

Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

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The website of the journal is (from 2008):

<http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>

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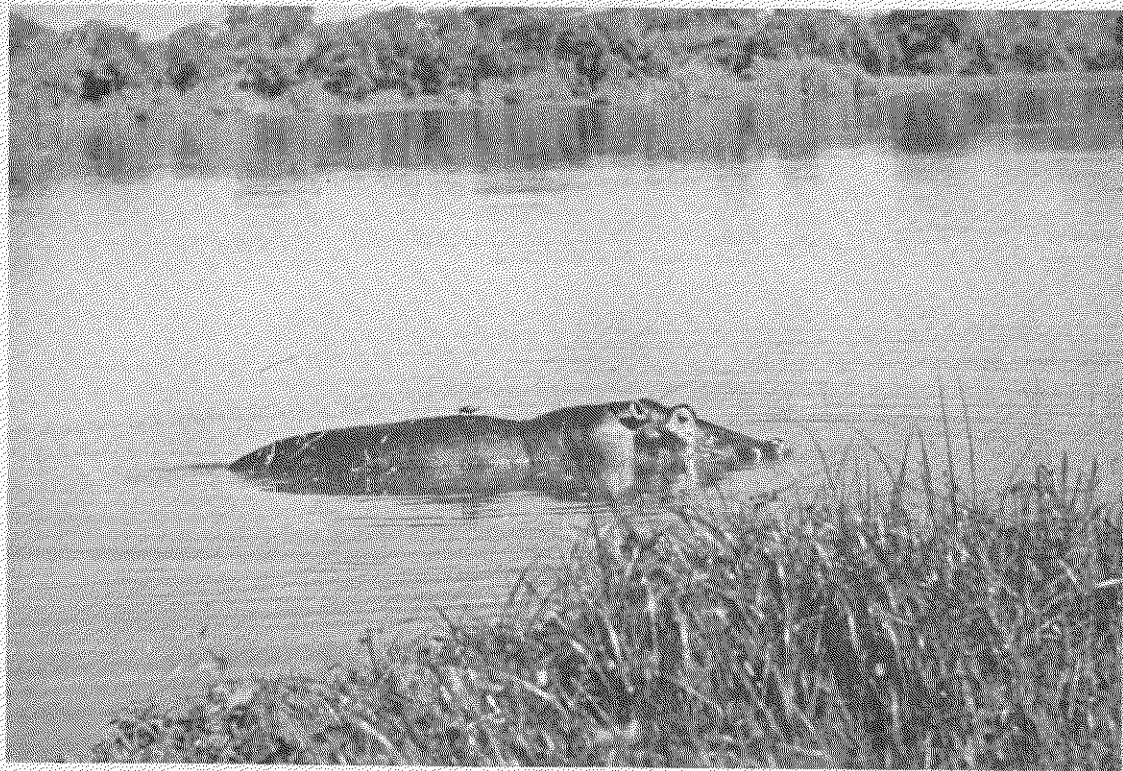
More information on: <http://www.fauna-flora.org/>

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.



Photograph by Sir Bernard Bourdillon, G.C.M.G.

HIPPOTAMUS WITH TICK-BIRD.

Africa of long past days, preserved intact, and yet within such easy distance of urban civilization that all, even young children, may be brought to see it, not only without danger or hardship, but under conditions which not many years ago would have been luxurious.

“KEEP IT SIMPLE, KEEP IT WILD.”

ZULULAND GAME RESERVES AND PARKS BOARD

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH,
1946

We reproduce hereunder extracts from the latest Report of the Zululand Game Reserves and Parks Board. The whole Report is available to members for consultation.

