



FA2'

**WERTHEIM BECKER**

Attorneys est. 1904

**ATTENTION : The Director of the Directorate of  
Animal Health  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry &  
Fisheries,**

**CC: DR W. UNGERER**

Delpen Building  
Cor. Annie Botha & Union Streets  
RIVIERA, PRETORIA  
0084

**Per courier**

Private Bag X138  
PRETORIA  
0001

**Per registered mail**

**Per telefax :** (012) 329-7218

**Per e-Mail:** [PA.DVS@daff.gov.za](mailto:PA.DVS@daff.gov.za)

**NO OF PAGES: 56**

Our Ref: Mr. A. Kika/Mr. B.B. Your Ref:  
Joffe/hg

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Sir / Madam,

**MAINTENANCE BORDER / FENCES IN TERMS OF SECTION 18(1) (b) OF ANIMAL  
DISEASES ACT / RED MEAT INDUSTRY FORUM OF SOUTH AFRICA (OUR CLIENT)**



Wertheim Becker Inc - Registration No. 1999/024354/21  
Directors: - S. Gordon, K.H. Hacker, M.S. Hacker, R.L. Harty, B.B. Joffe, A.C. Kika, D. Raece  
J Van Der Westhuizen  
Executive Consultant: I. Gordon

1. We act for and on behalf of The Red Meat Industry Forum of South Africa ("the Forum"), an association of organizations which represents the interest of the various groups in the meat industry. The Forum is the national representative structure of the South African red meat industry.
2. On the instructions of our client we write to you concerning the obligations imposed upon you as the director of the Directorate of Animal Health of the Department of Agriculture ("the Director") to erect and maintain fences along South Africa's border (Section 18 of the Animal Diseases Act 35 of 1984) ("the Act") in order to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases. More specifically we write to you with specific reference to the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe.
3. In particular :-
  - 3.1 Section 18(1) (b) of the Act provides that the Director "*shall maintain fences erected*" for any controlled purpose.
    - 3.1.1 The use of the word "*shall*" makes compliance with those duties peremptory and the Director must comply with those duties in terms of the provisions of Section 2 of the Act.
  - 3.2 Section 18(8) provides that:



*"(8) For the purposes of the provisions of subsection (1)(a) and (b) regarding the installation of gates, grids and passages in, and the effecting of alterations to, fences, and the provisions of subsections (3), (4), (5) and (7)(a) insofar as they relate to fences, any fence which has been erected on the international boundaries of the Republic, shall be deemed to be a fence erected under subsection (1)(a) for a controlled purpose."*

3.2.1

A controlled purpose is defined in Section 1 of the Act as :

*"controlled purpose means the prevention of the bringing into the Republic, or the prevention or combating of or control over an outbreak or the spreading, or the eradication, of any animal disease or, where applicable, of any parasite"*

4. Red Meat Producers' Organisation commissioned an investigation of the boundary fences between South Africa and certain of its neighbours. The purpose of the investigation was to establish the condition of the boundary fences in order to assess the possibility of contaminated animals and/or meat with the foot-and-mouth disease virus entering South Africa.
5. Reports were compiled on behalf of Agri-Inspec by Mr. Henk Heslinga (the senior manager forensic investigations) in respect of the boundary fences with Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland and Mozambique. The reports are comprehensive. They are the results of



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J. Van Der Westhuizen  
Executive Director: I. Gordon

physical inspections and are supported by photographs and GPS readings. For your reference we attach hereto an copy of Mr. Heslinga's report.

6. As appears from the reports, there are various points of concern. However, the boundary fencing with Zimbabwe poses a serious risk of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease ("FMD"). Not only are the fences dilapidated and in a state of disrepair but there appears to be little, if any, are policing, and cattle being smuggled illegally from Zimbabwe into South Africa. For ease of reference we attach to the letter as annexure "A" a synopsis of Mr. Heslinga's findings on the border with Zimbabwe.
7. South Africa has in the past acted in accordance with its international obligations in terms of the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and has received recognition for its contribution to eradicating FMD. The integrity of South Africa in dealing with FMC is internationally acknowledged. The situation on the border with Zimbabwe directly threatens South Africa's FMD status and its integrity in dealing with FMD.
8. As custodian of the South African red meat industry, the Forum is deeply concerned that if the situation is not addressed urgently, it will have a serious negative impact on the red meat industry in South Africa.
9. We are instructed to call upon you to advise us within 30 days regarding the following:
  - 9.1 what measures are in place to maintain fences erected and passages installed along the border with the Republic of Zimbabwe;



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J. Van Der Westhuizen  
Executive Director: I. Gordon

- 9.2 what is being done, if anything, to address the problems detailed in Mr. Heslinga's report;
- 9.3 in the event that nothing is currently being done to address the problems detailed in Mr. Heslinga's report, what measure do you intend implementing to address the problems detailed in Mr. Heslinga's report.
10. Considering the very serious threat of the spread of FMD from the Republic of Zimbabwe into South Africa, we are compelled to request that you provide your advices by **no later than 13 April 2010**, failing which the Forum intend pursuing such legal remedies as may be available to address the situation.

Yours faithfully

**WERTHEIM BECKER INC**

**AMISH C. KIKA**



Wertheim Becker Inc - Registration No. 1999/024354/21  
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J. Van Der Westhuizen  
Executive Director: I. Gordon

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**WERTHEIM BECKER**  
 Attorneys est. 1904

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 Animal Health  
 Department of Agriculture, Forestry &  
 Fisheries.**

**CC: DR W. UNGERER**

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**NO OF PAGES: 56**

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 Website: www.wertheim-becker.co.za

Our Ref: Mr. A. Kka/Mr. B.B. Your Ref Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
 Joffehg

Dear Sir / Madam,

**MAINTENANCE BORDER / FENCES IN TERMS OF SECTION 18(1) (b) OF ANIMAL  
 DISEASES ACT / RED MEAT INDUSTRY FORUM OF SOUTH AFRICA (OUR CLIENT)**



Wertheim Becker Inc. - P. 109607436471  
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 Executive Consultant: S. Gordon

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WS: Waiting send	MS: Mailbox save	FA: Fall	G3: Group 3
			RP: Report
			EC: Error Correct

**Stephne Liebenberg**

---

**From:** Stephne Liebenberg on behalf of Amish Kika  
**Sent:** 11 March 2010 08:54 AM  
**To:** 'PA.DVS@nda.agric.za'; 'PA.DVS@daff.gov.za'  
**Cc:** Amish Kika  
**Subject:** MAINTENANCE BORDER / FENCES IN TERMS OF SECTION 18(1) (b) OF ANIMAL DISEASES ACT / RED MEAT INDUSTRY FORUM OF SOUTH AFRICA (OUR CLIENT)

Dear Sir,

Please see the attached letter.



director animal  
health final f...



Report Heslinga.pdf  
(4 MB)



Annexure A.pdf (84  
KB)

Mr Amish  
Mandrakant Kika,  
Director

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OF: ANIMAL HEALTH  
C/O DR W. VAN BEEK Private Rd 2138  
VETRIEN 0109

Postcode  
0109

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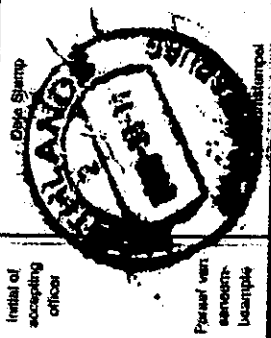
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OF APPOINTMENT ALIAS UNIT  
C. DR. W. VAN DER MERWE  
PRETORIA

Postcode 0001

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# Agri Inspec

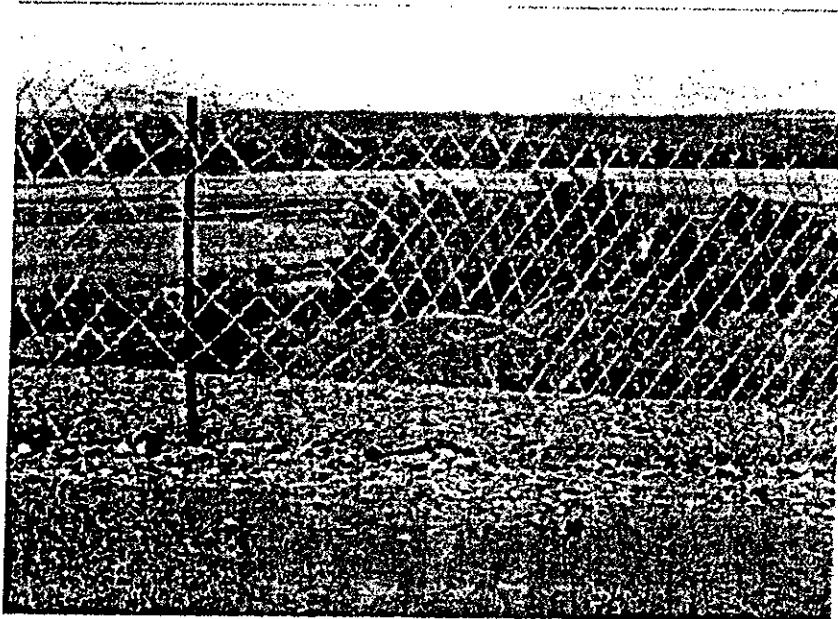
3 December 2008

**AGRI INSPEC**

## **BOUNDARY FENCE PROJECT**

*BY*

*AGRI INSPEC MONITORING SERVICES*



PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY HENK HESLINGA

### **INVESTIGATION INTO THE THREAT OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE FROM ZIMBABWE ACROSS THE LIMPOPO RIVER**

Compiled by Henk Heslinga  
Commissioned by the RPO



## 1. DIRECTIVE

An in-depth investigation must be done of the condition of the boundary fence between Zimbabwe and the RSA on the bank of the Limpopo River to assess the possibility of contaminated animals and/or meat with the foot-and-mouth disease virus entering the RSA.

## 2. GEOGRAPHY OF THE AREA

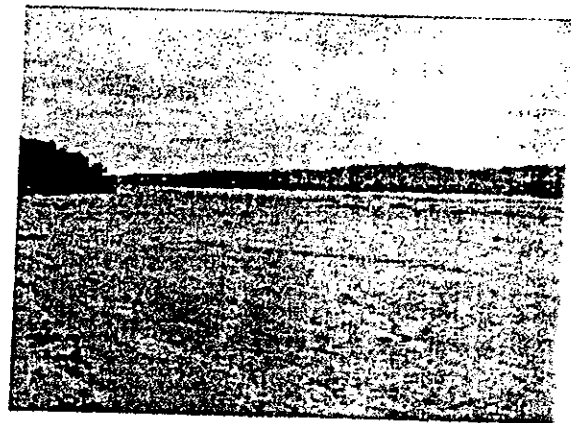
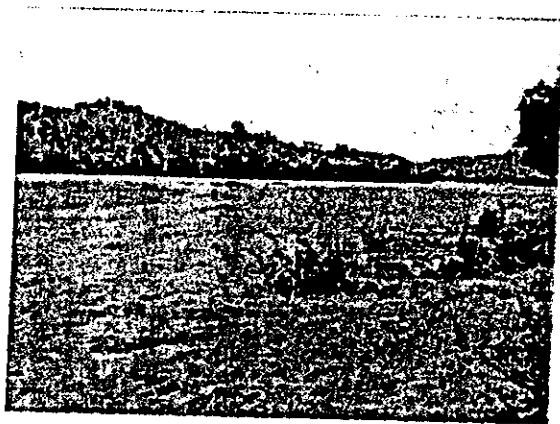
The Limpopo River forms part of the most northern border between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The river is not perennial and is, on average, for eight months of the year a dry river bed. In some places, the river bed is up to two kilometres wide, with a pool of water here and there.

The river's catchment area during the rainy season is the Gauteng and North West Provinces. The water runs from the Hartbeespoort Dam along the Crocodile River to Rooibokkraal, where it forms the Limpopo River together with the Marico and Matlabas Rivers.

Other rivers, such as the Sashe River from Botswana, the Sand, Njelele and Njwawanetsi Rivers, also feed the Limpopo.

With good rains in those high-lying areas, the river can change into a seething mass of water with strong currents and deep pools of water that can then be in flood for up to four months in a row during the year.



The Limpopo River during dry months



### **3. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE BOUNDARY FENCE**

#### **3.1 Southern Banks of Limpopo River**

During the early eighties, the then South African Defence Force decided to erect a fence on the southern banks of the Limpopo River adjacent to Zimbabwe to halt the total armed onslaught from the north of Africa.

The fence was erected by the Corps of Military Engineers of the SA Defence Force. No costs or manpower were spared and the fence was known as the Kaftan Fence. The fence spanned a distance of 203 kilometres from the fence of the Kruger National Park in the east, up to Beit Bridge and from there up to Pontdrift west of Musina. Afterwards, the 83 kilometre section up to Platjan was built, but the environment over the final 15 kilometres is so inhospitable that only a 17 wire game-proof fence was erected. The total distance of the fence is 286 kilometres.

The fence was originally built with 2 metre high double steel-square fencing wire. Between some sections of the fence, rolls of barbed wire were stacked and in other sections, where the terrain allowed it, Sisal was planted, which was not quite successful. The fence had been designed to be electrified, but due to elephants, buffalo, baboons and other wild animals in the vicinity that from time to time damaged the fence, the electrification was switched off.

#### **3.2 Madimbo Defence Force Base**

In the area at Madimbo Defence Force Base, only an ordinary 13-wire game-proof fence was erected (with electric wiring), which was known as the Foot-and-Mouth Fence. The latter section of the fence is approximately 15 kilometres from the river and the area between the Limpopo River and the fence is known as the Corridor area.

