



**TOGETHER**  
*for a sustainable future*

## OCCASION

This publication has been made available to the public on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



**TOGETHER**  
*for a sustainable future*

## DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

## FAIR USE POLICY

Any part of this publication may be quoted and referenced for educational and research purposes without additional permission from UNIDO. However, those who make use of quoting and referencing this publication are requested to follow the Fair Use Policy of giving due credit to UNIDO.

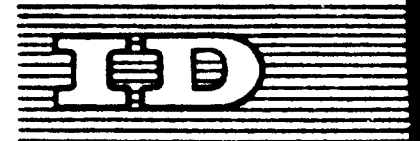
## CONTACT

Please contact [publications@unido.org](mailto:publications@unido.org) for further information concerning UNIDO publications.

For more information about UNIDO, please visit us at [www.unido.org](http://www.unido.org)



D03279



Distr.  
LIMITED

ID/WG.79/28  
11 June 1971

Original : ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

---

Seminar on the Development of the  
Leather and Leather Products Industries  
in Developing Countries  
Regional Project for Africa

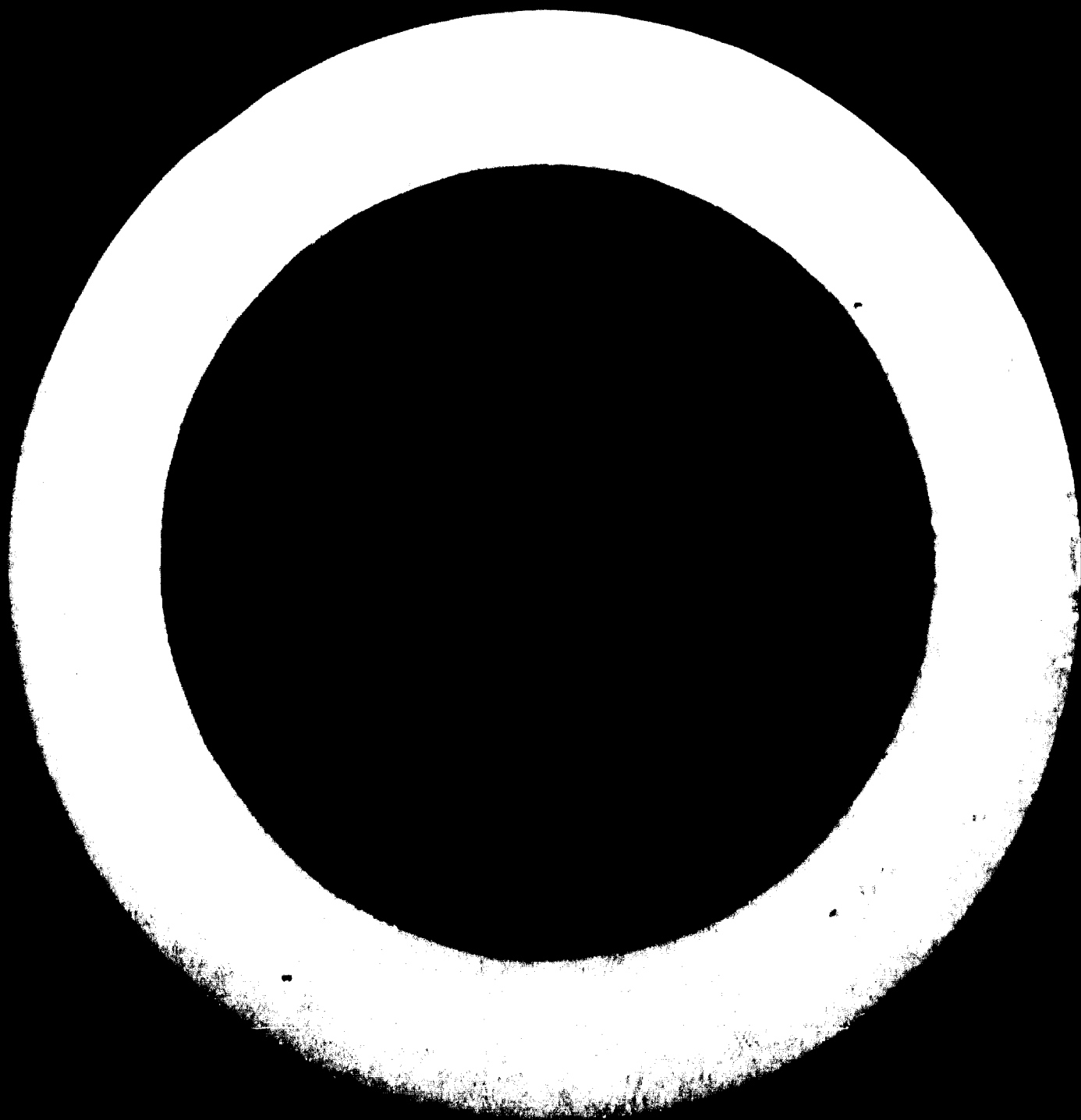
Vienna, Austria, 22 February - 5 March 1971

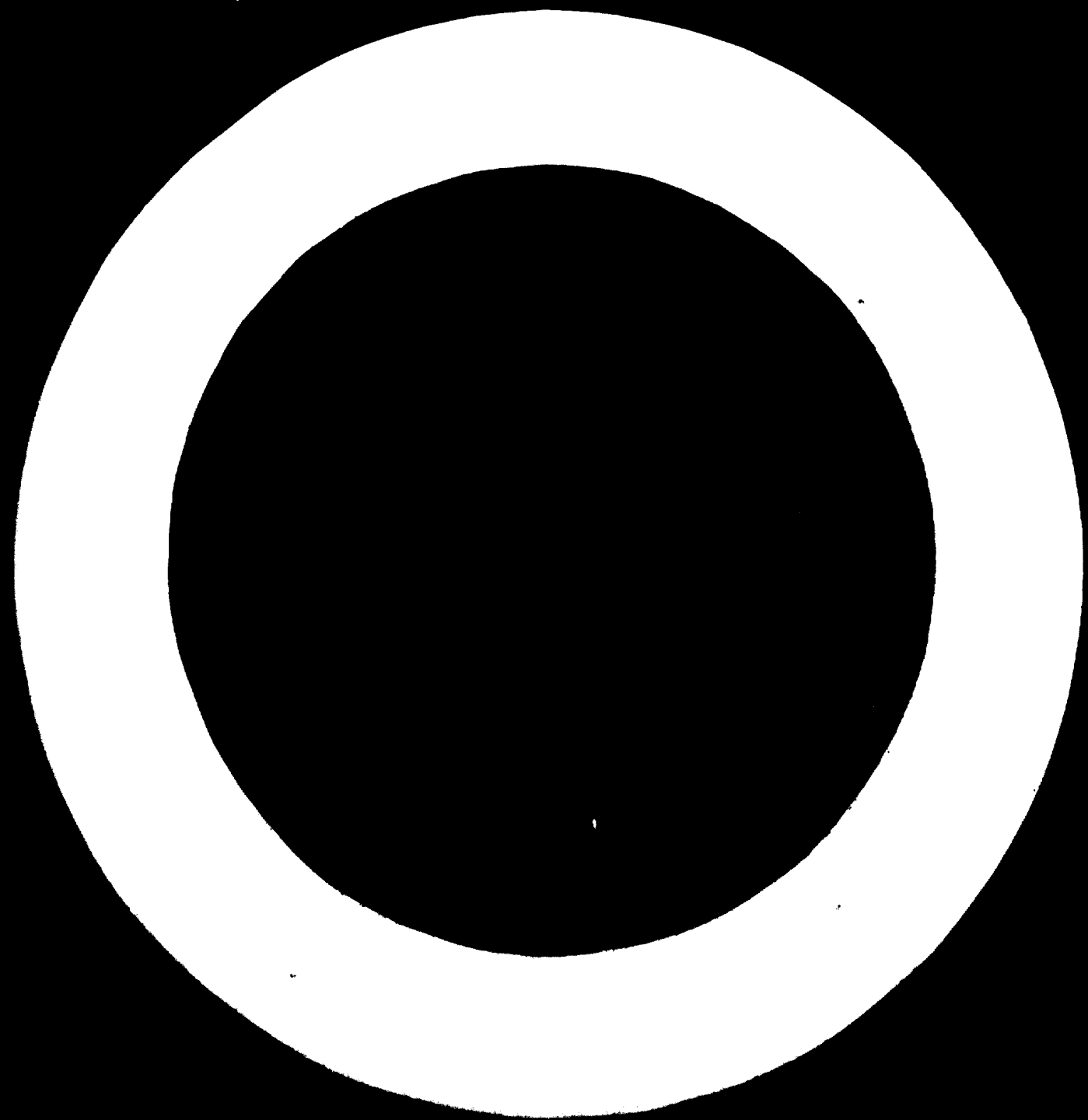
STATEMENT  
ON THE SITUATION OF THE HIDES AND SKINS,  
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES IN  
U G A N D A <sup>1/</sup>  
presented by  
W.Y. KEDI

---

<sup>1/</sup> This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

id.71-3161





In Uganda we are somewhat fortunate to have soil and climatic conditions favourable to livestock production. The Uganda cattle population is in the region of 4,432,738 head. We do anticipate that in the years to come there will be greater increase in cattle, sheep and goats, and it follows therefore that there will be a corresponding increase in the numbers of hides and skins produced in Uganda.

