

OP. 33720. 639. 01 (17)



UGANDA PROTECTORATE

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**GAME AND FISHERIES  
DEPARTMENT**

For the year ended 31st December, 1951

---

PRICE: FIVE SHILLINGS

---

Published by Command of His Excellency the Governor

Signed n. 90 B. G. KINLOCH

Enkaba, 27 Sept 1952

ENTRÉE  
PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, UGANDA  
1952

operations which were then necessary, was awarded a "Certificate of Honour" in the King's Birthday Honours on 7th June, 1951.

#### DEATHS

19. The Acting Game Warden has, with deep regret, to announce the deaths of the following members and honorary member of the Department:—

(a) Stefano Lugwana, Game Guard, 1st September, 1948, to 9th May, 1951, stationed in Masaka District, who died of natural causes on 9th May, 1951.

(b) Lorenzo Eremendito, Fish Guard, 23rd June, 1951 to 15th July, 1951, who died of pneumonia on 15th July, 1951, whilst taking part in a trout survey on the mountains of the Ruwenzori.

(c) M. S. Tweedale, Honorary Game Ranger, 18th July, 1950, to 31st May, 1951, who was drowned on 31st May, 1951, as a result of an unfortunate encounter with a hippopotamus on the Semliki River.

#### Expenditure and Revenue

20. Figures are as follows:—

Expenditure	£
Revenue	32,497
Balance of expenditure over revenue	£ 2,738

The Revenue was derived as follows:—

(a) Sale of ivory, rhinoceros horns and hippo teeth	£
(b) Game Licences	17,771
	11,988

Receipts from (a) show an increase of over 8½% and from (b) an increase of nearly 30%; in the case of (a) £17,431 was derived from the sale of ivory.

21. At the two ivory auctions, held at Mombasa, the average price realised per lb. was Shs. 15/01 and Shs. 15/34 compared with Shs. 14/28 and Shs. 15/51 in 1950.

22. Game and Special Licences issued:—

	1951	1950
Resident's (Full)	516	436
Visitor's (Full)	14	5
Resident's (Fourteen-day)	5	1
Visitor's (Fourteen-day)	12	7
First Elephant	338	320
Second Elephant	280	235
Third Elephant	200	144
One Black Rhinoceros	3	4
Bird	2,016	1,375

23. There has been an increase of nearly 30% in the revenue derived from the sale of licences, the actual amount being £2,749 10s. more than 1950. This big increase was a result of many more Resident's (Full) Game licences and Bird licences, and in particular many more Special licences for Elephant being taken out. The total number of elephant licences issued was 818 as compared with 699 for 1950, and is the highest number ever recorded in Uganda.

24. The number of Resident's (Full) Game licences issued showed an increase of over 18% and Bird licences over 46½%. Special licences for First Elephant, Second Elephant and Third Elephant showed increases of over 5½%, 19% and nearly 39% respectively and an overall increase of 17%.

25. The rapidly increasing demand for Resident's (Full) Game licences and Special Elephant licences, reported last year, has continued. This is again a direct result of the continued high price of ivory, and the record number of 818 elephant licences taken out this year was partly caused by a rush, towards the end of the year, to take out Special licences for Second and Third Elephant before the licence fees were raised and the number of elephant allowed per licence holder per year was reduced from three to two. (See also paras. 18 and 217 to 228, 1950 Annual Report).

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

	Weight	Gross price realised	Approximate average price per lb.
	lb.	£ s. cts.	Shs. cts.
MAY—			
Ivory	10,467½	7,855 18 44	15 01
Rhino horns	52½	104 13 14	40 25
Hippo teeth	57	6 16 86	2 40
NOVEMBER—			
Ivory	12,481½	9,575 7 49	15 34
Rhino horns	97½	227 7 86	46 88
Hippo teeth	4½	1 0 98	4 42

27. The total of 22,949½ lb. of ivory sold is approximately half a ton more than in 1950, i.e. an increase of 5%.

28. The price of rhino horn rose yet again. At the May auction it reached an average price of Shs. 40/25 per lb. and at the November auction it soared to Shs. 46/88 per lb. This is the highest price ever recorded since the formation of the Department, previous highest prices being Shs. 33/61 per lb. in May, 1950, and Shs. 35/05 per lb. in November, 1927. The reasons for this sudden increase leave plenty of scope for the imagination!

