

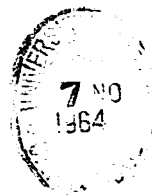


SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Annual Report of the Department of Wild Life Conservation

(Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources)

for the year
ended 31st December 1962



PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 1963

pp 1-iv, 1-31

signed J.H. Gibson, Salisbury, May 1963

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planted in pots. These will be put out into two small plantations early in 1963.

The M.V. "Mandora" completed one thousand hours of service during the year, and has given very satisfactory performance.

The tractor, grader and trailer on charge to the Reserve were all put to hard use during the year and proved to be extremely suitable for this type of development and maintenance work.

A total of thirty-nine elephants (twenty-eight bulls and eleven cows) were shot on control operations in the area during the year. The yield from these elephants was seventy-five tusks. Two leopards, both female, were shot on an island off the Sanyati East bush-clearing as they were hindering the erection of a gauging tower by hydrological engineers of the Department of Irrigation.

(c) Chete and Chizarira Non-hunting Reserves

Due to shortage of funds, little development took place in these Reserves.

Staff of the Department continued to patrol the area regularly and a number of arrests for poaching were made.

Additional accommodation was provided at Binga, both for European and African staff.

The M.V. "Mwenda" continued to give good service and was used periodically to patrol the upper reaches of the river.

Elephant control was undertaken in the Binga Native District, and the situation was kept well under control. Continued expansion of settlement and cultivation will, however, necessitate further control measures in order to protect the crops.

(d) Kyle Dam Game Reserve

This small reserve of 10,000 acres, in the picturesque setting of the Kyle Dam area, will be an important addition to the tourist potential of the Fort Victoria district.

Extremely heavy rains at the beginning of the year greatly handicapped work in the Reserve. As soon as the weather permitted, work was begun on the erection of a game fence across the Rhino Peninsula and on the construction of four bomas to hold the white rhino which were to be obtained from Natal. Full details of "Operation White Rhino" are given in section six.

Due to the acute fire hazard, arrangements were made to hire a grader, and a number of roads and firebreaks were cut.

The Reserve was stocked at an increased rate during 1962, but a larger number of animals are



Game Scout Phineas demonstrating the plaiting of old nylon stockings for use on "Operation Noah"—Wild Life Conservation Exhibit at the Royal Salisbury Agricultural Show, 1962

[Photo: S.R. Information Services]

pour into Salisbury from all over the world, and were a marked manifestation of the continued public interest in the animal rescue operations.

Full details of animals rescued are given in Appendix Five.

6. "OPERATION WHITE RHINO"

During 1961, news reached the Department that the Natal Parks Game and Fish Preservation Board were being faced with the problem of a surplus of white or square-lipped rhino in the Hluhluwe and Umfolosi game reserves.

An approach to the Board resulted in eight rhinoceros being offered to Southern Rhodesia -

four to the Department of National Parks, and four to this Department.

In order to raise sufficient funds to cover the costs of capture and transportation the Natural Resources Board of Southern Rhodesia organized a public appeal to supplement the two grants of £1,000 provided by the Federal and Territorial Governments. The response to this appeal was most encouraging, and it was decided to proceed with the operation.

The advance party left Salisbury on the 30th July, as arranged.

On arrival at Umfolosi Game Reserve, it was learned that not all the animals had been captured.

Sable and Impala in the picturesque setting of Umfolosi Game Park

[Photo: Windsor Studios, Umfolosi]

"Rupert" and friend "Rick"

[Photo: Fed. Information Dept]





Boy Scouts give Rupert, the orphan chimp from Kiniba, a bath for Bob-a-Job.

Photo: Ted Edmiston/DAP.

and due to various difficulties it was necessary to wait nearly a month before the convoy could return to Southern Rhodesia with its valuable cargo.

During the period of delay, advantage was taken of the opportunity to observe differences in temperament among the captured rhino. One of the animals would only eat if fed sugar-cane by hand, whilst another fretted if the portable wireless was removed from the vicinity of her pen.

On the return journey, the Durban City Police provided a motor cycle escort to lead the convoy through the city. This greatly facilitated the passage of the convoy of eleven vehicles through all the busy traffic, and was very much appreciated.

The first night was spent in the show grounds at Pietermaritzburg, where there was an extremely

heavy frost. At Standerton, a reception which had been arranged by the local authorities in honour of the convoy was spoiled by the fact that various delays caused the convoy to arrive there a whole day late!

Beitbridge was reached on the afternoon of the 2nd September, and for the first time for about 40 years, white rhino were known to be in Southern Rhodesia. Here the convoy split, four of the rhino going to Matopos National Park, whilst the others continued to Kyle Dam Game Reserve, where they arrived in the afternoon of the following day.

The four rhino at Kyle—Babs, Nyoni, Ngazana and Mquoloti—soon settled down in their new home in pens within the fenced peninsula. They were finally released into the peninsula on the 24th November, after the first heavy rains had fallen.





