



UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Annual Report  
of the  
Game and Fisheries  
Department

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1953

Signed p. 133 B. G. KIMULUWA  
Enthn. 25 Nov. 1954  
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Receipts from (a) show an increase of 9% due to an increase in the price of ivory. £12,840 was derived from the sale of ivory. Receipts from (b) show an increase of 19% due to more game and special licences being taken out.

### 32. Game and Special Licences issued:—

	1953	1952
Resident's (Full) .. .. .	435	426
Visitor's (Full) .. .. .	2	—
Resident's (Fourteen-day) .. .. .	6	1
Visitor's (Fourteen-day) .. .. .	9	12
First Elephant .. .. .	175*	150†
Second Elephant .. .. .	66	57†
One Black Rhinoceros .. .. .	4	3
Bird .. .. .	1,903	2,023

\* Including Two Visitor's First Elephant.

† Including Nil Visitor's First and Second Elephant.

33. The total number of special elephant licences taken out has increased slightly, from 207 in 1952 to 241 in 1953, but the number still remains in reasonable bounds (*see also* paras 33 and 34, 1952 Annual Report, para. 25, 1951 Annual Report and paras. 18 and 227 to 228, 1950 Annual Report).

34. At the two ivory auctions held at Mombasa, the average price realised per lb. was Shs. 14/79 and Shs. 14/45 compared with Shs. 13/17 and Shs. 13 in 1952.

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

	Weights	Gross Price realised	Approximate average price per lb.
	lb.	£ s. cts.	Shs. cts.
MAY—			
Ivory .. .. .	7,179½	5,310 3 18	14 79
Rhino Horns .. .. .	Nil	—	—
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	16½	2 15 46	3 36
NOVEMBER—			
Ivory .. .. .	10,421	7,530 0 53	14 45
Rhino Horns .. .. .	40½	141 19 35	70 10
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	35	8 4 71	4 70

36. A total of 17,600½ lb. of ivory was actually sold in 1953, as compared with 17,958½ lb. in 1952; a decrease of 358 lb. or 2%.

37. The price of rhino horn at the November auction rose to the unprecedented height of Shs. 70/10 per lb. This is an astounding rise compared with the highest price paid in 1952, which was Shs. 44/57, while the highest price ever recorded previously was only Shs. 46/88 per lb. at the November, 1951, auction. The Far East is apparently finding an increasing need for this interesting product.

### 38. Ivory, etc., statistics:—

(a) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1952:—	lb.
Ivory .. .. .	6,141
Rhino horn .. .. .	9
Hippo teeth .. .. .	12
(b) Received at Mombasa between 1st January, 1953, and 31st December, 1953:—	
Ivory .. .. .	16,600
Rhino horn .. .. .	38½
Hippo teeth .. .. .	43
(c) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1953:—	
Ivory .. .. .	5,018
Rhino horn .. .. .	8½
Hippo teeth .. .. .	3½
Ivory figures:—	
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1952 .. .. .	6,141
Received at Mombasa during 1953 .. .. .	16,600
TOTAL .. .. .	22,741
	lb.
Sold during 1953 .. .. .	17,600½
Shrinkage .. .. .	132½
	17,723
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1953 .. .. .	5,018

## Illegal Killing of Game and Breaches of Game Laws

### GENERAL

39. Efforts to ensure better game preservation have continued and were greatly assisted by the increase of staff, who, with the help of the police, were able to reduce poaching substantially in many areas. One of the main, and most depressing results, however, was to reveal how widespread poaching and deliberate evasion of the game laws are throughout the greater part of the Protectorate.

40. The use of illegal arms is rife mainly in Buganda while elsewhere wire snares are probably the greatest menace.

41. As was reported last year, offences in connection with ivory have continued to be few, and the increase in the cost of elephant licences continues to discourage many people who previously tried to make easy money by buying their ivory from poachers. Twenty-six pairs of tusks which were below the legal limit were confiscated from licence holders, and the son of a Gombolola Chief was convicted and fined for shooting an elephant on behalf of his father.

42. There has been a disturbing increase in the poaching of white rhino in West Nile, particularly in the area south of Rhino Camp.

