



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WORKING DOCUMENTS

English Edition

1986-87

7 April 1986

SERIES A

DOCUMENT A 2-24/86

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and
Cooperation

on the disturbance of the ecological balance in Botswana

Rapporteur: Mr Y. GALLAND

Fr.-ppd.egs.

WG(VS1)/3618E

PE 102.697/fin.

•

•

•

•

At its sitting of 12 December 1984 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr MUNTINGH, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the disturbance of the ecological balance in Botswana (Doc. 2-1129/84) to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection for their opinions.

At its meeting of 24 April 1985 the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Mr GALLAND rapporteur.

The committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 27 February and 19 March 1986. It adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole unanimously at its meeting of 19 March 1986.

The following took part in the vote: Mrs FOCKE, chairman; Mr BERSANI, vice-chairman; Mr GALLAND, rapporteur; Mr BAGET BOZZO, Mrs BUCHAN, Mr BEYER DE RYKE, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mrs DALY, Mr DURAN CORSANEGO, Mr FERNANDES, Mrs GARCIA ARIAS, Mr JACKSON, Mr MEDEIROS FERREIRA (deputizing for Mr Flosse), Mrs RABBETHGE, Mr dos REIS CONDESSO, Mr RUBERT DE VENTOS, Mrs SCHMIT, Mrs SIMONS, Mr SIMPSON, Mr ULBURGHES (deputizing for Mr Pannella), Mr VERBEEK, Mr VERGER and Mr WAWRZIK.

The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection have decided not to deliver opinions.

The report was tabled on 25 March 1986.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	7
C. ANNEXES	
I. Map of fences in Botswana	17
II. Wildlife management areas	18
III. Map of the Republic of Botswana	19
IV. Dry season wildlife movement	20
V. Motion for a resolution (Doc. 2-1129/84)	21

The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the disturbance of the ecological balance in Botswana

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution on the disturbance of the ecological balance in Botswana tabled by Mr MUNTINGH on 4 December 1984 (Doc. 2-1129/84),
 - having regard to the resolution on the incorporation of environmental issues in the Third Lomé Convention and on information concerning the Convention's provisions as regards the environment and to the resolution on deforestation and desertification, both adopted by the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly at its meeting Inverness¹,
 - having regard to the drought which has been severely affecting Botswana for the last four years and to its serious consequences for stock farming and devastating impact on wildlife,
 - having regard to the results of the fact-finding mission carried out in connection with the implementation of the Third Lomé Convention and to the national indicative programme based on those results, which stresses both the determination of those concerned to focus financial and technical cooperation on the development and conservation of natural resources and also the prime objectives of avoiding overgrazing and preserving wildlife,
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. A 2-24/86),
1. Congratulates the Botswana Government on its efforts and its political determination to achieve compatibility between the sound and harmonious management of stock farming and of wildlife, despite the difficulties caused by the exceptional drought;
 2. Considers, accordingly, that stock farming in Botswana must be rationalized so that herd sizes are adapted to the actual capacity of pastureland and the process of desertification caused by overgrazing is halted;
 3. Considers it essential that stock farming should be reorganized so as to give priority to traditional family farms and should be rationalized along the lines set out in the Commission's excellent recommendations;

¹OJ No. C 322, 13.12.1985, p. 24 and p. 29

4. Trusts that care will be taken to ensure that only those treatments which have few harmful effects be used to eradicate the tsetse fly, that they are preceded by studies and that the land so treated should subsequently be put to effective use for growing crops;
5. Approves the Commission's proposals to provide greater protection for the environment and wildlife in Botswana;
6. Condemns, therefore, any proposal to open the Kalahari Reserve, even partially, to stock herds;
7. Calls instead for this area of the Kalahari, a nature reserve of international importance, to be protected by the construction of a protective fence around the external pasturelands;
8. Believes that this measure will only be effective if, at the same time, a sufficient number of wells are sunk in the Kalahari Reserve and the Gemsbok National Park;
9. Considers that the environment in general and wildlife in particular can only be protected if there is a substantial increase in the manpower and materials allocated to the Wildlife Department;
10. Believes that this investment could profitably be extended for the introduction of select tourism, once the necessary reception facilities have been set up;
11. Draws the Botswana Government's attention to the need to implement anti-poaching laws and introduce penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offence so as to render them more effective, bearing in mind the disastrous situation of certain species, such as the rhinoceros, which are threatened with extinction;
12. Urges the governments of all the Member States to implement the Washington Convention and ensure its strict application as regards the import into and marketing in the twelve Community countries of any object made of ivory, so as to combat the speculative and intensive poaching of elephants;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the Member States and the Government of Botswana.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Botswana is a very large country (224 600 sq. miles) but has only one million inhabitants. Certain features make it one of the more privileged of the African countries:

- firstly, its wealth of natural resources, the most important of which are its vast reserves and extensive mining of diamonds, coal and soda;
- secondly, the rapid expansion of stock farming. There are probably 3 million head of cattle (after four years of drought, the figure is probably closer to 2.5 million head) which makes this the second most important export commodity. However, the constraints imposed by stock farming have resulted in land planning arrangements which have had demonstrably adverse effects on animal life;
- thirdly, the incredible variety of wildlife in Botswana. This is attributable to the existence of two vast nature reserves of international importance for animal life and nature in general, i.e.;
 - the Kalahari, and
 - the Okavango Delta.

