



UGANDA PROTECTORATE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GAME AND FISHERIES
DEPARTMENT

For the year ended 31st December, 1950

Published by Command of His Excellency the Governor

signed plus B S KINLON.

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and game areas. In the case of the Game Ranger, Gulu, this happens to coincide with Northern Province as he also has a watching-brief on Karamoja. There are, however, no Game Department staff permanently stationed in the latter district.

GAME GUARDS

6. During the year the Department lost the services of five of the older Guards, each with some ten years service. One was discharged on account of ill-health; another resigned due to old age; two more resigned because they were not prepared to transfer to other districts; the fifth resigned as he felt tired!

7. The Game Ranger, Fort Portal, is now training some very promising Bukiga recruits from Kigezi.

8. In July one of the younger Game Guards was brutally murdered by a poacher in Bunyoro. (See also paragraphs 12 and 387 to 392.)

GAME SCOUTS

9. By the end of the year the Department was still under strength in Game Scouts. It is extremely difficult to recruit the right type of man for Game Scout duties. The pay is low, the temptations great, the work can be dangerous and has not the same attraction as that of a Game Guard. Unless closely supervised Game Scouts are normally of little value and even under the watchful eye of a Game Ranger their useful life is usually woefully short. The majority of them take on the job in the hope of being employed as Game Guards at a later date, but their keenness seldom lasts sufficiently long.

10. The difference in the duties of Game Scouts and Game Guard is not generally appreciated. The former are employed to detect offence against the Game Ordinance and to apprehend poachers. They are therefore, rather naturally, not unduly popular in the areas in which they operate. The latter are armed to deal with crop raiding animals such as elephant and buffalo, and carnivora that have become man or stock killers. This is their main duty although they are at times required to do the work of a Game Scout in addition. As protectors of life and property and as providers of free meat they are naturally as popular as Game Scouts are unpopular, and usually live "on the fat of the land". There is never a shortage of recruits for the post of Game Guard but the only answer to the Game Scout problem would appear to be a substantial increase in pay. Combining of the two jobs is not entirely satisfactory for while the one is mainly a detective the other is primarily a hunter.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

11. The following members of the Department have been honoured in recognition of their work:—

(a) Captain C. R. S. Pitman, D.S.O., M.C., who has been Game Warden of Uganda since 1925, was awarded the C.B.E. in King's Birthday Honours on 8th June, 1950.

(b) Mr. L. J. Lobo, who has 30 years unbroken Government service to his credit, 22 of them as Head Clerk in the Game Department, and who during the war years ran the headquarters office more or less single handed was awarded a "Certificate of Honour" at the close of the year in the New Year's Honours announced on 1st January, 1951.

DEATHS

12. The Acting Game Warden has, with deep regret, to announce the deaths of the following members of the Department:—

(a) T. C. Van Ingen, Fish Culturist, 1st October, 1947, to 31st October, 1949. Died on 24th May, 1950, as a result of injuries received in a motor accident.

(b) Erinayo Muno, Game Guard, 1st August, 1946, to 20th July, 1950. Murdered by a poacher on 20th July, 1950, while in the execution of his duty. (See also paragraphs 387 to 392.)

Expenditure and Revenue

13. Figures are as follows:—

	£	s.
Expenditure (approximately)	23,828	0
Revenue	25,600	10
Balance of Revenue over Expenditure...	1,772	10

The Revenue was derived as follows:—

	£	s.
(a) Sale of ivory, rhinoceros horns and hippo teeth	16,361	0
(b) Game Licences	9,239	10

Receipts from (a) show an increase of 10 per cent. and from (b) an increase of over 31 per cent.; in the case of (a) £16,229 was derived from the sale of ivory.

14. At the two ivory auctions, held at Mombasa, the average price realised per lb. was Shs. 14/28 and Shs. 15/51 compared with Shs. 13/54 and Shs. 11/67 in 1949.

