



TANGANYIKA

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of the
Game Department
1951—1952



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A successful operation against the gang led by Fundi Hussein took place in the Selous Reserve: the ringleader was sent to jail for eighteen months.

On several occasions in the Southern Highlands Range the tusks of elephants shot legitimately by licence-holders were stolen before the hunter had time to remove them: similar cases occurred in the Eastern Province. In the West, the Game Ranger commented that the price paid by Government for "found" ivory (i.e. Shs. 4/- a pound) was higher than that prevailing on the black market, as a result of which many more tusks were brought into Bomas during 1952.

(c) Other Game Cases

The Serengeti National Park and the areas lying adjacent to it were continually visited by African hunters, and in particular by members of the Waikoma tribe who, on more than one occasion, fired their poisoned arrows at their pursuers, fortunately without registering any hits. The Game Ranger at Banagi reported:—

"I raided the villages north of Negoti and confiscated well over 1,000 rope snares and a lot of game meat, ostrich eggs, etc.

"During a two day blitz I rounded up two Europeans and two Indians who had shot five wildebeest from a lorry, and five Indians who shot twenty-two animals in two days without licences. I found forty-five rope snares, two freshly-dug pitfalls, twenty skins of game animals, including those of topi calves, in a camp and seventy-five wildebeest tails in a Waikoma camp."

The increasing use of motor vehicles in the hunting of game and in conveying hunting parties from camp to camp added to the difficulty of bringing offenders to book; as the Senior Game Ranger, Liwale, pointed out, game scouts on foot can hardly hope to compete against mechanized poachers.

Fishing camps were often found to be bases of operations against other creatures than fish; one "fisherman" was not only found in possession of game meat and other trophies, but was also growing *bhang* and operating a *moshi* distillery!

The poisoning of fish continued in certain areas, particularly in the Western and Central Provinces; not only were immature fish killed but the water was polluted, a serious position being created in dry areas.

Traffic in leopard skins was considerable due to the high prices prevailing for these trophies. The Honorary Game Ranger at Urambo (Mr. Collinson) was successful in bringing to court a number of such cases. On one occasion the Game Ranger, Western Province, accompanied by the District Officer, searched a dhow on Lake Tanganyika which was suspected of trafficking in these skins with the Belgian Congo. No skins were found on board, but instead a consignment of 20,000 cigarettes which were being smuggled into Kigoma.

Some interesting observations on the habits of poachers came to light. The Wandorobo, for instance, prize the horns of the greater Kudu for their value as honey-containers. Wazaramo hunters, who were very active in the Eastern Province, were invariably tattooed on their arms. Some poachers hid their meat in bee-hives and hung them up in trees until the coast was clear.

Modern methods of detection were applied in a case in which the dependants stated that they had used rope nets against baboons and pigs to protect their shambas; hairs found in the nets were examined and proved to be those of antelope of which there were none in the vicinity of those particular shambas!

Some of the more interesting cases included:—

1. Three Europeans fined Shs. 2,400/- for shooting elephant without proper licences.
2. The Sultani of Morogoro fined Shs. 2,500/- for aiding and abetting in the killing of giraffe.
3. Two Europeans fined Shs. 750/- and their weapons confiscated for killing a rhino.
4. Four Indians fined a total of Shs. 3,200/- for hunting without licences and for dealing in game meat.
5. Twenty-six Africans involved in a tribal hunt fined Shs. 50/- each.
6. Five Africans imprisoned for killing an elephant.
7. A number of Indians fined for shooting meat for sisal labour.
8. A European fined Shs. 1,000/- for hunting crocodiles in the Selous Reserve.
9. Three Africans fined and imprisoned for killing five roan antelope and six sitatunga.
10. An Arab fined for cruelty to paraqueets.

