

The Muchwasara clan (Mutupo-Tembo, Chidau-Chifuwamiti) claim to be and are generally recognised as the pioneers of the area. They are of Manyika descent under Chief Mtasa. Their tribal territory lies between the Masikandoro and Poti rivers with Chidabgwe Hill as their traditional stronghold.

The descendants of the Buro also claim to be the oldest permanent inhabitants. Buro (Mutupo - Zonda) of Makorekore Stock, like others of the tribe, is said to have left the thickly settled areas along the Zambezi and ventured southwards in search of land and hunting. He finally settled in the vicinity of Domboshawa hill some six generations ago. He found - so their story goes - the country completely uninhabited and abounding in game. Later, in exchange for 8 sheep he parted with most of the northern territory to Chief Masembura. In time came Muchwasara. For a hoe he was given the land his descendants occupy today.

Be that as it may, neither of these clans were numerically strong, their present descendants in the reserve number no more than 50 in each case. Whatever they lacked in temporal power, however, they made up for in spiritual importance. They gained a notorious reputation as healers and protectors of wizards and witches, and their country is still referred to as "Nyika ya varoi". It is said refuge was given to witches and wizards driven out or fleeing from surrounding tribes and many of these and others sent to them for that purpose were cured. Part of the cleansing ordeal included circling completely the base of the rugged Chidabgwe or Domboshawa hills, no mean feat even today with most of the vegetation cleared away. It can well be believed that the physical exertion would have weakened considerably the hold of any evil or occult ideas possessed by a patient subjected to this cure.

When Matabele impis first made their appearance in the savannah highlands round the present Salisbury area a section of the Chiweshe people living there moved and settled in the Domboshawa area. The Chiweshe people are a branch of the Nyashanu Bera from the Charter District. Their first Chief Nyahudjga Chiweshe is buried somewhere on Salisbury Kopje. This section of the clan seems to have had their main stamping grounds at Harari (Salisbury) Nyashanu, Gomba (Mazoe Valley Area) and Domboshawa, and moved from place to place according to the political, drought or famine situation of the times. They have stories of a large section returning to Nyashanu in the great famine (probably about 1880-1885), of moving to the security of the granite fortresses in times of war, of moving away from Domboshawa because of the majeke (wet vleis) becoming water logged, and because of drought. At the time of the occupation most of the Chiweshe people seem to have been settled in the Mazoe district under their Chief Chiweshe Mutopo - Shaba (Shava, Shawa), Chidau - Mtenesanwa.

The Vashawasha tribe (Mutupo - Soko, Chidau - Mrewa) headed by Chiefs with the traditional name of Chinamora was the most important tribal unit in the area. The historians of the tribe state they originated beyond the Limpopo in the Bavenda country and towards Bechuanaland. After short sojourns in the Fort Victoria and Wedza districts, where sections of the tribe remained, the main body settled around Chishawasha, after conquering the occupants of that area. The tribe appear to have been well organised and of a militant disposition, several of the surrounding tribes were engaged in battle and peace cemented by the conquered giving daughters in marriage. Other tribes are said to have offered daughters in token of submission thus avoiding armed conflicts. Chiefs Mang'ende, Soswe, Nyandoro, Negomo, Chipadze and the Babudja of Mtoko were engaged in battle. Chiefs Chikwaka, Msana, Seke and Chivero brought daughters, whilst Mashayanombe brought cattle.

When Nguni impis raided surrounding tribes assistance was requested and given by the Chief. It is claimed that when Chief Chikwakwa was besieged by Matabele in the Goromonzi hills a Vashawasha contingent relieved them and captured two guns which were later named Gumiguru and Rupeni. They also went to Chief Seke's assistance when attacked by Shangaans.

In their own territory the Vashawasha had several brushes with the Matabele and claim that honours were won.

From Chishawasha they extended their influence and at the time of the occupation the Vashawasha claimed as their territory the following: The present Chinamora Reserve from the Nyauri River Eastwards to the Mvinzi, The present Borrowdale area and extending beyond down the Makabuzi to its junction with the Hunyani then up the Hunyani to the Ruwa River, then up the Ruwa to the Mapfeni river in the Arcturus-Enterprise district.

With the Shaba tribe under Chief Chiweshe, friendly relations on an equal footing were maintained, and daughters were voluntarily exchanged in marriage.

