

OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 4

HISTORICAL PROFILES OF FARMS IN FORMER DAMARALAND

1996

**Author:-
Jack Ratjindua Kambatuku**



Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
P O Box 20232, Windhoek
Tel: + 264 61 229855
Fax: + 264 61 230172
email: drfn@drfn.org.na
website: <http://www.iwwn.com.na/drfn/index.html>

The Gobabeb Training and Research Centre
P O Box 953, Walvis Bay
Tel: + 264 64 202613
Fax: + 264 64 205197
email: gobabeb@iafrica.com.na

Historical profiles of Farms in former Damaraland

≈ Notes from the Archival files ≈



Occasional Paper No. 4

**Report by:
Jack Ratjindua Kambatuku**

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(DRFN)**

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*“Towards building a baseline for Namibia’s Programme to
Combat Desertification (NAPCOD)”*

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Farm Name	Farm Number	Archival Storage Unit
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Palm	708	LAN 1642
Juriesdraai	709	LAN 1642
Rooiplaat	710	LAN 1643/1836
Tweespruit	712	LAN 1837
Nil Desperandum	713	LAN 1643/1837/2017
Bergsig	714	LAN 1838
Wereldsend	715	LAN 1838
Driefontein	716	LAN 1643
Fonteine	717	LAN 1602
Opdraend	718	LAN 1838/1839
Vrede	719	LAN 1839
De Riet	720	LAN 1644/1840
Krone	721	-
Twyfelfontein Reservaat	873	-

1.3 Farms enlisted on archive computers but not found

Tweespruit	712	LAN 1837
Wereldsend	715	LAN 1838
Vrede	719	LAN 1839
De Riet	720	LAN 1644/1840

WHY THE STUDY

Former Damaraland, extending over the Northern Erongo and Southern Kunene regions, has for some reason intrigued social and natural scientists over the past thirty to forty years. Volumes of publications and documentaries have been produced on the area and the adjacent Skeleton Coast Park.

Recently, the area was among the first communal lands where efforts have been made to combine livestock farming with community based eco-tourism. The operations of various NGO's in this area bears testimony to the appeal the area continues to command among researchers, conservationists and developers.

The area formerly known as Damaraland, is located on the edge of the pro-Namib and is ecologically highly fragile with poorly developed soils. This situation is exacerbated by the high variability of rainfall in the area, conditions that makes the area prone to the processes of desertification. With the Sustainable Animal and Rangeland Development Programme (SARDEP) moving into the area, there will be a number of organisations and projects collecting information and experimenting with various programmes there. Thus, a rich body of data and knowledge about the area, covering almost any field, will more than likely be accumulated and added to the already existing database. This makes the area ideal for research purposes by Namibia's Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCOD) which needs information on many social and bio-physical aspects of the region as it relates to land degradation

However, Damaraland is not only rich in data from recent studies, projects and innovations, but a wealth of information and data on the area is to be found in government archival files dating back to the days when the farms in the area were established. This limited study into the archival history on selected farms in Erongo/Kunene region was commissioned by the DRFN in 1995. The sole purpose of the study is to provide a historical perspective to the prevailing social, economic, political, biological, physical and environmental conditions in the given area. This is hoped to serve as a good resource base for further studies and research that NAPCOD or any other organisation and individuals may undertake in the area.

The information contained in this report is by no means exhaustive and hence this report may continue to be expanded as more information becomes available. Though this is not a verbatim translation of the files, but rather an interpretation, considerable care was taken not to predispose, divert or misconstrue the information therein. Consequently, the 'report' is not a contention but a mere compilation of data and narration of events without an attempt at analysing or comparing anything, except for impulsive remarks here and there. Knowledgeable people on both the political and environmental history of the farms are welcome to provide criticisms, comments and additions to what is contained herein.

Already, I am indebted to Nico de Klerk, Director of Agricultural Research and Training in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development for his comments and advice on the whereabouts of information and sources. The willingness of J. H. 'Boxer' Lombard, retired former land inspector, to give his time and share his experience with me, not to mention the effort of reading through and commenting on the first draft, is highly appreciated. Sharon Montgomery is acknowledged for her editorial comments on the first draft.

Without the help, advice and assistance of the staff at National Archives in Windhoek, the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) and the Agricultural Extension Office in Outjo, this report would not have been feasible. A word of thanks is thus due to them and anybody else whom I may not have mentioned.

Jack Ratjindua Kambatuku
DRFN

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The information obtainable from the files, with the exception of those in German which I could not understand, covers the time period starting from 1954 to the early seventies. Some of the farms' records I went through were existing farms by the time the South West Africa Administration took charge of the area, while others seemed to have been established during that period. It did not become apparent however, how the Administration obtained both open and established farms then; whether they were virgin land or land confiscated from either Germans or the indigenous people. It is clear however that both cases might be true. Some of the farms in the Grootberg area were established on land previously inhabited by indigenous people, while other farms elsewhere were established before the Union era. According to H. J. Lombard, a former Inspector of Lands (Personal Comment), the farms around Otjikondo were established German holdings, while most of the Ugab area might have been virgin land. The Damara people were confined to the Erongo mountain range when the farms were being established.

Under the then State Settlement plan, farms were advertised in October 1954 (that is as far back as the LAN (Department of Lands) records in the archives go) so that "landless white farmers" could apply for grazing licenses on them. These licenses were valid and subject to scrutiny by the authorities on a monthly basis and could be cancelled in retrospect without any reasons having to be provided. The licenses contained a section which prohibited drilling of boreholes in the artesian areas of Gobabis, Gibeon and Keetmanshoop without prior permission being obtained from the Department of Lands. Also the lessees of farms were not allowed (on paper) to have someone else's livestock on the farms. Further, felling of trees or any other vegetation type was prohibited in the license contracts. If a farmer needed to fell trees or vegetation, he had to obtain a permit from the district magistrate in his area in accordance with provisions of Proclamation 23 of 1925 as amended, which dealt with the protection of trees. However no payment was necessary for this permit.

A government organ, known as the Land Board, was established to deal with the issue of processing applications for the farms. Following information contained in reports by the Inspector of Lands, the Director of Lands would present this information with the applications for a given farm to the Land Board for consideration. The Land Board would then look into the issue and make a recommendation. Final approval was given by the Administrator, who was the highest authority in Namibia then. However, where the Administrator had problems, the case would be referred back to the board for consideration. Farmers would normally apply for many farms, and it would seem to have been the prerogative of the Administrator to allocate the specific farm.

The first grazing licenses accounted for in the files were issued around September to October 1954. The criteria used in processing an application was that the applicant had to be a bona fide farmer making a living from farming only, with no other sources of income. The farmers were required to occupy a farm within six days of the

day they received their approval. After 12 months of holding a grazing license, the farmer's progress was evaluated by the Inspector of Lands. Depending on the Inspector's recommendation, the Land Board and the Administrator would either terminate or extend the validity of the grazing license.

In 1958 the farms were awarded on a one year probation lease to the farmers who had been occupying them. For this to happen, the farms that had been established recently first had to be advertised. This was done in 1957. The applicants were required to be bona fide farmers, never absent from the farm. They had to have brought about sufficient improvements (fencing, kraals, water installations, buildings etc.) on the farm and have abided by the contract stipulations. The probation lease was extended for five years starting 1 January 1959. The Land Board was restructured at the beginning of 1960.

After the second probation lease of five years expired, the farmers, in accordance with Article 27 of Proclamation 310 of 1927 (Union of South Africa), had the option of either buying the farms, known as the " buying option (*koop-opsie*)", or extending their lease contract for another five years.

For many farmers the five year probation lease was never completed as the farms were later considered for "resettlement" of the Bantu's, or rather the Damara people. Many a farmer longed for 'the flesh pots of Egypt' following the alienation of their holdings (De Klerk, Personal Comment).

Regular inspections were carried out on the farms to assess both the improvements farmers had made and farm conditions relating to availability of grazing and water. The subsequent Inspection reports to be found in government files in the archives provide valuable information concerning numbers of livestock, weather and vegetation resources on the farms over time.

The farmers in the area mainly farmed with karakul sheep (black karakul and a few white sheep) and a considerable number of goats. Large-stock numbers were minimal in the area. Farming activities were highly subsidised, with advances and loans being leniently granted for most activities such as fencing, drilling, buying materials and equipment as well as animal fodder (drought relief). Any application for an advance or loan had, however, to be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the Inspector of Lands, which was submitted separately by the Inspector himself.

It is not clear from the information what methods were employed to estimate the carrying capacities of the farms by the Department of Agriculture, however, this was something that was constantly referred to in the reports. An interesting, though odd, aspect to note was that the estimated carrying capacity for a given farm would, in all probability, differ from one inspection report to another. There were cases where the carrying capacity was just a rough estimate from the office, with the Agricultural officer clearly stating that he was guessing. This, however, would become the official carrying capacity for the farm.

It regularly happened that one farmer would assist another with grazing and water for livestock on his farm. Approval had to be sought, however, from the Administrator, through the Land Board. The Land Board needed to know if any possibility was imminent of the farm being overgrazed in the event of it being sub-leased. This information was provided by the Inspector of Lands who simply used to divide the number of hectares that comprised the farm with the estimated carrying capacity to arrive at the optimum livestock numbers. Then the numbers of livestock owned by the grazing license holder were added to those that the prospective sub-lessee intended to bring along. If this total did not exceed the absolute carrying capacity, then no danger of overgrazing was foreseen.

In the case of a sub-lessee, the Administration did not allow such a person to make any improvements on the host farm and should he do so, they took no responsibility for costs incurred.

In 1959, the government decided to grant all farmers who had acquired farms through the State Settlement plan, benefits and financial relief. This was done to help them cope with the drought situation at that time. Those who had not made use of the "Buying Option" were exempted from paying rent from 1 April 1959 to 31 March 1961 and if they had made use of the option, they were not required to pay any interest for the same period. The farmers who bought cattle with government loans were not required to repay the loans and the stock became their property.

In constructing dams on the farms, the farmers, in most cases would normally proceed to build their dams and then apply for permission and government subsidies. The Department of Water Affairs would then do the valuation of the dam for subsequent subsidies. The magistrate in Outjo circulated a circular on 28 October 1960 that sought to put an end to such a practice. "Water Affairs has to do the surveying and the Water Committee has to approve the plans before any dam may be constructed", he instructed in his circular.

After the Odendaal Commission's Report of 1964, time lapsed before the Commission's recommendations were practically implemented. This mainly happened after 1968 when the Odendaal report was enacted as the 'Development of Self Government for Native Nations in South West Africa Act of 1968'. By that time many farmers had vacated the farms, partly due to their failure to make a decent living on the land. Farmers who had been occupying the farms and those who had bought them had the value of their farms appraised by a committee, the Evaluation Committee, set up by the Administration. The Administration would then "buy" the farm at the determined value, minus what the owner or lessee owed the Administration in terms of advances and loans. All this was happening between 1964-65 and a total of 70 cases in the Damaraland area were considered. Sixty of the 70 accepted offers made to them by the Administration. The 70 farms in the area which had been valued by then, comprised an aggregate of 698 908 ha. Farmers who were not happy with the offers had their cases referred directly to the Administrator. Probably due to unhappiness of the 10 farmers who had not accepted the government offers for their farms, the Evaluation Committee was replaced by a new one on 17 August 1964.

After the Administration had bought the farms, it leased them out between 1964 and 1969/70 for *emergency grazing* to drought stricken white farmers from all over the country. The application form for *emergency grazing* had a section in which the applicant was asked whether he/she had sold any stock during the previous (prior to applying) season and none of the applicants that I came across answered this question in the affirmative.

It is not very clear, but it would seem that the responsibilities of the Land Board were taken over by a new body, State Settlement and Farmers Assistance, while the farms fell under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. It happened often that one farm would be leased to a different farmer every month.

The farms were eventually made available for communal use by the Bantu Commission in the early seventies. It appears as if all government involvement in farming activities on these farms ceased with the hand-over to the Bantu Commissioner and consequently no records were kept afterwards.

Many Damara-speaking people from all over the country, either through forced removal or fleeing drought elsewhere, settled on these farms. With the exception of people forcefully removed from proclaimed nature reserves like Daan-Viljoen, it would seem as if there was no co-ordination of who settled where in the aftermath of the 'Development of Self Government for Native Nations in South West Africa Act of 1968'. For example, pastor Elias Eiseb who settled on one such farm, Engelbrecht in 1970, categorically maintained that they chose the farms for themselves and were not directed by any institution or government organ in their search (Personal Comment). During the same interview, he told a group of student researchers that originally 70 people from Ovitoto came to Engelbrecht and had a free choice between settling at Engelbrecht, Vrye or Brambach (Kakukuru, 1996).

How all these past developments relate to present day socio-economic and environmental conditions on these farms for interested researchers to follow up. What I hope is that I have provided a source and background, though not exhaustive, to draw from in looking for the reasons for prevailing conditions.

Synthesised from Odendaal Files in The National Archives of Namibia, information was mainly contained in official reports, minutes of meetings and correspondences of the Department of Lands in the Administration of South West Africa.

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3. Nico de Klerk, Director of Agricultural Research and Training in giving comments on first draft (November 1995)
4. Pastor Elias Eiseb, in response to a questions asked to him during an interview with SDP2 researchers (December 1995)
5. Hendrik Jakobus Lombard, retired former Inspector of Lands, in an interview (February 1996)

PALMWAG 702

Tenancy History

The farm was advertised in August 1954 for landless white farmers to apply for a grazing license.

Johannes Marthinus Lock Carstens who applied on 20 August 1954 was the successful applicant of the nine farmers who applied. He was a bona fide farmer who was sub-leasing Twyfelfontein 534 by then. He had been moving around for the past couple of years.

On 20 February 1956, Carstens requested the transfer of his grazing rights from Palmwag 702 to Rooiberg 517, which the license holder had given up. He was informed by the Land Board that Rooiberg had to be re-advertised first, before he could apply for it. However, records show that he did not move to Rooiberg but stayed on at Palmwag. He went ahead to make use of the buying option for Palmwag on 1 January 1964 and paid £1 506- 8-10 to make up the total purchase price.

On 27 May 1964 he offered to sell his farm, Palmwag, to the Administration, as he was looking for another farm. The farm was valued at R44 946-00 which was later increased by 25% to R55 965-00. Mr. Carstens sold Palmwag to the Government for R56 000. 00 in September 1964, but stayed on as a lessee with effect from 1 October 1964, paying R83. 00 a month.

On 1 January 1965 the lease contract for the farm was awarded to Mr. R. V. Madsen from the Gobabis district at the same rate of R 83.00 a month. His lease contract was renewed from 1 January 1965, but was cancelled on 1 April 1965, as the Land Board found that he wasn't a bona fide farmer. He was a businessman who owned a general retail store in Gobabis. They recommended D. J. Jacobs to be awarded the lease contract for the farm.

In his protest, Mr. Madsen mentioned that the Administration was desperate to find someone to lease the farm, in order that it not be neglected and he had had six other options in the area to choose from. Citing additional reasons (see Land Use and Management), he succeeded in convincing the Land Board and continued to lease the farm.

Madsen did not apply for renewal of his contract and vacated the farm in April 1966 which remained unoccupied until it was advertised again in June 1967. Though H. Engel was the successful applicant on 1 July 1967, he changed his mind and didn't occupy it.

It remained tenantless until 1 February 1969, when it was leased to H. Steenkamp. Somewhere along the way [no details transpired from the files] F. Jooste was awarded the lease contract. Jooste had to partially vacate the farm during his tenure, due to

poor pastures. M. P. de Wet applied to lease the farm in 1971 but given the poor pastures, this application was not approved by the Land Board.

On 27 January 1972, the Chief Bantu Commissioner informed the Secretary for Bantu Administration that Palmwag, as one of the vacated white farms, was ready for use by the latter's Department.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions

In requesting a transfer of his grazing license to Rooiberg on 20 February 1956, Carstens mentioned that he couldn't make a living on Palmwag, since it hadn't rained the year before (1955). He went on to predict that it would not rain that year (1956) either, as no signs of rain were forthcoming.

The Farm Inspection Report of 10 May 1957, indicated that it was not necessary to drill water in order to sustain farming, as surface water was found in the Uniab river. There were very few trees and bushes but the farm was largely grassland with alkaline soil. The entire farm could be grazed. Under the section "General Comment" the inspector mention that the farm was in better condition than others to the south.

From the Inspection Report of 30 July 1959, it surfaced that the farm was only partially fenced at that time. It had 3 wells, one 12' wind pump, two centrifugal pumps and two engines.

It is indicated in another Farm Inspection Report of 4 April 1961, that the carrying capacity of the farm was 1 Large stock Unit (LSU) or 6 Small Stock Units (SSU) per 25 hectares (ha). Thus the farm could carry 4 818 small stock units given its reported size of ± 20076 ha, $1\,628\text{ m}^2$. For its water needs, the farm depended on open water from the Uniab river ± 3 miles away, 2 wells fitted with portable engines and a dam (impoundment) with a centrifugal engine drawing water from it. The report concluded that the farm was not being overgrazed and it had survived the drought.

On 26 November 1963, the farmer succeeded in obtaining a subsidy from government to erect camp fences.

The Farm Inspection Report of 12 August 1964 shows that there were two boreholes, 6 wells and 13 springs and no earth dam on the farm.

The Inspector of Lands visited the farm and reported on 26 April 1966, in a memorandum to the Director of State Settlements, that while Madsen was vacating the farm, parts still had relatively good pastures (fodder). However, the back part of the farm [I suppose this referred to the side of the farm opposite the gate or behind the farm house] had no pastures whatsoever.

When the Senior Agricultural Officer inspected the farm on 2 February 1967, he found that the farm had no pastures whatsoever, even though there was no one

occupying it. He went on to remark that the farm could not be recommended for emergency grazing before sufficient rains had fallen. Even the engines were in poor condition.

Land Use, Management and policy matters

When J. M. L. Carstens applied for a grazing license on 20 August 1954, he brought 808 sheep, seven cattle and 300 goats totalling 1 108 head of small stock to the farm. On 8 January 1957, he wrote to the Land Board requesting permission to help W. D. Jones, who was his neighbour, J. Jones' brother, with water and grazing for 700 small stock over a period of three months. The Inspector of Lands could not comment as the size of the farm was not known then, nevertheless the Land Board (28 March) recommended and the Administrator (24 April) approved the application.

In his application of 19 October 1957 for renewal of his 12 month license, Carstens mentioned having 900 sheep, 400 goats, 14 head of cattle, 2 horses and 2 mules on the farm. When the Inspector of Lands took stock of the farm on 29 October 1958, he recorded 20 head of cattle (15 and 5 calves), 1 200 sheep, 280 goats and 800 foreign small stock [presumably belonging to W. D. Jones].

An inventory on 30 July 1959, showed that the farm had only one camp and 1 morgen of land was under irrigation to grow lucerne. The report recorded 900 karakul sheep, 230 goats, 2 mules and no cattle. However, in his application for a loan to pay urgent debts of 31 July 1959, the lessee mentions 2 horses in addition to the above.

A total of 835 small stock, including lambs of less than 3 months, was recorded on 15 May 1960.