CROCODILE INDUSTRY

The market for crocodile skins improved steadily during 1950; during the latter half of that year, and during the first half of 1951, prices rose to an unprecedented high level with the result that nearly every river, lake and swamp holding crocodiles became a scene of great activity—reminiscent of a "gold rush"—amongst speculators of all races. Somewhat chaotic conditions prevailed, particularly in those areas where the interests of rival concerns conflicted; a case occurred of skins being stolen and labour being deserted without pay by operators. Prices fell towards the latter half of 1951 but again rose in late 1952. A system of permits was introduced as an endeavour to regulate hunting rights on each stretch of river or lake shore. This, however, led to further complications and to a vast amount of correspondence which was not considered compatible with the extent of the industry.

At the end of 1952 all restrictions were removed; anyone was able to hunt crocodiles without any sort of permit (outside game reserves), but a dealer had to be in possession of a Trophy Dealer's Licence.

The industry did not always attract the most desirable elements, some unscrupulous hunters shooting a number of game animals for use as bait. Three elephants were illegally killed in the Eastern Province for this purpose.

Every method of killing crocodiles was attempted; baited hooks, rope snares, trapping, netting, spearing and shooting were all tried. Experience showed that shooting by night was the most successful method; in one locality two Europeans shot fifty in two nights using a high velocity .22 rifle.

The quality of skins varied according to the locality; those obtained from the Ruaha River and Lake Nyasa, for instance, contained fewer "buttons" than those found in Rukwa, and were therefore superior. The reason may possibly be due to the fact that Lake Rukwa is extremely alkaline.

The Senior Game Ranger, Mbeya, was of the opinion that there should be a close season for these reptiles, particularly in Lake Rukwa where, after three years' systematic hunting, the population became very considerably reduced. He estimated that, by controlled hunting, about 2,500 to 3,000 good quality skins could be produced in the Southern Highlands Province annually.

That crocodiles take a heavy toll of game animals, more particularly during the dry season, is indisputable; one hunter found the remains of a topi inside a crocodile. In the flesh of the topi was embedded a muzzle-loader "bullet"! On another occasion a crocodile was seen taking a large snake. The snake was basking on the edge of the Ruaha, the crocodile being submerged except for its eyes. It moved towards the snake and, with incredible speed came out of the water, grabbed the snake in its mouth and disappeared with it coiled around its snout.

On Lake Victoria a local fisherman caught a three and half foot crocodile on an ordinary night-line baited for catfish and using a small fish-hook.

VERMIN CONTROL

The Game Department assists with the control of vermin, namely baboons, vervet monkeys, bush pigs, hyenas, wild dogs, porcupines and seed-eating birds. Provision was made for the appointment of a Vermin Biologist in 1952, but this was not filled until early in 1953. It was therefore found impossible for the staff to devote more than a small fraction of their time to vermin control, occupied as they were with the protection of crops from the inroads of dangerous animals, and with their efforts towards game preservation. In spite of the numbers of muzzle-loaders in the Territory, and the increasing number of shot-gun licences issued for "crop protection", it remains a fact that the average villager is more interested in expanding his efforts and ammunition on killing game for the pot, or for sale, than in attempting to exterminate baboon or pig.

Notable exception was a certain chief in the Eastern Province who, by energetic action and the co-operation of his people, killed over 800 pigs in a year, thereby almost exterminating them from the area in which lay his farms.

Organized drives, netting and the use of poison, particularly against pigs, proved effective where attempted. The Department accounted for 400 baboons at Mto-wa-Mbu, over 250 vermin in the Western Province and over 500 baboons in the Handeni District, in addition to smaller numbers elsewhere. Mr. Collinson, Honorary Game Ranger, Urambo, organized a number of successful drives in the ground-nut area, accounting for many hundreds of baboons. Six poisoners were employed, under Game Department supervision, by the Native Authority, Handeni, with good effect.

For two years running a part of Manyoni District was infested with a plague of hyenas, people being attacked (though seldom with fatal results) at all hours of the day and night. Concerted effort resulted in nearly 100 being killed.

Apart from the serious situation brought about by the activities of seed-eating birds, one of the worst disasters to crops occurred in the Rukwa Valley where rats multiplied enormously, causing tremendous damage. This was the worst outbreak in living memory. With the advent of the rains, a disease broke out amongst the rats and millions died.

