



UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Annual Report
of the
**Game and Fisheries
Department**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1952

*Signed p. 107 B. J. KINLOCH
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Expenditure and Revenue

29. Figures are as follows:—

	£
Expenditure	36,870 (approximate)
Revenue	19,110
Balance of expenditure over revenue ..	£17,760

30. In considering the above it should be remembered that although in the past the department was almost automatically expected to be able to show direct revenue at least equal to its expenditure, in recent years the fisheries side of the department's work has rapidly expanded and now accounts for nearly 50% of the expenditure. The direct revenue, derived entirely from game licence fees and the sale of "control" ivory, is still greater than the expenditure on the fauna side of the department's work. Fisheries can show no direct revenue but their landed value, excluding the Uganda waters of Lake Victoria, is now some £600,000 per annum.

31. The revenue was derived as follows:—

	£
(a) Sale of ivory, rhinoceros horns and hippo teeth	11,892
(b) Game licences	7,218

Receipts from (a) show a decrease of 33% due to a considerable drop in the price of ivory and less ivory being obtained on "control". £11,747 was derived from the sale of ivory. Receipts from (b) show a decrease of 40% due largely to far fewer special elephant licences being taken out.

32. Game and Special Licences issued:—

	1952	1951
Resident's (Full)	426	516
Visitor's (Full)	14	14
Resident's (Fourteen-day) ..	1	5
Visitor's (Fourteen-day) ..	12	12
First Elephant	150*	338
Second Elephant	57†	280
Third Elephant	abolished	200
One Black Rhinoceros	3	3
Bird	2,023	2,016

* Including Nil Visitor's First Elephant.

† Including Nil Visitor's Second Elephant.

33. The most marked difference in the number of licences issued in 1952 as compared with 1951 is the big reduction in the numbers of special elephant licences, a total of 207 being issued as against a total of 818 in 1951. This represents a reduction of 75% in the number of special elephant licences but only 47% in revenue due to their increased cost.

34. When the licences for First and Second Elephants were raised to Shs. 300 and Shs. 600 respectively (for Visitors Shs. 600 and Shs. 1,200) at the end of 1951 it was hoped that there would be a big reduction in the

number of licences taken out thus reducing the previously excessive licensed elephant hunting; this result has certainly been achieved. (See also paragraphs 18 and 217 to 228, 1950 Annual Report, and paragraph 25, 1951 Annual Report).

35. The reduction in the number of elephant licences taken out also affected the number of Residents (Full) Game Licences issued, which dropped to 426 as against 516 in 1951, a reduction of 18%.

36. It was decided during the year that African Local Governments should receive a proportion of the revenue accruing from game licence fees to increase their interest in faunal matters, and thus encourage them to render greater assistance in the preservation of game and the enforcing of the game laws. Elsewhere in Africa measures of a similar nature have proved successful.

37. As a result of this decision it was arranged that with effect from 1st September, 1952, all African Local Governments should receive a rebate of 75% of the value of all Game, Bird and Black Rhinoceros licences taken out in their areas. In addition they would receive a rebate of £15 (the equivalent of a Resident's First Elephant Licence fee) on each licensed elephant actually shot in the area under their jurisdiction.

38. At the two ivory auctions, held at Mombasa, the average price realised per lb. was Shs. 13/17 and Shs. 13, compared with Shs. 15/01 and Shs. 15/34 in 1951.

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

	Weight	Gross price realised	Approximate average price per lb.
	lb.	£ s. cts.	Shs. cts.
MAY—			
Ivory	8,343½	5,496 7 30	13 17
Rhino horns	84½	112 15 55	44 22
Hippo teeth	Nil	Nil	—
NOVEMBER—			
Ivory	9,614½	6,250 17 93	13 00
Rhino horns	14½	31 4 05	44 57
Hippo teeth	9½	1 5 10	2 50

40. The total of 17,958½ lb. of ivory sold is a little more than half a ton less than in 1951, i.e., a decrease of 22%.

41. The price of rhino horn showed a slight drop after the record average price of Shs. 46/88 per lb. reached at the November, 1951, auction. However, it remained high, the average price at the May auction being Shs. 44/22 and at the November auction Shs. 44/57. There is evidently no slackening in the demand for this interesting commodity.