#### **3.3 Sand River and Pontdrift**

In the fence between the Sand River and Pontdrift, 42 heavy steel access gates were built, which were permanently locked and for which the Defence Force had the keys.

#### **3.4 The section further west up to Platjan**

There 16 gates were built, which were also guarded by the Defence Force.

#### **3.5 The section from Popalin Ranch up to the Sand River**

Some 30 gates were built there through which the farmers who owned river farms gained access to the river. They were supposed to be permanently locked.

Farmers along the Limpopo River who irrigated from the river installed large water pumps on the river bank, and they and their farm workers also gained access through these gates.



### 3.6 The Defence Force bases along fences

- a) The SA Defence Force located its main base in Musina and three bases along the fence, namely Madimbo in the eastern part, Beit Bridge Base at the border post and Pontdrift Base behind the Pontdrift Police Station.
- b) The boundary fence of the Kruger National Park was patrolled by Defence Force troops, who erected temporary look-out posts along the fence.
- c) In the section from the Sand River in a westerly direction along the boundary fence up to the Mapungubwe Nature Reserve, ten permanent look-out posts were built, which were known as Echo Bases, with overnight facilities, two-way radios, generators, cooking facilities and running water to support the troops stationed there. These troops patrolled the fence on foot with the exclusive instruction to halt armed infiltrators.

### 3.7 Era after 1994

After the first democratic election in the country, the Defence Force remained on the border, but their focus shifted to the prevention of infiltration by illegal immigrants and the combating of smuggling of cigarettes from Zimbabwe.

#### a) Decay of fences

Over a period of time, the fence in some places became severely neglected or totally dilapidated. Some of the local inhabitants of Masisi, Thenzalani and Gumbu, whose territory stretched up to the fence and the Limpopo River, regarded the fence as a monstrosity, hampering their and their cattle's free access to the river. Their argument was that the Zimbabweans had access with their cattle to the river and the southern banks on the RSA side, while they had no use thereof. This resulted in the inhabitants cutting and carrying off large sections of the fence with which they built cattle-pens and chicken-coops. The Zimbabweans also realized the value of the fence, and also cut and carried off large sections across the river.

The fence was later replaced with steel razor wire, but due to the poor quality, the fence could be easily cut by hand. The illegal immigrants and smugglers from Zimbabwe cut large holes in the fence to such an extent that, in certain places, the fence had completely deteriorated.

#### b) Department of Agriculture

They also play an active part regarding the boundary fence. Their Animal Health Unit, located in Musina, is responsible for preventing animals contaminated with the foot-and-mouth disease virus from entering the RSA. Along the eastern section of the boundary fence, they have four camps with overnight facilities, where they stay and patrol those sections of the fence by bicycle. The distance to be travelled per day is approximately 30 kilometres, but logistical problems, such as water, food and flat tyres, restrict their movements. Along the section from Beit Bridge up to Pontdrift, there are overnight facilities at all the Echo bases and they patrol the fence from there.



c) Damage to the fence by illegal immigrants and smugglers from Zimbabwe got out of control to such an extent that the government has given out the maintenance of the fence on tender and, currently, the company New Heights from Musina is responsible for the maintenance thereof. The company employs sufficient workers on the fence to each maintain approximately 5 kilometres. It is general knowledge that the workers are well-disposed to the illegal immigrants and smugglers, because in the past, many of them had been threatened with firearms or had been physically assaulted.

d) Phasing out of the Defence Force

With the change in focus of the National Defence Force from a defence force to a peace-keeping force, their border watch duties were transferred to the SAPS Border Police. The National Defence Force and the SAPS are currently engaged in a logistical process of transferring bases, property and equipment. The SAPS is currently busy training some of its members in border duty and to deploy them along the fence. They must take over command of the boundary fence on 1 April 2009.

4 PHYSICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BOUNDARY FENCE

4.1 Methodology

The fence from the Kruger National Park up to Beit Bridge and further from Beit Bridge up to the Mapungubwe Nature Reserve was patrolled by vehicle and checked. Damaged places identified and known smuggling routes were photographed and GPS readings were taken to confirm the exact locations.

4.2 Border – from the Kruger National Park up to the Beit Bridge border post

This part of the border is a high-risk area for the entry of illegal immigrants, and the smuggling of cigarettes, cattle, meat and other household goods.

For the practical purposes of this report, the boundary fence has been divided into five sections, which are dealt with separately.

4.2.1 SECTION 1 – MAKULEKE AREA

a) Discussion of condition

This part of the Kruger National Park is known as the Makuleke area, which was awarded to the community in the vicinity as a result of a successful land claim. It is currently jointly managed by die SAN Parks and the Makuleke Trust.

The management appointed Mr Jack Greeff as game-warden to manage the area on behalf of the Trust. He also resides in the vicinity.

The existing fence along the Limpopo River has been totally destroyed by elephants and buffalo and as a result, cattle from Zimbabwe cross the border unhindered. The area is neither patrolled.

The fence from the Kruger National Park running from the Limpopo River in a southerly direction is well maintained by the National Park. However, there is



hardly any fence left next to the Limpopo River to check cattle from Zimbabwe. This increases the possibility of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

This area is regarded as a high-risk area for the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from Zimbabwe.

**b) Investigation**

The photographs below confirm the above discussions

FOTO 1 - GPS verw S 22° 21.932 EO 31° 02.442

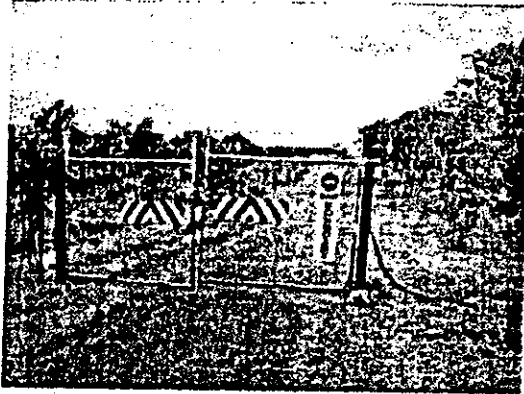


FOTO 2 - GPS verw S 22° 22.292 EO 31° 02.04.889

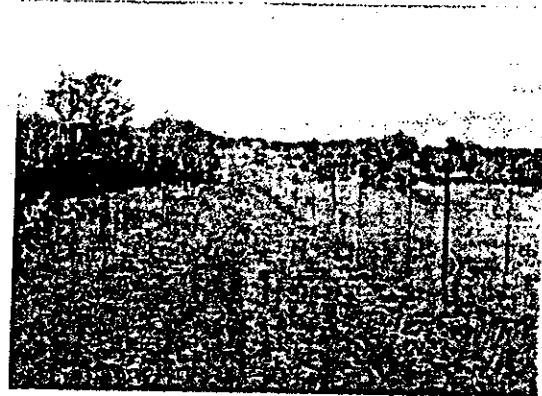
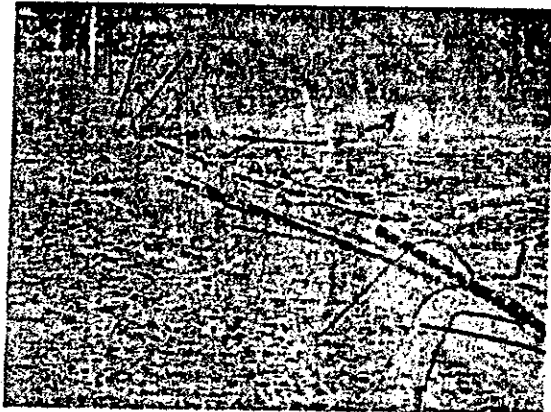
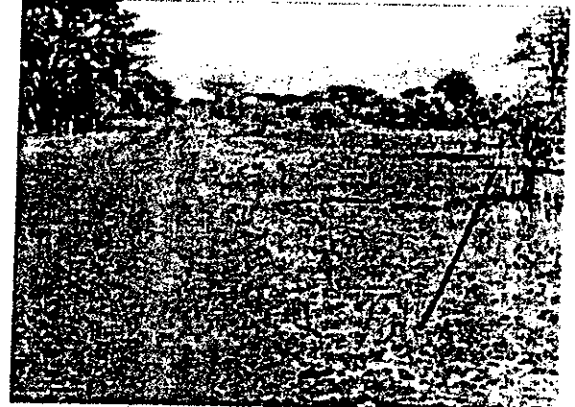


FOTO 3 GPS ref. S 22° 22.183 EO 31° 04.151



Flattened fence

FOTO 4 GPS ref. S 22° 22.136 EO 31° 03.913



Destroyed fence

#### 4.2.2 SECTION 2 – MABILUKGWE AREA

##### a) Discussion

This area is a very high-risk area and is known for its smuggling routes and cattle, sheep, goats, meat and beef carcasses from Zimbabwe being brought into the RSA.

The meat and/or beef carcasses are loaded onto donkeys, which are then driven to the area from Zimbabwe. Should anyone catch them, they abscond, leaving the donkeys with their load just as they are. Some of the local inhabitants wait for the contraband with their vehicles next to the fence along the preplanned smuggling routes.

The black tribal area, Masisi, borders on this area, which is a major outlet area for cheap meat from Zimbabwe that is offered for sale there. With the money essential household products, like flour and sugar, are bought and returned to Zimbabwe.

Inspectors of the Department of Animal Health annually shoot dead between 40 and 60 head of cattle and/or goats in the area that probably come from Zimbabwe or drive the animals back to Zimbabwe. During dipping days, the foreign cattle are identified and shot or driven back to Zimbabwe.

Pick-up trucks can easily drive on the access routes and tracks from Masisi to the boundary fence.

The boundary fence is regularly cut for new smuggling routes, but is fixed by inspectors from Animal Health from time to time. The area is served by Masisi Police who seldom if ever patrol the area of the boundary fence.

In the past, the Defence Force patrolled the area, but are currently being withdrawn, since the area has to be handed over to the SAPS on 1 April 2009. **At present, no SAPS members are deployed in the area.** Currently, 7SAI of the Defence Force serve in the area.

The boundary fence of approximately 30 kilometres is patrolled by bicycle by two inspectors of Animal Health, but logistical problems, such as water, food and flat tyres, greatly restrict their movement.

The boundary fence is a single 13-wire fence that is no longer electrified. Poles are used to force open the wires so that the cattle can be driven through. See photograph 9.

On the Zimbabwe side, is the large and rather densely populated Sengwe tribal area, with Chikwarakwara, Chipise, Diti, Matibi and Nulli as settlements stretching up to the Limpopo River. The Bubi River runs through this area,





which runs into the Limpopo River at Pafuri. Large farms confiscated from whites and occupied by Zimbabwean War Veterans are situated here.

In September 2008, a joint operation was undertaken by the SAPS's Stock-theft Unit and inspectors from the Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Unit, together with their peers from Zimbabwe. Altogether 57 heads of cattle from Zimbabwe were found and driven back from the area.

On 18 November 2008, some of the local inhabitants together with the Police rounded up 43 goats and 9 sheep that had been driven from Zimbabwe into the RSA. Three Zimbabweans fled and the animals were impounded. The case is being investigated further and a decision will later be taken by the authorities on what should be done with the stock.

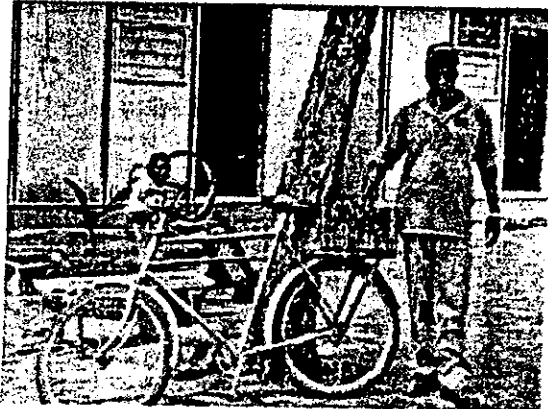
When the Limpopo River is in flood and bursts its banks, the Zimbabwe cattle trapped on the RSA side are either stolen or driven further into the RSA to be sold or slaughtered by their owners, who then sell the meat to the local inhabitants.

**This area is regarded as a major threat for the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from Zimbabwe.**

**b) Investigation**

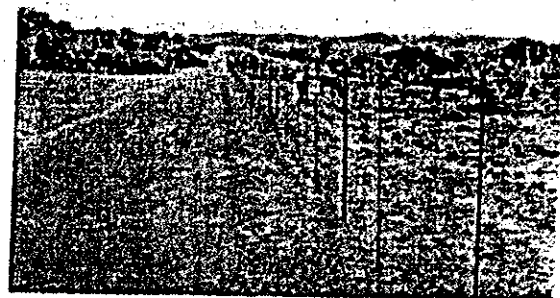
The photographs below are a graphical representation of the above discussion.

