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COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

**GAME DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
1953-54**

Jg m.



1955

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II—STATISTICS

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	1937	1951	1952	1953	1954
	£	£	£	£	£
Game Licences	8,529	20,788	22,431	16,690	13,021
Sale of ivory and rhino horns	5,695	19,001	11,494	18,944	15,102
Sale of skins at Headquarters	—	1,419	875	509	753
Total Revenue	14,224	41,208	34,800	36,143	28,876
Total Departmental Expenditure	7,112	37,144	43,244	45,900	44,723
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	7,112	4,064	—	—	—
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue	—	—	8,444	9,757	15,847

ANALYSIS OF LICENCES ISSUED A.—NUMBERS ISSUED

LICENCES	1937	1945	1947	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Visitor's Full	27	—	41	45	65	57	89	40	34
Visitor's 14-day	24	—	9	28	27	21	31	10	17
Resident's Full	200	324	438	496	816	566	506	366	343
Resident's 14-day	77	63	92	116	188	122	104	67	50
Residents Private Land	163	143	147	162	203	144	157	71	127
Bird	870	692	900	1,090	1,489	1,331	1,517	1,466	785
Elephant 1st	88	150	128	116	190	155	84	69	55
Elephant 2nd	13	24	16	8	12	5	10	9	7
Rhino	33	30	87	76	125	98	121	70	56
Giraffe	2	—	9	11	26	9	14	9	6
Ostrich	7	—	51	68	92	41	18	21	22
Lion (Masai)	—	23	—	—	—	14	47	27	5
Cheetah	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	6	7
Leopard	—	—	—	—	—	20	50	33	17
Visitor's Private Land	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
Native Employee's Licence	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	3	—
Colobus Monkey	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	—
Grey Zebra	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	10

B.—ISSUE BY RACES, 1953 AND 1954

LICENCES	EUROPEAN		INDIAN		GOAN		ARAB AND SOMALI		NATIVE	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
	Visitor's Full ..	40	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visitor's 14-day ..	10	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visitor's Private Land ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Resident's Full ..	302	272	64	52	3	3	—	16	—	—
Resident's 14-day ..	67	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Resident's Private Land ..	57	121	14	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bird ..	937	497	429	122	45	23	53	97	12	46
Elephant 1st ..	59	47	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elephant 2nd ..	8	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhino ..	59	46	11	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Giraffe ..	9	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lion (Masai) ..	27	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leopard ..	33	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheetah ..	6	7	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ostrich ..	14	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Native Employees Licence ..	3	1	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colobus Monkey ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grevy Zebra ..	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The sharp drop in revenue is only to be expected. Since the Emergency many people have had to hand in their firearms and cannot leave their homes for any length of time. For security reasons some of the best hunting areas in the country, e.g. Narok, Isiolo, were closed to hunters with the result that visitors from overseas went to Tanganyika.

Expenditure continued to rise owing to revised salaries and ever-increasing cost of materials and transport.

III—CONSERVATION AND CONTROL

The International Fauna and Flora Conference was held at Bukavu in October, 1953. Kenya was represented by Sir James Kirkpatrick, Bart., Acting Game Warden, and Capt. A. T. A. Richie, O.B.E., M.C. The main task performed was the revision of the 1933 International Convention. As a result of the recommendations of this Conference certain animals were granted further legal protection, e.g.:—

1. Chanler's Reedbuck and Dugong were made Royal Game.
2. The number of Lesser Kudu allowed on a licence was reduced from two to one.
3. Cheetah and Grevy's Zebra were placed on the Special Licence Schedule IV.
4. When Garissa became a Controlled Area, the shooting of Hunter's Antelope was only permitted on special permit from the Game Warden.
5. Giant Forest Hog were made Game Animals.

Narok, the main hunting area of the Colony, remained closed during 1954, by which time the area had become infested with terrorists. Thus the game in this wonderful area has been given a long rest, at the expense, it is feared, of the Tanganyika hunting grounds. The Game Warden, in consultation with the Senior Game Ranger, Narok, has instituted further protective measures. A strip one mile wide along the left bank of the Mara River was closed to all shooting, thus rendering the Mara Reserve on the right bank a more complete fauna unit. Animals from both sides of the river will be able to water in peace and quiet, a target for cameras only. This regulation will not spoil hunting except unsporting shooting of animals as they water along the river. At the beginning of 1954, the Game Warden camped with the Governor, Sir Evelyn Baring, on the banks of the Mara, and Sir Evelyn was most impressed with the wonderful array of game animals to be seen at close range in this area.

In Narok, development schemes so far do not appear to threaten wild life within the fly-infested area, lying between the Loita Hills and the Siria escarpment. Nevertheless, it is felt that it is time for a definite statement of long-term policy, as the area is unique. But the case is otherwise in the Kajiado district. Here it is considered by some that the game animals compete with the Masai cattle for water and grazing and introduce disease. Of course, the number of animals to be found in this district is small compared to Narok. The vast herds of plains game that haunted the Athi and Kapiti plains are no more, though seasonable concentrations occur in certain places, as in the west Chyulu National Reserve behind the Chyulu hills. Here the Game Warden accompanied by the Game Ranger, on one occasion, saw a herd of two hundred eland and at least two herds of fringed-eared oryx, about 50 to 60 strong. In this area also rhino are numerous and very tame. Four were seen wallowing in a small pool in the middle of the plains. There is also a concentration of animals round the Selengai waterholes and at Kimana Swamp. But otherwise one may travel for miles and see very little wild life. It is worth quoting from the report on the Ilkisongo Section Masai Development Plan:—

"The significance of game as a cause of deterioration is considered to be slight in this area." Mr. Edwards of the Agricultural Department, who is an expert on grasses and grazing problems states:—

"Careful observation in the areas of deterioration noted indicates that in every case the effect of grazing by game is insignificant and that the concentrations of cattle and other stock are solely responsible for this damage caused to the vegetation and soils."

Apart from any æsthetic value, the game animals found in Masailand constitute a considerable source of revenue not only for the Colony at large, but for the Masai themselves. In a properly designed plan there can be room for both game and stock, fewer and better grade cattle ranged in the better grazing areas and the poorer areas left to the game. At present the Masai Council draw a considerable sum from the Controlled Area fees and places like Selengai are a great attraction for sportsmen from Nairobi for a week-end shoot. It must be remembered that once wild life is removed, it never returns.

In the Northern Province, Garissa and Isiolo districts were declared Controlled Areas. It is very gratifying to note that the prohibition on the shooting of rhino, oryx and eland, south of the Uaso Nyiro River has resulted in considerable increase of these animals. Probable future policy will be to stop the shooting of these animals north of the river, especially in the Merti Area, where shooting has been considerable, and allow shooting south of the river. *In fact rotational shooting will be the key to the general policy of the Department in the future.* In Garissa, the shooting of Hunter's Antelope will only be permitted on a special permit from the Game Warden, as it is felt that the shooting of these animals found nowhere else in the world must be carefully controlled. By means of this regulation the Game Warden will be able to ascertain the number shot each year. In Garissa district crocodiles have been made "game" animals, shooting at night, trapping, etc., forbidden. Professional hunters, conducting parties in this area, complain that the nocturnal activities of the crocodile hunters were disturbing game, especially elephants, watering on the river. It was also felt that crocodiles "discourage" the vast herds of baboons that haunt the banks of the Tana River.

In 1954, two Game Rangers were posted to the Coast Province, one was stationed at Kipini, but subsequently moved to Lamu, and a second at Msambweni in the Kwale district. The main trouble in the Coast Province is elephant. Their numbers have been generally overestimated, for instance, one wild guess was made to the effect that there were 7,000 in the Lamu and Tana River districts alone. Experienced elephant hunters, who operated the area gave as their opinion that the numbers could not exceed 3,000 and were probably less. There is plenty of room for the elephants to move about, vast areas of bush and forest, but the trouble is that throughout the Coast Province one finds isolated *shambas* and coconut plantations cut out of the bush and, as these *shambas* are often very badly tended, it is difficult to distinguish bush from cultivation. Anyhow, the elephant, at certain seasons, find these plantations irresistible, especially the succulent centres of the young coconut trees. As it is a fact that considerable damage is caused, it was considered necessary to teach the elephant a lesson. Experienced elephant hunters, like Mr. Bob Foster and Mr. Carr Hartley, were let loose in the area, and about 200 elephant were shot in the vicinity of cultivation, which is not a very large number when compared with the numbers shot yearly in Tanganyika and Uganda, and this shooting has had the effect of instilling into the elephant a healthy respect for human beings and cultivation. The policy is now to station African *shamba* guards at points along the Lower Tana River, and Mr. Foster will be engaged from time to time to control the elephant by careful and discriminative shooting. Lest sportsmen bewail the

slaughter, it must be pointed out that nothing except trash was shot, the tusks averaged about 12 lb. weight each, and the biggest tusks obtained were just under 50 lb., and these in fact were taken on licence by one of the hunters. This area is no good for sportsmen, the bush is impenetrable, the climate hot and moist and the elephant invariably have small tusks and seem to be a small geographical race.

In addition a small number of elephant were shot in the Kilifi and Kwale districts. Another task at the coast was the elimination of the buffalo that lived on the Nyali Estates between Mombasa and Mtwapa Creek. The herd wandered about in this area, which is being fast developed and built up, and it was not uncommon for a buffalo to invade one of the suburban plots in the area and poke its head into the kitchen, in fact one did enter a bedroom. Some animal lovers wanted these animals preserved, protests were even received from abroad when it was known that they were to be exterminated. But the Game Warden had no doubt on the subject after Commander Blunt was badly gored. The incident is worth relating at length. The buffalo invaded some cultivation belonging to an Indian, so the owner and some friends, instead of summoning Commander Blunt at once, tackled the animals themselves—but how? They sat up in trees armed with small-bore rifles and shotguns and peppered the beasts below. The result, in addition to one or two dead buffalo, was some angry wounded ones, and an innocent African passer-by was killed. Commander Blunt gallantly went forth to deal with the wounded beasts, and he, too, was charged and failed to stop the animal and got badly hurt. He was only saved by the heroic action of his wife, who borrowed a shotgun from a looker-on and drove off the beast. Subsequent prosecution of the Indians broke down on a technical point. Mr. Eric Rundgren, one of the finest hunters in Africa, was employed to exterminate the beasts and, by the end of the year, the herd was virtually eliminated and the survivors moved into the hinterland.

