



UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Report of the  
**Game and Fisheries  
Department**  
*(Game Section)*

p. 47 Signed B. S. KINLOCH, Esq. *Encl. 1/2*

For the Period 1st July, 1958, to 30th June, 1960



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#### GAME RESERVES

70. A new reserve, the *Asa'a Lolim Game Reserve*, was created in September 1959. It comprises a small but important area of some 40 square miles in Acholi District marching with the northern boundary of the Murchison Falls National Park. Its main object is to protect the big herds of Uganda kob and other animals which regularly move in and out of the Park in this region, attracted by the short-grass country.

71. Research and development of tracks and camps, continued in both the *Kidepo* and *Toro Game Reserves*. Poaching in these two very important reserves was kept to a reasonable level as a result of the energetic efforts of the Game Rangers concerned and their subordinate staff, and in the dry weather of 1959/60 a limited amount of strictly controlled hunting on special permits was allowed in the Kidepo Reserve.

72. *The Toro (or Semliki) Game Reserve* continues to maintain the largest and finest herds of Uganda kob to be found anywhere. No proper census has yet been attempted, but their numbers run into thousands. Research into their reproduction and turnover rate, and the significance of territorial behaviour amongst the males of the species, was continued by Dr. H. K. Buechner, one of the earlier Fulbright Scholars, who returned to Uganda in June 1959 for a three-month visit. He based himself at the Department's permanent camp on the Waa River in the Game Reserve for the whole of this period.

73. *The Kidepo Game Reserve*, which is an area combining the attractions of scenic grandeur and wildness with substantial stocks of game animals of a wide variety of species, was chosen as the site for launching in September 1959 the first of the planned series of controlled hunting area schemes referred to earlier in this report. It must be made clear here, that such schemes are designed to implement present-day policy, which regards wildlife as a natural resource capable of being cropped on a sustained yield basis for the economic benefit of the country. If this is done in a strictly controlled manner after careful scientific assessment, the principles of sound wildlife conservation and management need not be violated, no matter what the status of the area concerned may be. In fact the very strict legal controls that can be applied in respect of game reserves make the latter areas particularly suitable for such schemes.

74. There were several cases of trespass by both Didinga and Dodoth cattle and goats into the *Kidepo Game Reserve*, but these were suitably dealt with. The presence of greater kudu in small numbers on the hills forming the eastern boundary of this reserve has now been confirmed.

#### SANCTUARIES

75. In September 1958 the southern portion of Pian County, Karamoja District, was gazetted as an animal sanctuary under the title of the *Debasien Animal Sanctuary*, the boundaries of which were revised and extended in February 1960. This area of some 996 square miles is

situated in south Karamoja between the Greek River and the spectacular ma-sit of Mount Debasien (or Kadam) after which the Sanctuary has been named. It is a region rich in both numbers and variety of species of wildlife, and is particularly noteworthy for large herds of zebra, topi, Lelwel harebeest, eland, roan antelope and the rare Rothschild's giraffe. The recent opening up of this region by the building of new roads and numerous security tracks brought in its train a serious danger of excessive and uncontrolled hunting, and it was considered necessary to stop all hunting in the area until adequate controls could be legally imposed. It was therefore first made a sanctuary and later in this area also a scheme for a limited amount of strictly controlled hunting on special permit was introduced.

76. In September 1959 a small area of some four square miles in the Dufile region of West Madi was gazetted as an animal sanctuary under the title of the *Dufile Animal Sanctuary*. This tiny sanctuary is important from the wildlife conservation angle, as it protects some of the main watering places on the Nile used by elephant and other animals from the neighbouring Nimule Game Reserve.

77. Poaching in the *Acholi/East Madi Elephant Sanctuary* was again bad at the beginning of the period under review, but combined operations involving staff of both Northern and West Nile Ranges working in conjunction with Police and units of the 4th K.A.R. on training exercises had a salutary effect. In addition, two very successful large-scale anti-poaching patrols were carried out in this area by staff of Northern and West Nile Ranges during the latter part of 1958 and early 1959. As a result of these operations a large number of poachers were arrested and hundreds of wire snares recovered. A comparatively new development in the area was the deliberate snaring of elephant, much of the ivory from which appears to find its way to the Sudan. At the end of the period under review, poaching in this region had been reduced to a reasonable level. For this the Game Rangers and their subordinate staff of Northern and West Nile Ranges deserve full credit, and thanks are due to the Police and 4th K.A.R. for their valuable co-operation and interest.

78. The Game Ranger, West Nile Range, reports that there are now very few if any white rhino left in the *Mount Kei White Rhinoceros Sanctuary*, the reason in his opinion, being that almost unlimited tribal hunting on the Sudan side of the border has been responsible for a number of kills. The legal border in this region means nothing to the wandering rhino, and very little more to local hunting parties. However, in contrast to this gloomy picture, the rhino population of the *Otze Crown Forest White Rhinoceros Sanctuary* appears to be holding its own, and no casualties were reported.