## 29. Ivory, etc., statistics:—

(a) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1950:—		
Ivory	..	lb.
Rhino horns	..	4,232½
Hippo teeth	..	41
		8
(b) Received at Mombasa between 1st January, 1951, and 31st December, 1951:—		
Ivory	..	23,775½
Rhino horns	..	175½
Hippo teeth	..	53½
(c) Balance in store at Mombasa on 31st December, 1951:—		
Ivory	..	4,909
Rhino horns	..	66½
Hippo teeth	..	..

## IVORY FIGURES:—

Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1950	..	..	4,232½
Received at Mombasa during 1951	..	..	23,775½
			<hr/>
		TOTAL	28,007½
			<hr/>
Sold during 1951	..	..	lb.
Destroyed being valueless	..	..	22,949½
			149½
			<hr/>
			23,098½
			<hr/>
Balance at Mombasa on 31st December, 1951	..	..	4,909

## Illegal Killing of Game and Breaches of Game Laws

## GENERAL.

30. There has been the usual crop of offences against the Game Ordinance. The Protectorate Police received reports of 115 cases of which 85 were brought to court and 73 resulted in convictions by the British Court. Four Europeans, 2 Asians and 108 Africans were convicted in British Courts of offences against the Ordinance. A considerable number of minor and some major offences against the Game Ordinance were known to have occurred, in regard to which no action could be taken owing to lack of evidence. Lack of staff is a great handicap when such cases have to be investigated.

31. A particularly blatant offence came to the notice of the Assistant Game Warden one Sunday evening during February. He was driving through the Lake George Game Reserve near Katwe at about 7 p.m. when he saw a large American saloon car parked about 100 yards off the road. When it came back on to the main road the occupants were asked what they had been doing. They informed the Assistant Game Warden, who was in civilian clothes, that they had just shot a lioness, which, they claimed, had been stalking buffalo. When asked where the remains of the lioness were, they informed him that the body was in the boot of the car! The Assistant Game Warden then revealed his identity! When further questioned at Katwe Police Station these intrepid hunters stated that they had stopped on the road to attend to the wants of nature and while so doing they had been attacked by the lioness and had had to shoot in self-defence. They found it difficult to prove this story when asked to show the spoor on the ground. All three male occupants of the car were later convicted.

32. A revolting case of exceptional cruelty to a wild animal was detected and successfully prosecuted by the Police in Busoga District. An African succeeded in trapping a hippopotamus in a wire snare on the shore of Lake Victoria. The animal was caught by one leg in the snare which was attached to a tree. The African when he found the animal first of all removed its eyes with his spear and then forced a piece of wood up its anus by means of the spear. The wood was then churned around until the animal died some 3 hours later. The man was convicted under Section 5 (1) of the Game Ordinance and sentenced to a fine of Shs. 200 or 3 months imprisonment.

## IVORY OFFENCES

33. There has been a marked decrease in offences in connection with ivory; it is hoped that this is a result of the drive against this type of offence which the Department undertook last year. This is no time for complacency however as it is known that elephants are being poached in certain reserves and the ivory smuggled across the border into a neighbouring territory.

34. The Game Ranger, Gulu, had an embarrassing experience when trying to track down some ivory poachers in March. The incident, in his own words, was as follows:—

"Early in the year a Game Scout brought in information concerning ivory that was illegally possessed and secreted. Plans were made, and at the appointed time and place I arrived with some Police Askaris. Unfortunately the illegal ivory owners, whom I was hoping to find there, had not yet arrived. While I was slowly driving up and down in the darkness some other Africans hid themselves near the road and, when I went past, they jumped on to the side of the road and threw spears at my car. Not having expected rough play of this nature I had omitted to bring any firearm and so I had to withdraw. None of these offenders was traced."

35. In July a storekeeper employed by a certain Department, accepted 6 tusks from a Game Guard for safe keeping. The following day one tusk was missing but was subsequently found in the storekeeper's bed! Later he was duly convicted.

36. In the Bwamba Forest area of Toro the local people, principally the Batwa pygmies, are voracious eaters of elephant meat and small quantities of ivory are smuggled across the border. As a result illicit hunting in this area is fairly constant. A European licence holder shot a big bull with 70 to 80 lb. tusks in this region but had the misfortune to have the ivory stolen. Sadder still it was his first elephant and he had already ordered a radiogram on the strength of it! Game Scouts failed to recover the ivory which is believed to have been cut up and sold across the border.

## TORO (OR SEMLIKI)

59. This Reserve is a favourite hunting ground for the local people living along the escarpment and at Rwebisengo, and this poaching has continued in spite of regular patrols carried out by this Department and a number of arrests. Game Scouts usually return from these patrols with one or two poachers under arrest, but unless the Game Ranger sends, or himself accompanies, a large patrol it is very difficult to round up some of the large hunting parties often numbering as many as 30 poachers.