The Voi-Makindu area sandwiched in between the National Parks is one very rich in wild life and the elephant with the biggest tusks were shot in this area. Unfortunately, it is also infested with Kamba and Teita poachers in large numbers and is an area where considerable African development is taking place, not to mention the large sisal estates round Voi. In the Makueni area and on the sisal estates a considerable number of rhino had to be shot. These rhino, often suffering from wounds inflicted by the poisonous arrows of poachers, are a considerable menace and sometimes invade the railway stations, especially Kiboko (which should be called Kifarui), where they are alleged to chase the pointsmen. While on the subject of animals and the railway, the Game Warden was rung up about 2 a.m. on Boxing Day by the East African Railways and Harbours Control. The voice at the other end said that a pride of lions was holding up all the Nairobi-Mombasa trains, as they were sitting on Konza Station and no one would emerge to change the points. The Game Warden went down to Konza early that morning and found the lions, which actually consisted of two lionesses and cubs, had been driven away by a volley of Bren-gun fire from a police patrol in a railway truck. The hail of bullets killed one Thomson's gazelle and also riddled one of the landies where, fortunately, no one was sleeping. The Game Warden followed up the lions and found that none were wounded. Giraffe are the main casualties when beast and train collide, though occasionally elephant in the Mtito Andei area are the sufferers, their 5-ton bulk is not of much avail when their opponent weighs 150 tons, and they are often killed outright. Elephant do not seem to be so tough as some of the antelope, e.g. hartebeest or eland, and collapse more easily when hit.

It is pleasing to note that the area between the Makindu-Kiboko rivers can still present a wonderful show of animals, especially elephant, rhino, buffalo, eland, oryx, lesser kudu and water buck and, on occasions, lions and cheetah.

After the rains the area has a white carpet of ipomœa, giving the effect of a fall of snow. It is sad to relate that this area is earmarked for Kamba development schemes. This wonderful area is very accessible. Lying alongside the main Mombasa road, it is only ten miles long by seven deep, and this Department maintains that it is of greater value to the world as a small sanctuary of wild life and flora than as a ranch for a few Kamba cattle. At least this area should remain inviolate till all other areas available for Kamba development have been used up, and that will not be for many years to come.

In the main operational areas, which consist of the Aberdare Mountains, Mount Kenya and the surrounding country, wild life has probably suffered more than the human beings in the area. In the forests animals are subjected to bombing, shooting-up by patrols and terrorist gangs and when the unfortunate beasts flee from the forests, they are either called "crop destroyers" or shot as "buck for the pot" by riflemen, mostly from vehicles. It is impossible to estimate the numbers killed or wounded, such figures in Africa are rarely obtainable. The Game Rangers in these areas are themselves mainly engaged in police duties, so that little supervision by this Department is possible. Let us admit that a number of cross rhino, probably wounded ones, do charge patrols, and many of the police and soldiery are not accustomed to such beasts. But one cannot justify the shooting of Royal game such as Kenya hartebeest, as "buck for the pot" or of hartebeest and impala, as rations for the troops. One Honorary Game Warden came on a whole troop of colobus monkeys apparently killed by bomb blast. In fighting the foe one must not destroy what one is fighting to preserve, for the wild life is one of the most beautiful features of this beautiful country.

A list is appended showing the approximate number of animals shot on control, but this Department does not glory in such lists. Vermin control, that is destruction of baboons, hyenas, bush pig, wart-hog, is another similar disagreeable task to be performed. In all areas assistance and advice are given to farmers, but it is felt that the main task of dealing with vermin must rest with the farmer himself, whatever his race. For instance, the destruction of baboons which increase every year faster than the human population (probably) cannot be entirely undertaken by the small staff of this Department. Nevertheless, this Department does render considerable aid in the destruction of vermin. Mention should be made of the scheme whereby bounty is placed on each wart-hog destroyed. During this period about 371 wart-hogs were killed in this manner and the result is now that the wart-hog is extremely rare in the farming areas.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Royal National Park Wardens. The Game Ranger, Narok, continued to supervise the Mara National Reserve and an outpost of Park Scouts was built on the Siria Escarpment overlooking the area. The Game Ranger, Msambweni made several joint raids with Park Wardens in the areas around the Tsavo Parks. The Trustees of the Royal National Parks have decided to reconstitute the boundaries of the Northern National Reserve and the area exercised will undoubtedly be made a Controlled Area. In anticipation, a Game Ranger was posted to Maralal at the end of 1954. He will have a vast area to patrol from the north end of Lake Rudolf to Rumuruti.

It is not commonly known that the Game Department controls no Game Reserves. All the reserves of varying degree are under the Royal National Parks. However, nearly all the main areas containing game animals outside the National Parks are Controlled Areas and a list might be of interest.

1. *Kajiado*.—No shooting of game animals allowed near Selengai waterholes (except birds in restricted numbers) or in the area adjoining the West Chyulu Reserve.

2. *Makindu-Kiboko*.—No shooting permitted.
3. *Maktau*.—One party allowed in at a time.
4. *Narok*.—In the fly area lion, leopard, cheetah, rhino are protected absolutely. Also only one hyena, jackal, wart-hog may be shot in the fly area between the Loita Hills and Siria Escarpment.
5. *Shimba Hills*.—Formerly the Sable Antelope Reserve, but now no shooting at all permitted.
6. *Garissa and Kipini Districts*.—Restrictions placed on the shooting of Hunter's antelope and crocodiles.
7. *Isiolo*.—Rhino, eland, oryx protected south of the Uaso Nyiro and no shooting at all in a strip a mile wide bounding the Uaso Nyiro river from Archer's Post to Barsolonga.

The general policy is to admit a limited number of shooters at any one time and probably in future areas will be opened and closed in rotation.

The fate of the crocodile in Kenya has long been worrying the Game Warden. The crocodile is a loathsome villain, but nevertheless he is an animal of great interest and an essential part of the African landscape. He is now persecuted everywhere in Africa and nowhere in Kenya can he be seen during the daytime except in the National Parks and in the remote areas of Lake Rudolf. Unfortunately, in Kenya he is not found in large numbers within the National Parks and therefore the Game Warden has taken measures outside the Parks. No shooting of crocodiles is now permitted in the Uaso Nyiro river between Barsolonga and Archer's Post, where the river bounds the Northern National Reserve, while on the Tana river in the Garissa and Kipini districts, he has been given the status of a game animal and may only be hunted as such. Protection may be extended to crocodiles on the islands in Lake Rudolf, where he still may be seen in large numbers. Elsewhere he is in hiding and no doubt hunting will cease as he becomes commercially unprofitable, owing to scarcity in numbers. A good crocodile skin may be worth £10 or more, but no statistics are available for the number exported from Kenya, as the number is incorporated in the number exported from Uganda and Tanganyika. Unfortunately, no reliable scientific data is available to show in what respect the balance of nature is upset when crocodiles are nearly exterminated, nevertheless the situation is being watched.

A true criticism levelled at this Department is lack of publicity and propaganda. Among the European population anyhow, there is a strong element of public opinion to support the preservation of wild life. Propaganda is difficult when the main enemy to wild life is development and the ever-spreading human race, but it should be an axiom of public policy that wherever the existence of wild life is threatened for this reason, the matter should be very carefully considered before animals are destroyed. Nevertheless, illustrated lectures in the schools of all races would be of great value and, if the Game Department can obtain suitable films, this matter will be explored in conjunction with the Director of Royal National Parks, who has already done splendid work in this respect. To stimulate interest among the young of all races the Game Warden and the Director of the Royal National Parks donated a prize of £10 for the best essay on the subject "Why do we preserve Game?" The competition was conducted by the E.A. Natural History Society and many good essays were received. But it is sad to note that the replies received from European schoolboys were few and of poor quality. This is probably only a phase, as the Game Warden knows personally several first-class naturalists among the schoolboys of the Colony—maybe they are a bit shy or lazy!

During his leave in England, the Game Warden attended the Royal Agricultural Show, which was held at Blackpool in July, 1953, and helped at the Kenya stand. Game photographs and mounted heads formed a considerable part of the exhibit. The Game Warden got the impression that while great interest was taken in Kenya as a whole, for the stand was always crowded, little special interest was shown in the game exhibits. One of the reasons may be that there exist in England, unlike the United States of America, few sportsmen who can afford a trip to East Africa to hunt, thanks to prevalent taxation. At the Nakuru Show in October, 1954, the Game Department only had a small stand. The Game Warden showed photographs of every species of game animal found in Kenya. To produce such photographs was a hard task and probably only a few experienced sportsmen did appreciate the exhibit, but it was disheartening to hear one prominent (but not very knowledgeable) citizen exclaim, "What a pity you did not bring some stuffed heads!" Propaganda is difficult. Maps, diagrams, figures, do not really interest the general public. It is generally best to let the animals speak for themselves.

List of Game Shot on Control 1953 and 1954

	1953	1954
Elephant	35	223
Buffalo	55	56
Rhino	19	45
Giraffe	—	—
Hippo	1	1
Lion	8	10
Leopard	3	1
Cheetah	—	—
Zebra	13	8
Hartebeest	—	2
Wildebeest	—	—
Oryx	—	—
Ostrich	—	—
Eland	—	—
Other Antelope	—	261
Serval Cat	—	—

IV—NOTES ON ANIMALS

In January, 1954, the Governor, Sir Evelyn Baring, was shown the wonderful game area on each bank of the River Mara, in the Narok district; and of, course, the main exhibits were the lions. These lions are Kenya's greatest pride and the most carefully guarded treasures of the Game Department. Outside the protected area of Narok, heavy-maned lions have become uncommon. Taking Kenya as a whole, lions are probably not decreasing, they can be found widely spread throughout the Northern Province and the Voi district; but they are becoming more cunning and are difficult to procure on a kill during daylight. Shooting lions on a kill requires little more skill than shooting at a target and certainly cannot be ranked as hunting. Let us hope that this wariness in the lion tribe will resurrect lion-hunting once more. One poor lioness ventured into the streets of Nairobi in October, 1954. As can be imagined, the excitement was colossal; traffic was held up and every citizen sallied forth with every imaginable firearm. Eventually, the poor beast was cornered and shot by a Game Ranger, but not before all sorts of other pieces and missiles had been discharged at the "lady". Her demise did not end the business, but was the occasion for boasts and claims as to who had "shot" her. How animals must despise civilized man sometimes! Compare this

with the behaviour of some uncivilized man in the Northern Province, where tribesmen continue to perform heroic deeds with no more than a spear or sword, and fight in mortal combat the lion that raids his stock or attacks his families. Mr. Adamson, Senior Game Ranger, Isiolo, can relate numerous tales of such deeds. Such men may truly boast, if they want to. Mr. and Mrs. Al Milotte of Walt Disney Studios, who have just spent two years in Kenya photographing wild life in its natural state, have some most interesting tales to tell of the tribe of lions. They told the Game Warden that they watched a strange lioness approach a pride, which then proceeded to set on the lioness, and would have killed her had not man intervened. Quite a number of lionesses are killed in this manner, and invariably by some arrogant male, not a jealous female. They also obtained a picture of lions stalking baboons. The Game Warden also, when camped on the River Athi with Mr. J. A. Hunter, found a baboon carcass left behind by a pride of lions that drank in the river near the camp. It is probable that lions, not leopards, are the main predators on baboons.