“*Game Population—Hluhluwe Reserve.*—In the Board’s last report it is stated that the rainfall for the calendar year 1944 was 31·20 inches, which was 19 inches below the average for the preceding fifteen years. During the year covered by this report the area suffered from severe drought, the rainfall for the year 1945 only reaching 30·14 inches. Between the 1st April and 30th September only, approximately, 1 inch of rain fell, June, July, and August being totally rainless. Despite the severe drought the animals, with the exception of Warthog, did not materially suffer, and there was at all times ample water in the rivers. This illustrates the wonderful carrying capacity of the Reserve which will carry a much larger number of animals than are found at present. In the Board’s last report the approximate number of animals was given. It is interesting to note that the Impala and Nyala are doing well and increasing in number and are easily seen. Herds of Buffalo are frequently met with and often quite near the Rest Huts. Visitors are permitted to roam through the Reserve at will provided they are accompanied by a Game Guard. The Board again reiterates its opinion that the Hluhluwe Reserve with the addition of the corridor provides an adequate sanctuary for the preservation of all the species of fauna of Zululand in sufficient numbers to ensure the maintenance of the species for all time.”

“*Visitors—Hluhluwe Reserve.*—During the year there were about 700 visitors to the Reserve, including many soldiers and

sailors. The number includes those who did not sleep at the Rest Huts. Now that petrol is unrestricted there is every indication that the number of visitors will increase. Rest Hut and Rondavel accommodation is now available for 70 visitors. The system adopted, which includes the supply of bedding, crockery, cutlery, etc., at an inclusive charge, has worked well. Visitors must, as heretofore, supply their own food, but native servants are available who assist, as far as possible, in preparing simple meals. The services of Game Guards who act as guides are available at a small charge. Visitors during the year included Marshal of the R.A.F. Lord Tedder and Lady Tedder, the Ministers of Lands, Agriculture, and Native Affairs, accompanied by their respective staffs, and the Hon. The Administrator of Natal."

"*Fencing—Hluhluwe Reserve.*—Little progress has been made with the fencing of the corridor owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable fencing materials and the uncertainty with regard to the final demarcation of the boundaries. A map was attached to the Board's last report, which shows the amount of fencing completed, viz. 60 miles. The fence is efficiently maintained, and there have been no cases of big game leaving the Reserve. Unfortunately there have been cases of poaching by natives, and offenders have been dealt with by the magistrate. It is thought that the scarcity of food in the native areas has encouraged poaching to some extent. A Game Guard was wounded while arresting a native poacher. Fortunately the wound was not of a very serious nature and the Guard is back at work."

"*White Rhino Sanctuary.*—It is not possible to report progress in regard to the area to be set aside as the future sanctuary for White Rhino, and nothing can be done in this direction until a decision is reached regarding the boundaries of the land to be set aside for this purpose. The matter is still engaging the attention of the Departments of Lands, Native Affairs, and Agriculture, and it may be that a final decision is dependent, to some extent, at any rate, on the result of the experiments now being carried out in connection with the elimination of the tsetse fly, especially in the Umfolozi area. These experiments are being carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry."

"*St. Lucia Estuary—Hippo and Bird Life and Crocodiles.*—It can be stated that the Hippopotami are doing well and that the number shows an increase. No cases of poaching have been reported. Several deaths have occurred as the result of fighting.

For the reasons detailed in the Board's last report it has been difficult for visitors to reach the Hippo pool in the Umsimdusi River, but numbers can be seen within a comparatively short distance north of the Pont. In the Lake and False Bay Hippo are frequently met with. Birds are always in evidence, but as is well known, they move from point to point as their feeding grounds change owing to varying conditions. The bird life includes Pelican, Flamingo, Sacred Ibis, Coot, Gulls, Egyptian Geese, Spurwinged Geese, Teal, and many other kinds of Duck, Spoonbill, Cranes of various species, Fisheagle, Heron of different species, Storks, Egrets, Winged Stilts. Crocodiles continue to be an attraction to visitors, and with the exception of a few of these reptiles destroyed owing to their interference with the natives employed on bait service, and those who frequent areas where visitors congregate, they have not been disturbed."