The Senior Game Ranger reported that these localized periodic infestations occur in the lower, hotter regions and run in cycles of three years, the peak being reached in the third year when the rat population is usually attacked by a disease and is decimated.

The Vermin Biologist is now engaged in research into the methods of destroying vermin, and in particular baboons and pigs, and provided that he receives the co-operation of Native Authorities, it is hoped that considerable progress will be made during the coming year.

HUNTING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PARTIES

There was an increase in the number of visitors who came to hunt in this Territory, particularly towards the latter half of 1952. Most of these parties, equipped by firms in Nairobi, motored down through Arusha to favourite localities in the Northern, Western and Central Provinces; a few ventured as far as the Southern Highlands and were well rewarded by obtaining excellent sport in the neighbourhood of Iringa and on the Ruaha.

The increase was partly due to the Mau Mau troubles in Kenya, and also to the fact that licences are considerably cheaper in Tanganyika than in other East African Territories. Moreover there are probably more unexploited areas in Tanganyika, with their resultant undisturbed game population, than there are in Kenya.

In one area alone, in the vicinity of Mto-wa-Mbu, fifteen rhinos were shot in a matter of two months. On the Serengeti border along the Duma and Simiyu rivers, some forty lions were killed during the last half of 1952.



The Ugalla River in Tabora District was again the mecca of sable hunters and some good heads of forty-seven inches and over were obtained. Though bigger sable heads are probably available in the Southern Province, the lack of communications makes a modern safari, relying as it does on motor transport, to that area extremely difficult. Two parties which ventured into new ground around Mahenge had little success.

An elephant with tusks weighing 147 lb. each, and a puku with horns of nineteen and a half inches were obtained in the Southern Highlands.

One hundred and forty-seven visitors signed the Game Ranger's book at Banagi in 1951, and a further 163 in 1952.

The Department was called on to assist Metro Goldwyn Mayer in the making of the film "Mogambo" on the Kagera River in the West Lake Range, and in the film being made on the life of the Masai by Mr. Edgar Queeny.

African Film Productions and Government film executives were active in making films of the wild life of the Territory.

GUN CLUBS

The popularity of gun clubs was firmly established during the period under review. The bird shooting rights on a number of dams lying within controlled areas were vested in such clubs, which have a membership open to all races.

Clubs were in operation at Arusha, Lake Manka (Tanga Range), Lihogosa (Njombe), in Kahama and Nzega districts, in the Kwimba and Maswa districts of the Lake Province, around Shinyanga, in the Ufipa district and elsewhere, whilst proposals for forming new clubs came from Dar es Salaam and Singida.

As an example of the activities of these clubs, a note on Arusha for 1951 and 1952 is given below:—

	1951	1952
Number of members ...	33	23
Number of organized shoots ...	—	12
Number of areas ...	3	3
Birds shot:		
(a) Sand grouse ...	249	2,057
(b) Guinea fowl ...	25	196
(c) Partridge ...	153	226
(d) Duck ...	9	10
(e) Geese ...	2	4

On the Wembere at Susijanda, 415 head were accounted for by seven guns, and at Lake Manka 240 duck were shot on one day.

The Lihogosa Club carried out improvements to the swamp area, built hides and plans to improve the feeding by planting wild rice.

A close season is observed in the Iringa area for guinea fowl between January and March and partridge between March and May; the Arusha Gun Club suspend operations between 1st April and 1st August.

When more detailed information comes to hand regarding the breeding seasons of game birds, it will be advisable to fix "close seasons" throughout the Territory—though these will not necessarily occur during the same months in all Provinces.

CAPTURE AND EXPORT OF WILD ANIMALS

Since the end of the war, zoos and similar institutions have gradually been re-stocking and expanding, with the resultant heavy demand for the supply of wild life.