15. Game and Special Licences issued:—

	1950	1949
Resident's (Full)	336	367
Visitor's (Full)	5	1
Resident's (Fourteen-day)	1	1
Visitor's (Fourteen-day)	7	8
First Elephant	320	271
Second Elephant	235	171
Third Elephant	144	100
One Black Rhinoceros	4	...
Bird	1,375	1,157

16. There has been a 31 per cent. increase in the revenue derived from the sale of licences, the actual amount being £2,199 10s. more than 1949. This big increase was a result of more Resident's (Full) Game licences and Bird licences, and many more Special licences for Elephant being taken out. The total number of elephant licences issued was 699 as compared with 542 for 1949.

17. The number of Resident's (Full) Game licences and Bird licences issued both showed an increase of nearly 19 per cent. while the issues of

Special licences for First Elephant, Second Elephant and Third Elephant showed increases of 18 per cent., 37 per cent., and 44 per cent. respectively and an overall increase of nearly 29 per cent.

18. The rapidly increasing demand for Resident's (Full) Game licences and Special Elephant licences is a direct result of the high price of ivory, which has remained at a high level for several years, combined with the present very low cost of Uganda licences. Unfortunately the supply of bull elephants carrying tusks of reasonable size is not unlimited and it is likely that action will have to be taken to prevent or discourage the taking out of too many elephant licences in the future. The number issued in 1950 is far higher than ever before recorded while the same cannot be said for the number of shootable elephants, or even the total number of elephants, remaining in Uganda. This subject is dealt with in greater detail in paragraphs 217 to 228.

19. The total weights of ivory, etc., sold and prices realised at Mombasa auctions were as follows:—

	Weight	Gross price realised	Approx. average price per lb.
	lb.	£ s. cts.	Shs. cts.
MAY—			
Ivory	11,875½	8,478 0 49	14 28
Rhino horns	13	21 16 97	33 61
Hippo teeth	101½	8 15 03	1 73
NOVEMBER—			
Ivory	9,995	7,751 2 80	15 51
Rhino horns	59½	97 8 90	33 03
Hippo teeth	39½	3 16 36	1 95

20. The total of 21,870½ lb. of ivory sold is approximately three-fifths of a ton less than in 1949, i.e. a decrease of 6 per cent.

21. The price of rhino horn has again risen and the average price of Shs. 33/61 cents per lb. obtained at the May auction has only once been exceeded since the formation of the Department. This was at the November auction in 1927 when the average price per lb. was Shs. 35/05 cents.

22. Ivory, etc., statistics:—

(a) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1949:—		lb.
Ivory ... ..	...	6,666
Rhino horns ... ..	...	10
Hippo teeth ... ..	...	101½
(b) Received at Mombasa between 1st January, 1950, and 31st December, 1950:—		
Ivory ... ..	...	19,657½
Rhino horns ... ..	...	103½
Hippo teeth ... ..	...	47½
(c) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1950:—		
Ivory ... ..	...	4,232½
Rhino horns ... ..	...	41
Hippo teeth ... ..	...	8

IVORY FIGURES:—

Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1949	...	6,666
Received at Mombasa during 1950	...	19,657½
	TOTAL	26,323½
		lb.
Sold during 1950	...	21,870½
Destroyed being valueless	...	220½
		22,091½
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1950	...	4,232½

Illegal Killing of Game and Breaches of Game Laws

GENERAL

23. In the Annual Report of the Game Department for 1925 the Game Warden wrote: "There is a curious idea extant that, although laws are normally framed in order to be observed, the Game Laws can be broken with impunity, and there is often a feeling of intense resentment when cases of breaches of the Game Laws are brought into Court." Despite the fact that those words were written 25 years ago, when the Game Department was first created, this attitude is still prevalent in many quarters and often among those who, being in a position of authority and expected to set a good example, ought to know better.