42. Ivory, etc., statistics:—

(a) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1951:—		<i>lb.</i>
Ivory		4,909
Rhino horn		66½
Hippo teeth		—
(b) Received at Mombasa between 1st January, 1952, and 31st December, 1952:—		
Ivory		19,190½
Rhino horn		4½
Hippo teeth		9½
(c) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1952:—		
Ivory		6,141
Rhino horn		9
Hippo teeth		12
IVORY FIGURES —		
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1951		4,909
Received at Mombasa during 1952		19,190½
	TOTAL	<u>24,099½</u>
<i>lb.</i>		
Sold during 1952		17,958½
Destroyed being valueless		Nil
		<u>17,958½</u>
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1952		<u>6,141</u>

Illegal Killing of Game and Breaches of Game Laws

GENERAL

43. With the valued help of the police, considerable success has been achieved in efforts to reduce poaching and bring offenders to book. Game Guards and Scouts have been frequently threatened when attempting to apprehend offenders. However, the increase in staff which has now been authorised should do much to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

44. An unusually callous and blatant offence occurred in April when a European driving along the main road through the Lake George Game Reserve fired at a buffalo from the safety of his car. Seeing the buffalo fall as a result of his shot he drove on without even troubling to leave his vehicle to make sure the animal was dead; in fact it was only severely wounded. Luckily his actions were observed and when he was prosecuted it was also discovered that his rifle licence had expired and he did not possess a game licence. A worse case of wanton waste of animal life is hard to imagine and the offender was severely punished.

45. In West Nile a County Chief was convicted and imprisoned for a series of offences against the Game Ordinance and the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, while a former Wakil was convicted for selling buffalo meat.

46. In many areas, the chiefs have been most helpful in checking offences against the Game Ordinance, in particular a Muluka Chief in Ankole was speared when trying to arrest two armed poachers from Buganda

who had invaded his territory and shot an eland. Unfortunately the poachers escaped.

47. A P.W.D. headman in Kyaka, Toro, had a lucky escape when, after he had given information to a Game Guard, he was shot at in a P.W.D. hut by a poacher who put the barrel of a shotgun in a crack in the wall and fired, narrowly missing the headman's head. The poacher ended in jail.

48. Offences in connection with ivory have continued to be few and the increase in the cost of elephant licences appears to have discouraged many people who previously tried to make easy money by buying their ivory from poachers.

49. The European licence-holder who had a large pair of tusks stolen last year (*see* paragraph 36, 1951 Annual Report), has been lucky. Two Game Scouts were on patrol near the footpath from Bwamba to Fort Portal and camped for the night near a waterhole just inside the western boundary of the Game Reserve. They were looking for a coil of steel cable which had been stolen from some Geological Department drillers and was being made into snares. Being heavy they knew it could not have been moved far except by lorry. They noticed that the earth had been dug up and on investigation found two large tusks buried in the ground. These were duly taken to the police station at Fort Portal and later identified by photographs and other data as being the stolen tusks. They were not in very good condition, being dried out and split, but it is understood that the lucky licence-holder received a good price for them from a local ivory dealer.

SELLING OF GAME MEAT

50. There has been a big increase in the illegal sale of game meat in certain areas, and the very large numbers of buffalo in particular which are being killed by both poachers and licence-holders for this purpose leads to the supposition that many of those who, in the past, made large sums from the killing of elephant on cheap licences have, now that the price of elephant licences has been substantially increased, turned to the selling of game meat in lieu of ivory.

51. An epidemic of lorry-borne poaching in Ankole by "butchers" from Masaka District reached serious proportions early in the year. These people drove across country shooting down all types of game, either by day or in their headlights at night. These trucks, often 5-tonners, returned after dark loaded with eland, topi and other game, the meat being finally sold at great profit. Energetic action by the Game Ranger, Fort Portal, resulting in the conviction of several of the ringleaders had a salutary effect, and this menace has, for the moment at least, been curbed. The permanent posting of a Game Ranger to this region is, however, a matter of real urgency and the increase in staff authorised will now make this possible in 1953.

TORO (OR SEMLIKI) GAME RESERVE

79. This area is much poached but still manages to maintain a good stock of game. Uganda kob are particularly abundant and lion numerous, large prides being frequently seen.

KIGEZI GAME RESERVE

80. This new Reserve was created on 22nd July and consists of a small area in Kigezi bordering on the Parc National Albert and originally part of the southern end of the Lake Edward Game Reserve, the remainder of which has been absorbed in the new Queen Elizabeth National Park. It contains, among other game, fair numbers of topi.

