

SOUTHERN



RHODESIA

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

GAME SECTION

of the

DEPARTMENT OF MINES, LANDS
AND SURVEYS

for the year ended
31st December, 1955

Signed A. FRATER, Johannesburg, May 1956

Presented to the Legislative Assembly, 1956

REPORT No. 3

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3. REVENUE

Revenue from game sources amounted to £20,690, derived as follows:

	£	£
Licences		6,758
Permits		3,200
Destruction of Game for Consumption as Food	39	
Controlled Shooting Areas	2,175	
Tsetse Control Areas	986	
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Sale of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn		10,732
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TOTAL		<u>£20,690</u>

Sale of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn.—779 elephant tusks and 4 pieces of ivory weighing 12,950 lb., and 87 rhinoceros horns weighing 233 lb., were advertised for sale by tender in October, 1955. Tenders were received from local firms and from Northern Rhodesia, Zanzibar and Holland. The successful tenderer for ivory paid 15s. 7d. per lb., and the rhinoceros horn was sold at 55s. 1d. per lb.

The entire stockpile, which had been accumulated over a period of two years, was sold.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The volume of correspondence dealt with continued to increase. 679 permits to hunt, 347 other permits and 31 Royal Game Licences were issued. Some inquiries were received regarding the possibility of hunting safaris in Southern Rhodesia.

Electric fences were erected where possible and, although these proved reasonably effective, little could be done to combat their activities over such a large and highly-developed area.

One rhinoceros, interfering with swing fog operations at Kariba, was killed.

Leopards and, to a lesser extent, lions were responsible for stock losses in the lowveld.

Large flocks of quelea were observed in the Gwanda District during the early part of the year, but the birds apparently emigrated later as numbers were comparatively few just before the rains and breeding season.

5. TSETSE-FLY CONTROL

The Commission of Inquiry on Human and Animal Trypanosomiasis in Southern Rhodesia completed their investigations in July, 1955, but due to delay in printing their Report had not been published by the end of the year. The recommendations made by the Commission, if accepted by Governments, will be of considerable importance in deciding future policy.

During the year ended 30th September, 41,886 animals are recorded as having been killed in Tsetse Control Areas. This incredible figure, which is the highest ever recorded, is difficult to reconcile. There is no doubt of the fact that the animals were killed as the tail of each one is produced for inspection by European Tsetse Rangers, but how is it possible to obtain such large numbers of animals in restricted areas year after year? Possibly the findings of the Commission of Inquiry will assist in supplying the answer.

The total of 592,483 wild animals have been destroyed on tsetse control up to 30th September, 1955. Details of numbers destroyed in each Tsetse Control Area, and an analysis of species, are given in Appendix 6 "A" and 6 "B" respectively.

6. CONTROLLED SHOOTING AREAS

The Urungwe Controlled Shooting Area was opened in August, 1954, and the Sebungwe Controlled Shooting Area in August, 1955.

The object in opening these areas was, firstly, to reduce the numbers of large animals for reasons connected with the construction of the Kariba Dam and the anticipated development of large-scale irrigation projects later and, secondly, to provide restricted shooting for members of the public at a reasonable cost.

In all, 76 permits have been issued for the Urungwe Area and 18 for Sebungwe, realizing a revenue of £3,450. Animals killed in Urungwe included 63 elephant (average weight per tusk, 22 lb.), 5 eland, 14 sable, 46 buffalo and 36 koodoo, and in the Sebungwe, 28 elephant (average weight per tusk, 31 lb.), 12 sable, 15 buffalo and 23 koodoo.

Animals in the Urungwe were wild by comparison with those in the Sebungwe, and the latter area was the more popular, despite the bad state of the roads.

The demand for permits was such as to confirm that controlled shooting areas represent an important source of revenue which should be tapped when opportunity offers.

SECTION IV

Notes on the Fauna

1. GENERAL

THERE has been no improvements in the general situation. The destruction of nearly 42,000 wild animals in anti-tsetse control operations is a substantial reduction in capital stocks that the Colony can ill afford.