24. The Game Warden also wrote, in the same report: "A fine is of little value when considerable profit has been made out of infringements of the Game Ordinance unless it covers the extent of that profit and much more. An offender usually errs for profit and when caught out if the result is still material gain after having paid a fine, he will simply break the law again at the first opportunity." It is frequently difficult for those who have to administer justice to appreciate the extent of the illegal profits that can be made from various animals. The following examples are illuminating:—

(a) *Elephant*.—A poacher selling to licence holders, or unscrupulous ivory smuggling dealers, can get on the average from Shs. 2 to Shs. 4 per lb. for ivory depending on its age and quality. A licence holder who buys a pair of tusks weighing as little as 25 lb. each can therefore make a profit of from Shs. 250 to Shs. 500, with the price of bull elephant ivory nowadays averaging about Shs. 15 per lb., even after allowing between Shs. 100 and Shs. 300 for the cost of his licence. With a more reasonable sized pair of tusks in the region of 50 lb. each his profit would be between Shs. 800 and Shs. 1,200. The poacher, with his stolen rifle, will make from Shs. 100 to Shs. 200 on the smaller and Shs. 200 to Shs. 400 on the larger pair of tusks. If the licence holder supplies his own rifle and employs one of the band of "hunters for hire" he can pay as little as Shs. 100 per elephant and increase his profits accordingly.

(b) *Buffalo*.—The meat of one buffalo, which can weigh as much as a ton, can be sold by a poacher for up to Shs. 160 with the hide in addition being worth Shs. 50 on the average if sold legally.

(c) *Hippopotamus*.—These animals often weigh in the region of 3 tons and the meat, which is much prized by many tribes, would fetch as much as Shs. 200 when sold illegally.

(d) *Antelopes*.—Their meat value is naturally in direct relation to their size. Thus an oribi would be worth about Shs. 10, an eland Shs. 200, with a kob and a kongoni in the region of Shs. 50 and Shs. 80; these being the prices that a poacher would obtain.

(e) *Leopard*.—With the unfortunate demand that women have created for leopard-skin coats the value of a leopard skin on the open market can be as much as Shs. 300 or more although a skin sold illegally would only get about 50 per cent. of the legal price. It is the policy of the Game

ELEPHANT SANCTUARY, ACHIOLI AND EAST MADI

76. During the dry season, when the grass is short, poaching is widespread throughout the sanctuary. This is due mainly to cultivation being so close to the eastern and northern boundaries. As this is a sleeping sickness restricted area, as well as a sanctuary for elephant, it is of course a closed area for hunting, but with game on his doorstep the poacher finds the temptation too great to resist.

77. A certain amount of poaching occurs along the Anaka-Pakwach road, almost entirely by the P.W.D. labourers who live in road maintenance camps at five-mile intervals.

78. The Anaka-Pakwach road, which runs through the sanctuary is interesting for the traveller, particularly when the fresh green grass is springing up after the burn. Large herds of kob and hartebeest with scattered oribi can often be seen from the road, in fact as many as four hundred head have been counted in an area measuring half a mile by a quarter of a mile. Strangely enough away from the road the number diminish rapidly, probably due to poaching.

79. Lion are quite common and can sometimes be seen in the early morning or late evening. They often cause alarm and despondency in the road camps.

80. The area is laced with perennial rivers and streams and elephant are numerous throughout the sanctuary. It can almost be guaranteed that anyone travelling on this road will see elephant, more often than not on the last five miles up to the Nile. It is a stirring sight to see these great animals strolling quietly and unconcernedly across the open, short-grass country as they must have done in the days before they were harried for their ivory. Travelling at night should, however, be avoided if possible as the elephant spend quite a lot of their time on the road after dark.

WHITE RHINOCEROS SANCTUARIES

81. The Mt. Kei and Mt. Otze Crown Forests in West Nile and West Madi are white rhinoceros sanctuaries, but the white rhino, is now widespread in these districts. Observations made this year tend to indicate that the conservative estimate of their numbers given in 1949 is a long way short of the true figure. It is uncertain what the latter figure is but it is heartening to see that this species is increasing steadily.

82. The considerable amount of buffalo shooting that takes place in the area in connection with the anti-rinderpest scheme, does not seem to disturb the rhino unduly.

GORILLA SANCTUARY

83. No member of the Game Department has been able to visit the gorillas for a long time. Rumours indicate that they are slowly increasing.

BIRD SANCTUARIES

84. Several cases occurred of people, mainly from Kampala, shooting birds in the bird sanctuary on the Entebbe peninsula. One resident had

his tame spur-wing goose wounded by one of these hooligans. Warning notices were inserted in the Press and notice boards have now been erected at suitable spots.

