

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

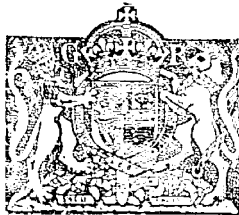
GAME DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1933.

Signed by C. R. S. PITMAN, ETHERIDGE 23 APRIL 1934

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ENTEBBE:

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1934.

4. The revenue from the sale of game licences shows a decline of approximately fifty per cent. This is the result of an unfortunate combination of circumstances, primarily the severe drop in the price of ivory, the general effects of the depression with the consequent scarcity of money, and an absence of visiting sportsmen, and, to a lesser extent, influenced by recent widespread retrenchments.

As the elephant is the foundation of the greater part of the licence revenue, anything which tends to make elephant hunting unprofitable or unpopular inevitably reacts adversely on revenue.

If revenue is to be maintained at the level of previous years—and with Uganda's superabundance of elephants, a figure of £4,000 to £5,000 is not an extravagant aim—then a means of popularising elephant hunting will have to be devised.

Bird licences continue to be taken out in increasing numbers.

Ivory fluctuations do not affect the Native licence holders, who took out practically the identical number of special elephant licences as in the previous year.

Revenue derived from the Toro Special Scheme is, of course, non-recurrent.

5. Uganda Government ivory was sent to Mombasa for sale, and during the year two auctions were held at which the total weights sold and average net prices realised were as follows:—

	Lbs.	Gross price realized.			Approx. average net price per lb.		
		£	shs.	cts.	Shs.	cts.	
<i>May:—</i>							
Ivory	21,299½	5,583	15	01	5	24	
Rhinoceros horn ..	19½	14	4	42	15	00	
Hippopotamus teeth ..	99½	3	13	50	0	74	
<i>November:—</i>							
Ivory	25,219½	6,470	14	21	5	13	
Rhinoceros horn ...	21	12	19	60	12	40	
Hippopotamus teeth ...	225½	6	13	42	0	60	

6. Ivory, etc:—

(a) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1932:—				<i>Lbs.</i>
Ivory ... ..	...	...	...	13,570
Rhinoceros horn ... ..	...	...	...	9½
Hippopotamus teeth ... ..	...	...	...	66½
(b) Received at Mombasa between 1st January, 1933, and 3rd December, 1933:—				
Ivory ... ..	...	...	...	43,610½
Rhinoceros horn ... ..	...	...	...	62
Hippopotamus teeth ... ..	...	...	...	322½
(c) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1933:—				
Ivory ... ..	...	...	...	10,650½
Rhinoceros horn ... ..	...	...	...	31½
Hippopotamus teeth ... ..	...	...	...	63½
(d) Ivory:—				<i>Lbs.</i>
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1932 ...	...	...	...	13,570
Received at Mombasa during 1933 ...	...	...	...	43,610½
				<hr/> 57,180½
Sold during 1933 ... ..	...	...	...	46,519½
Shrinkage ... ..	...	...	...	11½
				<hr/> 46,530½
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1933 ...	...	...	...	10,650½

Illegal Killing of Game and Breaches of Game Laws.

7. Although, generally, there are few localities in which organised hunting by natives takes place on a large scale, there is little doubt that game hunting of a minor nature, usually with the aid of dogs, is more prevalent than many credit.

It is true that a good deal of hunting is undertaken directly in protection of crops; equally, there is much which is entirely unauthorised in regions remote from cultivation.

The possession of nets is naturally an incentive to hunting, but in localities infested with the destructive bush-pig resort to the use of nets cannot be prevented.

In times of depression, with large numbers of the local populace out of work, an increase in illegal game-killing is inevitable.

25. A pair of confiscated white rhinoceros horns were presented to the Coryndon Museum in Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

Five horns (the sixth being missing), originating from three white rhinoceroses, which there is no reason to believe died from other than natural causes, were brought into District Headquarters at Arua in the course of the year. In each case the animal had been dead a long time.

26. With reference to the regulation of the export of leopard skins mentioned in para. 16, it is interesting to record that during the last six months of the year, when permits were necessary, 167 skins were exported from the Protectorate.

In the first six months, when permits were not necessary, the twenty-four skins known to have been sent out of the country represent only a fraction of the actual number exported.

27. Buffalo hides continue to be practically unsaleable. Occasionally, it is possible to obtain 5s. a hide locally; but there is no longer a market at Kisumu. Export permits indicate about seventy-five hides (other than Government-owned) sold. This slender wastage has no appreciable effect on the existing huge and widespread herds of buffaloes.

28. A total of a little over a ton weight of hippopotamus teeth has been exported from the free areas of the River Nile in the Northern Province. Further allusion is made to this in para. 185.

29. There is no doubt that certain non-European licence-holders regard the one black rhinoceros allowed on the full licence as a means of recovering the whole, or at least a part, of the cost of the licence by the sale of the horns.

There is no reason to believe that there is as yet undue wastage on this score, though the situation continues to receive constant attention.