Leopards are a worry. They have been made the subject of a special licence of £10; and in 1953, 33 were shot on licence, and in 1954, only 17. But daily applications are received from owners of private land to keep the skins of animals shot in defence of property; and, as might be expected, numbers get shot by the Forces "in self-defence". The matter was discussed with the Minister and a policy was decided upon. Bearing in mind that leopard do cause considerable damage to the flocks of sheep farmers, and they have this stupid habit of hanging round dwelling-houses and killing dogs, one has to meet the complainant half way at least; but, on the other hand, commercialization must be checked, for there is a big ready market for the skins, which fetch up to £20 in the raw state and, when tanned and mounted, may fetch £50 to £60. Therefore, all applications are scrutinized and, if necessary, referred back to the local Game Ranger for advice. Generally speaking, the applicant is permitted to keep the skin with a permit endorsed "Sale or disposal not permitted". In exceptional circumstances permission to sell is granted, in which case the skin is sold by the Game Department, who return the proceeds of the sale to the applicant after deducting expenses. By this means sale is canalized and restricted, for few persons want to sell in this manner! On this principle, the Department granted 174 permits to possess leopard skins shot on private land, and 83 permits to sell. Such people must not ask for help against pigs or monkeys! Mr. Milotte told the Game Warden that he secured what must be a unique cine record of a leopard sitting in a tree with a herd of wildebeest standing underneath. The leopard dropped on to the herd, which "exploded". When the dust had cleared, the leopard was seen sitting on a young wildebeest. Major Temple-Boreham, Senior Game Ranger, Narok, also saw a leopard kill a wildebeest; and the Game Warden, when District Commissioner, Marsabit, in 1937, shot a small forest leopard that had killed a full-grown mule and all that was visible on the mule was a neat puncture in the neck. Some leopard with very long hair have been shot by the Forces high up in the forests.

The African leopard is indistinguishable from the Indian. A firm of furriers in Nairobi was prosecuted for selling Indian leopard skins without a dealer's permit: he argued that the Indian leopard was a different animal: the Game Warden compared a number of skins of both Indian and African leopards and there was no consistent difference. The Magistrate supported the Game Warden's contention and the furrier was convicted. Here again it was noted that some of the Indian leopards had long hair, presumably killed in the mountains of India: they were, however, indistinguishable from the Kenya mountain leopards. Black leopard have been seen in the Aberdare Mountains and there is no doubt that most black leopards in Kenya are to be found in the forests of Mount Kenya and the Aberdares.

The situation regarding rhino is being very carefully watched. Known casualties during the period were—

						Shot on Licence	Shot on Control
1953	..	..	..	..	..	70	19
1954	..	..	..	..	..	56	45

These figures do not indicate heavy casualties, but it must be remembered that the price of rhino horn is very high; at the auctions it varies between Sh. 60 and Sh. 70 per lb., and the rhino falls an easy victim to the poisoned arrow of the poacher. Loss due to poaching cannot be estimated, but probably the number is between 100-200 yearly, to take a pessimistic figure. Nevertheless, in certain places, such as the northern end of the Chyulu Hills, the rhino is extraordinarily common. On one safari the Game Warden saw at least 30 and took a photograph (appended) of four rhino wallowing in a small pool in the middle of open grass plains. Numbers of rhino get shot in self-defence, by the fearful generally and, as has been mentioned, the poor old rhino is probably the worst sufferer in this respect in the operational areas. He is bad tempered; he is short sighted; when he detects a strange object he comes up to investigate, often at a trot. When he gets close and satisfies his curiosity, he will generally turn round like a polo pony and make off—or he may not!! So often this "investigational" approach is interpreted as a charge, and it takes a brave man to "wait and see". Of course, most members of the Forces, especially those from overseas, do not "wait and see", but shoot on sight. Well, one can hardly blame them; but it does mean that for many years to come the Kenya and Aberdare forests will be most unsafe owing to the presence of wounded rhino. When shooting on a licence it is difficult to distinguish between male and female, but to discourage the shooting of females, it is proposed to charge a higher fee for all females shot. So often a female is shot in this manner and then it appears that she was accompanied by a calf. A higher fee for females will encourage hunters to investigate more before shooting.

The smaller animals do not attract the same interest as the larger ones and, therefore, not so much is known about them. The fact is that in many ways they are more interesting. Take the duiker, for instance: the following species are found in Kenya:—

1. The Common Bush Duiker, *Silvicapra grimmia*, ubiquitous outside the forests and deserts and a great pest to cultivation. He is found just below the snow line on Mount Kenya and Mr. Raymond Hook maintains that it is probably a special geographical race.
2. The Red Duiker, *Cephalophus natalensis*; a fine beast found in all forest country, whether on the mountains or at the coast. In the coastal forest, especially in the Kilifi area, a member of this race is found—*Adersi*—which is in fact a completely different little beast, much smaller in size and in colour a much lighter red, the legs are dappled. Very few specimens are known and it is feared that this little animal has been nearly exterminated by the Coast natives, who set snares everywhere. It is hoped to obtain some specimens before it is too late.
3. The Blue Forest Duiker, *Guevei*, a really beautiful forest-dwelling little animal, but seldom seen. He is found in all areas where the Red Duiker occurs.
4. The Yellow-backed Duiker, *Cephalophus silvicultrix*, as far as is known only lives in the forests on the Mau. He is about the size of a bush-buck and, as the two beasts often inhabit the same bit of forest, their spoor may be mistaken, nevertheless, they can be distinguished. The duiker's spoor consists of two parallel, rather long hoof marks; while the

bush-buck's is more heart-shaped. Again, the bush-buck, like the bongo, has the habit of breaking branches with its horns and rubbing of the bark. This, the duiker with his short horns cannot do.

5. Abbot's duiker, a small beast which dwells on Mount Kilimanjaro, this is without the yellow back mark. The Game Warden paid a brief visit to the haunts of these duiker near Kericho. He found the spoor and their "nests", where they lie up under fallen trees. However, it took Capt. Ionides, of the Tanganyika Game Department, and probably the finest hunter-naturalist in the world, six weeks to procure a specimen for the Coryndon Museum!

Several Game Rangers have cameras, both ciné and still. Denis Zaphiro has recorded some outstanding colour ciné films in the Kajiado district, which he has shown on several occasions to appreciative audiences. Major Temple-Boreham, George Adamson and Rodney Elliott have all taken some excellent photographs, some of which have been reproduced in this and past reports. A photograph is worth far more than a stuffed trophy.

V—POACHING

Every African is a poacher and these days must be included even the Masai, who formerly lived in harmony with the wild beasts around him, killing only the odd lion that attacked his flocks and herds. In Kenya one recognizes no customary hunting rights, though certain sub-tribes, such as the Tharaka in Kitui, the Teita in Voi and the Wasanye in the Coast Province, not to mention the ubiquitous forest-dwelling Dorobo, are nearly all full-time hunters. Many people of all races do not regard offences against the Game Laws as involving any moral turpitude. Therefore, the officers of the Game Department have an arduous task in preserving the wild life of this country. However, they have the help of a large body of sympathetic opinion among the European public, as is proved by the great help rendered by the considerable body of Honorary Game Wardens. In addition, is gratefully acknowledged the active co-operation of many District Officers, Police, Forest and Veterinary Officers, many of whom ask to be made Honorary Game Wardens, even though already they possess adequate powers under the Ordinance. Special help of this nature is rendered in the Isiolo, Narok, Garissa, Marsabet and Kwale districts. It would probably be improper to mention names, but the gratitude of all lovers of wild life is due to certain officers in these areas especially.

Poaching must be stopped and, therefore, poachers must be prosecuted. These days Africans mainly hunt for profit. They do, of course, eat the meat of their victims, but that is incidental. Commercialization is what destroys wild life. Africans who hunted merely to fill their stomachs never made great inroads in the population of wild animals. Therefore, if wild life is to be preserved, and wild life is a trust for all mankind, African hunting for profit must be stopped. Africans are sportsmen in a sense, they will endure great hardship and take great risks, but their methods, the poisoned arrow, the snare and the pit, cause great suffering to the victims, who are so often taken at night when slaking their thirst at a water-hole. The price of trophies is very high, leopard skins fetch up to £20, the market price of ivory remains steady round about Sh. 20 per lb., and rhino horn fetches up to Sh. 70 per lb. There is always a ready sale for meat in towns and country. The profit from this trade is made by the Indian trader, who is very difficult to catch. The African is the one who gets caught, either in the act of hunting or in conveying the spoil by bus or train. The District Commissioner, Kipini, found a pile of ivory near the road at Garsen waiting to be picked up by a lorry to be taken to Mombasa. The police caught a motor-boat off Malindi loaded with ivory. A large gang in Kitui was followed by the Tribal Police,

Once again is acknowledged the excellent work performed by the East Africa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in scrutinizing the care and export of captive animals.

Appended below are figures showing the number of animals exported from Kenya during 1953 and 1954. Export to the United States of America, where quarantine regulations are very strict, has been held up, owing to lack of a satisfactory quarantine at Mombasa. The matter is being investigated by Government. During 1954, £1,826 capture fees were paid and, as normally considerable business is done with the United States of America, this export of wild animals earns dollars.

LIST OF ANIMALS CAPTURED AND EXPORTED TO ZOOS

Animal	1953	1954
Elephant	—	—
Buffalo	2	2
Rhino	—	—
Giraffe	28	67
Hippo	6	—
Lion	—	2
Leopard	—	2
Cheetah	10	9
Zebra	85	33
Hyrax	—	4
Serval cat	2	3
Lynx	—	2
Hartebeest	—	—
Wildebeest	—	—
Small buck	5	12
Oryx	10	4
Ostrich	60	73
Eland	—	—
Other large antelope	2	1
Colobus monkey	2	5
Bird	80	182
Bat-eared fox	—	—
Oribi	3	—
Blue monkey	6	1

IX—LEGISLATION

1. Ordinance No. 23 of 1953—This Ordinance amended sections 7, 13, 23 and 32 of Ordinance No. 18 of 1951, added a new section 41 (a) and reconstituted the Fourth Schedule.
2. Government Notice No. 298 of 9th February, 1953—Customs Management Ordinance of Kenya—the Restricted Imports (Steel Gin Traps) Ordinance, 1953.
3. Government Notice No. 723 of 8th May, 1954—Amendments of Second, Third and Fourth Schedules of Ordinance No. 18 of 1951.
4. Government Notice No. 724 of 8th May, 1954—The Wild Animals Protection (Prohibited Weapons and Missiles) (Amendment) Notice, 1954.
5. Government Notice No. 1518 of 19th October, 1954—The Wild Animals Protection (Garissa-Isiolo-Meru Controlled Areas) Notice, 1954.

6. Government Notice No. 1519 of 19th October, 1954—The Wild Animals Protection (Tana River (Kipini) District Controlled Area) Notice, 1954.
7. Government Notice No. 1520 of 19th October, 1954—The Wild Animals Protection (Close Seasons) (Amendment) Notice, 1954.
8. Government Notice No. 1521 of 19th October, 1954—Application of certain provisions of Ordinance No. 18 of 1951 to crocodiles in the Garissa and Tana River districts.