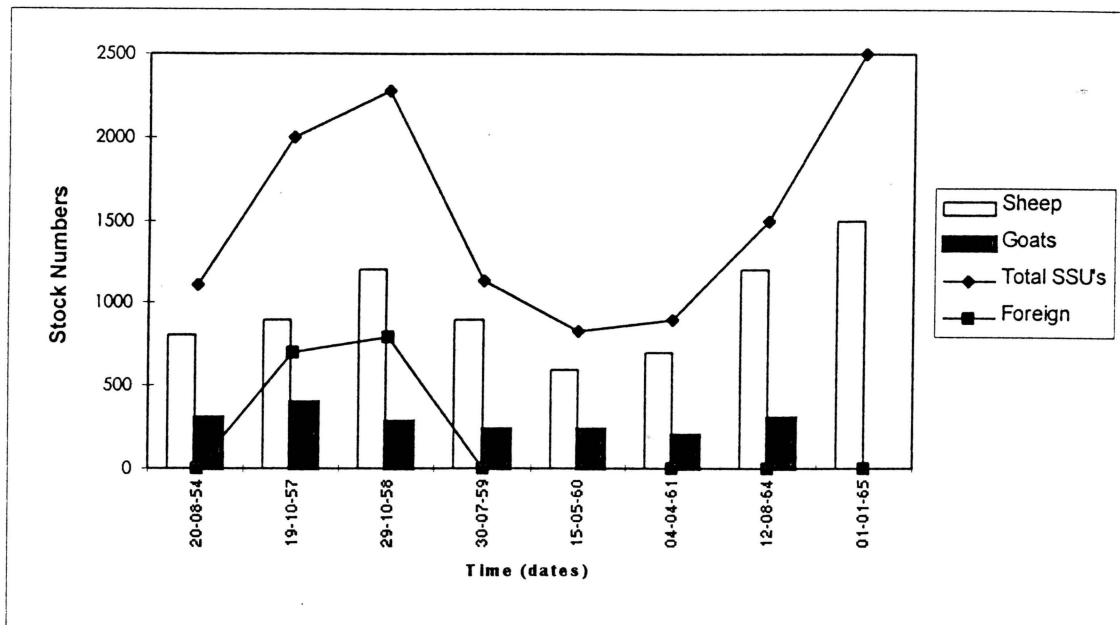
Another farm inventory on 4 April 1961, furnished the following information; 700 sheep, 200 goats and only 5 heifers younger than two years were reported. There was only one small camp on the farm. Carstens obtained a government loan to buy 150 sheep on 2 July 1961. A report of 12 August 1964, gave the number of small stock on the farm as 1 500.

Elov Madsen who took over the farm on 1 January 1965, had to sell the cattle he farmed with in the Gobabis area and instead purchase 2 500 sheep which he brought to the farm. He also mentioned in his protest in April that year, that he had more than one morgen of land cultivated with lucerne which he couldn't just leave.

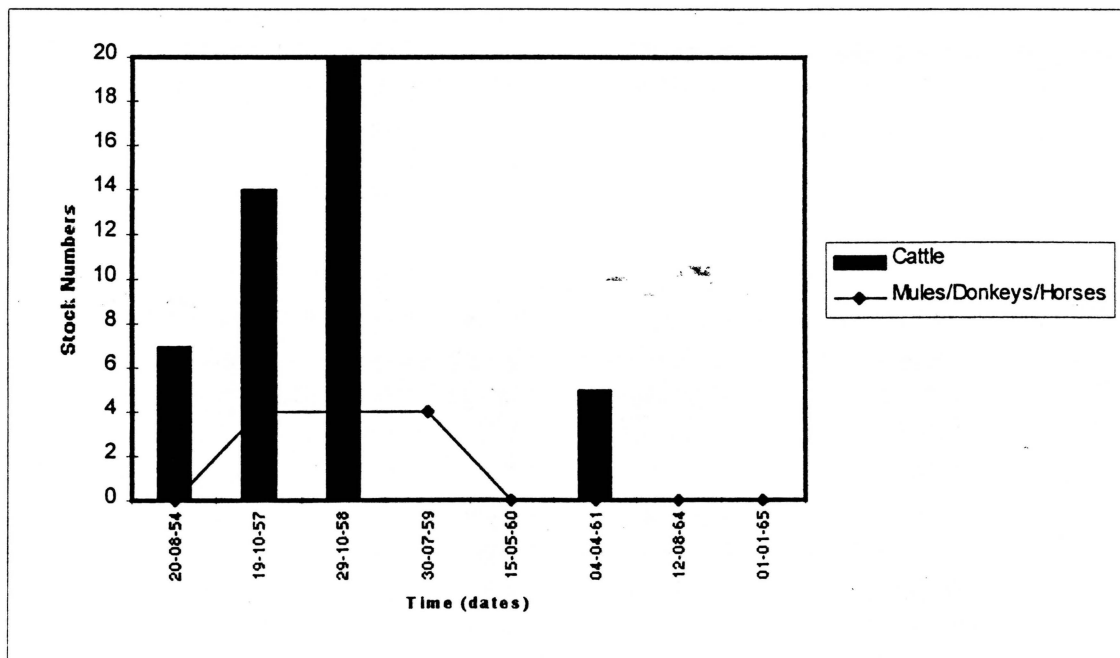
Nothing was reported concerning H. Steenkamp's, J. Jooste's or M. P. de Wet's numbers of stock that they brought to the farm.

Stocking rates on Palmwag

1. 1.1 Small stock numbers at Palmwag over time



1. 1.2 Large stock numbers at Palmwag over time.



OTJIHAVERA 703

Tenancy history

Computer summary information indicates that the farm was initially owned by Wecke und Voigts, after which Albert Voigts bought it. Albert Voigts passed it on to Hans Stegger. However details of this ownership transfer and dates could not be traced.

Though Andries Jacobus Liebenberg, from Vaalhoek in Fransfontein, applied to lease farm No. 1 on 2 September 1954, the Land Board recommended, on 16 September, that his application be considered for Otjihavera. The resultant license was effective from 1 October 1954. He was the only one to apply for Otjihavera when the farm was advertised on 17 October 1957. His twelve month probation lease contract was awarded on 1 January 1958 and the five year lease contract a year later, on 1 January 1959. However, in one of his applications for an advance, dated 28 July 1960, he mentioned having been on the farm since 1953. Liebenberg applied to buy the farm on 22 July 1962 and eventually made use of the buying option on 1 January 1963. He paid R63 000-00.

Liebenberg vacated the farm on 25 August 1965.

The farm was awarded to E. V. Madsen on 19 January 1966.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions

The farm inspection report of 10 May 1957, indicated the presence of one well lined with cement and another at an out-post, a cement reservoir, 250 yards of fencing around a camp and one garden. The farm is reported in the same report to have no surface water at all and only a few mopane trees and bush. The grass was described as good and growing on basic soil. It was further remarked that about 3 000 ha. of the farm could not easily be used for grazing, due to very high mountains. However, according to the report, the farm compared very well with others in the area.

On 17 October 1957, in his application for the farm after it was advertised, Liebenberg mentioned having received very good rains and that his pastures looked very good. An inventory of the farm, on 16 April 1958, estimated the carrying capacity of the farm to be 1 LSU per 10 ha. In a motivation that accompanied Liebenberg's application for extension of the contract, on 28 October 1958, the

Inspector of Lands reported that the pastures on the farm were relatively good and possibly the best in the area.

In his application for an advance, on 28 July 1960, reference was made to 3 wells with installations on the farm. The farm is reported to have experienced a serious drought during the period 1960-61.

The senior agricultural officer visited the farm on 25 July 1965. Though he could not see much from the road due to high mountains, he nevertheless concluded that there was a lot of grass on the farm (talk about inspection!).

Land Use, Management and policy matters

When Liebenberg first moved to Otjihavera he had 810 sheep and 150 goats, totalling only 960 small stock. It is reported in an inspection report of 10 May 1958, that he had a garden on the farm. In his application for the farm after it was advertised, on 17 October 1957, Liebenberg mentioned having 900 sheep and 350 goats. On 9 April 1958, a member of the Executive Committee, S. von Bach, applied on behalf of Liebenberg to help J. N. Britz from Heuwels with grazing and water for 1 100 sheep. Lease was granted. He again applied on 2 July 1958, to assist Nick Maritz with grazing and water for 1 000 small stock. Calculations showed the following number of stock on the farm:

Britz's stock.....	1 100
Maritz's stock.....	1 000
Liebenberg's own stock.....	1 250
	3 250

By 20 November 1958, Britz had moved back to his farm, while Maritz left on 8 October the same year. An inspector's report of 28 October 1958, indicates that Liebenberg's stock numbers had declined to 800 sheep and 300 goats by then.

The license holder applied on 15 June 1959, to be granted permission to host 800 small stock of J. H. Karstens for a period of 12 months. In response, he was sent a form which he had to complete, indicating his stock numbers and the number and type of foreign stock on his farm. His delay in replying resulted in about four letters containing the same request being sent to him. He eventually responded, offering apologies and indicating that he had no foreign stock on the farm. His stock numbers were to be found in the lease contract.

On 28 July 1960, he applied for an advance in order to pay urgent debts arising from drought. By then, mention is made of 12 head of cattle in addition to 800 sheep and 300 goats. Nevertheless, an inventory report of 1 May 1961, indicated that there were no cattle on the farm (maybe they had died during the drought). By this time, records showed only 723 sheep and 300 goats and no foreign stock present. He also expressed the wish to buy 10 or 20 white karakul ewes. In reference to this, the Administrator remarked that the Inspector of Land's reports showed that this particular farmer had lost 300 small stock to "drought and lions". "Can we supply more sheep for lions to eat? In any case the farmer owns enough stock." he said. The application for a loan

for sheep was referred, on 29 June 1961, to the Executive Committee which, in turn, recommended an amount of R700.00. Despite this, the farmer cancelled his application on July 1961 and indicated that he would rather sell some of his black sheep and buy 20 white ones.

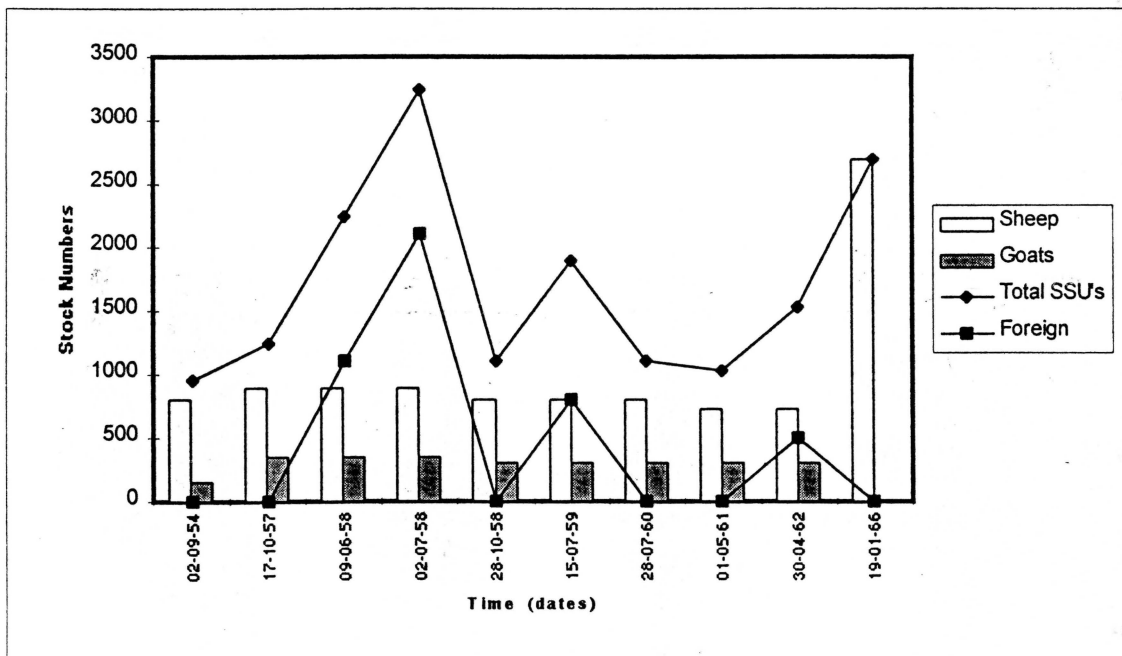
On 13 July 1961 he applied for an advance in order to buy enough fencing material for erecting 17 000 yards of fencing. The Land Board recommended this on 29 July, however, the Administrator was of the opinion that it was not economically sound to fence such a large mountainous area where the license holder owned so little. The issue was referred back to the Land Board which recommended an advance of R1 400.00.

On 30 April 1962, Liebenberg applied to assist H. J. Lourens with grazing and water for 500 sheep.

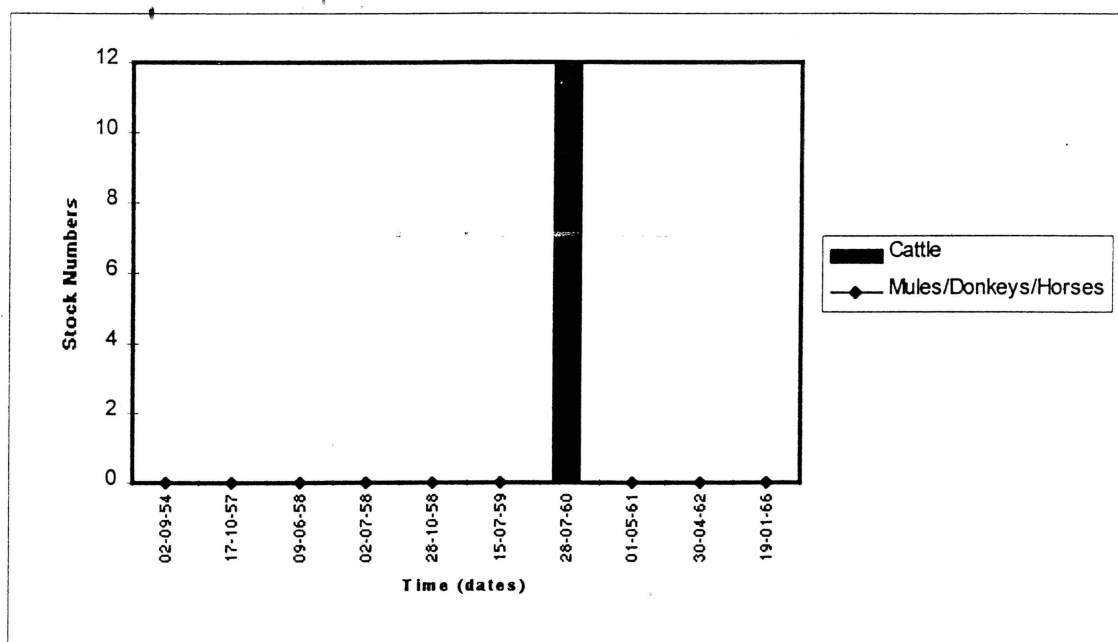
E. V. Madson arrived on the farm on 19 January 1966, with 2 700 small stock from Palmwag.

Stocking rates at Otjihavera

1.2.1 Small stock numbers at Otjihavera over time



1. 2. 2 Large stock numbers at Otjihavera over time



KLIPRIVIER 707

Tenancy History

Jacobus Johannes Uys' application was approved, to be of effect from 1 October 1954. However, he could not be on the farm within six days from 1 October as required, and requested to be given 14 days grace. However, he did not make it within the 14 days he was given and requested another extension until March/April 1955. He only managed to physically occupy the farm on 8 January 1955. Only a year later, on 28 March 1956, he applied to terminate his grazing license for the farm and this was done.

M. C. Boshoff was among the eight people who applied to be given Uys' license on 26 May 1956. The Land Board sat on 4 June 1956 and decided in favour of another applicant, Marthinus Johannes Maritz, because he had eight children and had never owned land before. His license was of effect from 1 January 1956. By the time he was awarded the license, his sheep were lambing and this made him move so slowly that he could not be on the farm in time.

When Uys wanted compensation for improvements he had made on the farm, he was told to negotiate with Maritz. However, Maritz was not in a position to pay for the improvements brought about by Uys and the Land Board agreed to compensate Uys.

Maritz had actually occupied the farm since 28 August 1956. The farm was officially advertised in 1957 and M. J. Maritz was the successful applicant due to his big family (by then he had 9 children). His 12 months probation period started from 21 January 1958. This contract was extended for another year starting 1 January 1959, this time with the condition attached that he make improvements on the farm. This followed the Inspector's remarks that the license holder took no initiative in developing the farm, thus it did not warrant being awarded to him. Rather, he recommended an extension of the 12 months probation lease.

The Board, on 1 January 1960, had problems with granting Maritz grazing rights for another period. However, the Inspector of Lands begged them to let him stay on, even just as a one year probation lessee, as he could not survive anywhere else and had a family to support. The board extended the probation lease to Maritz on 20 April 1960 until 31 December 1960.

On 15 March 1961, the lease of the farm to Maritz was cancelled by the Board and Maritz had to vacate the farm with all his belongings. P. J. van Zyl was to look after the infrastructure on the farm, until a suitable person was found to lease it.

M. E. Bezuidenhout applied for the grazing license on 05 April 1961. There was confusion following this application, because van Zyl was on the farm and claimed to have rights to it. He (van Zyl) had officially applied for grazing rights on 1 June 1961. Another person, D. J. Smith, had also applied for a grazing license. However the Administration decided to auction the farm for the benefit of eight of Maritz's nine children. In the meantime the farm was awarded to Maritz for a lease contract starting 1 July 1961. It is also indicated in a contract of 20 June 1961, that Maritz had bought the farm for R2 166,92. [These seemed to have been tactical legal moves to enable the Directorate of Lands to invest the money generated from the sale of the farm with the Master of the High Court in the names of the Maritz children. Maritz could in no way have been in a position to buy the farm judging from the records.]

The auctioning of the farm was advertised in 'Die Suidwes Afrikaander' of 1 August 1961 and 'Die Suidwester' of 2 August 1961. Barclays Bank claimed part of the proceeds of the farm should it be sold, because money owed to them by Maritz had not been paid by the guarantor. They were informed that Maritz had to make the request directly. P. J. Coetzee, General Retailer, made a similar demand.

Barend Phillipus Viljoen from Lofdal 49 bought the farm at 40c per ha. at the auction on 30 August 1961. His purchase of the farm for a total of R2 166.92 was officially gazetted on 2 January 1962. It was also decided that no payments to debtors would be done by the Administration on behalf of Maritz. This was in reaction to P. J. van Zyl's demand for compensation (R1 300) for improvements on the farm which he claimed Maritz owed him. He was reminded that the lease contract clearly stipulated that a sub-lessee may not bring about any improvements on a farm.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

J. J. Uys was not in a position to occupy the farm within six days of 1 October 1954, since he first had to construct a road for about 12 miles in order to reach the farm. Furthermore he mentioned that all the springs on the farm had dried up and a well first had to be dug before stock could be moved to the farm. In terminating his grazing license, Uys wrote as follows: "After having gone through all the trouble of constructing 7 miles of road, a well, dam, trough and a dip-tank, I cannot see a way of making a living out of the farm." He cited problems such as too low and highly variable rainfall and the fact that the largest part of the farm was mountainous with numerous heaps of round rocks. There were no perennial grasses growing on the farm, only annuals of which *Aristida spp.* (steekgras) was dominant, he complained. Over and above this, 22 of his sheep had broken their legs. (I imagine this was due to the rocky terrain).