In 1933 nineteen pairs of sportsmen's trophies (a few known to be accumulations from previous years) totalling 156½ lbs. (value approximately £55) were exported. Eight "found" horns emanating from Karamoja totalled 37½ lbs.

30. There appears to be a revival in the trade in mtalaganiya skins and it has been necessary to confiscate several illegally-possessed karosses. Efforts have been and are still being, made to trace the source of the traffic.

There is also considerable demand for ostrich eggs—another prohibited trophy—to export to the East.

Export permits generally indicate no exceptional wastage amongst the more interesting species of game. A few dozen black and white colobus and blue monkeys were killed under licence, evidently for the sake of their skins.

31. The otter, not being a "scheduled" species, there is no necessity to obtain special permission in order to export its skin. In consequence, it is difficult to estimate the numbers killed annually for the sake of the skins but in Lake Bunyonyi, where this animal is exceptionally plentiful, it must be considerable.

32. *Vide* para. 30 of the Annual Report for 1930, it was ascertained that during 1933, up to 12th June, 2,743 lbs. of rhinoceros horn, valued at Shs. 27,305, in transit had passed through the Meramu Hill Customs Post in Ankole, originating from regions in which the rhinoceros either no longer exists or is extremely scarce. It was concluded that such an enormous quantity of horns (not necessarily of recent origin) could only be a result of illegal dealings on a large scale and representations were made in the proper quarters to suppress the traffic.

33. In the last six months (August—275 lbs.; October—627 lbs.; November—473 lbs.) a further 1,375 lbs. passed in transit, making a total for the year of 4,118 lbs., more than 1½ tons, a staggering figure representing at least three hundred rhinoceroses.

In 1931, no rhinoceros horns passed in transit; in 1932, the quantity was 2,084 lbs. (nearly a ton) valued at Shs. 16,355.

the foreshore. To reconcile all conflicting views seems impossible, and it has been necessary, under special permission, to have several hippopotamuses destroyed from the herd which frequents the Jinja side of the bay.

184. In Lake Salisbury, in Teso, this creature is very numerous and from time to time the local administration, in areas in which excessive damage was being done to crops, had to grant permission for the destruction of a limited number.

185. The annual report of the Assistant District Commissioner, Madi, indicates a possible decrease in the numbers of hippopotamuses in that part of the Albert Nile where this species is still on the vermin list, and where not so many as usual have been speared. It has been ascertained, however, that in the locality under reference there is as yet no necessity for any especial measure of protection.

186. A native in the Katera Gombolola of the Masaka District makes a speciality of spearing crop-ravaging hippopotamuses.

Mortality amongst the abundant Lake George herds is dealt with in the relevant section of this Report.

187. *Zebra*.—In the western portion of the Entebbe District, particularly in Gomba, this species has increased remarkably. If its meat was relished as much as that of antelopes there would probably be a different story. It can be excessively destructive to cultivation, but distaste for the meat evidently confers on it immunity from molestation. Is also reported to be increasing in the Masaka and Ankole Districts.

188. *Giraffe*.—There is little definite to add concerning the status of this interesting species, but the assumption is that "no news is good news." In Madi it is believed to be increasing and two reported found dead probably died from natural causes and represent average mortality.

189. *White Rhinoceros*.—There is nothing of importance to add in connection with the status of this rare animal. There are no recent statistics available to indicate the increase which is anticipated. Neither in West Nile nor in West Madi are there signs of any unusual decrease and the species continues to be fairly plentiful in its customary haunts.

Mr. F. G. Banks was particularly struck by the solicitude Sultan Ajai has for those which frequent his neighbourhood, and which he regards almost as part of his own domestic stock.

190. *Black Rhinoceros*.—In parts of the Northern and Eastern Provinces still not uncommon, and in the Game Reserve and Restricted Sleeping Sickness area north of the Murchison Falls evidently increasing and extending its range. According to local report, in the south-western portion of the Maruzi County in Lango, approximately eighteen have been killed in the past dozen years.

(b) Birds.

191. *General*.—With the exception of a few remarks on the subject of the sale of guinea fowl and the status of the ducks on Lake Bunyonyi there is nothing suitable for inclusion in this Report.

192. *Guinea-Fowl*.—During the year permits to sell guinea-fowl have been granted as under in the Buganda Province:—

Kampala	....	6
Entebbe	....	1

Not more than six permits are allowed to be current at one time in Kampala. Permits are normally issued in January and July, and are valid for six months.

The usual selling price is Shs. 2 and is reasonable, but it is understood Shs. 2/50 is sometimes asked. This is too high and will react to the disadvantage of the seller.

Supplies are regular and rarely fail.

193. It is calculated that these permits entail an annual wastage of three thousand to four thousand five hundred guinea fowl, though there is little reason to believe that thereby stocks are being unduly depleted.

The fact that the trade flourishes indicates, on the other hand, that the supply of birds is extensive for, if the situation is reviewed in detail, it will be realised that the retailer has to work hard for all he gets.