



UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GAME DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1938.

Signed (P.S.) C.R.S. Pitman

Entered 4 March 1939

Published by Command of His Excellency the Governor.

ENTREE:

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, UGANDA.

1939.

(GGD)

155

3. Game and Special licences issued:—

	1938	1937
Resident's (Full)	238	204
Visitor's (Full)	4	5
Resident's (Fourteen-day)	2	5
Visitor's (Fourteen-day)	3	4
Resident's or Visitor's Two Elephants	88	127
Resident's or Visitor's Third Elephant	42	52
Resident's or Visitor's Three Elephants	7	20
Native's Two Elephants	67	41
Native's Third Elephant	14	13
Native's Three Elephants	9	12
Special for One Black Rhinoceros	2	2
Bird	716	750

4. Owing to the low price of ivory elephant hunting has declined in popularity. So long as there are plenty of warrantable bulls available for licence-holders it should, however, be possible to maintain the revenue from the sale of licences at about £3,700 even with ivory at a low market value.

5. Government ivory was, as usual, sent to Mombasa for sale. Two auctions were held at which the total weights sold and average prices realised were as follows:

	Weight:	Gross price received:			Average price per lb.
	lbs.	£	shs.	cts.	Shs. cts.
MAY—					
Ivory	13,150	3,573	4	51	5 43
Rhino horns	64	63	5	87	19 78
Hippo teeth	104½	6	8	66	1 24
NOVEMBER—					
Ivory	15,218	4,919	12	84	6 54
Rhino horns	63	49	1	26	15 37
Hippo teeth	54½	1	17	43	7 0

The total of 28,368 lbs. disposed of by auction is a tremendous drop, 36 per cent. when compared with 44,577 lbs. in 1937.

6. Ivory, etc.:—

(a) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1937—	Lbs.
Ivory	7,170½
Rhino horns	21½
Hippo teeth	95½
(b) Received at Mombasa between 1st Jan., 1938, and 31st Dec., 1938—	
Ivory	28,055
Rhino horns	105½
Hippo teeth	94½
(c) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1938—	
Ivory	6,795
Rhino horns	31
Hippo teeth	
IVORY FIGURES— Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1937	7,170½
Received at Mombasa during 1937	28,055
	35,225½
Sold during 1937	28,368
Shrinkage	62½
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1937	6,795

Illegal Killing of Game and Breaches of Game Laws.

7. There have been few serious infringements of the Game Laws. The unlawful killing of antelopes by the local population is not uncommon in certain parts of the country, but it is a type of offence not easy to detect.

8. Mr. L. T. Gunn was appointed an Honorary Game Ranger.

Game Reserves and Sanctuaries.

9. The Bagungu region about 90 square miles in extent, on the north eastern shore of Lake Albert, which was excised from the Bunyoro portion of the Bunyoro and Gulu Reserve in 1935, has been re-incorporated.

10. An area of approximately 130 square miles which adjoins the northern sector of the Parc National Albert (in the Congo) has been added as a westerly extension to the Lake George Game Reserve.

11. Two forest reserves in the West Nile District and in the Mudi Sub-district of the Northern Province, respectively the Mount Kei Crown Forest, 170 square miles in extent, and the Aiyu River Crown Forest, 20 square miles, have been created white rhinoceros sanctuaries.

12. All the reserves continue to be well stocked with wild life. In particular, the antelopes are increasing in the Bunyoro and Gulu and in the Lake George reserves. In the last named the buffaloes probably total thousands.

Game Trophies.

13. Elephant hunting, for ivory, continues to be a fairly popular pastime.

14. Return of tusks from elephants shot by licence holders:—

District	Over 10 lb.	Over 20 lb.	Over 30 lb.	Over 40 lb.	Over 50 lb.	Over 60 lb.	Over 70 lb.	Over 80 lb.	Over 90 lb.	Over 100 lb.	TOTAL
	Under 10	Under 20	Under 30	Under 40	Under 50	Under 60	Under 70	Under 80	Under 90		
Mengo	9	16	33	22	6						86
Mubende		1	4	7	3						15
Masaka		2		1	1						4
Ankole			4	1	1						6
Toro	4	15	19	28	13	13	8	1			101
Kigezi			4	6	2						12
Bunyoro	4	14	24	16	22	5	7	2			94
West Nile	2	16	18	15	11	2					63
Mudi	2	7	8	8	4		1	2			32
Acholi (Gulu, Chua)	3	14	20	33	32	40	13	7	5	1	168
Central	1	1		2							4
Moroto											2
Lango		6	2		1	2	1				16
Busoga			6	1	1						8
Teso			2								2
Budama		1	1								2
TOTAL	25	93	145	142	100	61	33	13	5	1	618

* Single tusk.