We see then that at the turn of the century the present area of the Chinamora reserve was sparsely settled. After European occupation and in consequence of the rebellion, the delimitation of European farms and the rapid growth of Salisbury, a rapid increase in population took place. The main influx was from Gomba (Mazoe Valley) of a section of the Shabo people from Chiefs Chiweshe and Wata, who were brothers; from the Chishawasha area, Vashawasha; from Dunga (Borrowdale area) Vashawasha, Sekes Vaharawa and sprinklings from other tribes who had attached themselves to the Vashawasha. There are also a number of domiciled aliens and numbers from numerous other tribes have settled over the years as a result of working in Salisbury or adjoining farms, marriage, looking for new homes, or some family quarrel.

Very few of the older people were born in the Chinamora Reserve.

Before European occupation the people were pastoralists, agriculturists and hunters, owning some cattle but numbers of sheep and goats; cultivating by primitive means maize, sorghum, rice, pumpkins; hunting and trapping game for food and elephant for ivory. The ivory was traded to the "Wazungu" (Portuguese) as also a little Ndarama (gold) for cloth, beads and guns.

The most important figures at that time were Chaminuka the tall gentle prophet and seer who had his home at Chitungwizi in the Beatrice area and Gouveia the Portuguese. Gouveia seems to have been a swashbuckling adventurer, moving over the country with a large retinue of armed followers for trade. The most lasting impression he has left is his liberal distribution of guns and ammunition.

The tribal distribution of the present population is estimated as follows:

Vashawasha	18%
Shaba (Chiweshe and Wata)	26%
Muchwasara (Tenbo)	3%
Buro (Zenda)	1%
Others	52%

Large settlements of Vashawasha are said to be on the Chishawasha Mission Farm and in the Masembura, Msana, Chikwaka and Mangwende Reserves.

4. TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION:

The hereditary chief is chosen from the Vashawasha tribe and carries the name of Chinamora. The present incumbent is the Thirteenth Chief, the third to settle in the Chinamora Reserve. He is a man of about 56 years of age, is an ex - Native Department Messenger, a Master Farmer and has been Chief since 1937. His Headquarters are just to the north of Mawanga mountain in the northern central area of the reserve. He is a man of intelligence and character, co-operative with the administration, and professes a keen desire to further the progress of his people and protect and improve the natural resources of his country. He has a difficult task with a population strongly influenced by urban conditions but is making a brave effort to guide his people through the tides, eddies and cross-currents of present day political, social and economic influences and the backwash of lethargy and an element of conservatism.

The Reserve is divided into four tribal wards, the Chief maintains control of one and the other three are each in charge of an unsubsidised headmen. He has wisely chosen his headmen as men representative of the

These wards are as follows :-

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Mawanga | (N. E.) | - Chief Chinamora. |
| 2. | Shumba | (S. E.) | - Shumba, (Mutupo Nondo - Chirau) |
| 3. | Mrapi | (Central & S.) | - Mrapi (Shaba - Mtenesarwa) |
| 4. | Munyawiri | (W. & N.) | - Muchwasara (Tembo-Chifuwamiti). |

There are 90 kraalheads, the wards having the following :-

1.	Mawanga	17
2.	Shumba	18
3.	Mrapi	34
4.	Munyawiri	<u>21</u>
		<u>90</u>

Most villages have the taxpayers written up as shown in the kraals in the tax registers, but where villages are adjoining or in close proximity admixture has taken place. Other villages have split up into more than 1 group, though nominally still under control of one kraalhead and can no longer be regarded as 1 unit. In such cases, where it is deemed necessary, additional kraalheads will be established.

One kraalhead and followers under Chief Msana has settled in the Eastern Shumba area. He has been told to decide to return to Msana reserve or to become a taxpayer under Chief Chinamora.

A Native Council for the reserve has been in existence since 1947. So far the only effort made by the council to improve Land Husbandry was to back Chief Chinamora when he instituted a cattle cull in 1952 and to give moral support to the soil conservation schemes.

5. ZONES.

For purposes of administering the Land Husbandry Act and on geographical grounds it is proposed to accept the four tribal wards as established. The local boundaries of the zones follow in the main rivers or valleys, along mountain ranges or are lines drawn between hills.

Detailed figures for each area of population, stock, grazing arable land have been summarised in Chart 5.