### SELLING OF GAME MEAT

43. The illegal sale of game meat has continued to be widespread, and though often conducted blatantly in areas where there are no Game

70. A strong Ranger force was recruited and trained by the Park Warden, and the consequent reduction in poaching has already resulted in an increased tameness of the animals which is noticeable. Launches, specially designed to enable visitors to view game in ease and comfort are also now in commission, and operate on Lake Edward and the Kazinga Channel.

#### MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

71. In this Park by the end of the year 90 miles of motorable tracks had been built, a strong Ranger force recruited and trained, and an air-strip capable of taking aircraft of Dakota size constructed. The site for the Safari Lodge had been chosen on the north bank, some ten miles downstream from the Murchison Falls, and clearing and some preliminary building had started. Over 25 miles of the Masindi-Nile track had been completed through difficult country from the south, and it became possible, for the first time, to reach the Murchison Falls by car on a good motorable track constructed from the north.

72. Here also there was a noticeable reduction in poaching due to the presence of the strong Ranger force, recruited and trained by the Park Warden, and visitors were able to see much game from the new roads as well as from the special launches which have been provided in this Park also.

#### BUNYORO AND GULU GAME RESERVE

73. The only remaining portions of this reserve are those to the east and west of the Bunyoro portion of the Murchison Falls National Park, the larger part having been absorbed into the Park. The remaining areas are due to be thrown open or have their status modified once the Park boundaries have been clearly demarcated. (See para. 76, 1952 Annual Report).

74. The western portion of this reserve, which includes much of the Lake Albert flats to the north of Butiaba, actually contains more of the smaller game such as hartebeest, Uganda kob, bushbuck and oribi, than the southern portion of the National Park, probably because in the latter area the grass is generally longer and does not provide suitable grazing for the antelopes.

#### TORO (OR SEMLIKI) GAME RESERVE

75. This area continues to be regularly poached despite frequent arrests of the offenders by Game Department staff. However, it is still the main stronghold in the Protectorate for the Uganda kob, and contains a good head of other game also. Elephant are often present in large numbers but are almost entirely of the small forest race, with small, thin tusks of hard ivory.

#### KIGEZI GAME RESERVE

76. This reserve acts as a buffer to the southern portion of the Queen Elizabeth National Park and contains numbers of buffalo, topi and elephant; many of the latter wander backwards and forwards across the Ishasha river, which forms the Uganda/Congo border, on the Congo side of which lies the Parc National Albert.

#### KAZINGA GAME RESERVE

77. This reserve consists of a few small inhabited areas lying within the Queen Elizabeth National Park. (See para. 81, 1952 Annual Report).

#### MASHA ANIMAL SANCTUARY, ANKOLE

78. This sanctuary, which contains a good variety of game, including a large proportion of the only impala left in Uganda, is not entirely satisfactory in its present form, particularly as the north-western portion is quite thickly inhabited.

79. A drive by the newly appointed Game Ranger, based on Mbarara, has reduced the poaching which was once rife in this sanctuary.

#### ELEPHANT SANCTUARY, ACHOLI AND EAST MADI

80. Elephant are numerous in this area and breeding herds are particularly fond of the Zoka Forest which lies at the northern end of the sanctuary. It contains large herds of buffalo and fair numbers of Uganda kob and hartebeest in the short grass areas. Black rhino are also not uncommon, particularly in the broken, thorn-bush country to the north and west.

#### WHITE RHINOCEROS SANCTUARY

81. White rhino continue to flourish in the Mount Kei and Mount Otze Sanctuaries although they do not appear to like the south-western part of the latter area.

#### GORILLA SANCTUARY

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

#### ENTEBBE ANIMAL SANCTUARY

83. The birds and the few hippo in the area are still a local attraction, although there were some complaints of the latter damaging shambas. This problem was dealt with by the use of "thunder-flashes" without having to resort to shooting.

effect on its watery domain. It entered the office block of the Owen Falls Power Station early one Saturday morning, strolled along the corridors and approached the Control Room. It was then confronted by a member of the staff who, fearing that it would damage the valuable instruments, tried to drive it away. The animal promptly charged and the man in question took evasive action. In doing so he fell and damaged his shoulder, but luckily the hippo did not follow up its advantage and eventually deciding that it was unwelcome in the Control Room, moved off into the Visitors' Gallery where it stood and gazed at the machinery below. Finally, having satisfied its curiosity as to the internal workings of the dam, it proceeded on its tour of inspection, eventually reaching the stairs at the end of the Visitors' Gallery. It apparently decided that these were rather too much for its portly figure, so turned around in the confined space, smashing two windows, and strolled back to its home on the river.