Around 4 September 1956, when Maritz was not yet on the farm, Uys complained that the infrastructure he had put in place at Kliprivier had been trampled by elephants and Maritz was not in position to pay for them. Maritz mentioned having received good rains around 21 January 1957.

When the farm was evaluated by the Inspector of lands on 23 May 1957, the well Uys had dug was said to be 22 feet deep and lined with rocks and cement 9 feet above ground. The kraals were constructed using Omumborombonga (leadwood) tree poles. There were no surface waters on the farm, very few trees, bushes and very sparse grass cover. No signs of erosion were apparent. General comment: "Very mountainous and can be considered to be the poorest farming site in the area."

On 28 April 1958, the carrying capacity of the farm had not yet been determined. The size of the farm was said to be 16 776 ha. However, the Inspector's report of 31 October 1958, put the carrying capacity of the farm at 1 LSU (6 SSU) per 25 ha.

On 16 February 1959, Maritz again mentioned having received sufficient rains. He backed off on 24 March and said that the rains had been fair but not sufficient. In July 1959, the farms in that area (Kliprivier area) were experiencing a serious drought and most of Maritz's neighbours moved out. It is indicated, on 29 July 1959, that van Zyl installed a windmill and erected a camp at an outpost on Kliprivier. On 17 February 1960, the Inspector of Lands admitted to having observed no fodder on the farm, but remarked that he had received news of rains falling in the area. According to him, the torra area responded quickly to rains to produce enough pastures. It is reported on 15 May 1961, that van Zyl drilled and obtained water on the farm.

Minutes from the Land Board meeting of 15 May 1961 in Windhoek, attest to the fact that the Board considered the farm to be inhospitable due to its location in a poor rainfall as well as mountainous area.

When considering auctioning the farm, the Director of Lands wanted information concerning the carrying capacity of the farm from the Chief Inspector of Lands, J. J. T. Erasmus. The latter responded as follows on 30 October 1961, in a rather lengthy letter: "It is difficult to determine a definitive carrying capacity for this farm. The Department of Soil Conservation has been busy with tests in this particular area for the last three years. For this purpose, small areas on other farms west of this one, which have similar terrain, were fenced off with jackal proof fences. No animals were allowed into these camps. Thus far the results of the test camps are rather disappointing. It seems as if no perennial grass species want to establish themselves in this area. Rather, annuals, which are growing and dispersing slowly and sparsely, are found."

He went on to say that he had to conclude that they could not reckon on "saving" pastures for poor rainy seasons. "The land can sustain intensive agriculture in the event of good rainfall, possibly 1 sheep per 10 ha, and virtually no single animal in a poor rainy season" he added. He went on to describe the farm as having very variable rainfall, being very mountainous and possibly the poorest in the area. According to him, it could sustain from 1 000 to 1 500 sheep year-in and year-out. It was difficult to bring about improvements, as materials had to be transported over virtually inaccessible terrain.

The Director of Lands then referred these remarks to the Directorate of Agriculture who, on 27 October 1961, said that they could not have summed up the situation better. They emphasised that the area was not fit for sedentary farming practices, rather, they argued, someone with another farm should buy it and use it only for two out of five years. The value of the land could not be more than 40 c per ha.

Land Use, Management and Policy Matters

Uys came to the farm on 8 June 1955 with 655 karakul sheep, 80 goats, five cows with calves and one horse. One of the reasons that delayed his move to the farm was that he only had one shepherd of his own, as the rest worked for his father. He expressed the hope to get more Owambos in time for him to move.

Upon the termination of his grazing license on 28 March 1956, Uys complained of having moved to the farm with 930 small stock and having had to leave in January 1956 with only 800, of which 22 had broken limbs. He suggested that, had he waited any longer, he would have been worse off.

Maritz arrived on the farm on 28 August 1956, with 432 sheep and 222 goats. He then applied for a loan to buy livestock. By 24 July 1957, he had 445 sheep (25 were lambs) and 330 goats (130 were lambs).

He tendered applications for permission to help W. L. van der Berg, a landless farmer, with water and grazing for 1 000 small stock and 12 donkeys (08 April 1958) and J. Steyn from Inhoek, whose farm had had no rain and the remaining pastures had been consumed by zebras, for 1 000 small stock (28 April 1958). Taking the farm size as 16 776 ha, the Inspector concluded that no overgrazing was imminent with Maritz's 775 small stock, van der Berg's 1 000 small stock and 12 donkeys as well as Steyn's 1000 small stock (even though the carrying capacity of the farm was not known by then, as mentioned in the report by that very Inspector). The farm then had 2 775 small stock and 12 donkeys on it. The sub-lessee, van der Berg, spent 8 months on Kliprivier.

The Inspector wrote on 31 October 1958, that Maritz was exceptionally lazy and only his wife took the initiative to do something on the farm. The man had no initiative to become self reliant, the Inspector went on. Since they owned too little, while having 8 children, it would constitute throwing a poor woman with her children out in the cold if the farm should be taken away from him. In this report, the Inspector reported 2 820 small stock on farm. An inventory of the farm on 8 November 1958, reported the same number, dividing it into 420 sheep, 400 goats and 2 000 foreign stock. The fact that there was only one well on the farm and no surface water, compelled the Land Board to attach conditions (regarding improvements to the farm) when they extended his lease contract for another period of 12 months, starting 1 January 1959.

The Inspector however, felt that forcing Maritz to do something would worsen his "hopeless" financial position. His few head of stock did not warrant mining of water on the farm and no fencing was needed, temporarily, as the farm was very mountainous. His opinion was that the farmer should rather increase his stock

numbers in order to push up his income. The Board agreed with this during its meeting of 28 January 1959.

Maritz applied, on 16 February 1959, to help J. van Zyl from Fonteine 717, with water and grazing for 600 small stock, since Fonteine had not received any rains. On the same date, the Land Board drafted a letter to Maritz to inform him that he should not bother to bring about improvements on the farm, and should rather concentrate on his stock. This letter was, however, not sent. It was replaced by one in which he was asked to bring about improvements, though only within his limited abilities. Permission was granted on 12 March 1959 for helping van Zyl.

On 24 March 1959, Maritz wrote to the Land Board complaining about van der Berg who had previously been with him for eight months. He (van der Berg) was now back and demanding grazing. He was already on the farm and said he would stay on, with or without permission. Maritz expressed the fear that van der Berg would trample his range to the extent that he (Maritz) would have to abandon the farm. When he told van der Berg to move out, the latter responded by saying that it was Administration land and Maritz had no say over it. However, van der Berg left the farm on 11 April 1959, upon hearing that Maritz had written to the Board about him.

During the drought Maritz stayed on his farm while all his neighbours moved out. The Inspector felt that it would be unfair to expect Maritz to have made progress with his farm while no one else in the area had.

While seeking permission (20 August 1959) to help Greeff with water and grazing for 100 goats, Maritz made mention of the drought and the fact that he was losing stock, although the situation was improving.

Another application was tendered on 17 February 1960 to assist van Zyl, (who had previously been on the farm and had left), with water and grazing for 200 goats. Both applications were approved.

In June 1960, someone who had underwritten a loan from the bank for Maritz, confiscated some of his stock and he was left with only 120 sheep, all of which were branded from the advance, and 88 goats. The Inspector of Lands (30 June 1960) felt that it would unlock bitter public reaction should the state eject a poor farmer with eight children from the farm and put him on road construction (as suggested by the Administrator). He was 58 and unfit for an unskilled labour.

Seeing this report, the Administrator recommended that the farm be auctioned and the proceeds be invested in a trust for the children. He went on to remark; "the man is destroying the farm through his laziness." The Land Board felt that such a step would have been illegal since Maritz had not violated any of the contract stipulations. The matter had to wait until the lease contract expired on 31 December 1960.

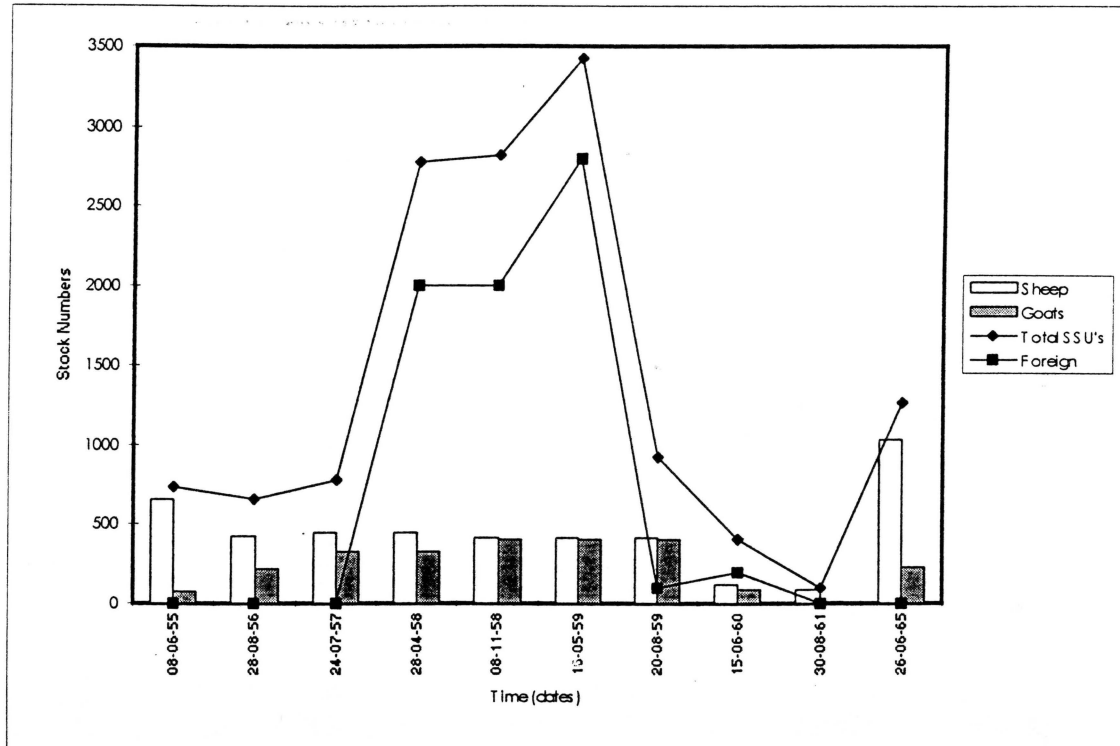
Maritz had only 100 small stock left by 20 June 1961.

Barend Phillipus Viljoen moved 1025 karakul sheep, 230 goats, 7 head of cattle 2 mules and 3 horses to Kliprivier when he bought it in August 1961.

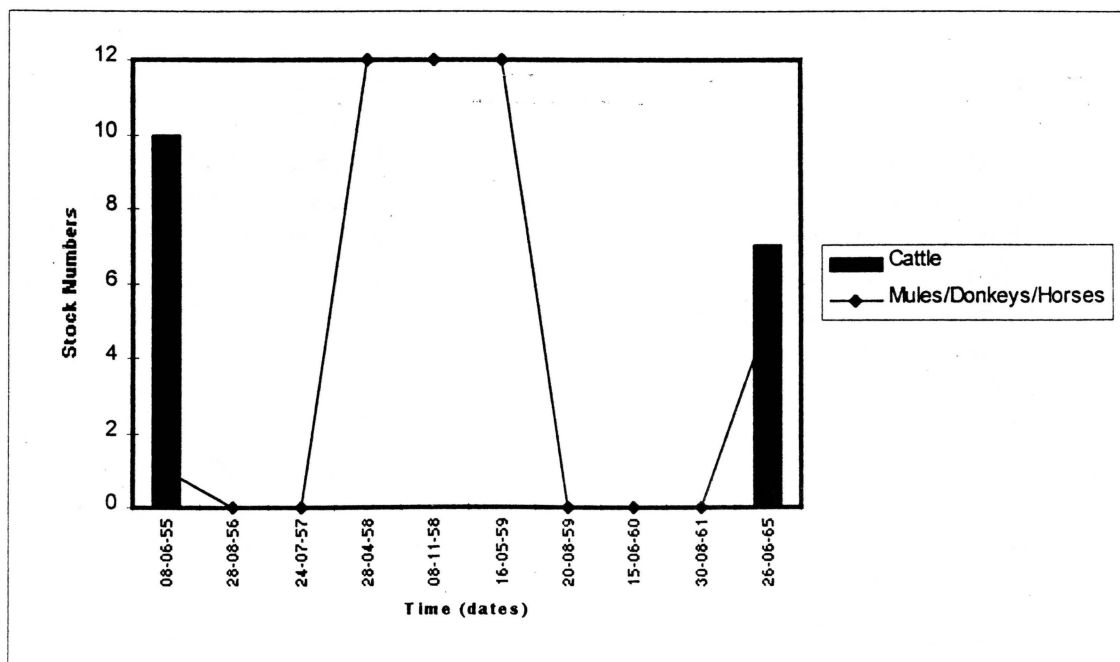
[Records for this farm covering the period 1962 onward could not be traced.]

Stocking rates on Kliprivier over time

1.3.1 Small stock numbers at Kliprivier over time



1.3.2 Large stock numbers at Kliprivier over time



PALM 708

Tenancy history

The first successful applicant for this farm was Jasper Jacobs Esterhuizen from Springbok in South Africa who was farming at Duineveld when he applied on 26 August 1954. His grazing license was effective from 1 October 1954. On 24 September 1956, Esterhuizen wrote to the Director of Lands and among other things, wanted to know if his farm was listed for the 3 year probation lease system, as he was keen to own the farm. As all the farms in the Grootberg area had not been advertised by then, he was told to wait until they were advertised and inspections had been carried out.

The farm was advertised for lease on 24 July 1957 against 1/3 d. per hectare and Esterhuizen was the successful applicant. His 12 month probation lease was of effect from 8 November 1957. He was awarded his one year lease contract with effect from 1 January 1958 and when this expired, he was awarded the farm from 1 January 1959 on a five year probation lease period in accordance with Article 16 of Proclamation 310 of 1927 (Union).

He applied for the valuation of his farm on 16 May 1964, since he would have to move one or other time due to the Odendaal recommendations. He thus wanted to know what he could get for the farm. In recommending that the state buy the farm, the Director of Lands also mentioned that an amount of R80.00 be added to the farm value for Esterhuizen's transportation of the material used for erecting the test camp and for the maintenance of the camp for six years, for which he had not been compensated.

The initial value of the farm was put at R62 720.00 plus a further R10 000.00 for the inconvenience of having to move with 2 500 sheep. The Evaluation Committee recommended that the farm be leased for R105.00 a month. Thus an offer of R72 720.00 was made to him. He however did not accept the offer, as he was convinced that the farm was worth R100 000.00. "The farm sustains 4 000 small stock and brought in an annual income of R10 000.00 a year" was his argument. He accepted the R72 720.00 offer on 4 September 1964. However, he applied for the farm to be re-evaluated on 17 September 1964. The reasons for this emerged to be the price of the farm Rooidam which he wanted to buy. Minus his debts, he received a total of R62 000.00 and Rooidam would cost him more than that. He therefore applied for an increase in what he was given for Palm. The farm was re-evaluated by the new Evaluation Committee and they came to the same value as the previous Committee. However, in a letter to Esterhuizen, the value was put at R77 693.00 and he therefore received an additional R4 980 as he had already taken the R62 000.00.

On 20 April 1964, Esterhuizen wrote a lengthy letter in which he mentioned that he only accepted the price they gave him due to financial pressure and listed all the

improvements he had brought about on the farm Palm and what he had had to pay for Rooidam, which to him was not comparable to Palm. He concluded this letter with the remark that he had always trusted in the National Party, but the way they messed up his life had left him bitter.

M. Roux from Gobabis district applied, on 28 August 1964, to lease the farm as soon as Esterhuizen had left and indicated a willingness to buy all of Esterhuizen's stock. He rented the farm from 1 October 1964 at a rate of R105-00 a month.

Jacob Albertus Louw, then owner of Kapps Farm near Windhoek, applied to graze small stock on Palm. Though this was approved by the Directorate of State Settlements and Farmers Assistance on 9 July 1965, it would seem as though he did not move to Palm.

The Senior Agricultural Officer reported on 26 August 1965, that he had been on the farm and found it had been vacated by M. Roux. However, he found a "bossless" (baaslose) native with goats and donkeys of his own on the farm.

On 9 November 1965, M. Roux once again applied for grazing and it was approved under the so-called Odendaal Lease Contract with effect from 1 January 1966. Roux was informed by the Administration on 27 April 1967, to start looking for another place, as his monthly rental period was more or less over. Roux seemed to have continued staying on farm till 1971, when he gave notice on 1 January that he would vacate the farm on 1 February 1971.

An application by J. W. van der Merwe on 26 January 1971 for grazing rights on Palm failed as he was simultaneously leasing Jurriesdraai 709.

A. J. J. Liebenberg phoned the office of the Secretary in the Department of Agriculture on 20 September 1971 in connection with grazing rights on Palm. The Bantu Commissioner (Damaraland) allowed him to stay on the farm from 30 November 1971. He was also exempted from paying any rent.

The Chief Bantu Commissioner, G. D. S. Scholtz, wrote to the Secretary for Bantu Administration on 26 January 1972, informing him that the farm Palm was available for the purposes of the latter's Department.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

In his application of 25 April 1955 to help J. W. Fourie with grazing and water for his animals, Esterhuizen mentioned having had good rains that year. He also made mention of three out-posts (buite poste) which he had on the farm then and excellent pasture, so much so that he felt he could help Fourie as he could not utilise the grazing on the entire farm. Responding to an inquiry from the Director of Lands, dated 2 December 1955, whether Fourie had left, Esterhuizen indicated that good rains had

started falling on his farm and other neighbouring farms from 25 November 1955. He went on to say that "through the will of God, I am very lucky with rain here on Palm". The other farms such as Jurriesdraai 709 which was "completely devoid of any vegetation, coupled with high variable rainfall, as well as De Riet 702 which had last had rains in 1950" were not as lucky as he was, according to the lessee. As motivation for the erection of a test camp on Palm, the Director of Lands gave the following information to the Land Board on 1 March 1957: Officials of the Department of Agriculture visited farms west of Outjo during November 1956. The decline in carrying capacities of these farms was felt to stem from :

1. Very low rainfall
2. Earlier settlements of Natives in the area and thus imprudent farming methods
3. Possible massive immigration of game from the Namib due to the first rains in these farming areas
4. Effects of farming on pastures since the farms were awarded to white farmers
5. Lack of sufficient soil due to mountainous geological formations.

The most important of this factors is the first one.

The inspection report of 10 May 1957 showed that a 2 000 yard fence line had been erected by Esterhuizen on the farm, one well, a windmill, a reservoir, 300 yards of garden fence and surface water were also recorded. There were good pastures and the entire farm could be grazed. Under the section "vegetation" the inspector indicated "good grass and a few mopane trees and bushes". The fields had basic soils and no erosion processes were evident. In his general comment, the inspector commended that the farm was without doubt the best in the area. It was one of the few farms where permanent (lasting) grasses as well as different range types could be found.