6. ACREAGE.

The total acreage of the Reserve is 78,550 acres, and the area of each zone is estimated as follows -

	<u>Total</u> <u>Acreage.</u>	<u>Wasteland :</u>	<u>Usable land :</u>	<u>Potential</u> <u>arable :</u>
1. Mawanga	25,900	5,500	20,400	2,896
2. Shumba	14,530	1,500	13,030	2,447
3. Mrapi	18,120	1,000	17,120	3,370
4. Munyawiri	20,000	2,000	18,000	3,042
	<u>78,550</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>68,550</u>	<u>11,755.</u>

4 735 ha

7. POPULATION & DISTRIBUTION.

The total population of the reserve given in the Native Commissioner Goromonzi's Annual report for the year ending 1952 is 9,616, made up as follows - males 2,351, females 2,350, children 4,915.

The bulk of the population is concentrated in the Mrapi and Munyawiri areas as the following figures show -

Market gardening gained impetus during the war years and accelerated since then with the rapid expansion of Salisbury where the demand and price for vegetables has been steady. Many persons claim that they receive £50 £80 per annum from their wet lands and gardens. This is probably an understatement and in any case shows wasteful methods. Domboshawa school has approximately one acre under vegetables used for training and demonstration purposes. For the year 1952, 28,000 lbs. of vegetables were lifted. If this were sold at 4d per lb. £466.13.4. would be realised.

This type of agriculture can be classed as follows :-

1. Wet vleiland cultivation, around sponges and in or near stream beds, In September, nearly all these lands are planted to maize or rice. It is considered that not more than 10% is sold as green mealies. The remainder is left to ripen to augment the yields from the dry lands which in many cases is very little due to the worn out state of these lands. Thereafter the lands are planted to one or more of the following - peas, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, the lands also usually contain very small areas for kitchen gardening.
2. Summer gardens in the grazing area : An area of ground is prepared, enclosed by brushwood or poles and sown to beans, tomatoes, peas, pumpkins, squash or potatoes, with the advent of or during the rains, during winter these lands lie fallow. There are hundreds of these gardens in the reserve.
3. Summer gardens in village stands ; Vegetables grown as above, in an enclosed area round the homestead. These should be strictly confined to the allotted area of a stand.

The agricultural staff consist of -

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Land Development officer, |
| 4 | Demonstrators, |
| 4 | Soil Conservation Rangers, |
| 1 | Soil Conservation Overseer. |

The present Land Development Officer has been stationed in the area for three years but most of his time has been spent in preliminary layout and survey work for the special soil conservation project and then the supervision of gangs employed on the finishing work. Previous Land Development Officers were stationed at Salisbury or Goromonzi and the Chinamora Reserve comprised a very small proportion of the total native areas under their supervision. Consequently it was impossible to devote sufficient time to organise and direct agricultural development and soil conservation work or to supervise the demonstrators.

1 Demonstrator & Soil Conservation ranger is located in, and in charge of each zone.

14. TIMBER.

a. Indigenous.

Certain areas still contain woodland of big trees. Elsewhere as the result of continuous uncontrolled felling the timber is scrub. A voracious and insatiable demand is for enclosing the thousand odd gardens and wet lands. Millions of trees must be cut annually for this purpose. In some areas the scrub is now so small as to be useless for hedging in gardens which are now wired in. In the heavily settled areas firewood is becoming a real problem. Scrub is cut & stacked to dry or the dry wood surrounding gardens is removed for firewood & replaced by freshly cut timber. Cutting too is wasteful, stacks of old poles were seen rotting in the veld, the cutters having overestimated their immediate requirements. There is a trade in the illicit selling of firewood. The method is to run the wood to Salisbury by lorry during the night or over weekends.

The position in each zone is as follows :-

1. Mawanga - Fairly well timbered in the northern and sparsely settled north-eastern area and on Ngonakurira, Chikwamura and Mawanga hills. Some scrub main varieties - Muzhanje, Mkute, Mnondo, Msasa and Mountain Acacia.
2. Shumba. Generally well timbered in the hilly country. Main varieties Mlezhanje, Msasa, Muzhanje, Mkute, Mfute, Mukwa and Mountain Acacia.
3. Mrapi. Very few big trees and these are on Domboshawa and Chidabgwe hills, and in the broken country of the western sector. Other timber scrub Firewood in very short supply. Main varieties - Muzhanje, Msasa, Mkute, Mnondo.
4. Munyawiri. Northern portion and around Gwandu & Zwimvurgwe hills some big trees. Elsewhere scrub. Main varieties - Mfuti, Msasa, Mkute, Mnondo and Muzhanje.

