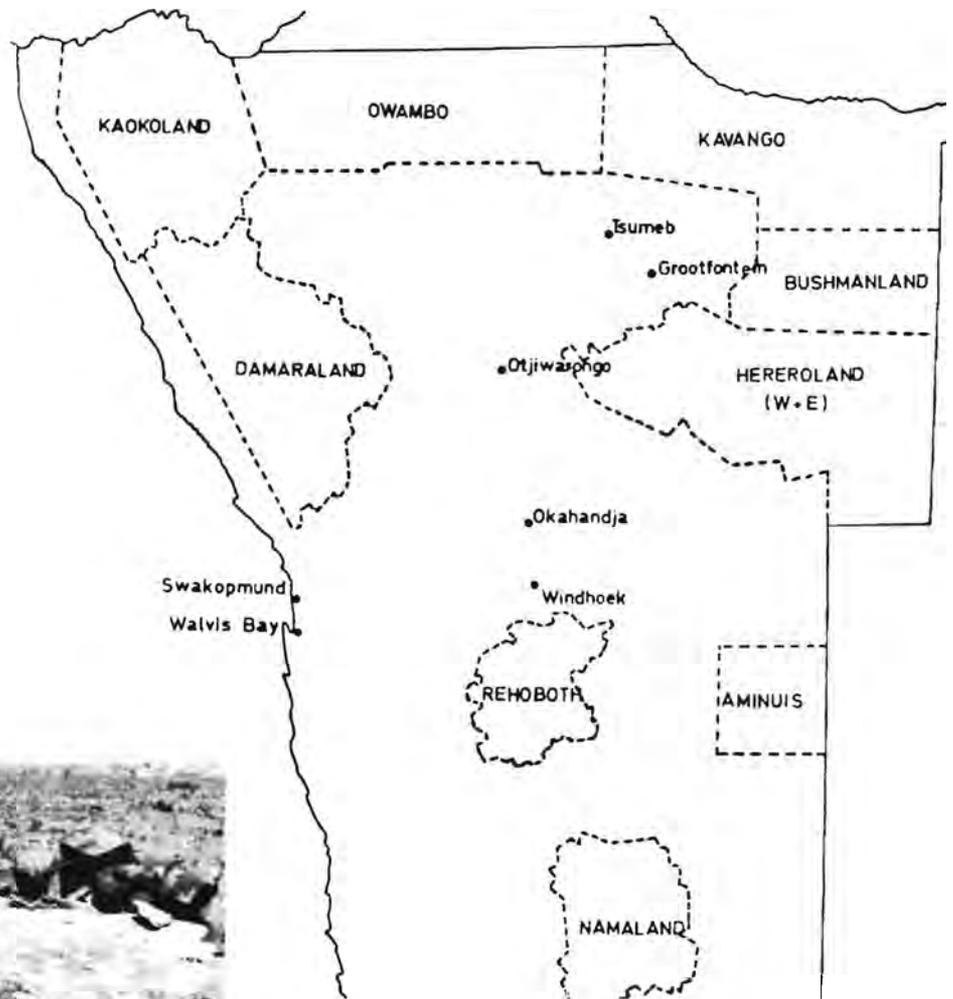


like gebruik te maak van die beskikbare water en weiding. Uit die aard van die omstandighede kan tuinbou slegs op die rivieroewers beoefen word; vir die res is die Dama aangewese op hul vee, hoofsaaklik bokke en skape. Die wisselvalligheid van die reënval noodsaak soms 'n Dama-boer om met sy vee rond te trek. Dit is dan ook te verstane dat die Dama nie in gekonsentreerde groepe bly nie. Terselfdertyd is hul wonings eenvoudig; dit gaan nie om uiterlike vertoon nie, maar om die funksionaliteit van die huise.

Dié volkekundige gegewens aangaande die Dama, is nie net van akademiese waarde nie, maar speel ook 'n baie beslissende rol in die politieke sfeer. Dit is eweneens waar van die lewensgewoontes van al die ander bevolkingsgroepe. En wanneer 'n verskeidenheid volke met uiteenlopende gewoontes 'n land met uiterstes bewoon, word die situasie inderdaad kompleks!



Bo: Kaart van Suidwes-Afrika met 'n aanduiding van die tuisgebiede.

Links: 'n Ring van klippe naby die kus, moontlik die oorblyfsels van 'n Dama-hut.

Black Schoolgroups at the Museum



Mr Edwin Mohatlane, Bantu guide lecturer at the National Museum, with traditional hats donated by Ratjomoso Bantu School, Maseru.

Last year 200 Black schoolgroups, a total number of 17 000 pupils, visited the National Museum. This figure represents an increase of 55 % over the previous year, when 11 000 Black pupils came to view the displays. The increase is most probably due to the fact that provision has now been made for conducted tours of Black groups through the Museum

St John Primary School in Maseru have shown their gratitude by the donation of beautiful earthenware cups and saucers to the Museum.

