

Department of Veterinary Services,
Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control Branch,
P. O. Box 8100, Causeway,
Salisbury,
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11th May, 1962.

The Director of Veterinary Services.

SHANGANI TRYPANOSOMIASIS PROJECT.

With reference to our discussion with the Secretary, 10th
May, 1962.

- (1) We wish to obtain a further £6000 under Vote 40.II. D. Item 4 for employment of an additional labour gang of 100 men throughout the year 1962/3 for discriminative bush clearing in the Shangani-Kana area. We also wish to re-introduce limited shooting in a single small area.
- (2) We have been aware for some time (since 1955) of a gradual increase in the incidence of trypanosomiasis on the Karna Block and in the neighbouring Native Reserves. Infection has steadily been moving southward and last year reached cattle dipping at Nduna on the Bulawayo - Falls road some 15 miles west of Lupani. Because of this deterioration and because we were able to demonstrate that tsetse were continuing to cross the fenced shooting zone set up as a result of the recommendations of the 1955 commission, we decided, in 1961 to attempt to eliminate the main source of the infection in the headwaters of the Nagupande river by insecticides. We had been encouraged in this by a successful trial operation in 1960. Unfortunately the results of the 1961 spraying of the Nagupande were very disappointing. (Basically this failure is to be attributed to our endeavouring to proceed with the policy of abandoning game destruction in spite of having failed to recruit an adequate coverage of professional officers).
- (3) Recently infection has appeared on the Sotani Ranch, on the Falls road just South East of Nduna, while it has increased in Karna Block cattle watering on the Shangani. (A map is attached.) The route the infection is taking shows that the area likely to become involved is precisely that which was tackled by game destruction between 1920 and 1930 and there is therefore a considerable danger (if rapid action is not taken) of a further spread through the Gwaai valley farms into the northern part of the Wankie Park. This would be disastrous.
- (4) We therefore wish to intensify action in the area, bringing into use all the techniques available to us - viz., bush clearing; insecticides and game elimination, and at the same time pressing on with our main, long term plan, which involves the full settlement by Africans of the vital river valleys. The initial work on this has started but, in our view, is unlikely to get going rapidly until the reorganization of the Native Department is completed and until the extent of finance available for Native Development is known.
- (5) The plan is as follows:-
 - (1) To commence discriminative clearing of the infested Shangani drainages supplementing the effect of clearing by use of insecticides in and around the clearings. This clearing work would proceed northwards along the line by which the advance is taking place.

- (2) Simultaneously, we wish to undertake insecticidal treatment of certain drainage systems (chiefly part of the Mzola and Dongamusu rivers) which provide this path of advance.
- (3) Also, simultaneously, to mount a selective game destruction operation in the Nagupande headwaters (c. 200 sq. miles). I have agreed to this proposal by my entomologists with reluctance. I agree with them that it is likely to be rapidly effective. (There is little doubt that the root of our trouble lies in the closing down of my predecessor's shooting in this area when the reorganization of game destruction was undertaken following the 1955 Commissions Report.) The argument which weighs most with me is that, with our present shortage of professional staff, shooting is a rapid technique of which we have full knowledge and, moreover, it is one in which we should be able to seek help from other Departments (Wild Life Conservation and National Parks). It is not intended to embark on indiscriminate wholesale slaughter.

(a) The area is clearly defined and within it we will begin by an attack on elephant and buffalo. This should, if properly done, result in a movement of most of these animals out of the area.

(b) There are some rhinoceros. We believe National Parks would be willing to capture and remove these.

(c) The area is to be fenced and the fence closed after the main attack on elephant and buffalo has ceased.

(d) With the closure of the fence we would then begin destruction of the following species:-

Warthog

Bushpig

Kudu

Bushbuck.

These, with elephant and buffalo gone, will provide the main source of food for tsetse. (There is a good deal of evidence that zebra, impala, diuker and other small buck are of little or no importance as hosts to tsetse.) There remain eland, roan, sable and tsessebe. It is likely that many of these animals would move out of the area during the initial disturbances of phase (a). In any case, again, their habits are such that they are not likely to become the hosts of a permanent tsetse population.

It is important to begin work quickly and we wish to start organizing operations now. We can mount the whole programme with money available under estimates with the exception of the bush clearing gang, to which I attach great importance. Without extra money we should either have to omit this part of the programme or to curtail work elsewhere. The total labour vote for 1962/3 is £ 50,000. This is allocated between the various operational areas as follows:-

- 1. Zambezi Area/.....

1.	<u>Zambezi Area: Routine Work:</u>	
	(a) Sebungwe.....	£7200
	(b) Gokwe.....	4000
	(c) Urungwe.....	5150
	(d) North Lomagundi.....	850
		<u>£17,200</u>
2.	<u>Zambezi Special Projects:</u>	<u>£11,800</u>
3.	<u>New Sipolilo Station:</u>	<u>£ 1,600</u>
4.	<u>Mtoko:</u>	
	(a) Routine work ,.....	£3160
	(b) Special Project.....	1600
		<u>£ 4,960</u>
5.	<u>Chipinga: Routine Work:</u>	<u>£ 5,000</u>
6.	<u>Sabi Area:</u>	
	(a) Routine.....	£7800
	(b) Joint South African Project.....	700
	(c) Contingencies for Humani Ranch...	900
		<u>£ 9,400</u>
	Total.....	<u>£49,960</u>
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Item 2 includes £9300 for the shooting and insecticide work in the project under discussion, but not the required £6000 for bush clearing labour and for this we are asking a special provision.

The programme outlined above is expected to take 3 years to complete, but the bulk of the shooting work should be over within the first two years, by which time also we might hope for considerable beneficial changes as a result of consolidation of African settlement.



(J. Ford)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS)