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F. H. CLARKE
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COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

**GAME DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT**

1936



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* Appointed in 1936.

2—REVENUE

A—LICENCES

The sum obtained from the sale of licences was £7,287, made up as follows: Game, £5,933; Game Bird, £386; Trout, £968.

The following is a comparative table giving the numbers of the several game licences over the last eight years:—

LICENCES	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Visitor's Full ..	36	43	34	9	22	15	18	21
Visitor's 14-day ..	—	—	—	—	—	12	18	20
Visitor's Private Land	20	11	11	25	15	4	6	5
Serving Officer's Full	5	5	2	4	5	3	3	6
Serving Officer's 14-day	—	—	—	—	—	10	8	12
Serving Officer's Private Land ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2
Resident's Full ..	315	331	258	170	142	177	145	156
Resident's 14-day	135	138	160	148	105	91	96	82
Resident's Private Land	515	393	327	256	209	179	153	142
Assistant's ..	—	—	—	—	—	14	13	28
Native Employee's	13	6	10	4	8	12	9	6
Bird	1,134	1,112	1,191	1,062	946	866	771	763
Elephant, 1st ..	37	23	27	36	34	29	30	32
Elephant, 2nd ..	4	1	2	6	9	5	6	5
Rhino, 1st ..	63	46	47	21	31	23	28	25
Rhino, 2nd ..	17	9	7	4	4	1	2	5
Giraffe	6	3	—	2	1	3	4	2
Ostrich	17	12	19	8	8	12	3	12
Governor's Permit (including Meru and Kwale Elephants) ..	27	78	28	29	59	21	37	38
Total Revenue ..£	13,285	11,754	11,604	7,163	8,647	6,703	5,923	6,319

The following is an analysis of licences issued:—

LICENCES	Euro- pean	Indian	Goan	Arab and Somali	Native	Total
Visitor's Full £75	21	—	—	—	—	21
Visitor's 14-day £15	20	—	—	—	—	20
Visitor's Private Land £10	5	—	—	—	—	5
Serving Officer's Full £20	6	—	—	—	—	6
Serving Officer's 14-day £4	12	—	—	—	—	12
Serving Officer's Private Land £4	2	—	—	—	—	2
Resident's Full £7-£10	150	4	1	1	—	156
Resident's 14-day £2	79	2	1	—	—	82
Resident's Private Land £2	132	4	2	4	—	142
Assistant's .. Sh. 10	28	—	—	—	—	28
Native Employee's £2	6	—	—	—	—	6
Bird Sh. 10	483	76	70	36	98	763
Elephant, 1st (under Resident's Full) £25	20	—	—	—	—	20
Elephant, 1st (under Visitor's Full) £25	12	—	—	—	—	12
Elephant, 2nd (under Resident's Full) £50	5	—	—	—	—	5
Elephant, 2nd (under Visitor's Full) £50	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhino, 1st (under Resident's Full) £10	6	—	—	—	—	6
Rhino, 1st (under Visitor's Full) £10	19	—	—	—	—	19
Rhino, 2nd (under Resident's Full) £10	5	—	—	—	—	5
Rhino, 2nd (under Visitor's Full) £10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Giraffe (under Visitor's Full) £15	2	—	—	—	—	2
Ostrich (under Resident's Full) £1	3	1	—	—	—	4
Ostrich (under Visitor's Full) £1	8	—	—	—	—	8
Governor's Permits for Elephant in: Meru District—						
Bull	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cow	1	—	—	—	—	1
Kwale District ..	2	—	—	—	—	2
Kilifi District ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Trout—						
Yearly .. £1-5	551	2	8	1	—	562
Fortnightly Sh. 10	279	—	3	—	—	282
24-hourly .. Sh. 3	751	4	36	—	1	792
TOTALS ..	2,636	93	121	42	99	2,991

