

Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

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The Society was founded in 1903 as the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire, and subsequently named the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. Fauna & Flora International is conserving the planet's threatened species and ecosystems – with the people and communities who depend on them.

Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation, is now published quarterly by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Fauna & Flora International. It is a leading scientific journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, with a particular interest in material that has the potential to improve conservation management and practice.

The website, <http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>, plays a vital role in the journal's capacity-building work. Amongst the site's many attributes is a compendium of sources of free software for researchers and details of how to access Oryx at reduced rates or for free in developing countries. The website also includes extracts from Oryx issues 10, 25 and 50 years ago, and a gallery of research photographs that provide a fascinating insight into the places, species and people described in the journal.

The [Rhino Resource Center](#) posted this PDF in June 2009. We are grateful for the permission.

110° and over—once.

105° and over—seven times.

100° and over—thirty times.

90° and over—111 times.

Thermometer night temperature fell below 40° on seventeen occasions.

The winter was slightly colder and the summer not quite so hot as that of 1932.

With the exception of the animals killed by the staff, the above figures represent merely a percentage of the totals, amounting probably to about 10 per cent in the cases of lions, wild dogs, chitas, and crocodiles; 50 per cent in cases of poaching. At least 80 per cent of leopard kills consist of baboons, monkeys, steenbuck, bushpig, etc., none of which figure in above list; probably 10 per cent would represent the proportion of the animals on above list to the *total* number of them killed by leopards.

“Miscellaneous” deaths are mainly due to fighting among males, and a few to snake bite.

If not previously killed by carnivora, about 5 per cent to 7 per cent of the total herbivora would die annually of old age.

PROVINCE OF NATAL.

REPORT OF GAME CONSERVATOR (CAPT. POTTER) FOR 1933.

The Umfolosi Reserve has not been under my jurisdiction except in so far as the protection of White Rhino is concerned. For this purpose my head game guard Mali and five Native Guards are employed. Their headquarters are at Masimba just outside the Reserve and their duties are continually to patrol the areas where the White Rhino live and to keep in close touch with them. It will be of interest to note that although at present there is abundant grazing inside the Reserve, nearly half the White Rhino are to be found outside the Sanctuary.

The animals have bred well during the year and there are

now just over 200. With the exception of the cases referred to later, no molestation of these animals by shooting parties has come to my notice, although the Rhino are frequently to be seen very near the Shooting Camps.

The Reserve suffered severely from the drought and most of the game was forced outside during July to September in search of food.

The staff in the Hluhluwe Reserve remains the same as last year, i.e. one European Ranger and eighteen Native Game Guards. The services of the Ranger and ten guards have been used in preventing game animals from wandering to the Hluhluwe Settlement farms. The remaining eight guards are employed to police the Reserve.

Two Rhino paid a short visit to adjoining farms, and after breaking the owners' fences were driven back into the Reserve. Beyond this no incursions of the larger animals on to the farms have been reported. The Game Ranger keeps in close touch with the settlers by means of a bimonthly patrol of the settlement.

The Hluhluwe Reserve is the home of the Black Rhino, eighty-five of which have their abode therein. One of these animals met his death during the year at the hands of natives outside the Reserve. The animal, a vicious old bull, charged into the midst of native women hoeing on their lands, and was eventually stabbed to death by Native men in pure self defence.

These animals are increasing satisfactorily. Eleven of this year's calves have been seen. The White Rhino have apparently come to stay in the Hluhluwe Reserve. A recent census shows that at least eleven adults and two calves are at present resident there. The number of Nyala has reached 160 or more. They have established themselves in suitable bush country in the heart of the Reserve, and there is no reason why they should not thrive and multiply in their new home.

The Impala brought from Mkuzi have not been seen for some months. It is feared they have returned to Mkuzi.

Wild dogs have been encountered in large packs on two

occasions during the year. Fortunately they do not live here and only pay very occasional visits.

