progress. One of the reasons, which is causing grave concern, is the fact that the breeding colony of Cape vultures on the krantzes of the Waterberg Plateau, has declined from 200 pairs to fewer than 20 pairs. This can be ascribed to poisoned carcasses.

Chromosome analyses, which form part of various projects, are continuing.

Success was achieved in the Etosha National Park with hand rearing of flamingo chicks (*Phoenicopterus ruber*). The International Wild Fowl Trust published book of which two chapters were based on research work done on flamingos in the Etosha National Park.

Work is continuing various projects on sea birds along the coast. Penguin numbers on Halifax Island are declining alarmingly owing to the collection of ghano.

Control over the ringing of birds has been intensified. People who wish to assist in ringing projects must now pass a qualifying examination. Therefore, the standard, which is set elsewhere, it is now also being applied locally. Opposition is being experienced from local amateur groups and a considerable amount of extension work will still have to be done.



## Research complexes

The Ecological Institute at Okaukuejo once the Namib Research institute at Gobabeb are enjoying increasing recognition from scientists both from the Republic and from abroad. Sixteen scientists from abroad and 17 from the Republic visited these institutes during the year in connection with some research project or other, for these people, Gobabeb was also visited by

154 persons from the R. S. A.,

89 persons from abroad,

413 persons from S. W. A., as well as several film companies.

Twenty-four scientific articles were published mostly in overseas journals, about research work done by visiting scientists at Gobabeb.

## Publications

The following articles were published:

1. "Breeding biology of two cuckoos and their hosts in Southwest Africa" – in the "Living bird".
2. The development of wildlife utilization in Southwest Africa.
3. Distribution patterns and status of some mammals in Southwest Africa.
4. Optometric examination of the African elephant *Loxodonta Africana* in Southwest Africa.
5. *Fabio umbratus* x *L. capensis* (*pisces*) from the Hardap dam, Southwest Africa.
6. Capture snare for smaller mammal predators and scavengers.
7. Nasal salt excretion from the Burchell courser.
8. Checklist and notes on the birds of Sandvis.
9. Immobilization of adult male and female elephant with *Eterophine* in Southwest Africa.
10. The capture and care of eland *Taurotragus oryx* using the boma method.
11. To capture and translocation of the black rhinoceros in Southwest Africa.
12. Notes on the burrows used by the hare *Lepus capensis*.

Apart from the above articles, a guidebook, "Aloes of Southwest Africa" was published and the second guidebook in the series on birds of the game parks has been readied for the press. This booklet deals with the birds of the Etosha National Park.

## Meetings

During November, a professional Officers 'Meeting was held in the Ecological Institute at Okaukuejo. Progress reports on various projects were presented. Eleven guests from other Departments, as well as visiting scientists, attended the meeting.

## Game capturing

Owing to several factors, i.e., delays and uncertainties regarding the purchase of an Administration helicopter, not much game were captured during the year. Twelve white rhinos, of which four unfortunately died, were translocated from Natal to the Waterberg Plateau Park. Thirty-four roans were successfully translocated to the same park from the Etosha National Park. Fifty-eight black-faced impalas were captured at Otjovasandu. Thirty-four were released at Ombika and 24 at Namutoni.

The accent of the game capture team 's activities fell on construction work were chopped in Natal and railed to Southwest. The Khoabendus quarantine camp was improved and rhino bomas were built on top of the Waterberg. Rhino crates, as well as a crate on top of a 15-ton lorry, were also completed.

The State Wildlife Veterinarian in the Etosha National Park resigned during the year; therefore, the State Wildlife Veterinarian from Head Office was transferred to Okaukuejo. An Administration bursary holder will assume duty with the game capture team at the beginning of 1976.

## Administrative

Nineteen new private game or nature reserves, with a total area of 98 456, 39 ha were declared during the year. This brings the total of private reserves to 203, with a combined area of 1 374 785, 10 ha.