FOTO 5 - S 22° 21.932 EO 30° 02.442



Inspector of Animal

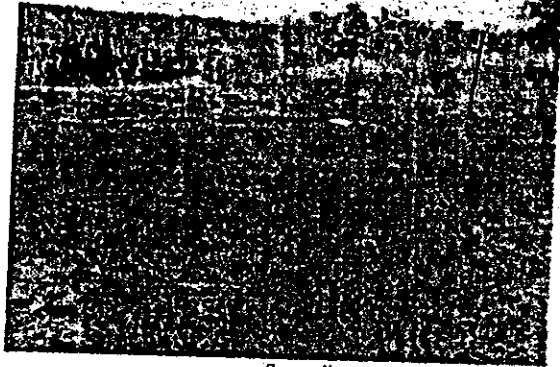
FOTO 6 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.232 EO 30° 18.232



Cattle from Zimbabwe graze along fence

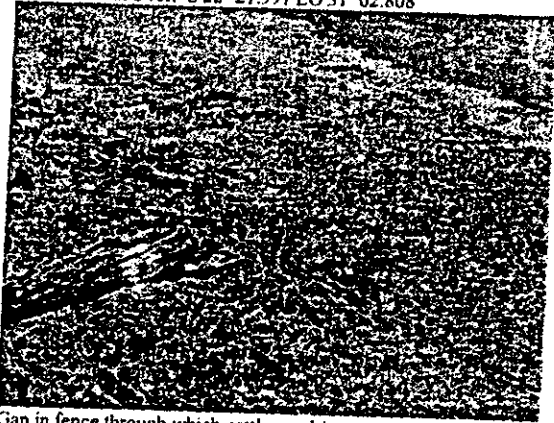


FOTO 7 en 8 GPS ref. S 22° 22.067 EO 31° 03.519



Smuggling route with worn out trail from Zimbabwe

FOTO 9 - GPS ref. S 22° 21.991 EO 31° 02.808



Gap in fence through which cattle are driven

FOTO 10 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.984 EO 30° 59.638



13-wire boundary fence

FOTO 11 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.984 EO 30° 59.638



Short-circuited power lines

FOTO 12 GPS ref. S 22° 20.917 EO 30° 59.594



smuggling route with track from Zimbabwe



FOTO 13 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.639 EO 30° 56.521



Unknown cattle in the area

FOTO 14 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.730 EO 30° 53.780



Unknown cattle next to boundary fence

#### 4.2.3 SECTION 3 – MADIMBO AREA

##### a) Discussion

This area consists of a large Defence Force base situated in the corridor area between the Limpopo River and the boundary fence. The Defence Force is now in the process of transferring their logistics to the SAPS who have to take over the border area from 1 April 2009. At present, the base is still manned by the Defence Force, but their movements are minor. In the past, the Defence Force focused on the influx of illegal immigrants and the smuggling of cigarettes from Zimbabwe, but were not concerned with cattle and/or meat brought across the border.

At certain times during the year, the area is used by the Defence Force's Reconnaissance Unit for training, which then operates in the area from the Scorpion Base.

On the Zimbabwe side, is the large and rather densely populated Sengwe tribal area, with Chikwarakwara, Chipise, Diti, Matibi and Nulli as settlements stretching up to the Limpopo River. The Bubi River runs through this area, which runs into the Limpopo River at Pafuri. Large farms confiscated from whites and occupied by Zimbabwean War Veterans are situated here.

The area teems with cattle and donkeys from Zimbabwe. Currently, nothing is being done about it and it is allowed. When the Limpopo River is in flood and bursts its banks, the Zimbabwe cattle trapped on the RSA side are either stolen or driven further into the RSA to be sold or slaughtered by their owners, who then sell the meat to the local inhabitants. Some of the cattle graze in the area until the river can once again be crossed.

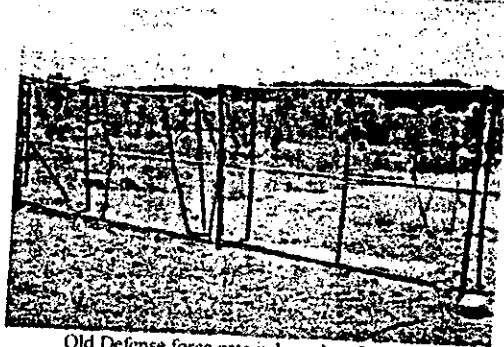
The boundary fence is a single 13-wire fence that is generally in a poor condition. The fence is situated approximately 15 kilometres from the river.

Tshezalani and Gumbu are the two black residential areas in the RSA adjoining this area. There are also several tracks and access routes leading to the boundary fence, which are easily negotiable for vehicles.

This area is regarded as a high-risk area for the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from Zimbabwe.

e) Investigation

FOTO 15 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.443 EO 30° 38.956



Old Defense force gate in boundary fence smuggling route from Zimbabwe where boundary fence has been destroyed

FOTO 16 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.011 EO 30° 44.238

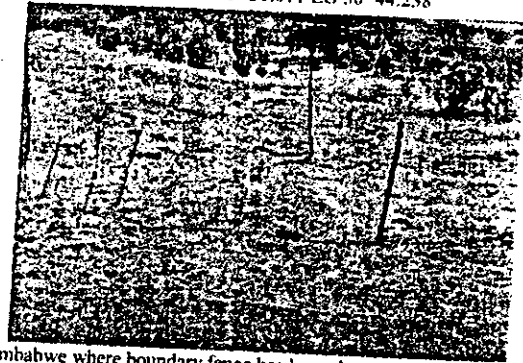
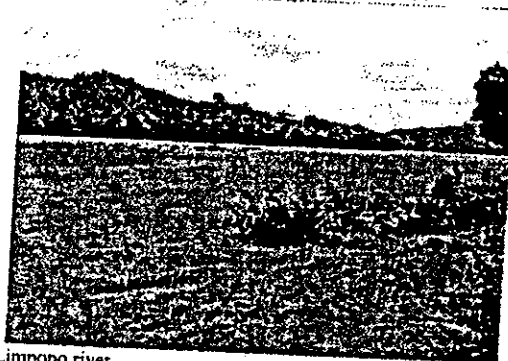


FOTO 17 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.175 EO 30° 48.360



Donkeys from Zimbabwe in the area

FOTO 18 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.126 EO 30° 52.356



Limpopo river

FOTO 19 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.126 EO 30° 52.356



Cattle from Zimbabwe in RSA

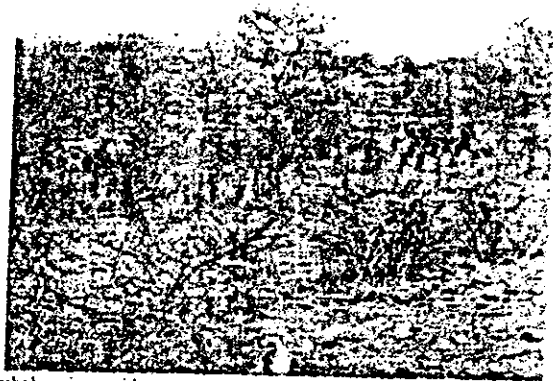
FOTO 20 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.186 EO 30° 52.192



Altogether 18 head of cattle from Zimbabwe



FOTO'S 21 en 22 GPS ref. S 22° 20.447 EO 30° 50.344



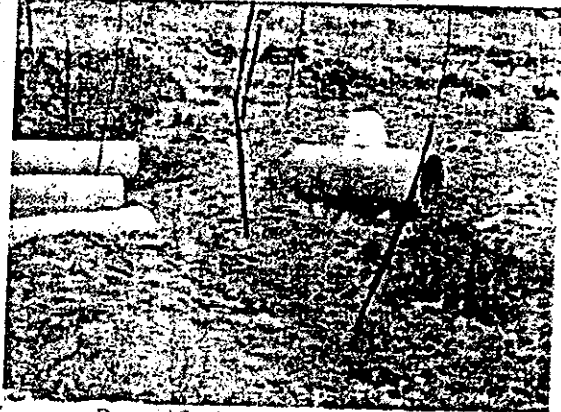
Cattle from Zimbabwe in corridor area

FOTO 23 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.733 EO 30° 43.173



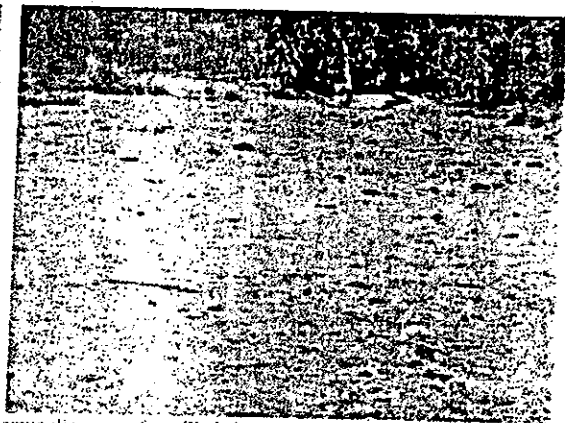
Thoroughfare with signs of clothing fibers

FOTO 24 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.938 EO 30° 41.567



Damaged flood pipes that have not been repaired

FOTO'S 25 en 26 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.938 EO 30° 41.567



Dry river bed uses as a smuggling route from Zimbabwe

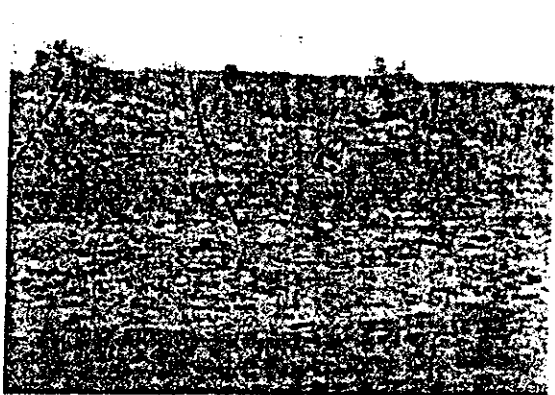


FOTO 27 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.343 EO 30° 39.531



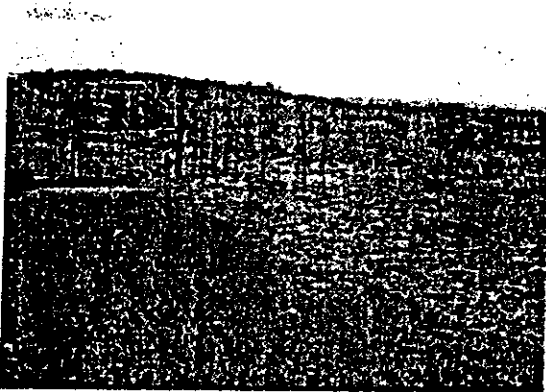
Points where cattle from Zimbabwe are herded across

FOTO 28 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.443 EO 30° 38.956



Damaged fence with track from Zimbabwe

FOTO 29 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.912 EO 30° 44.881



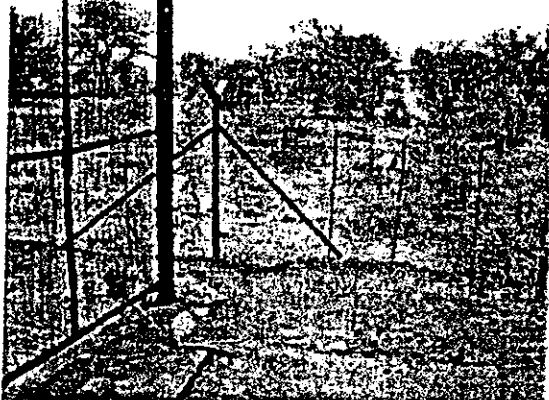
Gumba gate with well-known smuggling route

FOTO 30 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.343 EO 30° 39.531



Damaged fence

FOTO 31 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.559 EO 30° 38.381



Smuggling route for small stock at Poplain Ranch

FOTO 32 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.559 EO 30° 38.381



Deserted pick-up of inhabitant on smuggling route at Poplain Ranch





The old General Steyn foot-and-mouth disease fence

#### 4.2.4 SECTION 4 – BORDER FARMS – POPALIN RANCH GATE UP TO THE SAND RIVER

- a) This section of the boundary fence consists of river farms. The farms adjoin the boundary fence with large farm-lands running up to the river. An old tarred road of the Defence Force runs along the fence.

**This is a very high-risk area.** Cattle from Zimbabwe have free access to the farms where the fence is damaged or dilapidated. Several well-known smuggling routes from Zimbabwe cut across the area. These are some of the best known routes for illegal immigrants, as well as smugglers who move through the area with cigarettes and meat from Zimbabwe.

On the Zimbabwe side, is the large and rather densely populated Sengwe tribal area, with Chikwarakwara, Chipise, Diti, Matibi and Nulli as settlements stretching up to the Limpopo River. The Bubi River runs through this area, which runs into the Limpopo River at Pafuri. Large farms confiscated from whites and occupied by Zimbabwean War Veterans are situated here. Many of the cattle smuggled to the RSA or slaughtered by the War Veterans come from these farms.

Most of the farm workers in the area who work on the farms come from Zimbabwe and have obtained temporary working permits in the RSA. These workers move to and fro across the river between the RSA and Zimbabwe and are responsible for much of the meat and cigarette smuggling taking place there.

The fence consists of a very old double-wire fence that was erected in the seventies by the Defence Force, but which in some places has been totally destroyed. There are several gates in the fence that are no longer controlled and are open, providing free access to smugglers and illegal immigrants. Where there are gates in the fences, it is the responsibility of the farmers on

whose land the gate is located to control the gate and keep it locked at all times. Such a gate normally gives a farmer access to his water pumps installed on the bank of the river.

The fence was also known as the Sisal fence, because in those days, the Defence Force as an experiment planted Sisal plants between the fences. The planting of Sisal was not a great success and currently, tracks and smuggling routes have been hewn open through the plants.

Unlike in the area between the Sand River and Beit Bridge, no private company looks after the fence in this area, nor do inspectors of Animal Health visit this area.

The following farms border on the river:

- Popalin Ranch
- Fraues Brau
- Voorwaarts
- ZZ2
- Esmé Four
- Hadden
- Terblanche Hoek
- Limpopo Safaris
- Sodwala Safari and
- Bokveld

On two of the farms are squatter camps with small shops known for selling especially meat, milk and cigarettes from Zimbabwe to local inhabitants. The area is served by the Tshamathumbu Police Station.

There is clear evidence that cattle move freely from Zimbabwe to the RSA to graze, which makes the spread of foot-and-mouth disease a major risk.

