



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BRANCH
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DAR ES SALAAM

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BRANCH

AIB Bulletin

AIB Bulletin No: 13/98 :Ref: CAV/ACC/13/98 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration :Piper PA 32-300, 5H-SKY S/N 770061

No & Type of Engines: :One Lycoming IO-540J

Year of Manufacture: :1979

Date: & Time (UTC): :18 June 1998 at 1215 hours

Location: :Mternere airstrip, Selous Game Reserve

Type of Flight: :Air Charter

Injuries: :Crew-1 Passengers 4

Nature of Damage: :Substantial damage to right wing and fuselage

Commander's Licence: :Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: :44 years

Commander's Flying Experience: :5000 hrs which 40 were on the type
:Last 90 days 65 hours
:Last 28 days 17.

Information Source: :Telephone call from Dar es Salaam ATS

The Bulletin contains facts relating to the accident which have been determined up to the time of issue. This information is published to inform the public and the aviation industry of the general circumstances of the accidents at the preliminary/stage and must necessarily be regarded as tentative and subject to alteration or correction if additional evidence becomes available.

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The aircraft took off from Dar es Salaam International airport at 1130 hours for a charter flight to Mtemere. It was carrying one pilot and four passengers. The estimated time of arrival was 1215 hours. 5H-SKY flew under visual flight rules and maintained a cruising altitude of 6500 feet.

The pilot said that at 1205 hours when he was descending through 2500 feet he saw giraffes at the beginning of runway 27. He therefore decided to overfly the airstrip at 500 AGL feet in order to scare the beasts off the runway. On coming back for landing he observed that the giraffes were back on the runway. He subsequently overflew the airstrip again. When he finally returned the runway was clear.

During the landing roll a giraffe emerged suddenly from the bushes and collided with the right wing causing the pilot to lose directional control. The aircraft veered off the runway and collided with small trees and shrubs before it came to rest. There were no injuries among the occupants but the aircraft was substantially damaged.