



Ref: 7670

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Aircraft Registration	ZS-HLH	Date of Accident	21 June 2003	Time of Accident	0950Z
Type of Aircraft	ROBINSON R-22 HP		Type of Operation	Game Capture	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial	Age	33	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	715.0	Hours on Type	216.5	
Last point of departure	Farm Breda in the Ellisras district				
Next point of intended landing	Farm Breda in the Ellisras district				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
Farm Breda in the Ellisras district.					
Meteorological Information	Fine weather conditions prevailed, Wind 090/5-10kt, Temperature 23°C, CAVOK				
Number of people on board	1 + 0	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	Nil

Synopsis

The pilot, who was alone in the aircraft at the time, was engaged in a game capturing operation, herding some Impala antelope to the boma. Approaching the boma the herd must have observed the cables/nets and scattered in all directions.

At this stage the pilot decided to abandon the capture exercise and executed a climbing turn to the right to return to the landing zone. Once he had completed the turn he noted that the aircraft was losing height and power. He elected to execute a forced landing, and during the descent the tail rotor struck some trees, causing the aircraft to yaw to the right and a hard landing followed.

The pilot was not injured in the accident, although the aircraft was substantially damaged.

Probable Cause

During an engine ground run no evidence could be found to substantiate an engine power loss as described by the pilot, rendering the cause of the accident undetermined.