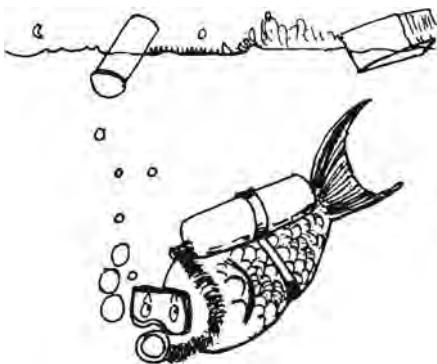


Recreation and Education: It is essential in today's world to have some form of education and recreation, and in these fields too wild animals play an important role. Here one need think only of zoos and game reserves. During the period 1965 - 1967, 380 000 people visited the Kruger National Park. In 1967 the National Parks Board alone (which excludes provincial, municipal and private game reserves) had a turnover of R9,5 million.

Aesthetic and cultural reasons: South Africa has a rich wildlife heritage which must be conserved and preserved for future generations.

Ecological reasons: One aspect of ecology is pollution and its control. Pollution can be caused either by the indiscriminate release of chemicals into the soil, air, or water, or by the dumping of refuse, of the disposal of radio-active material. Pollution can result in the extinction of species, but more often it causes a general deterioration of the quality of life as such.



Science for science: A last reason for doing research on wild animals, and by no means the least, is for purely *scientific purposes* i.e. for the sake of Science. This may be regarded by many as irrelevant and a waste of time and money. However, the contrary is true. What seems unimportant for insignificant today may be of vital importance tomorrow.

To give but one example: A hundred years ago the world-famous microbiologist, Louis Pasteur, discovered the process by means of which micro-organisms can be eliminated. Even today we pasteurize our milk. But the discovery



Giraffes in the Kruger National Park.

Imagine this scene without any plant or animal life! - That is the end result of pollution.

of the process was an incidental result, not the object, of Pasteur's research.

For whatever reason animals are studied, it is necessary to first obtain the following basic information about the animal.

- * Identify the animal with which we are dealing, i.e. its name and relationship to other animals. These fields of study are termed Taxonomy and Systematics.
- * Where does the animal occur and how does it react to its surround-

ings, i.e. its distribution and the interaction between the animal and its environment. These studies are called Zoogeography and Ecology.

- * How does the animal live, i.e. how does it behave. This study is referred to as Ethology.

These are then some of the fields of study undertaken at institutions such as museums in order to disseminate information to the multitude of bodies concerned in the economic, social, and cultural fields.

Sandsteen Letters



Danksy die hartlike samewerking van die firma E.E. Bolt en Seuns (Edms) Bpk is onlangs daarin geslaag om betonletters met 'n sandsteenvoorkoms te giet en die naam van die Museum duidelik in beide landstale op die westelike fasade (die hoofingang) van die gebou aan te bring.