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The Society was founded in 1903 as the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire, and subsequently named the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. Fauna & Flora International is conserving the planet's threatened species and ecosystems – with the people and communities who depend on them.

Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation, is now published quarterly by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Fauna & Flora International. It is a leading scientific journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, with a particular interest in material that has the potential to improve conservation management and practice.

The website, <http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>, plays a vital role in the journal's capacity-building work. Amongst the site's many attributes is a compendium of sources of free software for researchers and details of how to access Oryx at reduced rates or for free in developing countries. The website also includes extracts from Oryx issues 10, 25 and 50 years ago, and a gallery of research photographs that provide a fascinating insight into the places, species and people described in the journal.

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UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GAME DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Figures for 1926 are as follows :—

	£	s.	cts.
Expenditure	6,691	2	55
Revenue	12,316	10	59
Balance of revenue over expenditure	5,625	8	04

Ivory.—The ivory market was in a very depressed state during the latter half of the year, and the usual October auction was not held, in consequence of which at the close of the year there was in store at Kampala 23,935 lbs., or a little over 10½ tons of ivory.

The price of the best bull ivory dropped sharply each quarter until October, when there was a slight improvement, and at one time the maximum offered was £88 per cwt., a marked contrast to that of £135 per cwt., a figure which was reached not long ago, and to £120 per cwt., which appears to be the average maximum price (English sales).

At most of the auctions of the year there was no demand for cow ivory, while bangle ivory, the type chiefly represented from Uganda, had to face a steadily falling market, though a slight improvement was shown in October.

At the Government auction held at Kampala in May, 15,001½ lbs. were offered, of which only 7,881¾ lbs. were sold.

The large bull ivory sold well, but there was no demand for smaller male or female tusks, of which classes all the former and nearly all the latter had to be withdrawn. *i.e.*, 624 tusks.

Ivory prices were adversely affected by :—

(a) No demand for female ivory in London.

(b) Outbreak of the general strike in England the day prior to the sale.

(c) Drop in Bombay prices (bangle ivory).

(d) General depression in the bazaars which affected Asiatic buyers.

Rhinoceros horns sold at Shs. 17/60 cts. per lb., and

Hippopotamus teeth at Shs. 2/- per lb.

The value of rhinoceros horn soared at the end of the year, Mombasa prices having reached Shs. 36/- per lb.

ILLEGAL KILLING OF GAME AND BREACHES OF THE GAME LAWS.

There can be little doubt that the illegal killing of game is on the decrease, and in the majority of prosecutions the offences were of a minor nature.

It is gratifying to find that in certain districts such as Toro, Ankole and Entebbe, which contain sparsely populated or uninhabited areas well-suited to game, the tendency of the local inhabitants to indulge in illegal hunting and meat selling has received a check.

In Karamoja the exemplary sentences inflicted in 1925 appear to have acted as a deterrent in so far as the slaughter of giraffes is concerned, but in the Lango district certain numbers of this fine animal are still being killed in contravention of the Game Laws. The maximum sentences imposed were two months R.I. and fines of Shs. 300/-. The most serious breaches of the game laws occurred in the Ankole and Toro districts, Europeans being the offenders.

In Ankole an Italian prospector was fined Shs. 300/- for killing game without a licence and for selling game meat, and in addition his licence was cancelled. This person is a menace to game, as he is known to have contravened the game laws in Uganda at other times, but there was insufficient evidence to warrant prosecution; while at a later date, but when still working in the Protectorate, he was charged at Bukoba with killing more than one hundred black rhinoceros in Tanganyika Territory just across our border and convicted and fined Shs. 1,000/-. In Toro, a Frenchman grossly exceeded the numbers of certain species he was entitled to kill under licence, and was fined Shs. 300/-. The illegal killing of white rhinoceros

in West Nile district still continues, as the number of "found" horns that are brought in to district headquarters cannot be the result of deaths from natural causes.

Horns brought in during 1926 were :—Arua, 22 ; Gulu, 12—total, 34.

Horns from Gulu presumably originate from West Madi, and would be those of white rhinoceros.

It is impossible to believe that seventeen of these long-lived animals are likely to die naturally in a year. Spiked foot-traps combined with nooses are still freely used in parts of Ankole, Masaka, and Bunyoro. These are set in game paths or round game licks, and sometimes salt is put down on ant-hills set about with snares, in order to lure animals to their destruction. Topi and hartebeest are the most frequent victims of this method of trapping. Game netting on a fairly extensive scale occurs from time to time in the uninhabited areas, but on the whole the attentions of the game-netter are confined to the cultivated localities and to species not included in the list of scheduled animals.