This represents 311 elephants, slightly fewer than last year. There are 123 bulls with tusks of over 40 and under 60 lbs.; 53 of over 60 and under 90 lbs.; and three with tusks of over 90 lbs. (one of these tusks exceeds 100 lbs.). This leaves 132 with tusks of less than 40 lbs. and indicates that most sportsmen taking out a licence for three elephants should still be fairly certain of bagging two with tusks in excess of 40 lbs.

15. The licence holder continues to afford the Game Department welcome assistance by destroying numbers of the worst shamba-raiding bulls.

16. 342 leopard skins (a slight increase on last year's figure) and 2½ tons (6179½ lbs.) of hippopotamus teeth were exported; and 133 carved hippopotamus teeth and sportsmen's trophies.

17. Two Special licences to hunt a black rhinoceros were taken out. Eight rhinoceros horns, sportsmen's trophies aggregating 27 lbs., were exported, and 29 horns, totalling 108½ lbs., Government property. The highest price realised by African horn at the quarterly auctions in London was Shs. 27 per lb.

18. It has been necessary once again to confiscate a few illegally acquired ostrich eggs.

19. Miscellaneous trophies including skins, horns and ivory curios of a total value of £100, entered in transit *via* the Merama Hill Customs Post; 400 lbs. of hippopotamus teeth valued at £20 and miscellaneous trophies valued at £2, *via* Kisoro; miscellaneous trophies and ivory curios valued at £89, *via* Mpondwe; 432 lbs. of ivory valued at £143, *via* Vura; and 1,847 tusks of ivory, totalling 56,853½ lbs. and valued at £15,614, and 17 leopard skins valued at £24 from the Belgian Congo *via* Butiaba.

20. Numerous Uganda trophies, including some the property of Their Majesties, were exhibited at the British Sporting Exhibition which was organised by the "Field" newspaper and held at the Imperial Institute in January.

SECTION II.—ELEPHANT CONTROL.

21. Elephants generally are as abundant as ever. The influence of effective control in most localities is reflected in the very marked decrease in total wastage, five hundred fewer elephants being destroyed this year. The estimated total wastage is 1,500.

It is hoped that a stage has been reached in control activities when it will be unnecessary again to increase the rate of killing. There is increasing reference to less damage in most districts. At the same time as not only the game reserves, but also the extensive closed sleeping sickness areas act as elephant sanctuaries in which the herds are rapidly increasing, one has to visualise a situation from time to time which may demand drastic measures.

22. Frequent restrictions on hunting in rinderpest infected areas have interfered considerably with normal elephant control operations.

Twenty six African "control" guards were employed. The high standard of efficiency of the African members of the staff has been maintained.

23. The number of elephants killed by the Game Department staff (and others) in the course of organised control activities is as under:

District.	No.	Males.	Females.	Tusks.	Single tuskers.	Total weight.
Mengo	104	199	..	217*	..	1,467
Mulondo	83	39	44	164	..	1,623
Masaha	37	14	23	73	1	87
Ankole	27	31	25	113	1	1,044
Tabora	17	17	5	32	2	604
Kericho	18	14	4	367	0	3,269
Homa	178	137	41	348	8	3,723
Mimba	161	137	34	317	..	3,796
West Nile	50	21	29	99	1	1,034
Achik	50	50	..	98	2	1,684
Mach	95	38	57	186	4	1,834
Lango	20	18	2	39	1	71
Bududa	2	2	..	4	..	134
Kericho	1	1	..	2	..	1
Central	1	1	..	8	..	164
Bududa	1	1	..	2	..	164
TOTAL	1,053	716	308	2,069	36	23,494

*The odd tusk is not from a single tusker but from a normally tusked elephant shot under the special arrangement made with Officers of the King's African Rifles operating from Bombo.

24. The following figures represent the number of tusks of below and over 10 lbs. weight obtained in the course of control operations.

District	Under 10 lbs.		Over 10 lbs.		Over 40 lbs.		Over 60 lbs.		Over 90 lbs.		Total
	Below	Over	Below	Over	Below	Over	Below	Over			
Mengo	118	58	30	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	217
Mulondo	105	36	17	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	164
Masaha	41	23	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Ankole	62	43	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Tabora	8	8	10	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Kericho	204	117	32	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	367
Homa	197	114	18	19	1	..	..	..	..	..	348
Mimba	117	115	39	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	317
West Nile	51	49	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	99
Achik	38	34	7	11	6	..	1	1	..	..	98
Mach	117	51	8	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	186
Lango	12	14	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	39
Bududa	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Bududa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Kericho	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Central	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
TOTAL	1,110	648	174	99	21	12	3	1	1	1	2,069

25. It will be noticed that these tusks include one in excess of 80 lbs., one over 70 lbs., three over 60 lbs., twelve over 50 lbs., and twenty one over 40 lbs.

creature submerged in less than six feet of water, and suddenly took fright when the vessel was almost on top of it. It passed under the launch getting a good blow from the keel, and then floundered off in a panic, ostrich fashion, through the shallows, striving desperately to submerge its enormous stern.

