

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.

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far bank just above a bend where the stream ran with a sudden urge. A lucky cast missed the bush by an inch and floated the fly somewhere in his line of vision. One could not see the fly after it alighted: but there was no mistake about the fish's rise. He hooked himself and was landed at the bend below. He weighed just over a pound; so we kept him. Should we try further? It was getting dark—too dark to follow the fly. Not too dark, however, to see a Mallard sailing down the current. Would he rise when he saw us? We stood absolutely still and he passed us within three yards. The after glow of a stormy sunset glinted on his eye which marked us where we stood: but he sailed on and round the next bend. With him he seemed to take the last remaining light. There was no longer a sound of any bird or of the chop of a rising fish. I took down my rod, well content to have been there.

M. G.

NATAL.

REPORT OF ZULULAND GAME RESERVE AND PARKS COMMITTEE.

The Committee above mentioned was appointed to formulate a policy for the adequate development of the Hluhluwe Game Reserve area, the St. Lucia area, and the Bird Sanctuaries with a view to utilizing their resources to the greatest advantage of the Province. The Committee was constituted as follows:—

W. M. Power, Esq., M.E.C. (Chairman).
 A. E. Charter, Esq., O.B.E., Provincial Secretary.
 W. H. Lane, Esq.
 W. S. Payne, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., M.P.C.
 A. F. W. Springorum, Esq., M.P.C.
 With Mr. C. N. Ledward as Secretary.

The Report of this Committee is illustrated by a map which is reproduced at page 52.

The Committee visited Zululand in May and discussed matters with various interested persons including deputations

from the Hluhluwe and Northern Zululand Farmers' Association.

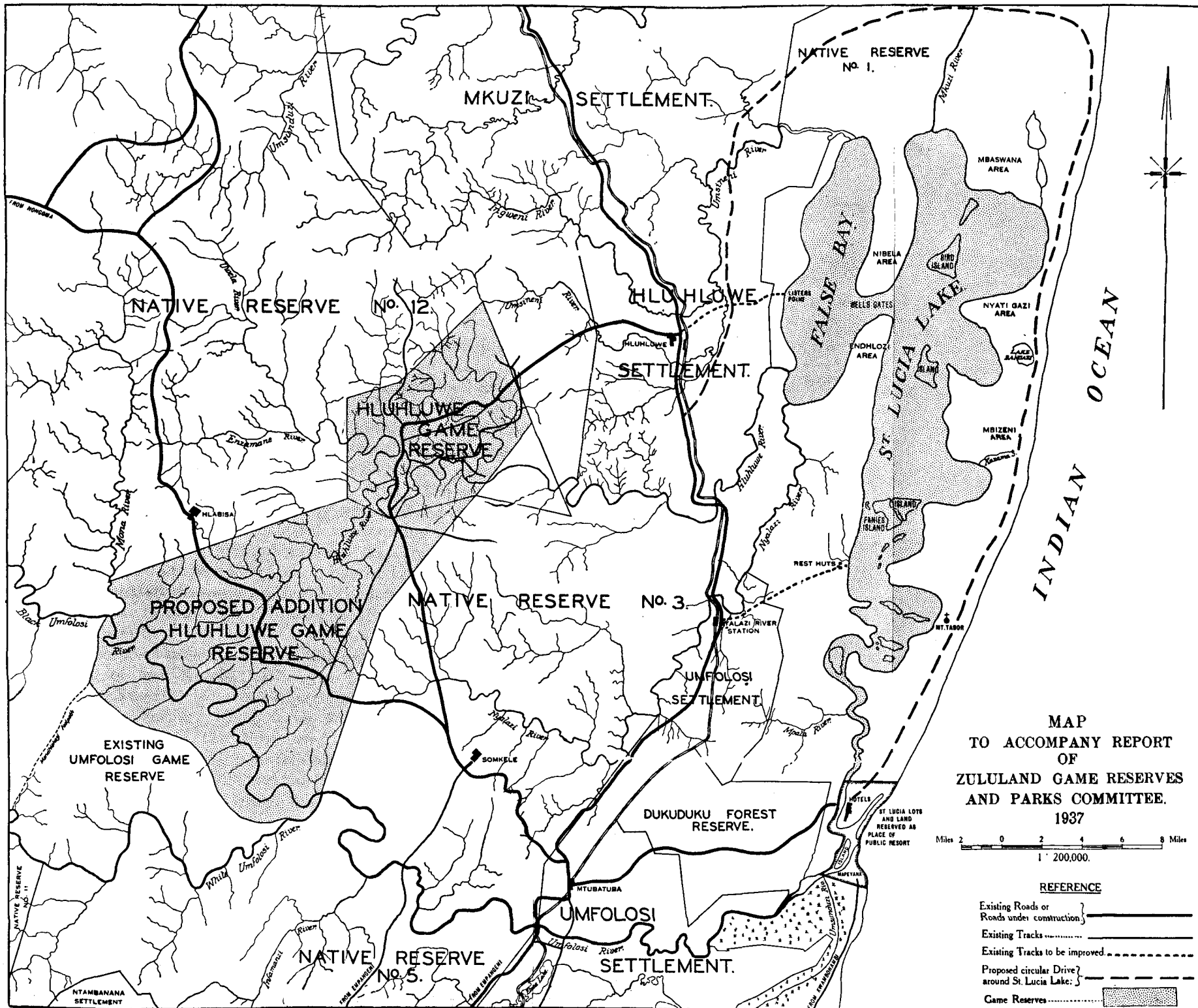
HLUHLUWE GAME RESERVE.

Description of Area.—The Hluhluwe Reserve comprises 39,700 acres and it has been recommended by the Game Reserves Commission that it should be extended to include the Northern portion of the Umfolozi Game Reserve. It can be reached by train from Durban via Mtubatuba, the journey occupying about 10½ hours. Or it can be reached by road, the distance being approximately 200 miles. The Reserve is watered by five rivers and there are numerous pans, so that there is an abundant supply of water for the animals throughout the year. The Reserve is hilly, and the scenery, which comprises both high and low veld, is said to be magnificent. The Committee use the following account of the game and the scenery of the Reserve: “The Reserve contains many species of game, the most important from the tourist's point of view being the White Rhinoceros. From twenty to thirty of these rare animals are at present in the Reserve and a large number are to be found in the area proposed to be added. There are numbers of Black Rhinoceros, these animals being next in order of importance. Buffalo (of which there are probably about 600), Wildebeest, and Zebra abound and also the magnificent Waterbuck and Kudu, the beautiful Inyala and Impala, together with many other varieties, viz. Burchell's Zebra, Duiker, Blue Duiker, Red Duiker, Klipspringer, Steenbuck, Reedbuck, Mountain Reedbuck, Bushbuck, Warthog, and Bush Pig. There are also a few Eland and Springbuck. One of the outstanding attractions of the Reserve is the fact that a visitor is not confined to the roads. Pleasant hours can be spent in roaming (accompanied by a Game Guard) through the Reserve, and one is then sure to see many species of game in their natural and wild state. Although game, including the White and Black Rhinoceros, can be seen from the roads, walking through the Reserve is recommended. During the summer months the luxurious undergrowth, while attractive from a scenic point of view, obscures vision. In the winter

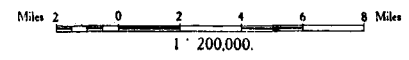
months the animals are more easily seen from the road and tracks. The climate is ideal and the Rest Huts, providing comfortable accommodation, are situate about 1,500 feet above sea-level and even in the summer months excursions to the lower portions of the Reserve can be made without risk. There is considerable bird life in the Reserve and the experiment of introducing English Pheasants has proved successful—numbers of these beautiful birds being scattered throughout the Reserve. There are numerous pools in the rivers containing crocodiles, whilst if one cares for fishing good sport is to be obtained. Your Committee was much impressed by the beauty of the Reserve, which may be summed up in a few words—that it is a veritable paradise of scenic beauty, a never-ending source of delight to those who love fauna and flora, and an ideal holiday resort especially for those whose lives are spent in towns.”

Amenities for Visitors.—The Committee reports that only recently has any serious attempt been made to improve the amenities, the development having been retarded for reasons which are not discussed. In recent years the Game Conservator has been devoting the major part of his time to the administration of the Reserve and latterly he has, also, been placed in charge of St. Lucia owing to complaints regarding failure to protect animal and bird life in the area. The Committee found that excellent progress has been made, tracks laid down to enable visitors to see the game in most parts of the Reserve, and three Rest Huts and one rondavel erected and comfortably furnished. Accommodation is thus provided for about twenty visitors. Rest Huts which are in keeping with the surroundings are at an altitude of 1,500 feet, commanding beautiful views of hills on which Buffalo and other species of game such as Waterbuck, Wildebeest, and Zebra can be seen. The charges for the Rest Huts are 2s. 6d. per person per day, and the services of Game Guards are available as guides at a reasonable cost.

“The Hluhluwe Reserve was practically unknown a few years ago and visitors were few and far between owing to the lack of means of access and of accommodation. The number of



MAP
TO ACCOMPANY REPORT
OF
ZULULAND GAME RESERVES
AND PARKS COMMITTEE.
1937



REFERENCE

- Existing Roads or Roads under construction } —————
- Existing Tracks } - - - - -
- Existing Tracks to be improved } - - - - -
- Proposed circular Drive } - - - - -
- around St. Lucia Lake } - - - - -
- Game Reserves } [stippled area]

visitors has increased year by year and they now come not only from all parts of the Union but from Overseas, the main attraction being the White Rhino, which, as is well known, cannot so readily be seen in any other part of the world. The Black Rhino, Buffalo, Inyala and other animals also attract and interest lovers of nature.

“From a botanical point of view it has been said that the Hluhluwe Reserve, unspoiled as it is, affords a wonderful scope for botanical research.”

ST. LUCIA.

Description of Area.—Most visitors arrive at Lake St. Lucia by road via Mtubatuba, the distance from Mtubatuba to the Estuary being about 18 miles. It has been described as an Angler's Paradise but offers attractions also to students of Native and animal life. Crocodiles are numerous. Bird life includes Flamingoes, a large variety of water fowl, and other birds which may be seen in great numbers on the many islands in the Estuary, the Lake, and False Bay. Many Hippopotami can also be seen. One can proceed by water for a distance of over 60 miles amid most beautiful surroundings. Fish of many kinds abound, including Shark and Skate, both of which may be caught up to weights of many hundred pounds. There are approximately 40 species of fish in the Estuary and Lake.

The climate near the sea is bracing, and malaria is said to be non-existent.

Amenities for Visitors.—The existing amenities for visitors, consisting of two Hotels, have been provided by private enterprise. The Hotels have been erected on a portion of land adjoining the Estuary which forms a promontory.

“Some time ago the Provincial Administration made representations to the Honourable Minister of Lands for an area, including a piece of land on the southern side of the Estuary, to be transferred under the Financial Relations Act, 1913, to the Provincial Administration as a place of public resort. These two areas are shown on the map attached to this report. It was felt by the Executive Committee of the

Province that the area could be more properly controlled and managed by the Provincial Administration, and in this view the Union Government concurred. While the proposal of the Executive Committee was being considered the Lands Department has held over the question of making more lots available, although many applications have been received. The effect of handing over the area to the Province under the statute quoted is that the proceeds derived from the sale of any further land in the area can be utilized for its development, thus relieving the Province of a certain amount of expenditure in this direction. The Surveyor-General was asked to suggest a tentative lay-out, and the question of the future policy to be adopted will be dealt with later in this report."

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS.

Hluhluwe Game Reserve.—The Committee recommends that the present Rest Hut accommodation should be at least doubled, Huts of the existing type being erected, with such improvements and alterations as experience has shown to be necessary.

There is a dearth of water for domestic purposes during the winter, and the Committee, having come to the conclusion, after investigation, that there is little possibility of obtaining water by boring, recommends the construction of a dam and the provision of pumping facilities to carry the water thus stored to the Huts.

It recommends, also, that road access should be provided for the Hluhluwe Township side of the Reserve for the convenience of local residents and those coming from the Transvaal and Swaziland. The road has already been begun within the Reserve Boundary, and the Committee strongly recommends that it should be completed and connected up with a point somewhere in the vicinity of Hluhluwe Station.

St. Lucia.—"Although a large number of visitors journey to St. Lucia—and the number is increasing year by year—the attractions of this wonderful pleasure resort are not widely known owing to the absence of certain necessary facilities.

At the present time, activity is with few exceptions restricted to the area in the vicinity of the Estuary and visitors are mostly those interested in angling. The other attractions of the area are not known, and even if they were the absence of accommodation at other points than the Estuary makes it impossible for visitors to see the natural attractions referred to earlier in this report. At the present time, unless one is venturesome, it is not possible with any degree of comfort to proceed up the Lake for more than a strictly limited distance and it is necessary to return to the Estuary to obtain sleeping accommodation. Taking the average boat speed at 4 miles per hour one cannot go farther than about 20 miles including the return journey ; one thus misses the most beautiful parts of False Bay and the Lake. To meet this difficulty to some extent the Administration has agreed to the erection of Rest Hut accommodation at a point about 20 miles from the Estuary. It will then be possible to explore further than at present but this is not sufficient and your Committee recommends that similar accommodation be erected at two other suitable points."