#### b) Investigation

FOTO 34 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.722 EO 30° 24.505



Old Defense Force service road adjacent to fence

FOTO 35 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.638 EO 30° 24.820



Parts of the Sisal planting wires





FOTO 36 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.610 EO 30° 08.491



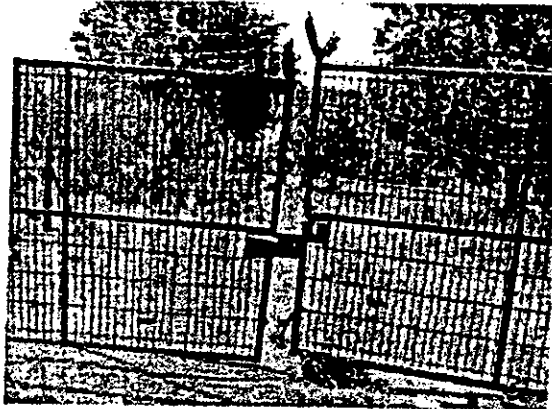
Fence repaired with 5 barbed wires

FOTO 37 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.015 EO 30° 07.612



Cattle from Zimbabwe in the Limpopo

FOTO 38 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.430 EO 30° 08.781



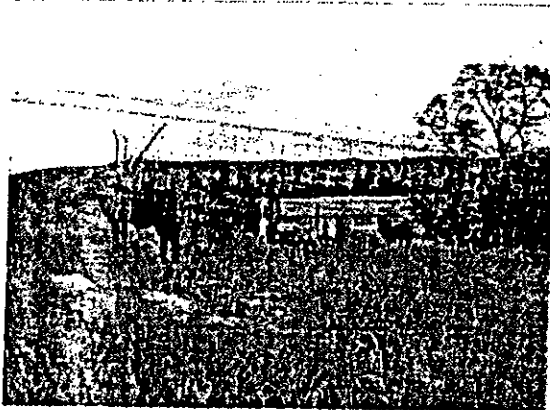
Gate in fence that is not locked

FOTO 39 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.991 EO 30° 10.912



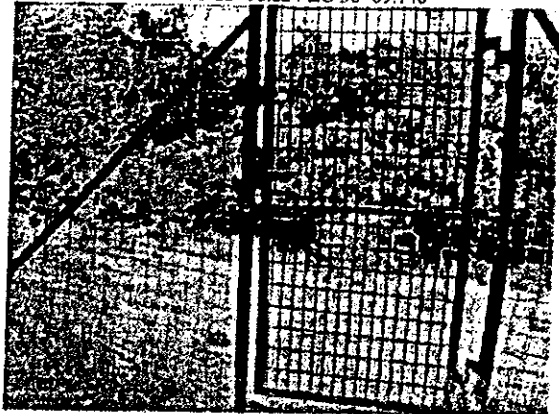
Smuggling route next to river at Hadden's farm gate

FOTO 40 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.852 EO 30° 07.969



17 head of cattle from Zimbabwe next to boundary fence in the RSA

FOTO 41 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.224 EO 30° 09.140



Gate in fence that is not lock



FOTO 42 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.820 EO 30° 07.988



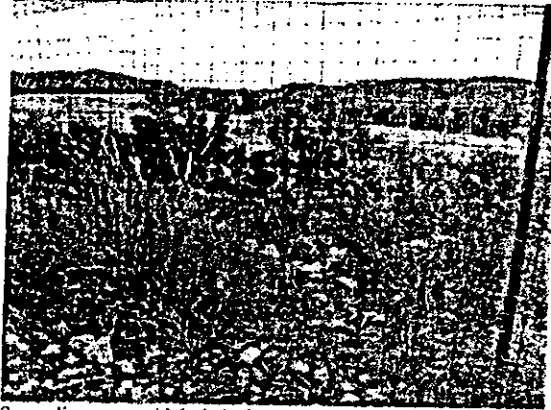
Destroyed fence

FOTO 43 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.820 EO 30° 07.988



Destroyed fence with Zimbabwean cattle in the background

FOTO 44 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.837 EO 30° 07.919



Smuggling route with hole in fence

FOTO 45 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.610 EO 30° 08.491



Fence repaired with 5 barbed wires

FOTO 46 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.559 EO 30° 08.591



Head of cattle from Zimbabwe walks through destroyed fence

FOTO 47 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.559 EO 30° 08.591



Cattle from Zimbabwe standing in road on farm in the RSA

FOTO 48 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.559 EO 30° 08.591



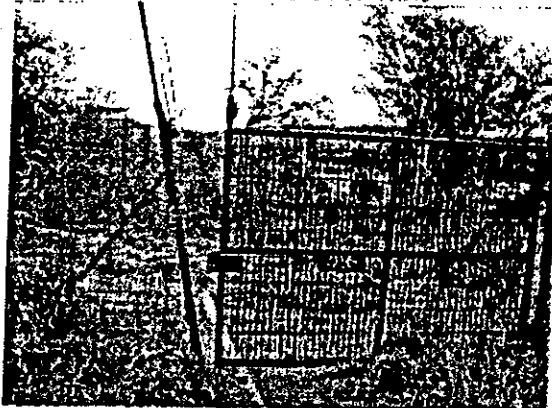
Destroyed fence next to river with Zimbabwean cattle in background

FOTO 49 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.450 EO 30° 08.781



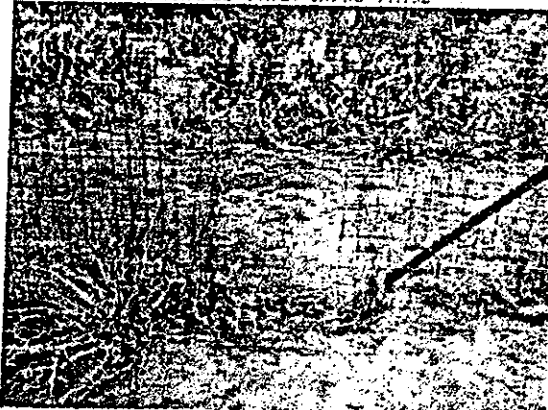
Gate in fence wide open

FOTO 50 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.948 EO 30° 11.973



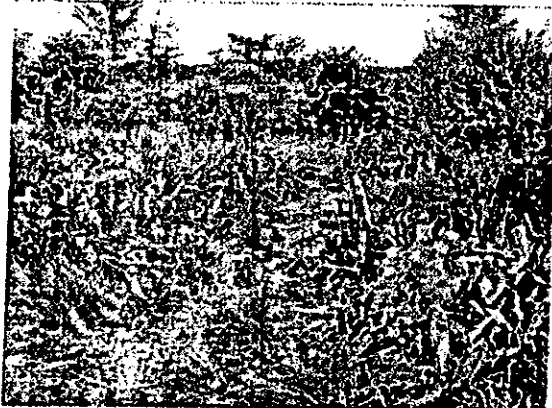
Open gate with smuggling route in background

FOTO 51 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.929 EO 30° 11.152



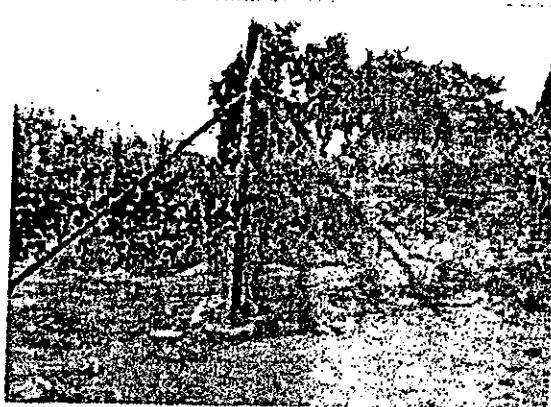
Hole in fence

FOTO 52 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.947 EO 30° 11.834



Smuggling route through dilapidated fence next to river

FOTO 53 GPS ref. S 22° 17.936 EO 30° 12.264



Place where fence can be scaled

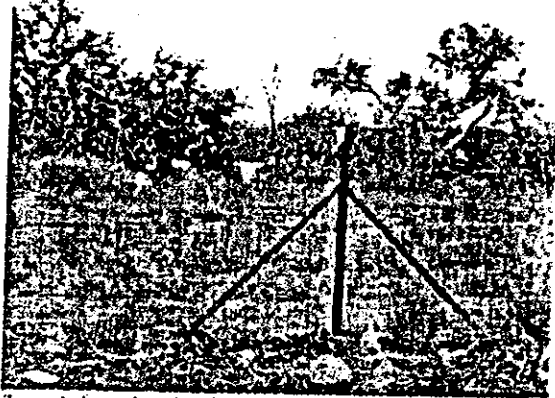


FOTO 54 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.936 EO 30° 12.264



Hole in fence and place where fence can be scaled

FOTO 55 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.936 EO 30° 12.264



Typical place where immigrants from Zimbabwe scale fence

FOTO 56 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.780 EO 30° 11.617



Section where there is no fence left

FOTO 57 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.808 EO 30° 10.691



Destroyed fence

FOTO 58 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.914 EO 30° 12.693



Donkeys from Zimbabwe next to fence

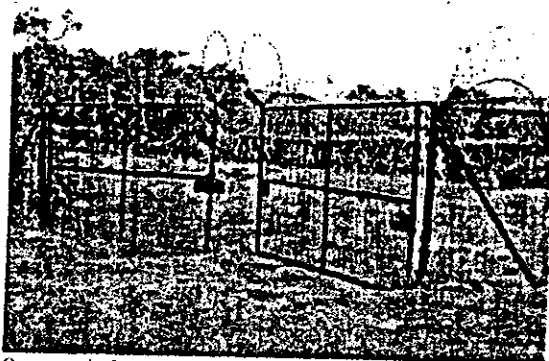
FOTO 59 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.889 EO 30° 13.012



Hole underneath fence

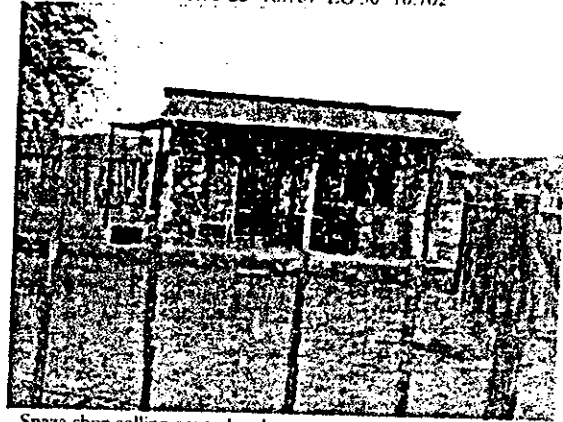


FOTO 60 - GPS ref. S 22° 17.939 EO 30° 11.638



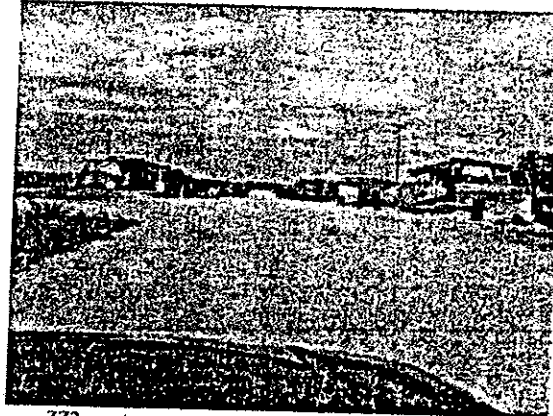
Open gate in fence

FOTO 61 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.167 EO 30° 10.702



Spaza shop selling contraband

FOTO 62 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.606 EO 30° 28.782



ZZZ squatter camp next to road where contraband is sold

#### 4.2.5 SECTION 5 – BEIT BRIDGE UP TO THE SAND RIVER

##### a) Discussion

This section of the boundary fence closest to Beit Bridge is known as 'The Route' and is used the most by illegal immigrants and smugglers of meat and cigarettes.

This route is situated just east of Beit Bridge in Zimbabwe with no water pools in the river bed, hampering access.

The first kilometer of the fence consists of a 2 metre high double steel-wire fence with four rolls of razor wire stacked in the centre. The steel fence is cut with difficulty by hand and therefore holes are dug underneath the fence.

Thereafter, the fence consists of razor wire that can very easily be cut by hand, because of the poor quality. Large holes are cut by smugglers in the fence to bring through their contraband and illegal immigrants also climb through them.

A good tarred road runs along the fence, but access to the area is restricted to government vehicles. Some of the game farmers along the fence keep their gates across the road locked. The gates can be unlocked with a master-key.

This section is also policed by the SAPS Border Police from Musina, with four bases along the fence. During my visit, the bases were, however, deserted and I noticed no movement by any Police and/or Animal Health workers.

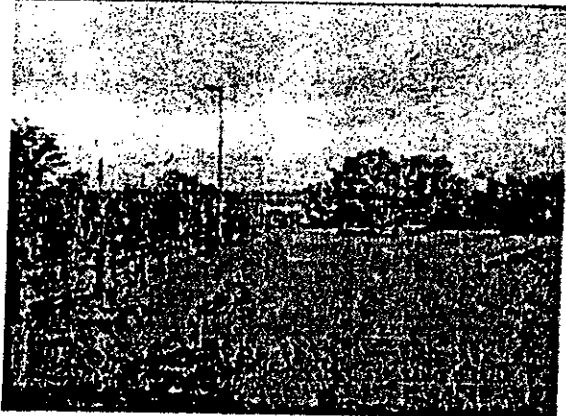
My investigation revealed that over a distance of one kilometre, there were 67 places in the fence that had been repaired or damaged. In addition, there are numerous places where they can climb through the fence.

On a regular basis, deceased Zimbabweans, who had been murdered or died of illness or exhaustion, are found on the RSA bank or in the bush. Gangs of robbers from Zimbabwe, called Guma-Gumas, are also active on the RSA border. They rob the money and goods of their compatriots coming through the fence, and then assault or murder them.

The fence is maintained by the company New Heights of Musina. The area is policed by the SAPS Musina.

