



TANGANYIKA

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Game Department
1955-56



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Flamingo bred successfully in the neck between the north and south lakes, but many fledglings were killed by the natives, judging by the enormous number of feathers left on the breeding ground".

The heavy rains in 1956 caused the lake to reach a high level, thereby reducing the areas available to the game population particularly around the southern section of the lake where the basin is very flat. Crocodile poaching in the lake was very prevalent and the game ranger estimates that Shs. 60,000/- worth of illegally obtained skins emanated from this source. Counter measures have been taken.

(i) *Ugalla River Controlled Area*

Though only created in March, 1954, game in this sanctuary is already becoming reasonably tame. Despite the fact that the river has not flowed since 1952, there was adequate water and dry-season grazing for the animals. Concentrations of game along the river reached their maximum in September and October; with the coming of the first rains in November the concentration broke up and the animals dispersed. In 1956 the rains were good and the river flowed well into the dry season.

Beyond three visiting parties of royalty, no hunting was permitted in the area.

The Game Ranger, Tabora, records the following interesting species from the Ugalla:

Bush-baby; hare; ground squirrel; spring haas (just outside the boundaries of the area); side-striped jackal; hunting dog; ratel; clawless otter; civet; banded mongoose; aardwolf; striped hyaena (doubtful sight record); serval cat; wild cat; cheetah; aardvark; rhinoceros (tracks only seen of one near Isimbira by Mr. S. Downey), bohor and southern reedbuck; steinbok; Sharpe's grysbok (doubtful, a skin obtained from an African); oribi; dikdik.

Concern is felt for the future of the game in this very fine little controlled area as innumerable professional hunting parties have been operating just outside its boundaries. Thus any male animal who is unfortunate enough to poke his nose over the boundary is greeted by a bullet, and it is to be feared that if some action is not taken there will be insufficient breeding males left.

(j) *Lake Manyara Controlled Area.*

This is probably the most beautiful, exciting and compact game area in Tanganyika. One visitor alone, in one day, saw fifteen rhino, about two hundred elephant, over one thousand buffalo, several lions and a cheetah, in addition to such everyday species as giraffe, impala, zebra, wildebeest, Grant's and Thomson's gazelles, warthog, reedbuck, bushbuck, and ostrich.

In order to facilitate visitors wishing to see and photograph game a new all weather motor track has been constructed. Several exciting encounters with elephant and rhino occurred, but happily with no casualties on either side.

(k) *Kongwa Controlled Area.*

The Game Ranger, Central Range, visited the area and reported:

"Game in this controlled area seems a little wilder and a little scarcer than last year, though this may be due to the time of year the area was visited. Grant's gazelle appear as plentiful as ever, the two zebra and the lone oryx are still there, the herd of impala as well as the single impala ram leading the herd of Grant

were seen several times, but giraffe and kudu were seldom in evidence. The latter were perhaps in the surrounding bush, calving. The large eland herd has not been seen recently though several small herds were encountered."

Some Grant and ostrich had to be killed there during 1956 to protect crops.

(l) *Doma-Mikumi Controlled Area.*

Gazetted in 1954, this area has become increasingly popular with visitors who wish to see game within reasonable distance of an all-weather road. Unfortunately there is little permanent water in the sanctuary and much of the game moves out at the height of the dry season. The small amount of cultivation in the area does not detract from its present value as a game sanctuary though it is probable that in time game will be squeezed out.

An additional game scout was posted to Doma during the year with a resultant marked decrease in the amount of shooting in the vicinity.

(m) *North Masailand Controlled Area*

A limited number of permits were issued to hunt certain species of game. In the western portion (Loliondo Sub-District) permits to hunt lion and leopard were granted and good trophies obtained. In the central portion consisting of the old Natron reserve permits for rhino and elephant were granted, a maximum of fifteen permits for each of these species being allocated per annum. Five ivory was obtained, tusks weighing 109, 105, 96 and 95 lb. have been recorded. The eastern part of this controlled area was closed to hunting, but the Moshi Gun Club was later given the right to shoot game birds in the Ngasera area. Shoots were limited to one per fortnight and the maximum bag of six of each of the game birds per gun was imposed.

(n) *Ruvu Controlled Area*

Twelve permits to hunt elephants were issued for this controlled area.

(o) *Maswa Controlled Area*

This was gazetted during 1956 and was formerly a heavily poached area. The game ranger in charge reports that this year poaching was limited to occasional parties but that a serious outbreak of poaching occurred during November, when heavy rains made this difficult to deal with.

(p) *Speke Gulf Controlled Area*

This again was a bad poaching area. A game scouts' post has been established in it and poaching has been reduced to occasional cut and run parties.

Controlled Areas—Future Proposals.—Three new controlled areas, in Masailand, Kondo District and Bukoba District are envisaged, and it is hoped to have them gazetted early in 1957.

III.—GAME CONTROL

GENERAL

The efforts of the department, particularly in the Eastern and Southern Provinces, have once more been concentrated on crop protection. With the continued spread of cultivation into country formerly occupied solely by game, the battle between crop-producers and crop-destroyers has intensified. To offset the encroachment by man on to water used by game, attempts have been made to provide alternative watering points for game, with marked success.