(b) Exotic.

The following plantations are in existence -

	<u>Acreage.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Age.</u>
1. Mawanga area	2	2	gum	8 years.
2. Shumba area	1	1	Conifer and gum	2 years.
3. Mrapi area	9		Conifer	1 year.
	7		gum	7 years.
	1		gum	5 years.
	2		gum	5 years.
	1	20	gum	7 years.
4. Munyawiri area	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	gum	5 years.

23 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

Summary -

Gums 14 acres.
 Conifer 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

In addition there are three small community plantations of gums totalling 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

The present programme is to establish 10 acres of plantations annually until acreages are considered sufficient for all purposes.

15. DIP TANKS.

2 tanks in use. Mau, dipping 2890 head and Mwenda 2065 head. 736 head of cattle from the Shumba area dip at Chikowore on the east bank of the Nyauri river in Msana R serve. These tanks have been in existence for 30 or more years, and although not ideally situated can cause little more damage. The cattle trails to them have reached bedrock. Two further tanks have been constructed, 1 in Munyawiri and the other in Mrapi zones, and are to be put into use shortly. When this is done each tank will dip approximately 1000 head.

16. COMMUNICATIONS.

The reserve is well served by roads. When the special project was undertaken many miles of new road were constructed and existing roads re-aligned and repaired. All kraals are accessible by truck, though the outlying areas are approached by little more than sleigh tracks.

It is estimated that 100 miles or reserve roads are maintained at present. The main reserve roads carry a fair amount of traffic daily, including native buses.

2. LAND: SITUATION, EXTENT AND TOPOGRAPHY:

The Chinamora Reserve is a solid shaped block of land with its nearest point some twenty miles North of Salisbury. The reserve lies in the Goromonzi Native District and is administered from Goromonzi; the most convenient road access is through Salisbury - a total distance of 46 miles before the reserve is entered. On the East and North the reserve adjoins two other fairly large native reserves, Msana and Masembura. The southern and western boundaries are between European farms, with most of the southern boundary line fences. More than half of the total boundary length is riparian the Nyauri and tributary the eastern boundary, the Poti river half the western boundary, the Chipopotekwe the eastern half of the northern boundary.

The latest official figures for the area of the reserve as recognised today is 78,550 acres (excluding Domboshawa School area). Previous estimates were -

1946	-	87,772	acres
1949	-	81,837	"
1951	-	111,630	"

The reason for these differences appears to be due mainly to the fact that the accepted tribal and administrative boundary between Msana reserve does not coincide with the gazetted boundary. Steps are in hand to rectify this, as also to demarcate parts of the boundary on the ground where these are not clearly beacons.

Of the total acreage 10,000 acres are waste land leaving a balance of 68,550 acres of usable land.

The country for the most part, and particularly towards the north-east, is very broken and hilly rising to numerous huge granite domes and boulder strewn kopjes. In between are depressions ranging from narrow gorges to fairly wide valleys or basins. Towards the western sector the land is less severe with undulating stone covered hills. The country from south to north drops approximately 1,000 feet and it is from the northern aspect that the granite hills stand out in sheer and inaccessible aspect. Most of these eminences are in fact negotiable from the opposite sides where the rise is more gradual, often stepping up in large plateaus covered with vegetation and grass.

Numerous springs and streams rise from or at the foot of the hills and in the lower country there are many sponges, marshes and vleis, all these feeding the five main rivers in the reserve.

The main watershed runs from Domboshawa to Makumbi.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

There are traces of human habitation from early times. Stone implements were noted in widely scattered places. Rock paintings, rich in variety and scope, are plentiful and located in nearly every suitable situation. Towards the Poti are circular walls in a fair state of preservation, built of dressed stone, and vaguely attributed as the work of the Varozwi. Apart from two small clans, Bantu occupation appears to have been sporadic and at intervals. None of the other inhabitants have any traditions of continuous occupation for long periods. Most steep, boulder strewn hills over the bulk of the area were used as places of refuge in times of danger or invasion. Ample evidence of this is shown by the rough stone schorns and the numerous potsherds and pots littering the places. Large middens and grain bins, still intact, hidden deep in caves testify that these periods were of some duration.

Before the arrival of the Europeans the present reserve area was under the influence of three chiefs - Chinamora the south-eastern portion, Chiweshe the south-western and Masembura the northern; each having small settlements in the more tractable ground on the fringes of the area.