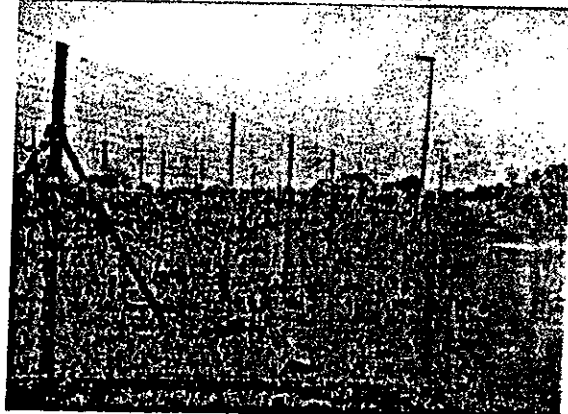
**This area can also be classified as a very high-risk area for the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from Zimbabwe.**

FOTO 63 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.626 EO 29 59.050



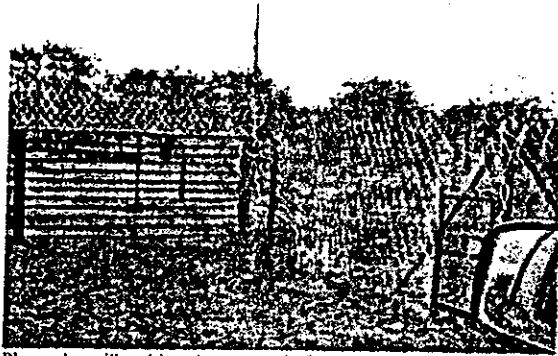
Start of fence at Beit Bridge

FOTO 65 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.662 EO 29° 59.241



Double fence with 5 rows of rolled wire in the center

FOTO 66 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.863 EO 29° 59.870



Place where illegal immigrants scale fence

FOTO 67 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.863 EO 29° 59.870



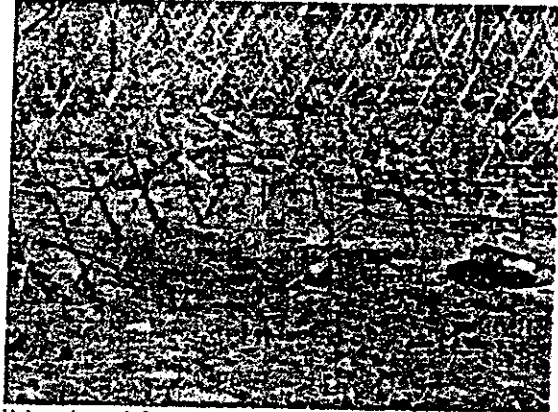
Fence is repaired by worker

FOTO 68 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.876 EO 29° 59.998



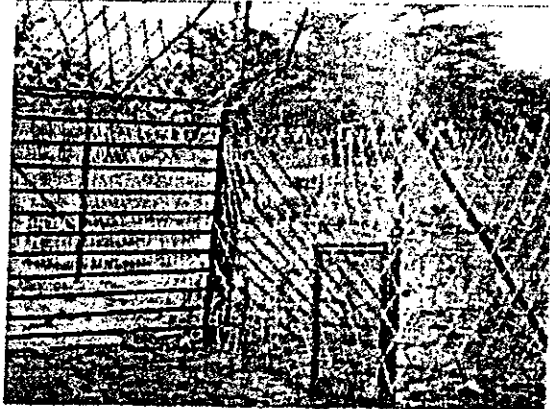
Hole is fresh with footprint

FOTO 69 - GPS ref. S 22° 14.382 EO 29° 00.842



Hole underneath fence

FOTO 70 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.906 EO 30° 00.230



Place where the fence is scaled

FOTO 71 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.906 EO 30° 00.230



Place where fence is scaled at corner-post



FOTO 72 - GPS ref. S 22° 14.643 EO 30° 00.881



FOTO 73 - GPS ref. S 22° 14.643 EO 30° 00.881



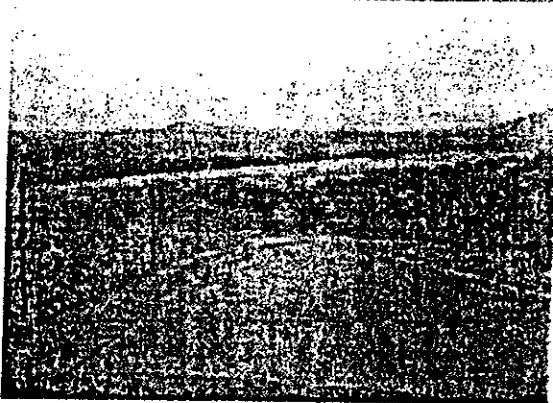
Smuggling route in fence that is not repaired by workers

FOTO 74 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.337 EO 30° 01.236



SAPS camp at border fence

FOTO 75 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.613 EO 30° 02.008



Border fence adjacent to the Limpopo River

FOTO 76 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.512 EO 30° 02.408



Hole in fence next to river

FOTO 77 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.511 EO 30° 02.620

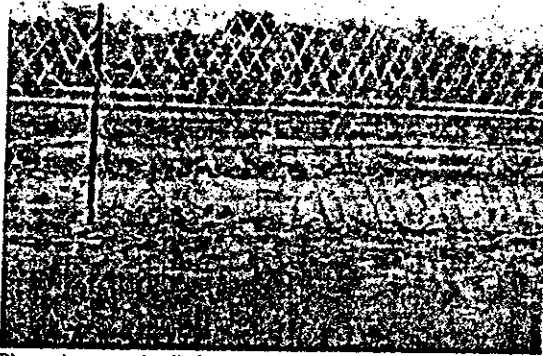


Typical place where fence is sealed at corner-post



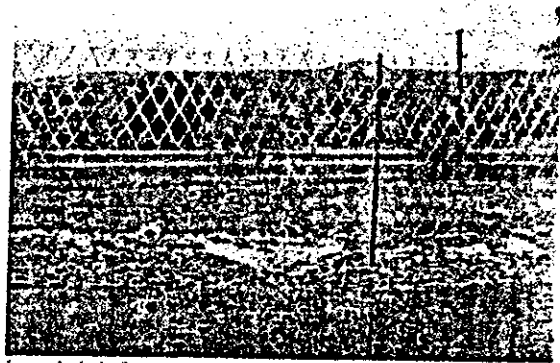


FOTO 78 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.524 EO 30° 03.009



Place where people climb through

FOTO 79 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.559 EO 30° 03.324



Large hole in fence

FOTO 80 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.969 EO 30° 03.892



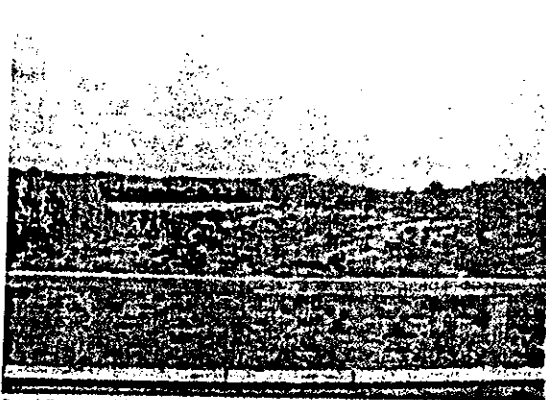
Place where people climb though fence

FOTO 81 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.852 EO 30° 07.623



Camp of Animal Health

FOTO 82 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.022 EO 30° 07.627



Sand River bridge

FOTO 83 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.962 EO 30° 07.727



Zimbabwean hunting with dogs



FOTO 84 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.022 EO 30° 07.627



FOTO 85 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.022 EO 30° 07.627



Cattle from Zimbabwe graze under the Sand River bridge in the RSA

#### **4.3 BEIT BRIDGE BORDER POST**

##### **4.3.1 Road transport**

Beit Bridge is the RSA's busiest border post, connecting Zimbabwe with the RSA. It is also an access route from the RSA to Zambia, Malawi and the far north of Africa. Hundreds of trucks move north through the border post, as well as numerous passenger buses travelling as far north as Malawi.

On average, between 650 and 1 000 trucks enter the RSA from Zimbabwe and it takes, on average, between two to four hours for the trucks to declare their load and to move through Customs and Immigration. **On entering, the cabins of trucks are not searched and the drivers can very easily bring in cheap meat that they bought along the road in Zimbabwe into the RSA unnoticed.**

At the exit of the border post, is a roofed area where vehicles entering the RSA are searched. At the exit gate the cabins of the trucks are searched by a private security company, but mainly only for illegal immigrants and large quantities of cigarettes.

Owing to the large number of trucks that have to move through the gate, the search is done quickly so as not to cause any traffic congestion.

The border post is policed by the SAPS Border Police, but criminal cases are investigated by the Musina Detective Branch.

The large number of trucks entering the RSA, which can bring in contaminated meat from Zimbabwe, is regarded as a very high-risk area for the spread of foot-and mouth disease from Zimbabwe.

#### 4.3.2 Train traffic

On average, three goods trains enter the RSA from Zimbabwe during the day and two during the night. One passenger train, the Tsongololo Express, is supposed to be searched in the large shunting area in Beit Bridge Zimbabwe. It is well-known that smuggling takes place by train where smugglers board the empty goods trucks with their contraband at night, ride along and then get off in the RSA. **The goods trains stop in Musina, but are not searched there.** According to a train driver known to me, literally hundreds of illegal immigrants and smugglers with a lot of contraband enter the RSA in this way. Syndicates are also operating in Zimbabwe and are being paid by smugglers and illegal immigrants to help them get onto empty goods train trucks.

**No goods containers on trains and/or goods trains are inspected by Customs or inspectors from Animal Health.**

Up to 200 lorries at a time wait in the arrival parking area to be inspected by Customs and/or for documentation. While they are waiting, the drivers spend their time at their trucks, preparing food on stoves under their trucks or catching up on lost sleep. Some of the drivers take their contraband, like cigarettes or meat, and walk out of the border post, sell their goods at the informal market next to the exit gate and then walk back to their trucks. There is no control at the gates to check on people entering and exiting.

Truck drivers do not bring in raw meat from Zimbabwe on a large scale, but mainly for their own use on their trip or to sell for pocket or telephone money.

#### 4.3.3 Sanitation

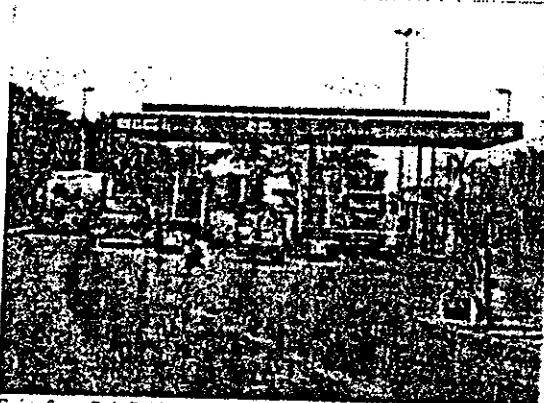
On average, 2 000 people daily enter or exit across the border, with twice the number over weekends and during holidays. Many of the people enter the RSA on foot or travel by bus, private vehicle and/or taxi.

There is supposed to be a foot-bath with anti-foot-and-mouth disease chemicals at the entrance through which people entering the RSA must walk, but it is not used regularly. The entrance gate is manned by the SAPS and inspectors from Animal Health are seldom present to do inspections.



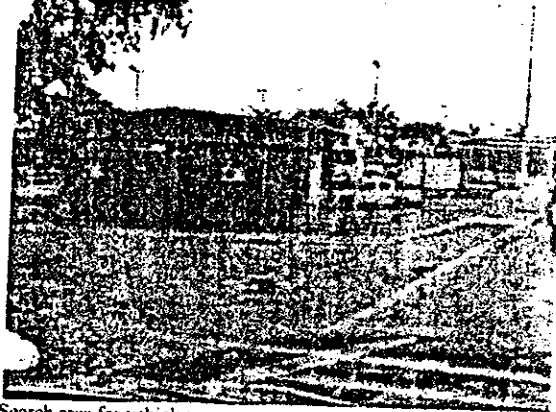
#### 4.3.4 Investigation

FOTO 86 - GPS ref. None



Exit 1 from Beit Bridge border post where cabins are checked

FOTO 87 - GPS ref. none



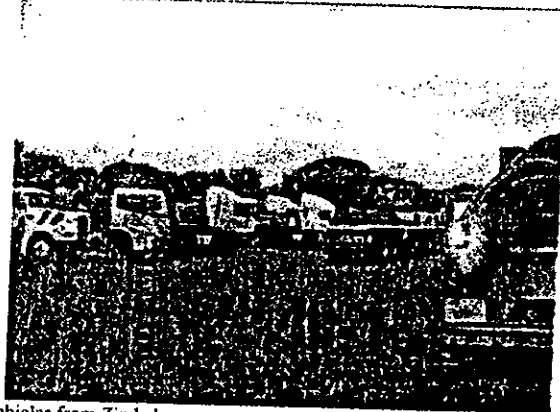
Search area for vehicles

FOTO 88 - GPS ref. None



Parking area for incoming heavy vehicles from Zimbabwe

FOTO 89 - GPS ref. None



#### 4.4 WESTERN BORDER – FROM BEIT BRIDGE UP TO THE MAPUNGUBWE NATURE RESERVE

##### 4.4.1 The fence

The fence consists of a double razor wire approximately 1,5 metres high, but can be cut very easily. There are no additional rolls of razor wire at the uprights or corner posts, which makes it very easy to scale.

Between the two razor-wire fences are stacked four layers of rolled barbed wire entanglements, which are very effective to prevent any animals from entering, but, unfortunately, they do not keep people out.

