



UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Annual Report
of the
Game and Fisheries
Department

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Signed by B. G. KINLUEN, Esq.

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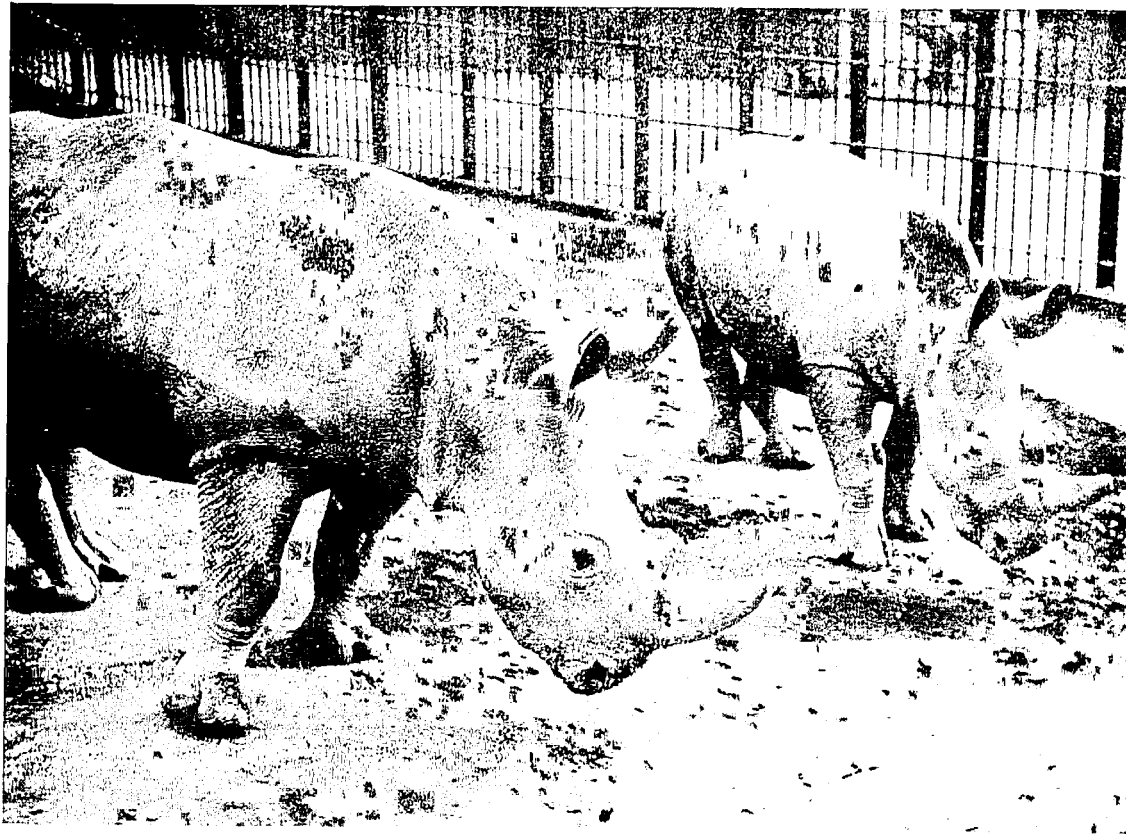


PLATE VI

The pair of white rhinoceros captured in West Madi for the Zoological Society of London in 1955—see paragraph 220, 1954/55 Annual Report—are now flourishing in the Zoo in Regent's Park, London.

[*Photograph by B. G. Kinloch.*]

KIGIZI GAME RESERVE

55. This remarkable little reserve which lies at the south-western end of the Queen Elizabeth National Park and borders on the Parc National Albert in the Belgian Congo, carries a very large head of game; the most common being topi, kob and buffalo. Two herds of topi which can be seen at any time, number over a thousand and about three hundred respectively. Satisfactory herds of kob can be seen throughout the area. There are a number of large herds of buffalo which can be found in the open and closely approached at any time of the day.

56. Lions are not uncommon and have been quite frequently seen; on a number of occasions they have been observed actually up two particular trees which they seem to favour as a look-out.