X—ANNUAL REPORTS OF GAME RANGERS

Reports of the following are appended:—

1. Major E. W. Temple-Boreham, M.C., Senior Game Ranger, Narok, for 1953.
2. G. A. G. Adamson, Senior Game Ranger, Isiolo, for 1954.
3. J. A. Hunter, Game Ranger, Makindu, for 1953 and 1954.
4. Capt. T. R. P. Salmon, Game Ranger, Kapenguria, for 1953.
5. F. G. Bartlett, Game Ranger, Kilifi and Nanyuki, for 1953 and 1954.
6. R. T. Elliott, Game Ranger, Narok-Kilifi-Nanyuki, for 1953 and 1954.
7. Lt.-Col. R. A. F. Hurt, D.S.O., Game Ranger, Rumuruti and Lamu, for 1953 and 1954.
8. Capt. D. R. P. Zaphiro, Game Ranger, Kajiado, for 1953 and 1954.
9. G. B. Harvey, Game Ranger, Isiolo and Kwale for 1953 and 1954.
10. S. H. Powles, Honorary Game Warden, Kitale, for 1953 and 1954.
11. R. W. Foster, Honorary Game Warden, Lamu, for 1954.
12. W. P. Keller, Honorary Game Warden, Konza, for 1953.

Major E. W. Temple-Boreham, M.C., Senior Game Ranger, Narok—Annual Report, 1953

GENERAL (STAFF)

The writer was released from operations with the Security Forces during the early part of February, 1953, having commanded a "special force" of Game Rangers, White Hunters and other selected Europeans, together with a number of Game Scouts and Trackers, for a period of four months. This force operated in the following areas: North and South Kinangop, Aberdares, Thomson's Falls, Rumuruti, Nyeri and Nanyuki.

The writer returned and took over this District on 14th February, 1953, from Mr. R. T. Elliott, Game Ranger, who proceeded to the Coast Province on duty, during the month of March, 1953.

During the year 1953, the writer accepted the appointment of Honorary Game Ranger in the Tanganyika Game Department, in order to assist with the control of native game poachers along the Kenya/Tanganyika border.

GENERAL (VISITORS—SHOOTING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC)

A total of 263 visitors came to hunt and photograph game in this district during the year 1953.

The following figures show the total number of visitors to this district since the writer took over the duties of Game Ranger, Narok, Masai District, in June, 1946.

	Visitors
1946 (June to December)	172
1947	323
1948	356
1949	401
1950	423
1951 (January to June)	182
1951 (July to December)	127
	} 309

N.B.—The district was made a Game Controlled Area as from July, 1951.

	Visitors
1952	302
1953	326

The month of August, 1953, proved to be a busy one as usual, with numerous *safari* shooting parties visiting the district.

Restrictions on the removal of game meat were strictly enforced, nevertheless, some parties seemed to indulge in rather senseless slaughter of a large number of animals. Stricter control may be necessary in future to stop slaughter, from which all element of sport is lacking.

GAME (GENERAL)

The year 1953 has been an extremely dry one, with only 9.64 inches of rain being recorded at the Game Department Headquarters at Uaso Nyiro, instead of the normal 20-25 inches.

There was no game migration on to the Loita Plains during the year, and most of the hoofed game had a very thin time, particularly the buffalo which were frequently seen during all hours of the day wandering across the open plains of the fly area in search of grass, reeds, etc., to keep them alive.

Lion.—These have now been protected in the fly area since 1st August, 1948. They continue to increase and several new litters of cubs were seen during the year. During this very dry year lion did extremely well by sitting on the available water supplies (in the fly area) thereby making their "kills" with little effort to themselves. Lion are still one of the greatest attraction to the numerous *safari* visitors that annually visit this district.

Leopard.—These have now been protected in the fly area since July, 1951. These attractive animals are responding well to their protection and continue to increase in the fly area. It is now possible to see three to four leopards during a week's *safari* in the fly area, although most of them are still nervous and do not always want to be photographed.

Cheetah.—Protected in the fly area since January, 1950. Now seen much more often in most parts of the fly area. A number of cheetah cubs were observed during the year.

Rhino.—Protected in the fly area since July, 1951. Now seen much more frequently, but being slow breeders it will take some considerable time before any marked increase is noticed in these "near prehistoric" and interesting animals. Unfortunately, Wandorobo poachers killed some of these animals with poisoned arrows during the year. (The poachers concerned were convicted and sentenced. See Game Poaching.)

Elephant.—Continue to increase and are frequently seen over most parts of the fly area. The two well-known large herds of cows and calves, numbering approximately 90 and 70 respectively, were often seen during the year in various parts of the fly country. They are still very fierce and the cows see off would-be photographers without any warning. Sportsmen are hereby warned.

A number of old bulls are often seen, mostly in the Mara river area. These make good photographic subjects. The largest bull shot in the area during the year by an American visitor was an 82 pounder.

A large and symmetrical pair of tusks, weighing 91 and 92 lb. respectively, were found in a patch of dense bush, a few miles from the Mara river. After careful investigation, it was considered that this elephant had died of old age. Wandorobo poachers killed seven elephants during the year. (The poachers concerned were convicted and sentenced. See Game Poaching.)

Hippo.—Protected throughout the whole of this district. During this very dry year hippo were seen much more frequently when in search of grazing, some a considerable distance from the Mara river and Lower Talek areas.

Buffalo.—This has been a lean year for the buffalo, as there was practically no grazing for them. However, although these animals became very thin, there was little mortality and they continue to hold their own. Large herds (the largest seen was estimated to be over 400) with numerous calves were to be seen out in the open in most parts of the fly country.

Eland.—The law prohibiting the shooting of female eland has greatly helped these lovely creatures to increase, and numerous calves were noticed during the year. Eland are still very timid in the district and consequently are difficult to photograph.

These animals were not affected by the drought so much as other "hoofed" game.

Roan.—Protected throughout Kenya since August, 1950. A number of new calves were noticed during the year, and these animals are increasing slowly, particularly in the Mara National Reserve, where it is now possible to obtain good photographs of them.

Common "Hoofed" Game.—Owing to the general lack of grazing these common game became very thin. Fewer zebra foals and wildebeest calves were seen this year. However, the topi calved well though much later than usual.

GAME (CONTROL)

Lion and Leopard.—The following number of known stock killers were shot by the writer during the period 1st March to 31st December, 1953:—

Lion	7
Leopard	4

Note.—One of the lions killed by the writer was a particularly fine-maned specimen in very good condition. This skin was carefully removed, salted, and sent with the skull to the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, as a gift. It is understood that this specimen is now being mounted complete, and will eventually appear in the new wing of the Museum.

It is known that a further nine lion and six leopard were killed by the Masai in defence of their stock.

their *bomas*. As a result several were prosecuted and all inhabitants cleared out of the eastern portion of the Somali leasehold area. To add to the discomfiture of the *Mau Mau* all huts and *bomas* throughout the Meru northern grazing area were fired. These were often used by gangs for shelter and concealment of their fires at night.

Late in August, as a result of repeated warnings from Meru of *Mau Mau* activities in Isiolo among the Kikuyu and Meru, it was decided to set up a Screening Centre. As there was no one else to do the job I agreed to take it on temporarily until a suitable officer could be found. Very soon it was discovered that there had been an active *Mau Mau* committee in being in Isiolo since 1952. Its Kikuyu and Meru members included many Government employees, traders and even some of the local prostitutes. In fact it is no exaggeration to say that probably at least 90 per cent of all Kikuyu, Meru and Embu in the Northern Province had taken one or more of the *Mau Mau* oaths. In a very short time the screening camp was full to capacity. Much to my relief, a competent officer was found who took over the camp early in September. In my opinion, the job of running a Screening Centre is one of the most necessary, thankless and unpleasant tasks imaginable. Anyone who carries it through deserves well of the community.

As a result of Emergency duty, my normal work had to be neglected and no doubt poachers have had an easy time, particularly in the remoter areas, such as the Kinna. Nevertheless, 20 persons were convicted of game offences during the year, including four Europeans. One of the cases, involving Europeans, was particularly unpleasant. Two young officers of the Kenya Police Reserve, using a Government vehicle at night, came on a herd of Impala a few miles out of Isiolo. One of these gentlemen opened fire with a Sten gun killing two does and wounding others. I am glad to say they were heavily punished, one receiving a fine of £150 and the other £105.

There were complaints of damage to crops by elephants and buffalo in the Meru district. Also it was alleged that elephants were becoming a menace to patrols. One can generate a little sympathy for the Meru natives. Had they not taken to *Mau Mau* it would not have been necessary to bomb the forests and disturb the elephants out of their haunts and normal control could have been carried out. I have every sympathy for the Security Forces, but on the other hand, if the elephants are a menace to patrols, they are an equal menace to the *Mau Mau*. Perhaps after the Emergency is over, it may leak out that many a terrorist plot has gone awry or been brought to naught by an elephant patrol.

The Emergency in this part of the country has not been without its value to the cause of game preservation. New motor tracks are being opened up through the Meru northern grazing area, which will be of great benefit in the future. Poaching by natives has virtually ceased in this area, as a result of the inhabitants being cleared out: animals have flocked in and had the chance to breed undisturbed. Already there is noticeable increase in the proportion of calves among the eland herds and similarly with other animals. Normally, it is the young animals which suffer most from the proximity of natives and their dogs.

Early in December I was on patrol to the east of the Shab Hills and crossing the plains, drove through a great herd of Grevy's zebra. There must have been between 800 and 900 of them and, in their midst, a herd of 60 eland. I have noticed similar concentrations in other years towards the end of the rains. Therefore, I humbly suggest that people who say that Grevy's zebra are becoming scarce, do not know what they are talking about. Also, it might do some of our "Jonas" good to see the Grant's gazelle on the plains. *Oryx beisa*, although more common than a couple of years ago, still need total protection, south of the

Wasso Nyiro river. Rhino are certainly more in evidence south of the river, since they were given total protection, but I think they still need another two years of grace. Every hunting *safari* which comes to the Northern Frontier District kills one or more rhinos in this area. As soon as parts of the Marsabit National Reserve are opened up to shooting, the rhino east of the Marsabit road and north of the Wasso should be given a rest.

Some time ago suggestions were put up that the one-mile strip south of the Wasso Nyiro, upstream from Archer's Post bridge, should be extended and its boundary made to follow the Buffalo Springs track which, after going round to the north of the Lengishu Hills, joins the Kipsing road a few miles west of the hills and from there follows the road to the Barsolonga Ford. While I had no objection to this proposal, I really cannot see the necessity for it. The original of the one-mile strip was not to create a small game reserve south of the river, but to protect the game which drinks from the south bank and to prevent the possibility of hunters disturbing animals which drink and live along the north bank. I cannot see that it matters a bit whether a sportsman kills an animal just inside or outside the strip, as long as the river is immune.

As soon as Isiolo was declared a Controlled Area it was generally agreed among interested people that bird shooting should cease from 1st December, as there was ample evidence of egg-laying among francolin and pairing among guinea fowl. Now, a month later, it appears that only a proportion of birds have bred this rainy season and then only in certain areas of the district. It is difficult to judge what is the best form of protection to give breeding birds. Either we have two short close seasons or make one long season in the long rains and ignore the short rains season. Also we have to think of the many keen bird shots who look forward to week-end shoots.