The following are the figures for trout licences for the last eight years:—

LICENCES	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Yearly ..	334	390	551	643	612	606	537	562
Fortnightly	134	147	297	199	195	218	241	282
24-hourly	257	379	651	666	818	683	669	792
Total Revenue £	570	632	910	1,010	985	973	893	968

The following is a table showing the value of the licences acquired by various nationalities:—

	£	s.	c.
Europeans	7,057	12	00
Indians	82	2	00
Goans	63	8	00
Arabs and Somalis	34	15	00
Natives	49	3	00
Total	£7,287	0	00

B—IVORY AND CONFISCATED TROPHIES

The sum obtained from the sale of ivory and other trophies was £6,888. The weight of Government ivory sold in 1936 was 19,052 lb., and of rhino horn 1,378 lb.

C—SALE OF TROUT FRY

25,000 Rainbow trout ova were obtained from England in April, and the hatching was very satisfactory, approximately 45 per cent. Some 10,000 fry were sold to private associations and put in public waters. The sum realized from the sale of trout fry was £85.

D—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following is a summary of the Department's revenue and expenditure for the year:—

	£
Game Licences	5,933
Bird Licences	386
Trout Licences	968
Sale of Ivory and Confiscated Trophies ..	6,888
Sale of Trout Fry	85
Total	£14,260

The total expenditure for the year was £7,960.

The excess of revenue over expenditure, £6,300.

The following table shows the excess of revenue over expenditure for the period 1926-1936:—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess
	£	£	£
1926	31,170	8,627	22,543
1927	31,469	11,207	20,262
1928	24,451	11,017	13,434
1929	26,241	12,557	13,684
1930	26,554	11,532	15,022
1931	19,315	10,354	8,961
1932	15,981	9,277	6,704
1933	15,908	9,233	6,675
1934	16,515	8,980	7,535
1935	13,960	8,468	5,492
1936	14,260	7,960	6,300
			126,612
Yearly average excess			11,510

I have not included in the above figures revenue obtained under "Explosives, Gun and Ammunition Licences." This would amount to some £3,000 in a normal year, most of which is, I believe, collected in connexion with arms and ammunition used in game hunting.

3—CONVICTIONS

The following were the convictions under the Game, Game Bird, and Trout Ordinances:—

European, 11; Asiatic, 4; native, 485; a total of 500.

The totals for 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935 were 492, 504, 751, and 590 respectively.

4—GAME AND VERMIN CONTROL

A—VERMIN

The control of vermin such as hyena, jackal, baboon, pig, and porcupine has been conducted almost entirely by members of the Game Department. As these members have all commented on this important portion of their duties in the reports that appear at the end of this main report, I will not make any further remarks on this section.

B—ELEPHANT

Control measures were adopted in the following areas: Aberdares, Kisii, Nyeri, Laikipia, Timau, Kwale, and Lamu. These measures were conducted by members of the Game Department, by members of the East African Professional

Hunters' Association, by Honorary Game Wardens, and, in a very few cases, by experienced native hunters. I am happy to be able to state that in every instance the measures adopted were entirely successful.

C—RHINO

The intensive campaign conducted against rhino during 1935 almost entirely relieved the areas of the menace. Only eight of these interesting beasts were destroyed during 1936 under the control scheme; four being shot in the Laikipia area and four in the Nyeri area.

D—BUFFALO

Complaints were received from Nakuru, Embu, Rumuruti, Gilgil, Subukia, and Donyo Sabuk. In no case was the menace really serious; the shooting of a few animals relieved the situation in every instance.

E—ZEBRA AND OTHER PLAINS GAME

Very many complaints were received during the year about the depredations by the commoner kinds of game, especially zebra. All these complaints came from European landholders. Roughly 10,000 rounds of ammunition were issued by Government during the year for the amelioration of the landholder's lot, who suffered from the presence of an undue number of game animals. Two very important factors came to the assistance of both the farmer and the Game Warden: (1) the export trade in zebra hides revived considerably, and (2) a tannery for the preparation of all kinds of skins and hides was started in Nakuru. The result of these two factors is that the farmer can now shoot any animal on his holding, sell the skins, and thus reimburse himself for the cost of the killing. He is now in the happy position of not requiring to ask Government for assistance by providing him with free ammunition.

