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TANGANYIKA TERRITORY  
GAME PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

Annual Report  
1937



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LICENCES.

A larger number of licences was issued to residents last year. It is disturbing to report, however, that many of these licences are now used, almost entirely, for killing game to feed native labour, with the result that overshooting of licences is a great temptation. If this practice continues unchecked all the game within any reasonable distance of mines, plantations and other concentrations of labour is liable to be wiped out in a few years, as has occurred in other parts of this continent. One ox costs anything from Shs 20/- to Shs 100/- depending upon the particular district, while a game licence costs Shs 200/- with a large schedule. A reduction in the schedule of the more common species would hardly meet the case as an excess in the number shot would be difficult to check, but legislation to the effect that not more than two game animals may be carried by any vehicle might be a solution which would help in the control of such overshooting.

BREACHES OF THE GAME LAWS.

There has been a large increase in poaching during the year but a proportion of the offenders have been caught as will be seen from the list of convictions for game offences. The native courts have also tried and convicted a number of offenders. For example, fifty-seven Mbugwe natives were convicted and fined for driving a herd of wildebeest into a swamp and spearing a large number when they were unable to move.

The illicit trade in rhinoceros horns has shown no reduction and a number of convictions were obtained.

*Details of Offences under the Game Preservation Ordinance and Regulations during 1937.*

Offences under the Ordinance	No. Charged	No. Acquitted	No. Convicted
Shooting game in a game reserve (section 4) ...	4	—	4
Hunting game without a licence (section 5(1))	75	3	72
Illegal possession of government-owned trophies (section 19 (1)) ...	37	3	34
Aiding and abetting offences under the Game Ordinance (section 23 (1)) ...	54	—	54
Offences under the Regulations	No. Charged	No. Acquitted	No. Convicted
Hunting game by means of poison, traps, pit-falls, snares, bows and arrows and killing fish with poison (section 3) ...	47	—	47
Using a light for the purpose of dazzling game (section 3 (2)) ...	1	—	1
Selling game trophies without a licence (section 27) ...	1	—	1
Shooting game from within 200 yards of a motor car (section 3 (6)) ...	9	—	9
Being in possession of a firearm in a game reserve ...	1	—	1
Camping in a game reserve longer than necessary ...	1	—	1

NOTE.—Those convicted were 11 Europeans, 3 Indians, 2 Arabs, and 208 natives.

ELEPHANT CONTROL AND CULTIVATION PROTECTION.

*Northern Range.*—In the Northern province five elephants were shot as *shamba* raiders, but sixty-four tusks were brought in as found ivory. In the same province fifteen rhinoceroses were shot, but no less than ninety-seven horns were brought in as "found." These figures are ample proof that illicit killing is not diminishing.

In the Tanga province, which is part of the Northern Range, three elephants were killed and fourteen tusks brought in as found ivory. One rhinoceros was shot and six horns brought in as found.

*Southern Province.*—In the Southern province the elephant control scheme, by which the herds were thinned out and driven away from the coastal vicinity, was completed by the end of June. It is considered now that the herds have been sufficiently reduced in number. They have been driven to uninhabited parts and to the new extension of the Selous reserve. These animals have had a severe lesson and it is hoped that, by firing shots over them and the use of maroons, there will now be little difficulty in protecting cultivation. However, where they return to raid an occasional animal will have to be shot. The success of the scheme is shown by the fact that it was necessary to kill only thirty-four elephants during the latter half of the year, of which twenty-seven were killed in the Tunduru district and seven elsewhere.

*Lindi District.*—A few raiders came over from the Kilwa district at the beginning of the year. Four were shot and the remainder driven out.

*Masasi District.*—A number of elephants came into this district from the Njenje extension to the Selous reserve and from Portuguese East Africa; of these 143 were killed during the first half of the year.

*Songea District.*—A certain amount of raiding took place in the Mbarangandu and Kovuma areas and during the first half of the year 183 elephants were killed. During the second half crops were adequately protected without a single elephant being killed.

*Kilwa District.*—One hundred and twenty-four elephants were killed during the first half of the year. In the second half elephants were scared off with maroons and shots fired over them, none were killed.

*Tunduru District.*—One hundred and one elephants were killed during the first half of the year. During the second half twenty-seven elephants were shot.

*Liwale District.*—The usual influx of elephant from the west took place during the rains in the early part of the year, and 143 were killed. During the second half of the year no elephants were killed.

Approximately ten per cent of the elephants killed in this province were either tuskless or single tuskers. The total number of elephants killed in the province during the year was 725.

*Eastern Province: Kilosa and Ulanga Districts.*—In these districts raiding has been dealt with close to large settlements, but small and scattered villages received no assistance. This procedure is having the desired effect and more and more people who once lived in remote and inaccessible areas are settling near main roads and paths. From controlled areas in these districts 368 elephants were killed and 94 tusks brought in as found ivory. This could be attributed to departmental control operations. From uncontrolled areas in which no shooting of *shamba* raiding elephants takes place seventeen tusks were brought in as found ivory.

Captain Moore is doubtful whether more than six or twelve will inhabit a normal-sized papyrus swamp and of this number the observer will be extremely lucky if he sees one in daylight. A moonlight night is the best time for seeing these interesting antelope. The buck appears to be shyer than the doe; he is dark greyish-brown in colour, whilst the doe, scarcely two-thirds of his size, shows the rufous coat of the female bushbuck with prominent white markings. Both sexes resemble waterbuck in shape, but, of course, are not so large. Whilst moving the sitatunga carries its head thrust forward in the manner of the kudu. These notes do not apply to the sitatunga found at the northern end of the lake.