Operation "White Rhino" was a joint exercise carried out by the Departments of Wild Life Conservation and National Parks. These photographs show various stages of the capture, and the final release of one of the rhino into the pen at Kyle Dam Game Reserve

[Photos: T. P. Orford

A constant watch has been kept on these valuable animals and three salt-licks have been provided. After initial, and unsuccessful attempts to break through the fence, they all appear to have settled down well, and their progress will be observed with interest.

The Department wishes to extend its thanks to the Natal Parks Game and Fish Preservation Board for making these animals available, and for the hospitality and assistance afforded during the visit to Natal.

7. GAME RANCHING

Interest in game ranching has increased considerably during the year, and the number of persons involved in this form of utilization of our natural resources expanded.

Restrictions placed on hunting, and the removal of game products in most of the southern lowveld,

as a foot-and-mouth disease control measure, greatly handicapped game ranching activities in May, June and July.

Marketing continued to pose many problems, but some progress was made.

The two major means of commercially utilizing wild life, apart from sport hunting, are game farming and game ranching, and in view of the confusion that sometimes arises in the use of these terms, it may be helpful to explain their usage.

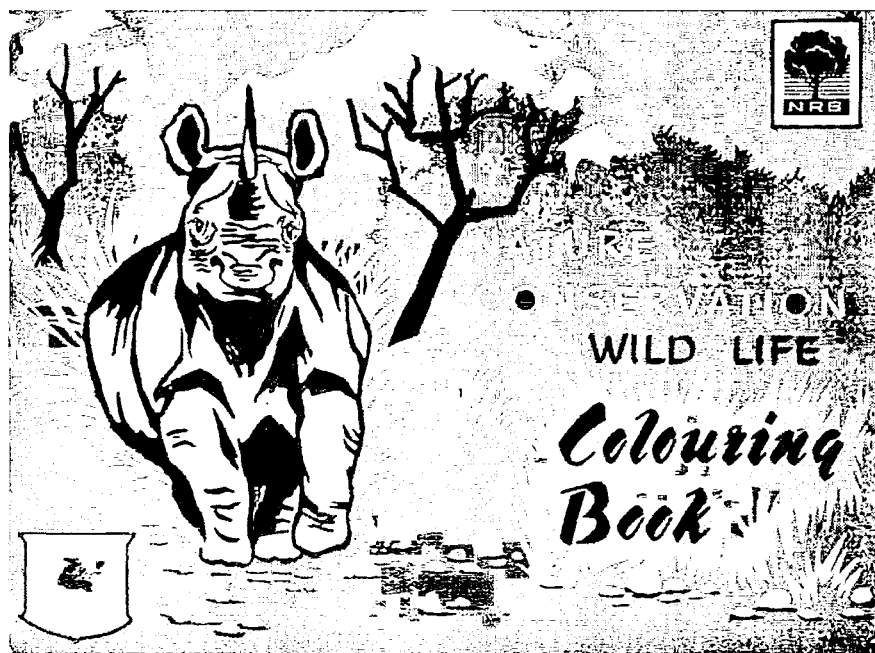
1. *Game Farming.* This is the use of one or more species under close and intensive management. For example, eland could be farmed, and an area of land capable of carrying cattle at the rate of one per thirty acres might be able to carry one beast to twenty acres by utilizing both eland and cattle. There is little competition for food between the browsing eland and the grazing cattle.







Two of the many publicity items published during the year



KARIBA ANIMAL RESCUE OPERATIONS

STATEMENT OF ANIMALS RESCUED, DIED, ETC.

(From 3rd December, 1958, to 31st December, 1962)

Species	Captured, Driven or Guided Safety	Died During Capture	Net Total Saved	Destroyed, Found Dead, Drowned or Died during Capture (Total Lost)
Ant-bear	41	2	39	11
Badger	4	—	4	—
Baboon	229	2	227	259
Blackfooted Cat	1	—	1	—
Buffalo	79	10	69	27
Bush-baby	1	—	1	—
Bushbuck	349	40	309	66
Bushpig	48	4	44	9
Civet	4	—	4	—
Dassie	71	—	71	3
Duiker	227	5	222	20
Elephant	17	—	17	8
Genet	40	—	40	9
Grysbok	335	5	330	18
Hare	30	—	30	3
Hippopotamus	—	—	—	1
Hyena	2	—	2	—
Impala	1,589	157	1,432	219
Jackal	1	—	1	—
Kaffir Cats	3	—	3	—
Klipspringer	26	—	26	2
Kudu	226	9	217	39
Leopard	1	1	—	2
Lion	10	—	10	3
Mongoose	13	—	13	4
Monkey	177	6	171	121
Night-ape	11	1	10	2
Pangolin	6	1	5	4
Porcupine	39	—	39	2
Rhinoceros	39	10	29	14
Sable	114	9	105	17
Squirrel	5	—	5	2
Wart-hog	601	38	563	65
Waterbuck	115	4	111	6
Zebra	63	17	46	28
TOTALS	4,517	321	4,196	964