Area :	Taxpayers.	Percentage population :	Usable acres per taxpayer :	Population density per square mile.
1. Mawanga	459	21.6	44	51
2. Shumba	279	14.0	44	59
3. Mrapi	788	37.2	22	126
4. Munyawiri	577	27.2	31	84

Average population density over the whole area is 78 persons per square mile.

The Northern and eastern areas of Mawanga are very sparsely populated and whole stretches of country are completely uninhabited. It is considered that at least four acres are suitable for settlement of new kraals. These places are not popular with the local people as they are too far and too difficult for easy access to their Mecca - Salsibury.

From the charts it will be seen that out of a total of 2121 taxpayers only 870 (41%) are permanently resident in the reserve and 64.7% have lands. An interesting fact noted was that almost in every instance the permanent resident is the man who has both stock and lands. The majority of absentee males are working in Salisbury or the surrounding areas. A fair proportion have been absent from the reserve for many years and have lost touch with their relations.

8. STOCK.

For full details see charts 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A and for a summary chart 5.

The following animal units as defined in the Act were declared.

Cattle	5,702.
Donkeys	569
Goats	109
Sheep	-
	<u>6,300</u>

The issue of grazing rights, however, will have to be based on a total figure of 6968, this total is on the average number grazed by an owner during the past 12 months or the number he declared on the day of the count, the large total being taken.

It will be noted that there are no sheep and just over 100 goats. Ten years ago over 1,000 head of small stock grazed in the reserve. Every year a reduction has taken place, and if the present trend continues the day of the last goat is not far away. There must be many children in the reserve today whose only knowledge of sheep and goats is what they have learnt in their school or picture books. Yet by tradition these people owned flocks of sheep and goats.

The reasons for the riddance of small stock appear to be : -

1. Official discouragement.
2. Lack of children for herding because of absence at school.
3. Most important of all, damage done by small stock to the numerous gardens.

Although Chinamora Reserve has been subjected to numerous experiments of improvement nothing has been done about the stock, there is an inordinate large proportion of very old cows and oxen and a number of runts, degeneration through inbreeding is very evident, mature bulls are few and of the total number seen perhaps 10 might be classed as suitable. The remainder can only be recognised as such by their badges of office; they would otherwise be mistaken for cows or oxen and runted ones at that.

The inhabitants have little knowledge of, or interest in stock management. Cattle when herded are let out late and kraaled early. There is no planned grazing. Stock seen driven to the dips were invariably rushed at a fast trot irrespective of condition. Draft animals are cruelly overworked. As nearly half the land holders have no stock they have to borrow or hire from their neighbours, thus many draught animals must be worked to double or more than their normal capacity.

The annual calf crop must be one of the lowest in the country. When the stock count was taken in October 1952, before the present seasonal calf crop, not more than 400 calves under one year were counted. This represents the very low figure of 6.5% of the total cattle population. It is truly a case of survival of the fittest. The total cattle population has risen very slowly over the past ten years. Little reduction has taken place by removal from the reserve through sales. Since 1946 only one organised sale has been held and that was in June 1952 when Chief Chinamora carried out a cull and 133 head were sold. Nearly all this stock was classed as rejects; 22 succumbed on the 30 odd mile journey to Salisbury.

Except for the manure they provide and for draught purposes, cattle seem to form a very minor part in the overall economy of the Chinamora reserve native. Cattle have much more significance for ritual and family purposes. It was very noticeable at the culling sale that there was ostensible objection to the disposal of a beast, not on account of the low price offered but because it had been dedicated to a "mudzimu" (ancestral spirit). Judging by the age of the beasts they must have been revered for many a long year.

Cattle show little influence by the introduction of exotic blood. This is thought to be due to the fact that adjoining European farms run little ranching type stock, that Chinamora reserve is surrounded on two sides by large blocks of native areas and that any exotic stock introduced into the reserve could not face up to the hard country and harsh treatment. The breed typical of the reserve is of small stature, clean limbed and fine boned, tough and well suited to their rugged environment. They display the agility of mountain goats and it was often seen that many preferred to enter the stone walled dip kraals along the top of the wall rather than through the entrance provided. It is thought that if 500 - 700 of inferior and unsuitable stock were culled and proper breeding and management methods employed a hardy type of good conformity could be produced.