ELEPHANT IVORY

Sixty-seven tusks were shot on licence and exported, eleven of them being over 100 lb. in weight. The finest pair, 134 lb. and 128 lb., was shot by a resident. The average weight of the tusks shot on licence was 73½ lb. per tusk.

A total of 228 elephants were killed on all the control measures, the routine control measures accounting for 56 elephants, giving 112 tusks of a total weight of 2,630 lb., an average per tusk of 23½ lb.

armed with poisoned arrows. They are very difficult to capture as they are extremely mobile.

Samburu.—I visited the Samburu District twice; once in April and once in November. Arrangements were made for the employment of eight game scouts, to be recruited from ex-tribal retainers, and it is to be hoped that their efforts may prove successful.

Mr. E. A. Cunningham, Honorary Game Warden, met his death from injuries received from an elephant whilst on elephant control work in the district. He had previously done excellent work, was full of pluck and a fine shot. His death is most deeply regretted—a very great loss to the district and to Kenya.

Mr. Carr Hartley, on leaving Meru, carried on the work of vermin control under the supervision of the District Commissioner. The District Commissioner reports that the Maralal elephants behaved themselves, except one who nightly raided the station *shamba*.

The Punitive Police patrol helped considerably in the areas in which they operated.

Game Scouts.—We have increased the Samburu game scouts. I believe that the District Commissioner is recruiting these scouts from amongst ex-tribal retainers. This should prove satisfactory, as they have received training and are disciplined. It is difficult to find scouts for that district. Most of the ivory and rhino horn trade is controlled by Somalis living there; any scout soon becomes known, and he is either bought or frightened by the other side and his usefulness ceases in a few weeks. We are now experimenting with people paid only on a reward basis.

Conclusion.—In conclusion, I think we may say that generally, except for the northern end of Samburu, poaching decreased. I am afraid that this was due chiefly to the market for rhino horn and ivory in Italian Somaliland slumping owing to their activities in other directions. I am informed that, since November, the Italian authorities confiscate rhino horn and ivory, and imprison the owners, which should have a salutary effect on the situation and help us greatly.

Our thanks, as usual, are due to those District Commissioners and Police Officers who have helped us, and very greatly to the Officer in Charge, Northern Frontier District for his valuable support.

REPORT BY MR. C. G. MACARTHUR, ASSISTANT
GAME WARDEN, COASTAL AREAS

Safaris.—I was on duty throughout the year, and visited all districts except Lamu.

Poaching.—Scouts were frequently sent out to remote areas, away from motor tracks and civilization. The results were good.

In August, Mr. R. W. Foster, an Honorary Game Warden, and I obtained eight large tusks in the Kwale District. One of these had unfortunately been cut in half, ready for sale. The poachers, Wasanye, were subsequently arrested and convicted.

Mr. Mbarak Ali Hinawy, Honorary Game Warden, again gave very valuable assistance to the Department throughout the year.

Rhino Killing.—I investigated several cases in the Kitui and Machakos Districts, and, after two months, many convictions were secured and about 70 rhino horns recovered. This may have some effect on the rhino killers for a short time, but once the price rises killing will occur more than ever. The critics, more often than not with very good intentions, will advise, "Catch the receiver." More easily said than done. The receiver is either a Somali, Barawa, Arab or Indian; he employs semi-educated native touts; the horns are never touched, seen or housed by the receiver; payment is made on the advice of the native tout regarding condition, weight, etc., who also packs the horns in milk boxes, beer cans, or some such containers. The shipping is quite easy in a busy port like Mombasa, where exports of 100,000 or more bales, bags and other packages are handled in a week.

