



TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
GAME PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

Annual Report
1936



1-16 S. P. TEARE

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Lioness



Thomson's Gazelle coming from water

This photograph should have represented a single Thomson's Gazelle near water. The wrong negative has been printed. The above is a poor picture of a herd of impalla.

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GAME RESERVES.

A thorough game survey was made in August of the Sabal river reserve. This reserve had not been extensively inspected for twelve years. Elephant are very numerous there and the spoor of some colossal animals was observed. Rhinoceros abound particularly along the eastern and southern boundaries. Giraffe, buffalo and roan antelope are all very common. The reserve also harbours sable, greater kudu, eland, hartebeest, waterbuck, zebra, palla, lion, leopard and various other species.

An extension is to be added to the present Lake Rukwa closed reserve. This extension will include a lake which adjoins on the north-west the present Lake Rukwa closed reserve, and the surrounding land within five miles of the lake shore. It will afford protection to elephant, eland, roan, hartebeest, topi, zebra, puku, palla and reedbuck. From a motor-boat visitors will be able to see game near the lake shore, chiefly puku and reedbuck, and if they choose will be able to land to photograph game.

When I visited the area last September I was glad to note how tame these latter had become since the area has been declared a reserve. Photographs were obtained on foot from a distance of fifty yards.

In August I inspected the extension to the Matandu river reserve. I noticed three herds of greater kudu which included a particularly fine bull. I also saw a herd of wildebeest (Nyasa race).

I made a short walking safari into the extension of the Selous reserve at present known as the Njenje-Mbarangandu reserve which lies in the Lawale district. Although I did not actually see many elephant, I heard them screaming on several occasions. From the spoor crossing the footpaths near the rivers I should say a goodly number inhabit the reserve. It is urgent that this reserve should be gazetted at an early date as it is most important for elephant control and for the preservation of elephant in view of the campaign against them which has been in force elsewhere in the Southern province.

Other game appeared to be extremely scarce, though spoor of greater kudu, sable and waterbuck was observed.

BREACHES OF GAME LAWS.

Details of Offences under the Game Preservation Ordinance and Regulations during 1936.

Offences under the Ordinance	No. Charged	No. Discharged	No. Convicted
Shooting game in a game reserve (sec. 4) ...	33	—	33
Hunting game without a licence (sec. 5 (1)) ...	60	1	59
Unlawfully buying a game trophy (sec. 13) ...	2	—	2
Illegal possession of government-owned trophies (sec. 19 (1)) ...	99	2	87

A report was received from the Shinyanga district to the effect that upwards of fifty giraffe died recently in the vicinity of Old Shinyanga. The immediate cause of death was due to starvation consequent on the fact that the animals had been unable to maintain themselves owing to total blindness. A senior veterinary officer was of the opinion that the blindness resulted from an attack of rinderpest.

NATIVE POACHING.

The situation in regard to native hunting is a problem and likely to remain so.

The illegal killing of rhinoceros and elephant by natives continues. Several convictions were secured during the year 1936.

Two cases of game scouts and police askaris being deliberately shot at with poisoned arrows were reported during the year. In one instance a game scout was hit in the foot. Prompt treatment by the game ranger saved his life. The offender was eventually brought to book and received a severe sentence.

A campaign against illicit dealing in rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory was most energetically carried out by the game ranger for the Northern range. No less than fifteen convictions, with sentences varying from two months to six months were obtained. In every case the offenders were natives. In one case, in which a native clerk was the ring-leader, it came out in evidence that he had financed two other natives to proceed to the Sonjo country to buy rhinoceros horns. For the sum of a hundred and twenty shillings they returned with twenty-eight rhinoceros horns in all weighing 97 pounds 11 ounces.

The fact that a reward in proportion to the value of the rhinoceros horn or ivory recovered is available for information which leads to a conviction, has been of great value.

To show the ease with which rhinoceros are hunted I will describe a hunt as it was related to me by a well-known hunter. I would add that it took place a good many years ago and before the hunter's views on game preservation were as strong as they are now. He accompanied four Kamba hunters who were armed with bows and poisoned arrows. At seven in the morning they picked up the spoor of a rhinoceros which was followed until it entered a patch of thick bush. The party waited until mid-day by which time they expected the animal to be asleep. The Kamba then took up the spoor and came on the rhinoceros asleep. At a sign from the leader four poisoned arrows were shot into the animal. Immediately the arrows were shot the four natives, and the European who was watching, ran away. The animal was left for approximately two hours and then followed up again. It was discovered standing in the shade shivering, with its whole body wet with perspiration. By this time the European had seen enough and realizing the agony of the animal he shot it.