271. Many hippos are killed annually by poachers as their meat is highly valued. Some are hunted by the traditional harpoon and float method, while others are snared, using wire cable. Last year the Game Ranger, Bunyoro, reported seeing a hippo on the Nile near Fort Mugungu with a snare round its neck over which the skin had closed, leaving the broken end of the wire standing straight up from its neck like a wireless aerial (see paragraph 250, 1952 Annual Report). This animal was seen again in August this year, on the same sand bank, still with the noose attached.

272. These animals become pugnacious and dangerous from time to time and in such cases are usually old bulls who have been badly injured in the frequent, savage fights which they have with each other, or else are females with young. At Kagwara in Serere County, Teso District, a hippo had to be shot after it had repeatedly attacked fishermen's canoes, and on Lake Mburo a fisherman was tipped out of his canoe by one of these animals and drowned.

273. While fishing at the Murchison Falls a party, including the Game Warden, was charged by a cantankerous bull hippo who appeared suddenly out of the depths of a pool and rushed up the bank. The first intended victim took refuge up the hillside and the animal, thwarted, then turned its attention to the Game Warden who, at that moment, had hooked a Nile Perch. The Game Warden retired behind a bush, letting out line as he went, and the hippo was diverted at the last moment by a volley of stones and abuse hurled at him by a Game Guard, whereupon he went trotting downstream, grumbling to himself. The Nile Perch, a fine fish of 15 lb., was finally safely landed! This hippo continued to charge visiting parties, and, refusing to mend his ways, finally had to be destroyed.

274. *White Rhinoceros*.—The Game Ranger, Moyo, reports that these large animals continue to flourish in the Mount Kei and Mount Otze Sanctuaries. In the latter area the rhino roam between Madi and the Nimule Game Reserve on the Sudan side of the border.

275. The sanctuaries are not the only places where white rhino are to be found, in fact there are far more in various areas outside the sanctuaries than in them. The Game Ranger reports that he has seen more of these animals in the Era Crown Forest Reserve than elsewhere, while the Kali region is also much favoured by them. He states that until the end of August white rhino could always be seen along the track leading southwards from Laufori on the main road west of Moyo. During September, however, these rhino moved further east, possibly due to increased settlement in the Laufori area.

276. Poaching of white rhino has undoubtedly increased recently, probably due to the very high price now being offered for rhino horn, and as long as there are "receivers" willing to pay the poachers a good price for this commodity, the illegal killing will be hard to stamp out.

277. In West Madi a Government officer, whilst hunting elephant, surprised a party of ten local people who had just killed an adult female white rhino and were starting to skin it. He took prompt action and as a result of his praiseworthy endeavours ten men were finally arrested by the Police and convicted.

278. The Game Ranger states that in the Rhino Camp/Ogoko area he discovered numerous carcasses of white rhino which had been poached. Action is being taken to try and combat this menace.

279. In February a young bull white rhino met an untimely end near Omugo in West Nile. The poor beast evidently ambled quite innocently into some shambas and was immediately set upon by the local people. It finally stampeded off full of spears and charged blindly through some cattle, one of which it killed. A Game Guard had eventually to be sent to put the wretched beast out of its misery.

280. *Black Rhinoceros*.—Several of these ungainly animals had to be shot during tsetse control operations in Maruzi County, Lango, and unfortunately the remainder of this species in that area will have to be killed for the same reason.

281. A number of black rhino still exist in East Madi and western Acholi, the Aswa River region and North Karamoja, while the Game Ranger, Karamoja, reports that he has discovered some between Otukey and Lorengikipi in south-west Karamoja. This area is known to have contained rhino many years ago but it was thought that all had been killed. To date three different ones have been seen.

282. *Giraffe*.—The main stronghold of giraffe in Uganda is now North Karamoja, although they are also found in small numbers in restricted areas in East Madi, Acholi, Lango and the southern Karamoja-Bugisu border region.

283. Unfortunately their tail hairs are prized by many tribes for making bracelets, necklaces and other ornaments, and in consequence they are frequently poached, even though on the fully protected list. It is