Today the general quality and preparation of Uganda hides and skins is very good and it is safe to say that the general standard is very high.

This is also noted with Uganda hides and skins being very much in demand in many parts of the world, especially so the triple-wire dried goat and sheepskins because tanners overseas favour these wire dried skins, from which is usually produced leather of a very high quality with excellent grain properties.

If the present standard is to be continued and improved upon, we consider it essential to have adequate hides and skins staff, not only for routine examination and checking of hides and skins, but also for teaching and demonstration purposes in hide preparation.

The Uganda Government has, therefore, started training of hide improvement officers and it is hoped that we shall be adequately staffed in the very near future.

The Government also encourages formation of hides and skins co-operation societies throughout Uganda, most of these being formed by many of the small licensed hide buyers who come together to form themselves into larger co-operative societies.

The pattern of the primary producer is as follows: The small licensed hide buyers scattered all over the country buy hides and skins from butchers, prepare them and sell them to the exporters.

In 1965 and 1966 the export of hides and skins from Uganda was in the region of 3,218 tons and 4,767 tons respectively. This commodity was fourth in export revenue earning (the others being cotton, coffee and copper). This was a rise compared to previous years and there was a high demand overseas for Uganda hides and skins.

During 1967, 1968 and 1969 the exports of hides and skins fell; this was due to no demand overseas and these hides and skins remained in storage in warehouses unsold.

Hides and skins purchases for export from Uganda rose in 1970, totalling 2,580 tons or 520,740 pieces of cattle hides, 1,180,410 pieces of goat skins, and 220,400 pieces of sheepskins.

In 1969 the pattern of export as far as cattle hides are concerned showed Spain as the largest buyer (3,176,826 lbs) followed by Italy (1,028,132 lbs) and third Egypt (793,761 lbs).

Small quantities of hides and skins were also exported to other countries.

The pattern of goat skins exports indicated Italy the largest buyer of goat skins, Italy purchased 972,512 lbs, United Kingdom 173,512 lbs, and France 20,906 lbs.

The pattern of sheepskins exports showed Sweden as the largest buyer with 167,124 lbs, followed by Italy with 60,072 lbs, and United Kingdom third with 41,474 lbs.

### Tanneries

The situation in Uganda regarding the above subject compares favourably with that obtained in other countries. There is no commercial tannery in Uganda, therefore, nearly all the leather we get is imported from Kenya or overseas.

### Tannery School

Uganda has one tannery and leather craft school based at Entebbe Veterinary Training Institute. This school caters for rural tanners, hide improvement assistants and assistant hide improvement officers under Professor Ledger, an ILO expert.

The assistant hide improvement officers cadre of staff is expected to produce any type of leather at the end of their third year which is the final year; but the existing facilities are inadequate except for vegetable tanning. We require the following facilities:

1. complete model tannery, equipped with modern tanning, dyeing and finishing plant, so that students are able to carry through their

own practical tanning and dressing of all kinds of light, fancy upper and heavy leathers;

2. specially equipped laboratories with the latest apparatus provided for analytical and experimental work.

The following projects were put forward:

1. the tannery school - this has not expanded as anticipated because external assistance which was expected did not materialize;
2. rural tanneries - these are very few and this is due to lack of capital;
3. mobile demonstration vans - two vehicles were presented to us by the United States of America. These were meant for extension and practical work in the field and they have been very useful, but expensive to maintain. This factor is to be taken into account in future plans for development;
4. hides and skins demonstration centres - the idea of establishing these centres has created good results, but due to lack of funds only a few of them have been established;
5. commercial tannery - there is a proposal to build a commercial tannery and this would be a viable proposition because of a definite demand for semi-tanned or pickled goods. It is possible to produce these fairly cheaply in Uganda with a higher profit margin than for finished leather.

#### Reptile Leather

Crocodile and lizard skins are available in Uganda but there are no tanning facilities - most crocodile skins are exported from Uganda to the United States of America, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and Kenya. Most of the lizard skins are wasted and cannot be exported due to poor markets overseas.