Rukwa controlled area, packs of hunting dogs take up residence and harry the herds of carefully preserved antelopes? Inevitably they have killed a lot of game and it has been decided to reduce their numbers a bit. The Game Ranger, Musoma, observed a pack of these animals pull down two topi calves within twenty yards of him.

Mongoose.—Marsh mongoose were seen in the central Rukwa and four-toed mongoose in the north Rukwa.

Aardwolf.—An aardwolf was seen at Isimbira, south of Tabora on the edge of the Ugalla river controlled area, and another on the main road near Kondoa-Irangi.

Hyaena.—Striped hyaena were seen on two occasions in Nzega District. This appears to be a fairly rare species if one may judge from the paucity of records. Another was seen in Arusha District.

Lion.—The Game Ranger, Manyoni, reports that "in the Rungwa River game reserve at two springs some twenty miles apart dead lionesses were found, both clearly killed by elephant, one having had its neck broken, the other its skull crushed. It is inexplicable that lion should attack such dangerous game when plenty of antelope are watering at the same place."

Mr. Le Riche has noticed that lion and cheetah seem to be on the increase at Dutwa, but the numbers of buffalo remain static. Rhino are extremely scarce in Maswa.

Cheetah.—Cheetah have been seen several times on the Usangu. One was seen on a young impala which it had killed.

Mr. A. J. M. Carnegie reports that "on the 21st May I saw three cheetah about half a mile north of Tumba camp (in the Rukwa). There was an adult female with two nearly full grown cubs. They were reported as lions by two locust scouts who were working in the area, but it was possible to approach by car to within fifty yards of them, and establish their identity. A few days later one cheetah was seen about three miles from this spot on the other side of the Tumba camp." A cheetah with three one-third grown cubs was seen in the first week in December in the Usangu by Mr. C. T. Powell.

Caracal.—A caracal cub was brought in to the Game Ranger, Tabora, from Urambo.

Otter.—Mr. R. L. Willan, honorary game ranger, reports that on 7th November a family of five otters, two adults and three cubs, were seen fishing and playing in Bukoba harbour. The first one was seen at 5.30 p.m. and it was not until 6.00 p.m. that the numbers had risen to five. Usually fish were swallowed in the water but occasionally an otter with a larger than average fish landed on a rock to eat it. All the otters were normally coloured.

Elephant.—Mr. R. L. Willan and his wife witnessed what must have been the last stages in the birth of an elephant calf, though at the time it appeared so unlikely that they were incredulous. They later found that a forest ranger and two labourers had witnessed the same event from a different view-point but at about the same time. Briefly, while walking along the edge of the Mt. Meru forest reserve on the afternoon of the 27th June they saw a single elephant about 300 yards away. The area was scrub, with an occasional flat-topped *Acacia lahia*. For several minutes it stood still, facing uphill with its back towards the watchers. Mr. Willan goes on to say that "it then turned diagonally to the left and for a few seconds assumed a squatting position with its hindquarters close to the ground.

It then stood up and faced still further to its left, so that it was sideways on to us. My wife had the impression that something was hanging down below its body, and there was unquestionably something brown and shapeless on the ground below it, but at that distance it was impossible to be sure that it was anything more than bare soil or dried up grass. For the five minutes that we watched it, the elephant stood still staring fixedly in the same direction, as if looking at something out of our sight. It made no attempt to feed, but several times swung its trunk sharply backwards and forwards in a movement of irritation. We heard no sound from it as we watched. We returned the same way three-quarters of an hour later. The elephant was twenty yards from where we had seen it before and was moving very slowly towards two acacia trees. We had several glimpses of a tiny calf following close behind."

The other witnesses to this event say that they had first seen the elephant without any calf, but had heard from it a sound like a low trumpet, cut short. They had then forsaken their first view-point in order to reach another ridge closer to the elephant. When they reached there they could see the young calf lying on the ground close to its mother. Rather later it managed to get to its feet.

The average weight of ivory per tusk shot on licence was 51.4 lb., compared with 52.9 lb. in 1954. The Game Department shot ivory averaging 16.9 lb. per tusk compared with 13.6 lb. in 1954. Found ivory averaged 16.6 lb. per tusk against 19.9 lb. for the previous year.

Rhinoceros.—A food-plant favoured by rhino in the Tanga range is *Acalypha fruticosa* (Forsk), a shrub found near river beds and the damper gulleys.

The Game Ranger, Manyoni, after considerable experience in thick bush, is of the opinion that the majority of so-called charges made by unwounded rhino are merely somewhat aggressive acts of inquisitiveness not directed at harming the intruder. He considers that rhino have been unfairly branded as bad-tempered and their "charges" are a form of defence rather than attack. On the other hand, as with many other animals, wounded rhino or rhino accompanied by their young will take active measures to protect themselves or their young.

