



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND WILDLIFE

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of the
GAME DEPARTMENT

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Although the Department has drastically cut down on elephant control and strictly regulated elephant hunting, the long term future of this species is causing concern. In the past twelve months, commercial poaching of elephants has become a threat to be reckoned with. The poaching situation is now under control.

(d) *Artiodactyla*

Family Hippopotamidae.—They are still plentiful in Albert Nile. The number of hippopotamus is on the increase in Kyambura Game Reserve. They still exist in Katonga, Toro, Karuma and Bugungu Game Reserves.

Family Suidae.—This family is represented by Warthog, Giant Forest Hog and Bushpig. All these are still plentiful in most forested parts of Uganda and gazetted game areas.

Family Bovidae.—This family exhibits a high degree of adaptive radiation and as a result it is represented by many species of varying sizes ranging from the Dik-Dik to the Buffalo. The only ungulate species whose future is doubtful is the Impala which exists only in restricted areas confined to the south-west of Uganda. The Roan Antelope appears to be on the increase in Sebei and Pian-Upe plains. Roan Antelope still exists in small numbers in East Madi and the former Kikagati Game Reserve and Lake Mburo Game Reserve.

Family Giraffidae.—Giraffe occurs in most parts of Karamoja, Sebei and a few have been observed in East Madi and in some parts of East Acholi.

(e) *Perissodactyla*

Family Equidae.—The Zebra occurs in large numbers in Karamoja and to a less extent in Katonga and Lake Mburo Game Reserves. The future of the Zebra in the recently degazetted Kikagati Game Reserve is doubtful.

Family Rhinocerotidae.—This family is represented by the White and Black Rhino. Although the population of the former is encouraging, the latter may very well be on its way out except those resident in the national parks (*i.e.* Kidepo and Kabalega Falls National Parks). The remaining few Black Rhino are in areas which are either, day by day, being taken up for agricultural and ranching projects or which are no longer gazetted under the Game Act.

CONCLUSION

Uganda is a small country with a high human birth rate. The country can only meet this rate of demographic increase by stepping up food production. However, increased food production need not necessarily mean increased land under food production. The quantity of food produced per hectare can be increased by extensive and scientific farming on fertile lands. This approach is essential if we are to retain some areas for wildlife conservation. In other words, there is an absolute need for land-use planning based on the criteria of land capabilities.

In the last few years, the Game Department has wasted a lot of law enforcement efforts in trying to evict encroachers from gazetted game areas. Uganda has to make a conscious choice, that is, whether to allow scattered cultivation situated near game areas thereby sacrificing wildlife conservation, or to adopt land-use planning.