EUROPEAN POACHING.

European poaching has consisted chiefly of road-side shooting from cars, and over-shooting of licences for feeding labour. In regard to the latter offence there are not many cases which can go very far without being reported.

VISITORS.

The year 1936 showed a considerable advance in the number of visitors who came to the territory to see its game. Many of these took advantage of the facilities afforded them for short visits to the Serengeti area to observe and photograph game—lions in particular. Two hundred and forty-five persons visited the area during the year.

NGORONGORO REST-CAMP.

An innovation has been the erection of a rest-camp at Ngorongoro crater. This camp was built for the convenience of visitors who are either *en route* to the Serengeti game areas or who may wish to stay among glorious scenery for a few days. The camp overlooks the crater where, with a good pair of field-glasses, one can see game in large numbers. It is possible that a road will eventually be made into the crater so as to allow visitors in cars to see the game at close quarters.

The camp is furnished quite simply with beds, chairs, tables, etc. For the time being all foodstuffs, bedding, crockery, etc., must be taken by visitors. A nominal fee is charged for the use of the camp and its furniture. The site of the camp is approximately 8,500 feet above sea-level and is free from mosquitoes throughout the year. Extensions are to be made during the current year.

TRANSPORT.

Six of the seven rangers utilize their own motor vehicles, but with the limited funds available for travelling their activities are sadly curtailed.

GAME SCOUTS.

The fatalities shown on page 4 show the hardships and dangers of a game scout's occupation, yet his pay in comparison with that of many other government employees is exceedingly poor. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the right type of native as the scale of pay is an insufficient attraction unless the man is a born hunter and prefers the life at any scale of pay.

The work of Saidi bin Shimeshero of the Northern range in connection with illicit dealing in rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory has been outstanding this year. Head scouts Tenganeza bin Ngapenuka and Rashidi bin Samuel at Liwale and Tunduru, Southern range, deserve special mention for their work in connection with elephant control.

SHOOTING UNDER GAME LICENCES.

All lists of game shot are sent for my inspection. In some I note as many as five or six head of game have been shot in one day. One cannot help comparing the old days of hunting on foot with the modern habit of using motor vehicles. One often wonders what real satisfaction there is in collecting a good trophy by such means.

RANGERS' OBSERVATIONS.

Captain Moore reports that a nest of the red-beaked hornbill (*Lophoceros erythrorhynchus erythrorhynchus*, Bannerman) has been found close to Banagi and is being kept under observation. The nest is in a hole in a branch of a tree some twenty feet from the ground. It is about three inches in size and oval in shape. The hen-bird is sealed inside and not even her beak can be seen. The cock-bird is very busy feeding his mate at all hours of the day. He brings grass-hoppers, beetles, hornets and such like. The feeding is a quick process as he flies to a bough nearby, hops to the side of the branch containing the nest and, clinging like a tree creeper, pops the food quickly into the hole and flies off.



Puku



Native Ceremony showing their Tribal Totems—Elephant Tusks and part of a Buffalo Horn

In the Kitohawi valley two lions killed a woman reaping rice, at eight o'clock in the morning. Game scout Saidi Ngapilani killed both these lions with a shot gun.

A very old lioness and a solitary buffalo met at a water-hole on the Newala plateau: the lioness was killed by the buffalo.

Captain Hewlett reports that he saw a cock-ostrich busily engaged in demolishing a setting of ostrich eggs. The bird was assisted by vultures, marabout storks and two jackals.

On another occasion the same officer was surprised by a rhinoceros which appeared about three yards away from where he was sitting on the ground having lunch. Having no rifle handy he was in a quandary as the rhinoceros appeared very interested in him. He remembered a remark he had heard sometime ago that these animals react to a whistle. He tried it, with the happy result that the rhinoceros snorted, stamped and made off. It may have been a coincidence but there is no doubt it was a lucky one for the ranger.