There was no control work carried out during the year except for one elephant which killed a Samburu employee of the abattoir at Archer's Post. When the incident occurred a Game Scout happened to be at the abattoir and, together with three police askaris, shot the elephant. Between them they fired off 70 rounds.

In November, a Land-Rover containing two locust officers collided with an elephant in Isiolo *boma*. Both Europeans were badly injured and the vehicle completely smashed. Examining the wreckage, it looked as if the elephant had sat on the bonnet of the car. It was a pure accident and neither the locust officers nor the elephant were to blame. The spoor of the elephant was followed for several miles, but he appeared to be none the worse for the mishap.

I should like to pay a tribute to my men. For the past six months they have been almost constantly on patrol. They have at all times shown the greatest keenness and never grumbled even under the most trying circumstances. The same remarks apply the Moyale Mounted Dubas, who are a fine lot of men with whom it has been a pleasure to work. Our score up to now is 11 *Mau Mau* killed and at least three known to have been wounded.

J. A. Hunter, Game Ranger, Makindu—Annual Report, 1953

From a game point of view 1953 was a year of mixed blessings for beasts, and for those who look after them. Nevertheless, there still remains a satisfactory balance on their credit side. Generally the southerly areas suffered badly from continuous drought, when wild beasts were hard put to find water to meet their needs.

Such circumstances set the poacher's mind agog, especially when they have oversold their reserve food supply, they are then unable to resist the sight of trader's money. Meat-hungry partisans betook themselves to sit over water-holes which wild animals were compelled to visit, and thereby often obtained a feast of meat.

It is hardly possible to realize the difficulty creatures have in their struggle to survive. In my area I reckon there are hundreds of bow and arrow artists who live by their skill, such is their insatiable greed for meat. Again, areas rich in fauna and undisturbed, get earmarked for *human* development, where native cattle-owners can graze their stock. Would we not all agree that God's beautiful wild creatures are balm to look upon, compared with scrawny domestic stock. Maybe I am fitful but what I have most in mind is the choice game areas in the Kiboko-Makindu triangle, where a grand show of game still exists outside the National Park, and I am proud to say it is on the increase. When I first took the area over, it was infested with vermin, hyenas, jackals and wild dogs rampant—these I managed to get rid of by gin traps and poison; the sequel was soon apparent, young antelopes, when born, were allowed to live, and were not torn asunder and eaten when dropped, resulting in strong herds present in the area to-day. Wild dogs, when too many, are the curse of wild life, especially of that graceful creature, the lesser kudu. These shy creatures succumb easily to wild dogs in pursuit, they become nonplussed, and are easy victims compared with most other animals. Packs of wild dogs should be controlled, as they are prolific breeders—they suddenly appear in the most unexpected areas. Then it is wise to check up on the herds of game known to one in that area; especially when they seem to disappear or diminish in numbers.

Herds of both elephant and rhino are many along the Athi River and on the Yatta Plateau; and a good show of game exists between Ikutha and the Yatta, where there is ample grazing. Though I do not wish to advertise the fact, from a shooter's point of view, the Yatta area has much to command it, for lesser kudu, lion, buffalo, rhino and elephant may be found here.

In the southerly area the military have returned to Mackinnon Road, which means week-end *safaris*, and as they are mostly done by motor units, they are difficult to keep a check on.

In the Maktau area, one of the worst native-poached areas in the past, conditions are brighter, wire nooses were gathered up to such an extent that even the malefactors became tired of setting them; at least the numbers found dwindled down to a mere few. During November, torrential rains fell over the whole area, upwards of 14 inches were recorded, consequently vegetation grew apace, and 1954 should prove an exceptional year for game birds. For some reason lions in the Athi area are few, maybe crocodiles in the river are partly responsible, taking toll of them as they drink at the Athi during the dry season, but lions have also been known to kill and eat crocodiles in their turn.

To my knowledge, 150 crocodiles were killed on this stretch of the Athi during the past year, evidently a profitable way of making money. Incidentally a large alsatian dog, which had taken to hunting and killing water buck on the Kiboko stream, was taken by a crocodile whilst in the act. The crocodile pulled the dog under the reedy bank, where it was drowned in a few minutes.

Rhinos are still to be seen in the open grassland in the Makindu Triangle, also a grand lot of fringe-eared oryx, which are steadily increasing. A lioness stalked a herd of these fine creatures but, when faced by a row of rapier-like horns, she thought better of it and, using her discretion, walked away from the scene,

looking round to see that she was not being followed. A colony of marabout storks nested in a tall tree some five miles from Makindu, on Crown land. I counted 14 nests altogether, withered grass seems to be used largely in making the nests. The young appeared to be partly fledged at the beginning of November, when they looked woolly and white.

Nearby is a permanent water hole, which during past years has been the mecca of the poaching fraternity, game trails from several directions lead to it and time and again, I have had the 'poachers' hides destroyed: but as soon as I left Makindu, they would be rebuilt. However, after I had captured some of them by night, they changed their minds, and now the game have it to themselves.

Much of the Crown land near the Makindu stream (south bank) was denuded of the fine acacia trees, which in the past afforded excellent shelter for wild animals and conserved water. Owners of nearby farms cut them for burning lime; I maintained that they had no right to do so, and took up the matter with the District Commissioner, Machakos, and the District Officer, Makweni; but I am afraid the cutting still continues.

On the whole, prospects for the new year are bright, indeed pleasing: but I do hope preservation can be maintained in the wonderful game areas between the Makindu and Kiboko Rivers.

NOTES ON THE EMERGENCY

Small numbers of *Mau Mau* adherents infiltrated to the Makindu Simba-Emali areas. When requested by the police, Sultan Hamud, Game Scouts and I rendered all possible assistance. Mr. Noel Hardy, District Officer, Machakos, very efficiently administered this area. When the Kamba-Masai clash occurred in October, the Game Scouts helped whenever called upon.

J. A. Hunter, Game Ranger, Makindu—Annual Report, 1954

From a fauna point of view the year 1954 has on the whole been a satisfactory one, especially does this apply to that favoured game area situated between Simba and the Makindu watershed.

Here, elephant, rhinos and buffaloes, etc., have not been compelled by interference to lie up by daytime in heavy thorn thicket, but rather wander about in the semi-open plainland. The Game Warden and myself one morning counted 14 rhinos just lolling about in the open.

Two years or so ago, elephants were seldom seen or heard, but they have now settled down in considerable numbers, where they find growth to their liking and absence of taint from their persecutors, mankind.

Numbers of lesser kudu have become a feature in the same area and are on the increase. The direct scourge of these handsome antelope is the presence of wild dog, these pests, for such they are, constitute a grave menace and, in a relatively short time, can deplete antelope numbers to an alarming extent. In my opinion, these cruel creatures should be outlawed and their numbers thinned down as far as possible. The balance of nature can be misleading and may be quoted in their favour, but it would appear to me that this "balance" was upset years ago: what hope is there now of re-establishment?

It is interesting to note the ranges of the commoner game creatures, wildebeest, for example, venture as far south as the Kiboko stream, which they do not cross, while Thomson's gazelle are seen only as far as the Makindu watershed. Near the lava belt in the Makindu Triangle, I have seen the outcome of two "royal" battles between bull rhinos, in each instance, one of the pair succumbed to the goring attack of the other.

Game Scouts Ellan and Paringiro, before it was eventually killed. Both scouts received bites and claw wounds on their arms and legs; but after a period in hospital, both have made a complete recovery. Another leopard was killed by the Forest Officer at Maralal, and seven were killed by farmers. (Six in Laikipia and one in Naivasha district.)

(b) *Crown Land*.—The Crown Land in the writer's area consists of the Forest Reserves (of which the largest is the Aberdares), and the Samburu Native Reserve in the Maralal district.

At present it is not easy to assess what effects the operations in the Aberdares have had on the game animals, because whilst the Army has been operating there, the area has been closed to the Security Forces. It is thought that movements of troops, bombing and mortaring has certainly disturbed the elephants, and has tended to drive them lower down than usual, though buffaloes and rhinos appear to have been less affected. Reports have been received that at least one elephant was killed for meat by a *Mau Mau* gang in the Forest Reserve above North Kinangop. It is also difficult to estimate the number of animals that may have been wounded by the bombing, but first-hand information has been received that a bull buffalo was recently found suffering from bomb wounds by a patrol of the Kenya Regiment; this patrol put the animal out of its misery.

Captain A. T. Ritchie, in his introduction to "Hunter" by J. A. Hunter, has stated that "Game Control is an essential corollary of Game Preservation". This remark certainly applies to the Samburu Native Reserve as much as to the Settled Areas. In August, the District Commissioner, Maralal, stated that 16 Samburu had been killed by game animals during the year, practically all in the area of the Kenya National Reserve, and he had requested that more effective control measures should be carried out.

The writer feels most strongly that unless adequate control measures are imposed both by the Kenya National Parks and by the Game Department, that the future of the wild animals in this Native Reserve is at stake. With a view to preventing such a catastrophe, the writer met Captain M. Moore, V.C., of the Kenya National Parks at Maralal in August, and discussed with him the ways and means of improving the existing control measures. It was agreed that, where urgent necessity arose, we should mutually assist each other by improving control measures in each other's sphere of influence on the Lerogi Plateau. In implementation of this agreement, the writer shot, in September, two rogue buffaloes, which were lying up near the Somali *duka* at Lodogojec in the National Reserve. These buffaloes charged all who came near them, and had so terrorized a road gang of Turkana labourers, that they refused to work. After being shot, one of the buffaloes was found to have a diseased eye; this same buffalo, which was reputed to have killed two Samburu, was easily recognized by a white patch over its left eye, where it had been rubbing the afflicted organ. The other buffalo was recognized by a white patch on its right rump.

The District Commissioner, Maralal, also pointed out that game animals, such as zebra, were having an adverse effect on his Grazing Control Scheme. This scheme was introduced in 1950 with the idea of closing and opening certain areas in rotation. This system was not readily accepted by the Samburu, who complained, not without reason, that when one area was closed to their cattle, large numbers of game animals moved in and destroyed the grazing. Owing to the time spent on Emergency operations, no action could be taken in reducing the number of zebra on Lerogi Plateau this year, but it is a problem which will have to be faced in the future.

The following animals were also killed on Crown Land in the Maralal district:—

- 1 small bull elephant, which had broken a leg. (Natural causes.)
- 1 lion, which was killing Turkana stock (chiefly camels) at Baragoi.
- 1 lioness, which was killing Samburu cattle at Ngare Narok.
- 1 bull buffalo, which was chasing Veterinary Department cattle at Kilele, near Kirimon. This buffalo also had a diseased eye.
- 10 buffaloes, which were fouling the water and bringing tsetse fly on to Crown land leased by Mr. Tomlinson from the Veterinary Department at Kirimon.

SAFARI PARTIES

Owing to the Emergency, practically no *safari* parties visited Maralal district during the year. In February, Mr. A. Rothschild of Nairobi, shot a small bull rhino on licence at the Ngare Narok.

