

Abet

OP. 33720. 639. 01 (23)



UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Annual Report
of the
Game and Fisheries
Department

For the Period 1st July, 1957 to 30th June, 1958

Signed p 91 B S. KINLOCH, En h b b r
Nov. 1958

Price: Shs. 6/50

Published by Command of His Excellency the Governor

pp 1-10 1-46

82. In February the Head Guard, on a patrol from the Om camp, besides hundreds of elephant, buffalo, kob, and widespread distribution of hartebeest, waterbuck, etc., recorded 18 black rhino in that area, and 25 hippo in a small pool in the middle of the sanctuary. Hippo can generally be found in most of the rivers and pools, even some distance from the Nile. It is also known that there are three black rhino resident in the Lohm area now. According to the number of kills found, lion and leopard are common, and a bear was seen one afternoon lying on the Anaka-Pakwach road. Giraffe and roan antelope were again observed in the East Madi portion of the sanctuary, but not in any numbers.

83. Elephants are generally easily observed on the Anaka-Pakwach road, which runs between the National Park and the sanctuary, especially between Pakwach ferry and some ten miles along the road, but more were seen this dry season between January and April, than have been noted for some years. Even in the heat of the day many crossed the road or could be seen in the near vicinity, especially on the Nile bank close to the ferry, where 48 were counted on one occasion. This notwithstanding that large labour gangs, bullock graders, excavators, and tractors were engaged in widening and improving the road at the time. The elephant soon got used to all the noise and dust, and it was not uncommon to see some of them feeding quite close to actively engaged tractors, excavators, etc., without showing any sign of concern.

84. However this increase of elephants in the area, combined with road improvement, has also led to increased risk of accidents through collision between elephants and vehicles using the road, and motorists should exercise due care. Faster vehicle speeds are now possible, and it should be remembered that bushes near the road, dips in the road, etc., may conceal an elephant and should be approached with caution.

85. Generally, if the elephants are a little distance from the road, it is safe to pass on without altering speed, when they rarely take any notice, though the odd one may shake its head. Should they be near the road, especially if facing it, or if in any doubt at all, there is only one safe rule—stop at a safe distance (do not edge up on them), and wait for them to go. This can be annoying especially if making for the ferry, but there is only one answer to that—allow yourself plenty of time to catch the ferry! Do not blow the car horn, but high revving of the engine will sometimes move them.

WHITE RHINOCEROS SANCTUARIES

86. *Mount Kai White Rhinoceros Sanctuary.*—The situation in this area changed little, with the rhino population remaining at eight to 10 beasts.

87. *Mount Oka White Rhinoceros Sanctuary.* It is still impossible to estimate accurately the number of white rhino in this area due to movement in and out of the Sudan. Giant eland have not been recorded this year.

ELUGUCU HILL AND HIFECOFAMIS SANCTUARY

88. The boundary line between the escarpment and the Weija River was marked during the year.

89. A considerable amount of trouble was caused to cultivation by elephant in southern Bugungu, where cultivators insist in placing shambas almost on the Murchison Falls Park boundary. Very little could be done about these elephants as they had generally returned to the park before dawn, making control shooting impossible. All efforts to persuade local Bugungu cultivators to cultivate away from the vicinity of the park boundary produced no results. A few elephants were shot at night whilst actually in cultivation.

GORILLA SANCTUARY

90. Considerable progress has been made in developing this sanctuary, and more particularly the gorillas as a tourist attraction. During the year about a hundred parties visited the sanctuary to see gorillas, of which some 80 per cent were successful. This success was largely due to the excellent tracking of the guide Reuben Rwangagire and his two assistants. A troop of four gorillas, a male, two females and a juvenile helped very considerably by living for a long period quite low down on the slopes of the mountain, in fact on the edge of habitation. Quite frequently these gorillas were seen within an hour of leaving the car at the roadhead. The leader of the troop got to know human beings quite well; it seemed that he was just as interested in viewing humans as they were in seeing him! He was always very careful of his family, making sure that they were safely out of the way before starting his "human viewing". He was known locally as "Nyangabuga", which may easily be translated as "the one with the white back".