Game Warden's Permits to capture animals and birds were held by Messrs. Kuenzler and de Beer of Arusha. In addition permits were granted for the capture and export of vermin, in particular of seed-eating birds such as paraqueets. Royalties were paid by all permit-holders.

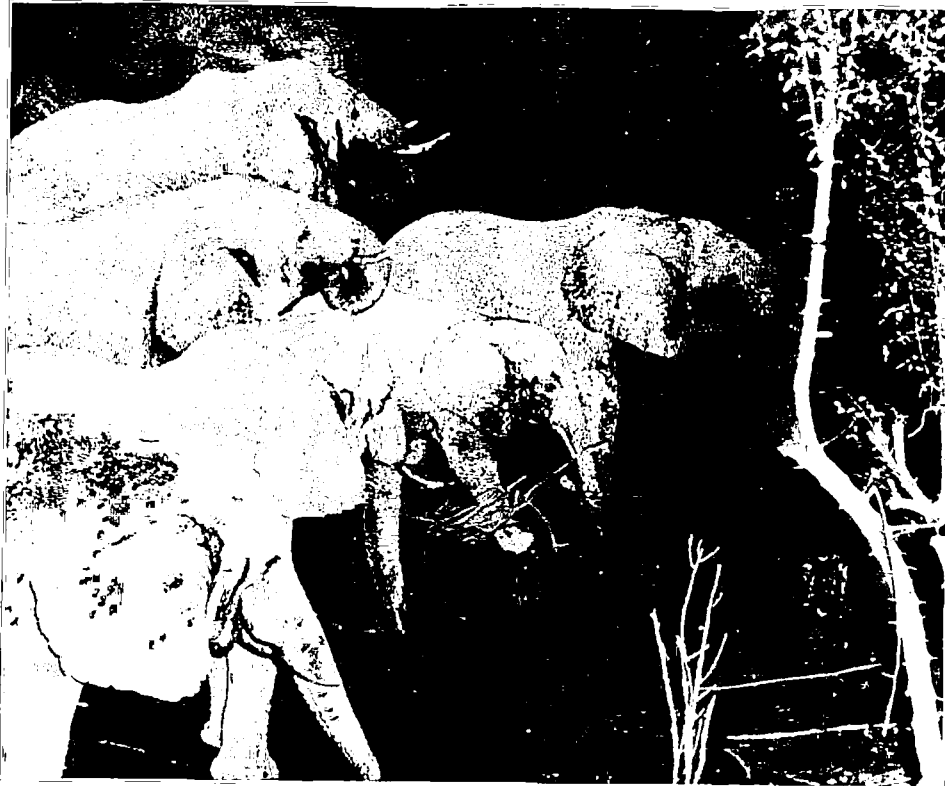
As an indication of the extent of this industry, the following figures are of interest:—

Species	Game Animals and Birds Captured and Exported			Royalties Paid £ s. d.
	1951	1952	Total	
Elephant ...	3	8	11	330
Rhino ...	22	7	29	870
Giraffe ...	8	11	19	475
Zebra ...	44	36	80	80
Lion ...	4	2	6	60
Leopard ...	4	1	5	25
Cheetah ...	8	15	23	230
Serval Cat ...	14	4	18	9
Wildbeest ...	21	6	27	67 10
Gazelle ...	7	4	11	22
Eland ...	23	9	32	128
Ostrich ...	28	5	33	66
Oryx ...	4	2	6	33
Monkey ...	55	39	94	23 10
Wild Dog ...	6	—	6	Free
Warthog ...	7	2	9	Free
Hyena ...	8	2	10	Free
Jackal ...	3	1	4	Free
Tortoise ...	—	24	24	Free
Birds ...	3,439	24,905	28,344	1,417 04
				3,836 04

TROUT

The responsibility for trout protection was taken over from the Forest Department in January, 1952.