Mr. F. G. Seed, Agricultural Officer, Maralal, shot an elephant on licence in September, with tusks weighing 56 and 57 lb., and his wife shot another elephant on licence with tusks weighing 69 and 70 lb., in October.

OTHER MATTERS

(a) *Duck Shooting, Naivasha*.—The opening of the duck shooting season at Naivasha was postponed till 8th February, due to the Emergency. Owing to the drought, the lake was very low and the duck were present in small numbers only. No spectacular bags were made. The season was prematurely closed on 27th March, by order of the Director of Operations, in consequence of the raid on Naivasha Police Station on 26th March. Owing to the presence of *Mau Mau* gangs in the Nairobi area it was decided not to open the shooting for the season 1953-54.

(b) *Dogs*.—Dogs have again proved their worth in dealing with buffaloes and bush pigs. Owing to the reduced amount of control work due to the Emergency operations, difficulty has been experienced in feeding the dogs, and good quality posho has had to be purchased at considerable expense to the Department. For this reason no effort has been made to replace casualties, and the pack is now reduced to 12 dogs.

(c) *Diseases amongst wild animals*.—No disease has been observed amongst wild animals during the year.

Lt.-Col. R. A. Hurt, D.S.O., Game Ranger, Rumuruti and Lamu—Annual Report, 1954

KAMPI-YA-SIMBA 1ST JANUARY-15TH JUNE, 1954

GENERAL REMARKS

During the first half of the year, the Game Department staff at Kampi-ya-Simba continued to combine police work with their normal departmental duties.

In 1953, it had been found that the combining of these two duties had resulted in neither being done entirely satisfactorily, and the writer therefore asked the Local Emergency Committee to decide which task should be given priority. It was ruled that only full-time police duties should be performed by the Game Department staff at Kampi-ya-Simba. This was obviously sound in theory, but in practice it was found impossible to disregard the constant requests made by settlers for control measures to be taken against marauding animals, particularly when the majority of the settlers had placed their rifles in police stations for safe custody, and were, therefore, unable to carry out these control measures themselves. Moreover, it was difficult to refuse assistance at times when *Mau Mau* gangsters were not particularly active. In spite of the above ruling, therefore, it was necessary to continue performing both tasks as in previous years.

On 15th June, 1954, the writer went on long leave to England, and during his absence, and until Mr. Rodney Elliott took over as Game Ranger at Kampi-ya-Simba in November, 1954, the administration and supervision of the activities of the Game Scouts was undertaken by Mr. David Partridge, Honorary Game Warden, Rumuruti, who performed this task with praiseworthy energy and ability.

MAU MAU OPERATIONS

During the early part of the year there was very little *Mau Mau* activity in Laikipia district. The majority of the gangsters appear to have been driven out of the district towards the end of 1953; those that remained, consisted mostly of small splinter groups, which were chiefly concerned with feeding themselves. To counter this, constant patrolling had to be carried out, with results that mainly proved wearisome and unproductive. Footmarks were frequently found on these patrols but the gangsters had adopted the tactics of concealing their tracks and moving long distances over a wide area, which made it difficult to contact or supervise them. Although the results obtained during this period were mainly negative, there is every reason to believe that the patrolling helped to prevent any large-scale gang activity.

During this period, two gangsters were captured and two others were killed by Game Department patrols.

It is of interest to record that the 7.92 mm. rifle which was stolen from the Game Scout who was murdered by *Mau Mau* at Naivasha in July, 1953, was recovered by the police from a gangster in North Kinangop in April, 1954. At the same time it was established that "General" Kago's gang had committed the murders of the two Scouts.

RECRUITMENT OF TRACKERS FOR THE ARMY

From 20th to 28th January the writer went to Tambach and Kericho with a team of Game Scouts for the purpose of enlisting African trackers for the Army. Before being enlisted all the applicants were tested in their ability to track, after which they were sent to the Tracker's School at Nanyuki for further testing and training, before being drafted to Army units. As the District Commissioners had been given previous warning there were a good number of applicants in both Tambach and Kericho districts, 21 Marakwet and 19 Kipsigis being chosen from each district respectively.

Another recruiting trip for trackers was made to Baragoi by the writer early in February, but the response by the Wandorobo from the Nyero and Ndoto Ranges was poor, and only 10 were enlisted.

GAME CONTROL

As a result of the police duties, which had to be undertaken, only game control of the most urgent nature could be carried out, and this was confined almost entirely to the settled areas in the Laikipia district.

Early in January, Mr. Tomlinson of Rumuruti reported that buffaloes were bringing tsetse fly into the grazing area which he was leasing from the Veterinary Department at Kirimon and that he had lost over 10 head of cattle from "fly" and that others were sick. The writer went to Kirimon without delay, and found a large number of buffaloes in the area. These were hunted with dogs, and 16 buffaloes were killed in two days. This apparently heavy slaughter was necessary, because the buffaloes showed no inclination to move away from the area, until this number had been killed. This operation was hardly completed before the writer and his Game Scouts were called away at short notice to enlist trackers for the Army, and had a more lenient course of action been taken, the task would not have been completed satisfactorily in the time available.

During February and March the level of the lake at Naivasha fell steadily, and in consequence the hippos evidently suffered from a lack of natural food, because there were numerous complaints about their depredations from farms all round the lake. It was, however, not possible to take any action regarding this, because the District Commissioner, Naivasha was not in favour of any shooting taking place at night.

During March, three elephants visited the farm of Major Tom Mills at Rumuruti. This is the first time that elephants have visited this farm for over 20 years; possibly the unusually severe drought had forced them farther afield in search of grazing. After a few days, two of the elephants moved away, but the one which remained became a potential danger to vehicles and a very real danger to nervous motorists who were returning late from Rumuruti, some of whom were not able to believe their eyes. As this elephant was not full grown, Mr. Carr-Hartley examined the possibility of capturing it, but it was found to be too large, and it eventually moved away when the rains came at the end of March.

During March, Mr. David Icely of Ol Arabel Valley found a full grown rhino dead in a snare, in the forest behind his farm. The snare was made of three twisted strands of fencing wire, death must have taken place almost immediately, because no signs of struggling were seen. It would appear that on being caught in the snare, the rhino must have run backwards and broken its neck. It is most unusual for so large an animal to be killed so quickly in this manner. Unfortunately, the person responsible for setting the snare was not discovered.

In April, a rhino in Marmanet Forest seriously interfered with the work of Marmanet Saw Mill by continuously knocking over the wooden water flume which carried water to the steam engine; each time this happened the mill was closed for half a day while repairs were being effected. It was decided that the rhino must be destroyed, and he was followed up and killed after a hunt which lasted nearly seven hours. He was an old bull with a very thick horn, 24 in. in length.

During the same month, there was more trouble at Mr. Tomlinson's cattle ranch. Not only were lions killing stock, but the herdsmen refused to take cattle to one part of the farm owing to the presence of rhinos and buffaloes. Control measures were undertaken by the Department, and one lioness, two buffaloes and one rhino were shot.

Early in May, Major W. G. Edwards reported that buffaloes were bringing tsetse fly on to his estate at Sosian, which was causing sickness among his cattle. Buffaloes were found in large numbers, and 12 were shot before the remainder would move away. The Sosian Estate is close to Kirimon, and it is probable that these were the same herds as those dealt with at Kirimon earlier in the year.

At the request of Mr. J. A. Seys, two Wakamba and one Turkhana Game Scouts were sent to deal with the baboons which were destroying his maize from Menegai Crater. Unfortunately, before their campaign had been carried to a successful conclusion, the Scouts were mistaken for a gang of *Mau Mau*. Grenades were dropped on them by a spotter aircraft (fortunately, without effect) and they were arrested by ground forces and taken to Dundori for screening, where they remained in custody for 10 days before the writer heard of their predicament and was able to obtain their release. Such are the troubles of the Game Department when trying to carry out its normal function in a State of Emergency.

The ivory registers of the districts show the following figures:—

	LAMU		KIPINI		GARISSA		TOTAL	
	No. of Tusks	Weight in lb.	No. of Tusks	Weight in lb.	No. of Tusks	Weight in lb.	No. of Tusks	Weight in lb.
Handed in ..	38	545½	230	4,642	154	4,714	422	9,901½
Confiscated ..	4	33	—	—	—	—	4	33
SHOT ON CONTROL								
Game Dept. ..	80	849½	75	1,921	—	—	155	2,770½
Mr. Foster ..	50	587½	—	—	—	—	50	587½
Mr. C. Hartley ..	30	241	142	1,616½	—	—	172	1,857½
TOTAL ..	202	2,256½	447	8,179½	154	4,714	803	15,150

N.B.—The tusks of only 25 of the elephants shot by Mr. Foster had been received by the end of the year. It will be observed that the average weight of tusks from Lamu district is only just over 10 lb. whilst that of Kipini is nearly 20 lb.

BABOON CONTROL

Apart from elephants, baboons are the only other animals which cause serious damage to agriculture in this area. Four Game Scouts have been employed on poisoning baboons throughout the year, chiefly along the Tana River.

In Lamu and Kipini districts a bounty is paid on all baboon tails handed in; this has encouraged the agriculturists to practise self-help, and has also helped to reduce the number of baboons. The bounty originally paid in both districts was Sh. 2 per tail, but in Lamu District this was reduced to Sh. 1 per tail with effect from 1st November, as funds were running low. The scheme is working very satisfactorily.

CONTROLLED AREAS

As from 19th October, 1954, both Garissa and Kipini districts became controlled areas. This means that a permit issued by the District Commissioner concerned, must be taken out by all licence holders shooting any game animal or bird in these districts. At the same time, the crocodile becomes a game animal in these districts which means that it cannot legally be shot at night or trapped.

Capt. D. R. P. Zaphiro, Game Ranger, Kajiado—Annual Report, 1953

KAJIADO CONTROLLED AREA.

By the beginning of the year the Kajiado Controlled Area had become an established favourite amongst the week-end hunters. Within an easy hundred miles of Nairobi it offers, apart from its accessibility, a variety of shooting, comprising all the plains game, one or two of the rarer species, such as gerenuk and oryx, and above all, bird shooting at Selengai which is one of the finest shoots in the Colony.

Unfortunately, the public have not yet shown any inclination to explore the district for new areas, and have relied almost entirely on the routine trips to Konza and Selengai. Only the Asian community have shown a preference for striking out into new fields and, in this connexion, the country beyond Teroka has proved popular amongst the more adventurous spirits who prefer to combine the exploration of a virtually unknown country with their hunting.

But Selengai has continued to be the main attraction and out of 130 parties who entered the district during the year, approximately 70 visited the water holes. Accordingly, it seems unlikely, even after the end of Emergency, that this Controlled Area will ever prove popular with big game safaris, since it is too easily out-classed by the Narok and Northern Frontier Districts. However, it will doubtless take its place—even if a subservient one—in the general organization which offers opportunities to the “game minded” to hunt and photograph wild game in the Colony: and from the point of view of game conservation in the district, it is already proving itself vastly preferable to its previous status as a Game Reserve.