91. A number of other troops of gorilla have been encountered from time to time, and while they have stayed in the sanctuary for varying periods, there is considerable movement to and from the Ruanda side of the volcano, which is also a sanctuary. It is doubtful if there are ever more than 35 gorillas in the Uganda sanctuary at any one time. Frequently the figure is very much less than this, but due to the very close nature of the country it is most difficult to make an accurate estimate. Visitors going up to see the gorillas do not appear to worry them unduly, provided that the visitor having once seen the gorillas do not continue to follow them.

92. A small herd of elephant and some buffalo, resident in the sanctuary, are seen from time to time. A salt lick made for the gorillas, but to which they have not taken, has been much appreciated by the elephant and buffalo. Leopard, red forest duiker, golden monkeys, giant forest hog and baboons are also quite common.

93. The County Chief, Mutwale, Bufumbira and the Gombolola Chief, Nyaruiza have rendered most valuable assistance in helping to stop poaching and the illegal cutting of bamboos in the sanctuary. Their help is much appreciated.

shotgun, fired and knocked over a buffalo. Thinking it to be dead he went and called out the local villagers; when they arrived the buffalo had disappeared. During the search the wounded buffalo charged out of a thicket, killing one of the villagers and seriously injuring another.

175. *Hippopotamus*.—The big concentrations of hippo are now found mainly in the National Parks and their environs, although they still occur in lesser numbers in many of the smaller and more inaccessible swamps and rivers, and the remoter stretches of the Nile.

176. Fifty one had to be shot during the year on control operations for the protection of shambas as follows:— Ankole 16, Kigezi 23 and Toro 12.

177. A report was received from Nsongezi, Ankole, that a hippo had been found dead. On investigation, there was no doubt that the hippo, which was quite a large one, had been killed by being in a collision with a motor vehicle sometime that morning. No report was received of a damaged vehicle, but it also must have been a large one to stand the impact, as the hippo's head was completely smashed.

178. The Game Ranger, Lake Albert Range, whilst on patrol along the Murchison Falls National Park boundary, tried to jump over a very small muddy stream and, as usually happens, landed in the middle of it. As the ranger sank to his knees in the mud, so rose a hippo two yards away! After they had stared at each other in surprise for a few seconds, a Game Guard accompanying the ranger leant down and pulled him free. The hippo, still only six feet away, now appeared interested in the creature who had shared his bath of mud. As the ranger and his party moved off on their way the hippo also clambered out of the stream and moved off in the opposite direction. So very few people ever enter this remote area that it is quite likely that the hippo had never seen humans for many years, and had lost all fear of them. At no time did he appear nasty or about to charge.

179. *White Rhinoceros*. The price of rhino horn on the world market continues to soar with a consequent increase in the poaching of these animals. The illegally obtained horn is now so valuable to the poachers that often, after killing an animal, only the horn is taken and the rest of the beast is burned or buried, leaving little or no evidence to track down the culprits.

180. An additional threat to the preservation of this unique animal is their encirclement by, and rapid spread of, human population and cultivation. Their main stronghold remains the Palorinya/Itula Kah area of West Mab, although there are still a good number in the Indu/Ogoko area.

181. One animal turned up at Kuluva, some seven miles from Arua, but eventually wandered off in the direction of Ogoko, from whence it had presumably come. There appeared to be no reason why it was so far from its normal habitat, unless it had become confused by grass fires and

eventually got lost and was looking for water. Rhinos have not been seen in this area before, at least for many years, and it aroused some excitement amongst the local populace.

182. Another report of this animal having been seen away from its normal haunts was given by a traveller who saw a small crowd of people running down the road, obviously in some agitation, some three miles from Pakwach. They told him that they had just seen two big wild animals nearby. On investigation he was surprised to find two white rhinos. Unfortunately, nothing further has been heard of these wanderers.

183. *Black Rhinoceros*. Again, due to the high price of rhino horn, the numbers of black rhino are rapidly decreasing throughout the country and those that remain are becoming very wild and truculent.

184. In the Northern Range, three had to be shot in self-defence and two of them were found to be suffering from wounds inflicted by wire snare. Another one was found dead by the Game Ranger near Kiten, having succumbed to a single spear wound in the belly which had turned gangrenous.

185. Mr. Field, the District Commissioner, Karamoja, had to shoot a rhino that had been attacking people on the road near Loyoio. It proved to have a magnificent pair of horns, measuring respectively 31 in. (front) and 19½ in. (rear). This is thought to be a Uganda record.