However, for various reasons, which will be discussed later, there has been a marked decline in animal numbers over many years and in 1983 the situation became critical. It is extremely difficult to produce exact figures but it is thought that some 100 000 wild animals (chiefly gnus and bubals or hartebeests) have died in the Kalahari over the past three years.

The final salient feature of Botswana is the fact that it is a genuine democracy with seven political parties, a parliamentary opposition and an official post of leader of the opposition. It is remarkable that in 20 years of its existence, there have never been any political prisoners in Botswana.

There is, however, a cloud on the otherwise bright horizon and that is the drought which has been ravaging the country for four years and which may last for a fifth if this year's rains again fail to satisfy the country's requirements.

In order to understand the ecological balance in Botswana we must look at each of these aspects (excluding the mineral reserves) in detail.

Is the development of stock farming having an irreversible and damaging effect on animal life?

Was this type of farming brought about by a special pressure group led by the all-powerful BMC (Botswana Meat Corporation) and a few major stock farmers?

Or is stock farming an activity rooted in national and popular traditions which offers benefits for the whole population?

Is there any justification for the preferential agreement that Botswana has concluded with the Community and which guarantees a reduction of 90% on customs duties on exports of beef and veal to the EEC? Is it beneficial or is it the source of the national imbalances referred to above?

Is the government really determined to solve this problem?

We must try to answer these questions as objectively as possible, avoiding the extremism to which both stock farmers and environmental defence associations are prone.

With the goodwill of all concerned, it can be shown that far from being mutually exclusive, the interests of farmers and wildlife are complementary and that together they can serve the interests of Botswana and its inhabitants.

The one vital factor in this situation is the need to formulate a plan to prevent an ecological disaster and to promote the harmonious development of the whole country.

STOCK FARMING IN BOTSWANA

The success of this sector is undeniable but there are drawbacks.

The positive aspects are:

- excellent veterinary care facilities

Every possible precaution is taken to ensure that meat produced in Botswana is perfectly sound. The facilities in some areas are quite exemplary.

The Gaborone Vaccination Institute produced a vaccine against foot and mouth disease which is used in Botswana itself and exported in massive quantities all over Africa. The decision to set up this institute was taken after the last foot and mouth epidemic and its success is self-evident as there has been no outbreak of the disease since then.

The Institute has also recently perfected a vaccine against swine fever. This is the first time such a vaccine has been produced anywhere in the world and it will be on the market in a few weeks' time. Swine fever has had a devastating effect on cattle and animal life in general. In northern Cameroon, for example, a recent outbreak destroyed 90% of some species, mainly elands and buffaloes.

It should be noted that this success was largely due to the exceptional collaboration between the Merieux Institute and the Gaborone Vaccination Institute.

- the campaign to eradicate the tsetse fly

This is a carefully planned and well-organized campaign focussed on the Okavango Delta. There is a great deal of controversy over the impact of anti-tsetse products on the environment. Those responsible for these measures acknowledge that there are inevitable consequences but claim that they regulate the dosage to limit the harmful effects. Ecologists claim that the products involved and the excessive use thereof have had a disastrous effect on the environment.

The truth of the situation probably lies somewhere between these two extremes. Those responsible for the campaign are genuinely concerned to control the effect of these measures but there will inevitably be harmful consequences in some areas. There must be constant supervision in this sector.

It is, however, desirable for the land treated to be used efficiently and effectively for growing crops following the eradication of the tsetse fly. This will involve drawing up a land development plan prior to treatment.

- quality of abattoirs

The facilities in the two modern abattoirs in Maun and Lobatse are exemplary as regards hygiene precautions, the constant attendance of veterinary staff, meat selection and preservation guarantees.

- production structures

This is a basic and highly controversial issue. Does the Beef Protocol offer advantages only to a few major producers or to a large part of the population?

This is a complex issue and we must look beyond the figures to find the truth of the situation and assess the possible consequences for the future.

Stock farming is undeniably a national activity exercised, on a modest scale, by a large section of the population. Most farmers use traditional methods (40% of rural households have fewer than 20 head of cattle).

The figures given below have been gathered from various sources and although their accuracy has been questioned, they may be regarded as fairly reliable.

At least 50% of the population is involved in stock farming.

