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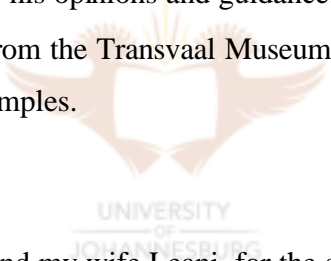
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SUMMARY.

The management and conservation of the Roan Antelope in South Africa is very important because their numbers are seriously declining. Numbers in the Kruger National Park have declined from 450 in 1986, to 30 free ranging animals in 2002.

The Roan Antelope has six classified subspecies, one of them believed to be endemic only to South Africa. Great confusion exists as to what the differences between these subspecies actually are and where they are supposed to occur. The aim of this study is to establish the geographical range and perceived differences of the alleged Roan Antelope subspecies in order to determine whether any subspecies actually do occur. It further aims to determine which subspecies, if any, would be endemic or exotic to South Africa, and how translocation of the alleged Roan Antelope subspecies could have affected the biodiversity of the local Roan Antelope populations

This study is important because the Department of Nature Conservation and Tourism has placed a moratorium on the movement and sale of alleged *exotic* Roan Antelope subspecies imported by private breeders in order to conform to the Convention on Biological Diversity's guidelines to protect *endemic* species. This has caused great financial loss to the private breeders in that they cannot sell their excess stock, valued at R 150 000 per animal.

This study suggests that the historical classification of the alleged Roan Antelope subspecies were done erroneously, and that subspecies should in fact never have been classified. The study also found evidence that alleged *exotic* Roan Antelope were imported into South Africa and released into state owned nature reserves and national parks. This seriously affected the biodiversity of the alleged *endemic* Roan Antelope and suggests that there is no pure *endemic* Roan Antelope populations left in South Africa. This study thus calls for the cancellation of the moratorium on the sale and movement of all Roan Antelope in South Africa.

OPSOMMING.

Die bestuur en bewaring van die Bastergemsbok in Suid Afrika is uiters belangrik aangesien hulle getalle drasties verminder. In die Nasionale Kruger Wildtuin het die Bastergemsbok se getalle van 450 in 1986, tot slegs 30 vrylopende diere in 2002 gedaal. Die Bastergemsbok het 6 geklassifiseerde subspesies, waarvan beweer word dat een subspesie endemies tot Suid Afrika is. Groot verwarring heers egter oor wat die verskille tussen die sogenaamde subspesies is, en waar hulle veronderstel is om geografies voor te kom. Die doel van die studie is om vas te stel waar die geografiese areas van verspreiding is, en wat die veronderstelde verskille, tussen die sogenaamde Bastergemsbok subspesies is, om sodoende vas te stel of daar wel so iets soos 'n Bastergemsbok subspesie is. Die studie poog voorts om te bepaal watter subspesies, indien enige, is *inheems* of *eksoties* tot Suid Afrika, en hoe hervestiging van die sogenaamde Bastergemsbok subspesies die biodiversiteit van die plaaslike Bastergemsbok populasies kon beïnvloed het.

Die studie is belangrik aangesien die Departement van Natuurbewaring en Toerisme 'n moratorium geplaas het op die verkoop en hervestiging van sogenaamde *eksotiese* Bastergemsbok subspesies wat deur privaat boere ingevoer is, ten einde die inheemse spesies se biodiversiteit te beskerm. Hierdie besluit het groot finansiële verlies aan privaat wildtelers veroorsaak, aangesien hulle nie oortollige bokke, ter waarde van R150000 stuk, mag verkoop nie.

Daar word voorgestel dat die historiese klassifikasie van die Bastergemsbok subspesies verkeerdelik gedoen is, en dat daar nooit verskillende subspesies geklassifiseer moes gewees het nie. Die studie het ook bewyse dat sogenaamde *uitheemse* Bastergemsbokke in Suid Afrika ingevoer is en vrygelaat is in natuureservate en Nasionale Parke. Dit het die biodiversiteit van die plaaslike Bastergemsbok populasies nadelig beïnvloed, en dit het moontlik tot gevolg dat daar geen meer suiwer plaaslike Bastergemsbok populasies in Suid Afrika is nie.

Die studie bepleit dat die moratorium wat geplaas is op die verkoop en hervestiging van Bastergemsbokke in Suid Afrika gekanseleer moet word.