60. Lion continue to be numerous and make life difficult for the lesser animals. When camping in this area at night lion can be heard roaring in all directions and animals often stampede past one's camp.

61. The Borassus Palms are an interesting feature of most parts of this Reserve. The elephant really enjoy a feed of the nuts of these trees and travel a long way to get them. After stuffing themselves with these nuts they appear to become a little drunk and sleepy. The Game Ranger, Toro, states that when he was recently tracking lion near the Reserve boundary his trackers always seemed to loose the spoor when approaching the young Borassus Palm trees. Everyone then crowded around and a race from tree to tree ensued. It was then that the Ranger found the "Kabuis" set to collect the wine (toddy). He states that after this discovery he insisted on keeping in the lead, occasionally giving the others a sip of toddy if there was any left over.

## LAKE GEORGE

62. This Reserve continues to be a great attraction to both visitors and residents. The elephant at Katwe are still nearly always to be seen near the main road and numerous herds of elephant, buffalo, kob and waterbuck are usually along the road between Katunguru and Katwe. Fortunately there is comparatively little poaching in this area due to the fact that it can be fairly closely supervised by this Department and the local authorities.

63. In the northern part of the Reserve there is far more poaching and in recent raids in the area of the Mubuku River hippo spears, traps, nets and dried game meat were found.

64. Kob are increasing in numbers near Katunguru and below Muhokya as in these two areas they can be closely watched. In the latter area this is largely due to the past efforts of Mr. C. O. Lemon, Honorary Game Ranger, and the present efforts of Mr. Leslie Graham.

## LAKE EDWARD

65. There is little new to report in regard to this Reserve in which, due to lack of staff and poor communications, control is difficult.

66. Numbers of illegal fish-smoking camps have continued to operate in this Reserve along the shore line of Lake Edward. Such camps are also responsible for game poaching.

67. Work on the new road through the Reserve to Rwensama on Lake Edward has continued although it was held up by the destruction by flood of the bridges over the Rusaya and Nchwera Rivers during the heavy April rains. The game seem to have recovered quickly from the disturbances occasioned by the building of the road and there is every reason that it may one day become as good a viewpoint for wild life as the Katwe road in Toro.

68. Reports indicate that lion are increasing in numbers in this Reserve.

## MASHA ANIMAL SANCTUARY, ANKOLE

69. This Sanctuary, unfortunately, has the township of Mbarara on its western boundary and a Saza (Gayaza) inside it; as a result it is to some extent a private hunting ground for poachers who actually live within the Sanctuary. These people mainly hunt with dogs, spears and nets but this year reports indicate that a new menace of lorry-borne poaching parties, often from outside the district, have started to invade the Sanctuary.

70. Much help was received from Officers of the East African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Organisation who have been operating in this area, but it is now obvious that a Game Ranger based on Mbarara is urgently needed if the attractive game areas of Ankole are to be saved for the enjoyment of law abiding people.

## ELEPHANT SANCTUARY, ACHOLI AND EAST MADI

71. The Anaka-Pakwach road which runs through the Sanctuary continues to be a delight to the motorist. At Lolim the large concentration of kob, hartebeest and oribi which are resident there, kept the grass short throughout the year so that they could easily be seen at any time. Along the banks of the Nile, on either side of the road, is a favourite feeding ground for elephant, and they may nearly always be seen in that vicinity. This has its drawbacks when the grass is long because one or more of these huge animals can quite easily be hidden within 3 or 4 yards of the road, and may unexpectedly burst forth in front of the unwary traveller. However, they are usually very reasonable and move away when one gets very close.

72. Along the northern and eastern edges of the Sanctuary are favourite poaching grounds, and the game in these areas is very wild as a result. Game Guards and Game Scouts have patrolled this region persistently but, although they are continually coming across illegal hunting appliances, they have not so far caught any poachers this year.

## WHITE RHINOCEROS SANCTUARY

73. Mt. Kei and Mt. Otzi Crown Forests in West Nile and West Madi are not ideal white rhinoceros sanctuaries but were chosen originally as a matter of convenience. In fact this animal is more numerous in other localities, Waka and other places near the Nile being the best.

74. The white rhino have continued to increase satisfactorily and, although it is difficult to estimate properly, it is thought that their numbers may now exceed 300, while some optimistic observers consider that 500 is nearer the true total. Whatever the correct figure may be the white rhinoceros' future seems assured.