57. The game has been much disturbed by the building of the new Katunguru-Rutchuru road which runs through much of the reserve. Nevertheless, the animals are already beginning to get used to this intrusion on their privacy and passing vehicles do not now evoke overmuch concern.

58. Early one morning two topi were found dead with broken necks in one of the small cuttings through which the road passed. It is believed that during a stampede from lions the previous night, they jumped over the edge of the cutting. A male kob also broke his back when he jumped off a bank into the road as a lorry approached. As yet these are the only known casualties the road has caused; it is to be hoped that the animals will quickly learn road sense.

59. Many thanks are again due to Mr. E. A. Fangoudis, Honorary Game Ranger, who has continued to guard the reserve against the depredations of poachers, while at the same time protecting shamias in the area against straying animals.

EAZINGA GAME RESERVE

60. This reserve merely consists of a few small inhabited areas lying within the Queen Elizabeth National Park (see paragraph 81, 1952 Annual Report).

MASHA ANIMAL SANCTUARY, ANEOLE

61. This area holds a good variety of game, including a considerable head of roan antelope, but for an area that has been closed for a number of years larger herds would normally be expected. There may be an at present unknown factor to account for this.

62. With the wise support of the Ankole Eishengyeto the adjoining area north of Lake Mburo, south of the main Mbarara/Masaka road, and eastwards to the Masaka border was closed to all hunting for a period of one year from 1st December, 1956, since it had been heavily overshot, mainly by parties from Masaka, Kampala and elsewhere outside the district.

63. The Game Ranger reports that, during the period that the area has been closed, the game has become noticeably more tame and is showing up much better. But it will take at least two good breeding seasons to have any real effect on numbers.

ELPHANT SANCTUARY, ACHOLI AND EAST MADI

64. The game in this fine area continues to thrive despite heavy poaching from all sides—even from West Nile across the river. Two semi-permanent camps which have been established on the Aswa and Ome rivers have however, done a great deal to cut this down, and with another two planned to be built at the present time, one on the Apa River and the other in the Zoka Forest region, to deal with the poachers from West Nile and Madi, it is hoped that the large-scale poaching of the past, will indeed be a thing of the past. The great concentrations of game in parts of this region are certainly well worth conserving for planned utilisation.

WHITE RHINOCEROS SANCTUARIES

65. *Mount Kei White Rhinoceros Sanctuary*.—This area is some 160 square miles in extent and being a Crown Forest Reserve is uninhabited. The Game Ranger reports that the white rhino population of this sanctuary remains at about 10 beasts, and no young were seen during the year. During the rains large breeding herds of elephant enter this area from the Sudan, but smaller game appears to be decreasing due to the activities of poachers from across the border.

66. *Mount Otze White Rhinoceros Sanctuary*. This area also adjoins the Sudan, but as it is smaller (some 80 square miles) and easier to patrol, it does not offer the problems of the Mount Kei area. The animals in this sanctuary move freely between Uganda and the Nimule Game Reserve in the Sudan, and totals are extremely difficult to arrive at. Elephant are about the commonest beasts but white rhino, buffalo and the smaller species are fairly often met with. Giant eland also occur, but during the year only one pair were seen.

BUGUNGU ELEPHANT AND HIPPOPOTAMUS SANCTUARY

67. As during last year a number of elephant had to be killed on control in this sanctuary. Cultivation is very wide-spread and scattered in the area and in some places crops are grown almost on the national park boundary. This did not help the elephant control as these animals were found to be residing in the park, and raiding cultivation at night. By morning, when Game Guards could deal with them, the animals were generally back in the safe sanctuary of the park. As a result a number of elephant had to be shot at night in the actual Bugungu sanctuary area.

GORILLA SANCTUARY

68. This sanctuary on the Birunga volcanoes of Muhavura and Mgahinga has been much in the news during the year, largely due to the efforts of Mr. M. W. Baumgartel, proprietor of the "Travellers Rest", Kisoro, who is also an Honorary Game Ranger.

69. At the suggestion of this department Mr. Baumgartel has tried to attract the gorillas by feeding them with bananas, sugar cane, salt and various other foods but they would not touch any of them. As yet

131. *Serval*.—A black serval has been recorded on two occasions at Merama Hill in southern Ankole.