Rhino, if not extending their southern range, appear to be more numerous in the Southern Highlands Province. Judging from early reports, it appears that rhino at one time came right down on to the Usangu, and as far as lake Rukwa. Recently, however, their southern limit seems to have been the Rungwa game reserve, in which they are sparse towards the southern boundary.

However, this year three have been shot on licence in north Usangu, where they are now fairly numerous. They continue to be especially numerous in Iringa District in the Tungamarenga-Kiganga area.

Rhino are fairly scarce in south-west Tanganyika. Two were seen by a game scout on the Kapapa-Mlala road, Mpanda District, and Mr. S. Downey came across the tracks of a single animal near Isimbira on the Ugalla river south of Tabora.

Hippo.—A hippo, almost full grown, had to be shot on the railway embankment near Manyoni as its leg had been broken by a train. This hippo was shot about 120 miles away from the nearest known habitat of these animals, which gives some idea of the long distances which hippo will travel.

Buffalo.—Buffalo would appear to be gaining confidence in the Serengeti National Park. Mr. S. Downey writes: "For the first time in my experience I saw a small herd of buffalo on the Serengeti plains between Moru and Naabi. I believe this to be most unusual."

DETAILS OF ANIMALS EXPORTED 1955 AND 1956

		A.—MAMMALS	
		1955	1956
1. <i>Primates:</i>			
Baboon	...	16	1
Vervet monkey	...	10	1
Syke's monkey	...	50	2
Colobus monkey	...	-	1
2. <i>Carnivora:</i>			
Honey badger	...	1	-
Serval	...	3	1
Leopard	...	1	-
Cheetah	...	6	8
3. <i>Proboscidea:</i>			
Elephant	...	25	14
4. <i>Perrissodactyla:</i>			
Zebra	...	54	48
Rhino	...	19	20
5. <i>Artiodactyla:</i>			
Hippo	...	2	2
Giraffe	...	20	13
Eland	...	8	2
Buffalo	...	2	2
Duiker	...	5	-
Wi debeest	...	11	9
Thomson's gazelle	...	1	2
Bushbuck	...	-	1
Oryx	...	-	3
Warthog	...	-	3
B.—BIRDS			
1. <i>Struthioniformes:</i>			
Ostrich	...	24	6
2. <i>Ciconiiformes:</i>			
Marabout stork	...	1	-
3. <i>Falconiformes:</i>			
Secretary bird	...	2	1
Eagle	...	2	2
Buzzard	...	1	-
4. <i>Galliformes:</i>			
Francolin	...	43	144
Guinea fowl	...	56	113
5. <i>Gruliformes:</i>			
Greater bustard	...	5	5
Crowned cranes	...	2	2
6. <i>Cuculiformes:</i>			
Go-away bird	...	2	8
Parrots	...	6	-
Love birds	...	8,098	12,678
7. <i>Passeriformes:</i>			
Sun birds	...	-	60
Weavers	...	-	25
Widow birds	...	-	25
8. <i>Columbiformes:</i>			
Fruit pigeon	...	-	1
C.—REPTILES			
<i>Chelonia:</i>			
Giant tortoise	...	16	4
<i>Squamata:</i>			
Monitor lizard	...	-	1

SUMMARY OF GAME LICENCES ISSUED DURING 1954

Month	Trophy Dealers	Professional Hunters	Bird	General		No. of Supplementary Licences issued	Total Value		
				Resident	Visitors		£	Shs.	
January	1	4	177	59	21	57	2,858	13	
February	8	4	110	51	8	37	1,686	16	
March	3	4	110	55	6	40	1,277	10	
April	6	-	757	73	-	23	1,601	18	
May	-	-	199	61	7	41	1,693	05	
June	3	6	210	68	25	76	3,598	06	
July	4	6	193	78	25	80	3,012	14	
August	4	8	211	78	29	90	3,706	09	
September	6	3	171	103	36	101	5,060	10	
October	3	2	186	95	16	87	3,237	13	
November	6	-	162	75	5	69	2,439	06	
December	7	1	144	77	3	46	1,645	06	
Total No.	51	38	2,630	873	181	747	-	-	
Total Value £	510	380	2,630	4,365	5,430	18,503	06	31,818	06

NUMBER AND VALUE OF DANGEROUS GAME ON SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES SHOWN IN APPENDIX IX—1954

Month	Elephant	Rhino	Buffalo	Hippo	Leopard	Lion	Total Value	
							£	Shs.
January	23	42	4	7	8	16	1,482	00
February	19	14	-	8	4	7	888	00
March	11	26	-	4	-	2	614	00
April	10	11	1	4	-	-	415	05
May	23	12	2	2	1	7	909	10
June	46	27	7	8	7	17	2,011	15
July	32	19	6	12	5	15	1,444	10
August	33	47	2	8	8	19	1,860	10
September	60	46	7	19	11	27	2,832	15
October	44	24	2	10	8	13	1,902	10
November	45	21	1	3	-	4	1,604	05
December	23	19	-	3	-	2	903	00
Total No.	369	308	32	88	52	129	-	-
Total Value £	11,070	3,080	40	88	1,300	1,290	16,868	00