There are altogether 33 gates in the fence, giving farmers access to the river, which were all locked during the investigation.

The following farms border on the Limpopo River:

- River Farm
- Experimental Farm
- Maroi – portions 1, 2 and 3
- Overvlakte – portions 1 to 4
- Maswiri Beskou
- Maswiri Eie Grond
- Noordgrens ('Northern Border')
- Osterlicht and
- Weipe

The boundary fence is policed by the SAPS Border Police, who are controlled from Musina, with the following bases 10 kilometres apart all along the river:

- Echo 1 - GPS ref. S 22°12.877 EO 29° 56.989
- Echo 2 - GPS ref. S 22°11.210 EO 29° 52.226
- Echo 3 - GPS ref. S 22°09.259 EO 29° 47.329
- Echo 4 - GPS ref. S 22°09.303 EO 29° 41.846
- Echo 5 - GPS ref. S 22°09.044 EO 29° 37.191
- Echo 6 - GPS ref. S 22°09.337 EO 29° 32.350
- Echo 7 - GPS ref. S 22°10.146 EO 29° 28.041

#### 4.4.2 Problems

The first 10 to 15 kilometres of this part of the boundary fence is a high-risk area regarding the entry of illegal immigrants and the smuggling of meat and cigarettes from Zimbabwe.

During this investigation, it was found that over a distance of 1 kilometre, the fence had been repaired or damaged in 57 different places.

All along the fence runs a good tarred service road used by the farmers, workers maintaining the fence, visitors and the SAPS. It is a public road to which the public also have access. Taxis and pick-ups of local inhabitants sometimes drive up and down along the fence to transport illegal immigrants or contraband for a fee.

Along this fence are several well-known smuggling routes that are used regularly. The fence is maintained and repaired by workers of the company New Heights, but what is very significant, is that they do not repair the fence at well-known smuggling routes.

There is not threat of live stock coming through the fence, but the smuggling of meat from Zimbabwe is the order or the day.



River farms are situated along the entire section of this fence, which irrigate their farm-lands from the Limpopo River. The farm workers are normally Zimbabweans who have obtained working-permits in the RSA and who regularly move to and fro across the river to visit family.

During my visit to this part of the border, I noticed no movement of members of the Border Police and/or workers of Animal Health.

In this area, large sections of the boundary fence have deteriorated to such an extent that it basically cannot stop animals from Zimbabwe, which makes it an extremely high-risk area for the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from Zimbabwe.

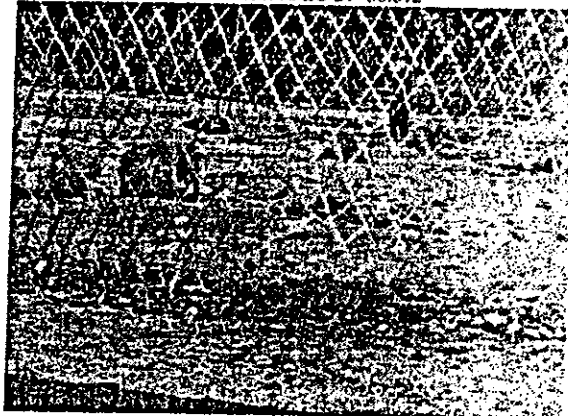
#### 4.4.3 INVESTIGATION

FOTO 87 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.707 EO 29° 58.803



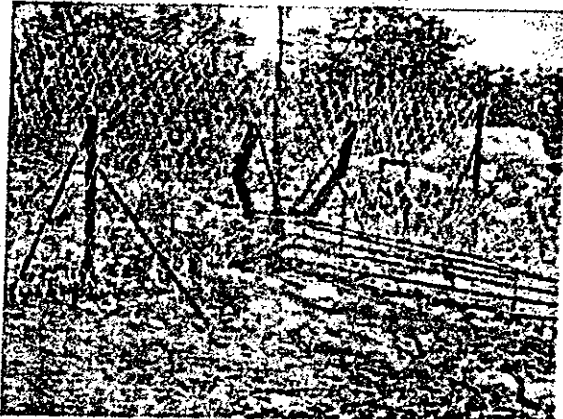
Start of the western boundary fence at Beit Bridge

FOTO 88 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.716 EO 29° 58.812



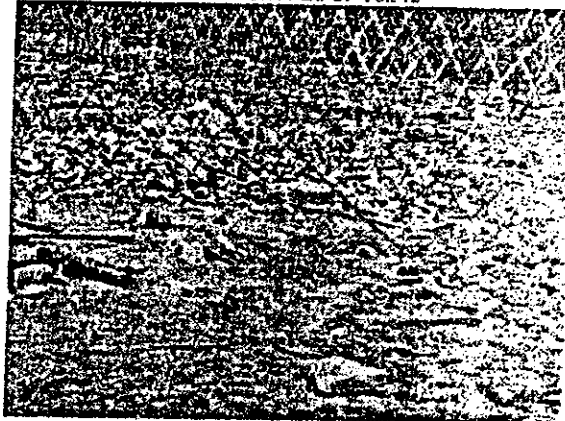
Hole in fence with worker in background

FOTO 90 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.760 EO 29° 58.683



Smuggling route that is not repaired

FOTO 91 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.791 EO 29° 58.512



Hole in fence that is kept open with poles

FOTO 92 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.702 EO 29° 58.339



Well-known smuggling route that is not repaired

FOTO 93 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.702 EO 29° 58.339



FOTO 94 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.721 EO 29° 58.093



Typical place where fence is scaled at upright

FOTO 95 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.427 EO 29° 57.804



Gate in fence

FOTO 96 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.251 EO 29° 57.636



Hole in fence with fresh footprints

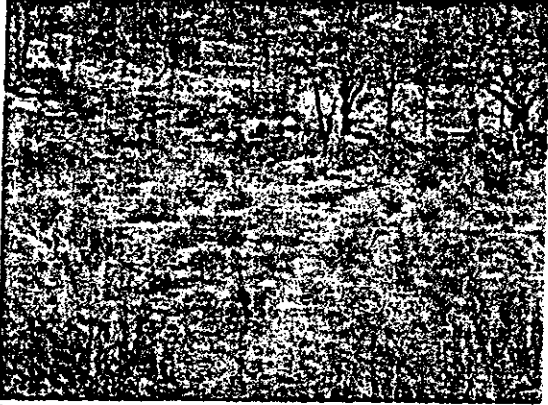
FOTO 97 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.193 EO 29° 57.565



Smuggling route behind rocky hill

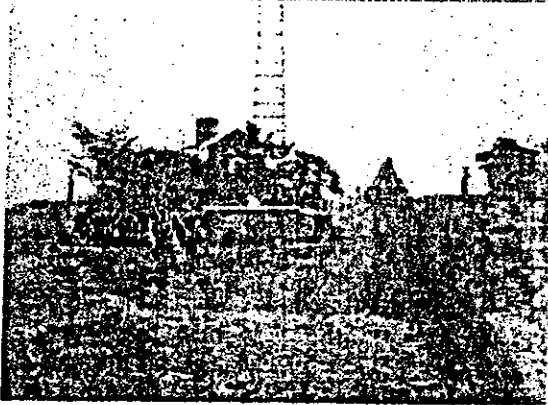


FOTO 98 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.251 EO 29° 57.636



Smuggling route through veld to boundary fence

FOTO 99 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.989 EO 29° 57.190



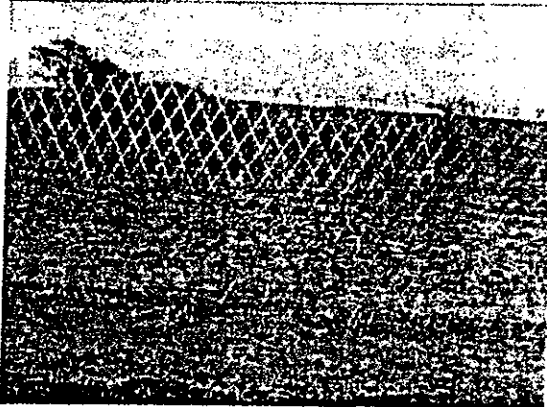
SAPS Base

FOTO 100 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.754 EO 29° 54.438



Large hole in fence

FOTO 101 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.796 EO 29° 54.268



Hole in fence with fresh footprints

FOTO 102 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.888 EO 29° 53.519



Suspicious pickup next to boundary fence

FOTO 103 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.876 EO 29° 53.478



Hole in fence





FOTO 104 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.868 EO 29° 53.349



FOTO 105 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.868 EO 29° 53.349



Very well-known smuggling route for bringing in meat and cigarettes

FOTO 106 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.868 EO 29° 53.349

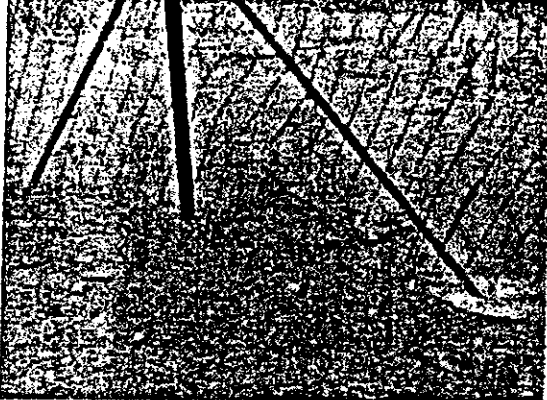


FOTO 107 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.868 EO 29° 53.349



Hole in fence with wires hanging from tree from which meat is suspended and sold

FOTO 108 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.544 EO 29° 52.573

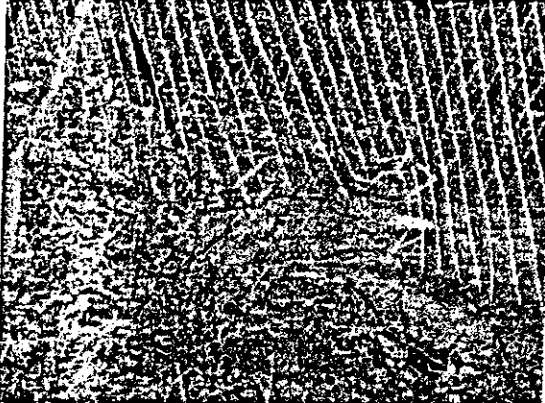


FOTO 109 - GPS ref. S 22° 11.139 EO 29° 52.14



Hole in fence hidden behind vegetation

Dilapidated fence that has not been repaired



FOTO 110 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.840 EO 29° 51.832

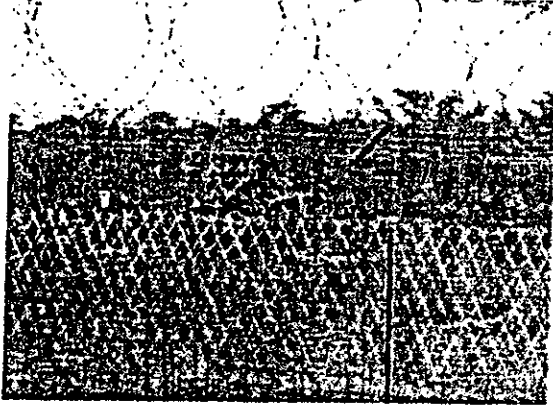


FOTO 111 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.840 EO 29° 51.832

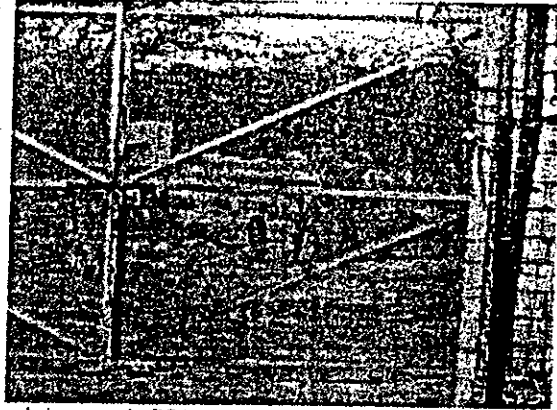


Approximately 40 heads of cattle from Zimbabwe next to boundary fence

FOTO 112 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.778 EO 29° 51.766



FOTO 113 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.741 EO 29° 51.725



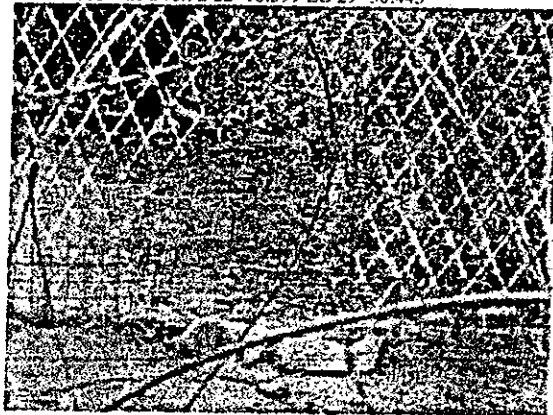
Illegal immigrants from Zimbabwe on their way to the RSA