186. *Giraffe*. These beautiful animals are very localised and the main concentrations nowadays are found in the Karamoja area, where they are sometimes seen in herds of as many as 20 to 30 animals.

187. In Northern Range, however, they are decreasing fairly rapidly as the hairs of the tail are much sought after for the making of necklaces and bangles.

188. *Zebra*. Zebra continue to flourish in the Districts of Karamoja and Ankole. In the Nyabushozi County of Ankole alone the Game Ranger estimates that there are some 2,000 zebra, and small numbers still remain in the Masaka District. The fact that their flesh is not eaten locally has undoubtedly helped to save them, although a number are still killed for their skins alone.

189. According to various scientific experts the maneless zebra of Karamoja is a mutation of the common Grant's zebra, and has not been accorded sub-specific status. It occurs also in the southern Sudan and in certain coastal areas of Kenya.

190. *Giant Forest Hog*.—The giant pigs are fairly frequently found in the thicker forest areas of the Protectorate, and in particular in Mubende, Bunyoro, Ankole and Kigezi. The Game Ranger, Southern Range reports that on the Bitunga volcanoes they appear to prefer the Sabinio area to that of Muhavura and Mgahinga.

contributions from persons, either official or unofficial. Articles, letters, anecdotes, photographs or sketches are all acceptable, as long as the subject covered deals with wildlife (including fish) from the scientific, sporting or general interest angles.

Staff

18. *Chief Fisheries Officer.*—The only change affecting senior Headquarters staff was the upgrading of the post of Senior Fisheries Officer to Chief Fisheries Officer on the short super-scale. The Chief Fisheries Officer is in fact the "Deputy Director" of the Game and Fisheries Department, but is specifically charged with the specialised direction of the Fisheries Division of the Department.

Expenditure and Direct Revenue

19. Figures are as follows:—

<i>Expenditure—</i>		£
(a) Headquarters		18,900
(b) Game		41,301
(c) Fisheries		34,660
	TOTAL	94,861
 <i>Direct Revenue—</i>		£
(a) Game		34,781
(b) Fisheries		10
(c) General		273
	TOTAL	35,064

It must, as usual, be pointed out that these figures by themselves can be misleading. The direct revenue is derived almost entirely from game licence fees and the sale of "control" ivory. To this can be added revenue from customs dues on such items as arms and ammunition and equipment used in the fishing industry, and indirect revenue from the tourist industry in relation to game. The fisheries side of the expenditure must be considered in relation to the control and development of a fishing industry now worth nearly £2,000,000 per annum.

20. The revenue was derived as follows:

	£
(a) Sale of ivory, rhinoceros horns and hippo teeth	21,624
(b) Game licences	13,157
(c) Sales of fish caught experimentally	10
(d) Launch hire	4
(e) Sale of magazines	181
(f) Sale of baboon poison to African local governments	88

21. Receipts from (a) are nearly 31 per cent lower than for the period July 1956 to June 1957. The actual weight of ivory sold was nearly 23 per cent lower, and in addition there was a drop of nearly Shs. 1.28 per lb. in the average price of ivory at the November, 1957 auction, with a further drop of Shs. 2.33 per lb. at the May, 1958 auction. The steady fall in prices was due to the ban on the import of ivory imposed by the Government of India as part of her measures to combat a financial crisis.

22. Receipts from (b) show a very small decrease of approximately 4 per cent compared with the period July 1956 to June 1957. This was mainly due to a substantial drop in the number of expensive Second Elephant Licences taken out, as a result of the sharp fall in the market price of ivory as mentioned in the previous paragraph. This loss in revenue was however, largely offset by increase in the issues of nearly every other type of licence.

23. Game and Special Licences issued:—

	Jul. 1957 to June 1958	July 1956 to June 1957
Resident's (Full)	50	50
Visitor's (Full)	4	11
Resident's (Fourteen-day)	6	5
Visitor's (Fourteen-day)	22	4
Resident's First Elephant	21	210
Resident's Second Elephant	91	107
Visitor's First Elephant	4	9
Visitor's Second Elephant	—	—
Bird	2,755	2,498

24. The total number of Special Elephant Licences taken out during the period under review has decreased by nearly 8 per cent, while Resident's (Full) Licences have increased by 3½ per cent, and Bird Licences have increased by over 10 per cent.

