



Government of Bengal

Annual Report on  
Game Preservation in Bengal

For the year ending 31st March 1939

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**ANNUAL REPORT ON GAME PRESERVATION IN BENGAL FOR  
THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 1939.**

**Part I—Protection of the Fauna.**

CHAPTER I—SANCTUARIES.

(1) *Name, Situation and Area.*

1. Jaldapara, comprising an area of 39 square miles in the Buxa Division, is the only Game Reserve in Bengal. The primary object of this reserve is to protect rhinoceros.

2. There were no changes in the constitution of Game Sanctuaries during the year. The appended table shows the areas declared as sanctuaries throughout the year:—

Name of sanctuaries.	Area in square miles.	Forest Division in which situated.	Species for which the sanctuaries are primarily constituted.
Senchal ..	10	Darjeeling ..	All species except bear.
Mongpong ..	10	Kalimpong ..	All species of animals and birds.

The proposal, submitted to Government as mentioned in paragraph 1 of last year's report, to declare an area of about 2,179 acres in the Upper Tondu Reserved Forests in the Jalpaiguri Division as Chapramari Game Sanctuary, has not been sanctioned during the year under report.

(2) *Alterations to Boundaries.*

3. Notifications submitted to Government showing the increased areas of the Senchal Sanctuary and the Jaldapara Game Reserve were not published during the year.

(3) *Establishment.*

4. The following staff was entertained in the Buxa Division for the special protection of the Game Reserve over and above the normal strength of the division:—

(a) One temporary Deputy Ranger specially sanctioned for the protection of rhinoceros, *vide* Government order No. 346T.—For., dated the 21st May 1938.

(b) Ten Forest Guards specially sanctioned for the same purpose, *vide* Government order No. 10622-For., dated the 25th August 1932.



A proposal to bring the above posts on to the Permanent Establishment was under the consideration of Government during the year. Babu Annada Nanda Roy, Forest Ranger, was in charge of the Jalda-para Game Reserve during the year under report and acted as Honorary Game Warden in addition to his other normal duties.

#### (4) *Offences.*

5. One case of hunting of a flying fox was reported in the Darjeeling Division and the case was compounded by the Divisional Forest Officer on payment of compensation.

Two cases under the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act were reported during the year in the Buxa Division, which resulted in conviction of all the accused and a sum of Rs. 150 was paid to this Department as compensation out of the fines realised in these two cases.

#### (5) *Infectious diseases.*

6. No outbreaks of infectious diseases were reported from sanctuaries during the year.

#### (6) *Numbers, Distribution and Habits of Animals.*

7. Barking deer, bear, black pheasant, partridge, whistling thrush and pigeon are present in fair numbers in the Senchal Sanctuary. Moonal pheasant introduced in this sanctuary in 1936, is reported to be found in small numbers. Wild dog caused some trouble to the cattle of Keventer's farm. This probably explains the scarcity of Thar or Serow in the sanctuary.

Rhinoceros, tiger, leopard, deer of all kinds, bear, bison, pig, buffalo and wild elephant were roaming quite freely within the Jalda-para Game Reserve. Pea-fowl and black partridge were also seen in abundance.

#### (7) *Proposal for Improvement of Protective Measures.*

8. The proposal for the formation of the Chapramari Game Sanctuary is under the consideration of Government. Preliminary notification No. 27333-For., dated the 22nd December 1938, for the reservation of approximately 674 acres of *khas* land to extend the South Borojhar Reserve, as reported in paragraph 8 of the last year's report, was issued during the year. No other proposals for the improvement of protective measures were formulated during the year.

### CHAPTER II—FORESTS OTHER THAN GAME RESERVE AND SANCTUARIES.

(1) *Name, situation, approximate area, and description of any Reserved, Protected or Unclaued State Forests suitable for sanctuaries.*

9. The Reserved Forests of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong Divisions within the civil district of Darjeeling, except those falling under Class III, have been leased to the Darjeeling Shooting and Fishing Club for the better protection of game and fish. The club



(7) *Measures adopted and suggested for improving and protecting game and fish.*

(a) Improvement.

30. **Darjeeling Division.**—With the financial help from the local municipality and the British Agent in Sikkim, the Darjeeling Shooting and Fishing Club had restarted the fish hatchery in the Pugriangbong Block of this division, with a view to stocking the Senchal Reservoirs and to introduce trout in some of the local streams.

Trout ova was purchased from Kashmir.

(b) Protection.

31. The Game Federation of Bengal was recognised by Government in their letter No. 287-For., dated the 9th January 1939. The activities of the Federation will be (i) the preservation of the existing fauna, in particular game animals, birds and fish of Bengal, and (ii) the introduction of suitable species into this province.

To counteract poaching in the Reserved Forests by adjoining tea garden coolies Government were pleased to empower certain tea planters to function as Forest Officers in the arrest of offenders.

The Bengal Rhinoceros Preservation (Amendment) Act (Bengal Act II of 1938) was passed by the Legislature during the year. The public of Chittagong district, backed by the M.L.A.'s are urging Government to appoint paid shikaris to destroy all wild animals. Government are considering the question of dealing with wild elephants found destroying crops, by this method.

(c) Training of Forest Guards.

32. The arrangement for the training of Forest Guards in discipline, use of firearms and elementary law with the armed police produced good results as reported in paragraph 35 of the previous year's report. So the arrangement made with the Superintendent of Police, Chittagong Hill Tracts, was continued during the year.

It is suggested that a regular system of training of Forest Guards in discipline, use of firearms and elementary law should be adopted.

(d) Shooting rules.

33. The revised shooting rules were still under the consideration of Government.

CHAPTER III—CONTROL OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

34. The system referred to in paragraph 37 of the previous year's report was continued. Cases of renewal of gun licenses were thoroughly scrutinised.

A large number of guns in Nepal continued to make protection from poaching near the border very difficult. In Northern Bengal no new license is granted for sporting purposes unless the applicant becomes a member of any recognised Shooting and Fishing Club or Associations.



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