

5H-TGT was first to arrive at Lobo at 0905 hours. The vehicles carrying the tourists arrived at the airstrip at 0945 hours. The commander of 5H-TGT informed the tourists that 5H-THF was to arrive late by 40 minutes due to the weather at Nairobi.

When the first party of three tourists boarded the aircraft, one of the 11 remaining passengers requested the commander of 5H-TGT to take him as well. He insisted that 40 minutes was too long for him to wait at the airstrip.

When the request was refused on the grounds that he was not booked on that flight, the tourist became irritated. He threatened to return to Lobo lodge on foot notwithstanding the presence of dangerous animals on his way. Lobo lodge is three kilometres away from the airstrip and clients are not permitted to walk on foot in the National Park enroute to the lodge.

This tourist subsequently took his video camera and started filming the departing Cessna 206 5H-TGT right from the engine start to the time when it took off and disappeared. He also continued complaining bitterly about the delay till 5H-THF arrived where upon he moved from the apron to the runway and started filming the landing aircraft. He remained standing on the runway with his camera locked on the aircraft till when he was struck by the left wing. He died on the spot.

HISTORY OF THE FLIGHT

The aircraft flew from Ndutu to pick a party of tourists from Lobo airstrip. It took off at 1059 hours with the pilot as the only occupant. He was flying under visual flight rules.

The pilot said that he arrived overhead Lobo at 1116 hours and positioned for landing on runway 11. The runway was clear with his passengers waiting on the apron. When he turned for the final approach the runway was still clear.

5H-THF crossed the threshold and touched down at 1118 hours about 60 metres from the beginning of the runway. When the aircraft had rolled another 60 metres the pilot saw a person moving from the parking area towards the runway with something that looked like a video camera in his hands (see appendix). Due to the limited width of the runway he could not

steer the aircraft to the right. He made heavy braking to slow down the aircraft but it collided with the photographer before it could be stopped.

The photographer sustained fatal injuries but the damage to the aircraft was confined to the left wing tip.

Lobo airstrip, elevation 5500 feet (1676 metres) has one runway (11/29) which is about 1200 metres long. Its width varies from 14 to 19 metres along its length. At the point of collision with the trespasser the runway was 15.5 metres wide. The trespasser was standing 1.5 metres inside the runway and 205 metres from the beginning of the runway. Runway 11 has an uphill gradient for the first 400 metres after which it levels off. The runway surface is grass. There was no wind sock.

The edges of the runway are overgrown by tropical savanna trees most of them ranging from one to four metres tall. Some of these trees are to be found as close as three metres beyond the edges of the runway. Animals, notably gazelles and buffaloes, often graze on the runway and the surrounding areas.

The airstrip is owned and operated by the Tanzania National Parks.

The circumstances leading to this accident are being investigated.

APPENDIX

ACCIDENT TO CESSNA 404
5H THF AT L080 AIRSTRIP
ON 26 DECEMBER 1997