If we consider the number of farmers supplying meat to the BMC, the breakdown would almost certainly be more than 99% for farmers using traditional methods and less than 1% for large-scale producers.

If, however, we consider the output of these two categories as a percentage, the figures suggest that the 99% of farmers using traditional methods account for 80% to 85% of stock production whilst large-scale producers, who represent less than 1% of the farming population, hold roughly 15% to 20% of all livestock. At the same time, 5% of rural households own almost 50% of the total herd.

The organization responsible for distribution, i.e. the intermediaries between farmers and the BMC, quotes different figures for the ratio of large-scale and small-scale farming and some claim that the percentage of livestock held by large-scale farmers is even higher.

This is due to the fact that 21% of all animals are sold to the BMC by cooperatives, 12% directly and 67% by commercial agents. An analysis shows that small farmers, who are the only ones to make use of the cooperative system, also engage in direct selling and many of them use commercial agents, who earn 75% of their turnover through transactions involving small-scale farmers.

The producer price paid for meat is 1 Pula per kilo, i.e. roughly £0.40 (reference October 1985).

These figures yield a certain amount of information.

1. Stock farming is a traditional activity and its development as an export market, whilst resulting in the formation and rapid growth of vast farms, has also had a beneficial effect on traditional farming which has undergone extensive development and is an established part of the national economy. However, the trend in cattle farming is moving further away from traditional methods.

2. The high proportion of traditional farms, which are undeniably a social success, will lead to economic problems in the long term unless the Botswana Government and the Commission take care. The retail price is very high and producer prices are excessive.

There is a lack of competitiveness and, were it not for the Beef Protocol, exports would collapse.

Since it is unreasonable to assume that the customs advantages granted under this Protocol are Botswana's right in perpetuity, the Community must help Botswana to safeguard its future by improving techniques and hence ensure the viability of farming in general and traditional family farms in particular. This is the only way of ensuring that what Botswana rightly regards as a permanent asset remains just that.

2. OVERGRAZING IN BOTSWANA

In 1982-1983 there were 3 million head of cattle. The last four years of drought have reduced the herd to a level which is probably closer to 2.5 million head.

It is obvious that the organization of stock farming and the stocking rate over much of Botswana is leading to serious overgrazing which has a range of consequences, each as alarming as the next.

- The first is the constant pressure from the stock farmers' lobby for the extension of pastureland in areas reserved for wildlife. Requests have been made for permission to allow herds into the Okavango delta, by taking down the buffalo fence, or into the Kalahari.
- The second is the fact that the annual production of biomass is insufficient, in terms of both quantity and quality, to feed the livestock. This inevitably leads to desertification as shown in the very cogent study by Mr E. M. VEENENDAAL and Mr J. B. OPSCHOOR of January 1986.

In view of the risks of desertification, urgent measures must be taken along the lines of the Commission's recommendations concerning the implementation of the Third Lomé Convention.

One particularly urgent matter is the need to improve herd management and rationalize production which will involve the formulation of a marketing plan by stock farmers and abattoirs.

It is also necessary to ensure a better geographical distribution of livestock across the country, bearing in mind the studies which have been carried out on the situation in Botswana. These studies show where there is overgrazing and which regions are therefore at risk and also indicate areas where there is still a certain amount of potential for grazing.

	Grazing Land (¹ 1000 km ²)	No. cattle (¹ 1000 hd)	Stocking rate (ha/LSU)	Carrying Capacity
Central	123.3	1045	9.4*	16 ha/LSU
North East	1.6	63	2.0*	24
Ngamiland	92.7	308	24.1	9
Chobe	6.7	6	89.3	9
Ghanzi	51.5	64	64.4	21
Kgalagadi	73.2	76	77.0	26
Kweneng	32.2	224	11.5	12
Kgatleng	6.8	174?	3.1*	12
South East	0.2	67	0.2*	12
Southern	24.7	268	7.4*	16
TOTAL	412.9	2295	14.4	16

Note a) excludes freehold areas: 31 000 km² with 372 000 head (i.e. 10.4 ha/LSU).

b) * denotes overstocking

District stocking rates and district carrying capacity.
(Source Field 1978). (1 LiveStock Unit is 1 mature cow.

1 Heifer = 0.6 LSU 1 goat = 0.1 LSU Carl Bbro (1982), sometimes small differences between authors!)

Source: 'Botswana's beef exports to the EEC:
Economic development at the expense of a deteriorating environment'
by E. M. VEENENDAAL and J. B. OPSCHOOR

It must not, of course, be assumed that there is actual grazing potential in the Chobe region as this area is a nature reserve.

WILDLIFE IN BOTSWANA

Botswana is certainly one of Africa's most privileged countries both as regards the variety of species and the number of animals in the wild. Since stock farming made its appearance in 1950, many fences have been erected with the original aim of preventing wild animals from mingling with the livestock (see Annex I - map of fences in Botswana today).