In response to questions put to him by the Director of Lands concerning the number of foreign stock on his farm, on 20 November 1957 he insisted that pastures were in abundance. He supported his contention with information that his farm was 19 895 ha. in size and the carrying capacity was 1 LSU (or 6 SSU) per 40 ha. Esterhuizen maintained the same point about abundance of pastures when he applied to help G. S. Burger on 24 February 1958, adding that he had once again had received very good rains. He kept on raising the point about the good rains he had received when he applied, on 19 March 1958, to help A. Steenkamp, this time saying that he would seek confirmation of this from the weather bureau, as he had a rain gauge on his farm. In reaction to this application, the Director of Lands wrote to the director of Agriculture requesting information on the carrying capacity of the farm. The latter indicated that no permanent or fixed carrying capacity had been assigned to the farm. He recalled that in 1953, the farm was so barren that they had recommended a resting period of three years. When the farm was inspected again in 1957 pasture was "even sufficient to sustain cattle farming". Rainfall was very variable but, taking the last four years into consideration, he would estimate the carrying capacity of the farm at 3 hectares per sheep or 1 LSU (6 SSU) per 18 ha.

It surfaces from the Farm inspection report of 10 May 1957, that Esterhuizen had erected fencing of 2 000 yards in length as well as a 300 yard long garden fence.

The inspector made a comment in the inventory form of 11 August 1958, saying that Esterhuizen was a sensible farmer and even parts of his grazed area showed grass.

A farm inventory of 1 December 1958 accounted for 1 well at the farm house, 2 at posts, and nine springs at Palm. The inspector of Land's farm inspection report of 29 October 1958, put the carrying capacity of the farm at 1 LSU (6 SSU) per 20 ha. In the light of Esterhuizen accommodating many farmers on his farm and the seemingly high carrying capacity of the farm, the Administrator wanted the farm to be divided up (see below) and in the discussions that ensued it was pointed out that the farm could hardly sustain 1 LSU per 20 ha. The Department of Agriculture conducted an investigation to determine the exact carrying capacity of the farm. They put their estimate at 1 SSU per 10 ha. saying the farm could carry \pm 189 small stock due to highly variable rainfall which might not occur for two consecutive years.

Reports indicate that there were 3 wells on the farm (one at the house and two at posts) and 9 springs on the farm by 1 December 1958.

According to Esterhuizen's application of 29 April 1959, for an advance to fence the area an over-concentration of springs in one area attracted wild animals, which tended to concentrate there, trampling the soil making it completely barren. He mentioned in the same letter that water was sufficient to allow him to expand his lucern plantations. There were 8 permanent springs and 3 very strong wells, two of which were fitted with windmills by then. Thus there was sufficient water to produce lucern on a larger scale, according to the lessee.

By 10 February 1961, all three wells had been fitted with windmills and the eight surface water points were utilised by centrifugal pumps were on farm. When the farm was re-evaluated on 4 December 1964, it surfaced that it was not completely fenced off and only had two boreholes, five wells and only three springs. The Inspector of Lands reported a 500 yard long boundary fence and 7 800 yards of inner camps on the farm on 21 July 1961.

By 10 November 1964, a 4000 yard long border fence and 9 000 yard long inner fence(camp divisions) were in place. Only 3 springs, 2 boreholes and 5 wells were reported in the second valuation of the farm on 4 December 1964. However, one list of improvements on the farm, no date, recorded fruit trees, grapes and lucern plantations amongst others.

On 25 August 1965, the Inspector of Lands visited the farm to find an indigenous person there and he reported grass on farm to be plentiful.

An inspection report of 25 September 1967, put the carrying capacity at 4 000 small stock (according to agriculture) and 3 000 according to rainfall.

Land Use, Management and Policy Matters

When Jasper J. Esterhuizen moved to Palm in 1954, he brought 899 sheep, 3 cows with calves (6 cattle), 260 goats and two horses.

Though felling of trees or any other vegetation was prohibited in the license stipulations, on 25 April 1955, he applied for permission to cut trees for poles and droppers (placed between big poles) which he intended to use for fencing. The fence was meant for dividing the farm into inner camps of 500 yard in circumference. In this application he mentioned that he was in a hurry to get the permit, as fencing was already in progress (maybe this means that he had already cut the trees then). On the same date he tendered another application in which he wanted to be allowed to help J. W. Fourie from De Riet 720 with grazing and water for 1 600 small stock for three months. The Land Board indicated that they had no objections to both applications (handled as one) and recommended permission. In the letter to Esterhuizen that served as response to his application, it was made clear that Fourie was supposed to graze on Palm until 31 July 1955 only. They also said that they saw no problem with felling of 350 poles and the necessary droppers, but this could not serve as permission as a valid permit had to be obtained from the district Magistrate in the area, in accordance with the provisions of proclamation 23 of 1925 as amended, on the protection of trees.

The license holder applied for the extension of Fourie's stay on the farm by another three months, on 26 July 1955, as the latter had not received any rain on his farm and had nowhere else to go. This was granted on the Land Board's recommendation.

The Director of Lands wrote to Esterhuizen on 2 December 1955, wanting to know whether Fourie had removed his stock from the farm. Esterhuizen responded on 25 December 1955, that despite good rains falling in the area, Fourie's farm had not received any rains. Fourie was thus still on his farm. In the same breath he applied for another three months extension of Fourie's stay. Since the weather looked promising, Fourie would move as soon as it rained on his farm. He went on to apply for permission to allow cross-border movement of E. Engelbrecht's animals (of Jurriesdraai 709) into his farm for grazing. (He did not provide Engelbrecht's stock numbers). Permission for both Fourie's extended stay and Engelbrecht's cross-farm grazing was granted on 19 December 1955. However, Esterhuizen wrote to the Board on 11 February 1956, to inform them that Engelbrecht had since moved and no longer made use of the arrangement. Fourie returned to his farm on 14 July 1956 and only his own stock remained on the farm. "Though it last rained in 1950 on De Riet, prospects for grazing look better as it has started raining there" he concluded.

On 24 September 1956, Esterhuizen requested help from a government official to assist with farm planning at Palm. He pointed out that he had reached a stage where he could not do it alone, as he wanted to farm practically.

On 11 March 1957, the Director of Lands felt that it was necessary to test how the rangeland would respond if it was allowed to rest (see reasons in previous section). When he was approached, Esterhuizen pointed out a suitable place for the erection of a test camp. At this site, all different soil types; soft sand, medium (from soft to hard)

sand and red torra rocks were found. The circumference of the test camp was going to be approximately 2 000 yards and its size \pm 20 ha. The camp was not to be grazed for five years. The Land Board condoned the idea, but felt that it should be carried out on a "real farm" as in their opinion, Palm was not representative of farms in the area. However, the Director of Lands was of a completely different opinion. To him, the suitable and most representative farm to the west was Palm 708. The Director of Lands made his opinion very clear in his response to the Land Board's assertion. The issue was referred to the Administrator.

The Secretary of Soil Conservation wrote to the Director of Lands on 9 July 1957 inquiring about their final choice for a test site and whether they could possibly put up two such camps fenced with jackal proofing, without gates; one at Palm and another at any other farm the Department of Lands proposed. The Chief Inspector of Lands then proposed on 12 July 1957, one of the "weakest" farms, Rooiplaat 710 of J. Jones. He felt that with Palm serving as the best example, a good comparison of responses and contrasts between the two test sites could be made. This was referred to the Land Board who in turn referred it to the Administrator. The Administrator approved of the idea and referred it to the Soil Conservation Board from where it returned to the Land Board. The latter agreed with the Chief Inspector (who had given them the Secretary of Soil Conservation's proposal) and recommended the idea.

Esterhuizen sent a telegram to the Land Board on 8 October 1957, requesting permission to help W. D. Jones with water and grazing for 600 small stock. The Board, in their response of 11 October 1957, requested information on whether W. D. Jones was a bona fide farmer, how much stock he (Esterhuizen) had on the farm and who else was a sub-lessee. In replying to these questions, Esterhuizen now put Jones' stock numbers at 700 saying that Jones was a bona fide farmer who owned no land. The Inspector of Lands, on 2 November, pointed out to him that he failed to answer the other questions. On 7 November Esterhuizen wrote saying that he had 1200 sheep and 600 goats and that nothing else was on his farm. Citing the size of his farm and the carrying capacity, he said no overgrazing would take place. Permission was granted. However, in the evaluation report on the farm of 8 November 1957, mention had been made of 3 horses which he had omitted.

He informed the Board on 15 February 1958 that Jones had left Palm on 12 February 1958.

Esterhuizen then applied, on 24 February 1958, to provide grazing and water for 800 small stock of G. S Burger and on 19 April 1958 he applied to help A. Steenkamp of Morewag, Kalkveld, with water and grazing for 1 800 sheep. These applications were approved. On 11 August 1958, he applied to help H. Jones with water and grazing for 700 small stock.

Jones was already on Palm awaiting response from the authorities.

This, as reflected in the Inspector of Lands' report, meant that there were the following numbers of stock on Palm:

Esterhuizen's private stock	#	1 800
Burger's stock - approved	#	800
Steenkamp's stock - approved	#	1 800
Jones 's stock - being considered	#	700
Total number of stock on farm	#	5 100
Farms carrying capacity of farm	#	6 SSU per ha.
The farm could carry up to	#	6 630 SSU or 1 105 LSU

No danger of overgrazing was thus apparent, the Inspector of Lands concluded.

However, the Chief Inspector of Lands disagreed, saying that under the then prevailing conditions, the farm could not afford to carry 5 100 small stock. When this was put to him, Esterhuizen argued that he had eight outside waters (buite waters) and being a practical and sensible farmer, there was no way he could overgraze the area.

The Land Board meeting of 22 September 1958 recommended that permission be given to Jones to graze on Palm because of the drought situation. The Administrator however bluntly refused and remarked; "If the farm could sustain 6 630 small stock, why then is a total of about 20 000 ha given to one farmer. Immediate action has to be considered as to whether the farm should not be subdivided. Since the farm is in the driest part of the country, overstocking is very dangerous."

Following this, Esterhuizen was informed on 29 September 1958, that his application to help Jones was unsuccessful. Esterhuizen wrote back saying that though he would normally abide by the Board's decision, H. Jones had left the farm to attend to his wife who was giving birth and had left the stock in his care. Since he had sufficient grazing and no one else could help Jones, could the board reconsider their decision?

An inventory of the farm on 11 August 1958 showed 1 740 private stock and 3 300 foreign stock (including Jones'). The inspector of Lands, who carried out the inventory, remarked that Esterhuizen was a sensible farmer who had grass even in his grazed areas.

The Director of Lands inquired from the Soil Conservation Board on 28 November 1958, about progress with the test camp. In their reply of 29 November, the Soil Conservation Board indicated that the first camp was in the process of being erected by Administration officials on Rooiplaat 710 of Jones, whereas Esterhuizen was provided with materials and would erect the camp on his farm himself. They pointed out that in the latter case, they were not sure about progress, as there was an initial delay due to plans to build an airstrip at the proposed camp site.

The Administrator remarked on 20 December 1958, that there were many farmers begging for land and there was one farmer occupying land that could carry 6 000 stock. "If the farm could be divided into two farms, each farmer could farm with 3 000 stock and make a decent living," he argued. He requested the Land Board to seriously look into dividing the farm. The Land Board, at its 27 January 1959

meeting, however stood by its previous decision to award the entire farm to Esterhuizen.

In informing the Director of Lands about the departure of all the sub-lessees from his farm, Esterhuizen mentioned that he wanted to divide the area into two camps in order to enable him to introduce rotational grazing which would help the farm to recover. By 29 April 1959, the farm was subdivided into two inner camps and $\frac{1}{2}$ morgen in one of the camp was under irrigation for cultivation of lucern. Esterhuizen mentioned in his application for an advance, dated 29 April 1959, that he would expand his lucern plantations if storage facilities for lucern were available. The advance he wanted was indeed meant for building a barn (he submitted two applications, one for fencing and another for building the barn by the same date). The lucern was needed to rescue animals during a dry year. He utilised windmills and centrifugal pumps to irrigate his $\frac{1}{2}$ morgen lucern field. By this date he had 1 326 karakul sheep, 400 goats and 5 horses. Only £1 200 for fencing was approved by the Land Board, while the advance for the warehouse wasn't. (I could not extract any reason for this from the files.)

On 21 August 1959, Esterhuizen complained that horses and cattle from farm number 702 (Palmwag) were grazing along the river into his farm due to poor fences between the farms.

On 24 August 1959, 300 of his stock needed to be fed with maize due to drought and he applied for an advance (of £100) to buy fodder. The drought also kept him from continuing with fencing as his animals needed more attention. By this time he gave the figures of his stock as 1 200 sheep, 400 goats and 5 horses. However there were 3 300 (Steenkamp's 1 800, Burger's 800 and Jones' 700) foreign stock in addition to his on the farm at that time. For this reason the Land Board meeting of 30 September 1959 rejected the application. By 22 January, Esterhuizen reapplied as all foreign stock had gone from his farm and an amount of £200 was approved by Board. He had 1 270 sheep and 400 goats on 13 October 1959.

By 10 February 1961, in his application to have £280 drawn from his fence advance for him to buy pumps, he mentioned having 1 100 sheep and 400 goats. He however had to apply for a separate advance, which he did on 17 February. An amount of £400 was approved. The well for which he wanted the installation was 56 feet deep and yielded 400 gallons of water per hour. He wanted to build a 15 foot by 18 foot reservoir (sink sheets).

Permission was granted for Esterhuizen to provide water and grazing for 400 small stock belonging to Erens Stals from Welwitschia from 9 May 1962. When he applied for an advance for buying fodder on 10 November 1962, Esterhuizen indicated having 36 head of cattle, 1 500 sheep and 500 goats on the farm. His application for an advance to erect 1 300 yards of fence for R 299. 92 was approved.

In answer to persistent questioning as to whether he wanted to continue with his advance which had expired by then (20 September 1963), he mention having drilled 3 boreholes and fed animals through the drought without the state's assistance. Therefore, he did not need the advances any longer and they could be capitalised to

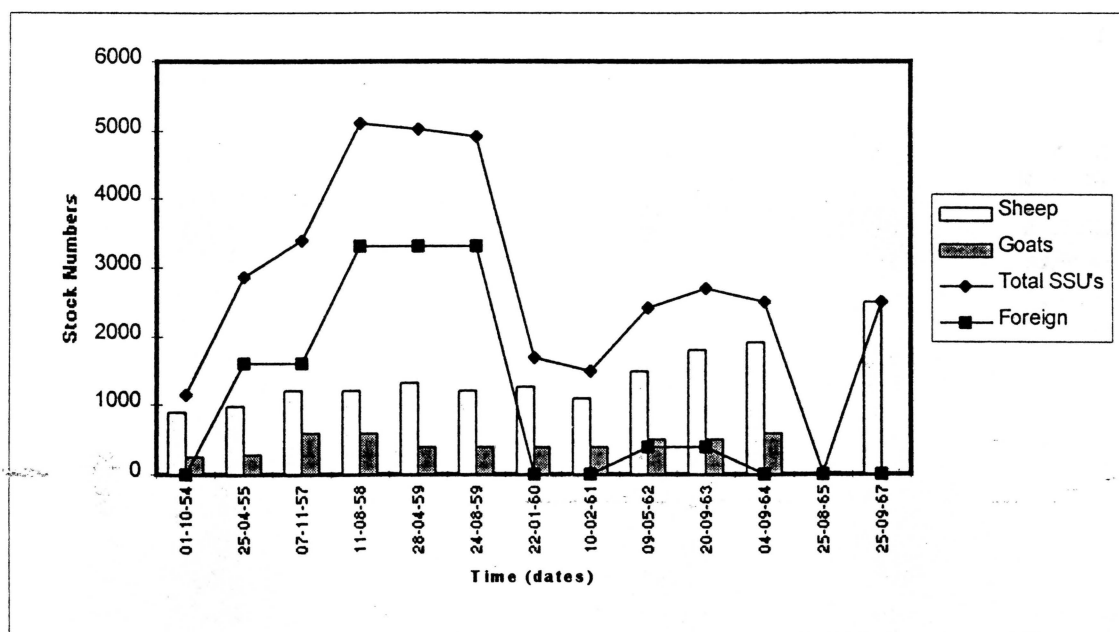
his buying price for the farm so that he could pay combined instalments. He bought 300 ewes during September 1963.

Esterhuizen had sold his stock, 2 500 small stock, to Roux by 4 September 1964. Since he was the legal tenant of the farm, he applied for permission to provide water and grazing for Roux's 2 500 small stock. [But when he sold the farm he was compensated for having to move with this number of stock, while in fact he had already sold them.]

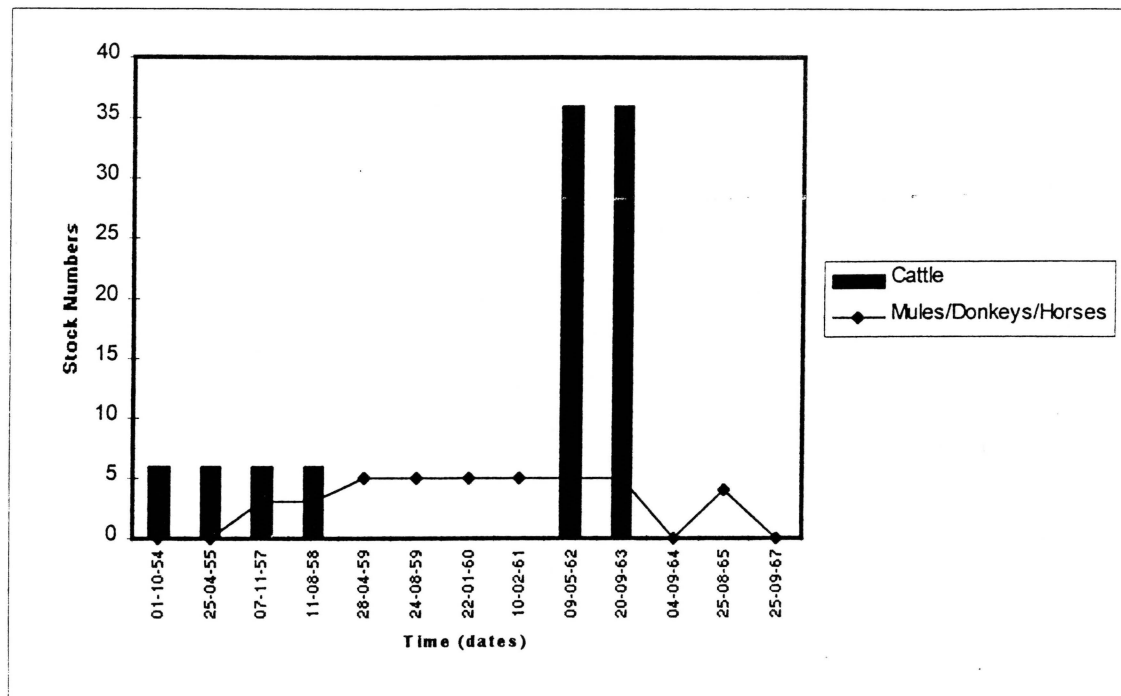
The native who was found on the farm by the Inspector of Lands on 25 August 1965 had 38 goats and four donkeys of his own on the farm. By 25 September 1967 there were 2 500 small stock on the farm belonging to M. Roux. Roux applied on this date to allow Nick Roberts to make use of water from a spring close to the southern border of Palm [I guess Nick was the southern neighbour of Palm].