We would like to express our appreciation to the group leaders, mostly teachers, for their good control of the pupils. As a result, these groups will always be welcome visitors at the Museum, while a well-disciplined group also gets more out of the display than a disorganized one.

The National Museum would also like to use this opportunity to thank the Department of Plural Affairs for placing a Bantu guide lecturer at our disposal, as well as all their help in drafting the programmes for schoolgroups to visit us.

“MA, HULLE SKIET OP ONS!”

In 1950 was daar in 'n uitstalkas in die Museum 'n groot, ronde spoelklip afkomstig uit 'n maalgat met die volgende onderskrif:

“A Cannon-ball fallen from Mars”

Dit moet wees in die dae toe die mense nog geglo het daar is lewe op dié planeet.

Why is research being done on wild animals and of what importance is it to man or the economy? These are but a few questions asked by the layman who frequently and sometimes unknowingly utilizes and benefits from the results obtained.

There are several diverse reasons for studying wild animals; however, the goal, that man can benefit, remains the same. All organisms, microscopic or macroscopic - man, monkey, mushroom or micro-organism - are composed of the same elemental materials, grow in the same way, live and die by the same biochemical mechanisms and react to their environment in ways that are similar.

Some of the reasons for studying wild animals are:

Economic: In agriculture certain animals account for large crop losses. It is estimated that rats alone destroy approximately a fifth of all food crops in the world. In India their depredation has deprived the inhabitants of enough grain to fill a freight train stretching more than 4 000 km.

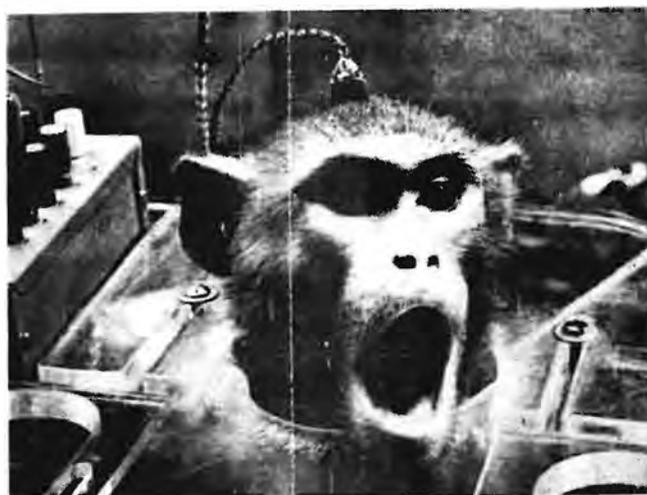


The rat, a pest in more than one sense.

On the positive side, wild animals can, as a source of protein, bring in large revenues. In 1967 it was estimated that 2,5 % of the national income of Botswana was provided for by wild animals and that 60 % of all protein consumed was derived from wild animals.



Callie Lynch, Museum Mammalogist, author of this article.



Rhesus ape in a medical research laboratory.

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH —

A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY?

Medical: In the medical field wild animals play a very important role. History's most calamitous plague, the Black Death (a disease transmitted by fleas harbored by rats), killed an estimated 25 million people.

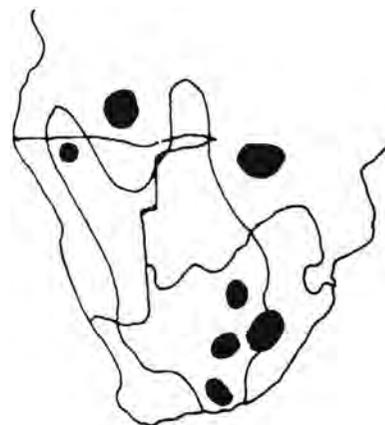
Yet in laboratories wild animals have contributed vastly to the cure of human illness. Few people have not benefited in some way - even been kept alive - by studies made on wild animals.

In South Africa at least 14 species of wild rodents are used in medical research on bacterial, rickettsial, viral, fungal and parasitic infections and in diabetes and cancer research.

Non-human primates are also extensively used in medical research. Were it not for these animals, heart and kidney transplants, to mention only a few, would not have been possible.



Yellow mongoose (an albino specimen found in the O.F.S.)



Southern Africa, with potential Plague areas in black. Note that a large part of the Orange Free State is also a potential plague area.

In the veterinary field one need only refer to the yellow mongoose, one of several carriers of the fatal viral disease, rabies, to illustrate a reason for studying wild animals.

In the psychological field, studies made on wild animals have greatly contributed to solving social problems such as stress (a major cause of heart failure), aggression and many more. In the United States alone, some 20 million rats and wild animals are used annually in medical and psychological studies.