SAFARI PARTIES

One hundred and thirty safari parties entered the district to photograph and hunt game during the year. The following figures will show approximately the amount of hunting that took place during the year.

Wildebeeste	23
Impala	19
Zebra	17
Thomson's gazelle	89
Grant's gazelle	20
Coke's hartebeeste	31
Eland	5
Gerenuk	5
Reedbuck	3
Oryx	2
Steinbuck	1
Lion	4
Leopard	1

It is interesting to note from these figures that nearly four times as many Thomson's gazelle were shot than any other species of animals. This gives an indication of the sort of hunter who enters the Controlled Area and his requirements. The Thomson's gazelle is the most accessible animal in the district, and can nearly always be found near a motor track or a road. The week-end hunter is not interested in trophies so much as in knocking down an animal to eat. Hartebeeste, Grant, wildebeeste and impala are the next most readily available species, which come next on the list in that order. The remaining species, which require some skill as a hunter to kill, come at the bottom of the list, and were shot in relatively small numbers. The following number of birds were shot at Selengai during the year:—

Sand grouse	527
Guinea fowl	399
Spurfowl	172

There has been no deterioration in the number of birds at Selengai, which shows that the decision to limit the bag in any one visit was a wise precaution. The only noticeable change is in the behaviour of the birds. Guinea fowl will start running at 400 yards, and there is a very definite sense of urgency in the manner in which the sand grouse flight in. A far longer time seems to be given to flying round, as though the birds were reluctant to be the first to come down to the water and, when they finally do come, they mill around high in the air until several thousand birds have congregated, and then they all drop in at the same time, drink hurriedly and fly straight off.

Mr. Ernest Hemingway, the American author, chose the Kajiado district for his photographic *safari*, and was sufficiently impressed to remain on for five months, studying the game and local Masai. He was lucky enough to be in the district when conditions, owing to the drought, were most suitable for viewing wild animals, and he was able to obtain all the photographs he needed for his article in less than a month. During the *safari* he generously placed his plane at my disposal, and I had a magnificent opportunity to fly over inaccessible areas of the district, which led to the discovery of large pockets of game, whose existence was unexpected. The use of an aeroplane for making game surveys is invaluable, as the ground that can be covered by an aeroplane in one day precludes any possibility of counting the same herd of animals more than once, in a different area. I was disappointed to find that I must often have been doing this, and I have had to alter drastically my previous views of game population in the region.

The following fees were handed over to the L.N.C. from the sale of Controlled Area Permits during 1953:—

	<i>Sh.</i>
January	120
February	140
March	135
April	260
May	160
June	305
July	300
August	360
September	230
October	120
November	40
December	130
	Sh. 2,300

Over Sh. 1,000 is still outstanding owing to the late returns in December.

These fees were used to compensate the Masai for any depredations made by game in their reserve. In one case, where a man was killed by a lion, his relatives were paid Sh. 1,000 compensation from this fund.

GAME CONTROL

Owing to the protracted drought and the exodus from the plains of the plains game, and with them the lions, relatively few applications for help were received from the Masai during the year. Where lions proved to be a constant menace, they were put down by the Game staff.

One leopard at Teroka has caused intermittent havoc amongst the sheep, but has so far skilfully avoided extermination. In most cases where the Masai were able to prove damage, the animals were condemned and executed with the minimum delay. My encouragement to the Moran to deal with lion in the best traditions of their tribe has met with considerable success, and at least five organized and controlled spear hunts took place during the year without any loss of life, and with the death of the quarry. Because spear hunts are dangerous and only embarked upon under considerable pressure from the elders, it is only the guilty lion that gets killed.

Elephant caused damage in the Loitokitok area, and throughout the year much time was spent chasing them out of the *shambas* at night. But although four elephants were killed, nothing more than temporary relief was afforded; so the decision to allow the public to shoot elephant in the district was finally made.

Rhino gave very little trouble, and only two, which had developed a taste for maize and attacked anyone who tried to interfere with them, were killed. Several requests were made for hyena control in the Mashuru area, and in all 57 were poisoned by the Game staff.

GAME SHOT ON CONTROL—1953

Elephant	4
Rhino	2
Leopard	2
Lion	5
Wildebeeste	19
Kongoni	4
Zebra	21
Hyena	57

The plains game were shot in keeping the two school dairy farms free from wild animals, in accordance with the wishes of the Administration.

NATURE NOTES

Perhaps the most interesting event of the year was an encounter I witnessed between a baboon and a young Grant's gazelle. I am a little diffident in placing on paper, for obvious reasons, this incident, but I consider nevertheless that it should be recorded, since to my knowledge no similar incident has ever been mentioned before.

I was driving in my Land-Rover in the Kimana Swamp in July, when I surprised a troop of baboon feeding out in the open. As soon as they saw the vehicle they made a concerted rush towards the nearest trees. The heavy old male in charge of the troop was more reluctant to retire than the others, and turned now and then to bark a warning. Being interested in witnessing to what lengths he would carry his resentment, I drove slowly towards him. At the last moment he gave way and loped after the rest of the troop, which had already reached cover. His path took him through a small herd of Grant grazing unconcernedly nearby. One of these animals, an immature specimen, had its back turned and failed to move away with the others. As he drew close to it, the baboon suddenly changed direction and with an unbelievably swift increase of pace leapt upon its hindquarters. The weight of the heavy body took the young buck completely by surprise, and pinned its haunches to the ground. It made several unavailing efforts to regain its feet, but succeeded only in dragging its unwelcome rider a few feet along the ground.

I watched with interest, hoping to see the old legend of a baboon tearing a buck to pieces and eating it, enacted before my eyes. But to my surprise the baboon then clutched the animal's shoulders with his hands, and taking a firm hold of the skin over the spine with his teeth, started to make very definite copulatory actions. This eventually had the effect of releasing some of his weight from the animal's hindquarters, and in a flash the animal regained its feet, and tried to break away. The baboon just had time to catch hold of a back leg and bite it savagely, before a powerful kick won the young buck its freedom. The baboon sat for a while attending to himself. Then, catching sight of my car—which he had apparently forgotten—he gave a last defiant bark, and made off after his family.

It is interesting to note that antelopes of various species are often seen grazing amongst troops of baboons on whose intelligence, quick-wittedness and keen eyesight, they appear to rely for protection. During the encounter the buck did not appear to be terror-stricken. Its struggles were obviously directed at

From September until Christmas, elephants were quite exceptionally troublesome in damaging maize along the forest fringe. Both Mr. Welch and myself have been out many times—usually the elephants have moved on, but a few were shot; one was also shot by a Game Scout from Kapenguria. I am quite satisfied in my own mind that an ordinary five-strand barbed wire cattle fence, if not allowed to become overgrown with creepers, will keep out the Elgon elephant. I have had numerous instances of this during the last few years. The most difficult problem is that of the forest squatter *shambas*. I think thunder-flashes should be supplied for this job and shooting only resorted to when the elephants begin to ignore the noise of the thunder-flashes. Leopards are on the increase and they are causing damage to farm stock. In April, my sons and I shot a stock-killing lion in the middle of the Kitale Plains, a most unusual place to find one.

In general, it can be said that in the Mount Elgon Forest area, elephant are definitely on the increase and soon there may be too many; lion and leopard are also on the increase, but all edible animals, particularly buffalo, water buck and bush buck, are becoming fewer and fewer. The number of buffalo is now smaller than after the big rinderpest outbreak in 1926.

Game Scouts Sindoi arap Kipsambe and Chebrot arap Kibet have continued to be employed under me during the past year. Chebrot's work has been exceptionally good. During August and September, when there was a *Mau Mau* scare, these Scouts were used almost entirely on security work; on one occasion some Kikuyus tried to take a Scout's rifle, but failed. Useful information, mostly negative, was obtained. Both Scouts now have their rifles.

The following convictions were obtained:—

6th February, 1953		
One African caught with long net	3 months or Sh. 400.	
One African caught with long net	3 months or Sh. 400.	
31st March, 1953		
One African caught with a snare	1 month or Sh. 50.	
30th April, 1953		
One African caught killing buffalo and in possession of meat	6 months.	
One African caught killing buffalo and in possession of meat	6 months.	
One African caught in possession of buffalo meat	2 months.	
One African caught in possession of buffalo meat	2 months.	
One African with no pass	Finced Sh. 20.	
One African—escaped—his <i>bibi</i> found in possession of buffalo meat—imprisoned	1 month.	
5th May, 1953		
One African found in possession of buffalo meat	2 months.	

On 1st December, Mr. Welch and I, when out on elephant control, found a spurfowl sitting on five eggs.

S. H. Powles, Honorary Game Warden, Kitale—Annual Report, 1954

I was away from mid-May until the end of September, 1954, but both during that time and while I was here, the year seems to have been a quieter one than usual

It is noticeable as one motors round the Trans Nzoia, that oribi and reed-buck are increasing. I think this is due to calling in of all arms from Africans and most of those from Europeans. There is a deplorable decrease in the number of wild fowl.

In April, a *Mau Mau* gang made its appearance on Mount Elgon and the Game Scouts spent a great deal of time trying to track it, but without success. Police have made many sorties into the forest area. This and an active Forest Officer have reduced the organized hunting of buffalo by gangs from Uganda. One poacher was fired at and wounded, which has had a most salutary effect.

Elephant have not, I think, been as troublesome as in the previous year, but I understand that Mr. Welch has had to shoot three or four. Leopard are undoubtedly increasing and have in some cases taken to cattle killing.

Part of the Mount Elgon Forest Area has recently been declared a Nature Reserve and is, therefore, closed to all hunting.

The Game Scouts, Sindoi arap Kipsambe and Chebrot arap Kibet have worked reasonably well.

The following convictions were obtained:—

Paulo Mambo.—Snaring game in forest. Four months and his dogs shot. Chebrot's case.

Nabashushu.—Trapping hyrax. Sixteen strokes. Chebrot's case.

Chemwani.—Snaring game. Fine Sh. 100. Chebrot's case.