#### GORILLA SANCTUARY

75. A recent, and fairly reliable estimate of the gorilla on the Muhavura and Mgahinga volcanoes gives their number as 12, including two or three "totos". There is no doubt that there is considerable movement backwards and forwards across the border.

#### ENTEBBE ANIMAL SANCTUARY

76. The hippopotami which live in the waters around the Entebbe peninsula have always been a great attraction to both residents and visitors. Seldom molested they have become comparatively tame but this year a so-called "sportsman" shot some of these semi-tame animals close to Entebbe. As a result it was decided to make Entebbe peninsula into a full Animal Sanctuary and to include the waters around the peninsula up to a distance of half a mile from the shore. Previously the peninsula had been a Bird Sanctuary only. The new Sanctuary was proclaimed vide Legal Notice No. 179.

#### NATIONAL PARKS

77. The year was notable for the quickening of interest in the idea of establishing National Parks in Uganda.

78. Through the courtesy of the Trustees and Director of the Royal National Parks of Kenya, Mr. K. de P. Beaton, the Senior Park Warden, visited Uganda to advise Government on the areas considered suitable for Uganda's proposed National Parks and also on questions concerning legislation and finance.

79. He arrived in Uganda near the end of October and spent 3 weeks touring the game areas of Ankole, Toro, Bunyoro, Acholi, West Nile and Karamoja. Interviews and talks were held with a large number of individuals, official and unofficial, of all races and during this trip he was accompanied by either the Acting Game Warden or Game Rangers and Honorary Game Rangers.

80. On his return to Entebbe advice was given on the drafting of the proposed National Parks Ordinance, and later he produced a most valuable and detailed report.

81. By the end of the year it was expected that the National Parks Ordinance would become law during 1952 and that some, if not all, of the proposed areas would be gazetted as National Parks during that year. At

the time of writing this report this has come to pass and two major National Parks have been declared. There is likely to be some controversy over certain other suggested areas, in particular the Semliki and the Bwamba Forest. In view of this, and to enlighten the general public, Mr. Beaton's remarks in his report on the proposed Semliki and Bwamba Forest National Parks are repeated herewith. "The Report" to which he refers is the "Report of the Uganda National Parks Committee, 1950". The relevant extracts from Mr. Beaton's report are as follows:—

(a) *Semliki National Park*.—This area is situated largely in the Toro Game Reserve. It is not mentioned in "The Report". It is one of the last strongholds of the Uganda kob. It also holds elephant, buffalo, waterbuck, bushbuck, oribi, and probably more lions than any other area in Uganda.

The grass is short and tracks could easily be constructed. It is readily accessible from the hotels of Fort Portal and is approached over a very spectacular road through the Burunga Pass with magnificent views of the Semliki river and over the vast forests of the Congo. It is strongly recommended. Visitors to this Park would also visit the following park, which is also recommended, and which is in close proximity.

(b) *Bwamba Forest Park*.—This area is not mentioned in "The Report". The boundaries of this park will have to be considered by the Conservator of Forests, Uganda, as it is wholly within the Semliki Crown Forest. It is recommended, however, than an area of not less than 70 square miles, situated in the north-east of the Semliki Crown Forest and to include the hot-springs be proclaimed as a National Park.

Dr. A. J. Haddow of the Virus Research Institute, who probably knows this area better than any other European, describes it as follows:—

"The Semliki Crown Forest is the only part of the great Central African Rain Forest (or Ituri Forest) lying within Uganda. In it the eastern and western faunas blend, and it is thus of the greatest possible interest to the zoologist. The fauna is of exceptional biological importance, and well worthy of preservation. Many of the animals and birds of the Semliki forest occur nowhere else in East Africa, and it may prove that some are confined to this one forest. It also contains the only Bambuti pygmies to be found in Uganda."

In view of this strong recommendation, together with its charms of lovely forest, pygmies, and unique flora and fauna, its accessibility over a good road with magnificent scenery, all within easy reach of the Fort Portal hotels, and its proximity to the proposed Semliki National Park, it should prove a great attraction to tourists.

a gigantic lung fish as two long "fins" appeared and started to thrash the air. On approaching in the launch it was found that the "monster" was two bush-pigs swimming nose to tail with tails sticking vertically out of the water. As they came to the boat they dived and swam underneath appearing on the far side; they rapidly reached the far bank and ran off through the papyrus. The current is strong at this point but did not seem to affect them. Bush-pig are strong swimmers and readily take to water. (See also para. 328 and Plate XIII, 1950 Annual Report, and para. 121, 1948 Annual Report).