The cattle in the Shumba zone are by far the best in every respect, in Mawanga and Munyawiri they are fair. Mrapi has the worst stock, one of the contributory factors being overstocking. The accepted assessed carrying capacity is 6546, but it has long been recognised that stock and humans are not evenly distributed. In a report written in 1946 the then Director of Native Agriculture wrote "The facts of the situation are that most of the livestock is located in that part of the reserve nearest to Salisbury The true position is one of maldistribution". Again in 1949 a committee of technical officers wrote "Most of the people and their cattle are congested in the south West and West and due to faulty distribution of both people and cattle these parts are heavily overpopulated and overstocked". The areas referred to is in the main Mrapi zone. Nothing has been done to rectify the position. Little can be achieved now by redistributing the population. The removal of a few families to the unoccupied areas of the reserve will do little to improve the overall position. A certain amount of destocking will have to take place.

The carrying capacity is based on one beast to ten acres. It is considered that Munyawiri zone could carry one beast to nine and Mrapi one to eight. These areas have a bigger percentage of sweet grass, are fairly level and Mrapi zone has a big proportion of vleis grazing and abundant water supplies well spread out.

If these figures are accepted the final position based on the new method of assessing the grazing will be -

	Grazing.	Carrying Capacity.	Present No. A.U.	A. U. Authori- sation.	Over/Under Stock A. U.		Increased reduction A. U. Authorisation.	
					+	-	+	-
1. Mawanga	16,727	1,673	1,372	1,494	-	301	179	-
2. Shumba	10,221	1,023	1,014	1,100	-	9	-	77
3. Mrapi	13,310	1,664	2,169	2,447	505	-	-	783
4. Munyawiri	14,383	1,600	1,745	1,927	145	-	-	327
	<u>54,641</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>6,300</u>	<u>6,968</u>	<u>650</u>		<u>179</u>	<u>1187</u> &

It will be noted that Mawanga zone can carry a further increase of 179 animal units; but no additional stock should be allowed in settled areas.

9. RAINFALL.

The rainfall over the whole area is high. The seasonal average over the past 23 years recorded at Pombashawa School is 34.18 inches.

10. SOILS.

See Technical survey report.

11. WATER.

The whole area is exceptionally well watered and forms an important watershed for the rivers which finally drain into the Mazoe. For full details see Technical survey report.

12. GRAZING.

The bulk of the grazing areas lie in hilly, stony country. The grass on the whole is rank. In the grazing areas adjacent to the settlements scrub encroachment is reaching alarming proportions. The local stock does thrive & evidence of their presence was seen on the topmost hills where there is vegetation. Exotic stock find it hard to exist. Chief Chinamora for instance introduced a few grade frieslands, but all died off within a few years.

13. CENTRALISATION & AGRICULTURE.

Centralisation was commenced in 1936 in the area adjacent to Domboshawa school and the whole reserve completed in 1938. An aerial survey map of 1944 reveals that considerable cultivation was evident in areas reserved for grazing. This is still the case today and applies particularly to gardens and wet land cultivation. The position, taking into consideration the terrain, can be regarded as fairly satisfactory.

Thirty six kraals involving 4012 acres of arable land were individually allocated in 1943. Little or no check has been kept on the lands. The records going into 20 pages of close typing have lain undisturbed and forgotten in the files for the past ten years. Many of the individuals have increased their acreage considerably without official permission. A few examples are given -

Original allocation	19.2	acres,	now uses	53.4	acres.
"	"	10.9	"	"	"
"	"	5.0	"	"	"
"	"	6.0	"	"	"

When individual allocation took place most of the land in the arable blocks was taken up. No check has been kept on new landholders who simply ploughed up land wherever they found some ground, usually in unsuitable places such as drain strips, above and below the first and last contours and a long stream banks.

In areas not allocated some people are using as much as 50 - 60 acres leaving very little for later arrivals.

The main crop grown in the dry land is maize which is estimated at 80% of the total crops. Other crops are groundnuts and rupoko (10%) and sorghum, legumes and a little cotton (10%). There are 29 Master Farmers 57 Plotholders and 827 cooperators. With the exception of Shumba Zone mixed cropping is fairly widespread. In Shumba zone every landholder is a cooperator. This happy state of affairs is due entirely to the personality and initiative of the demonstrator in charge. He has infected the people with his unbounded enthusiasm and energy. He expects and willingly receives cooperation in all his schemes of agricultural improvement and land preservation. The unwilling and lazy are hustled with good natured determination. Where men are away at work the women are roped in and all are responding in a buoyant and keen manner.