I realize that my chief concern is to prevent rhino killing in the coastal and bush areas. I can only intensify patrols and prosecute the killer.

Other game poaching, from giraffe down to dikdik, still continues among Wasanye and Wakamba. During the year, several hauls of poison, manufactured and sold by the Giriama, were confiscated and burnt. Scouts are continually on the lookout for traffic in arrow poison—in the past known to the Giriama as *miti ya kodi*. So much for the worst side of the picture.

Game.—Happily, the rainfall throughout my area was very good. Rivers, river-beds and water-holes were full of water, and everything was green for the greater part of the

year; man was more contented, reaped good crops and obtained good prices for those crops; the game looked well fed, more alert and free from disease. In several areas, increases of certain species were noticeable, especially giraffe, eland, impala and lion. In three separate areas I saw herds of eland 500 to 1,000 strong. Sportsmen obtained several elephants carrying 100 lb. and over of ivory per tusk, and many more between 80 and 100 lb. per tusk.

REPORT BY CAPT. J. T. OULTON, GAME AND VERMIN
CONTROL OFFICER

During the early part of the year I was engaged in lessening the number of zebra in the Samburu area of the Northern Frontier District. About a thousand were accounted for. The masses of zebra ate up the sparse grazing, and many deaths of cattle from extreme emaciation had resulted. This thinning-out process was amply justified.

Hyenas and jackals in considerable number were poisoned, as well as four lions. A lion and two lionesses came into camp and awakened my natives by sniffing under their tents. The lion grabbed a corner of one tent with his teeth, tore a big frayed rent in it and struck it with his paw. Teeth and claws made big holes in the strong, thick canvas. The soft ground after rain showed their pads within nine inches or so of the tents. These lions were eventually poisoned.

A bull buffalo badly gored a native cow near my camp, but shortly afterwards the above-mentioned lions killed him.

Wandering bands of Turkana were doing considerable poaching, and I fortunately rounded up one lot. Inspector Slatter, of the Samburu Levy, rounded up others west of the Matthews Range. One gang consisted of ten men, ten women and ten young girls and boys. They were subsisting entirely on game.

My next move was to the Southern Game Reserve, where lions had been killing considerable numbers of Masai cattle. Seven lions were shot. Poison was also used, and eight more were killed by this means. The killings of cattle then ceased.

Frequent reports reached me of lions entering *manyattas* at night, of cattle stampeded and killed whilst grazing in the daytime, and of solitary lions waiting near paths to watering-places and killing daily. The Masai, in attempting to deal with these situations, were badly mauled in several instances.

One case of injury by a rhino came to my notice. The injured man's friends had carried him to the railway line, stopped the train and put him aboard. I motored him to the dispensary and learnt his story. He and a friend were passing along a path when a rhino with a young calf dashed out of a thicket, tossed him on its horn, gored him in three places, and then made off. As this pugnacity was clearly in defence of the calf, and unlikely to be habitual, I took no steps.

In July I was at Konza endeavouring to deal with lions stated to be living in the Reserve and frequently killing European-owned cattle on the neighbouring farms. A week's search failed to locate the marauders, and then I shot wildebeests, etc., baited with strychnine, and distributed. The depredations then ceased.

Whilst there I arrested several Wakamba poachers armed with bows and poisoned arrows, whom I detected stalking a herd of wildebeests in the reserve. Suitable punishment followed.

In August I proceeded to the Kerio Valley; where agricultural activity was hindered by large numbers of pigs, baboons, monkeys, and porcupines. Mtama and wimbi were the only foodstuffs obtainable, and ripe heads of these were soaked in a solution of arsenite of soda, dried in the sun and distributed. This proved to be entirely effective, and the Marakwet and Elgeyo natives were loud in their expressions of appreciation.

Crocodiles in the Kerio River were a constant menace, many calves and goats being taken by them. About 40 were shot. Some 70 hyenas were also poisoned.