Stocking rates at Palm over time

1.4.1 Small stock numbers at Palm over time



1.4.2 Large stock numbers at Palm over time



JURIESDRAAI 709

Tenancy History

Elizabeth Maria Coffee Engelbrecht (male); former license holder at Kleinfontein, applied for a grazing license for Juriesdraai on 27 August 1954. His application was successful and the validity of his license was of effect from 1 October 1954.

Engelbrecht moved from his farm in February 1956 due to drought conditions. In a letter to the Land Board dated 13 February 1956, he indicated that he could only return to the farm once it had rained. He eventually returned in May the same year, which may have meant that he had received rain by then.

The farm was advertised on 22 July 1957. Engelbrecht was the successful applicant and the farm was legally awarded to him on 1 January 1959.

No other information concerning ownership of this farm was obtained.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

Serious drought conditions, which forced the license holder to be away from the farm for about four months, were experienced during the first quarter of 1956. As can be perceived from the inspection report of 10 May 1957, the farm had numerous springs which gave it access to an unlimited amount of surface water. Only two wells were used at that time. The report indicated that the numbers of trees, bushes and grasses were 'notably' very low on the farm. The soil was classified as basic. The inspector went on to elaborate under 'general comments' that the farm had very poor pastures although the farmer(Engelbrecht) was pressing ahead on full scale. His livestock appeared to be in good condition.

The size of the farm when it was advertised on 27 July 1957 was 22 819 ha. and 6760 m². The carrying capacity was estimated at 6 SSU per 40 ha.

When he applied for an advance to buy sheep on 27 August 1958, Engelbrecht claimed his farm to be in good condition despite the then prevailing drought in the area. By this time the number of wells on the farm had increased to three. On 29 November 1958, Engelbrecht went on to receive 'very good' rains, according to him.

The number of wells on the farm had increased to 4 by 3 August 1959, when Engelbrecht applied for a loan to pay-off debts. Two of the wells were fitted with wind pumps while the other two only had troughs. Though the farm boundaries were

not fenced at all, there was one camp of 3000 yards circumference on the farm. The farmer was also maintaining a small garden at this time.

Land Use, Management and Policy Matters

When Elizabeth Engelbrecht first applied for a grazing license on Juriesdraai, he had 790 karakul sheep and 240 goats, thus a total of 1030 small stock. In order to escape the serious drought of 1956, the farmer chose to move away from the farm.

On 1 June 1957, J. J. Burger applied to the Land Board to graze his livestock on Juriesdraai. The Board was aware that Burger was already on the farm at the time he applied. They therefore requested Engelbrecht to furnish them with information on how long Burger had been on the farm. To this Engelbrecht responded on 13 October 1957, that Burgers' sheep had been on his farm since 14 May 1957. Burger had left on 14 July the same year and no need existed for further processing of the application form.

When he applied to be awarded the farm on 21 October 1957, Engelbrecht had 902 sheep and 400 goats. Mr. P. J. J. Engelbrecht applied for permission to graze his 900 small stock on Juriesdraai as he could no longer make a living on his farm(?). This brought the total number of stock on the farm to 2 202 small stock. Nine months later, on 10 June 1958, Engelbrecht applied to assist B. P. Viljoen with 1 500 small stock as the latter was a "drought-stricken farmer". The inspector felt that the 6 SSU per 40 ha carrying capacity of the farm excluded the possibility of overgrazing. The application was approved on 28 June 1958. This brought the number of livestock on the farm to 3 702.

Engelbrecht applied for an advance of £1 000 on 27 August 1958 in order to buy karakuls the price of which had come down because of the prevailing drought. He reckoned that his farm was still in good enough condition to accommodate additional stock. In this application form he mentioned having 650 sheep and 300 goats. The Land board recommended only £600 and as a reason they remarked: "He mentions 650 sheep and 300 goats, but a year ago he had 902 sheep and 400 goats. Moreover there is a substantial number of foreign stock on his farm."

Engelbrecht received a letter from the Director of Lands in which he was asked to explain what had happened to his 252 sheep and 100 goats.

The next letter that the Director received from Engelbrecht, dated 23 November 1958, concerned itself with his (Engelbrecht's) earlier application to assist J. A. van der Berg to which no reply had been forthcoming. He demanded immediate response and the Director of Lands (3 December 1958) insisted on him accounting for Engelbrecht (P. J. J) and Viljoen's stock on the farm and what had happened to it.

Engelbrecht eventually furnished these details to the Director of Lands:

- a) 100 'hamels' (castrated male sheep) were sold
- b) 150 sheep died before they could be immunised against "lamsiekte" (animals giving birth to stillborn lambs)
- c) 100 goats were sold

In a separate letter of 1 March 1959, he outlined the following:

- d) P. J. J. Engelbrecht had been on the farm from 13 April until 13 September 1958
- e) Viljoen had been on the farm from 25 April until 25 June 1958
- f) van der Berg had been on the farm from 13 July until 13 December 1958 (number of stock not provided)

All had since left for their respective farms. He inquired about his application for an advance in the same letter, mentioning that some parts of his farm had received good rains.

The Land Board meeting of 28 January 1959 approved the application for an advance, but the Administrator felt that the farmer had lost his stock due to negligence and should therefore not even be considered for an advance.

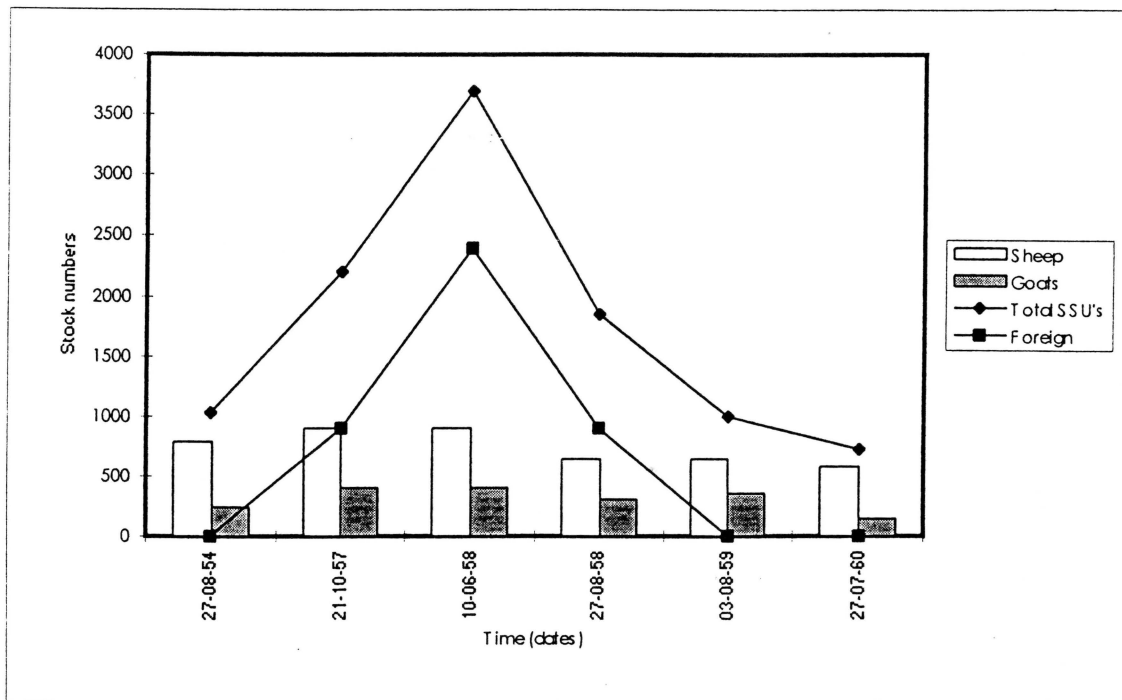
Engelbrecht, on 3 August 1959, applied for a loan which he wished to use for paying off urgent debts. He indicated having 640 sheep, 350 goats and two horses.

Only eighty percent 80 % of the £100 that Engelbrecht applied for was approved by the Board and he applied for an extra £430 as he had bought a car which he had to pay off.

He applied again on 27 July 1960, for a loan to rebuild his stock numbers. By then he owned 585 sheep, 140 goats and 2 horses.

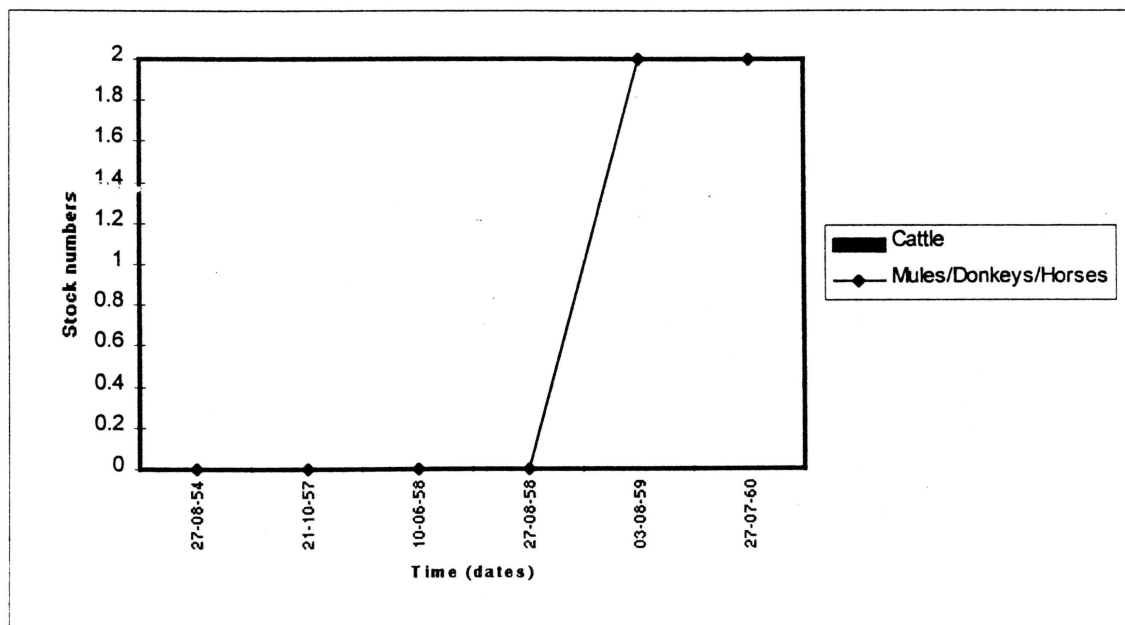
Stocking rates at Juriesdraai over time

1.5.1 Small stock numbers at Juriesdraai over time



Note, van der Berg stock's were on the farm but their numbers are not provided and therefore do not appear on this chart.

1.5.2 Large stock numbers at Juriesdraai over time



NIL DESPERANDUM 713

Tenancy History

Not many details about the first applications for this farm were contained in the files that were available in the archives. Summary information indicates that Stephanus Johannes de Klerk obtained the probation lease to the farm on 1 January 1959, and the five-year lease contract from 1 October 1963. He made use of the buying option on 1 April 1964.

The Inspector of Lands visited the farm on 20 November 1959, and reported that the licence holder was absent. De Klerk extended his leave of absence from the farm on 11 February 1960. He was since exempted twice from physically occupying the farm on 1 February 1960 for six months and again for another six months from 1 August 1960. During this period, he was formally employed in Outjo. He returned to the farm on 1 August 1961.

No further information is available.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

The report by the Inspector of Lands, when he visited the farm on 20 November 1959, alluded to the fact that de Klerk had absented himself from the farm due to drought. His livestock had never been on the farm since it has been awarded to him, as he was awarded the farm during the grip of drought. He went elsewhere to look for pastures. No one else was permanently staying on the farm.

When he applied for his second exemption from occupying the farm, de Klerk mentioned having been there on 26 September 1960 and "not a single drop of rain had fallen on the farm by then and no signs of rain could be detected".

The size of the farm was determined as 15 510 ha. and the carrying capacity estimated at 6 SSU per 25 ha. which meant that it could support 3 722 SSU or 620 LSU.

When de Klerk applied for an advance on 22 May 1962, he suggested that the water supply on his farm was inexhaustible. His farm was however hit by epidemics and "all his sheep were dying from all that is a pest". He therefore applied on 22 October 1962 to move to Irene. According to him, the only way out was to change his stock to other pastures. Irene was his mother's farm. He maintained that no rains had fallen on the farm for the entire month of January. In February, the rains had stayed away too long and by the time it rained, everything was burnt. He mentioned having received good

rains in March 1963. By 30 July 1963, two boreholes and two springs were accounted for in de Klerk's application for an advance.

Land Use, Management and Policy Matters

It seems to have been a normal practice for farmers to move from their farms to other pastures. For this reason, de Klerk's livestock had been absent for about two years since he had been awarded the farm. It is reported on 20 November 1959, that he was not able to be on the farm due to the drought conditions. No one was permanently occupying the farm by then. The drought conditions on the farm seem to have persisted to an extent that de Klerk had to take up formal employment in Outjo. While working in Outjo, on 10 April 1961, he applied for an advance to rebuild his stock numbers. By this time he owned two cows only, as he had sold the rest of his livestock during the drought. This brought him capital of R1 200. He originally owned 700 sheep, 180 goats and 8 heads of cattle. This data was contained in his application form of 27 October 1958.

De Klerk promised to occupy the farm only when the advance he applied for was granted. He was informed, on 16 May 1961, that he first needed to occupy the farm, buy stock with the money he had and then apply for an advance. On 9 August 1961, he wrote back and informed the Land Board that due to the high prices of sheep, he could only manage to buy 110 goats. He had been on the farm since 1 August 1961. He applied once again for an advance of R300 to buy sheep which were around R9 per head.

The farm inventory of 20 November 1961, showed that he owned 2 cows, 90 sheep and 130 goats. He had bought sheep from the foot-and-mouth disease area which he could not move to his farm due to veterinary regulations.

De Klerk applied on 29 November 1961, to assist Jan Bezuidenhout with water and grazing for 850 small stock units over a period of one month and received approval on 2 January 1962.

On 12 January 1962, in his letter that had to accompany de Klerk's application, the inspector expressed the opinion that de Klerk should rather accept permanent formal employment as he was too weak as a farmer.

When Bezuidenhout's term of lease on de Klerk's farm came to an end on 25 January 1962, he applied for an extended stay as he had no other place to go, a request to which de Klerk personally agreed as "there were sufficient pastures in the area Bezuidenhout occupied." The Land Board extended the lease up to 31 December 1962 at a rate of R 2 a month.

On 12 April 1962, de Klerk submitted an application in which he sought permission to assist three people, his mother D. M. de Klerk with 600 sheep, Mr. J. C. de Klerk with

43 head of cattle and J. H. Lowrens with 400 sheep, with water and grazing. All these were approved by the Land Board on 23 May 1962.

When he applied for an advance on 25 May 1962, his number of stock was said to be "3 cattle plus sheep and goats". Only four days later, he applied for leave to accept employment, which was approved on 22 June 1962.

Bezuidenhout left the farm on 13 March 1962 while the 185 sheep that de Klerk bought from the foot-and-mouth disease area were finally brought to the farm on 4 July 1962.

Around October 1962, livestock on Nil Desperandum was dying and de Klerk was forced to move to Irene, his mother's farm. He was exempted from occupying the farm until 31 May 1963.

The Director of Lands requested a report (an update) from the Inspector of Lands on Nil Desperandum on 4 June 1963, and the Inspector wrote to de Klerk for information. De Klerk indicated that no rains had fallen on the farm for the entire month of January. In February the rains had stayed away too long and by the time it rained everything was burnt. He moved to Irene in February, but had received a lot of rain in March. He then owned 320 sheep and 150 goats. However, since his wife had fallen ill in the meantime, he could not return to farm.

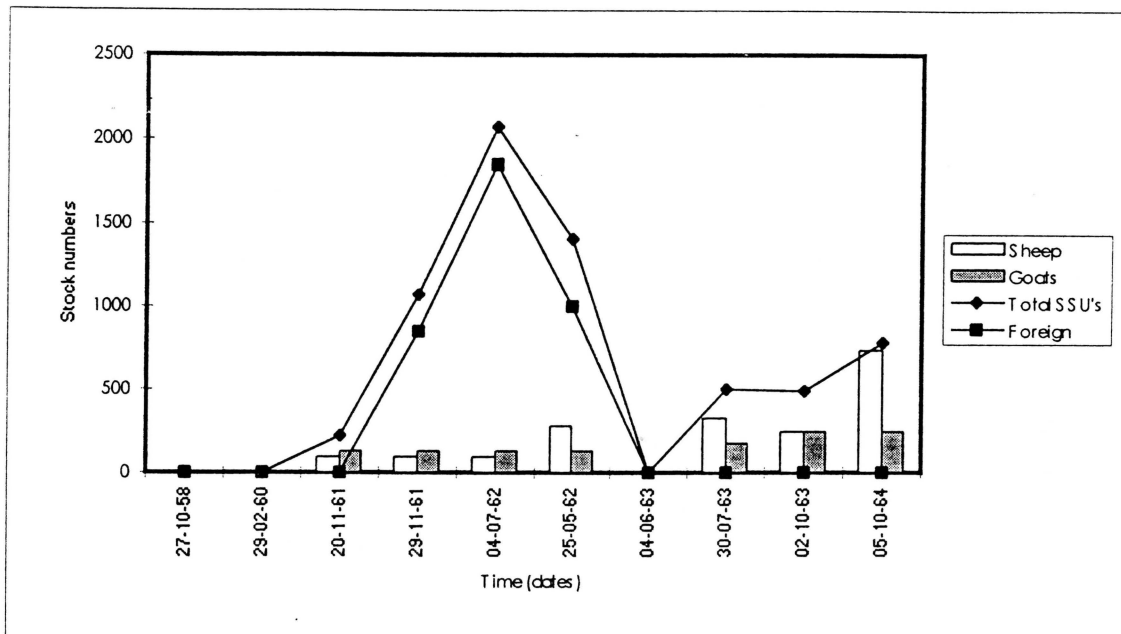
De Klerk applied for an advance on 30 July 1963, by which time he had 320 sheep, 175 goats and 4 heads of cattle. In his accompanying letter, the Inspector of Lands reckoned that de Klerk was a man who could only survive on advances. Notwithstanding this remark, the Land Board recommended and approved an amount of R2 800 in advances to de Klerk on 11 September 1963.

An inventory on 2 October 1963, showed 3 cows (2 and a calf), 244 sheep and 250 goats on the farm. De Klerk went on to buy 300 sheep from his mother on 5 October 1963 (using the advance?).