116. In the Budama District a hippopotamus was run into after dark by a private car on the embankment across the Malawa river on the Tororo-Busia road. The car was wrecked.

117. *White Rhinoceros*.—A bull white rhinoceros which had been speared was found dead near Bulukotani in the West Nile District in January. In this district there is a general impression that the white rhinoceros is increasing and spreading over a wider area. Some have been seen south of Midigo in Aringa. At Rogem, in Jonam County these creatures are accused of causing some damage to crops.

In West Madi the species continues to be numerous.

118. The skull and lower jaw of a couple of white rhinoceros found dead during the last two years have been presented respectively to the Kaffrarian Museum at King Williamstown in South Africa and to the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen University.

119. *Black Rhinoceros*.—Report received from various reliable sources indicate that the black rhinoceros is plentiful in the region bounded on the south by the Victoria Nile, on the west by the Albert Nile, on the north by the Ajumani Zuipi road, and on the east roughly by the Kamdini-Amar-Attiak road.

There are probably now five or six times as many black rhinoceroses in this extensive region as there were ten years ago; i.e., a total perhaps of 120-160.

In the Aiyago region the black rhinoceros is easily found and inclined to resent being located a sure sign of tribal hunting.

In Lango complaints of damage are made from time to time, probably with justice.

120. *Giraffe*.—Officers of the Railway Marine sometimes see a few giraffes on the Lango bank of the Nile about 30 miles up-stream from Atura Port. These animals are very tame and unworried by the steamer's passing.

A report received from East Madi indicates that giraffes are increasing rapidly and that almost every cow had a half grown calf running at foot.

An incident omitted from the 1937 Report, but worth recording, concerns a giraffe found dead near Ajumani in East Madi. The animal had evidently had difficulty in giving birth to a calf, and had died before it was delivered.

121. In East Madi the giraffe has fallen seriously from grace and has been responsible for much damage to cotton crops. In some places the depredations have been so regular and on such a wholesale scale that a mechanical contrivance might have passed along the planted lines evenly clipping the tops. As the marauders operate mainly at night

attempts to spear them have failed, and organised protective effort by this Department will be necessary next cotton season.

The lone giraffe on the west bank of the Nile, north of Dufilo, still appears from time to time.

122. *Zebra*. In parts of Ankole zebras are still fairly plentiful. In July, several had to be shot by a game guard in the Musale of Buddu in the Masaka District, where a herd was causing serious damage to cultivation.

(iv) RODENTIA.

123. *Porcupine*. In the Bunyoro and Mubende Districts porcupines are increasing rapidly, and are responsible for very serious damage to food crops. In Bunyoro they have also damaged young cotton.

This is a pest not easy to eradicate.

(B) Birds.

124. *Ostrich (Struthio camelus)*. In June, Mr. H. Cronly of the Veterinary Department took to England a couple of young ostriches which he had found by the road side in Karamoja a few months before. Unfortunately one died at the end of the voyage; the other is now on view at Regent's Park.

The two ostriches presumably belong to the northern race *melanophanes* distinguished by the bare, horny patch in the centre of the crown.

125. *White-headed Stork (Balaeniceps rex)*.—White-headed storks, on one occasion as many as six, have been seen from time to time in the swamps to the west of Entebbe. The Luganda name is "Bulu", and the local Africans say that it only soars before rain. It is said to utter a cry at the same time. This requires verification as no cry has yet been recorded.

126. *Woolly-necked Stork (Dissoura episcopus microscelis)*. Except in the north this somewhat conspicuous species is rarely seen in Uganda. Mr. Eggeling found it numerous in eastern Acholi in the middle of February.

127. *Migrant storks*. Large quantities of white stork were reported from Kabale, Kigezi, between 18th and 27th April, unusually late. There was also one Abdim's stork with them.

128. On 29th January a white stork, suffering from a sore leg due to being ringed with too small a ring, was caught on an Indian owned estate near Jinja. The ring was removed and the leg was disinfected with iodine and was treated for three days after which the wound was quite cured. The bird was very tame and fed freely on locusts, which were at that time infesting the estate. As soon as the leg had healed the bird was released. It had been ringed at the University of Kaunas in Lithuania.

129. In February when two Royal Air Force Vickers Gordon machines were taking off from Lira, one of the machines at a height of about 50 feet struck two storks. This apparently caused a loss of engine power, for the machine crashed about three hundred yards from the