KAZINGA GAME RESERVE

81. This new Reserve, also created on 22nd July, is comprised of a number of small areas lying within the Queen Elizabeth National Park in the region of Katwe, Kabatoro and Kasenyi (Lake George) and all freehold and mailo lands and all roads maintained by the Public Works Department lying within the boundaries of the Park. The object of this Reserve is to protect animals which otherwise could be molested in these areas within the Park.

MASHA ANIMAL SANCTUARY, ANKOLE

82. Fair numbers of eland, topi, zebra and impala are found in this Sanctuary, besides other game, but the area suffers badly from poachers. An epidemic of lorry-borne poaching from Masaka District became a dangerous threat early in the year but was finally curbed by the energetic efforts of the Game Ranger, Fort Portal.

83. A Game Ranger and extra Game Guards are being posted to Mbarara to deal with this situation.

ELEPHANT SANCTUARY, ACHOLI AND EAST MADI

84. By Legal Notice No. 161, dated 22nd July, 1952, the eastern boundary of the Elephant Sanctuary in Acholi was withdrawn some miles to the west. This was part of the agreement in regard to the establishment of national parks in Acholi.

85. The new boundary was carefully marked by a Game Ranger but a number of old bull elephants were shot by licence-holders before the remainder of the herds began to realise that things had changed.

WHITE RHINOCEROS SANCTUARY

86. The white rhinoceros continues to flourish in West Nile and West Madi both inside and outside the two sanctuaries of the Mt. Kei and Mt. Otze Crown Forest.

GORILLA SANCTUARY

87. No information in regard to the gorilla on the Muhavura and Mgahinga Volcanoes has been received this year.

ENTERBE ANIMAL SANCTUARY

88. The birds and the few hippo in this area continue to be a local attraction but some African licence-holders prefer their hippo on a plate and have to be watched.

Game Trophies

89. 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
Mengo ..	1	5	35	32	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
Mubende ..	—	—	5	7	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	16
Masaka ..	—	3	11	4	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	26
Ankole ..	—	16	26	28	10	8	4	2	—	—	—	94
Toro ..	—	2	11	11	2	4	—	1	1	2	—	34
Kigezi ..	—	8	14	23	11	5	5*	2	3	—	—	75
Bunyoro ..	2	3	22	13*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45
West Nile ..	—	8	22	12	8	3*	4	—	—	—	—	25
Madi ..	2	3	26	18	36	15	11	3	4*	3	1	120
Acholi ..	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Mbale ..	—	—	2	5*	1	3	1	2	—	1	—	15
Karamoja ..	—	—	5	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Lango ..	—	—	1	2*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Busoga ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	5	45	165	152	85	41	27	10	8	9	3	550

* 1 single tusk.

NOTE.—Tusks of under twenty pounds weight which are shot by licence holders are confiscated. The tusks of under 20 lb. entered in the table above are also shown in the table of confiscated ivory at paragraph 10b.

90. This represents 278 elephants which is a decrease of 53% on last year's figure of 595 elephants. The increase in the costs of licences and the reduction of the number allowed per licence-holder from three to two has therefore already resulted in less than half the number of elephants being shot. The table below shows the percentage distribution of tusk weights:—

Tusk Weight in lbs.	Percentage of Total Tusks
0-9	0.90
10-19	8.18
20-29	30.06
30-39	27.63
40-49	15.45
50-59	7.45
60-69	4.90
70-79	1.81
80-89	1.45
90-99	1.63
100 & over	0.54
	<u>100.00</u>

91. There has been a further decrease in the number of large tuskers shot on licence, 29 elephants with tusks of 60 lb. and over being shot in 1952 as compared with 31 in 1951 and 36 in 1950. 67% of all tusks obtained were under 40 lb. in weight and 39% were under 30 lb. in

Their value to fisheries by manuring the water and thus promoting the growth of phyto-plankton on which *tilapia* feed, besides helping to keep open waterways that would otherwise become choked with papyrus, is of course very great.

247. A police patrol crossing a river on the Mbale/Karamoja border had a narrow escape when a hippo attempted to attack one of the party. A constable managed to shoot it just in time as it was opening its mouth to bite one of the men.

248. The Warden of the Queen Elizabeth National Park reports having found a young hippo which apparently had died in an unusual manner. It appears to have been chased by a larger one and putting its foot into a hole had broken its shoulder, the bone splintering and entering its lung.