The observer of these rare animals must be prepared for great physical discomfort from mosquitoes and *siafu* ants, and from the blazing sun beating down on the papyrus which allows but little passage of breeze. He must be prepared to sink into and wade far into snake harbouring swamps.

Captain Moore and his wife, an Honorary Game Ranger, succeeded in procuring several feet of film and some still photographs of these rare antelopes.

Mr Arundell, M.C., reports that some local natives found the carcass of a recently dead elephant. Whilst engaged in cutting up the animal a bees' nest was found stuck in its throat. The weight of the nest was seven pounds and of the type usually found in Nyambo bush. It would appear that the elephant whilst putting food in its mouth forced the nest to the back of its mouth and was either choked or stung to death.

Mr Ionides reports that a common duiker has been seen with a troop of baboons in apparently friendly association with them.

Captain Hewlett reports that near Engaruka he saw three rhinoceroses; two of them, a large bull and a three-quarters grown bull calf, had no horns, the third one though a cow carried a good pair. On the same safari near Kidete he noticed a cow elephant and a half grown calf out in the open plain in the middle of the day. The ranger approached these animals and noticed, when he gave them his wind, the calf seemed to take control, the cow following its movements in every detail. On the following day at approximately the same time he revisited the place and saw the same two animals. The cow appeared to be both blind and deaf as she took no notice of him and only the calf showed signs of agitation.

A report was received by the ranger that three lions were a source of trouble in the mining area of Murongo. On his arrival the position had become serious as native labour was deserting in large numbers. The procedure adopted by these animals was for the two females to prowl around a hut whilst the male clawed his way inside and took his victim, who was carried a few yards and eaten. There were many rumours current, to the effect that the animals were bewitched and that the witch-doctors were making a good livelihood selling charms and medicines to the terrified natives and had no wish for the animals to be destroyed. Time and again areas were visited where the animals were alleged to have been seen or heard, only to discover the reports were false, and that a further killing had occurred during the ranger's absence.

On several occasions he was on the spot soon after a kill had been made, only to find that in each case the spoor had been deliberately obliterated. Live baits were left untouched, although tracks were found in the immediate vicinity. It was some two weeks before the ranger met the pride at midnight and managed to get two bullets into the male, which was subsequently found dead. One of the scouts then reported having wounded a female, which was also found dead.

On two occasions whilst a victim was actually being devoured, natives from the camp turned out with spears and beat off the lion with the flats of their weapons, although they could have speared the animal. Enquiries from them showed they believed that if they drew blood from the beast misfortune would befall them.

Colonel Gray reports that his herdboys watched a lion run after a large giraffe bull, jump up one of its legs and eventually climb up on to its back and neck. The giraffe rushed towards some trees, probably with the intention of brushing off the lion, but on the way it fell into a dry *donga*. The boys went towards the place, but the lion moved off. Upon Colonel Gray's arrival he found the giraffe still alive and able to move its hindquarters and its eyes, but its neck was immovable. The latter appeared to have a slight curve in it. The animal was clawed and bitten about the hind leg, and about one foot below the neck, but none of the bites or claw marks were deep enough to reach the vertebra. It appeared that its neck must have been broken when it fell into the *donga*, aided perhaps by the weight of the lion. This giraffe bull and also the lion have been known to Colonel Gray for many years. He affirms that whenever he used to meet the giraffe it never ran away and seemed as pleased as he was at the meeting. It measured 18 feet 9 inches in height.

#### CAPTURE OF WILD ANIMALS.

The following game animals were captured and exported during 1937:—

NAME OF ZOO	No.	Species
Victoria Memorial Park, Raungoon	2	giraffes
	1	zebra
	3	ostriches
Zoological Gardens, Madras	3	ostriches
Zoological Gardens, Calcutta	2	zebras
	3	ostriches
Zoological Society, London	4	ostriches
Tierpark Hellabrunn, Munich	2	giraffes
	3	zebras
	1	ostrich
Zoological Gardens, Nuremberg	2	giraffes
Zoological Gardens, Basle, Switzerland	1	giraffe
	1	ostrich
Zoological Gardens, Cologne	2	giraffes
	1	lion
Zoological Gardens, Amsterdam	2	rhinoceroses
	4	ostriches
Zoological Gardens, Leipzig	2	lions
	1	bushbuck

*Number and Weight of Tusks, Rhinoceros Horns, Hippopotamus Teeth, and the Provinces from which they have been obtained*

PROVINCE	ELEPHANT				HIPPOPOTAMUS				RHINOCEROS			
	SHOT		FOUND		SHOT		FOUND		SHOT		FOUND	
	Tusks	Weight	Tusks	Weight	Teeth	Weight	Teeth	Weight	Horns	Weight	Horns	Weight
	No.	lbs.	No.	lbs.	No.	lbs.	No.	lbs.	No.	lbs.	No.	lbs.
1. Southern ... ..	1,302	16,556	311	2,737½	2,814	1,418	364	211	—	—	—	—
2. Eastern ... ..	1,277	15,911½	296	4,715	831	505½	502	321	2	6	33	94
3. Southern Highlands ...	266	3,524½	158	3,305½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Central ... ..	12	472½	73	1,721½	—	—	—	—	2	5	17	59
5. Western ... ..	12	199½	27	657	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6½
6. Lake ... ..	14	395	6	283	92	59	—	—	—	—	2	6
7. Northern ... ..	9	232	64	1,641	—	—	12	9	30	74	97	326
8. Tanga ... ..	5	89	14	120½	—	—	—	—	1	3	6	23
Total ...	2,897	37,380	949	15,161	3,737	1,932½	878	541	35	88	157	514½