The Committee has various recommendations to make with regard to fishing, including such matters as bait for anglers. It expresses the strong opinion that fishing for commercial purposes should not be permitted in the Estuary, False Bay, or the Lake. It further recommends that better road facilities should be provided between Mtubatuba and the Estuary, this road being the only means of access to the Estuary and much inconvenience and delay being caused during the rainy season through lack of proper construction. They also refer to a scheme under consideration for the construction of a road in the form of a circular drive round the Estuary, False Bay, and the Lake, the most suitable site for which, in their opinion, is indicated on the map.

THE BIRD SANCTUARY.

"The bird Sanctuary which comprises the water and islands in the St. Lucia Estuary, Lake, and False Bay was for control

purposes proclaimed as a Game Reserve in order to prevent the carrying of firearms within the area. Many complaints were received regarding the molestation of the birds and Hippos by irresponsible persons. The practice of firing at and molesting Hippos is a most reprehensible one, causing the animals to be restive and dangerous. Birds were also destroyed and the eggs disturbed. Your Committee notes with pleasure the action already taken in proclaiming the area as a Game Reserve and the consequent prohibition of firearms. The Committee also notes that a Ranger has been appointed to patrol the area whose duty it is to prevent poaching and to assist visitors generally. For the information of those interested the following is a list of some of the birds to be found in the Bird Sanctuary: Pelican, Flamingo, Sacred Ibis, Waterhen, Gulls, Egyptian Geese, Spurwinged Geese, Teal (whistling), Duck, Spoon Bill, Cranes, Fish Eagle, Goliath Heron, Black Heron, White Stork, Little Egret, White Egret, Black Winged Stilt, Crested Guinea Fowl, Francolin, Ordinary Guinea Fowl, Khorhaan, Pauw."

Area between Hluhluwe Reserve and St. Lucia and False Bay.—“Reference to the map will show that there is certain land lying between the Hluhluwe Reserve, False Bay, and Lake St. Lucia.

“It will be observed further that the land comprises partly allotted farms and partly Native Reserve. While it is not within the terms of reference of the Committee to make recommendations regarding this piece of land it understands that there is a suggestion that the Government should acquire from the European owners their interests in these farms. The Committee records its opinion that, while more land may not be required for the actual preservation of game animals when the Reserve is extended, the policy of acquiring these farms is one which deserves very careful consideration. If, as has been suggested the land might be acquired for Native Settlement—and the Committee does not offer any comment upon this suggestion—it desires to mention that in its opinion the presence of a Native population may be regarded as an attraction. The fact that the road to the Reserve passes

through this area will be an additional incentive to tourists, especially those from oversea, who in these days seldom are able to see Natives amid primitive surroundings. If on the other hand the land is acquired and not used for Native settlement the Committee suggests that consideration should be given to the transfer of the control of the area to the Provincial Administration as an adjunct to the St. Lucia Bird Sanctuary.”

MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

Among a number of miscellaneous recommendations made by the Committee the following are of interest :—

Importation of Animals.—“ In view of the success which has attended the efforts of the Game Conservator in the introduction of animals into the Hluhluwe Reserve, it is recommended that this policy be continued, and the Committee suggests that the Game Conservator be authorized to inquire whether new species other than Lions might be introduced, e.g. Sable and Roan Antelope, and possibly Giraffe. The question of the transfer of a number of the few remaining Red Hartebeeste—which only occurs on private property in Natal—might also be considered, as also the introduction of Ostriches.”

Scientific Research.—“ Your Committee feels that the time has arrived for obtaining scientific advice regarding the Estuary, False Bay, and the Lake with its teeming fish, animal, and bird life. It is understood that very little is known of the scientific aspect of the area, and we are convinced that scientific advice should be sought to ensure that the area will remain for all time one of the foremost attractions not only of the Union, but of the Empire. Much requires to be done and unless the area is administered with due regard to the scientific side there is considerable danger of mistakes being made which it may not be possible to rectify later. Expert knowledge should be obtained not only regarding the breeding grounds of fish with a view to the establishment of fish sanctuaries if necessary, but also in regard to the food supply. At the present

time there are no regulations restricting shrimping to certain areas. Whether or not control is desirable in order to preserve food for the fish is a matter which can only be decided after scientific investigation. No research has taken place with a view to determining the extent of insect life and its possible bearing upon the subject. These and other matters deserve attention and your Committee is firmly of opinion that professional services should be secured at an early date to undertake a complete survey of the animal, bird, fish, and insect life of the Estuary, False Bay, and the Lake. It is suggested that the matter be discussed with the Natal University Authorities."