The procedure adopted in the past was adhered to, namely that the trout fishing rights on all except a few of the less important rivers were vested in the existing fishing clubs or associations who control the waters and who find the money for the ordinary day to day expenditure; to the subscriptions of members was, however, added seventy-five per cent of the money received by the Government from the sale of trout licences. The Department assisted



(Photograph by Mr. R. I. Wilson, Honorary Game Ranger)
Elephants at night on the Kwizu Stream, Tanganyika Province

The intelligence and faithfulness of the elephant is well illustrated by the following incidents, related by Major Russell and Mr. Collinson, Honorary Game Rangers:—

"I was sitting on the bank of the Ruaha River one day, when a bull elephant slithered down the bank into the water, reached up with its trunk and brought down a young one. A cow, presumably the mother, followed behind. The two adults then jammed the youngster between them and crossed the river which was about four feet deep. When they got to the other side, father yanked the wee one up on to the bank, and mother followed."

Mr. Nicholson found two dead cow elephants. "I examined them both very carefully and am of the opinion that they killed each other fighting, as both beasts were lacerated by what appeared to be tusks; one had a very deep wound in the base of the throat, the tusks of the other one fitting perfectly into it." On another occasion "an elephant was seen with what appeared to be a broken hind leg. I went up to investigate and found that the leg had been broken some time previously and had healed up. The break occurred below the knee and the bones, not having set straight had caused the leg to go inwards at an angle. I did not shoot it, as it was beginning to make a recovery and was hobbling about feeding." Mr. Nicholson does not believe that the size of tusks is dependent on the locality. "The only reason why we get so few big tusks in this (Southern) Province is that they are shot on control before the tusks have time to develop fully—a period of at least forty years."

That baby elephants soon become accustomed to human beings is shown by the following account:— "A baby elephant wandered out of the Selous Reserve into a nearby village where it was fed by the villagers mostly on bananas. Although there were herds constantly in the vicinity, it refused to leave until one night, two months later, it suddenly disappeared. The villagers were sorry to see it go."

Several instances of elephants getting stuck in water-holes were reported: in Handeni "the animal was shot, after the herd had endeavoured to pull him out. This annoyed the herd which laid waste the surrounding shambas the next night."

2. *The Rhino.*

In spite of the illicit traffic in horn, the rhino appears to be holding his own. Major Russell, Honorary Game Ranger, Usa River, notes that "rhino are as numerous as ever, and probably on the increase. My previous estimate (in the vicinity of Mount Meru) was one thousand, probably a very conservative one. They can be seen almost anywhere from Domberg to Ngurdoto and along Bastion Hill to Meru. They do little damage and are, on the whole, well behaved." The Senior Game Ranger, Liwale, also reports an increase in population in the Selous Reserve.

An isolated rhino "pocket" occurs near Itete in the Ulanga Range; the habitat is a forest called "mesekesi" from which the animals only emerge during the height of the dry season.

Mr. Nicholson does not consider that rhinos are prolific breeders.

The peculiar temperament of the rhino is well illustrated by the following account:—

"A rather amusing sight was seen one afternoon in the Selous Reserve. There was a large grass fire burning and a rhino was seen rampaging up and down, obviously wanting to get beyond the flames. Finally he made up his mind and, going back some distance, charged the fire in a most ferocious manner and went clean through it, emerging triumphant on to the burnt off country on the other side where he immediately forgot about the incident and started to feed on the various shrubs about the place."

3. *The Hippo.*

The remains of hippo calves killed by lions were found on several occasions; the Game Ranger, Mahenge believed that "lions feed more than one realizes on hippo, but it is doubtful if they would attack a full-grown animal. One day I saw a lion fast asleep in a river bed; fifteen yards away a hippo lay in a small shallow pool, obviously indifferent to the presence of his neighbour."

"A fairly large number of hippos die every year in their own private battles. I had the fortune to watch a fight on the Ruaba where the combatants were on a sand-bank. It is not surprising that they kill each other in these contests, as the wounds inflicted are very deep."

"Hippos spend a great deal of their time on dry land, and may be found as far as twenty miles from the nearest water."

On the Malagarasi, in the Western Province, the natives assert that there are two distinct species of hippo, of which the smaller and darker variety is the most savage and liable to attack canoes without provocation.