132. *Hunting Dog*.—In Ankole District a herd of cattle accompanied by herdsmen was attacked at night by a pack of hunting dogs. Two cattle were killed outright and two others had to be destroyed. The dogs did not attempt to eat their victims but made off straight away.

133. *Jackal*.—In Okollo County of West Nile a considerable number of jackal were poisoned in an effort to control a local rabies outbreak.

UNGULATES

134. *Buffalo*. Considerable numbers of buffalo had to be shot in defence of crops, particularly in the new resettlement areas in the Western Province. 370 were shot in the Western Range (Toro 312, Mubende 58), 333 in Southern Range (Ankole 169, Kigezi 149, Masaka 15), 305 in Lake Albert Range (Bunyoro 302, Mengo 3), 136 in Northern Range (Acholi 90, Lango 46), and 127 in West Nile Range (Madi 84, West Nile 43) a total of 1,271 representing of course literally hundreds of tons of free meat for the local populace!

135. The Game Ranger, West Nile, reports that a high proportion of the buffalo shot in his Range had to be destroyed, not because they were damaging crops, but because they had been wounded by poachers and were a danger to human life.

136. In Bunyoro about 25% of the buffalo shot were suffering from bullet or spear wounds or had been maimed by wire snares. On numerous occasions Game Guards were charged by such wounded buffalo and had to shoot in self-defence.

137. Buffalo are still one of the commonest game animals in Ankole and northern Kigezi Districts. The Game Ranger reports having seen two albino buffalo in eastern Ankole during the year.

138. *Hippopotamus*.—Although abundant in the two national parks and their environs, where in fact the effect of their numbers continues to give rise to no little concern, hippo elsewhere in the Protectorate are far from numerous. Fair numbers continue to exist in the more remote swamps and waters, but in many of the more accessible areas they have been sadly reduced.

139. In both the Southern and Lake Albert Ranges a few had to be shot to protect cultivation, while the Game Ranger, West Nile Range, reports an increase in their numbers on the Albert Nile.

140. *White Rhinoceros*. Despite continued poaching the white rhino population in West Nile Range appears to be holding its own. The main incentive for the poaching is undoubtedly the continuing very high price of rhino horn on the world market. The price is now an all-time record one, and unscrupulous local receivers are quick to take advantage of this by encouraging poachers to kill the white rhino for their horns.

Only energetic action by limited Game Department staff, with the valued support, assistance and co-operation of the Provincial Administration and Police, have kept this poaching within reasonable bounds. The animals have undoubtedly become wilder in many areas as a result of being hunted, and this of course helps in their protection.

141. Much of the poaching is done by using heavy wire-cable snares. On one occasion the Game Ranger managed to rescue a white rhino cow by shooting through the half-inch steel wire cable snare in which it had been caught. The wire snare was tight round the animal's head, between its horns, the other end being fastened to a tree.

142. A more insidious, but no less definite threat to the long-term preservation of these fine and harmless animals is the spread of scattered, and often merely subsistence level cultivation into their habitat.

143. During the period under review the Game Department Biologist commenced an investigation into the status and ecology of the white rhino in West Nile District, with a view to formulating plans for the long-term conservation of this species.

144. In November 1956 the Game Warden, while on home leave, visited the pair of white rhino in the London Zoo, which had been specially captured for the Zoological Society of London in West Madi in March and April 1955. They were flourishing and apparently quite happy in their new home, as can be seen from the photograph of them which appears in this report.

145. *Black Rhinoceros*.—These cantankerous animals are now comparatively rare and very localised in Uganda. The small remaining population in northern Acholi suffered this year at the hands of well-armed poachers from the Sudan, while in North Karamoja, the main stronghold remaining for black rhinoceros in the Protectorate, a few of these beasts fell victim to spear-blooding parties of young Jie warriors.