#### Game Hides and Skins

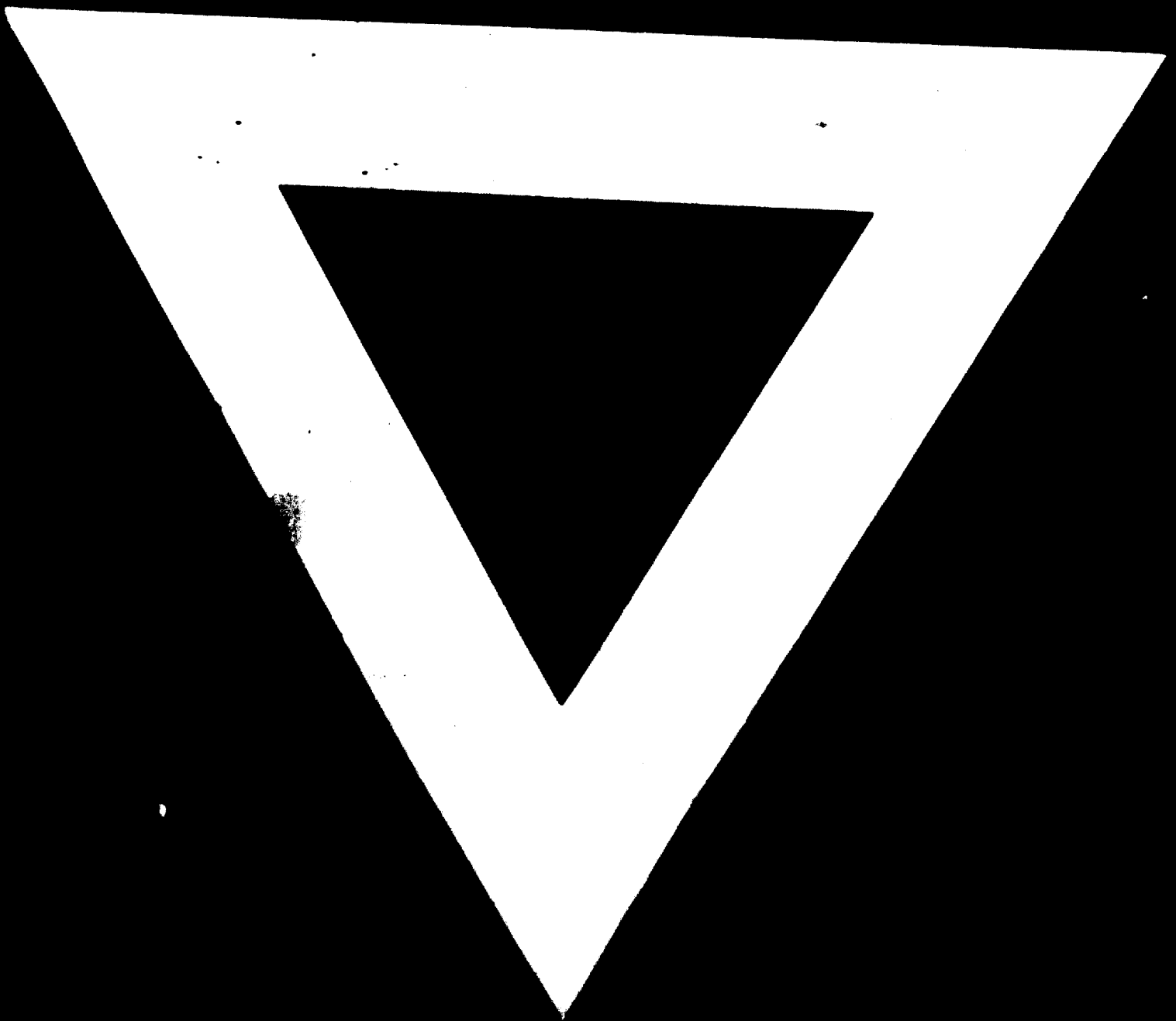
All game skins obtained under Game and Tsetse Control operations have for years gone to waste due to lack of tanning facilities.

In 1964, the Game Department introduced cropping projects in some game areas. These projects were introduced partly to supply cheap animal protein to people in rural areas and partly to effect greater utilization of Uganda's wild life resources.

The departmental field staff, therefore, not only sell game meat but collect and preserve game skins for eventual sale by auction. Experience has shown that the prices offered by trophy dealers for the skins of common game species is minimal. However, if such skins are tanned the sale price can be increased considerably. A tannery, if established, will not only cater for this immediate problem but offer training opportunities in simple taxidermy to Uganda citizens.







8

.

8

.

73