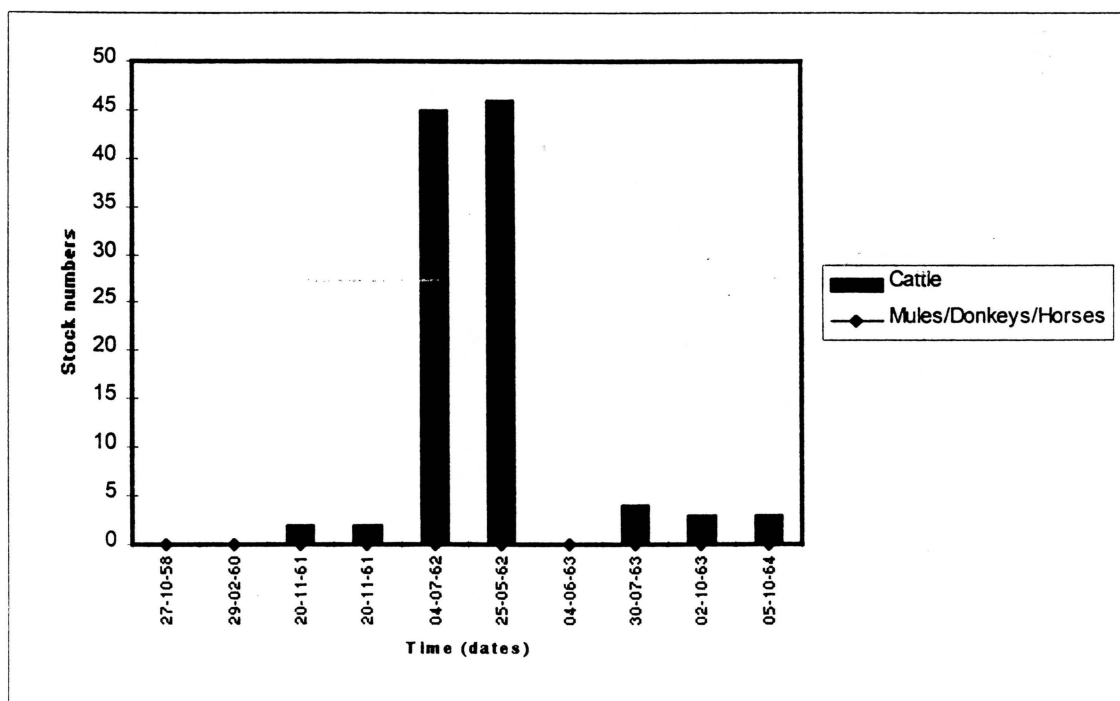
When he applied to buy the farm on 27 January 1964, his livestock numbers stood at 2 cows, 729 sheep and 250 goats.

Stocking rates at Nil Desperandum over time

1.6.1 Small stock numbers at Nil Desperandum over time



1.6.2 Large stock numbers at Nil Desperandum over time



BERGSIG 714

Tenancy History

Pieter Andreas Visser had his first probation lease granted on 1 January 1958 and his five year contract on 1 January 1959. During 1960, Visser applied to have the farm returned to the care of the Administration and for him to be compensated for the improvements that he had brought about on the farm. The Land Board meeting of 26 August 1960, approved the request on condition that the farm be valued first. The farm was valued at £ 4 401 in total. However, before he could be paid the value of his farm, on 7 September 1960 Visser withdrew his application, while asking to be permitted to absent himself from the farm till it rained. A six months leave was granted.

During the drought period Visser bought parts of Sorris -Sorris and the inspector of Lands reported on 20 July 1961, that Visser was staying at Sorris-Sorris and he left a young man with sheep on Bergsig and only visited the farm occasionally. The Director of Lands issued a written warning to Visser either to apply for leave, or risk his lease contract on Bergsig being cancelled. He applied for leave on 19 August 1961. He applied once again on 6 April 1963 for another period.

On 28 September 1963 he applied to extend his lease contract for another five years, upon which he was reminded to occupy his farm. He promised to "go home" on 2 March 1964.

Since both his farms, Uitsig 188 and Bergsig were within the proposed Damaraland area, on 2 May 1964 Visser requested the Administration to value Uitsig before Bergsig, as the former was his private farm.

Bergsig was officially sold to the Administration for R 61 500-00 on 3 June 1965.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

It would appear that Visser tendered to return the farm to the Administration in 1960 primarily because of the drought, because when he withdrew his application he cited the following reasons:

- a) Pastures were getting scarcer and scarcer in SWA
- b) He had done a lot on Bergsig and should be able to make a living should it rain

- c) No one could afford the deposit for the farm as determined by the evaluating committee

Moreover he went on to apply for permission to absent himself from the farm until it rained.

An inventory made of the farm on 5 April 1961, accounted for 1 well, 1 borehole and a carrying capacity of 6 SSU per 20 ha was determined. The size of this farm was 20 159 ha and 6 814 m². The reasons he cited for absenting himself from the farm and staying at Sorris-Sorris when confronted by the Director were as follows: Bergsig was inaccessible, both from a transportation and telecommunication view and too far from Welwitschia where his child was at school; he was hit hard by the drought at Bergsig and all the animals that needed his immediate care were at Sorris-Sorris. Since he had been knee-deep in debt, Sorris-Sorris was the only way out for him to repay them.

In applying for permission to sub-lease the farm to J. H. Lawrens on 17 May 1962, he mentioned having received 6 inches of rainfall on the farm the previous season and having completed four fenced camps and three water sources. "Dryland-grazing" was all that was possible on the farm, he argued.

On 6 April 1963, Visser applied for leave to absent himself from the farm citing the following reasons:

- a). A swarm of locusts (vaalveld sprinkaan) had stripped his pastures leaving the farm barren and he had to allow time for re-growth.
- b). He had overstocked the farm the previous year and wanted to keep 1 200 small stock on Sorris-Sorris.
- c). His farm Uitsig 186, had received 20 inches and yielded very good pastures

Land Use, Management and Policy Matters

As it clearly surfaces from the previous two sections, Visser spread his risks during drought periods by farming on at least three farms at the same time. Whenever conditions on one farm worsened he would move to another and leave very few numbers of stock on the one. He had absented himself from the farm during 1960 for six months.

When he was back on the farm on 19 December 1960, he applied for a £200 loan to buy fodder (maize and lucern) for his animals. He owned 25 cattle, 1 300 sheep, 400 goats and three horses (on farm). Only £165 was approved by the Land Board. The farm inventory of 5 April 1961 recorded 25 cattle, 1 280 sheep and 400 goats. However, the inventory report stated that the small stock (goats and sheep) were not on Bergsig but somewhere else.

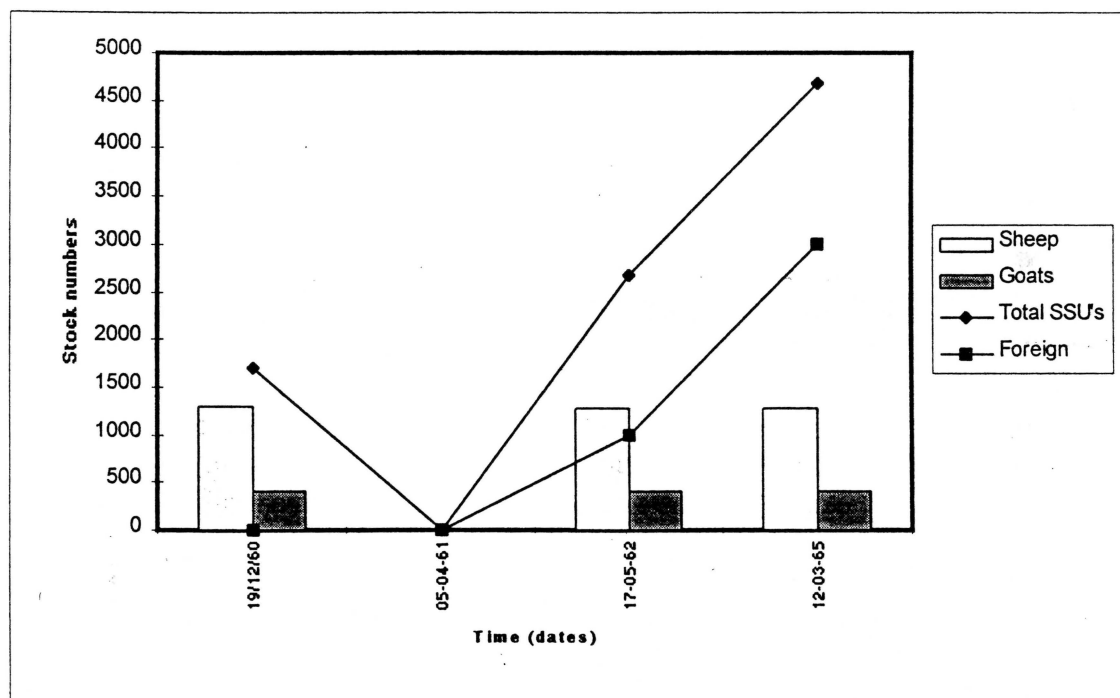
It is reported on 20 July 1961, that during the drought he bought part of Sorris-Sorris where he went to settle. He left a young man (farm worker or family?) on the farm with sheep. To this end he received a written warning from the Director of Lands to occupy the farm or have his lease contract terminated.

He finally returned to the farm on 14 June 1961, and claimed not to have any stock anywhere else. He then applied to accommodate 1 000 small stock of J. H. Lawrens on 17 May 1962, for which he received approval on 7 June 1962. His farm already had four camps by then.

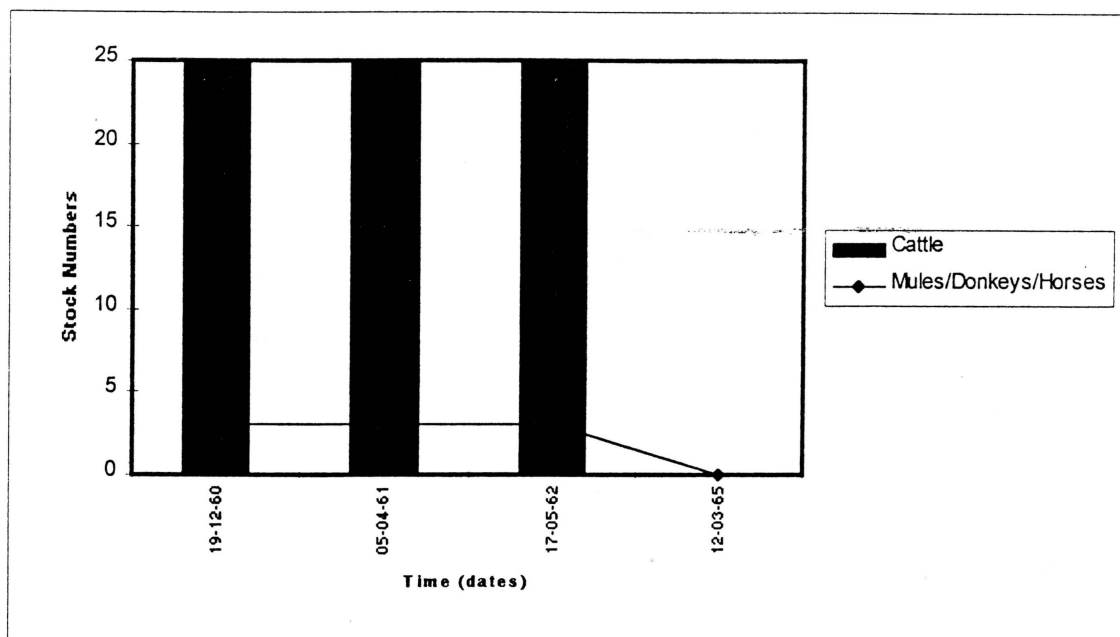
M. J. Lawrens and P. J. Lawrens applied on 12 March 1965 for a joint grazing license for Bergsig for 3 000 small stock, as sub-lessees of Visser. They were informed in a letter from the Director dated 14 April 1965, that since Visser was still the legal license holder on the farm, provided Visser gave his consent, the Administration had no problems with the application

Stocking rates at Bergsig

1.7.1 Small stock numbers at Bergsig over time.



1.7.2 Large stock numbers at Bergsig over time.



DRIEFONTEINE 716

Tenancy History

Only a thin file with less than ten pages of information was found in the archives containing information on this farm. The only information on the occupation of the farm is that the licence holder, Pieter Johannes Roux died in January 1963, before the expiry of his five year lease contract. Mrs. Anna Maria Roux, widow of Roux then applied on 20 February 1963 for the contract to be transferred to her. The transfer of the farm in the name of Mrs. Roux was approved on 16 July 1964.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

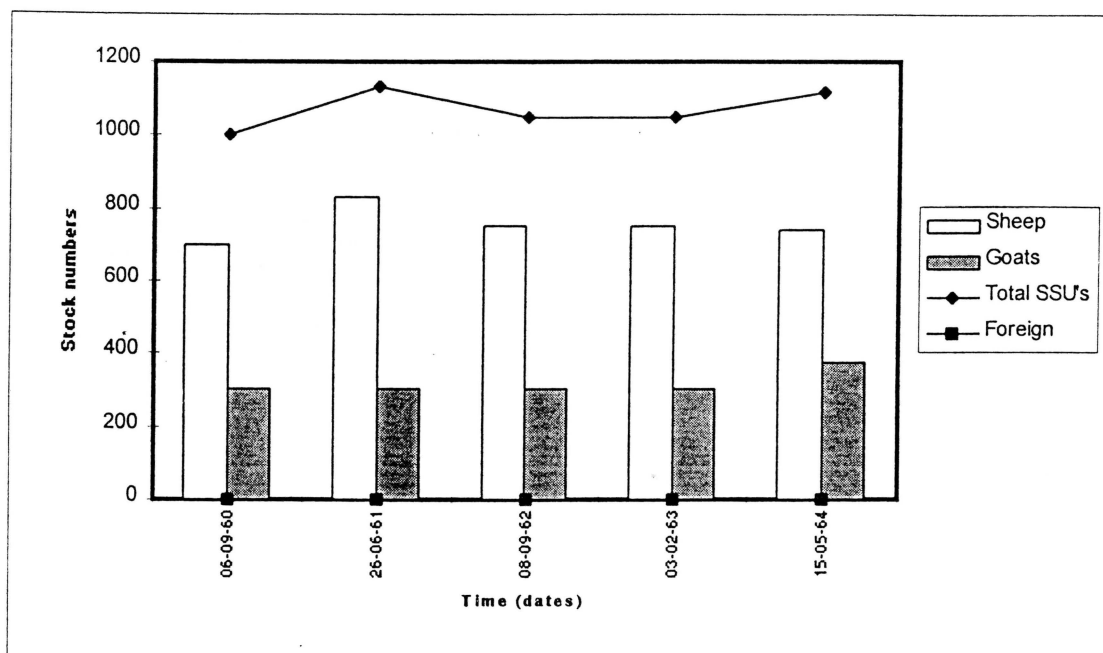
The farm was 23 894 ha and 5 290 m² in size. The farm inventory of 4 April 1961 indicated that there were 4 wells in total on the farm and the carrying capacity was about 6 SSU per 25 ha.

Land Use, Management and Policy Matters

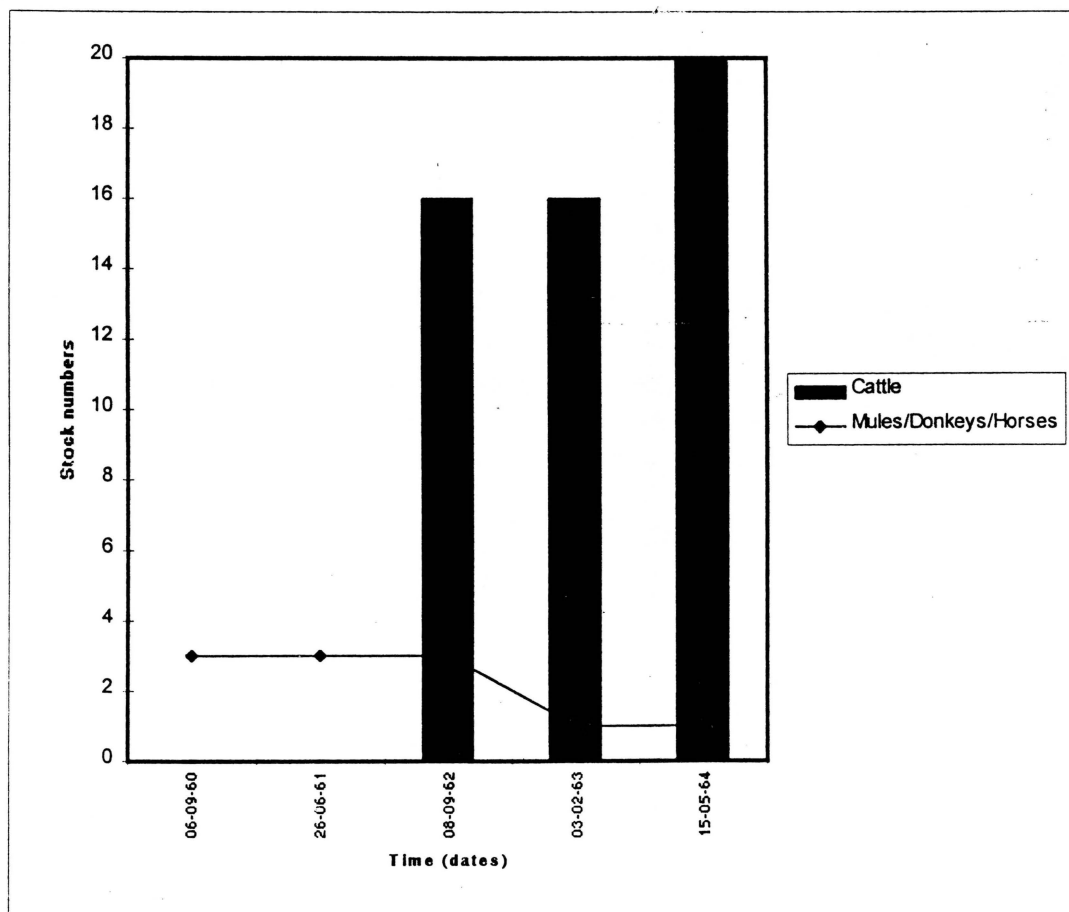
On 6 September 1960, Mr. Roux applied for a loan to buy fodder. He indicated his stock numbers to amount to 700 sheep, 3 horses and 300 goats. An amount of £165 was approved. He bought mixed sheep (I guess it means karakul and non- karakul) for R1 200.25 each costing R9.30 (approximately 130 sheep) on 26 June 1961. When he applied for a loan on 8 September 1962, he indicated having 16 head of cattle, 750 sheep and 300 goats. Shortly after his death on 3 February 1963, his stock numbers stood at 1 horse 16 cattle, 750 sheep and 300 goats. A year and half later, on 15 May 1964, Mrs. Roux had 20 cattle, 740 sheep and 376 goats.