In accordance with the new nature conservation Ordinance, honorary nature conservators will, in future, be appointed for a period of three years only. The Executive Committee therefore withdrew all existing appointments and will make new ones in 1976.

One thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three permits were issued for the capture, keeping, export, import, buying and selling of game, venison, birds and plants and for the shooting of game to protect grazing.

Ordinance 6 of 1935, which made provision for the payment of bounty for the extermination of vermin, has been revoked by the new Ordinance. Before the new Ordinance came into effect, an amount of R6 478, 00 was paid out for the extermination of vermin.

## Accommodation Establishments

Inspectors of the Division travelled 52 217 kilometres during the year to carry out inspections of private accommodation establishments. Eight hotels, one motel, two guest farms, two pensions and one safari undertaking were graded to bring the total number of graded establishments to 80. One-star status was rewarded to 6 hotels, one motel, one guest farm, 2 pensions and one rest camp. The only three-star award was made to an hotel while two-star status was gained by one hotel, one guest farm and one safari undertaking.

There are still 8 hotels which do not comply with the minimum requirements for grading. Expectations are that at least some of these establishments will qualify for grading during the coming year. Two new establishments were opened during the year and the average rate of occupancy for existing establishments was 29, 5%.

The Tourism Board met six times under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Brinkman, M. E. C.. Six loans to an amount of R 315 00, 00 were approved by the Executive Committee after recommendation by the Board.

Three bursary applications were received and approved.

## Advertising, Information and Education

During the second half of the year 38 488 brochures were dispatched to travel agents and to prospective tourists direct. The Afrikaans edition of some brochures, i. e. those covering the Ai-Ais Hot Springs and the Etosha National Park, have been used up and must be replaced. Rather than to request re-prints, it was decided to review and improve the entire existing range of brochures. The new series will appear in 1976. A tariff guide has also been completed and tenders for its printing will be called for early in the new year.

With the aid of information supplied by the Division various concerns compiled articles about Southwest. Assistance was also given to the daily, "Die burger", as a result of which a supplement on Southwest appeared with the issue of 16 July 1975. A series of articles dealing with game parks and resorts was specially written by the Division for "Die Landbouweekblad" and will appear early in 1976. The local news media are regularly contacted, and good coverage is obtained.

Regular contributions are made to "Happenings in Windhoek", an information leaflet which aims at keeping visitors informed about events and tourism matters.

The procedure according to which applications to make films in areas under the control of the Division are dealt with has been altered to expedite decisions. Seven applications to make films in the Etosha National Park, the National West Coast Tourists Recreation Resort and the Namib Desert Park were approved. The latter Park appears to be so popular with film makers that consideration is currently being given to the possibility of creating facilities for them in this as well as in the Etosha National Park. To further streamline the processing of applications, it has been decided to appoint a panel of consulting photographers.

A few copies of existing films, as well as prints of new films, have been ordered for educational work. In the past the Liaison Officer used to travel throughout Southwest Africa to show films and give lectures, but this service was curtailed during the year for two reasons i.e., to save fuel and to have more time available for other services. Nevertheless, twelve lectures/ film shows were presented and white as well as non-white scholars, farmers and youth organisations and the Kavango Government, were reached in this way. Arrangements have been made for Nature Conservators to provide this service in future.

During school holidays seventy-one children attached to the Voortrekker, Padvinder, Boy Scout and Girl Guide associations performed land service in camps in the Etosha National Park, the Hardap Recreation Resort and at Swakopmund. It has been decided to remunerate these children and their supervisors with higher salaries as from 1976.

The S. W. A Scientific Society held an exhibition during the first half of the year. The Division took part in the exhibition and the Director made a speech on nature conservation in Southwest Africa. The theme of game capture was used later during the year for the Windhoek Industrial Show. At this show the Division was awarded the floating trophy of the Afrikaanse Sakekamer as well as first prize for the best industrial exhibit. Negotiations have also been entered into with the Management of the J. G. Strijdom Airport with a view to having a permanent exhibition at the Airport.