4. *The Carnivora.*

Though it is a fact that lions climb trees, it is unusual to find a full-grown male doing so. In the course of a safari, one Ranger reported that a large male lion was asleep in a tree above the path and did not awake until after he had passed underneath.

A pair of leopards were observed hunting on the Serengeti. "Whilst camped at Olduwai Gorge, I was fortunate in being able to watch a pair of leopards hunting klipspringer. They sat on their haunches for about half an hour watching the klipspringer and then started a stalk, making use of dead ground and moving on parallel courses about fifty yards apart. They eventually worked their way to within thirty or forty yards and then

made a flat-out dash. However, the klipspringer was too quick and agile and easily escaped up a steep rocky face. One of the leopards lost his footing and took quite a tumble."

In Singida district a missionary saw a leopard give birth to six cubs in a ditch alongside a road, indifferent to the not inconsiderable traffic passing by.

Two reports, which unfortunately could not be substantiated, were received of black leopards having been seen near Taveta and at Urambo. Even the genuine article carries faint spots; it might be difficult to draw the line between a darkly-marked animal and a true case of melanism.

Leopards do not always confine activities to the smaller creatures; a full-grown waterbuck was killed in a dry river bed in the Selous Reserve.

An observation on the speed of cheetahs was sent in by Mr. Collinson, Honorary Game Ranger, Urambo:—

"On Sunday Mr. Giles reported to me that whilst travelling between Farm Two and Farm Five the previous evening he had observed what he had at first thought to be some baboons on the road, but when slowing down opposite them, he had seen what he thought was either a leopard or a cheetah in the strip of bush at the side, which had promptly gone for him. He had therefore accelerated as fast as possible (his car is a brand-new Hillman Minx), and had wound up the windows at the same time. He said he reached 55 m.p.h. with the animal still keeping alongside him, bounding in and out of the bush. During his excitement, however, he had not noticed the cubs—for so the animals turned out to be—on the other side of the car, and ran over and killed one. I identified the skin as being that of a young cheetah about four months old."

Near Banagi the Game Ranger saw "a cheetah coursing a young Thomson's Gazelle which it caught and lay down with. When approached, the cheetah left the Tommy which lay for a short time but finally recovered and ran away first rather wobbly but finally strongly. This shows that cheetah do not always kill their prey as they catch them."

5. *The Antelopes.*

Gregariousness amongst animals appears to be as popular as the present-day herd instinct in humans. Mr. Thompson, Honorary Game Ranger, Kahama, saw "a mixed herd of 200 or so animals in Kibondo district. They included about equal numbers of zebra, sable, roan, topi, eland and hartebeeste and were all accompanied by their young. The following day the same herd was seen five miles further on."

The Senior Game Ranger, Mebya, has an interesting theory about the markings on the hartebeeste.

TABLE D
SUMMARY OF LICENCES ISSUED 1st JANUARY 1951—31st DECEMBER 1951
(FAUNA CONSERVATION ORDINANCE 1951. No. 17 OF 1951)

Month	Trophy Dowler	PROFESSIONAL HUNTER		Bird	GENERAL		Supplementary	Total Value		
		Resident	Visitor		Resident	Visitor		£	Shs.	
January	4	2	2	212	73	14	22	2,290	6	
February	2	1	—	158	36	7	13	805	9	
March	1	—	2	165	60	1	13	836	5	
April	1	—	—	596	55	1	13	1,336	10	
May	1	1	—	403	57	—	11	903	14	
June	5	6	1	265	60	17	32	2,152	17	
July	8	—	2	297	97	12	34	2,229	1	
August	4	1	1	274	106	19	62	3,138	—	
September	3	1	3	247	97	18	88	3,355	7	
October	—	1	2	234	107	7	54	2,155	16	
November	6	—	—	194	53	2	32	1,362	19	
December	3	—	3	134	64	7	50	1,621	10	
Total No. ...	38	13	16	3,179	865	105	424			
Total Value ...	£380	£130	£1,160	£3,179	£4,325	£3,150	£9,913	14	£22,227	14

TABLE E
NUMBER AND VALUE OF DANGEROUS GAME ON SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES SHOWN IN TABLE 'D.'