The ratio of animal units to arable land is one animal unit to approximately every two acres of cultivated land. This means that there is insufficient manure to provide the necessary humus for the soil. Out of the 1541 landholders 719 (46.6%) do not own any stock and therefore have little or no hope of acquiring any manure. Since centralisation practically put an end to shifting cultivation it must be assumed that for the past 15 years nearly half the lands in the Chinamora reserve have been regularly planted - mainly to maize - without the addition of any plant food and these lands are now in a pathetic condition. This is most noticeable in the Mrapu zone where poor stands can be seen everywhere despite the fact that the crops are separated properly spaced and well cared for. Strenuous efforts are being made to encourage compost making but it is doubtful whether this alone will make up the lost leeway, let alone maintain soil fertility at the required level. It is thought that one of the reasons for the extension of land in individually allocated lands and the large acreages claimed in other areas is that in an effort to maintain fertility a limited amount of fallowing is practiced.

With destocking inevitable the position will be aggravated and the ratio of stock to arable acreage will become even more unbalanced. This is most disturbing and every effort should be concentrated on increasing the stock carrying capacity of the reserve. Pig farming under proper control would provide some relief.

The lack of livestock has other detrimental effects on agricultural production. Landholders without draft stock have to wait on neighbours to borrow or hire animals with the consequence that in many instances advantage cannot be taken of suitable weather conditions for ploughing, planting and cultivating, and the work when done is done hurriedly. Where manure can be bought or begged, motor transport is often hired for cartage. This is expensive and considerably reduces the profit margin on mediocre yields. Despite contour ridges lands without humus are still liable to erosion.

All arable lands were measured by stepping and the total acreage under cultivation is as follows :-

Dry land	17,399.7
Wet land and garden	904.6
	<hr/>
	<u>11,304.1</u>

4 575 h2

of this acreage none of the wet lands and approximately 2,100 acres of dry land are unprotected.

The official estimate for cultivated lands has been 24,500 acres.

A very important part of the agricultural economy is wet land farming and gardening. In all suitable and unsuitable places lands are set out varying in individual size from small patches to 5 or more acres. The rich vleis soils are ruthlessly mined, sponges are destroyed, cultivation is taking place along stream and river banks and in their beds. The results are profitable to the landholders but unless controlled it will spell ruin to the land and cause

17. SOIL PROTECTION & EROSION.

Soil conservation measures were commenced in 1936. Towards the latter end of 1949 a full scale scheme of complete protection was undertaken involving the use of heavy equipment. This project known as Blue Print Chinamora or Chinamora Special Project laboured through 1950 and 1951, accelerated in 1952 and expired when the money expended in September 1952, leaving approximately 30% of the reserve still to be dealt with.

The areas protected includes the arable, grazing, water supplies, gullies and roads and has laid solid foundations for permanent protection provided the necessary maintenance is undertaken. Maintenance will involve sustained repair work, control, vigilance and inspection and must continue until the work has settled and the inhabitants have orientated their ideas along the meaning and purpose of a contour ridge and kindred works.

The project included re-doing areas previously protected. Failure of owners to maintain conservation works are evident; in the more hidden areas old contour ridges are little more than straggling lines of grass, riven by gullies, ghastly monuments of wasted labour.

18. VILLAGES.

About half the kraals will have to be set out in proper village sites. Houses are universally built of Kimberley or raw brick. Several of the inhabitants have constructed good type houses of burnt brick under corrugated iron or asbestos roofs.

It will be desirable for the assessment committee to fix the area of a stand. A local practice is to allow a person two acres if he guarantees to build a European type house and outbuildings. This is considered too large. Taking a long term view when every one has a good type house it will mean that about 4,000 acres of grazing will be lost. Not more than half an acre should be sufficient.

It is noticed that with centralisation a number of kraal schools are now isolated in arable lands.

19. TRANSPORT.

The reserve is well served by native buses and lorry transport. Several cars or trucks are owned. Animal drawn vehicles total 160 of which a few are wagons or trolleys. 504 sleighs were declared.

20. TRADE & BUSINESS.

Nine business centres are set out in suitably spaced areas. These centres where possible, are placed near wasteland or grazing so as to allow for future expansion into small townships.