Whilst at the north end of the Kerio Valley word was brought to me that a Kere or Keret—"Nandi Bear"—had killed four cows on the eastern side of the Cherangani Forest. The descriptions given tallied with the usual story of a bear-like creature, with long hair on the neck and shoulders, a massive head, and about the size of a small lioness.

I next moved to Kendu Bay on Lake Victoria, where I shot 36 hippos which had caused heavy damage to native crops.

Waterbuck were also complained of, and eight of these were shot.

REPORT BY MAJOR J. KINGDON, HONORARY GAME
WARDEN, NYERI

Elephant.—Owing to an abnormally wet year, during which rainfall was distributed to cover practically every month from January onwards, elephant in the Nyeri District were more active than usual in their wanderings, with the result that the herds moved down from their normal haunts in the forest towards more settled areas. Consequently, a number of complaints was received of damage to *shambas*.

During the year I shot a total of 16 elephants under the control scheme, with an aggregate of 1,040 lb. of ivory. Of the above, eleven were killed along the slopes of the Aberdares between Kibagi (above Nyeri Hill) and the Northern Mathioys River in the Fort Hall District. The remaining five were dealt with on the Mount Kenya side, near Ragati and Nyana Hill. On October 28th I succeeded in killing a solitary bull which had done a great deal of damage to the Forest Plantations at Ragati (S. Kenya). This elephant was located in very dense cover at the edge of the plantations, and while I was watching for a chance to shoot him at very close range, he suddenly lay down flat on his right side and slept for twenty-five minutes, snoring heavily at intervals.

This seems worth quoting in view of the controversy as to whether the African elephant lies down to sleep or not.

In my observation of the local herds, I was struck by the number of calves in each case, a fact which points to a definite increase in numbers.

Rhino.—It was necessary to shoot only four of these animals, as opposed to fourteen during 1935. Of these four, one was damaging a coffee plantation on the Thego River; one was in the Triangle close to the main road; whilst two were tracked from a forest plantation where they had done a considerable amount of harm by completely stripping the bark from trees from ground level to a height of about four feet.

Both the Triangle area and the vicinity of the N.E. farms road remained practically clear of rhino throughout the year, a fact which tends to show that the control measures carried out during the preceding year had the desired effect, and that these animals took what, it must be confessed, was a very broad hint of their unpopularity in these areas.

Fish.—Here again the abnormally wet year kept the rivers in a state of persistently recurring spates, which brought a number of small fish down from the headwaters. Taken as a whole, the condition of trout remained excellent; and on the two rivers under my control (Thego and Sagana) the increase in ephemerids and other water-borne flies was very marked. As a result the trout have become much more interested in the artificial fly than formerly.

A very fine rainbow trout of 8 lb. 14 oz. was caught on the lower Sagana.

The activities of the scouts on the above-mentioned rivers had a marked effect on native poachers, and several home-made rods, lines and hooks were confiscated.

10—ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE.
AND CONCLUSION

It is always a difficult matter to say "Thank you" gracefully. I have to express very genuine gratitude to so many that it is difficult to decide who should head the list, alphabetical order being therefore indicated. The Administrative, Customs and Forest Departments having during 1936 all been as helpful as one Government department could possibly be to another. Of Honorary Game and Trout Wardens I have expressed appreciation elsewhere. Members of the Kenya Police have been of untold assistance throughout the year, in fact, I may say that without the help of the Police game preservation would almost cease to exist. To the members of the East African Professional Hunters' Association I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the friendly co-operation I have enjoyed, and which I earnestly hope to enjoy during the coming year.

In concluding this report, I feel that I can truthfully state that the year 1936 has been a satisfactory one from a game preservation point of view; also that the prospects for the year 1937 are extremely favourable.

F. H. CLARKE,
*Acting Game Warden,
Colony and Protectorate of Kenya.*