Present indications are that the Kariangwe/Lubu area of the Sebungwe will be required for the resettlement of displaced Natives from Kariba. This will necessitate the dispersal of the large animals into other less populated areas. It is difficult to foresee, at this stage, how the animals will react and what problems will arise.

2. MAMMALS

There is little to add to the notes on the species mentioned in the 1954 Report. A Livingstone's Suni was shot by a hunter employed on tsetse-fly control in the Mtoko District and is the first record of this species from that area.

The following notes can now be given on nyala and white rhinoceros:

Nyala.—This member of the bushbuck family is very scarce and is afforded full protection wherever it occurs in British Africa. At one time it was thought that its habitat was confined to the dense riverine vegetation of the Lower Lundi River. From reports received, however, Nyala also occur in small numbers on the Nuanetsi River approximately fifty miles from the Portuguese Boundary, and on the Limpopo and Buby Rivers. This species is also reported to have been seen on the Rekomitje River in the Zambesi Valley but confirmation is required.

White Rhinoceros.—It was hoped that some white rhinoceros would be "discovered" in the Sebungwe as a result of the widespread activities in the area. No such reports have been received and the only hope is the exceedingly difficult and unexplored country between the Chewore and Angwa Rivers in the Zambesi Valley.

3. BIRDS

Game birds had a good season, many young birds being recorded in March/April, 1955. Guineafowl were more plentiful than for some years, particularly in Mashonaland, which is not generally regarded as good bird country.

Waterfowl were comparatively scarce, few large concentrations being recorded.

APPENDIX 4

PERMITS ISSUED, 1955

1. EXPORT OF GAME PRODUCTS

(i) IVORY

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>No. of Tusks</i>	<i>Weight, lb.</i>	<i>Importing Country</i>
16	1,445	34,424	United Kingdom
1	2	50	South Africa
4	24	943	Zanzibar or United Kingdom
2	789, 4 pieces	13,293	Zanzibar
1	4	85	Kenya
2	5	117	United States of America
TOTAL .	<u>26</u>	<u>48,912</u>	

Average weight per tusk, 21½ lb.

NOTE.—Dealers have substantially reduced stockpiles, probably to take advantage of increases in price offered for this commodity. From information available little ivory is now held by dealers in the Colony.

(ii) RHINOCEROS HORN

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>No. of Horns</i>	<i>Weight, lb.</i>	<i>Importing Country</i>
4	41	127	United Kingdom

NOTE.—These horns were obtained from rhinoceros killed in Tsetse Fly Control Areas, under permit.

(iii) BILTONG

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>Weight, lb.</i>	<i>Importing Country</i>
110	7,067	South Africa

NOTE.—This biltong was largely obtained by hunters operating on Nuanetsi Ranch under the control of the S.R. National Hunters and Game Preservation Association, and on private farms in the Nuanetsi Native District. Restrictions have been placed on the amount of biltong which may be exported from the Colony in relation to the class of licence held by the hunter. A maximum of 100 lb. is allowed, irrespective of the class and number of licences held.

APPENDIX 4—(Permits issued) continued

(b) By Hunters under Licence

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>Importing Country</i>
133	Union of South Africa

NOTE.—The zebra skins were legally obtained from animals shot under permit on Liebig's Ranch, West Nicholson.

2. SALE OF GAME PRODUCTS

(i) IVORY

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>No. of Tusks</i>	<i>Weight, lb.</i>
4	50	1,079

(ii) RHINOCEROS HORN

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>No. of Horns</i>	<i>Weight, lb.</i>
1	2	4

(iii) BILTONG

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>Weight, lb.</i>	<i>Animals</i>
25	41,229	Zebra, wildebeeste and Buffalo

(iv) HIDES AND SKINS

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>Quantity Authorized</i>	<i>Quantity Sold</i>	<i>Type</i>
9	1,491	828	731 Zebra 94 Wildebeeste 2 Buffalo 1 Sable

3. DESTRUCTION OF GAME FOR CONSUMPTION AS FOOD

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>To Whom Issued</i>
12	General Public
27	Government Officials
TOTAL	39

NOTE.—12 more permits were issued than in 1954. It is considered that the number of permits issued for the out-of-season destruction of game for consumption as food should be reduced and that suitable arrangements should be made for Government officials to obtain adequate meat supplies when employed in remote areas. There would seem to be little justification for living off the veld except in very exceptional cases.