FOTO 114 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.767 EO 29° 51.611



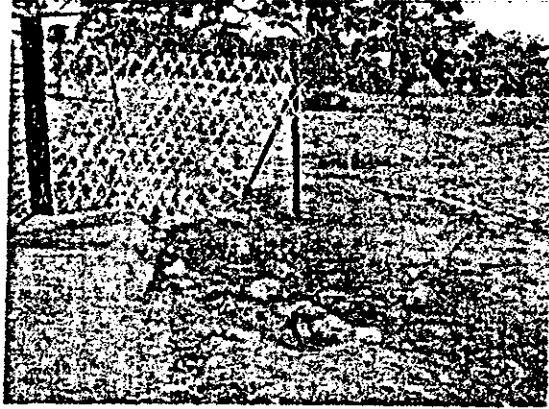
Dilapidated fence that is not repaired

FOTO 115 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.599 EO 29° 50.445



Smuggling route through fence

FOTO 116 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.421 EO 29° 49.301



Smuggling route close to river

FOTO 117 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.475 EO 29° 49.381



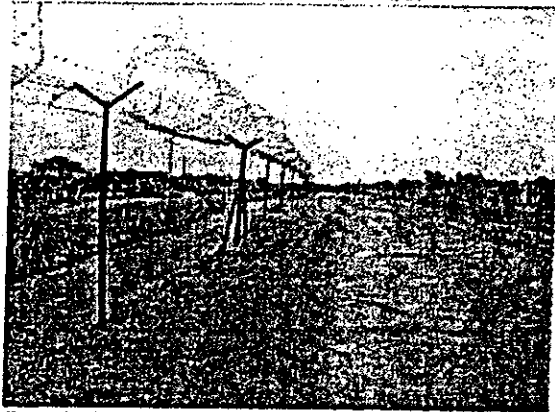
Cattle from Zimbabwe in river bed

FOTO 118 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.457 EO 29° 49.381



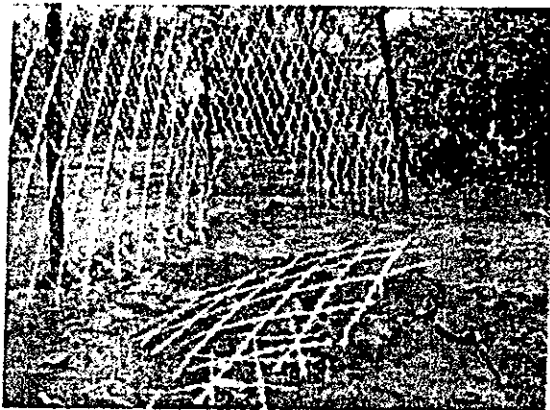
Cattle from Zimbabwe in river

FOTO 119 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.457 EO 29° 49.381



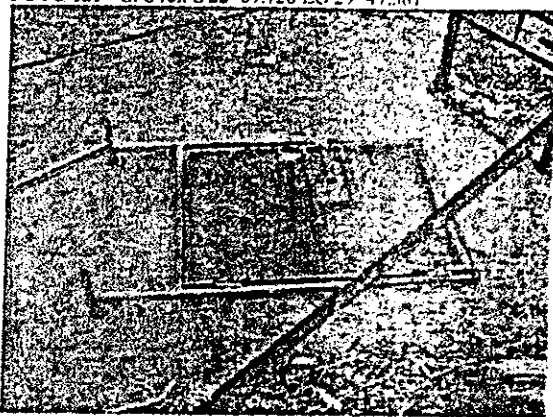
Fence that has been removed with only the rolled wire still visible

FOTO 120 - GPS ref. S 22° 09.720 EO 29° 47.381



Section cut out of fence visible

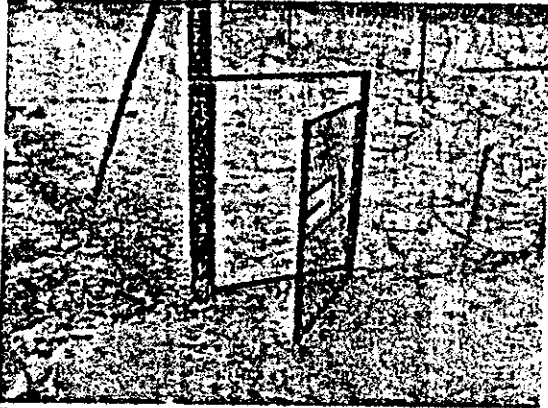
FOTO 121 - GPS ref. S 22° 09.720 EO 29° 47.381



Small gate removed from fence



FOTO 122 - GPS ref. S 22° 08.528 EO 29° 43.690



Open small gate in fence

FOTO 123 - GPS ref. S 22° 08.335 EO 29° 41.103



Farm workers shack s next to boundary fence

FOTO 124 - GPS ref. S 22° 07.852 EO 29° 39.780



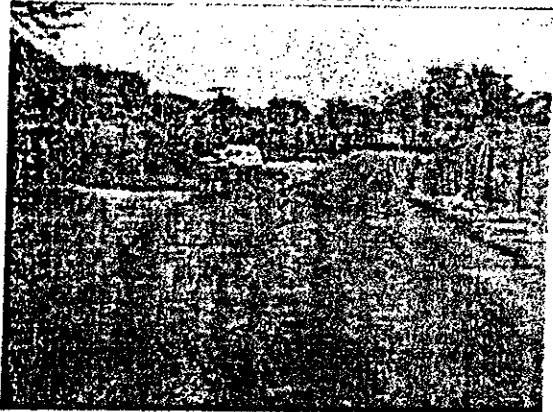
Cattle from Zimbabwe next to boundary fence

FOTO 125 - GPS ref. S 22° 07.736 EO 29° 39.624



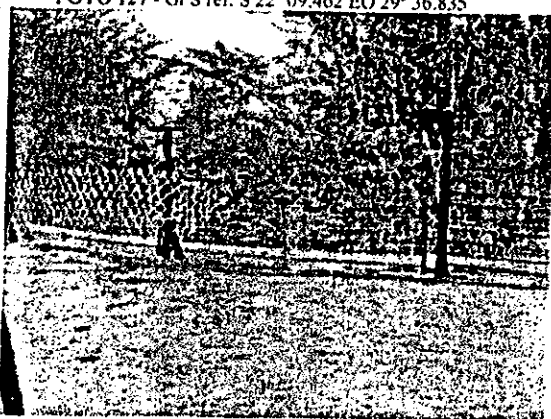
Farm workers shacks next to boundary fence

FOTO 126 - GPS ref. S 22° 09.345 EO 29° 07.007



Suspicious pickup parked close to smuggling route

FOTO 127 - GPS ref. S 22° 09.462 EO 29° 36.835



Smuggling route



FOTO 128 - GPS ref. S 22° 09.462 EO 29° 36.835

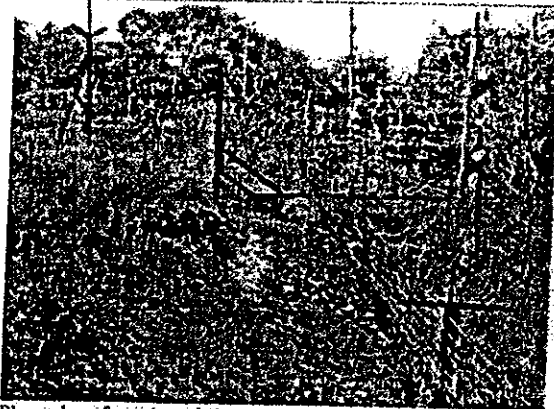


FOTO 129 - GPS ref. S 22° 09.462 EO 29° 36.835



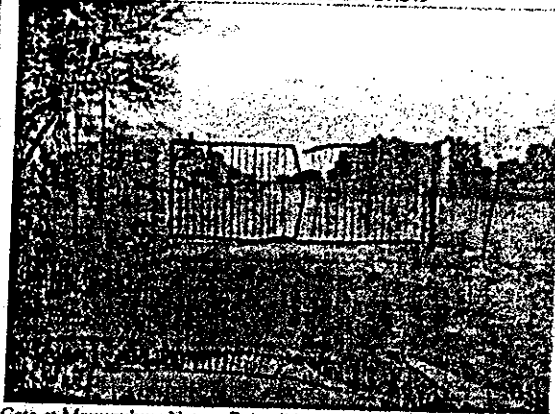
Well-known smuggling route close to farm workers' shacks that is not repaired

FOTO 130 - GPS ref. S 22° 09.069 EO 29° 33.926



Place where fence is scaled at corner boundary fence

FOTO 131 - GPS ref. S 22° 10.226 EO 29° 27.249



Gate at Mapunubwe Nature Reserve

#### 4.5 THE BOUNDARY FENCE FROM PONTDRIFT UP TO PLATJAN

##### PONTDRIFT – GPS ref. S 22° 13.101 OE 29° 08.454

##### 4.5.1 Border post and Police Stations

Pontdrift border post is manned by the SAPS with immigration facilities available, but no customs officers are deployed there! The Police Station is responsible for the everyday policing of the area, but not for the boundary fence. Closely behind the Police Station is the old Defence Force base that is now manned by the SAPS Border Police for patrolling the boundary fence.

Pontdrift Police Station is situated in the centre of large nature reserves. On the eastern side lies the Mapungubwe Nature Reserve and archeological terrain, which is managed by the South African National Parks. The nature reserve borders on the Limpopo River up to where the Sashe River from



Botswana flows into the Limpopo River and further west up to Pontdrift. The boundary fence is patrolled by game wardens and their security unit, who arrest the few illegal immigrants from Zimbabwe right there.

#### 4.5.2 Fencing

North-west from Pontdrift in Botswana lie the Mashatu and the Northern Tuli Game Reserves that stretch up to the Limpopo River. The game reserves boast the Big Five, which somewhat hinders thoroughfare for illegal immigrants from Zimbabwe. To the west of Pontdrift on the RSA side is the Vhembe Game Reserve.

To the west of Pontdrift all along the river are large irrigation farms with farmlands up to the river, which are irrigated from the river, namely:

- Parma Farm
- Hillstone Farm and Lodge
- Ratho Farm
- Breslou Farm
- Eendevogelspan and Lodge

The first 63,2 kilometre section of the fence is very sturdy and well maintained.

Across this distance of 63,2 kilometres, are two Echo bases, now manned by the SAPS Border Police and controlled from Polokwane, namely:

- Echo One - GPS ref. S 22°14.110 EO 29° 04.521
- Echo Two - GPS ref. S 22°18.492 EO 28° 58.497

Due to the sensitivity, no photographs were taken of these Police bases.

At the southern gate at Vhembe Game Reserve, the Department of Agriculture has a large basis from where their inspectors patrol the border area.

#### 4.5.3 Problems

The fence consists of a double steel square fence with four rolls of stacked razor wire. The fence is provided with electrical wires, but the supply power cables have been damaged and are currently not electrified. In some places adjacent to the river, there is only a single fence, also provided with electrical wires, but not electrified.

There are large steel double gates and access gates to the river, but on investigation, it has been found that most of these gates are not locked or are open. Because the surroundings are so inhospitable, the last section of the fence to Platjan from the most southern section of the farm



Eendevogelspan consists only of an ordinary 17 barbed-wire game-proof fence. This part can only be reached on foot, because the access routes have been washed away and the rocky hills and gullies make movement totally impossible.

#### 4.5.4 Conclusion

It appears as if, in this area, there is no great threat of illegal immigrants and smugglers from Zimbabwe. The fact that the access gates on the river are not locked and some are open, is a cause for concern, because contaminated cattle can enter the RSA from Botswana.