231. *Hippopotamus*.—This normally harmless and useful animal, which does so much to assist the fisheries by manuring the water and thus promoting the growth of phyto-plankton on which *tilapia* feed, and which also helps to keep open waterways that would otherwise become choked with papyrus, sometimes "blots its copy-book" and has to be dealt with.

232. In April, on the main Mbale to Soroti road at Asuret, an old African lady was charged by a hippopotamus which had wandered five miles from the nearest water. The lady is reported to have climbed a tree and then been bitten on the buttocks by the hippo. She was saved by villagers who speared and killed the animal.

233. In the Bulisa area of Bunyoro the inhabitants made constant complaints of damage to crops by hippo but very rarely was any complaint justified. The lure of hippo meat is strong and any chance of securing the demise of one of these great beasts is so irresistible that veracity frequently "goes by the board".

234. A surveyor, working on the western extension of the railway, was driving home late at night along the road from Nakaliro to Ibanda when he hit a hippo and considerably damaged a Land Rover. The hippo disappeared.

235. A hippo which had unwisely come up to and made itself visible near the crossing on the Pagaer River half a mile from the Kitgum main-street, was soon put to death by a "brave" hunter who had to fire fifteen shots at it before he was able to despatch it.

236. A most unusual incident occurred at Nakipirubi, between Kisubi and Entebbe, during August, when a hippo for no apparent reason killed two goats which were left out grazing at night. There is no doubt about the incident which was investigated by this Department. The animal was probably a bad tempered old bull who resented the presence of goats on its private night-feeding grounds.

237. A hippo which had been caught in a wire snare and had broken loose with the noose still round its near foreleg, was found wandering on the Jinja golf-course in September. Whenever it moved it trod on the trailing wire with its back leg causing the noose to cut right through to the bone. It was obviously in great pain and was shot to put it out of its misery.

238. A hippo was responsible for the tragic death by drowning of Mr. M. S. Tweedale, Honorary Game Ranger, on the Semliki River in May (see also Section IV—General), and another for the sad death of an African in Kyaggwe. The latter was attacked on a very dark night when attempting to find his way to the house where his daughter was lying ill. He lost an arm and died later; a friend who was guiding him escaped unscathed.

239. There have been several cases of drowning on Lakes Edward, George and the Kazinga Channel this year as a result of encounters between hippos and fishing canoes. In nearly every case these tragedies could have been avoided if the fisherman had only learnt to swim.

240. An Administrative Officer reports that early this year he noticed that the hippos below the rest-house at Katwe, on Lake Edward, were coming out of the water on the hottest of days and basking in the sun. For many days he saw whole colonies of them lying in a mud patch for several hours on either side of mid-day. This is unusual, for during the heat of the day hippos usually retire to the water and only stroll ashore for short periods. He states that the local people claim that it was due to the heavy rain which had reduced the water temperature.

241. *White Rhinoceros*.—There is no doubt that these great beasts are steadily increasing and are particularly numerous in the Lafori/Waka area of West Madi. It is thought probable that their numbers now exceed 300; it may be considerably more. The next problem is to find a suitable area which can become a national park for these magnificent animals so that they may be protected in perpetuity.

242. *Black Rhinoceros*.—There have been few reports regarding these uncertain tempered beasts this year although in East Madi they are stated to have caused some damage to crops near the sanctuary.

243. *Giraffe*.—Giraffe are fairly common in the sanctuary in East Madi and this year have refrained from helping themselves from nearby shambas. On the Greek River plains of Mbale District however these animals have developed a taste for cotton and attempts had to be made to drive them away with "thunder-flashes."

244. *Hyrax*.—It is not generally realised that these attractive little animals, which look rather like large guinea-pigs, are not rodents but ungulates and in fact are the nearest living relative to the elephant. The hyraxes of Uganda include *Dendrohyrax arboreus ruwenzorii*, a tree hyrax from Ruwenzori; *Dendrohyrax dorsalis marmota*, a tree species from Kampala; and two rock hyraxes from Mt. Elgon—*Heterohyrax syriacus kempfi* (grey hyrax) and *Procavia habessinica daemon* (large-toothed rock hyrax). The localities given are type localities. *Marmota* is sparingly distributed in the Mabira forest, and the lake shore and other forests of Buganda. The Karamoja rock hyrax is a race of *Procavia habessinica*. Series of hyrax skins, with skull, are required for scientific study, in particular of the rock hyrax from the northern and eastern regions, and of the tree hyrax from the western forests.