NATIONAL PARKS

85. The National Parks Committee set up by Government presented their Report during the year and this is still under consideration. It is hoped that a decision will be reached shortly.

86. It is essential that Uganda decides what she intends to do in regard to national parks before it is too late. Unfortunately the attitude of one of the African Local Governments of the areas likely to be concerned has been completely obstructive to the idea. Such a short-sighted and bigoted outlook among people who are trying to develop is to be deplored in a territory which is meant to be one of the most advanced in Africa. Uganda now stands alone as the only territory in East or Central Africa that has not introduced national parks: she is flouting world opinion and losing a chance to develop one of the country's greatest assets.

Game Trophies

87. Return of tusks from elephants shot by licence holders, and exported:—

District	Under 10 lb.	10 lb. and over	20 lb. and over	30 lb. and over	40 lb. and over	50 lb. and over	60 lb. and over	70 lb. and over	80 lb. and over	90 lb. and over	100 lb. and over	Total tusks
Mengo	...	32	18	52	37	12	3	...	...	...	...	144
Mubende	1	19	21	21*	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Musaka	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Ankole	...	9	29	21	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	72
Toro	2	25	56	77*	28	8	3*	...	...	...	...	193
Kigezi	...	...	2	4	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bunyoro	1	11	26	19	13	12	4	...	...	...	...	83
West Nile	...	5	29	35	13	6	...	...	...	...	...	114
M. It.	1	8	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
A. holi	...	53*	37	18	35†	14*	...	18*	1	...	...	...
Mbal	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Karamoja	...	...	4	4	4	...	2	2	2	...	...	18
Karungu	...	...	2	6	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bosoga	...	2	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Teso	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	5	165	260	309	160	86	27	23	6	7	1	1,464

* 1 single tusk.

† 2 single tusks.

88. This represents 536 elephants, an increase of nearly 40 per cent. on last year (384). A few large tuskers have been shot but these have been mainly visitors from the Congo or the Sudan who have overstayed their welcome or unfortunates who, after years of safety in a reserve or sanctuary, have stepped across the boundary line in a moment of mental aberration: a mistake that nowadays, with hunters swarming round the edges of game reserves like flies round a honey-pot, an elephant seldom has the chance to make twice. It is interesting to note that of the elephants shot nearly

after it had been lassoed to see if it was injured and, before it was released, much to the disgust of the launch crew who had visions of a free feed of pork!

329. *Hippopotamus*.—The hippopotamus thrives in nearly all the waterways of Uganda and by its presence renders valuable aid to the economic fisheries for its excreta promotes the growth of phyto-plankton on which *tilapia* feed. In fact it quite literally manures the water. Two research officers who dredged the Victoria Nile below the Murchison Falls to look for molluscs found that the bottom was not mud, sand or stone but solid hippo-dung! Needless to say there are vast numbers of hippo in that area.

330. These animals at times appear to get a wanderlust and stray far from water. In August one walked to within a hundred yards of the rest house in Hoima township and as there are no known hippo within 15 miles of Hoima it remains a mystery from whence it came. It is possible that it was moving from the Kafu River to Lake Albert and lost its way!

331. A Game Ranger reports that the Juma River in Lango is a favourite place for lone hippo. One was seen in a mud hole only just large enough to accommodate him and the Ranger got within ten yards before being seen. The animal regarded him apprehensively for a bit and then slowly started getting up. When it was half way out the mud gave a very loud sucking noise which frightened the hippo so much that it bolted! Two others were found using their tails to flick water on to their backs and the Ranger comments that it was interesting to watch how the tail came up with just the right speed so that it picked up the maximum amount of water and threw it forward over the back, shoulders and neck!

332. In April two hippo bulls had a fight in the Katonga River and the vanquished one, badly wounded, escaped from the river and made his home in a dam. He was so bad tempered, however, that he refused to allow the local people to draw water and the Muluka Chief very pluckily tackled the beast with a shot-gun and slew it.

