

Article 34

Ref. No. 1432/160/15

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,
TSETSE FLY OPERATIONS.
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GAUSEWAY, S. RHODESIA.

26th July, 1955.

The Secretary to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture

TRYPANOSOMIASIS THREAT : NDANGA RANCHES

Your minute No. 1432/160 dated the 5th July refers.

On the 24th March I submitted a memorandum to the Trypanosomiasis Committee outlining certain proposals for dealing with what appeared to be a rapidly deteriorating trypanosomiasis position in the southern portion of the Chipinga District and the south-eastern corner of the Ndanga district. These proposals included :-

1. Fencing of the International boundary from the Sabi river to Beacon 104.
2. An extension of the Tsetse Control Area (Shooting area) south of a line drawn from the junction of the Mkwazine and Sabi rivers due east to the Musaswi river so as to include an area around Mutandehwe hill where occasional tsetse can be picked up.
3. The substitution of paid native hunters for unpaid native hunters. This would enable the Ranger i/c to exercise greater control over the hunters and ensure a better distribution of the rifles.
4. The removal of all native stock from the east bank of the Sabi river from the Chisumbanje dip south to the Hippo Mine.
5. The control of traffic under the Tsetse Fly Act, from Portuguese East Africa on the road leading to Chief Mahenya's.

These proposals were discussed at a meeting of the Trypanosomiasis Committee on the 24th March but were not accepted as certain members of the Committee wished to inspect the area personally before arriving at a decision.

Accordingly arrangements were made for Messrs. H. E. Hornby, D. J. Lilford, A. D. Fraser and the writer to visit the area. The party was accompanied by the District Veterinary Officer, Fort Victoria, the District Veterinary Officer Melsetter, Mr. R. Mowbray, Entomologist who is carrying out a tsetse and ecological survey of the area and the Tsetse Fly Ranger i/c Ndanga district.

At a meeting of the Trypanosomiasis Committee held on the 26th May the matter was again discussed, Mr. Hornby putting forward his scheme for a single three strand fence running over poor land from near the Lundi - Chiredzi junction north to the Turgwe river and the creation of a five mile wide game free and cattle free buffer zone east of the fence. I could not agree with Mr. Hornby's proposals although they were supported by the remainder of the Committee.

My objections to the plan proposed by Mr. Hornby were based on the following grounds:-

1. It was contrary to the principles accepted in the past where fencing and game destruction had been adopted so successfully in the Hartley and Lomagundi districts. If in 1925 we had constructed the southern game fence in the Umboe Valley so as not to include any areas where trypanosomiasis and the occasional tsetse was known to occur, it would have meant abandoning all the

in 1926 east of any known areas where trypanosomiasis and the occasional tsetse were known to occur it would have meant abandoning a very large area of European occupied farms including the Golden Valley and Ghakari areas.

Again in the Urungwe district in 1951. If we had erected the eastern fence east of any area where trypanosomiasis and the occasional fly was known to occur it would have meant abandoning most of the European farms west of the main Chirundu road on the Karoi block.