The smaller game in the Gulu sleeping sickness closed area on the right bank of the Albert Nile still suffers from incursions by the population dwelling on the left bank. Situtunga are freely killed on the Sese Islands of Victoria Nyanza with the aid of canoes, dogs and spearmen, in the majority of cases lawfully in defence of crops. Where poaching takes place in uninhabited areas or on islands without population offences are difficult of detection, and there is definite proof that frequent visits have been made to Damba Island—a closed area, now a game reserve—for the purpose of illegal game-killing, though no evidence is forthcoming as the identity of the culprits. At one period of the year nearly every lake steamer from Mwanza was bringing for sale quantities of giraffe hair bangles or giraffe tails, evidently trophies from numerous animals illegally killed in Tanganyika Territory. The necessary action was taken to stop this traffic.

Although it is apparent that poaching and trapping in the Lake Nakivali area of the Ankole district has markedly decreased, it was noted that a seasonal fishing camp, which is

held at a time when the lake is high and fills all its feeder channels and floods the adjacent low-lying flats, constitutes a serious threat to the game, for foot-traps and nooses were found freely distributed in its vicinity. Tribal hunts, on a grand scale, conducted by the Acholi at certain seasons, continue. Besides the harm done to the game by such wholesale methods it is understood on the authority of the Specialist Officer in-charge, Sleeping Sickness, that these organised hunts which take place in the vicinity of or actually within sleeping sickness areas may be directly responsible for the spread, and for fresh outbreaks, of sleeping sickness. Game scouts have proved their value by helping to reduce the poaching in uninhabited areas where game is plentiful.

Sportsmen's Trophies.—That trophies of outstanding merit can still be obtained in the Protectorate, the following measurements will show :—

Species.	Max. Horn Length, ins.	Locality.
Situtunga	26	Sese Islands
Impala	28½	Ankole
Eland	29½	Karamoja
„	24	Ankole
White Rhinoceros (front horn)	42½	West Nile (found)
Buffalo	44½	Karamoja
„	47	Mubende
Bushbuck	16½	Karamoja
Waterbuck	35	Toro
„	35½	„
„	34	„

ELEPHANT CONTROL.

If various happenings can be accepted as a direct result of elephant control, then the methods of the department in its endeavour to safeguard the interests of the native population are meeting with a measure of success which were hardly expected at so early a date. In Bunyoro, the huge Budongo herd for the last three years has emerged later and later from the sanctuary of the game reserve, though for climatic reasons it cannot remain out any longer than before. This herd when moving through cultivated areas, or even when remaining stationary in their vicinity for considerable periods, is avoiding

the shambas, and in spite of the large numbers of elephants of which it consists the damage attributed to it is now extremely small.

The Bugoma herd, evidently on account of continued, steady pressure on the part of native guards from the south-east, south and south-west, at one period abandoned the cultivated areas and the forest and for several weeks was located on the open plain at Kaiso on the shores of Lake Albert. According to native report such an incident is without precedent. In Toro there is a marked tendency for the somewhat large herds, which for years have had their main refuges in the Kibale Forest and the dense areas of Busongora, to move southerly into the uninhabited areas in the vicinity of Lake George, whence the majority of these elephants are reputed to have originally come. $1^{\circ}5'N. 51^{\circ}33'E$

In Masaka, the Mawogola herd shows less and less inclination to break out of the closed area which constitutes its breeding ground, though the elephants based on the River Katonga remain as truculent as ever.

In the south of the district small parties of the Tero Forest elephants make periodical forays into Koki and also move along the River Kagera into Ankole, where they have a rallying-point in the "fly" infested Kabiganda Valley, the westerly limit of their wanderings. $1^{\circ}5'N. 34'$

A herd established in Kabiganda is easily moved, for a few shots send the animals back to the Tero in headlong flight, and they are not likely to return for several months.

The Mawogola elephants when they do come out into the populated areas cause far less damage than before and appear to avoid the shambas. A herd of nearly three hundred animals took up its abode in the vicinity of the main road to Mbarara, near Kyasanga, for some weeks without doing any harm.

Extraordinarily heavy shooting on the part of licence-holders in the West Nile district has had the effect of driving the breeding herd across the Albert Nile into the Gulu sleeping sickness closed area, and the majority of the bigger bulls that are left have followed.

At the end of September it was found necessary to hold a board on the .470 double-barrelled hammer rifles with which the native guards were armed. The limitations of these weapons were numerous and for a variety of reasons they were unanimously condemned and consequently recalled from use. For the last month of the year and in certain cases for a longer period, the guards once again were armed with .303 rifles as a temporary measure, and a report from one district claims that the elephants immediately appreciated the situation thereby created, and were manifesting the utmost contempt for these weapons. It is unquestionable that the guards when working in dense grass and bush have no confidence in these rifles, and their lack of assurance would probably re-act unfavourably on the demeanour of the elephants. New rifles have been ordered of a more suitable type, and it is hoped that after their arrival and issue early next year control measures will produce results at least up to expectation. There is a dearth of suitable natives for employment as native guards. Statements made in last year's report in regard to the suspected presence of big tuskers in the sleeping sickness areas along the shores of Lake Edward are borne out by information which has been recently acquired, as well as by the size of tusks obtained by licence-holders and others in the vicinity of these areas.