#### 4.5.5 INVESTIGATION

FOTO 132 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.101 EO 29° 08.454



Pontdrift Police Station and boarder post

FOTO 133 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.101 EO 29° 08.454



Thoroughfare to Botswana through the Limpopo River

FOTO 134 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.101 EO 29° 08.454



Thoroughfare from Pontdrift to Botswana through the Limpopo River

FOTO 135 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.101 EO 29° 08.454



**BOUNDARY FENCE FROM PONTDRIFT TO PLATJAN**

FOTO 136 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.971 EO 29° 08.324



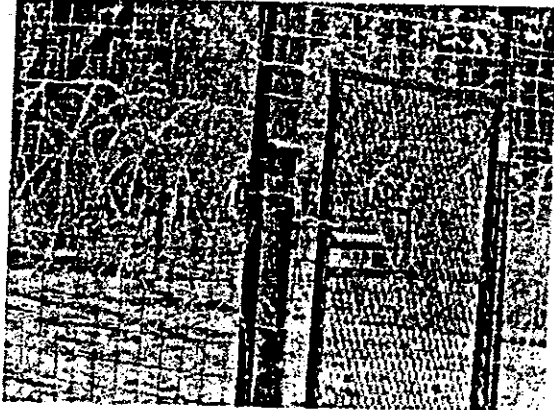
Start of fence west of Pontdrift

FOTO 137 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.910 EO 29° 08.043



Ford ('Drift') through fence

FOTO 138 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.895 EO 29° 07.847



Small gate in fence and large gate that is open

FOTO 139 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.895 EO 29° 07.847

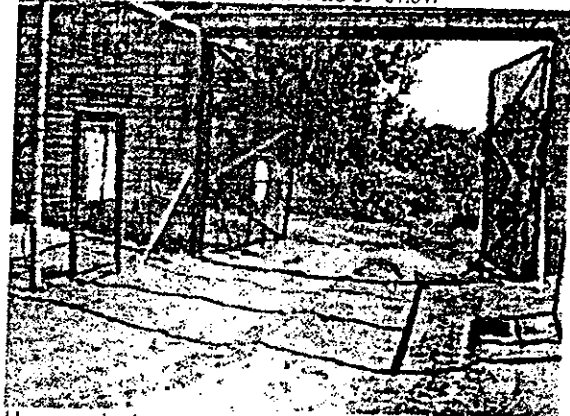


FOTO 140 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.924 EO 29° 07.524



Double steel square wire fence with 4 rolls of razor wire

FOTO 141 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.945 EO 29° 07.382



Thoroughfare to river that is not locked

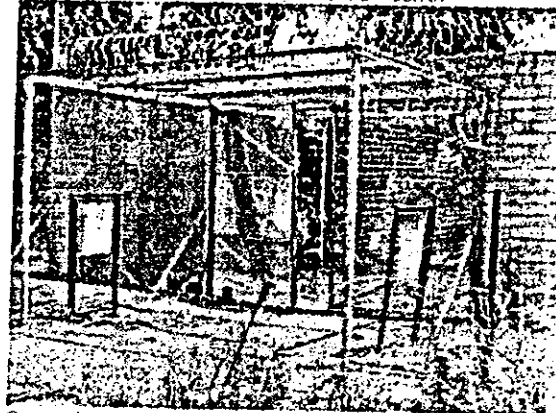


FOTO 142 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.880 EO 29° 06.902



Damaged electricity supply cable

FOTO 143 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.864 EO 29° 06.787



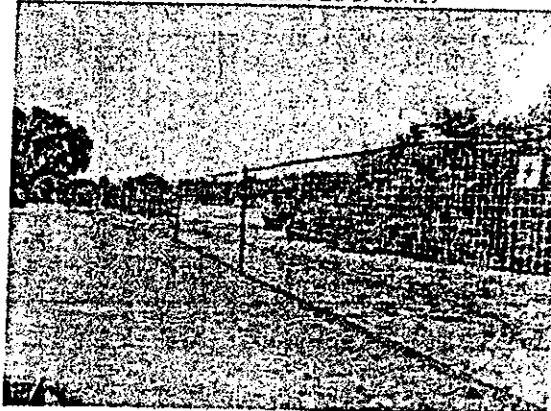
Gate to river open

FOTO 144 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.809 EO 29° 06.414



Unkown man going through open access gate

FOTO 145 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.840 EO 29° 06.429



Single fence adjacent to river bed

FOTO 146 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.586 EO 29° 06.247

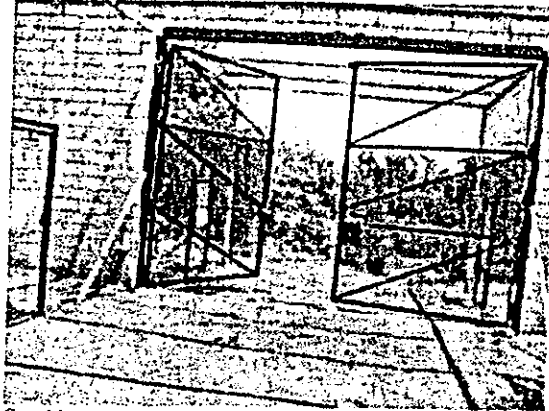


Gate 13 open with small access gate not locked

FOTO 147 - GPS ref. S 22° 12.586 EO 29° 06.247



FOTO 148 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.090 EO 29° 05.897



Gate 14 open

FOTO 149 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.276 EO 29° 04.997



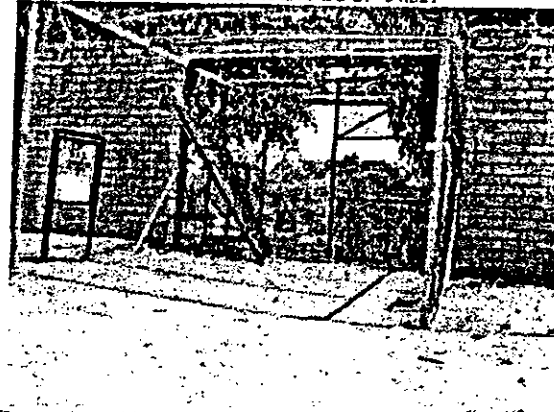
Single fence right at river bed

FOTO 150 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.290 EO 29° 04.833



Start of double fence 4 rolls of razor wire

FOTO 151 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.270 EO 29° 04.521



Damaged gate 15 open

FOTO 152 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.245 EO 29° 03.965



Open thoroughfare to river where sheep are grazing

FOTO 153 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.245 EO 29° 03.965

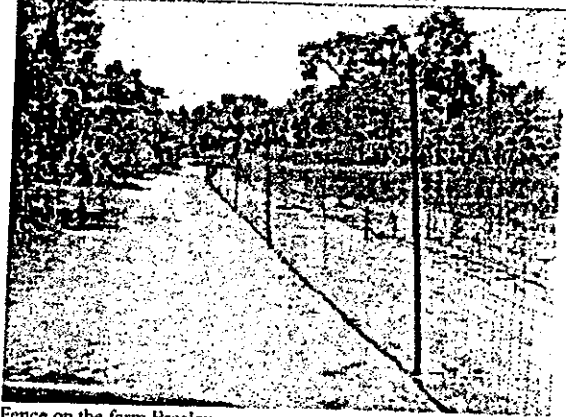


FOTO 154 - GPS ref. S 22° 13.544 EO 29° 01.894



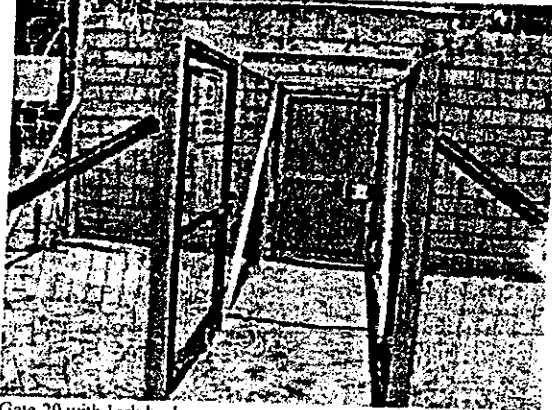
Double fence with 4 rolls of razor wire

FOTO 155 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.362 EO 29° 00.875



Fence on the farm Breslou

FOTO 156 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.465 EO 29° 00.840



Gate 20 with lock broken

FOTO 157 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.796 EO 29° 00.422



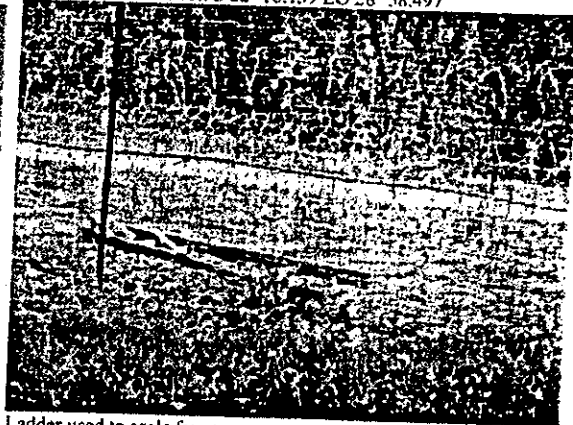
broken lock on gate 20 fence

FOTO 158 - GPS ref. S 22° 15.796 EO 29° 00.422



Broken lock on gate 20 in fence

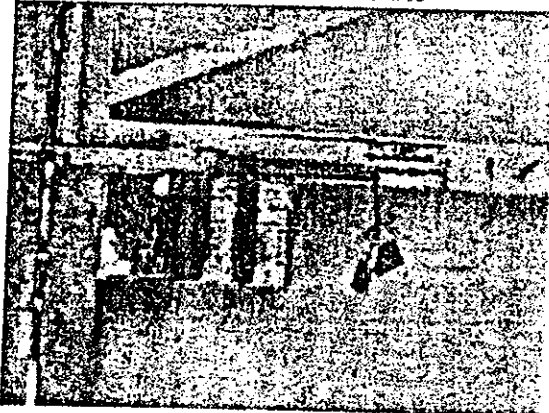
FOTO 159 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.139 EO 28° 58.497



Ladder used to scale fence



FOTO 160 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.997 EO 28° 57.952



Gate not locked with small gate also open

FOTO 161 - GPS ref. S 22° 18.997 EO 28° 57.952

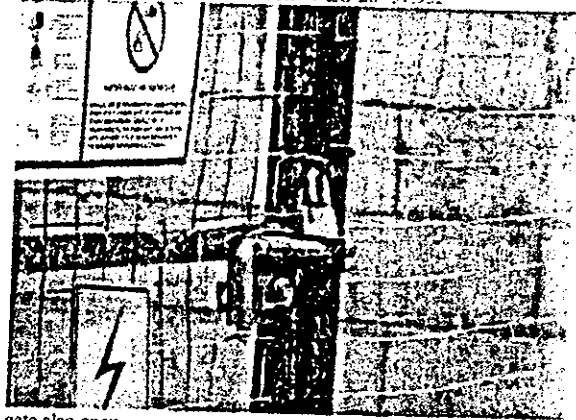
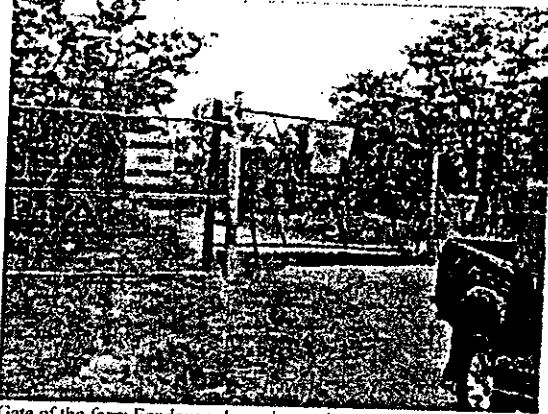
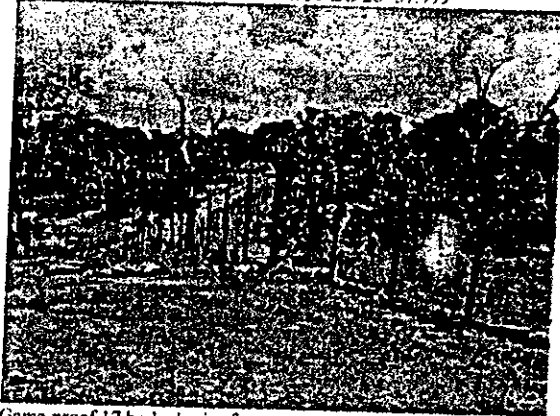


FOTO 162 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.819 EO 28° 58.038



Gate of the farm Eendevogelspan in service road

FOTO 163 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.959 EO 28° 57.999



Game-proof 17 barbed-wire fence

FOTO 164 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.207 EO 28° 57.996



Open gate in fence and then closed. No lock

FOTO 165 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.207 EO 28° 57.996

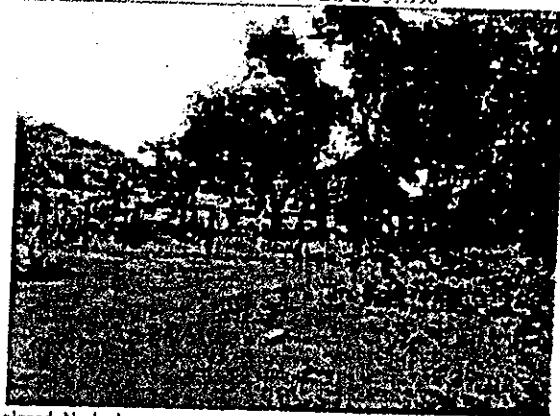


FOTO 166 - GPS ref. S 22° 20.385 EO 28° 57.970



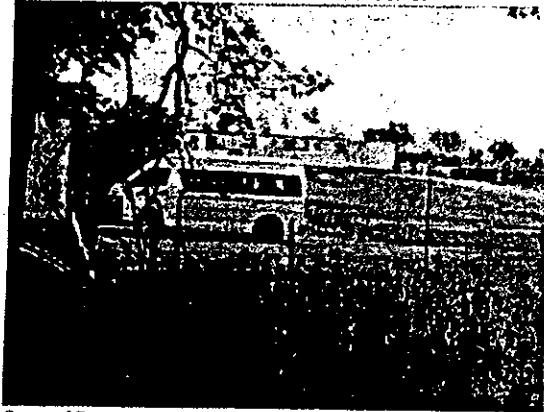
Fence in very bad inhospitable area

FOTO 167 - GPS ref. S 22° 19.860 EO 28° 58.553



Fence damaged by elephants

FOTO 168 - GPS ref. S 22° 22.552 EO 28° 58.469



Camp of Department of Agriculture

FOTO 169 - GPS ref. S 22° 22.848 EO 28° 58.338



Gate in fence to river open

## 5. POINTS OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED

With my visit to the boundary fence, I identified the following points of concern:

- a) Large sections of the fence, especially in the eastern part at the river farms, are dilapidated and are not repaired.
- b) In the same area, the gates in the fence, which give access to the river, are wide open and grant free access to illegal immigrants, smugglers and cattle.
- c) Well-known smuggling routes in the fence are not repaired by the workers of New Heights or Animal Health.
- d) Most of the access gates to the river in the fence between Pontdrift and Platjan are open, which allows access by contaminated cattle from Botswana.
- e) With my seven-day inspection of the boundary fence, I did not notice any policing of any nature by the local SAPS, SAPS Border Police, National Defence Force or Animal Health.

- f) Due to the economic collapse, especially in Zimbabwe, the smuggling of meat across the boundary fence has increased, as well as the probability of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.
- g) During my investigation, approximately 150 head of cattle from Zimbabwe were spotted on the RSA side. With the coming rainy season and consequent flood waters that can burst the banks of the Limpopo, numerous cattle from Zimbabwe will be trapped on the banks on the RSA side, which will eventually end up in the RSA and can possibly spread foot-and-mouth disease.
- h) Some of the smugglers from Zimbabwe work in syndicate with RSA inhabitants and, currently, the SAPS Organised Crime Unit do not investigate this type of smuggling.

## 6. SUMMARY

It is very clear that the boundary fence in its current condition will not stop the spread of the foot-and-mouth disease virus from Zimbabwe to the RSA.

There is clear evidence that cattle are being smuggled illegally from Zimbabwe into the RSA, and that from the authorities' side, not much is being done about it.

Organised crime syndicates are operating between Zimbabwe and the RSA, and these activities are not being investigated by the SAPS at all.

From the authorities' side, including the National Defence Force, SAPS and Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Unit, there is minimal visibility and presence at the boundary fence, which facilitates smuggling.

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03 December 2008