146. *Gnaffe*. Like the black rhinoceros the harmless and handsome animals are now comparatively rare and very localised in Uganda. They are still found in satisfactory numbers in North Karamoja, and in small concentrations elsewhere. A few small herds manage to exist in comparative peace in the elephant sanctuary in East Madi, but the few remaining groups in northern Acholi were sadly reduced this year by the same well-armed poachers from the southern Sudan who slaughtered a number of black rhino in the same area.

147. Giraffe on the Sebei plains of northern Bugisu caused some damage to cotton crops by eating the bolls. One would have thought that it would have been a comparatively easy matter to discourage these timid beasts from indulging in this somewhat indigestible diet, and investigations on the spot revealed a remarkable lack of effort by the crop owners to protect their shambas in any way whatever. Not even simple thorn bush bomas had been tried, nor the still simpler expedient of driving the animals away.

178. The Conference was attended by delegates representing Game Departments and National Park Organisations from Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. In addition the General Manager of the East African Tourist Travel Association and a representative of the East African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Organisation were present. The Administrator of the East Africa High Commission, Sir Bruce Hutt, K.B.E., C.M.G., was in the chair, and the Conference was opened by His Excellency the Governor of Uganda, Sir Andrew Cohen, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E.

179. After the conclusion of the Conference delegates visited either the Murchison Falls or Queen Elizabeth National Parks as guests of the Uganda Government.

180. *Conference of Game Wardens, Directors of National Parks and Professional Hunters.*—The above informal conference, which was the third in the series, was held at Namanga in Kenya in June 1957. It proved to be a most valuable and constructive meeting, resulting in a number of concrete practical proposals for action in the interests of wild life conservation. The Game Warden represented this department and the Uganda National Parks.

181. *Honorary Game Rangers.*—Those appointed during the period under review were:—

- Mr. M. S. Philip.
- Mr. J. M. Savidge.
- Colonel C. D. Trimmer, D.S.O.
- Mr. M. W. Baumgartel.
- Mr. P. Nelson.

A list of all the present Honorary Game Rangers is given in the Appendices to this report. Some of these have rendered valuable aid, and their efforts are very much appreciated.

182. *Tsetse Control in connection with Game.*—Tsetse control game eviction operations continued in the Maruzi and Kwania Counties of Lango during 1956, the following being the record of game shot for this purpose:—

Species	Maruzi	Kwania
Buffalo	3	2
Rhino	1	—
Hippo	35	—
Bushbuck	300	126
Bushpig	13	—
Warthog	107	50
Waterbuck	33	—
Hartebeest	30	4
Dukker	235	191
Reedbuck	19	63
Kudu	212	201
Oribi	80	200
Monkeys	16	10
TOTAL	1,084	847

183. Similar operations have also continued in the areas along the Bunyoro/Mengo border, and in northern Ankole where only buffalo and pig are being shot. Elsewhere it has not been necessary to resort to this method of tsetse control, which is abhorrent to all concerned.

184. *Tribal Hunting.*—Tribal hunting in eastern Acholi was stopped halfway through the 1957 tribal hunting season, due to an outbreak of rinderpest among cattle.

185. In West Nile efforts were made to get tribal hunting on to a more organised and better controlled basis.

186. *Tests for Game Licences.*—These tests (see paragraph 69, 1954/55 Annual Report, and paragraphs 84 to 87, 1955/56 Annual Report), have continued to prove their value, although undoubtedly unpopular in some quarters. It is strange that tests connected with a gun or rifle, which is just as much a lethal weapon (and designed as such) as a motor car, particularly where the problem of wounded dangerous game is also involved, should be looked upon askance by people who accept motor driving competence tests without question. Many people fail to appreciate that it is both in the interests of the persons concerned themselves, as well as the general public, that an adequate standard of competence should be insisted upon.

187. *Important Visitors and Safari Parties.*—There have been a steadily increasing number of safari parties visiting the Protectorate, both for game viewing and photography, and hunting. Safari firms in neighbouring territories are turning their attention more and more to Uganda as the general safari business in East Africa expands, and as the need for new areas and more variety is increasingly felt. It is unfortunate that Uganda still does not have any well established safari firms of the calibre of those in other East African territories.

188. Important visitors are now becoming so commonplace that unless they are extremely exalted it is not feasible to mention them in this report!