Crocodiles are numerous in the pools of the various rivers, and leopards, though not often seen, can be heard near headquarters during the night. Hyenas are plentiful and serve a useful purpose in ridding the Reserve of old, sick, and wounded animals (from outside).

Crested and Crowned Guinea-fowl abound, also Bush partridge; Redwing and Swempie are usually to be seen in their favourite haunts. The Swainson francolin (Transvaal Bush pheasant) have increased and their raucous cry can now be heard in several parts of the Reserve. The English pheasants appear to be holding their own. They have unfortunately left the precincts of headquarters and have taken to the bush country northwards, where their early morning and late evening crows can be heard.

In the Mkuzi Reserve are six Native game guards.

The main features of this Reserve are the herds of Impala and the numbers of Nyala. There are over 1,000 of the former and at least 750 Nyala.

Both species are thriving and show a satisfactory increase. The grazing during the winter months was scanty owing to drought, but the animals kept in good condition, thanks to the patches of good grass near the watercourses.

The Black Rhino, as in the Umfolosi, seem out of their element in this Reserve—only one calf has been seen this season. I am of opinion that the eleven or twelve Rhino here have been driven out of the Hluhluwe Reserve and are mostly old animals probably past the age of breeding.

Lions may frequently be heard and their kills are much in evidence. I have seen only one old male during the year. There are from ten to fifteen of them in the Reserve, and now that they have been placed on the Royal Game list it is hoped they will increase and become a source of attraction to visitors.

Duiker and Steenbok show a marked increase. Reedbuck are plentiful and 50–100 Suni (Livingstone antelope) are estimated to exist.

Guineafowl in large numbers, both crested and crowned, are to be seen during the winter months.

The Ndumu Reserve has been visited. I do not consider it serves any useful purpose as a Game Reserve. The species it contains mostly, i.e. hippo, nyala, and mkumbi, are found in plenty and are well protected in more accessible areas of Zululand. At present the Reserve is supervised by the S.A. Police, whose post overlooks it.

False Bay and St. Lucia Lake areas have been visited monthly and at certain seasons Native pickets have been temporarily stationed there. In addition to the numerous sea birds this section contains Nyala, Mkumbi, Reedbuck, and other small game.

There are about 100 hippopotami in the whole area, sixty of which have their home in the Northern and Southern estuaries of St. Lucia Lake. One animal has been killed here during the year, but it is not definitely known whether it died by fighting or by a bullet, as the carcass was too decomposed when I first saw it. Several complaints have been received that the hippo have been molested and enraged by speed boats circling round them in the estuary. Investigations show such disturbance to have been the work of thoughtless persons who are probably unaware of the danger they are courting by getting too near hippo, especially enraged hippo. On the whole, however, visitors to the Lake have conducted themselves well and have obeyed any necessary rules for their safety as far as hippo are concerned.

Rest Huts.—In the Hluhluwe Reserve a start has been made with the building of rest huts which I hope will be available for visitors by May. The road in the Hluhluwe Reserve, though only a track, is fairly good. The by-tracks through the Reserve will be put into trafficable condition as soon as the rainy season is over.

The Administration's policy of keeping the animals in the Reserves within their carrying capacity has been continued, and over 1,000 animals, chiefly wildebeeste and other vermin, have been shot in and around the two Reserves.

The area of the Hluhluwe and Mkuzi Reserves is roughly

100,000 acres and they contain approximately 11,250 game animals. This gives about 9 acres to each head or 72 animals to the square mile. The more fertile parts of the Kruger National Park are quoted as being capable of carrying 34 animals to the square mile and the more barren sections only 6 animals to the square mile.

It will be seen, therefore, in spite of certain reports that the game in the Zululand Reserves is nearing the danger line as regards numbers, that the Hluhluwe and Mkuzi Reserves at least are fully stocked up to their carrying capacity taking conditions throughout the year into consideration.