Stocking rates at Driefonteine over time

1.8.1 Small stock numbers at Driefonteine over time



1.8.2 Large stock numbers at Driefonteine over time.



Fonteine 717

Tenancy History

A lot of information on this farm seems to be missing, as the only records that were found start from around 1960. Though the time of John Josef Henry Shaw's arrival on the farm is not to be found among the existing Odendaal files, it is indicated that he had a 12 month probation lease from 1 January 1958 and a five year lease contract from 1 January 1959. He renewed and extended his lease contract on 1 January 1964. Shaw made use of the buying option and the farm was officially sold to him on 27 January 1964 by the Administration of SWA, through the senior clerk, for an amount of R 3 248. 67

Only four months later, he applied to have the farm ownership transferred to his son. For this he wanted compensation of around R 8 000.00. Since the farm was within the then proposed Damaraland area, it was the opinion of the Inspector of Lands that Shaw should tender the farm to the state, which would still allow him to derive benefits from it. In his letter of motivation dated 12 May 1964, he lamented that Shaw's son, the one known to him, was not much of a farmer.

Adhering to the Board's recommendation, Shaw requested earlier evaluation of the farm in order for him to tender it to the state. Around 25 March 1965, Shaw wrote to the Department of Lands informing them that he no longer needed to make use of Fonteine as he had received sufficient rains on his private farm.

He was finally advised that his farm was needed for the Bantu settlement areas. According to the advice of 2 April 1965 by the Director of Lands, for him to receive any payment, he had to cancel his lease contract. This he did on 16 August 1965. The farm was valued at R42 000.00 from which R8 634.06 was subtracted as payment for advances and loans. The remainder was paid out to him.

On 11 September 1965, some time after Shaw's departure from the farm, J. J Nel from Goabeb 2 in Karibib applied for an emergency grazing license on Fonteine for as long as possible. By then he was leasing a piece of land from the Usakos municipality on which he was not allowed to stay much longer. He owned 2 200 small stock and the municipality thought it was too many. Though his application was successful, the high rent of R60.00 per month from 1 October 1968, put him off and he had to cancel his application.

Christiaan Roedolf Strauss from Duineveld, who owned the farm Haarsenkopf in the Keetmanshoop district, applied for an emergency grazing license on Fonteine. In his application form, he mentioned having had to move from his farm and live on Duineveld from 1 May 1966, but he faced a severe shortage of water there. He had 1 400 small stock and 60 large stock units. His application was not approved as the farm (Fonteine) was within the foot-and-mouth disease area.

The Inspector of Lands visited the farm on 27 February 1967 to inspect the farm. By this time the farm was not occupied.

It was reported that there were some squatter communities on the farm around March 1967, and arrangements were made with the Bantu Administration to remove them because of the dangers of foot-and-mouth disease.

On 28 March 1969, the Land Board decided in favour of H. J. Jones to lease the farm from 1 April 1969 at the normal rate, which was 50 c per 100 SSU and 2½ c per head of LSU. However, Jones failed to complete and return the necessary forms and documentations to the Director of State Settlement and Farmers Assistance. The offer made to him was thus cancelled, despite him appealing for some understanding.

Mr. G. Burger from Bergsig 714 submitted an application on 3 March 1970 in which he sought permission to 'cross-graze' his lactating sheep on Fonteine. This implied that he could graze his sheep on both his farm Bergsig, and Fonteine, through cross-boundary movement of stock. He mentioned being in a dilemma at Bergsig. The request was granted.

Barely a month later, Jan Albert Bruwer who was leasing land from Mr. Koopman of Rehoboth district applied for an emergency grazing license on Fonteine. He mentioned that he was not sure if the Baster Council would extend his stay in Rehoboth due to poor pastures in that area. Being the successful applicant, his lease contract commenced on 1 May 1970. He owned 150 LSU and 600 SSU all of which he wished to bring to Fonteine. Taking into account the fact that Burger was 'cross-grazing' on the farm, the Director of State Settlement and Farmer Assistance recommended that he only bring the 600 small stock. To this end, Bruwer declined to accept the lease of Fonteine.

The then Director of State Settlement and Farmers Assistance, M. I. D. Dryer wrote a letter dated 3 March 1971 to Burger, informing him about the termination of the contract for Fonteine. This termination was of effect from 31 March 1971, as the farm was needed by the Bantu Administration for the implementation of the Odendaal recommendations. Nevertheless, the farm had already officially been made available to the Bantu Administration on 24 January 1971.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

The size of Fonteine was established at 17 523 ha and 9 324 m² in the archival files. Shaw wrote to the Land Board on 10 June 1960, informing them that his son had moved away from the farm with the livestock to return after the rains, whereas he had remained on the farm to erect fences (camps). This, it would seem, was necessitated by poor pastures.

A farm inventory on 5 April 1961 put the carrying capacity of the farm at 6 SSU per 25 ha. The report cited numerous springs on the farm as providing an abundance of surface water. In addition, there were seven wells on farm. As a general remark, the inspector pointed out that the farmer (Shaw) was active but he failed to understand why "he had farmed out (exhausted his grazing)". By then Shaw was still busy fencing and the farm only had two subdivisions (camps).

In response to critical questions from the Land Board on the drastic decline in his own stock numbers while he wanted to help someone else, Shaw wrote a lengthy letter in which he argued that he could not look on while another farmer was losing stock to drought, while he had enough pastures to carry them both through the year. He went on to elaborate that the farm normally received good rains every four to five years. In that year, by 26 June 1961, he could truthfully say that he would have had the best pastures anybody around could ever have, had they only had rains. He further claimed to have received recent rains (it was winter then - perhaps the rains fell in March/April) that could sustain him for seven years. He concluded this lengthy letter with an interesting remark; "drought as experienced in the last three years is unknown to us".

In one of the reports by the inspector of Lands the section where it was indicated that the farm Fontaine could carry 4200 sheep was crossed out with a red pen and "**Nonsense**" written over it.

This farm was amongst those affected by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. When the Inspector of Lands visited the farm on 27 February 1967, he estimated the carrying capacity to be about 1 500 small stock units and he described the pastures as being "relatively good".

Land Use, Management and Policy Matters

In his application of 27 July 1960, for a loan that would enable him to pay-off urgent debts, he mentioned having only 400 sheep. The inventory of 5 April 1961 revealed 105 private small stock (Shaw's), and 400 foreign stock being on the farm. Shaw was then said to have "farmed-out". Only on 4 October 1961, did Shaw apply for permission to permanently host his son-in-law's 400 sheep on the farm. He mentioned that the stock had been on the farm for a month and ten days (It is not clear if these were the same sheep that had been reported in the inventory). The accompanying letter from the Inspector of Lands expressed the view that the son-in-law could serve as a helping hand to the aging and sickly farmer, who had very few numbers of stock on a farm where pastures were sufficient. The Inspector therefore recommended that the son-in-law (who was later established from other files to be a certain Jones) be allowed to stay on the farm free of charge.

The Board meeting of 15 May 1961, recommended the application, but had some questions to which Shaw had to provide answers. What had happened to the 400 sheep the farmer had had when he applied for a loan in July 1960? The Board also remarked that an inspection report of 28 October 1958, showed that Shaw had 600 sheep and 220 goats, but only 105 sheep remained. What had happened to the livestock? If they were sold, what had happened to the income accrued? If they died from drought, why did he continue to sub-lease the farm to others?

It was to these questions that Shaw responded with a lengthy letter (see previous section). Firstly he pointed out that the number of 400 in his 27 July 1960 application, was an error, it should have read 600. But the livestock numbers as reflected in the inventory report were correct. What had happened is that he had sold his goats and used the money to buy material, erect fences and drive 78 miles to pay his workers. Thirdly, his animals had died of drought and he was only helping the other farmer out. He could not look on while another farmer was losing stock to drought while he had enough pastures to carry them both through the year. He mentioned having been through 64 summers (he was born on 9 September 1896) and that he was the first to set foot in Kaokoveld. He could still challenge any farmer of his age to do a day's work with him. His application was eventually approved.

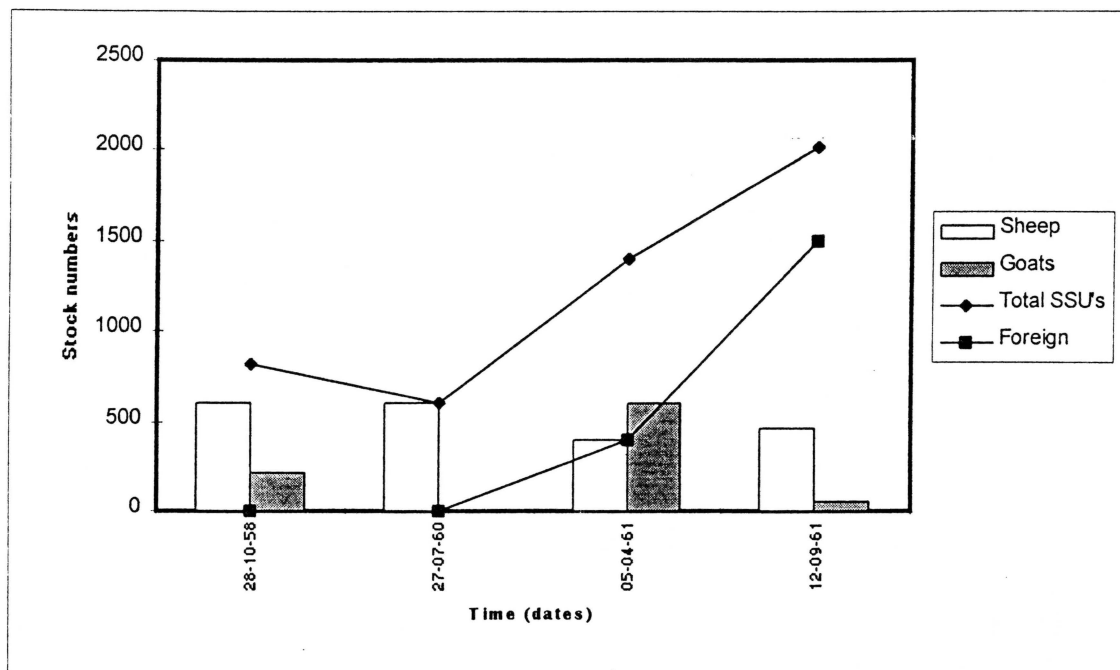
The license holder applied to the Land Board to assist J. H and N. Bezuidenhout with water and grazing for 800 and 700 small stock respectively. He gave details of his 16 water sources, very good grazing and water at every post on his farm. He had 461 sheep of his own, 3 horses and 50 goats by then. This application was approved on 20 November 1960.

Hit by drought, the farmer applied for an advance to buy fodder for 130 of his sheep and 20 goats on 12 September 1961. Come October 7 the same year, Jones sold his 400 sheep to his father-in-law. Information indicated that Shaw used his advance to buy the sheep.

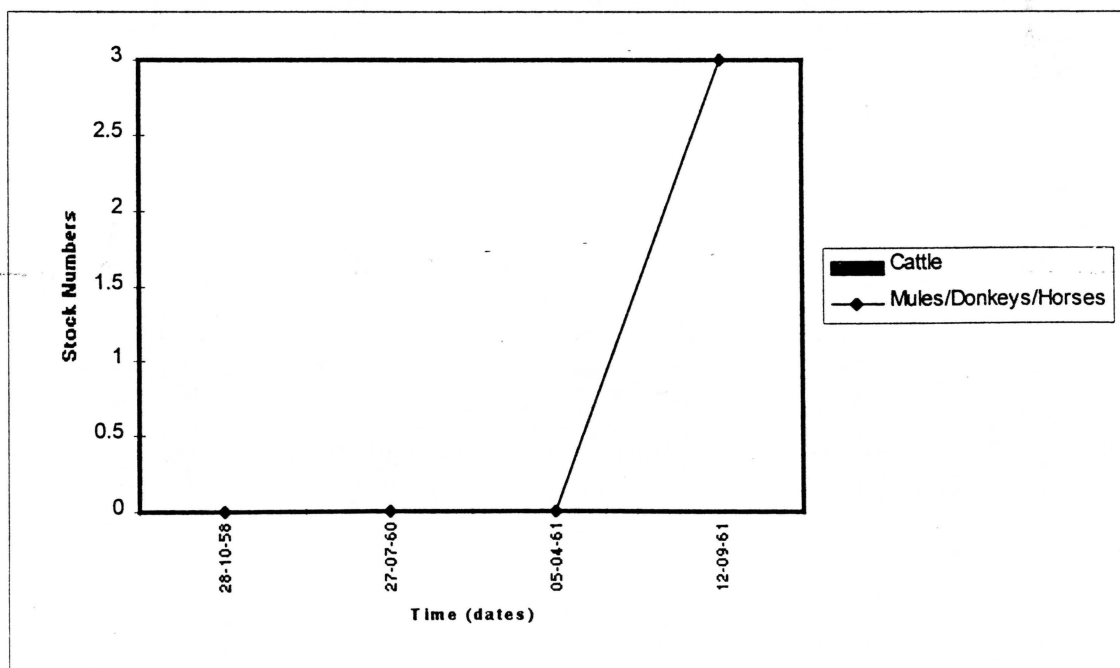
No details emerged from the files on the number of stock that G. Burger grazed across Fontaine, the weather or the squatter communities that were temporarily on the farm, whether they had stock and if they did, how many.

Stocking rates at Fonteine

1.9.1 Small stock numbers at Fonteine over time.



1.9.2 Large stock numbers at Fonteine over time.



OPDRAEND 718

Tenancy History

It would appear from the records that Mr. Michael Nicolaas Hough Bronkhorst was living on state land that was to constitute farm 718 by the time the farm was being measured (demarcated) in 1953. The inspector recommended to the Land Board that the farm be advertised for 9d. a month and should Bronkhorst not be the successful applicant, compensation of £555 should be paid to him. Upon hearing that the farm was to be advertised, Bronkhorst wrote to the Directorate of Lands requesting the necessary forms and documents. He was the successful applicant when he applied on 3 September 1954. His grazing license was awarded starting from 1 October 1954. Correspondence to Bronkhorst from the government referred to the farm as Afdraend and Bronkhorst had to correct them.

Bronkhorst showed interest in other farms and applied for any of the farms in the "Southern Block of Grootberg" on 8 July 1957. He remained on the farm, however, as his other applications were unsuccessful.

He extended his lease contract for five years on 19 November 1963, with effect from 1 January 1964. Later in 1964, at the end of July, he again applied to lease Rooiberg which had been vacated by Bosshof. He mentioned that he was planning to move from Opdraend and was only held back by the "foot-and-mouth disease" regulations. Should those be lifted, he would move. Around this time he was paying R70.00 per month rent. His lease contract was cancelled on 16 July 1964 and, according to an initial estimate of the farm, he was to be paid R47 570. 00. However, he was eventually given R1 822.14 due to subtraction of debts and other advances. Bronkhorst officially left the farm 17 February 1965.

On 15 March 1965, P. J. J. Botha applied for an emergency grazing license on any farm. The Administrator recommended Opdraend. Mr. Botha owned a farm, Que Sera Sera in the Gibeon district, which was about 5 170 ha in size. The application of H. J. Knowds from Klein Nabas in Stampriet was also included among the applications for Opdraend. This farmer owned three farms by then,; Sahara 420 which was 7 300 ha. in size, Zaudaus 145 of 4 000 ha. and Klein Nabas which was 2 600 ha. He described conditions as ugly on Klein Nabas and said that he was in the process of selling it. A joint application by J. P. A. van Schalkwyk (Gibeon) and J. H. Hanekom & Sons (Gibeon) for either Rodeon 191, Humor 704 or Driefontein 716 was also considered for Opdraend.

The farm was eventually awarded to the latter applicants from 1 April 1965, at a rate of R70.00 a month. The joint venture broke up shortly after the farm was awarded and only van Schalkwyk took up residence on the farm, where he stayed for only three months before he moved to Ruimte 510 on 1 July 1965.

An inspection report of 13 March 1967 showed that Opdraend was not occupied then. Though it was awarded on 1 April 1969 to J. P. Theron from Dieprivier, which was needed by the Bantu Administration, the applicant never responded to the conveyance and his lease contract was consequently cancelled on 16 June 1969. Peter John Roux whose range was "trampled and overgrazed by zebras" despite receiving 8 inches of rainfall that year, succeeded in obtaining an emergency grazing license for Opdraend on 1 November 1969.

He however had to vacate the farm before 31 May 1971, as the farm was needed for Odendaal purposes by the Administration for Bantu's.

Environmental, Climatic and Man-made Farm Conditions.

An inspection report of 22 May 1957, showed that the farm had access to surface water from the Huab river. The same report also hinted that the small tributaries of the Huab could be impounded to provide water and wells could be dug. The vegetation was reported to be dominated by mainly mopane bushes with sparsely distributed adult mopane trees. Pastures in the form of grassland were limited, but the entire farm, which was said to be more suited for small stock farming, could be grazed. The same report went on to elaborate that the farm was very mountainous, thus grazing was limited, "nevertheless a license-holder could make good use of the riverine vegetation along the Huab river". By then the farm had inner fencing of about 900 yards.

The farm was originally estimated to be 14 737 ha. in size. By April 1954, the farm had 2 wells. The license-holder applied for an advance from the Land Board to drill a borehole in an area where he desperately needed water and had failed to obtain any by means of a well. The said area of the farm (no specific location given) was the only viable grazing site on the farm due to the poor rains of that rainy season. He himself had drilled twice in the area and he had not been successful and therefore needed assistance from the Administration. Following the recommendation of the Land Board, the issue was referred to the Department of Water Affairs for action. The issue dragged on, and on 16 February 1962, reports showed that the "driller" or the contractor who was assigned the task of drilling the borehole had complained about the terrain over which he had to travel to drill the borehole. There was no proper road and the equipment was difficult to transport. The Drilling Inspector visited the farm on 20 November 1962, and reported four unsuccessful attempts to drill water at the stipulated place. His report made mention of the geologist who was not prepared to make further assessments or recommend further drilling. The report of 24 October 1962 from the geologist himself, gave details of the two failed attempts (by Water Affairs) to locate water in the given area. First, borehole No. 6492 was drilled to a depth of 252 feet and 6 inches before they touched water. However, it had dried up shortly afterwards, in fact the hole had been categorised as dry. The second borehole, No. 6491, was 300 feet 6 inches deep and was a complete failure as the hole was

completely dry. The entire drilling process took about one and half months, from 9 September, to 24 October 1962. Around 8 August 1963, the boundary fence around the farm was completed,.

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Mr. Bronkhorst had about 500 sheep, 200 goats and 9 head of cattle by the time he officially applied for the grazing license for Opdraend. When he submitted an application on 16 April 1958, for an advance to drill a borehole on the farm, his stock numbers were indicated as follows, 750 sheep, 300 goats and 40 cattle. The borehole was necessitated by the fact that stock had been grazing the areas where there was water and had spared the areas where there was no water, indicating a lack of control or management of rangeland. Despite the fact that his own attempts to find water were futile, the Administration went ahead to commit resources to the same exercise without much consideration. Their efforts, as indicated above, produced no results.

A farm inventory on 21 November 1961 showed an increase in the stock numbers of Bronkhorst to 880 sheep, 340 goats and 50 cattle. This inventory was carried out in order to consider Bronkhorst's application to assist D. P. van Rhoyn. He wanted to allow van Rhoyn to use part of his farm bordering No. 179 of van Staden's for grazing. He (van Rhoyn) could obtain water from van Staden's farm for his 800 small stock. This application was approved.

