

6918

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1944-45

58
7
14/45
Forestry



1/4 bd

SD 18

A7

1944/1945 —

1947/1948

Forestry

band... ..

m... ..

SHILLONG
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
1947

[Price Rs. 3.9-0 or 5s. 4d.]

Statement of Wild Animals shot in Assam during 1944-45

All India serial number	Species	No.
1a	Tiger	74
1b	Tigress	5
2	Leopard or panther	23
3	Wild Cats (Species to be given if known)	3
4	Lynx .. .. .	..
5	Hunting leopard or cheetah	2
6	Hyena .. .. .	..
7	Wolf .. .. .	..
8	Wild Dog	61
9	Martens .. .. .	..
10	Ratel .. .. .	..
11	Brown bear	1
12	Himalayan black bear .. .. .	.
13	Malayan bear .. .. .	..
14	Sloth bear	1
15	Wild Elephat	53
16	Rhinoceros Unicornis	5
17	Gaur or bison	3
18	Goyal or mithan .. .. .	..
19	Banting or tsine .. .. .	..
20	Wild buffalo	5
21	Urial or sharpu .. .. .	..
22	Bharal or blue sheep .. .. .	..
23	Ibex .. .. .	..
24	Markhor .. .. .	..
25	Jahr .. .. .	..
26	Nilgiri wild goat or Nilgiri ibex .. .. .	..
27	Screw or Himalayan great antelope .. .. .	..
28	Goral .. .. .	..
29	Nilgai or blue bull .. .. .	..
30	Four horned antelope .. .. .	..
31	Black buck .. .. .	..
32	Indian gazelle or chikara .. .. .	..
33	Barking deer or kakar	156
34	Kashmir deer or hangul .. .. .	..
35	Swamp deer or gond or barasingha .. .. .	..
36	Brown-antlered deer or thamin .. .. .	..
37	Sambar	14
38	Cheetal or spotted deer or axis deer .. .. .	..
39	Hog deer	58
40	Musk-deer .. .. .	..
41	Mouse-deer	1
42	Pangolin .. .. .	..
43	Crocodile (muggar) .. .. .	..
44	Gharial .. .. .	..
45	Python	1
46	Others (species to be given)	69 (pigs)

93. Until the Japanese at the end of 1941 began to approach the borders of Assam prices of foods, etc., and costs of labour remained fairly normal, but then came the need for works of urgent priority aerodromes, camps, storage godowns, railway sidings and transport and labour became difficult to obtain. Gradually the food position became worse and worse until rice reached the then controlled price of Rs. 35 per maund in March 1943. Defence and Military Services paid high rates of wages and gave free rations and clothing and it was difficult to keep labour and staff. The Essential Services Maintenance Order had to be enforced in many cases. Government in October 1943 gave certain dearness concessions and control of prices and of distribution became more effective but it is to the great credit of the staff of this Department, that poorly paid and hungry as compared to their more fortunate brethren in the Defence Services, they stuck to their posts and by very hard work produced amazing supplies of forest produce.

94. The health of subordinates was generally poor due to excessive work, poor food supplies and lack of medical supplies.

95. Trucks for touring of certain officers were provided from purchase through the Provincial Motor Transport Department. Although of poor quality and not really suited for forest work they prevented a complete break down in touring of officers and the consequent break down of supplies.

96. At the beginning of the year there were 23 Departmental elephants in the whole province out of which one died, one escaped and the third was sold thus leaving only 20 elephants at the close of the year. I regret to say that in some cases Departmental elephants are not properly cared for and Divisional Forest Officers must watch their work, feeding and bathing better. It is hoped that if more transport suitable for forest roads becomes available then it will not be necessary to increase the present strength of elephants.

97. Relations between the Revenue and Forest Officers continued to be good while the assistance and advice of the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong has to be specially acknowledged.

CHAPTER VIII

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE AND ELEPHANT CONTROL

I —The preservation of wild life

98. All sanctuaries were maintained during the year. There was no change in the number or area of the sanctuaries during the year. In the Sonai Rupai, Orang and Kasiranga Game Sanctuaries game is reported to have increased. It is also reported that very little control could be exercised over the activities of Military personnel principally American who trespassed freely into the sanctuaries and Reserved Forests of certain Divisions in motor vehicles at night in order to shoot preserved animals illegally. As far as possible the prevention of poaching was done by the staff although they were occupied with the supply of defence requirements.

99. Many people visited the Kaziranga Sanctuary during the year as is judged by the view permit and elephant hire revenue of Rs. 1,485. One party from the 11th to the 19th March saw 30 rhinoceros, 80 buffaloes, 1 elephant and numerous deer, etc. Visitors were mainly Military and as the Officer-in-charge puts it "I would like more of my own people to visit the sanctuary".