The intention was to prevent wild animals from grazing on pastureland reserved for cattle but the main concern was to avoid the risk that the herds might become contaminated if left to cohabit with certain species suspected, rightly or wrongly, of spreading diseases. These measures were directed chiefly against gnus and buffaloes.

These artificial barriers have, of course, disrupted natural migration patterns of certain species such as the gnu. Added to the extremely severe drought of the past few years this has had a disastrous impact on the Kalahari. Herds of gnus and hartebeests following their natural migration patterns - in search of water rather than pasture - have been decimated:

- by villagers trying to prevent them from leaving the Kalahari reserve and either contaminate their herds or use their pastureland;
- by the fact that once they leave the Kalahari reserve these animals have virtually nothing to eat. They head for the Mopipi area and Lake Xau but die of exhaustion, particularly as the water in those areas is slightly salty.

Unfortunately, there was a recurrence in 1985 of the crisis which occurred in 1983. Decisions must now be taken as a matter of urgency to avoid the risk of all wildlife disappearing from the Kalahari.

Zebras have almost disappeared from this area and gnus and hartebeests are threatened with extinction. This forms a striking contrast with the situation in the northern part of the country. It is ironic that the buffalo fence which was built in the north-east of the country has in fact protected animal life in the Okavango Delta when it was built solely to protect stock farms. An aerial view of the buffalo fence is quite remarkable; the northern side, where the wild animals are, is green whereas the southern side, which is where the farm animals are, is overgrazed and appears arid in comparison.

We cannot, of course, compare the two areas directly as the dramatic water problems of the Kalahari region simply do not arise in the Okavango Delta.

However, there are certain aspects of the situation in the Okavango Delta which could be used as a source of inspiration for the Kalahari.

First of all, it seems essential to build a fence between the Kalahari reserve and the external pasturelands (see map - Annex 1).

This matter has become even more urgent as herds of cattle have deliberately been brought into the Kalahari reserve for the first time. Since these groups of animals cannot live together, the government must demonstrate its political determination by ensuring that the boundaries of the reserve are respected by stock farmers and that the herds currently being kept on the reserve are removed immediately.

An impassable fence should therefore be built to keep out these herds. There are several possible designs; it could be a standard fence like those which have been put up throughout the country or a frontier fence made up of enclosed game ranches which could be used both for meat production and for hunting. These ranches could be run privately or by the government, at the discretion of the Botswana authorities.

A physical barrier between the Kalahari reserve and the north-eastern zone is apparently essential step. It seems completely unrealistic that the government is forcing stock farmers back beyond the Mopipi and Lake Xau.

If this measure is to succeed, however, it must be carried out simultaneously with two other measures. The three factors could then form a plan for protecting the Kalahari. They must be taken together if there is to be any improvement in the situation.

The second measure, and the most urgent, is to sink wells to provide water for the animals in the Kalahari reserve and in the Gemsbok National Park in the south-west. If wells are sunk only in the Kalahari reserve, there is a risk that all the wild animals in the region will migrate to the reserve, using up the pastureland and creating a new and virtually insuperable problem which could be avoided by distributing the waterholes more widely.

Before sinking these wells, Community experts should assess the water reserves in the area in the framework of Lomé III.

It should be pointed out that sinking wells is not an exorbitant measure. According to the albeit limited experience gained so far, the cost of sinking one well is estimated at 37 000 Pulas. (Deep wells cost between 10 000 and 15 000 Pulas but allowances have to be made for a fairly high failure rate, when the water raised is salty).

If we are to avoid another disaster, Community aid should be granted under the plan for the Protection and Development of Natural Resources contained in Lomé III for Botswana so that a large number of wells can be sunk before the next dry season.

The third measure is to improve the organization of and significantly extend the Wild Life Department.

This department, which comes under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, employs a number of people who are committed to their work and dedicated to the task of protecting animal life. However, the resources available to it are lamentably inadequate and no serious work can be done unless the Botswana Government decides to restructure and extend the department.

The Wild Life Department's budget for 1985-86 is 2 125 100 Pulas of which 1 754 480 is earmarked for staff costs. The department has a staff of 252 spread throughout the country and many of these are engaged in administrative work.

Its equipment consists chiefly of 1 bulldozer, 6 tractors, 9 lorries and 56 cars.

The department needs to be completely reorganized to enable the staff to maintain wells and their pumping equipment, combat poaching, patrol the reserves and hunting areas, reintroduce species which are in danger of extinction and carry out animal counts (game reserves cover 17% of the country and the areas where wild animals are found cover roughly one third of the country).

The EEC must act quickly and provide a number of management executives and experts (biologists etc.) under Lomé III, as requested by the authorities.

It is, of course, pointless to sink wells unless there is some assurance that they will be maintained by a sufficiently large staff with appropriate maintenance equipment.