A most interesting incident occurred to Mr Willis, Honorary Game Ranger. I quote his own words: "Did you ever push, yes, literally push, lions across a bridge? I did, the other night on the Ruwana bridge at eleven o'clock at night on the 20th November 1936, whilst proceeding by car from Mwanza to Musoma. I approached the Ruwana bridge going very slow, and in the moonlight I saw two animals which I took to be lions—and they were—lying in the middle of the bridge. I approached quite slowly until I got within ten feet of them; they took not the slightest notice; I sounded the horn and they lifted their heads but did not get up. I moved on slowly until the wheels of the car touched them—they then got up, looked around and did not move. I had the car stationary but the engine still going. I then moved on slowly and touched them again, they then condescended to move on; stopped again, and I touched them with the car again, and they quietly walked on to the end of the bridge, stopped, turned to the side and let me pass, and just looked at the car. I could have touched them with my 'Paradox'."

Mr W. E. Crosskill reports as follows in connection with a visit to the crater of Mount Meru: "When making a safari into the crater of Mount Meru in February we were surprised to find that the district between Ngongongare and Ngare Nanyuki at from five to ten thousand feet above sea-level had been deserted by the usual large population of elephant and rhinoceros. The water-holes and some of the springs had dried up after the recent drought and the animals had probably migrated to the western slopes of the mountain. Colobus monkeys seemed to be left in solitary possession of the beautiful and stately cedar and podocarpus forest. At ten thousand feet, however, we found several small herds of buffalo on a plateau covered with giant heather interspersed with open glades of short grass. There a human being is unknown and they were completely unafraid of us. Hyrax formed the last outpost of animal life. They could be heard chattering to themselves up to eleven thousand feet above which there is no further vegetation except just around the steam jets."

An occurrence last year in the Serengeti range incidentally led to the recovery of a haul of ivory and rhinoceros horns. The ranger (Captain Hewlett) obtained information which led him to believe a large elephant tusk was hidden by Ikoma natives. Search in a certain hut produced a tusk weighing approximately sixty pounds. The tusk was taken over to the ranger's headquarters—a distance of twenty-five miles. On the following morning a large

deputation of the Ikoma came to his office and stated that this tusk was their tribal totem and if it were removed from their tribal area, they, as a tribe, would cease to exist. They were assured that the tusk would not be confiscated but kept at Banagi pending a decision.

I was informed of this by Captain Hewlett and immediately left for Banagi, arriving about three o'clock one afternoon. On the following morning approximately two hundred men, women and children had arrived together with a piece of a second tusk and part of a buffalo horn. The deputation was led by a tall thin old man who eventually played the part of high priest. It was explained to me that the tusks were known as *Machaba*—man and woman, and the piece of buffalo horn was their child.

From their appearance the tusks were very old. The story told to me was that many years ago a deputation of their own tribe, the Ikoma, together with representatives from the adjoining tribes of Nata and Isenye went to Meatu in the Sukuma country to visit a famous witch-doctor, as their own tribes were dying from disease. They were told to return but on their way back they would find a token which they were to take. On the return journey they found a dead elephant. First, the Nata and the Isenye who were both in the majority tried to pull out the tusks but failed. The Ikoma then tried successfully. The Nata and Isenye next tried to lift up the tusks to carry them away but could not. The Ikoma picked up the tusks and returned to Ikoma. When the tusks arrived, the sickness cleared up. If the tusks are removed from their tribal areas the Ikoma believe their tribe will cease to exist, but so long as the tusks remain in their possession the tribe, they believe, will flourish and remain unconquered by the Masai. The buffalo head also came from Meatu.

The old men of the tribe stated that during the German occupation their "gods" were searched for by various white men. The late Mr Buckley, when he was provincial commissioner of the Lake province, told Mr Arundell, game ranger, who opened up Banagi in 1928, that a large tusk was reported to be in the possession of the Ikoma.

According to the old men of the tribe, Captain Hewlett and myself were the first Europeans to see these tusks. We handed them back but at the same time we suggested to the elders that as the tusks had been returned to them perhaps they might like to hand in to Government some of the many rhinoceros horns and tusks they were known to have hidden away! After some discussion the elders came to the conclusion that as their "gods" had been handed back they might do something in return. To cut the story short no less than twenty-one rhinoceros horns and fifty-six tusks of ivory were brought to the ranger's camp some two weeks afterwards.