249. He also reports that a headman coming to work on his bicycle early one morning was charged by a hippo on the road. He fell off his bicycle and retired rapidly. When he returned some time later he found that the bad-tempered animal had smashed his machine to pieces.

250. In many areas hippo suffer from snoring. In October the Game Ranger, Budongo, saw a hippo on the Nile near Fort Magungu with a snare made of one-inch wire cable around its neck. As the animal appeared to be in good condition he left it alone. Two months later the same animal was again seen, still with its wire snare. By now, however, the skin had completely healed over the noose and the broken end of the wire was standing straight up from its neck like a wireless aerial.

251. *White Rhinoceros*.—These fine beasts continue to flourish in West Nile and West Madi and a number of visitors during this year were able to see them without difficulty by going down the Laufori track from the Moyo-Arua road. His Excellency the Governor visited the area in May and, conducted by Mr. Shah-Karam, the Game Ranger in charge of buffalo control operations, he was able to photograph five of these animals.

252. *Black Rhinoceros*.—These cantankerous animals are still present in limited numbers in various parts of Northern Uganda. A Game Ranger moving down a track towards the Aswa river in Acholi in his Land Rover, came upon a black rhinoceros which appeared unexpectedly out of the long grass. He reversed slowly and the rhinoceros disappeared. Thinking it had gone he drove on until he came to a culvert that was obviously too weak to bear the weight of his vehicle. He reversed again and, while doing so, another rhinoceros appeared and charged down the path towards him. The situation was becoming embarrassing when the rhinoceros ran on to the culvert which immediately collapsed in a shower of earth, dust and dried sticks. Somewhat shaken the rhinoceros ambled off into the grass again to the profound relief of the Game Ranger.

253. *Giraffe*.—An albino giraffe, which appeared to be a full grown specimen apparently almost pure white in colour, was seen from the air on the north bank of the Victoria Nile, some 25 miles east of the Murchison

Falls, in August; it was observed by both the Provincial Commissioner, Northern Province, and Captain Cartwright the pilot of the aircraft, who circled to make sure of a good view. It was apparently in company with a more normal, but also light coloured specimen. It has not been heard of again, but it is hoped that it will be located when the new Murchison Falls National Park becomes more extensively patrolled.

254. A certain amount of damage was caused to crops by giraffe in Muyembe and Ngenge sub-counties of Bugishu, but the herds were finally driven away without having to destroy any of these beasts.

255. *Zebra*.—A certain number of these gaudy-looking animals still flourish in parts of Uganda although their skins are much prized for ornamental drums and other purposes. On one occasion a herd appeared on the Mbarara road at night where one was hit by police tender. The vehicle had its wing damaged but the zebra ran off apparently uninjured.

(iv) NOMARTHRA

256. *Ground Pangolin or Scaly Ant-eater*.—One of these weird-looking animals was found by the Medical Officer and Forest Officer, West Nile District, between Arua and Rhino Camp in June. It was kept for a time in a small empty concrete swimming pool in the doctor's garden in Arua and every day pieces of ant-hill full of insects were placed in the pit. The animal was completely inactive all day but at night it rooted about amongst the earth; no one actually saw it feeding but the number of ants diminished rapidly and there was a good deal of activity in the pit at midnight. The presence of a light caused the animal to "freeze."

257. It was later flown to Entebbe and handed over to Mr. John Seago, who at the time was staying with the Game Warden and collecting animals for the London and other zoos. Here again although carefully watched with the aid of a torch during its nocturnal strolls it was not seen to feed. It later escaped but was again found one night, after a week's absence, being bayed-up by a dog. Re-captured it was sent to Mr Seago in Nairobi but finally met an untimely end. The following most interesting notes on this animal have been supplied by Mr. Seago:—

"The pangolin weighed 35 lb., and its head and body measured 505 mm. and tail 474 mm. Its scales were of the round variety. By the time it came into our care it was becoming used to humans and very soon lost what fear or shyness remained. Whilst in Uganda it travelled with us in the truck and had become used to the routine of sleeping all day in its box, with a walk at night lasting about three hours.

Although we watched very carefully we could never see clearly whether it ate or not. At first it took no interest in ants whether already dug up from an ant hill or whether in the natural state. The pangolin would walk by an ant hill without exhibiting the slightest interest, but sniffed at the grass.

Some ten days later this animal escaped from the Game Warden's garden at Entebbe but was found a week later and sent to us by air to