

Operation Malawi 1986

Chapter 4



Left: Unloading of pallets by forklifts

Pallets underway to quarantine station

When we arrived at Pietersburg we were shocked to realize that there were no trucks waiting at the airport after having been promised that they would definitely be waiting for the arrival of the plane. The first flight arrived in the afternoon during November in the heat of the summer months. We had to scramble to get everything organized and fortunately we managed to get hold of the trucks without a serious delay.

We had to use forklifts to offload the pallets from the aircraft onto the trucks, while the animals were still immobilized. Each pallet contained 5 animals.

The animals were transported to the quarantine station where they were woken up after they had been immobilized for 11-12 hours. The quarantine station was situated +/- 10km from the Pietersburg airport.



Roan Antelope under quarantine



Lichtenstein Hartebeest

The animals took to the food quite quickly as they were used to the antelope cubes and Lucerne. They were immobilized and bled again after 21 days. Once the results were negative we were ready for the auction and the animals were auctioned at the Jack Botes Hall in Pietersburg.

After the sale, the majority of the animals were distributed throughout South Africa, where they have, to date, bred to substantial numbers. This was the start of a revolution in the rare game species industry, which is still one of the most viable branches in the agricultural industry.



Sable Antelope under quarantine

During the sale of 1986, world record prices were obtained for Sable Antelope (R7000 in 1986).

The Lichtenstein Hartebeest were not sold at the auction. Before the auction however, 10 Lichtenstein's were sold to Kruger National Park and Dr. Kriek donated 5 animals to the park to boost their small population of Lichtensteins at that time. Various private institutions and game ranches supported the sale and there was quite a lot of public interest.

Dr. Johan Kriek, 'n veearts van Kimberley, staan hier by 'n paar van die Roan-bokke wat hy van Malawi af ingevoer het om die diere van uitsterwing te red. Hy het ook swartwitpense en Lichtenstein hartebeeste, wat reeds in Suid-Afrika uitgestert het, ingevoer en op 'n onlangse veiling op Pietersburg verkoop.

Swartwitpense haal wêreldrekord prys

PIETERSBURG — 'n Veiling van drie baie skaars bokspesies is Maandag op Pietersburg gehou. Dertien Roan-bokke, 8 swartwitpense en 3 mofhartbeeste is teen goeie pryse van die hand gesit. Van die swartwitpense is teen 'n wêreldrekord prys verkoop.

Die bokke is in September verlede jaar deur 'n veearts van Kimberley, dr. Johan Kriek, vanuit Malawi aangekoop. Hy het dit as 'n uitdaging beskou om die diere, veral die mofhartbeeste, ook bekend as die Lichtenstein hartebees, te red van uitsterwing. Die Nasionale Kruger Wildtuin het 10 van die Mofhartbeeste teen R20 000 stuk aangekoop en dr. Kriek het n verdere vyf aan die wildtuin geskenk.

Tydens die veiling wat in die Jack Botes Saal op Pietersburg gehou is, het belangstellendes, waaronder verskeie wildboere en parkerode, meegeding om van die diere in die hande te kry. Vier Roan-bokke het aan mnr. Theo de Manillac van Gravelotte teen R14 000 stuk gegaan. Nog vier Roans is deur mnr. J.R. Malan van Pretoria teen R14 500 gekoop. Vyf Roans is ook deur mnr. Pieter Knott van Louis Trichardt ge-

koop teen R14 250. De Beers Consolidated Mines het vier swartwitpense teen 'n wêreldrekordprys van R7 000 stuk gekoop. Mnr. Piet Steenkamp van Welkom het vier die vier Swartwitpense wat hy gekoop het, R6 250 betaal.

Slegs drie van die Lichtenstein hartebeeste is gekoop. Hulle het gegaan aan die Pretoria Dieretuin teen R16 000 stuk.

1987
He did his job to the end

A leap to freedom . . . one of the new arrivals at Rooipoot leaves the truck.

De Beers boosts its herd of sable antelope

This operation was one of a number of operations completed by Dr. Johan Kriek and his team to secure the survival of the rare game species. The animals bred well and is now out of danger of extinction.

Wild uit Malawi na Pietersburg gebring

PIETERSBURG - Drie jaar se noukeurige beplanning en voorbereiding het vandeeweek vrugte afgewerp met die begin van die invoer van swartwitpens- en bastergembokke van Malawi na Suid-Afrika.

Mnr. Johan Kriek van Kimberley, organisierder van die hele

operasie, het dit as "genade van Bo" beskryf dat alles reeds so suksesvol verloop het.

Hy was die eerste privaat persoon wat in 1986 Lichtensteinhartbeeste van Malawi na Suid-Afrika gebring het. In daardie stadium het dié hartbeeste net in die Nasionale Krugerwildtuin voor-

gekom.

Die diere wat gevang is, was surpluswild in Malawi na die wildtellings wat in die land gehou is.

Dis 'n duur en tydsame operasie om die diere na Suid-Afrika te bring. Dit het tussen R1,5 en R2 miljoen gekos, want die diere word per vragvliegtuig na Pietersburg gevlieg.

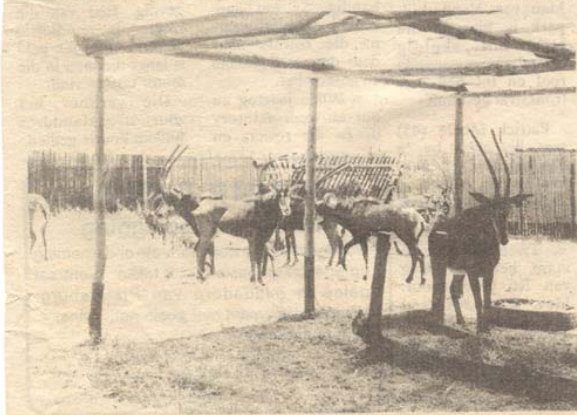
Dan moet hulle ook twee keer negatief

toets vir bek-en-kloesiekte voordat hulle die land kan binnekom. Dit kan drie tot vier maande duur voordat die wild weer in die natuur vrygelaat word, sê hy.

Albei die spesies is bedreigde wild in die land, maar hulle het ook ekonomiese waarde vir die wildboer en dan is die liefde vir die saak ook nog betrokke, sê mnr. Kriek oor die rede waarom hy die diere invoer.

Altesaam 95 bastergembokke en 65 swartwitpense is gevang. Ongelukkig is van die bokke dood sodat 63 swartwitpense en 88 bastergembokke in Suid-Afrika gevestig sal word.

Volgens mnr. Kriek is die meerderheid van die bokke reeds aan goedgekeurde boere verkoop. Die meeste bokke sal agter die Soutpansberg gevestig word. 'n Paar by Potgietersrus en die res by sy plaas naby Barkley-Wes, in die Noord-Kaap.



Van die swartwitpense wat reeds deur mnr. Kriek vanaf Malawi na Suid-Afrika gebring en nou op Pietersburg in kwarantyn is.

After the successful completion of the operation, Dr. Kriek started planning the next Malawi trip, which would be on a much bigger scale.