The development of St. Lucia Lake and False Bay as places of resort for visitors, with facilities for camping, studying wild life, and fishing is dealt with at considerable length.

The Board proposes, in the near future, to issue an illustrated brochure depicting the Hluhluwe Reserve and St. Lucia Lake for the interest of potential visitors.

NYASALAND

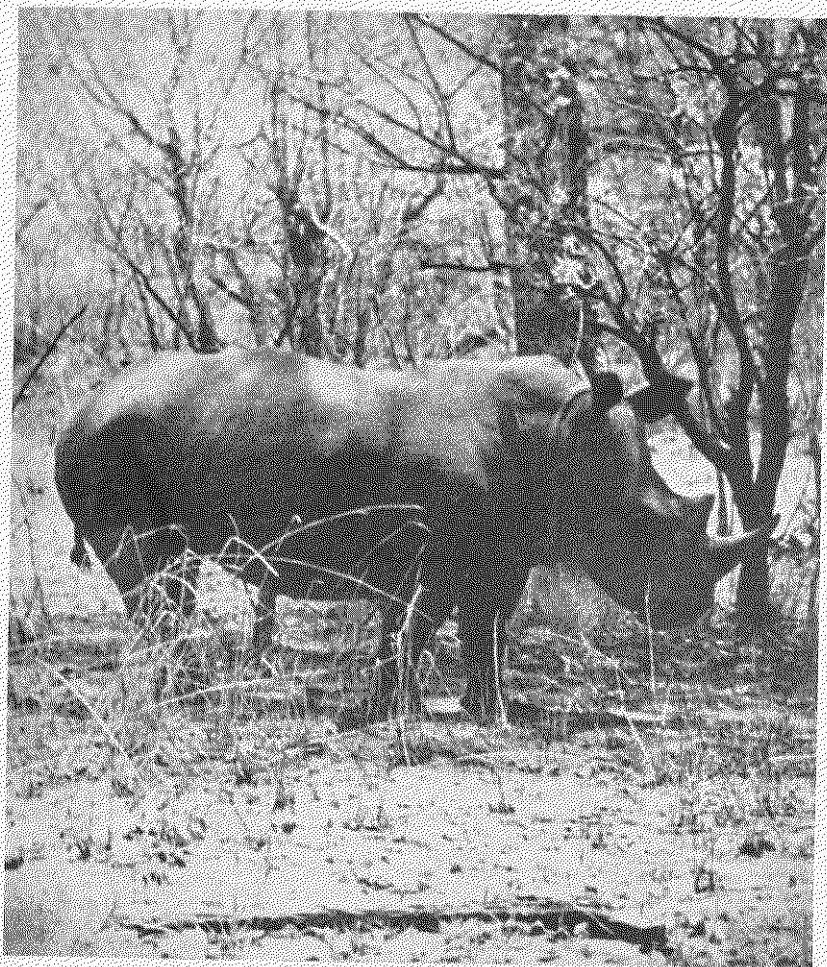
PROTECTION OF NATIVE CROPS

MEMORANDUM BY THE FOREST AND GAME RESERVES COMMISSION

After setting forth the circumstances which convinced the Commission that action was urgently required, the Memorandum proceeds as follows :—

3. The problem was first discussed at a meeting of the Commission held on 11th August, 1945, at which the Acting Provincial Commissioners of the Southern and Central Provinces were present by invitation, and the Commission unanimously agreed that a Memorandum should be submitted to Your Excellency with as little delay as possible.

4. The subject is a contentious one. In some quarters the opinion may be held that damage to native crops by wild animals is inevitably grossly exaggerated by the Africans themselves in order that they may be permitted to kill, or obtain the assistance of Europeans in killing, those beasts that will provide them with much desired meat. Whilst this is a possibility that must be guarded against, it may be pointed



Photograph by Sir Bernard Bourdillon, G.C.M.G.

AFRICAN BLACK RHINOCEROS.