25. At the ivory auctions held at Mombasa, the average price realised per lb. was Shs. 16.71 in November 1957 and Shs. 14.38 in May 1958, compared with Shs. 15.81 in November 1956 and Shs. 17.95 in May 1957.

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

	Weights	Gross prices realised	Approximate average price per lb.
	lb.	£ s. d.	Shs. cts.
November 1957—			
Ivory	13,090	11,388 3 47	16 71
Rhino horns	—	—	—
Hippo teeth	138½	57 6 00	8 00
May 1958—			
Ivory	14,136	10,162 5 20	14 38
Rhino horns	—	—	—
Hippo teeth	73½	18 6 25	5 00

27. A total of 27,826½ lb. of ivory was actually sold in the financial year 1957/58 as compared with 36,117½ lb. in the financial year 1956/57. The amount sold in the 1957/58 financial year showed a decrease of 8,291½ lb. or a decrease of approximately 23 per cent. The main reason for this is that there was a balance of 10,887½ lb. of Uganda ivory remaining unsold in the Ivory Room, Mombasa, on 31st December, 1956, which was sold during the second half of the 1956/57 financial year, while the equivalent figure for the end of the 1957, sold during the second half of the 1957/58 financial year was only 5,372 lb.

28. No rhino horns from Uganda were offered for sale but the average prices at the two auctions reached Shs. 93/90 and Shs. 89/10 per lb. as compared with Shs. 48/62 and Shs. 82/74 per lb. at the two previous auctions. The price of Shs. 93/90 quoted above is the highest ever recorded at these auctions to date, the previous highest being Shs. 82/74 at the May 1957 auction. The reason for the steadily increasing popularity of this intriguing product in this modern age remains a mystery!

29. *Uganda ivory, etc., statistics for the calendar year 1957, as supplied by the Commissioner of Customs, Mombasa.*—

(a) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1956:—

	lb.
Ivory	10,887½
Rhino horns	18½
Hippo teeth	31

(b) Received at Mombasa between 1st January, 1957 and 31st December, 1957:—

	lb.
Ivory	28,318½
Rhino horns	3½
Hippo teeth	257½

(c) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1957:—

	lb.
Ivory	5,372
Rhino horns	—
Hippo teeth	—

Ivory figures:—

Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1956	10,887½
Received at Mombasa during 1957	28,318½
	39,206¼
Sold during 1957	33,833¾
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1957	5,372

*Sold in May, 1957.

PART II.—GAME

SECTION I.—ADMINISTRATION

General

30. *The public's attitude to wildlife.* Last year it was reported that there had been encouraging signs among the general public of a more enlightened attitude to wildlife conservation, the value of game, and the necessity for its sensible utilisation. Although these signs are continuing, there is a long, long way to go among the rural African population. The attitude of the peasant generally, and in particular those belonging to tribes with a hunting tradition, is still the purely selfish one of "game is free meat on the hoof, let's kill it and eat it as quickly as we can, and to hell with the future!"

31. *Education and propaganda on wildlife conservation.* The need for this gets more vital as time goes on, and in some areas is literally a race against time. It has been shown that what is required among the rural population is practical demonstration and proof of the value and benefits of sensible game management, plus the instilling of a wholesome respect for the game laws.

32. The Department exhibited at various district shows during the course of the year. The display at the Ankole District Show, held at Mbarara, was particularly successful, drawing huge crowds throughout the day, and was eventually awarded first prize for the best stall.

33. At Entebbe lectures and film shows have continued to be given to chief courses, newly-appointed Government officers and others, and as before a steady stream of information has been supplied for the press, broadcasts and schools' newsletters. As hitherto, parties of schoolchildren and members of the public have been both permitted and encouraged to visit and look round the offices, museum, aquaria and animal paddocks, whenever these are open.

Staff

34. *Game Rangers.*—Apart from absences due to leave and sickness the Department has been up to strength in Game Rangers throughout the period under review, the one vacancy at the close of last year being filled on 1st July, 1957, by an officer transferred from the Uganda Police. However, having no additional staff of this level authorised to allow for emergencies, or casualties from leave, sickness or other causes, the position remains precarious.