Future Control of the Area.—"Under existing conditions the area comprising the Hluhluwe Reserve and the area proclaimed as a Bird Sanctuary at St. Lucia are under the immediate control of the Game Conservator, who is responsible directly to the Provincial Administration in Pietermaritzburg. It has been suggested from time to time that the areas might be transferred from Provincial control and placed under the jurisdiction of the National Parks Board of Trustees under the National Parks Act. The Committee is opposed to this suggestion and indeed feels that action on these lines would not meet with the approval of the majority of the people of this Province. The Committee is, however, of the opinion that the time has arrived for a certain measure of decentralization and recommends that a Board be established consisting of, say, five members, including the local member of the Provincial Council and a representative of the Durban Publicity Association. It is suggested that this Board should be given power to administer the area with a grant from the Province on somewhat similar conditions to the Natal National Park Advisory Committee."

Natives squatting on the Land Reserved under the Financial Relations Act.—"It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that certain Natives from outside the Union are squatting without authority on certain portions of this land. It appears that the Natives cultivate small portions of land, and when a crop is reaped they move on to another piece,

with the result that the disturbed soil is denuded of grass and sand dunes created. This practice if not controlled will result in the area being ruined, and the Committee strongly recommends that immediate steps be taken to remove the Natives, or that at any rate their agricultural operations be controlled."

General Conclusions.—"The Committee after a personal inspection of the whole area, viz. Hluhluwe Game Reserve, St. Lucia Estuary, Lake, and the land comprising the proposed Township, is convinced that with proper development on scientific lines it will rapidly become one of the most important places of public resort in the Union, with the consequent advantage not only to those engaged in commerce and agriculture in the neighbourhood but to the towns through which traffic may be expected. It is only necessary to refer to the increase in trade as the result of the opening up of the Kruger National Park. The area has attractions second to none and although the Hluhluwe Reserve does not adjoin the Lake the areas are connected by road; a very interesting tour is possible by visiting Mtubatuba, the Estuary, Lake, and False Bay, returning via Mtubatuba, Hluhluwe Township, through the Game Reserve, and then via the Somkele Road back to Mtubatuba. On such a tour the visitor will see animal and Native life to his heart's content, with the additional attraction of scenic and floral beauty.

"The Committee recommends that the whole of the area comprising the Bird Sanctuary, i.e. the Estuary, Lake, and False Bay, together with the Hluhluwe Reserve be reserved as a place of public resort under the Financial Relations Act in order that the whole area may be dealt with as one. This is particularly important so far as the Estuary, Lake, and False Bay is concerned, as it will place the Administration in the position of owner and it will then be possible to make and enforce regulations covering various matters, e.g. classes of boats, routes to be followed, camping on the Islands, etc.

"The Committee commends the recommendations in this report to the consideration of the Natal Administration and believes that, if they are carried out, the area will become in a

short space of time an attraction to visitors both in the Union and from Oversea who at a reasonable cost will be able to spend an enjoyable and instructive holiday in an area favoured by Nature to a degree probably unsurpassed in any other portion of the Empire."

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

GAME DEPARTMENT.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT, 1935.

STAFF LIST.

Game Warden	.	.	.	.	Capt. C. R. S. Pitman, D.S.O., M.C.
Game Rangers	.	.	.	.	Capt. R. J. D. Salmon, M.C. F. G. Banks.

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Figures for 1935 are as follows :—

	£	shs.	cts.
Expenditure	5,285	13	47
Revenue	16,313	16	18
Balance of revenue over expenditure	11,028	2	71

The revenue was derived as follows :—

†(a) Sale of ivory, rhinoceros horns, and hippopotamus teeth	£	shs.	cts.
	13,549	16	18
(b) Sale of buffalo hides and other trophies	—	—	—
(c) Game licences and Governor's permits	2,764	0	00

Receipts from †(a) show an increase of £3,992 4s. 18cts. approximately over 1934 figures ; and from (c) an increase of £649 16s.

The results of the two ivory auctions held respectively in May and November were quite satisfactory, and the average price per lb. realized was approximately 6s. at the former and 6s. 55cts. at the latter.