To conclude this chapter on wildlife and to demonstrate the usefulness of this type of reorganization beyond the boundaries of the Kalahari, it should be pointed out that the commendable attempts to reintroduce rhinoceroses (120 white rhinoceroses were purchased in South Africa and released in the Chobe National Park) are failing for lack of adequate supervision. The animals have adapted perfectly and are reproducing normally but poachers are killing large numbers of them.

There are also large numbers of elephants, but a fair percentage of them are killed when they come to drink on the banks of the Zambezi at the very edge of the Chobe National Park by poachers from the Caprivi Strip. These poachers kill the elephants from the opposite bank, outside the park, cross the river in canoes, cut off the elephants' tusks and return by canoe to the Caprivi Strip. Furthermore the extent of the poaching witnessed by the draftsman in the Okavango Delta was less than in the Kalahari. The fact that traditional poachers have been replaced by speculators can only be seen as a catastrophe.

There are two conclusions to be drawn from the above:

The Community countries must ensure full implementation of the Washington Convention and steps must be taken to ban the importation and sale of ivory, in whatever form, throughout the EEC. This is the only way of saving elephants and preventing the scandalous amount of poaching which is carried out on an industrial scale in most African countries. The species will otherwise be threatened with extinction.

It is also essential that countries like Botswana adopt and implement anti-poaching laws. The current penalties are too light (confiscation of guns and vehicles etc.) but are not commensurate with the offence. Deterrent penalties of far greater severity should be introduced, e.g. for poaching rhinoceroses or elephants.

There is also a Kalahari Conservation Society which has done some useful work in bringing the problems facing wildlife in Botswana to the attention of the general public worldwide. This organization, which receives a subsidy from the Commission, refuses to collaborate with the Wild Life Department which it regards as ineffectual.

It is extremely distressing to see the scope of the problems involved and the meagre funds available.

In future, these two organizations, one government-run, the other private, should pool their resources rather than dissipating them and should be guided by a reorganized Wild Life Department which must naturally take on the role of pacesetter for projects to save and safeguard animal life.

THE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

The draftsman met the Vice-President of Botswana, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture together with a number of senior officials and official representatives.

It appears that the Botswana Government is making a serious effort to get to grips with the situation.

It also seems to be genuinely determined to find solutions to the problems mentioned in this report and is full of good intentions in that respect.

Botswana's national parks are a lasting asset and undoubtedly offer great tourist potential.

Work should be done on formulating a plan to develop tourism and its infrastructure, i.e. transport and hotels.

Conserving and safeguarding Botswana's natural resources is not therefore a simple ecology project, it also has far-reaching economic consequences for the future and the Botswana Government is well aware of this.

The national authorities have also realized that the Beef Protocol could be jeopardized if stock farming is allowed to threaten the survival of Botswana's wildlife.

The political authorities have demonstrated their determination in practical terms through the President himself and the ministers concerned, at meetings held in Maun and Ghanzi at which the farmers called for the buffalo fence to be pulled down to let their cattle graze in the Okavango. These demands were rejected outright, which is a practical demonstration of the determination shown by the President and his government.

This determination must now be put into effect. The Community cannot provide the aid referred to in this report unless the Botswana Government makes specific commitments, i.e. unless it:

- submits a plan to protect the Kalahari by building the barriers needed to keep cattle out of the reserve;
- undertakes to contribute to the financing of wells in the Kalahari, the Gemsbok National Park, in Nxai Park in the north and the Nywasha area;

The allocation of a small proportion of the BMC's profits would be a symbolic gesture, reflecting its determination to ensure that livestock and wildlife can co-exist in harmony.

- allocates a budget separate from existing financing projects to ensure that the financial resources available to the Wild Life Department are commensurate with the scope of its duties.

It should be pointed out, finally, that the Botswana Government has appointed a commission to submit proposals on the future of the Kalahari central wildlife reserve.

This commission, which includes representatives of both the private and the public sectors, has recently submitted a report containing 16 proposals.

One proposal is to divide the Kalahari into two sections, one to remain a wildlife reserve and the other to become a 'wildlife development area', which means in effect that cattle would be allowed to use the land and the wildlife would ultimately disappear.

The services of the Ministry of Trade and Industry are currently considering this report after which the Council of Ministers will be required to take the final decision.

It must be made quite clear, however, that the adoption of such a proposal would be contrary to the Commission's recommendations and the wishes of the European Parliament.

Allowing stock farmers to graze their herds on parts of the Kalahari would run counter to the recommendations contained in this report.

It would prove that the stock farmers lobby wields exceptional influence and would call into question the future of a beef protocol which could lead to such excesses.

