
SPECIES, MAMMALS - ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS - AFRICA

(Redunca redunca cottoni), 1,700 hartebeeste (Alcelophus buselephus lelwei), 1,500 of the rare roan antelope (Hippotragus equinus) and 1,370 of the endangered Nile lechwe (Kobus megaceros) as well as many others and 130,000 domestic stock. More than 50 rhinos, 250 elephants and 700 unidentified carcasses were estimated to have died; although some of those were of cattle, others were the result of legal hunting and possibly drought. It indicated not only the richness of the area, but the severity and urgency of the poaching problem.

As a result it was recommended that the primary objective of the main project should be the practical conservation of northern white rhinos in Sudan and that this might involve areas other than just Shambe, possibly the nearby proposed Mashra Reserve or Southern National Park. It was also noted that the project officer would need to be involved in and contribute to the overall conservation development of the country, since nothing would work in isolation. Some initial aid in the form of fuel for the vehicles, a motor bike and bicycles and establishment of a radio link, were agreed in return for which the Ministry agreed to increase patrols, carry out negotiations with the local people, clear airstrips and mark and control the boundaries.

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TANZANIA, Rhino and Elephant Survey in Selous Game Reserve (Project 1928)

Ground and aerial censuses are being conducted of all major animal species in Selous Game Reserve, with special emphasis on elephants and rhinos.

Censuses were carried out in March/April 1981 (wet season) and in September/October 1981 (dry season).

The aerial census employed two light aircraft (Cessna 182) and both the systematic reconnaissance flight and total counting methods were adopted. The ground method was carried out by foot transects, with the assistance of game rangers. Since this method has its limitations on the size of the area covered, only selected accessible areas were surveyed where there was no ambiguity over boundaries.

The general observation is that there is an increase in the numbers of some species, including elephants in some areas. It has also been established that there is still a good number of rhinos in Selous. However, more light will be thrown on the subject when the reports of the censuses are completed.

Tanzania Wildlife Division