APPENDIX 4—(Permits issued) continued

4. DESTRUCTION OF GAME IN TSETSE-FLY CONTROL AREAS

(i) GENERAL PUBLIC

Area	No. Issued		Animals Destroyed		
	Other than Elephant and Rhino	Including Elephant and Rhino	Elephant	Rhino	Other
Urungwe	106	34	30	10	475
Sebungwe	70	23	30	—	337
Sanyati	26	13	13	—	73
Darwin	7	4	4	—	21
Sabi	—	—	—	—	—
North Lomagundi	47	12	7	4	32
Mtoko	76	23	29	—	168
TOTAL	332	109	113	14	1,106

NOTE.—37 permits, or approximately 8 per cent. of those issued, were not returned by holders. This is an improvement on 1954.

(ii) GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (All Tsetse-fly Control Areas)

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>To Whom Issued</i>
22	Tsetse-fly Rangers and Native Staff
9	Entomologists and Staff
TOTAL	<u>31</u>

5. DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS CAUSING DAMAGE

(i) CIVIL COMMISSIONERS AND NATIVE COMMISSIONERS

<i>No. Issued</i>	<i>No. and Species Authorized</i>	<i>No. Destroyed</i>
42	68 hippopotamii	21
34	158 elephants	73
1	— zebra	10
	— wildebeeste	3
1	2 antbears	—
1	3 leopards	1
1	— impala (for bait; vermin control)	1
1	2 buffalo	2
TOTAL		<u>81</u>

APPENDIX 6 " B "

ANALYSIS OF WILD ANIMALS DESTROYED IN TSETSE CONTROL AREAS
UP TO 1955

Species	Total up to 1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Elephant	173	27	55	90	345
Rhinoceros	346	8	8	8	370
Buffalo	4,574	346	377	460	5,757
Hippopotamus	6	—	—	—	6
Giraffe	3	—	—	—	3
Zebra	7,622	278	313	338	8,551
Eland	8,975	224	291	305	9,795
Koodoo	66,231	3,631	4,937	4,639	79,438
Roan	4,397	240	306	189	5,132
Sable	31,322	1,049	1,351	1,539	35,261
Waterbuck	12,659	245	301	295	13,500
Hartebeest	944	36	50	71	1,101
Wilcbeeste	52	—	—	—	52
Tsessebe	2,292	91	80	78	2,541
Gemsbok	1	—	—	—	1
Impala	26,345	2,004	2,259	2,302	32,910
Reedbuck	15,700	625	777	728	17,830
Bushbuck	28,674	1,623	1,788	2,056	34,141
Duiker	129,204	8,977	12,566	13,660	164,407
Sharpe's Steinbuck	29,145	300	1,206	1,945	32,596
Klipspringer	11,212	314	1,037	1,385	13,948
Oribi	2,685	12	134	137	2,968
Livingstone's Suni	144	2	—	—	146
Warthog	48,989	3,578	4,503	4,751	61,821
Baboon	31,044	2,503	3,219	5,015	41,781
Bushpig	13,122	1,124	950	1,365	16,561
Lion	117	1	4	2	124
Leopard	390	14	19	20	443
Cheetah	36	—	—	2	38
Hyena	155	24	35	43	257
Wild Dog	283	44	61	78	466
Wild Cat	1,567	—	—	—	1,567
Jackal	805	—	—	—	805
Lynx	19	—	—	—	19
Monkey	2,272	—	—	—	2,272
Antbear	31	—	—	—	31
Steinbuck	4,055	160	278	384	4,877
Nyala	—	1	5	1	7
Unclassified	615	—	—	—	615
TOTAL	486,206	27,481	36,910	41,886	592,483