CONCLUSION

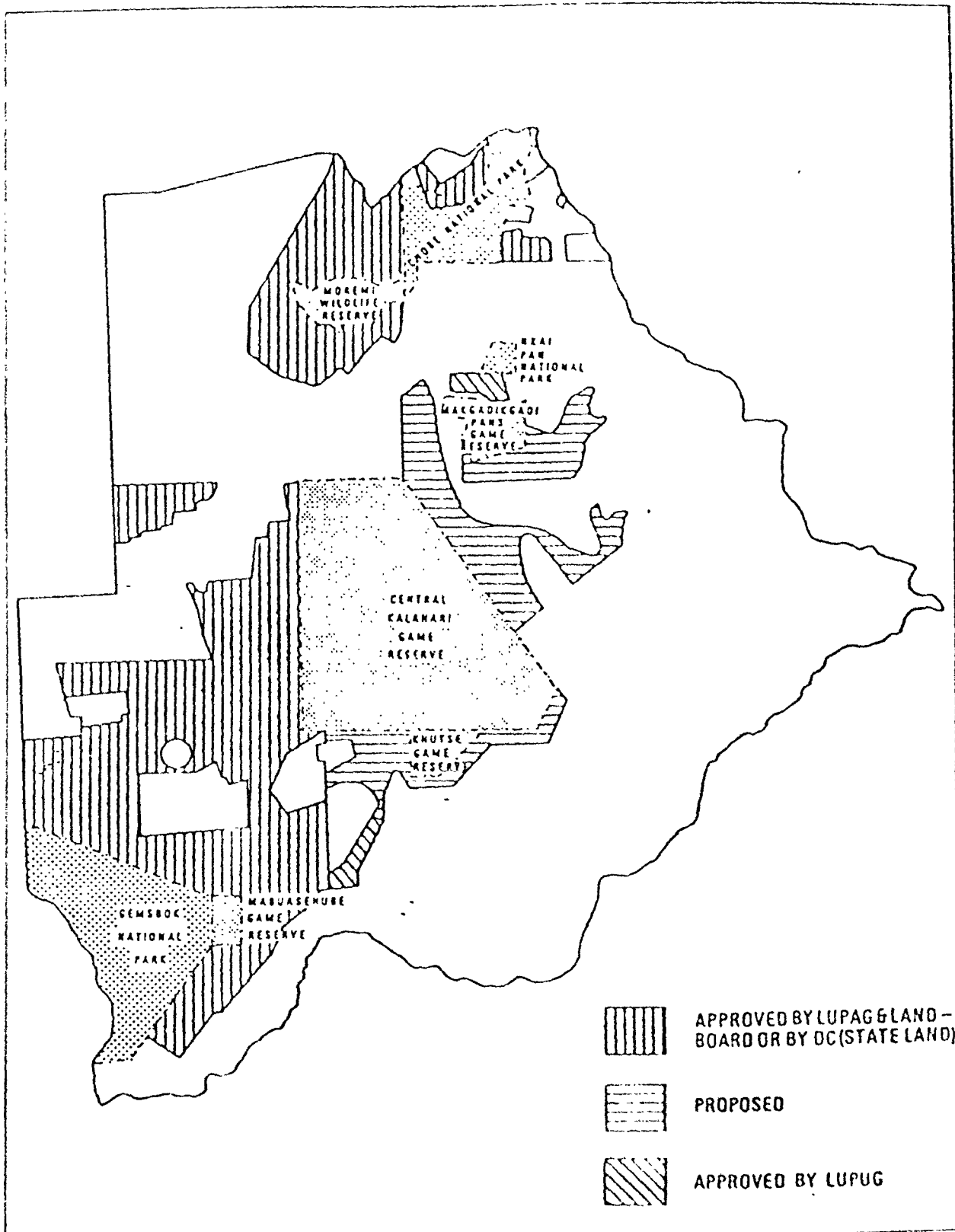
The draftsman makes no claim that any of the solutions put forward in this report are definitive or exclusive.

