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TANGANYIKA TERRITORY  
GAME PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

Annual Report  
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During the year a number of visitors, mostly Asians, visited the Banagi end of the Park to see lions. All were fortunate in seeing what they sought, and it is encouraging to note that the lions are as attractive and plentiful as ever.

#### THE GAME FREE AREA

The numbers of animals shot in the Game Free Area for each year during which the scheme, which was undertaken as an anti-rinderpest measure, has been in operation are as follows:—

1943 ... ..	245
1944 ... ..	454
1945 ... ..	718

These figures are for Sections 1, 2 and 3 on the Tanganyika side of the boundary and do not include figures from Section 4, opened in October 1945.

The animals that appear chiefly in the bag are duiker and pig: the former being decoyed to the shooter by means of a duiker decoy whistle which, blown by the hunter brings these small buck close to the gun that destroys them.

The above figures show the difficulty of rendering an area game free, and leaves doubt as to whether the area could really act as a barrier to rinderpest should that disease appear in the vicinity: so far this area has been free of rinderpest.

The *Caesalpinia Sepiaria* (Mauritius Thorn) hedge is being pushed ahead, but in most parts it appears to be a slow grower, while in others, the hedge does not take kindly to growing at all. However, it is still only in the experimental stage so it is too early to decide whether or not it will be a success.

The organization of the Game Free Area Scheme is considered to be the best possible, and the men employed in it are the most suitable. The Temporary Game Controllers are specially picked men, and have done their best to achieve the original goal of rendering the area completely free of game: but as the locality is as full of small animals as ever, the scheme cannot be described as being a complete safeguard to prevent animals from carrying rinderpest through it.

#### THE SEGUTI CLEARING SCHEME MUSOMA

Game Scouts were again attached to this scheme with the object of clearing the Seguti Valley of game.

It was found, however, that the game was so scarce in the valley that the meat demanded for feeding labourers had to be shot on the Guta Plains, some 20 to 30 miles away, where a total of 237 animals were shot.

In 1944 the position was the same, nearly all the meat demanded for labourers having to be shot on the Guta Plains.

The Seguti Valley holds tsetse flies but very little game, which suggests that the flies feed on something other than game animals, possibly on pig which are very difficult to exterminate.

#### DISEASE IN GAME

In spite of rumours, there has been no general outbreak of disease in game during the year, although all concerned have been on the look out for it. A few animals were found dead, but there was nothing reported sufficient to cause alarm.

Poisoned arrows are without doubt the cause of many reports of dead or dying game animals.

The fleece of a klipspringer, complete with the neck and leg skin was found in No. 4 Section of the Game Free Area; this has so far puzzled the experts, who know of no disease that would cause an animal, domestic or otherwise, to shed its fleece in such entirety. In fact, I have never before heard of a klipspringer shedding any part of its coat, and no such record has ever reached this office.

#### TROPHIES

Two interesting trophies were produced for the Department's collection and are now on loan to the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi.

The first was the horns of a cow rhino, the front horn of which measured 47½ inches. This is the second world's record for black rhino, as shown in Rowland Ward's Records 1935.

The second trophy is even more interesting as it is unique: namely the hide of a pure white albino bushbuck ram, showing no marks whatever. Unfortunately the hide was sadly cut about by the African skinner, and parts of it are missing. The buck was shot in the Game Free Area near Tunduma.

Two elephant tusks weighing 131 lb. and 113 lb. are now in the Department's collection, taken from an elephant shot in the Central Range.

#### FROM THE RANGES

Major Hewlett, Eastern Range, had a very unpleasant experience with elephant. To quote his own words:—

"While on safari at Tawi in the Rufiji District I was shown extensive damage to cultivation, native huts, trees, etc., so much so that the inhabitants had all left the area; this I was informed was the work of a small herd of elephant which had been operating in the area for some time and were alleged to be *kali sana*.

That same evening a report was brought to my camp that the animals had returned and were doing further damage so, in company with one scout I went to investigate the matter; and eventually came up to five elephant in some cultivation.

Wishing to give them a chance to clear off I fired a shot over them at about 30 yards, on which they immediately circled until they got our wind and then bunched tightly together in a 'V' formation, came slap at us; I gave the centre beast a brain shot but he was so tightly wedged between the others that he did not drop but was carried along with them; the scout's rifle jammed after the first shot, presumably through the excitement of the man, and I was left to carry on the battle alone.

Four dropped within a distance of 10 yards, but the remaining beast still carried on at us and only turned about three yards away, eventually dropping some little distance off. None of the animals made the slightest effort to pass or clear off but maintained the charge up to the time they were dropped, all were mature bulls with ivory about 40 lb. weight, and I have never met so determined charge by a given number of beasts, as in this particular case and I considered I was rather fortunate in getting away as I did."

Game Scout Omari Abdullah of the Central Range had the unusual experience of collecting a tusk from an elephant without killing it. He fired at the animal and knocked it down into a small ravine with his first shot. When Omari arrived at the spot he found no trace of the elephant other than a single tusk which had broken off during the fall of its owner.

One of the best elephant hunters of the Southern Range, Game Scout Mbeyani Selemani, reports the following interesting experience:—

"I was called to deal with two bull elephant which were raiding the crops of the village of Kipelele in Liwale District. I found them just outside the village in which an *ngoma* was going on. I watched them to see what effect the *ngoma* would have on them. To my surprise I noticed that the elephant were flapping their ears backwards and forwards in time to the drum beats. When the drums stopped, the elephant's ears were stationary, but as soon as the drums started up again the elephant again moved their ears in time to the rhythm. I watched this for some time and there is no doubt of the above facts."