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UGANDA PROTECTORATE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GAME DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

*Year ended 31st December, 1946*

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signed R. J. D. Salmon  
Ennabe, 21 May 1947

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## 3. Game and Special Licences Issued

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Resident's (Full) Game Licence	160	147	135	138	160	170	195
Visitor's (Full) Game Licence	..	..	..	..	3	3	4
Resident's (14-day) Game Licence	2	4	7	2	2	2	1
Visitor's (14-day) Game Licence	..	..	..	2	3	2	2
Non-Native's Two Elephants Licence	60	46	39	41	70	68	74
Non-Native's Three Elephants Licence	29	26	18	21	31	36	41
Non-Native's Three Elephants Licence	3	1	..	4	8	12	13
Native's Two Elephants Licence	43	45	54	46	45	48	47
Native's Three Elephants Licence	14	10	20	19	24	24	31
Native's Three Elephants Licence	9	7	3	9	11	11	12
Special Licence for One Black Rhino	3	1	..	..	..	2	1
Special Licence for One Gnu	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Bird Licence	666	653	690	572	684	780	865

4. (1) During the period under review revenue from the sale of game and special licences, which in 1939 amounted to £2,980, reflected the effect of war conditions by declining progressively till 1943 when there was a slight increase of £160. Subsequently, this increase was maintained, very considerably in 1944 by an additional £824, in 1945 by a further £256, and in 1946 by another £435.

Bird licences, which progressively decreased from 724 in 1939 to 572 in 1943, then show a steady increase up to 865 in 1946, no doubt on account of more supplies of the requisite ammunition becoming available, notwithstanding the fact that the present price of 12 bore ammunition is Shs. 50/- per 100.

(2) Ivory, a luxury article, has through the same period at the Government auctions almost consistently shown a progressive price increase year by year, from an average per lb. of Shs. 6/35 in 1939 to the record high (since the formation of the Game Department) of Shs. 16/23 in 1946. 1944 was an exception in which year the average price went back 71 cents.

5. Government ivory was, as usual, sent to Mombasa for sale. Two auctions were held at which the total weight sold and average prices realised were as follows:—

	Weight, lbs.	Gross price realised, £ s. cts.	Approximate average price per lb., Shs. cts.
May:—			
Ivory	13,663½	11,137 8 87	16 31
Rhino horns	24½	48 11 34	40 46
Hippo teeth	..	..	..
November:—			
Ivory	14,487½	11,701 8 14	16 15
Rhino horns	..	2 5 80	61 00
Hippo teeth	40½	5 3 08	2 60

## Comparative figures from 1940 to 1945 are as follows:—

	Weight, lbs.	Gross price realised, £ s. cts.	Approximate average price per lb., Shs. cts.
1940—			
May:—			
Ivory	15,110	5,034 1 52	6 66
Rhino horns	92½	69 1 65	15 01
Hippo teeth	6½	6 5 55	0 92
November:—			
Ivory	14,926	4,741 7 05	6 42
Rhino horns	29½	18 19 31	13 06
Hippo teeth	59	3 1 02	1 01
1941			
May:—			
Ivory	20,170	6,412 4 80	6 32
Rhino horns	25½	23 13 67	18 94
Hippo teeth	148½	5 9 71	0 73
November:—			
Ivory	14,115	5,000 4 21	7 08
Rhino horns	19½	26 10 92	27 94
Hippo teeth	136	7 7 36	1 08
1942			
May:—			
Ivory	13,180	5,016 1 21	7 61
Rhino horns	4½	2 13 81	13 45
Hippo teeth	130½	5 2 83	0 79
December:—			
Ivory	14,887	6,305 17 24	11 15
Rhino horns	11	9 4 74	16 79
Hippo teeth	21½	1 5 12	1 19
1943			
June:—			
Ivory	12,160	8,107 12 18	13 33
Rhino horns	10½	9 1 73	18 17
Hippo teeth	34½	1 13 74	0 99
November:—			
Ivory	10,556	5,877 14 43	11 14
Rhino horns	62½	43 8 42	14 00
Hippo teeth	23½	1 4 31	1 04
1944			
June:—			
Ivory	16,217½	10,836 2 69	13 36
Rhino horns	1½	1 8 01	16 26
Hippo teeth	40	3 1 07	1 55
November:—			
Ivory	16,888½	11,095 14 32	13 14
Rhino horns	44	29 0 76	13 19
Hippo teeth	..	..	..
1945			
May:—			
Ivory	11,455	7,427 3 84	12 96
Rhino horns	..	..	..
Hippo teeth	..	..	..
November:—			
Ivory	19,404½	11,760 5 18	12 12
Rhino horns	91½	86 10 69	15 05
Hippo teeth	54½	4 8 17	1 63

13. Revolutionary change in an animal's status resulted from Legal Notice No. 9 of 1945, which raised the hitherto persecuted and generally outlawed leopard, from the ranks of vermin, to that of the privileged which may be legally slain only by those licensed to do so. An extension of the Lake Edward Game Reserve made under Legal Notice No. 235 of 1946 was the most important one in this category. The following is a list of Legal Notices (except those concerning Fishing) during the period under review:—