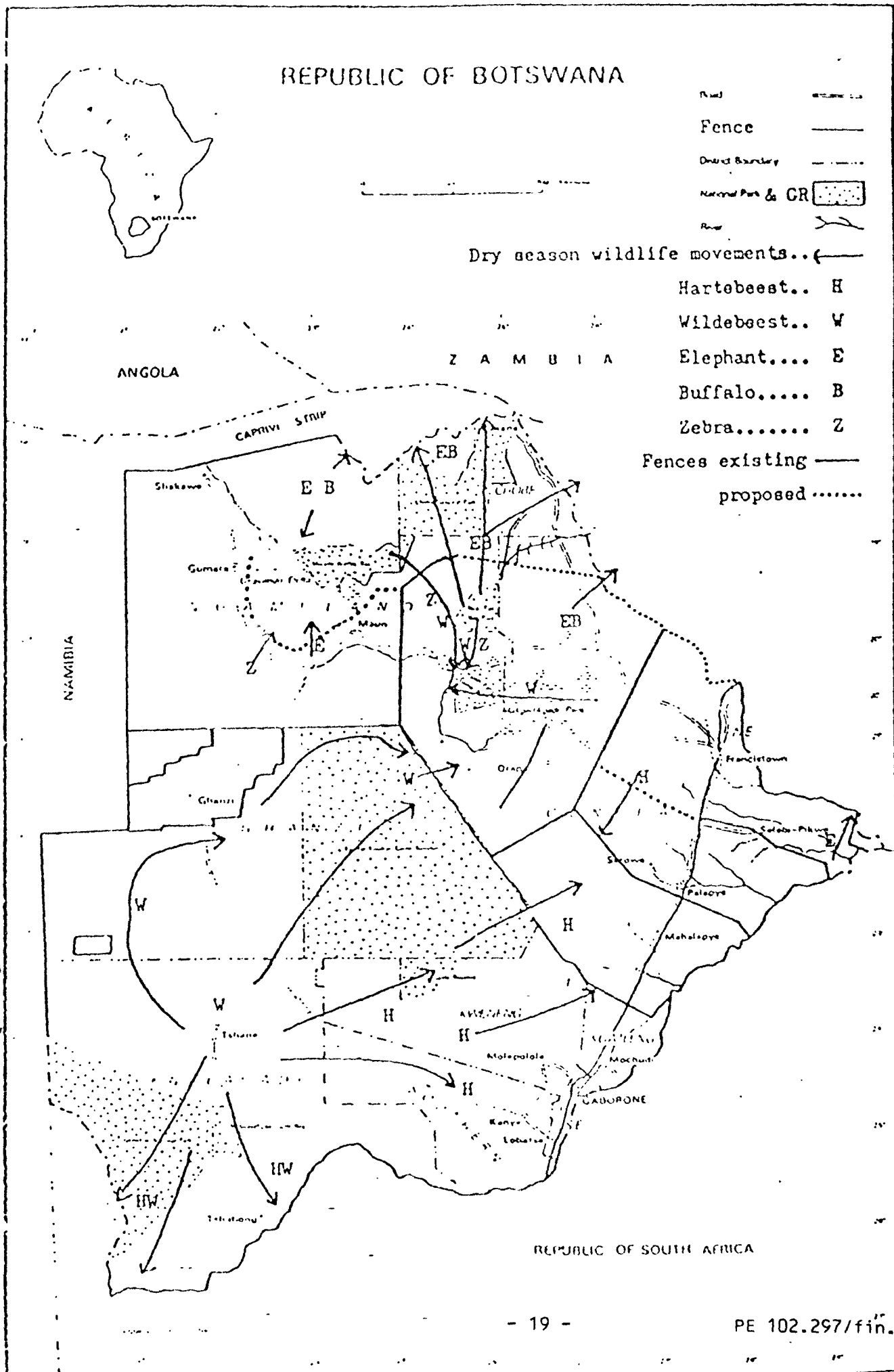
If the Community and the Botswana Government are in favour of laying down guidelines, it would perhaps be useful to set up a committee of experts which might usefully include Doug and Jane WILLIAMSON and Mark and Della OWENS, whose names must inevitably figure among those who know most about the Kalahari and its problems.