Careful and systematic thinning out of the commoner species must therefore be continued.

Poaching.—During the year nine European and twenty-one Native Poachers were apprehended and sentenced. Three White Rhino were ruthlessly destroyed and one was found dead in a bog in the Umfolosi area during the year.

A great deal has been said and written about the quantities of game, especially Nyala and Impala, arriving at Durban by train from Zululand. It has been said that some of this game has been shot in the Game Reserves.

The regulations permit residents of the Settlement Zone to shoot all game animals (except Royal Game) within this zone free of charge throughout the year. The False Bay area abounds in Nyala and the area adjoining the Mkuzi Reserve on its southern boundary in Impala and Nyala. The Residents naturally take full advantage of the facilities granted, and I myself have seen dead Nyala and Impala sent away in numbers from these areas. Such, however, is well within the law and is in no way opposed to the Administration's policy of game protection in the Reserves only.

There has been no shooting inside the Game Reserves except under the direction of the Game Conservator, and then only in pursuance of the policy of thinning out the commoner species and destroying vermin.

Rainfall and Weather Conditions.—Severe drought conditions were prevalent in July, August, and September,

especially in the Umfolosi Reserve and to a lesser degree in Mkuzi. The Hlulhuwe Reserve, however, continued to provide good grazing and plenty of water. I would mention that no point of the latter reserve is more than three miles distant from good water even in the dry seasons.

The rainfall at Hlulhuwe Reserve for 1933 was 34.8 inches. It rained on fifty-five days of the year. No rain fell during May or June.

In 1932 43.8 inches were registered.

Attached is a list of game animals at present in the various Game Reserves. The numbers are approximate especially in regard to the Umfolosi animals (White Rhino excepted) and the small bush loving species in the other Reserves.

In the case of Rhino (Black and White), hippo, buffalo, and the larger animals the numbers may be taken to be as nearly accurate as it is humanly possible to make them.

HLULHUWE RESERVE—AREA, 35,000 ACRES.

Six acres per animal, inclusive of small game.

Black Rhino	85
White Rhino	7
Buffalo	400
Wildebeeste	400
Zebra	350
Waterbuck	300
Kudu	250
Warthog	600
Reedbuck	200
Mountain Reedbuck	150
Duiker	250
Steenbuck	70
Nyala	160
Impala	10
Mkumbi	500
Ipiti	250
Bushbuck	1,000
Wild Pig	1,000
Klipspringer	30

Total (approximately) including small game 6,000

Buffalo, Rhino, Wildebeeste, and Zebra probably would require 10-15 acres per animal, and small game about 2 to 5 acres, taking into account conditions throughout the year.

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UMFOLOSI RESERVE—72,000 ACRES.

These are approximate figures and probably err on the low side. Roughly 17 acres to each animal and they need all this, especially in times of drought.

Black Rhino	10
White Rhino	200
Buffalo	500
Wildebeeste	600
Bushbuck	500
Zebra	350
Waterbuck	150
Kudu	250
Warthog	250
Reedbuck	150
Mountain Reedbuck	100
Duiker	550
Klipspringer	25
Mkumbi	50
Ipiti	100
Bushpig	400
Total	4,185

MKUZU GAME RESERVE—62,000 ACRES.

Bushpig	1,000
Black Rhino	15
Wildebeeste	500
Zebra	120
Waterbuck	60
Bushbuck	150
Warthog	30
Reedbuck	250
Mountain Reedbuck	60
Steenbuck	500
Duiker	400
Nyala	750
Impala	1,000
Lion	12
Ipiti	150
Zululand Sumi	50
Mkumbi	100
Total	5,247

NDUMU GAME RESERVE—24,000 ACRES.

Probably 150 Hippopotamus, 30 Nyala, 50 Bushbuck, and 150 Mkumbi.

JAPAN.

National Park Law.—By the constitution of this Society we only concern ourselves with wild life conservation within the Empire. At the same time the policy of other nations