R. W. Foster, Honorary Game Warden, Lamu—Annual Report, 1954

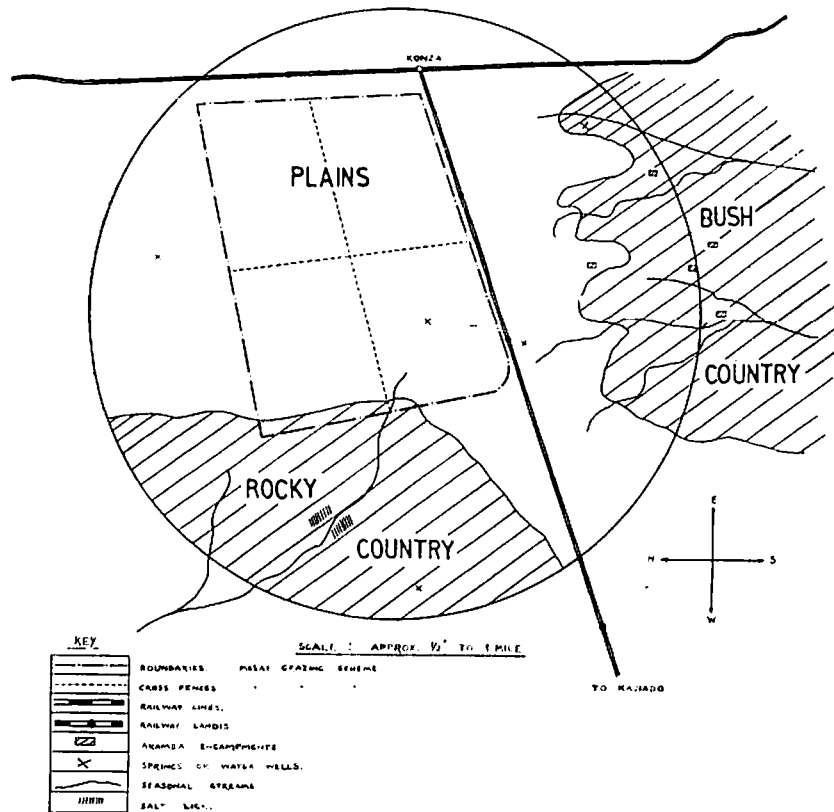
From Kiunga I went out to Mkondone only to find the rain there had chased most of the elephants up into the Northern Frontier District, and I was only able to obtain two in consequence. From Mkondone I returned to Mararani, thence to Dogole, Ukumbuu and Mvundini, but drew a complete blank as no elephants had returned to those areas.

I moved to Mangai, where I found conditions very similar to those in the Kiunga district, i.e. extremely thick bush and water all over the place, but managed to bag 11 before they eventually moved out, nine of them being shot at night by torchlight. The direction taken by those that cleared off was also in the direction of the Northern Frontier district, and although I followed them for 10 miles beyond Mangai village, I did not come up with them again. These 11 were shot between Mangai and Mwazi on a low range of hills the locals call Sikwano. Between those hills and the Dudori river and creek is an open patch of country about four or five miles long and about half a mile wide, which simply abounds with topi and oribi, and I must have seen 1,000 topi in one day. They are very tame and I found no difficulty in arriving up to within 30 yards of them and photographing them. Lions seem to be fairly numerous, as not a night passed without hearing their choruses from all directions. Several of them fed on the dead elephants and resented my approach, when I was going out on my nightly patrol.

There is no running water in the Dudori river, but there are a series of very large pools in which I found the best tilapia fishing I have yet seen, with the result I lived on fish for nearly a fortnight, they were so delicious. These fish are never touched, except by the odd fish eagle, as the local natives do not eat fish. There are many mud fish in the pools as well, but if the tilapia are rising the mud fish have no hope of touching your bait. The topi love the salt water creek and one can see them any day bathing in it.

From Mangai I came to Milimani, but finding no elephants there, proceeded to Majengo or Duldul, to find there were none there either, and now I am at Bungone. Here there were reports of large numbers of elephants, but they had obviously got the news that I was arriving, as there were practically none to be seen when I went out to hunt them. There had certainly been large numbers of them here a week before I arrived, but the thunderstorms round about must have moved them. On two successive mornings I got up to within 30 or 40 yards of some, but the wind gave me away on both occasions, and I did not get a shot.

W. P. Keller, Honorary Game Warden, Konza Area—Annual Report, 1953
GAME MAP OF THE KONZA AREA



The above is a rough sketch map showing the area (approximately 100 square miles) in which the writer has endeavoured to effect proper game control during the past twelve months

The concentration of poaching elements in and around this area may be seen at a glance. These, combined with many other duties and interest, have prevented as thorough control as might be desired.

The pages which follow summarize the game aspect for the year.

SUMMARY

Poaching.—This was practised both extensively and fearlessly at the time of my arrival a year ago. Some hunters being so bold as to lie up at a spring within a mile of the house and kill no less than 10 wildebeeste.

Since then, the following number of raids, apprehensions, convictions and seizure of contraband have taken place:—

Raids on landies	17
Raids on settlements	9
Apprehensions	28
Convictions	21
Bows seized or destroyed	36
Quivers seized or destroyed	30
Hides seized or destroyed	44
Arrows seized or destroyed	460

This, combined with a recent whole-hearted degree of support, both from the Administration and the Railway authorities, both of whom were previously indifferent to our efforts, has resulted in a great reduction of poaching in the area, where in fact this profession can be not only very expensive, but highly dangerous, as a good many Akamba have already learned.

Hunting.—Hunting is for the most part light. One persistent Asian offender has been brought to book.

The Masai.—By continuous and emphatic talks on the folly of encouraging Akamba hunters to infiltrate their country the Masai are gradually assuming a different attitude to this problem than formerly.

The Scheme.—No pretence is made that an attempt to drive all game from the area is desirable. Rather game is viewed as an asset equal to livestock, when properly husbanded and harvested.

GAME

General.—The first year spent in this area enabled the writer to familiarize himself with the major types of wild life; their grazing or feeding habits; their general movements; localization of species; and normal pattern of behaviour.

Much of this has been done in an attempt to ascertain the extent and influence which competition from domestic stock is having upon their environment. Particularly as this affects the ecological associations of grasses and herbage upon which game depend.

The same has been done in the case of trying to interpret the impact of tremendous poaching pressure in certain years, and the intrusion of hunters into the area.

To this end it has been necessary to familiarize oneself with the various soil types, vegetation cover, and natural water supplies of the region.

All of this, it must be borne in mind, has been attempted in an area from which, prior to my arrival, it was the avowed intention of all concerned to eliminate game entirely. In a word, the entire approach to the game problem has been diametrically reversed from one of dissipation to conservation.

Most of the observations and comments made in this paper are based purely on first-hand observations. I could not give more time to ascertaining exact populations by counts or movements of specific individuals by marking.

It is not suggested that the area under control constitutes a game or wildlife sanctuary, as such. Rather, it is an experimental region in which the reactions of wild life to a changing environment can be observed fairly accurately, while at the same time, as many disturbing outside influences are controlled as is practicable under the circumstances.

Elephant.—Although no elephant have actually been seen on the scheme during my residence here, they have been observed in the bush approximately five miles to the south. Two weeks prior to my arrival in March, 1953, a herd actually crossed half-way over the scheme, drained the watering troughs in the centre, filled them up with grass, debris, whistling thorn and vegetable matter, then retired again across the treeless plains to the bushland in the south. These migrations are made only during the rains, and it would appear that this is roughly the northern extremity of herds based on Selengai.

Rhino.—These animals are comparatively common on the scheme. In fact, they have now been observed mating within two miles of the house. Their movements taken on a circular pattern: from the bush out over rocky country, swinging out on to the plains and back into the bush again, each circuit covering a period of weeks. I have watched them, in the rocky areas, rooting out with their horns succulents which they appear to consume in large quantities, both as a source of moisture and as a purgative.

The exceedingly short, sharp horns of all specimens watched, lead me to believe they are continually reduced in size by this excessive digging. All the animals have always appeared fat and exceedingly well filled out, which indicates an abundance of natural feed is available.

Lions.—This once notoriously famous lion country still boasts of a few individuals. During the rains their grunts are commonly heard during the early morning hours. Generally they sound well fed, and are on their way back from the green plains to the bush country, where they retire for the day.

Their kills have comprised Masai cattle, zebra, eland, wildebeeste and kongoni. Their preference in this district being apparently eland, of which a considerable number have been killed. All of those observed have been young, or immature individuals and their tracks bear this out. It is not certain where the adults live nor whether these young ones are moving into the area with the return of a fairly substantial and stabilized population of plains game.

Leopard.—Only one young leopard has been seen in this area. Just outside the perimeter of the zone, however, large animals have been encountered both on the plains and in the bush. The favourite den of one entire family of leopards is known, about 20 miles away. Yet their forays into this area are common occurrences, as witnessed by the toll of native sheep and goats.

The complete absence of baboons, a welcome omission, even in the broken country south of the scheme, would seem to indicate that this is one area of Masai at least in which the favourable balance of leopards to baboons has not been unduly disturbed. Let us hope it remains that way.

Cheetah.—Strangely enough only during the past four months have cheetah been observed. Certainly, during that time, their frequency in numbers has more than made up for their former absence. In a two-week period, I have seen no less than 16 individuals, ranging in size from mere kittens to mature males of immense size.

Their movements are exceedingly localized, as compared with the far-ranging leopards. Their hunting tactics too have been watched with great interest. For example, they will work up along a fence line, pausing at each post to stand on their hind legs, lean one paw against the post, and thus scrutinize the entire country-side. From what has been observed of them, they are not too well fed, and it appears that many a day passes without a meal. By contrast, several have been encountered hunting impala in the bush-country, and these looked in fine fettle. Perhaps the excessive over-grazing on the plains makes stalking exceedingly difficult for them in the short grass.

Hyenas.—What was a fairly large population a year ago, has been considerably reduced by intermittent poisoning campaigns. Approximately 30 mature spotted hyenas were taken in this way, of which at least 75 per cent were dogs. Why pups are never seen is hard to understand, when even now, one occasionally encounters as many as three adults together in mid-morning.

By way of experiment, a puff adder, which had been killed, was put alongside a carcass on the plains. The following morning most of the carcass and all of the snake (a very large one at that) except for about 3 in. of its tail, had been completely devoured by these creatures. A careful search for parts which may have been regurgitated was fruitless. Had all but the head and throat been eaten, then this would have been much less surprising.

Attempts to run down these animals with a car have disclosed a hardiness and degree of endurance in running, which is positively amazing. Experiences of this nature lead me to believe that the number of new-born animals, which hyenas secure by simply running them down, must be terrific. One striped hyena was killed with poison.

Wild Dogs.—There is a pack in the neighbourhood of this area. Once 11 were seen just beyond Konza on the open plains at a distance of not more than 25 yards. Examination of other kills in that neighbourhood indicate it to be a favourite haunt.

On another occasion, they were observed running down a magnificent Grant buck on the scheme. Rifle fire saved his life for that day. Numerous kills of Thomson's and Grant's gazelles in the rough rocky country west of the scheme would appear to be made more often than not, by wild dogs.

Jackals.—These little scavengers are both bold and numerous. Poisoning has cut down their numbers to a certain degree. One was even so brave as to enter the newly-painted kitchen, to emerge later as the first "green" jackal in Kenya.

Bat-eared Foxes.—There are, within a very short distance of the house, a number of flourishing colonies of these splendid creatures. It is exceedingly common to see anything from two to six of them, either sunning themselves outside their earths or jogging merrily along from one ant-hill to another. Their dens are common under ant-hills, of which it seems, they make communal use of a large number at a time. Thus, if disturbed, they will retire from one earth to another in succession, making use of anywhere up to six or more within a matter of minutes. There has not been sufficient time to determine whether one particular group lays claim to a specific group of dens, or not, while the young are being reared. The variation in colour and markings is quite noticeable, especially between adults and young.

Eland.—Approximately 30 or 40 head are permanently resident in the area. For a long time the number of calves dropped was proportionately very low, possibly because the herd was dominated by a very large and aged bull.