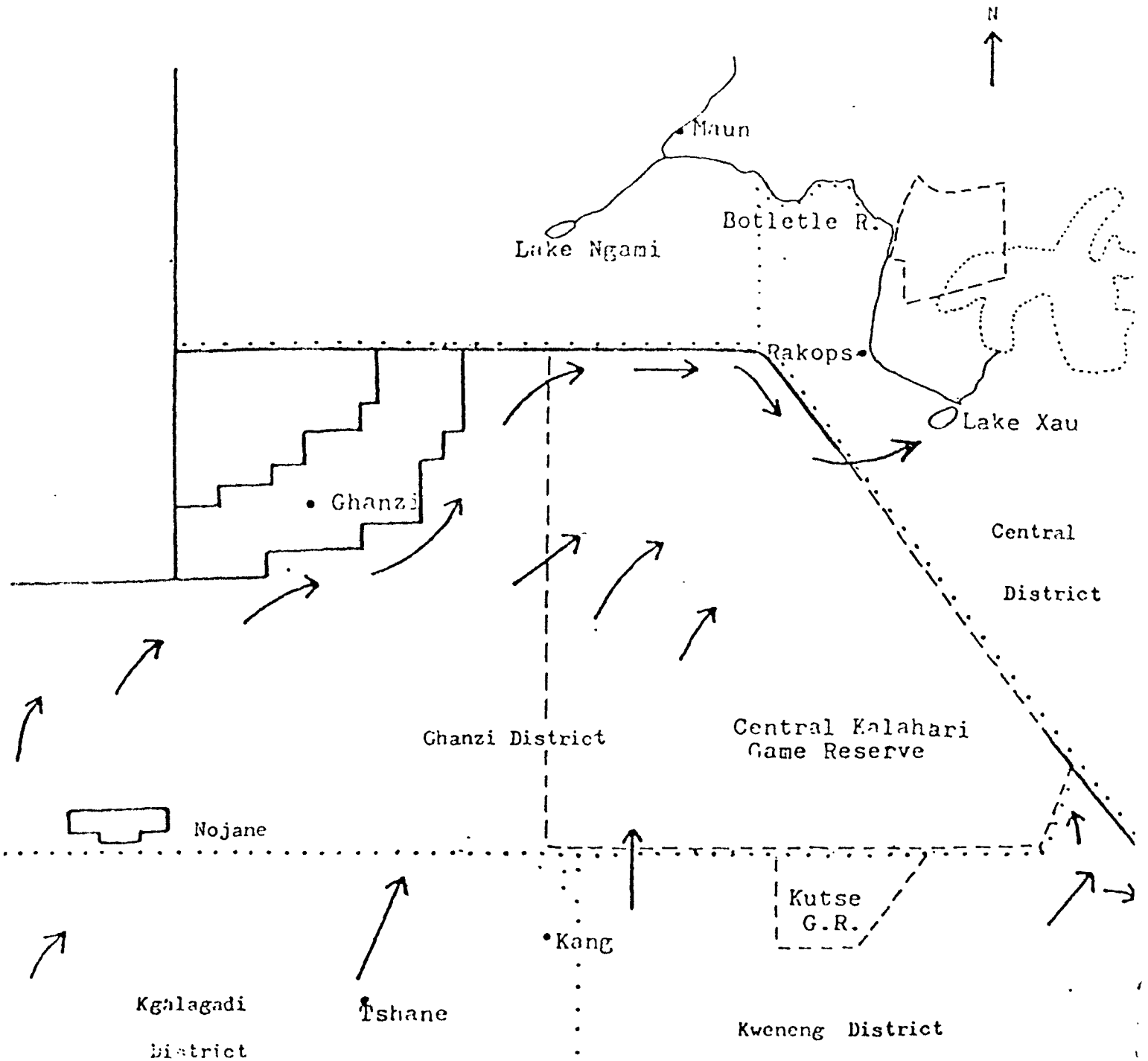
However, this meeting would have to be held very soon in view of the developments in the situation and those taking part would have to maintain a sense of realism enabling them to distinguish between what is desirable and what is feasible.

In all events, decisions must be taken very soon as the matter is urgent.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS







Scale 1 : 3,000,000

- Game Reserve
- ← Movement direction
- Fenceline
- District boundary

(from Owens and Owens, 1981)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 2-1129/84)

tabled by Mr MUNTINGH

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the disturbance of the ecological balance in Botswana

The European Parliament

- whereas cattle numbers in Botswana have increased over the last two decades from a few hundred thousand to two to three million head,
 - whereas meat production is geared mainly to the Community market at a price which is considerably above the world market price,
 - whereas the wild hoofed animals can no longer use their natural migration routes because of veterinary cordons and in times of drought are cut off from areas with sufficient drinking water,
 - whereas the mining industry is making increasing demands on the already inadequate water reserves,
 - whereas in 1984 alone 50 000 wildebeest and 40 000 zebra and antelope have already died because there were not enough areas with drinking water and natural vegetation and whereas since 1954, several hundred thousand wild animals have perished,
- A. whereas experts have established that as a result of such land management, the Kalahari region and the Okavango Delta will have become deserts within 10 to 20 years,
 - B. whereas the Kalahari is naturally a reasonable productive area, and whereas provided the number of animals is compatible with the vegetation available, it will be able to support indefinitely a viable number of wild animals and a reasonable stock of cattle in relation to the population,
 - C. whereas the low population density in Botswana should mean that with responsible land management, long-term domestic requirements for animal products can be satisfied,
 - D. whereas cattle stocks are far higher than is justifiable for long-term cattle breeding,
 - E. whereas in the long term, income from tourism and a smaller but more stable cattle farming system will far exceed the profits from current overcropping,
 - F. whereas production for the Community or the world market will destroy Botswana within a few years,

6. whereas the current encouragement of cattle farming conflicts with the Community's third action programme on the environment,
1. Calls on the Commission to take steps to regulate meat imports from Botswana so as to ensure that in the long term they do not conflict with the natural balance;
 2. Calls on the Commission to use the appropriations which now subsidize meat purchases and veterinary programmes in such a way as to ensure that in future meat production in Botswana does not adversely effect the proper natural balance,
 3. Calls on the Commission, in consultation with the Government of Botswana, to develop and finance programmes with a view to preventing desertification and to meeting the objectives of the World Conservation Strategy.