79. The sanctuary which has really come into the limelight during the period under review is the *Gorilla Sanctuary* in Kigezi, and it deserves to be mentioned in some detail. It has become an increasingly popular tourist attraction, and parties organised from "Travellers Rest", the small hotel at Kisoro run by Mr. M. W. Baumgartel, now frequently visit the

1,453 and 1,484 respectively as compared with 1,291 in 1957. These figures may appear alarming to the layman, but buffalo still occur in very considerable quantities in uninhabited areas of the Protectorate as is clearly indicated by the number shot during tsetse control game eviction operations in Ankole District. During the first part of the period under review in the limited area of north Nyabushozi and Mitoma counties alone, Tsetse Control Department hunters killed 1,026 buffalo. At a conservative estimate the latter would have produced some 366 tons of actual good, edible meat, worth at least £41,000 even when calculated at the low rate of Sh. 1 per lb. while the 2,937 buffalo shot by Game Guards in 1958 and 1959 would have produced nearly 1,000 tons, worth some £120,000!

166. The white buffalo recorded in the Annual Report for 1956 has again been seen on a number of occasions near Lake Mburu, Ankole District. The creature, which is a young adult male, has a white back and flanks, with a black head, chest, legs and rump. The Game Ranger, Southern Range, reports that on the occasions on which it was seen it was with a large herd who were quite tame. The white animal showed up from amongst the others most clearly and on the last occasion that it was seen the Game Ranger was able to take some colour photographs of it.

167. There was the usual crop of casualties and narrow escapes from injured buffalo, the majority of which have again been the result of wire cable snares. Such reports are now so frequent as to be almost monotonous.

168. The study of buffalo which was started by Dr. W. M. Longhurst, Senior Fulbright Scholar, in November 1957 was completed in September 1958. Some 111 buffalo were collected, weighed and thoroughly examined. A large number of specimens from these buffalo were taken for further detailed examination. The completed study will be a most valuable contribution to what is already known about buffalo, and will be of the greatest assistance in the formulation of game management schemes.

169. *Hippopotamus*.—The hippo management schemes instituted as a result of detailed scientific research are dealt with elsewhere in this report. Local disposal of the meat has proved comparatively easy, and with the aid of the Veterinary Department a market for hippo hide is being sought.

170. A female hippopotamus carrying twin foetus was shot during the operations mentioned above; both foetus were well formed and in the same state of development. It is believed that this is the first record of a hippopotamus carrying twins.

171. *White Rhinoceros*.—As reported in detail elsewhere, the white rhino in West Madi have been seriously harried by poachers during the period under review. Quite apart from actual casualties this must have had a bad effect on their feeding and breeding habits, for when disturbed in this manner these tumorous beasts will forsake their normal habitat.

172. In contrast to the above, it is heartening to be able to report that the rhino in the Inde/Ogoko area seem to be on the increase. It is thought

that this is partly due to an influx of strangers from other areas, probably for sanctuary, but there is little doubt that there was a considerable increase in the number of newly-born calves observed. The Game Ranger reports that the rhino in this area seemed more settled and less timid. It is believed that they find sanctuary in the swamps and probably breed there. On a small island called Aja's easily approached on foot during the dry season, it is not uncommon to see six to eight animals together on the plain. Unfortunately all this area is fairly restricted due to cultivation, though the swamp area and rocky hills are free. Poaching is not nearly as rife as elsewhere, and most of the credit for this happier state of affairs plus valuable reports and observations, must go to the honorary Game Ranger, Dr. E. H. Williams, who takes great personal pride and interest in the area.

173. *Black Rhinoceros*. It is likely that before long there will be few, if any, black rhinoceros left in Uganda outside the Kidepo Game Reserve in north Karamoja and the Acholi portion of the Murchison Falls National Park. At present small numbers are still to be found in the Elephant Sanctuary on the east bank of the Albert Nile, and scattered through northern Acholi, but they are much harried by poachers.

174. *Giraffe*. The Game Ranger, Northern Range, reports that giraffe are becoming increasingly shy in Acholi and as a result appear to be holding their own in the north of this Range. He also comments that an encouraging number of young have been observed. In the Kamdini area, on the Victoria Nile, they are definitely on the increase, and reports from the Murchison Falls National Park indicate that they are extending their habitat southwards and westwards.

175. It is distressing to have to record that the very localised and small race of Rothschild's giraffe, which are such an attraction to visitors travelling on the Mbale Karamoja road, are not appreciated by the local people in that area who are apparently only interested in getting rid of them.

176. *Lord Derby's (or Giant) Eland*. The Senior Game Guard stationed at Kochi in County Aringa, West Nile District, reported seeing twelve of these magnificent animals between Kochi and Midigo in January 1959, and the District Commissioner, Madi, Moyo, reported seeing a solitary animal in the Era Forest.