2. In my opinion it is not possible to create a game free - cattle free buffer zone using only a single fence composed of three strands of wire. Game within the area includes elephant, buffalo, eland, sable, roan etc., all of which would ignore the fence.
3. The whole scheme would break down owing to the necessity to provide an outlet for the native stock in the Ndanga East and Sangwe Reserves.
4. It would be exceedingly difficult to control the activities of native hunters on privately owned land.
5. A five mile wide buffer zone is not wide enough to prevent the odd fly crossing it either on traffic or when naturally searching for food. The odd fly is known to range naturally further than five miles.
6. The plan meant abandoning all land east of the Sabi river and much land west of the river.
7. It is absolutely essential to have some indications in the buffer zone i.e. either tsetse or trypanosomiasis in order to judge the progress of the operations. Unless it is possible to indicate, either by a reduction in the number of tsetse or by an improvement in the disease position it would never be possible to decide when to advance the line of hunters. There would be no tsetse or disease in the proposed five mile buffer zone.
8. The creation of a new Tsetse control area from the junction of the Sabi and Chiredzi rivers north to the Turgwe river, a distance of approximately 70 miles and at least 20 miles west of any point where tsetse has been found on the west bank would dissipate our available resources in rifles. The attack must be concentrated on the areas on the west bank of the Sabi known to be subject to invasion by tsetse i.e. the Chuanja Plateau area and east of the Sabi river to the Portuguese East Africa boundary. It is essential to prevent the movement of game to water on the Sabi and Lundi rivers whether coming from the east or west.
9. The scheme as outlined by Mr. Hornby was so vague, i.e. to select a five mile strip of land which had little ranching value and which need not be a straight line without a detailed survey appeared to me as to be impossible to carry out with the untrained staff available.
9. The scheme was not acceptable to my two senior professional officers Dr. Cockbill and Mr. Lovemore.
10. Two species of tsetse Glossina morsitans and G. pallidipes are known to occur on the east bank of the Sabi and in all three specimens of G. morsitans and one G. pallidipes have been taken on the west bank of the river at Chitsa's kraal or in the Chuanja plateau area. It is essential to await the results of the detailed survey now being undertaken, before making final decisions for dealing with the problem.

Mr. Mowbray's recent reports show :-

1. A well established fly belt in Southern Rhodesia south of Mt. Makossa, comprising both G. morsitans and G. pallidipes.

2. A second well established fly belt in South...

3. A lightly infested belt in Southern Rhodesia on the upper reaches of the Rupembi river and its tributaries.

4. That tsetse, mainly G.morsitans but including G.pallidipes are being carried on traffic from Portuguese East Africa in considerable numbers.

It is almost certain that these carried fly are responsible for the cases of trypanosomiasis occurring between the Hippo Mine and Chisumbanje. It is also possible that some of these flies are carried across the Sabi River on traffic. When the Sabi is low there is considerable traffic across the river at the P. & O. crossing and at the Sangwe Clinic crossing. Cattle from both sides of the river intermingle.

The survey so far has not indicated the source of the infection in the Musikavanu Native Reserve. It is thought that this infection is associated with traffic using the Mwangazi Gap through the hills. Natives who have been questioned have stated that tsetse are occasionally seen on this road during the late dry season.

It is now clear that the problem cannot be tackled by game destruction alone. Extensive bush clearings will have to be undertaken both barrier clearings and selective clearings. Until the survey is completed it is not possible to make final recommendations.

The following tentative proposals are put forward for recommendations:-

1. An extension of the border clearing from Beacon 96 to Beacon 102, a distance of about 20 miles.
2. Barrier clearings on the Ndanga and Honde rivers in the vicinity of beacons 105N, 105A, and 105B.
3. Barrier clearings on the Rupembi river and its tributaries in the vicinity of beacon 106.
4. Clearing of the riverine vegetation along the Musaswe river.
5. Clearings on the rivers flowing into the Sabi river in the vicinity of Mutandahwe Hill.
6. The complete removal of the large thicket area at Chief Mahenya's.
7. The erection of a game fence along the border from beacon 104 to beacon 107.
8. The removal of all cattle south of Chisumbanje dip.

The programme as outlined cannot be undertaken in one year and is beyond the present resources of this branch. It is recommended that the clearing operations should be undertaken by the Native Affairs Department or given out on contract. At this stage it is not possible to estimate the cost of these proposals as the total area to be cleared is not known.

The clearing work and fencing of the border should start this year and it is recommended that an amount of £25,000 should be made available during the present financial year.

Further clearing work on both the east and west bank of the Sabi may be found necessary as the survey continues.

Instructions have already been issued for the erection of traffic control points at:-

1. the Rupembi river crossing on the border

Instructions have also been given for the demarkation of the northern boundary of the new shooting area north of the Hippo Mine.

The area concerned is all in the Sabi Division (Native Purchase Area). Plans should be made now for consolidation of the cleared areas by close native settlement and for the provision of water supplies.

sgd: J. K. Chorley
DIRECTOR
TSETSE FLY OPERATIONS.

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