The following businesses are in existence -

10	general dealers,
2	carpenters,
5	butchers,
2	mills,
1	shoe repairer,
3	eating houses.

Trading stores are established on several of the adjoining farms.

21. VERMIN.

Nearly every hill and kopje is reputed to have its troop of baboons which raid the nearby lands. In some areas porcupine, monkeys and wild pig do damage to crops.

pl convert Ac to hectares

N. Mashonaland

REPORT : CHINA ORA RESERVE : GOROMONZI DISTRICT.

For Consideration by Assessment Committee Appointed
in Terms of Land Husbandry Act.
1951

1 Ha = 2.471 Ac

30.3 persons / km²

66 Masembura
land 78,000 Ac

1. SOME FACTS: THE OVERALL PICTURE:

Estimated Total Population	9,616 ✓
Number of Taxpayers	2,121
Number of Resident Adult Males	870 - 41% of Taxpayers.
Number of Stock owners	887 - 41.8% of Taxpayers
Number of Male Land holders	1,373 ✓ - 64.7% of Taxpayers
Number of Female Land Holders	168 - 10.8% of Landholders
Total Land holders	1,541 ✓
No. of Stock owners with lands	822 ✓ - 53.3% of Landholders
No. of Stock owners without lands	65 - 7.3% of Stockowners
No. of Landholders without stock	719 - 46.7% of Landholders
Total Area of Reserve	78,550 acres. ✓
Estimated Wasteland	10,000 acres. ✓
Usable Land	68,550 acres. ✓
Total Cultivated Acreage (Dry and Wet) ...	11,304 acres. ✓
	17.05% of Usable ✓
Acreage Wet Lands and Garden	904 acres. ✓
	8% of cultivated
Estimated Potential Arable Land	11,700 acres. ✓
	17.8% of Usable ✓
Estimated acreage required for allocation to present land holders with standard area at 6 acres	10,000 acres. ✓
Estimated surplus for future allocation ..	1,700 acres. ✓
Average present acreage per land holder ..	7.3 acres. ✓
Average acreage of Wet land per landholder	.6 acres
Average acreage of Wet land per Wet land Cultivator ..	.9 acres
Total Arable acreage unprotected (including Wet lands) ..	3,724 acres - 33% of Arable
Total cultivated land unprotected	3,000 acres - 26.5% of Cultivated.
Animal Units declared	6,300 ✓
Cattle ...	5,702 ✓
Assessed Carrying Capacity (G.N. 1022/50).	6,546 ✓
Therefore understocked	246 animal units
Carrying capacity at one animal unit to ten acres under new formula of grazing assessment	5,500
Therefore overstocked	800 animal units
Recommended Carrying Capacity	5,800 animal units
Average number of Animal Units per Stock owner	7.1
Landholder	4.4
Taxpayer	3.0
Present Ratio of Animal Units to cultivated acreage	1 animal unit to 1.8 acres ✓

On new grazing assessment there is

1 animal unit to
8.7 acres of grazing.

3,521

All kraals complain that leopards and hyenas raid their stock and numbers of young stock and donkeys are lost annually through their depredations.

22. GENERAL REMARKS.

a. Fish Farming ;

The larger dams were stocked with fingerlings of Bream (Talapia Mossambica) in early 1952. Sample catches show that these now average up to 1 lb. in weight. Prolific breeding has taken place. A simple marketing scheme should be put into operation.

Fish farming might well develop into an important industry particularly if an earth dam on the Maskiandoro river estimated to hold back 200 million gallons were constructed.

b. Stone Kraals.

Since 1948 stock owners have been encouraged to build kraals with stone. To date 33 such kraals have been completed and a further 12 are under construction. This scheme should be pushed ahead and might with advantage be extended to include walling in gardens.

c. Standard arable area;

When fixing the acreage due consideration must be given to the economic importance of wet land farming and marketing gardening.

d. Allowance to chief and Headman.

It is recommended that the following additional allowances be considered.

	<u>Land.</u>	<u>Stock.</u>
Chief	1 standard area	1 standard holding
Headmen	$\frac{1}{2}$ standard area	$\frac{1}{2}$ standard holding
Kraal heads	1 animal unit	$\frac{1}{2}$ acres wet land.

Kraal heads allowances, if approved, should be withheld until such time as they show more energy in confining their followers' activities to proper land management methods.

W. von Memerty.

ASST. NATIVE COMMISSIONER.

SALISBURY.

25th February, 1953.