177. *Eland* in the Kikagati area of Ankole appear to be on the increase, and some large herds with many juveniles have been seen.

178. *Greater Kudu* have recently been discovered on several isolated hills along the Turkana escarpment, including Kalola, near Koten in north-east Jie, Wari and Mugei, to the north of Loyoro, and Lowapet, just beyond the eastern boundary of the Kidepo Game Reserve. They have also been seen from time to time in the Moruita area, north of Kadam, and in the Leporokocho-Kathiolem area to the south of that mountain. The largest known concentration of greater kudu in this region is on the foothills to the south and east of Moroto Mountain, extending south-eastwards into the Suk Hills.

APPENDIX I

GAME AND SPECIAL LICENCES ISSUED

	July, 1959 to June, 1960	July, 1958 to June, 1959	July, 1957 to June, 1958
Resident's (Full) .. .. .	557	518	530
Visitor's (Full) .. .. .	39	17	4
Resident's (Fourteen-day) .. .. .	9	11	6
Visitor's (Fourteen-day) .. .. .	40	31	22
Resident's First Elephant .. .. .	256	169	217
Resident's Second Elephant .. .. .	115	46	91
Visitor's First Elephant .. .. .	19	7	4
Visitor's Second Elephant .. .. .	2	1	—
Bird .. .. .	2,842	2,858	2,755

APPENDIX II

TOTAL WEIGHTS AND PRICES OF IVORY, RHINO HORN AND HIPPO TEETH SOLD AT THE MOMBASA AUCTIONS

Auctions	Weights	Gross Price Realised	Approximate Average Price per lb.
1958/59	<i>lb.</i>	<i>£ s. Cts.</i>	<i>Shs. Cts.</i>
November, 1958—			
Ivory .. .. .	18,248½	12,640 19 15	13 85
Rhino Horns .. .. .	67	293 4 72	87 82
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	59½	14 18 75	5 05
May, 1959—			
Ivory .. .. .	18,375½	16,439 9 79	17 89
Rhino Horns .. .. .	45½	270 11 90	121 81
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	87	25 13 30	5 90
TOTALS—			
Ivory .. .. .	36,624½	29,080 8 94	—
Rhino Horns .. .. .	112½	563 16 62	—
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	146½	40 12 05	—
1959/60			
November, 1959—			
Ivory .. .. .	22,510½	19,740 19 90	17 53
Rhino Horns .. .. .	12½	58 0 25	91 00
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	163	73 7 00	9 00
May, 1960—			
Ivory .. .. .	23,782½	20,340 10 67	17 10
Rhino Horns .. .. .	37½	170 12 60	90 40
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	77	21 11 20	5 60
TOTALS :			
Ivory .. .. .	46,293	40,081 10 57	—
Rhino Horns .. .. .	50½	228 12 85	—
Hippo Teeth .. .. .	240	94 18 00	—

APPENDIX III

NATIONAL PARKS, GAME RESERVES AND SANCTUARIES

	AREA	LOCATION
	<i>sq. miles</i>	
NATIONAL PARKS :		
1. Murchison Falls National Park .. .	1,304	Bunyoro and Acholi Districts.
2. Queen Elizabeth National Park .. .	764	Ankole, Kigezi and Toro Districts.
GAME RESERVES :		
1. Kidepo Game Reserve .. .. .	486	North of Karamoja District.
2. Toro (or Semliki) Game Reserve .. .	202	Semliki Valley area of Toro District.
3. Kigezi Game Reserve .. .. .	127	North of Kigezi District.
4. Aswa Lohm Game Reserve .. .. .	40	Acholi District.
SANCTUARIES :		
1. Kazinga Animal Sanctuary .. .. .	12	Queen Elizabeth National Park area of Toro District.
2. Mt. Kei White Rhino Sanctuary .. .	170	North of West Nile District.
3. Otze Crown Forest White Rhino Sanctuary .. .. .	80	West Madi Sub-District of West Nile District.
4. Elephant Sanctuary .. .. .	1,350	Acholi District and East Madi Sub-District.
5. Bugungu Hippopotamus and Elephant Sanctuary .. .. .	183	West of Bunyoro District.
6. Gorilla Sanctuary .. .. .	17	South-western corner of Kigezi District.
7. Entebbe Animal and Bird Sanctuary .. .. .	20	Entebbe peninsula, Mengo District.
8. Jinja Animal Sanctuary .. .. .	14-39	Jinja, Busoga District.
9. Nkozi Island Situtungu Sanctuary .. .	0-5	Sesse Islands, Lake Victoria.
10. Debasien Animal Sanctuary .. .. .	996	South of Karamoja District.
11. Dufile Animal Sanctuary .. .. .	4	West Madi Sub-District of West Nile District.