

Un ranch au coeur de la RDC; le pari fou de GoCongo

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PHL, Nov 2024

1) Roads' maintenance

In every section that I visited, only the main road was wide enough to let the car go through. The roads leading to the Kraals looks more like tracks now. To visit the Kraals, I had to walk a lot, wich made me loose a lot of time.

We can clearly see that the workers are comfortable with this situation because they know that nobody can come and check on them (some herds were back at their pens at 4.30 pm !!).

2) Facilities

The races and the kraal hopital's holding pens are fragile and need a good refreshing. They haven't been repared properly for years ; some planks are missing in the races and are replaced with bamboos, some other planks are attached to the posts with barbed wire or even leather. New planks and new bolts and nuts should be set.

Regarding the holding pens, I would suggest to build 2-3 nearby every Kraal Hospital. This way, the herds with wich we are suppose to work with in the morning can spend the night there. Work could then start earlier, we wouldn't wait for the herds to come to us and the cows would not walk long distances at a high pace in the early morning to get on time to the Kraal Hospital.

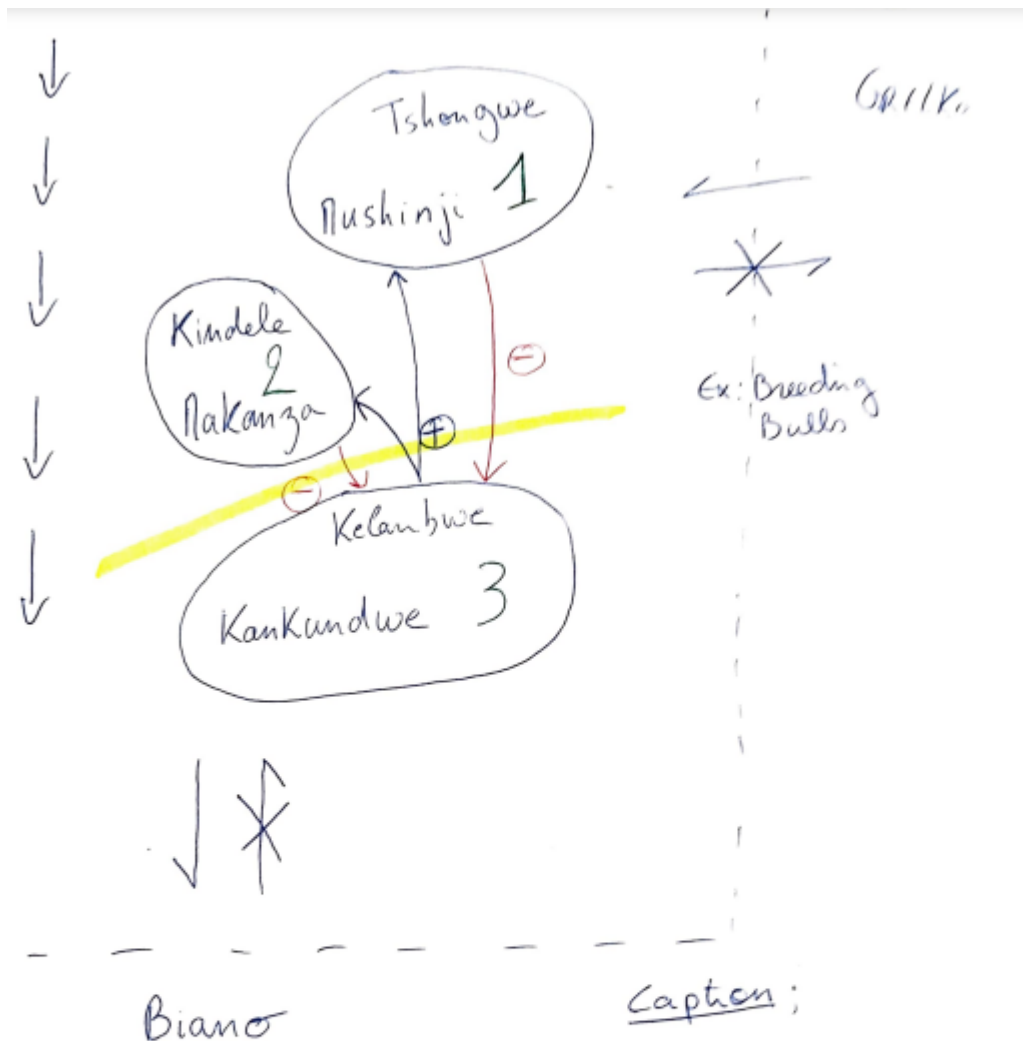
The cows would be calmer and working with it will be a lot easier.

(The violence problem on those cows by the workers is also a big problem, so I'm thinking of banning the « Kayambos » and teach the crew on how to lead cattle properly, but good handling facilities is were it all starts).

Do you think that the holding trailers that Batsiray is using for the ai program could fit somewhere in the Kraal Hospital's race ?

3) TBC

To succeed in this operation, I think that we will have to divide the ranch in 2 diffrent parts. One with the negative animals and the other with the positive ones. I was thinking about the Kelambwe and Kankundwe sections to contain the positive animals. Those would be send as quickly as possible to Bianco-Malambwe, or sold on the local market.



Caption:

Footbaths

⊖ TBC + cows/culled cows

⊕ Cows kept for breeding

→ Cattle movement

* No cattle movement allowed this way

Tags could be used rather than the branding, because they used to put marks (points, crosses, ..) on cows for no reasons so I think tags could help us a lot better than another branding mark.

They say that they face troubles when it comes to moving cattle from the northern sections to others, due to the fact that they are stubborn. I think that's only because they charge bad workers to do it, and, that they try to make them walk up to 30 km/days.

To sort this out, I would build holding pens every 12-15 km on the road heading to the South. This way, they would have to lead them gently during the day, and cows wouldn't be able to escape during the night time.

4) Dehorning

The dehorning is bad at PHL, a good few cows in every herd still has proper horns or small curved horns that goes through their skin.

The workers told me that they had bad tools to dehorn. New tools should be build by the mechanic team.

5) The sorting of the animals for the treks remains chaotic.

They keep 5 years old steers and send some 3 years old. They then mix the remaining animals all together in a new herd that looks like shit.

Somehow, I need to understand where in the journey to Malambwe, do they loose all their condition.

Is it from PHL/Grelka to Bianco ? At Bianco ? Or from Bianco to Fungurume ?

If we could identify exactly where the problem is, then we will find a quick and efficient solution, because the steers coming to the feedlot are still extremely weak and thin compared to what they were before their departure from the ranches.