Month	Elephant	Leopard	Lion	Rhino	Buffalo	Hippo	Total Value	
							£	Shs.
January	14	6	12	13	—	1	821	—
February	3	2	4	1	—	—	190	—
March	3	—	1	2	—	3	123	—
April	10	1	3	4	2	3	400	10
May	5	—	—	2	2	2	174	10
June	12	6	14	13	—	6	786	—
July	17	2	6	7	2	6	688	10
August	29	4	14	18	4	9	1,304	—
September	39	6	15	22	4	11	1,706	—
October	29	2	10	5	4	12	1,037	—
November	22	—	3	6	—	5	755	—
December	16	3	5	11	3	8	726	15
Total No. ...	199	32	87	104	21	66		
Total Value ...	£5,970	£800	£870	£1,040	£26	£66	£8,772	5

Appendix V

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Source of Revenue	1951	1952	Rs.
	£	£	
Sale of ivory, rhino horn, leopard skins, etc.	52,270	53,979	
Sale of other game trophies	13	14	
Royalty on live animals	1,563	2,273	
Sale of Game Licences	20,669	22,005	11
Total expenditure for the year	49,903	57,447	11
Balance of revenue over expenditure	24,612	20,818	

Appendix VI

AREAS OF GAME RESERVES, PARTIAL RESERVES AND CONTROLLED AREAS AS ESTIMATED BY DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEYS, OCTOBER, 1952

Game Reserves:	Sq. miles
Serengeti National Park	5,475
Lake Natron	2,496
Kilimanjaro	720
Mount Meru	99
Mkomazi	1,470
Selous	11,512
Rungwa Rivor	7,822
Katavi Plain	612
Total	30,206

Partial Game Reserves:	Sq. miles
Liwale	109
Serengeti	4,439
Longido	404
Kagera	878
Total	5,830

Controlled Areas:	Sq. miles
Sanya Plains	276
Ruvu River	1,371
Lake Manka	49
Handeni	4,636
Kongwa	414
Dar es Salaam	118
Lake Rukwa	3,768
Nyamirembe Bay	631
Bukoba	49
Dodoma	99
Total	14,568

Appendix VII

ELEPHANTS KILLED BY THE GAME DEPARTMENT ON CROP PROTECTION DUTIES

Range	1951	1952
Northern	29	15
Tanga	27	45
Eastern	508	390
Ulanga	189	219
Southern	769	1,391
Southern Highlands	268	275
Western	25	14
Central		58
West Lake	7	7
East Lake	15	6
Total	1,837	2,420

NOTES: (1) 2,075 elephants were shot by the Department in 1950.
(2) The average number of rounds per elephant was 3.5.

Appendix VIII

CONVICTIONS OBTAINED FROM OFFENCES AGAINST THE GAME LAWS

Offence	No. of convictions	
	1951	1952
1. Unlawful possession of Government trophy	33	58
2. Hunting without a licence	35	211
3. Unlawful method of hunting	10	19
4. Entering National Park or Reserve without permit	4	7
5. Shooting in protected areas	11	43
6. Illegally importing a Government trophy	-	-
7. Failing to produce a Government trophy	-	7
8. Trading in game meat	1	3
9. Failure to produce ivory or rhino horns	1	-
10. Unlawful possession of leopard skin	1	-
11. Hunting Royal Game or unscheduled animals without permit	5	11
12. Failing to carry licence and record game killed	-	4
13. Lending weapon to unlicensed persons	-	6
14. Over shooting licence	-	1
15. Cruelty to animals	2	1
16. Failure to report wounding of animal	4	1
17. Failure to keep Trophy Dealer's register	3	1
18. Forging certificate of ownership	1	-
Penal Code offences	1	6
Arms and Ammunition Ordinance	-	7