The returns of elephants killed are as under :—Bulls, 379 ; cows, 271 ; total, 650.

Comparisons with last year's figures are of little value as during 1925 in most cases accurate records were only available for the latter half of the year. 1926 figures provide a better guide as to what is likely to be achieved in a normal year, even though for the last month the efficiency of the native guards was sadly impaired owing to the necessity for the recall of the double-barrelled .470 rifles and the consequent re-arming as a temporary measure with .303 rifles. There is, however, one district in which the figures call for comment, *i.e.*, Toro, where the 1926 bag totalled 157 as opposed to 51 in 1925. This result can be accepted as a striking testimony to the killing power of a heavy rifle as compared with the small-bore weapon of

precision when used under the trying conditions of tall-grass country. If to this is added the fact that exceptional rains at the end of the year forced the elephants out of the forests and dense cover and sent them roaming far and wide in the easier country, it will be realised that the control staff once in a way were able to come to grips with the elephants instead of the usual routine of months of almost fruitless hard work. The following figures represent the number of tusks of 30 lbs. weight and over sent in by the Game Rangers and native guards.

Cow Ivory.—A few cow tusks of outstanding merit were also obtained during control operations and a pair from Bunyoro weighed respectively 35 and 32 lbs.; another pair from the same area scaled 27 and 26 lbs., while a pair from Kigezi ran to 25 and 23½ lbs.

A tusk from the Masaka district was curled in most curious fashion, and a pair from Mubende were peculiarly slender and straight, similar in appearance to the thin Congo tusks of hard ivory.

The percentage of tusks of 30 lbs. weight and over obtained in control operations in the various areas is:—Bunyoro 34, Mubende 11.4, Masaka 11.2, Toro 18.5, Ankole 7.5, Kigezi 75.

A glance at these figures should disclose to the prospective elephant hunter the fact that shootable bulls are by no means rare in Uganda, and should also indicate some of the districts worthy of the sportsman's attentions.

At the same time the extent of the total bag will reveal in no uncertain fashion what is an irrefutable reality to all who are well-versed in the ways of elephants that damage to cultivation is usually caused by groups or parties of bulls or by herds in which bulls predominate, *i.e.*, the non-breeding herds.

It is, therefore, unavoidable that a certain number of bulls with warrantable tusks are destroyed in control operations. Every effort is made to spare the big tuskers, but it is obviously unwise to lay down hard and fast rules in this respect as the only result of too drastic restrictions would be to extend protection to the worst offenders. An elephant shot by a guard in Kigezi carried tusks weighing 135 and 122½ lbs. and

was one of a party of fine bulls which were followed after damaging a shamba. The first one encountered was killed and proved to be this veritable monster.

DOMESTICATION OF ELEPHANTS AND OTHER GAME ANIMALS.

No comment was made in the 1925 report on Captain Caldwell's visit to the elephant-training establishment at Api in the Belgian Congo. The decision to leave to the Belgians the domestication and training of elephants possibly merits explanation in view of the fact that uninformed criticisms which frequently appear in the press and attract attention deprecate what is termed the "wholesale slaughter" of elephants in Africa, and clamour for domestication measures to be adopted—at least in British territories.

It is noticeable that no offer has ever been made by our critics to afford financial assistance to any of the schemes which have been suggested.

The Elephant.—From the experiences and achievements of the Api School the following conclusions can be drawn.

(i) *The method of catching is thoroughly unsatisfactory.*

(ii) *Immature animals are comparatively useless and a great source of expense.* In regard to this, the fact that "must" has never appeared in any of the animals while in no case has the sex instinct been manifest suggests that no single elephant there has yet attained maturity. In this connection it is hoped that the school in due course will be able to furnish valuable data on the ages at which either sex can be regarded as adult. From the point of view of domestication the catching of elephants unless mature or nearly so would appear to be entirely uneconomical.

(iii) *The daylight hours during which an elephant can be worked are extremely short.* Practical experience of the habits of Uganda elephants reveals the fact that this race is even less likely to prove of any real economic value.

In uninhabited areas where food is abundant, and at seasons when the day temperatures are by no means overpowering, elephants will return to cover and shade in the vicinity of

water as early as 7.0 a.m. and frequently not leave it until a late as 4.30 or 5.0 p.m.