Legal Notice No. 101 of 1942	(Cancelled by L.N. No. 108 of 1946).
Legal Notice No. 168 of 1942	
Legal Notice No. 169 of 1943	
Legal Notice No. 39 of 1944	(Cancelled by L.N. No. 240 of 1944).
Legal Notice No. 141 of 1944	
Legal Notice No. 240 of 1944	
Legal Notice No. 9 of 1945	
Legal Notice No. 147 of 1945	
Legal Notice No. 173 of 1945	
Legal Notice No. 242 of 1945	
Legal Notice No. 106 of 1946	
Legal Notice No. 107 of 1946	(Cancelled by L.N. No. 170 of 1946).
Legal Notice No. 108 of 1946	
Legal Notice No. 170 of 1946	
Legal Notice No. 219 of 1946	
Legal Notice No. 235 of 1946	

#### Game Reserves and Sanctuaries

14. *Bunyoro and Gulu*.—Water in the Nile has been too low ever since 1943 for any tourist traffic along the river to visit the Murchison Falls by launch. The Game Ranger in charge of this area has toured it on foot and reports everything reasonably satisfactory, and the Nile is now rising to its old levels, so traffic will shortly re-start: forward bookings are already numerous.

15. This Reserve probably holds just as many big elephant herds as ever, which would be expected, as they are not interfered with except during their annual emergence. If the Game Guards are in position in time to meet the excursion as soon as the herds cross the boundary line of the Reserve, most of the animals do not waste any time about rushing back to Sanctuary as soon as they hear the opening shots. A combination of Game Guards doing none but essential shooting and quick agreement by the elephants that their journey is not really necessary, seems to be leading to less killing each year. Unfortunately it is long grass country and the public see practically nothing of these herds except from the Nile trip.

16. *Lakes George and Edward*.—Here, in the short grass country, almost complete confidence in their immunity from danger, is shown by the herds, which quite happily line both sides of the main roads while motor traffic passes through. A display of well justified bad temper, by a victim of atrociously bad shooting by a licence holder operating just inside the Reserve boundaries, lead to an occasional alarm. An unfortunate bull elephant, with one tusk shot off and the other splintered by a bullet, though still rotting in its head, had to be shot recently after holding up all motor traffic, in both directions, for 8 hours. Such shooting is necessary, even in a Sanctuary. As a rule these elephants with their accompanying buffalo are as tame and placid as such creatures can be, and the recent extension of the Edward Reserve has enlarged the area of short grass country in which the non-hunting type of human can enjoy themselves at the expense of the ivory seekers.

17. Other game in this Reserve has not spread very much over a wider area, but it is in satisfactory numbers in the limited areas in which it is established. Wild dog and lion have noticeably increased there since 1940, and the fact that the kob and other antelopes more than maintain their numbers indicates a reasonably satisfactory state of affairs. One herd of kob seen recently counted up to over 300 and there are several small groups of this attractive animal usually in view from the main road.

18. *Semliki*.—Rather ineffective efforts have been made to protect the remains of the once literally vast herds of kob and waterbuck in this reserve, but it is an almost impossible area to look after unless the local African Administration give assistance and this is not forthcoming. During early 1946 an attempt was made to stop poaching by installing three quite long-service Game Guards for a period, but the high price of buffalo meat defeated the good intentions of the Game Ranger concerned, and though the men were all imprisoned after being convicted of killing game instead of protecting it, the example set by Game Department staff was unfortunate in its effects on African public opinion.

19. *White Rhinoceros*.—These have continued to thrive since 1939, and appear less harassed than they were then. On a recent visit a good supply of really young rhinoceros was seen, with the babies very fat and the matrons quite placid as long as visitors went about quietly, but any hurry and noise caused alarm at once, an unfortunate legacy from the rather intensive tribal hunting which has been permitted to develop. The right to hunt other animals has been freely given to the local Africans who, in return, are expected to respect white rhinoceros of all ages. Without having done an actual count of their numbers, it can be said that this arrangement has achieved its main object, the preservation of the local rhinoceros, but the other game has been very heavily depleted during the past six years, and does its best to avoid being seen at all. The only disturbing feature in the area is an increase in the numbers of medium to large size wheel and thong traps. Some of them are now being set for rhinoceros and before next dry season steps to control this form of atrocity will be required if the new rhinoceros crop is to survive.

20. Return of tusks from elephants shot by licence holders:—

District	Under 10 lbs.		10 lbs. and over		30 lbs. and over		40 lbs. and over		50 lbs. and over		60 lbs. and over		70 lbs. and over		80 lbs. and over		90 lbs. and over		100 lbs. and over		Total tusks
	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	
Mengo	1	7	23	53	11	3															98
Mubende		2	8	0	11	3	3														37
Masaka			2	4							4										10
Antelope		6	6	23	12	9	1														61
Toro	2	2	18	35	17	16	9	6	1	1	1										107
Kigezi			4	4	6		2		2	2											20
Bunyoro			8	3	18	7		1		2											40
West Nile			7	20	12		1														16
Mach			2			1															10
Acholi		2	12	21	17	10	18	6	4	3	3										96
Central			2																		2
Moret		4		6	6	2															18
Lang			4	8	4	2															18
Busoga			4	4	1	3															12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>574</b>

\* One single tusk.

The above represents 290 elephants and 4 single tuskers.