On 25 August 1962, Bronkhorst applied for an advance to buy fodder for his stock, dying of drought. By this date his cattle were 90, sheep 800 and goats 200.

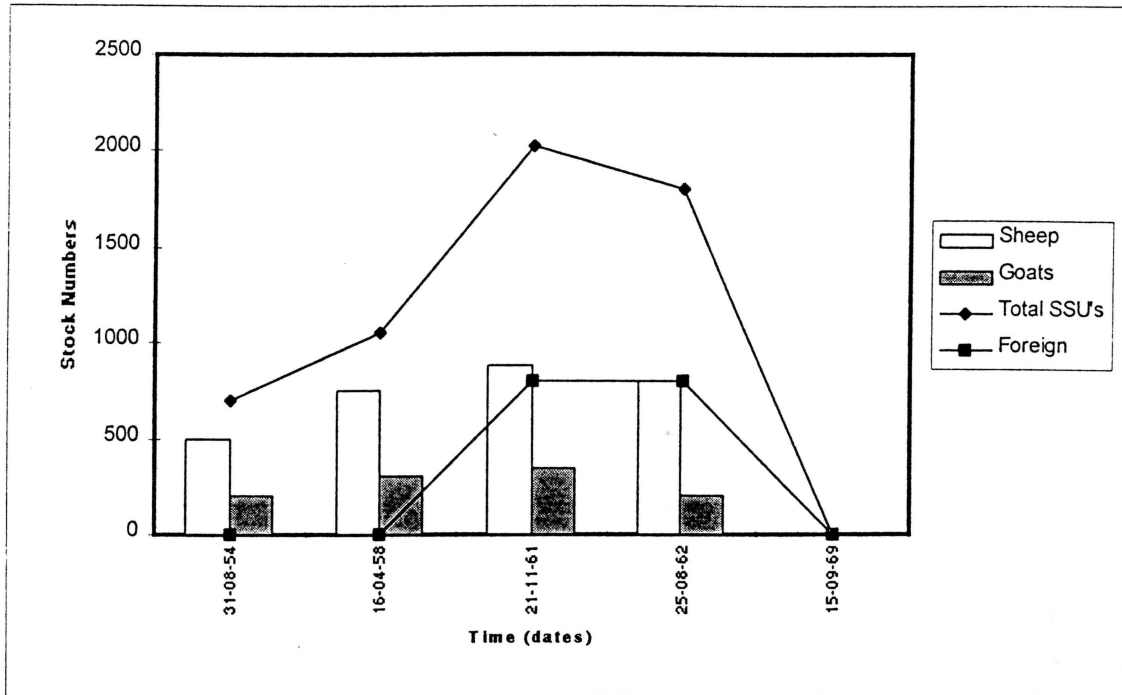
When his lease contract was terminated upon his request, he could not move his stock immediately, due to measures introduced by the Administration against foot-and-mouth disease in stock. Livestock had to be quarantined for at least three months before they could be moved out of affected areas.

No statistics were obtainable on van Schalkwyk's livestock numbers during his three months stay on the farm Opdraend.

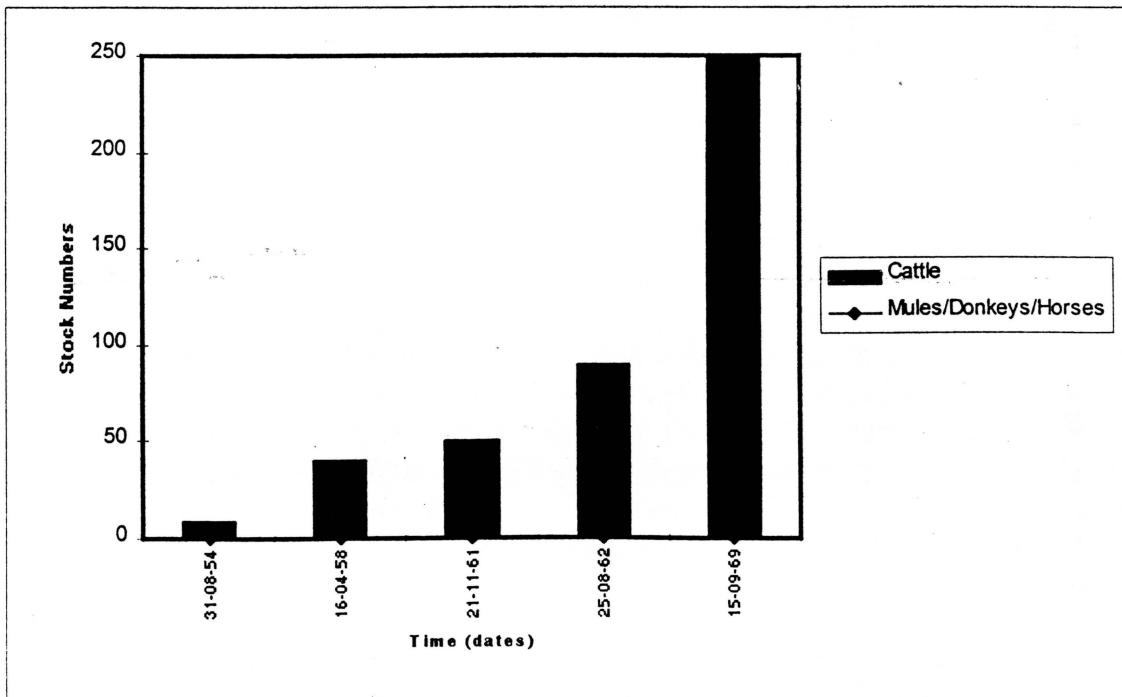
Peter John Roux came to the farm on 1 November 1969, with 250 LSU and not much detail is to be found in the files about his management of the farm.

Stocking rates at Opdraend over time

1.10.1 Small stock numbers at Opdraend over time



1.10.2 Large stock numbers at Opdraend over time



COMMENTARY

PERSONALLY INVOLVED

Hendrik Jakobus Lombard (75) is a retired official from the Department of Agriculture in the previous administration. It is however his experience as an inspector of lands that makes his contribution to this report an invaluable one. As one of the only two remaining Land Inspectors in the country (advice from Nico de Klerk), the other is Piet Roux from Hirabus, Otjikondo, Tel. (06548) 4404, I thought, that he may provide verbal information and details not necessarily reflected in the Odendaal reports/files. What follows is a summary of our (rather unstructured) brief interview. Although important information emanating from this 'interview' are incorporated in the General Overview, page 1, there are bits and bits of information which do not necessarily relate to Damaraland farms, and thus have no place in the report, which however paints a general picture of past climatic and political conditions in north-western Namibia. Hence a separate sub-section on this interview.

H. J. Lombard, also known by the nickname of Boxer, started off his career as policeman at Fransfontein in 1939. He progressed well in the force and reached the rank of a sergeant in 1954, but the monthly salary of £55.00 contributed to his resignation from the police to join the Department of Lands and State-settlements in 1956. He served in this department for five years before he moved the Department of Agriculture in 1971 where he served until retirement.

He does not know much about the farms in Khorixas (Damaraland) area as he was responsible for Grootfontein district as an inspector. By the time he worked as a policeman in Fransfontein, Khorixas was not existing. It was just a *boentoe* (untamed wilderness) with a spring where elephants used to congregate. Areas around Otjikondo had existing German farms, and the Damara people were mainly staying in the Erongo mountain ranges.

Though he could not qualify it, it is his opinion that the genesis of the problem was the 1927 campaign by the Union (South African) government to get Afrikaner farmers to come into Namibia. With the outbreak of the serious and enormous 1945 drought, many landless settlers from inland just moved (*ingeneuk*) into the Ugab area, a *boentoe* which was better off in terms of pastures, just like what happened with the Ovitoro farmers in 1995. These movements of settlers was not approved by the state but the farmers would not be moved. Consequently, the state was forced to demarcate the area into designated farms which were treated as settler farms. This means that the farmers needed grazing licenses, a then generally used methods to allocate land, to occupy the farms. Therefore, Mr. Lombard does not believe that the first grazing licenses were issued in 1954 as indicated somewhere-else in this report.

From his days as a policeman, he has been well aware of the problems of land degradation. He can clearly recall an example of Fransfontein in 1948. This area was

the domain of three chiefs, Arusero (Ovambo), Fanuel Krens (Baster) and Otto Bahm. The average rainfall figure recorded for the area was 9 inches and by July 1949 the area was really barren and devoid of herbaceous plant growth. Agricultural officers who visited the area then claimed that no grass will ever grow in the area again. In 1949/50 from October to March, average rainfall of 27 inches was recorded at Fransfontein (police had rain gauges in area and took recordings), and the grass shot up everywhere, changing the area into a green open-veld. There were no camps (enclosures) then.

The driest period in Mr. Lombard's memory was 1957 to 1964, a period during which he served as an inspector of Lands. The farmers in Grootfontein were allocated small farms each of about 5 000 ha. in the *boentoes*. The drought problem was complicated by the presence of Magau-gau [gifblaar] poisonous plant (*Venecum decapitatum*) and he, under pressure from his wife, decided never to move into the *boentoes*.

Drought was not the only problem people had to put up with, as he can recall having to shoot, as policemen, an elephant that was troubling Arusero.

As an inspector of lands, he did not have to count or inspect stock numbers on farms, that was rather the duty of the 'Veeinspekteur' (livestock inspector). The farmers themselves kept a small book in which they recorded their stock numbers and the livestock inspectors would obtain the information from the farmers records. Thus there was never physical counting of stock on farms during inspections.

Inspectors of lands were mainly concerned with evaluating 'what the farmers holding grazing licenses were doing', and recorded everything including the infrastructure on the farm.. Following the inspector of lands' report on conditions of a given farm, the farm was advertised in the state newspaper (*staatskoerant*) for prospective farmers to apply for a grazing license.

The Land Board used to sit at least once in two months to consider applications. The inspectors of lands were also participants to the Board meetings as advisers. Important factors taken into consideration in processing applications were things like improvements and development brought about on farm and whether the applicant deserved the farm.

The farms were first leased on a one-year valid 'grazing license' to farmers. A grazing license holder could not do as he wished on his farm, he required permission for what ever he intended to do on the farm. Only during the probation year of his lease could a farmer do as he wished on his farm, not to say that he would necessarily obtain the farm.

As is the case in any situation, politics used to play a role in these processes too. For an example when a farmer's application for a farm was turned down, he would bypass the inspector of land and talk to his representative on the Land Board. There were Board members from different part of the country and they were considered political representative by farmers from the given regions.

After the one year probation lease has lapsed, the Inspector of Lands together with the Director of Lands and a Land Board member physically visited the farm to do inspection on infrastructure development and improvements on the farm.

The Inspector of Lands was not involved in determining the carrying capacity of any given farm. It was done by Agriculture, '*Bosbou-en-Natuurbewaring*' based on rainfall and inspection of farms. Though the concept of overstocking was a familiar one in those days, he can not recall an incident were it has been reported or a farmer's

application turned down on the basis of overstocking. The availability of manpower and personnel to carry out thorough inspection was always a problem in this regard.

Mr. Lombard is not convinced that certain farms with given attributes were specifically selected for the resettlement of Damara people. Instead he thinks an area, let's say all farms within the area behind the Erongo mountains, Fransfontein, Karros up to Usakos, was designated for the 'homeland-type' settlement of Damaras. However, he was just an official doing his job for the little money he got and had nothing to do with politics.

His assertion may not carry much weight, but he reckons that the most serious obstacle for livestock farming in Namibia is drought-conditions. He also reckons that communal farming systems are not viable, rather, areas like Herero communal lands, should be divided up into economic units like with the State-Settlement plans, but with such trampled ranges, what constitute an economic unit?

DISTRICT OUTJO

Outjo district, under which many of the farms in former Damaraland falls, suffered serious droughts in the 1960's up to early 1970's. The district was declared drought-stricken on ad hoc basis from April 1964 until May 1965. However, it was only on the 16 September 1969 that the district as whole was officially declared drought-stricken.

The situation worsened to the point where the state came up with a stock reduction scheme in June 1970. According to this scheme, farmers have to de-stock in correspondence to the sizes of their camps and the carrying capacity of the farms. In Outjo, 165 farmers with a sum total area of 992 473 ha. were involved in the scheme. A total number of stock equivalent to 198 910 small stock would have to be removed from the farms over five years.

To encourage de-stocking, the state introduced the following incentives, announced in a press release on 6 May 1970. For the first 600 small stock or equivalent removed from farm, R 3. 00 was to be paid to the farmer, an extra R 2.50 for further de-stocking (6000 -1200 small stock). R 1.75 would be paid per head of stock removed from 1200 -1800 small stock and R1.00 from 1800 to 2400 small stock.

By 1 August 1970, only 80 of the farmers in the scheme initiated de-stocking whereas 85 have done anything.

As the farmers became more dependent on drought-relief, the state also commissioned regular monitoring, recording and reporting of the climatic, agricultural and environmental conditions on farms. The resultant reports, *Verslag oor Landboutoerstand in SWA*, are summarised, almost verbatim, in table 1.1 Though the reports do not specifically cover the same farms as this report does, they provide a general representation of conditions in the entire district which may cover some of the farms contained herein.

Table. 1.1 Summary of Agricultural Conditions Reports on district Outjo (1972-1978).

Date	Climate & Weather	Report on Conditions of:			
		Pasture	Livestock	Water resources	Harvest cash crop
26 Sept. - 27 Oct. 72	First high rain figures in entire area reported, about 4 to 20 mm. Very hot weather.	Moderate	Moderate	Sufficient	None
Nov./Dec. '72	Few drops from 15 to 34 mm in the east. Weather is still dry	Moderate	Moderate	Sufficient	None
Jan '73	Rained here and there only. Only the east received up to 15 mm	Poor, especially Biernanskool	Poor	Sufficient	None
Feb. '73	No rain. "The district Union will apply for area to be listed for emergency grazing" *	Poor, nothing left in Biernanskool. Even "conservation farms" have to de-stock	Mostly poor, are already dying in Biernanskool	Sufficient	None
? '73	Few drops. Frost here and there. Generally rain in district decreases from east to west ranging from 50 to 200.	Can be described as poor in drought-stricken area	Moderate	Sufficient	None
Aug. '73	No frost reported	Generally moderate to poor, but Ugab and Biernanskool are poor	Moderate. "Applied for declaration as drought-stricken"	Sufficient	None
Sept. '73	No rain	Poor. "It is already recommended that area be declared drought-stricken" *	Moderate to poor	Sufficient	None
Jan '74	More than 100 mm over district: Outjo & Okaukuejo = 50 - 200 mm Otjikondo & Biernanskool = 50 - 100 Kamanjab = 10 - 50 Ugab and Denslag = 10 - 50	Farms between Okaukuejo and Kamanjab road have poor pastures due to commando-worms. Good.	"Farm east of the 16° Longitude can be removed from emergency grazing list while there is still uncertainty about the west. Will have to monitor area for two weeks for possible suspension of drought relief" *		
Feb./Mar '74	Good rains over the entire district up to 24 February. Since then no rain.	Good, "farms attacked by commando-worms are infected with weed growing among grass" *	Good	Sufficient	None
Apr./May '74	Widespread showers on 21 and 22 April varying between 30 to 60 mm	Good	Good	Sufficient	None
Oct. 15 - Nov. 15 '74	General rainfall varied from 20 to 90 mm recorded on 24th. Ugab received less rain between 20 - 30 mm.	Old	Good	Sufficient	None
Nov. 15 - Dec. 15 '74	Few drops which were not effective. Varied from 1 to 12 mm. Very hot over the last month	Sufficient old pastures	Good	Sufficient	None
Dec. 15 - Jan 15 '74/5	No rain worth mentioning Very hot	Sufficient old pastures	Moderate to good for this time of year	Sufficient	None
Jan 15 - Feb. 15 '75	Little rain that has not been followed up by further rains	Perennials are dead in most cases, all cultivated pastures burnt to death and wilted	Moderate to good	Sufficient	None
Mar '75	Generally rained from 2nd to 6th, recording between 50 to 200 mm	Poor to moderate "If no rain falls soon, farmers will have problems" *	Moderate to good	Sufficient	None

Apr. '75	Good rains between 25 to 300 mm from Otjikondo eastwards	Good	Good	Sufficient	None
No date	Badly strong north-eastern winds	Good except North-east and Vierkant	Moderate	Sufficient	None
Nov./Dec. '75	Scattered thunderstorms on 23 Nov. and again on 10 and 14 Dec. - but only in some areas. Most areas were left out.	Burning from the sun, Biermanskool is having poor pastures	Moderate but moderate to poor around Biermanskool	Sufficient	None
Jan '76	General rainfall is good. Varies from 125 to 300 mm and soil is thoroughly wet (deurnat).	At very young stage	Moderate to good	Sufficient	None
Feb. '76	Rained until 9th. Only Okaukuejo and Outjo east received rains. Otjikondo, Ugab, Denslag and Kamanjab received no rains	Where it rained short grass which turning blue occurs	Good	Sufficient	None
Mar '76	Rained moderately from 3- 6th, between 10 to 20 mm. Never rained since then until 25th. A total of 8 to 10 farms in Fransfontein area received total of 170 mm over the month.	Generally good with the exception of Fransfontein area.	Good	Sufficient	None
May '76	No rain - Frost reported in some areas	Good	Good	Sufficient	None
Jun. '76	Light rain on 21 and 22, varying from 1 to 10 mm	Good	Good	Sufficient	None
Jul. '76	No Frost worth mentioning	Good	Good	Sufficient	None
Sept. '76	Light showers on 24th varying from 1 to 8 mm from area to area	Sufficient	Moderate to good	Sufficient	None
Mar/Apr. '77	31 mm in Outjo, widespread showers varying from area to area	Sufficient except Biermanskool Kamanjab area	Satisfactory	Sufficient	Successful harvest of Bloubuffe Isgrass due to good rains
Apr./May '77	Windy. Widespread light showers - 18 mm measured in Outjo in one event. God colder towards the end. first Frost reported.	Sufficient except Biermanskool Kamanjab area.	Satisfactory	Sufficient	None
May/June. '77	Frost occurred here and there	Best in Outjo-east, poor in Kamanjab, Biermanskool and Kaross, generally Moderate to poor	Moderate to poor	Sufficient	None
June/July. '77	Windy and no Frost	Moderate to poor	Satisfactory with exception of few stock	Sufficient	None
July/Aug. '77	Moderate weather, getting hotter over the last period	Moderate except area of Kamanjab/Biermanskool area where it is poor	Condition getting bad	Sufficient	None
Oct. '77	Isolated light showers varying between dust-wet to 20 mm reported on 16 and 18. Very hot	Moderate to poor	Kaross, Ugab, Biermanskool and Denslag veld are bare	Sufficient	None
Feb. '78	Monthly figures ranging from 55 to 270 mm. Western part was unlucky, only hoping for March	Moderate to good	Moderate to poor	Sufficient	None
Mar '78	Rain generally decreased, only here and there was dust-wet to 90 mm recorded	Moderate to good	Moderate to good	Good, few cases of water table lowering	None