333. Because of its normal usefulness the hippopotamus has this year been afforded complete protection in additional waters of the Protectorate.

334. *White Rhinoceros*.—Latest reports indicate that the white rhinoceros in West Nile and West Madi are even more numerous than was recently thought. They are very strictly protected and therefore seldom molested, but two were found dead this year and a pair of horns from a third was brought in. It is believed that an illegal trade in rhino horn was starting in a small way in the District but the severe punishments meted out to eight Africans involved in the killing appear to have had a salutary effect and to have nipped the trade in the bud.

335. *Black Rhinoceros*.—These cantankerous animals have again been in trouble in Lango where two which persisted in eating cotton in Maruzi County had to be shot by a Game Ranger.

336. A licence holder shot a black rhinoceros near Kalapata in Dodoth County, Karamoja, with a 27 in. front horn. This is unusually

large for Uganda. In the same county a Matheniko "sportsman" was killed by a rhino when hunting.

337. A badly injured rhino that was shot in Acholi had evidently been fighting as it had deep cuts on its shoulders and sides, while a gash between its horns was five inches deep.

338. *Giraffe*.—Giraffe, despite poaching, still seem to be able to hold their own in parts of Northern Province.

339. In Bugishu these animals are reported to have developed a taste for cotton. The local people have been advised as to the best methods of driving them away.

(iv) NOMARTHRA

340. *Ground Pangolin or Scaly Ant-eater*.—A Game Ranger found the remains of one of these peculiar, reptilian-looking animals near Kaabong in Karamoja. It had been killed by a leopard which had cleaned out the flesh and left the hard, scaly skin.

(v) RODENTIA

341. *Lesser Fat Mouse (Steatomys parvus rhoads)*.—Two specimens of a small mouse caught near Napyenyeny in Karamoja, on submission to the British Museum proved to be the lesser fat mouse. It is a small plump mouse about 3 in. long with its short tail measuring another $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Its stoutness is due to its ability to store fat as a food reserve beneath its skin.

(vi) CHIROPTERA

342. The following species of bats have recently been caught in Karamoja: *Rhinolophus lobatus peters*, *Rhinolophus axillaris*, *Chaerephon* sp.

B Birds

WHALE-HEADED STORK (*Balaeniceps rex*)

343. Anyone anxious to see this grotesque bird should seek it where the Sezibwa River enters Lake Kyoga. Up to a dozen may be seen here at any time, standing motionless on patches of sudd within a mile of the canoe landing at Erima.

344. A Game Ranger reports having seen a solitary specimen of this stork in the papyrus near Baker's Camp in April.

SECRETARY BIRD (*Sagittarius serpentarius*)

345. A number of secretary birds have been observed this year; they were near Baker's Camp, on the Waiga River on the Lake Albert flats, near the Bugungu settlement, east of the Aswa River in Acholi and quite a number in north Karamoja.

346. An Assistant Resident reports an amusing incident involving one of these birds. He and a Game Guard had just shot-up a shambairaiding herd of elephants in Bulemezi when he noticed a secretary bird which, despite the shooting, slowly approached from the direction of the stampeding beasts and took not the slightest notice of him or the Game Guard. The officer avers that he could almost see the word "Protected" written on its back!



PLATE IV.

Snare made from wire taken from lorry tyres, set for small buck.

[Photo by B. G. Kinloch.



PLATE V.

Black rhinoceros caught in wheel-trap with foot snare and speared.



PLATE VI.

The "Katwe Circus" cross the road and

[Photo by P. G. Kinloch



PLATE VII.

.....having crossed move on to.....

[Photo by B. G. Kinloch.



PLATE VIII.

.....in the Lake. Edited in company with Education

UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Scale of Miles
 0 10 20 40 Miles

- NAME RECEIVED
- 1. Banyoro and Nubi C.R.
 - 2. Toro C.R.
 - 3. Lango C.R.
 - 4. L.A. E. C.R.
 - 5. Galla C.R.
 - 6. A. C. S. C.R.
 - 7. White Rhinoceros Sanctuary
 - 8. Bird Sanctuary
 - 9. Elephant Sanctuary