Before the people left they asked me if I would care to see their ceremony which until now had always been held in secret. The two tusks were set upright in the ground with the buffalo horn in the middle. An ox and a sheep were killed. Both the tusks and the horn were anointed with fat and pieces of meat were tied round them. Offerings of meat were set in front. All the men then walked up to the tusks in single file. Each man rubbed his head against the tusks, touched the buffalo horn and as he walked away rubbed the fat on his legs in order, so it was told to me, to give him strength. The women then walked up in single file and were anointed on their breasts with fat from the tusks in order that they might conceive. Any child born nine months after this ceremony would be given the name of *Machaba*, *Banagi*.

CAPTURE OF WILD ANIMALS.

The following game animals were captured and exported during 1936:—

NAME OF ZOO	No.	Species
St. Louis: Zoological Board of Control	1	Lion
" " " " "	1	Giraffe
" " " " "	1	Bushbuck
New York: Bronx Park Zoo	1	Giraffe
New York: Central Park	1	Rhinoceros
Milwaukee: Washington Zoological Society	1	Zebra
" " " " "	1	Oribi
Cincinnati: Zoological Society of Cincinnati	2	Giraffes
Philadelphia: Zoological Society of Philadelphia	2	Giraffes
Detroit: Zoological Park	3	Ostriches
" " " " "	1	Giraffe
Cairo: Giza Zoological Gardens	2	Zebras
" " " " "	1	Eland
Dresden: Zoological Garden	2	Giraffes
Hamburg: Zoological Garden	2	Zebras
" " " " "	3	Wildebeests
Copenhagen: Zoological Garden	2	Zebras

HONORARY GAME RANGERS.

The following were appointed honorary game rangers in 1936:—

- G. R. E. Ross, Esq.
- G. R. Savory, Esq.

Already appointed:—

- Brig.-General L. B. Boyd-Moss, C.M.G., D.S.O.
- B. E. Frayling, Esq.
- Colonel C. L. R. Gray
- V. T. Hockin, Esq.
- L. F. F. W. Streit, Esq.
- C. F. M. Swynnerton, Esq.
- Baron von Blixen
- Oskar Koenig, Esq.
- Conrad Hopman, Esq.
- N. de Luigi, Esq.
- F. R. Hinderlick, Esq.
- F. J. Miller, Esq., J.P.
- Mrs Trappe
- Konrad Schauer, Esq.
- W. F. Baldock, Esq.
- C. L. Baneroff, Esq.
- B. D. Burt, Esq.
- R. L. Cornell, Esq.
- H. E. Hornby, Esq., M.B.E.
- G. Lindstrom, Esq.
- Maxtone L. Mailer, Esq.
- C. E. Gordon-Russell, Esq.
- Major F. E. H. Bostock, M.C.
- Captain R. G. Fairweather
- J. A. Fawdry, Esq.
- N. W. C. McDermott, Esq.
- G. G. Rushby, Esq.
- A. A. Willis, Esq.
- J. T. Rodger, Esq.

Chunya
Chunya

Usa River
Dar es Salaam
Arusha
Dodoma
Mwanza
Shinyanga
Babati
Lushoto
Lushoto
Arusha
Moshi
Moshi
Usa River
Dodoma
Moshi
Morogoro
Shinyanga
Mpwapwa
Mpwapwa
Moshi
Amami
Mbulu
Kasanga
Kib-rege
Mwanza
Uvinza, Kigoma
Mbeya
Mwanza
Dar es Salaam

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	3,241	31,547	333	3,610	5,154	2,900	62	35	—	—	—	—
2. Eastern	1,588	20,216	211	2,623	2,704	1,386	353	247	11	25	—	—
3. Southern Highlands	114	1,726	73	1,824	40	24	66	71	—	—	—	—
4. Central	12	330	26	726	—	—	—	—	53	174	23	113
5. Western	24	365	20	570	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Lake	9	397	2	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	25.9
7. Northern	33	396	77	2,603	—	—	10	13	34	98	97	304.10
8. Tanga	32	408	8	383	12	14	—	—	8	36	3	8
Total ...	5,053	55,385	749	11,785	7,910	4,324	491	366	106	333	131	451.3