(iv) *The amount of food required is out of all proportion to the work accomplished by an elephant.* Any elephant, more especially a working one, requires a tremendous amount of fodder. In the case of domesticated animals this necessitates much manual labour unless there is a sufficiency of grazing near at hand.

The digestive system of an elephant is different to the majority of animals. Food passes through the stomach with rapidity, and, therefore, a constant supply is necessary to keep up the animal's vitality and physical fitness.

(v) *Elephants cannot be used for haulage purposes on main thoroughfares as they take fright at motor traffic.* This fact is an almost insurmountable obstacle in these days of mechanical transport, besides which the marching capabilities of these animals when at work is nothing out of the ordinary. It might also be added that the Uganda elephant is notably soft-footed, hence haulage over hard country or "murrum" roads for any considerable distance or for protracted periods would, apparently, be out of the question.

(vi) *It is no use trying to keep elephants unless bathing facilities are adequate and lines could not be located in the vicinity of towns.* Throughout the heat of the day the Uganda elephants more than most are peculiarly dependent on an adequate water supply, principally for external use rather than for internal requirements.

(vii) *Sickness or injury necessitates an animal being laid up for an abnormally long period.* This at Api is almost certainly due to immaturity on the part of the animals concerned. An elephant is a slow grower, and while young is evidently a slow healer.

(viii) *Owing to the numerous drawbacks enumerated in addition to the vast initial expenditure necessitated, trained elephants appear to be of little value for general utility.* Domesticated elephants might prove useful in semi-civilised areas where bullock transport is out of the question on account of "fly." They could also be used in farming operations of an extensive

nature or in forest areas for timber work ; but it is doubtful if the results would justify the heavy initial expenditure. It appears that the limitations of utility overwhelm all the advantages.

(ix) Finally, if it was eventually established that capture and training of African elephants was a simple and inexpensive process, it would be quite impossible to find work for the thousands of animals which represent the normal annual increase, much less for the tens of thousands already in existence.

The Api School undoubtedly has acquired information of peculiar interest and importance in regard to the biology of the elephant, and facts proven over a long period of years in respect of the rate of growth of juveniles, and of the ages of elephants from the point of view of breeding and maturity have added considerably to our knowledge of the life history of these animals.

Young elephants captured when a few years old have, at Api, grown in height at the rate of 4 or 5 centimetres per annum : specimens known to have almost attained the age of thirty have so far evinced no desire to breed.

It has been impossible to gauge the average annual rate of growth of ivory from the Api data, as the elephants there are more of a forest type, with slender, elongated tusks of hard ivory which never attain a great weight.

Elephant control measures are not taking such a terrible toll as might at first appear, and in future there should be ample material left in Uganda for experimental or for utilitarian purposes if domestication is ever deemed advisable.

Buffalo.—The buffalo is another animal against which aggressive tactics have frequently to be adopted. It seems a great pity to have to destroy, almost wantonly, large numbers of an animal which for a variety of reasons should prove of considerable economic value. There is always a ready market for the meat and the hides command high prices. A few animals have been domesticated in Kenya and Uganda, while

in the Protectorate a couple of cow buffaloes have been used for transport purposes for several years.

Herds of milch buffaloes might prove of inestimable benefit, as in India. The sale of buffalo hides is now permitted. In the case of buffalo domestication, it is once again the heavy initial expenditure which is the great drawback, coupled with the haunting fear that results will not justify the expenditure.

It must be remembered that it has taken thousands of years to reduce the Indian buffalo to a state of *partial* domestication. Bulls of that species are frequently intractable and herds of cows invariably savage.

Eland.—Another animal worthy of attention from this point of view is the eland. This creature is not difficult to tame, possesses a marketable hide, provides excellent meat, increases rapidly, is said to produce rich milk and reputed to be tractable. It is doubted if it would ever be of value for transport purposes as it possesses little stamina, *vide* the ease with which a bull eland can be run down by a horseman. The eland's habit of bounding when alarmed would prove somewhat embarrassing if indulged in by a team in harness, while the long horns grown by either sex would be a further drawback and would necessitate de-horning at a tender age. Although the Veterinary Department is keenly interested in the subject of the domestication of buffalo and eland, no definite proposals have yet been made in the matter. Both species are peculiarly susceptible to rinderpest, and each is a dangerous disseminator of the disease on account of the habit of covering a vast area in their wanderings, more especially at a time when they are affected, as they try to trek away from the disease.

There would probably be great risks attendant on any scheme of domestication on a large scale, unless early precautions were taken to render the animals immune to rinderpest.

There is much to be learnt from the study of all species of the *Bovidae* in domestication, in particular of those species most susceptible to diseases which are common to stock.

No specific has yet been found for trypanosomiasis in domestic animals, but the wild animals should provide a remedy having in course of time become self-immune.