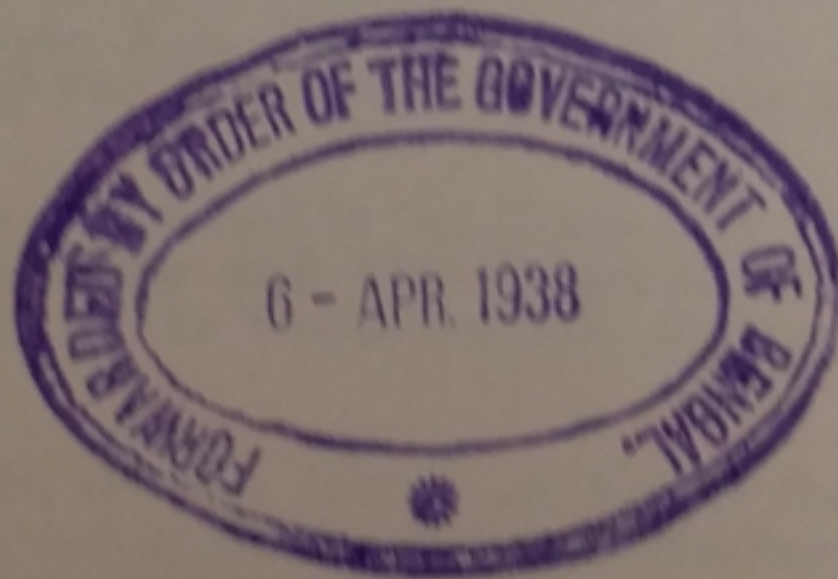




Government of Bengal

Annual Report on Game Preservation in Bengal

For the year ending 31st March 1937



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1938

ANNUAL REPORT ON GAME PRESERVATION IN BENGAL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 1937.

Part I—Protection of the Fauna.

CHAPTER I—SANCTUARIES.

(1) *Name, Situation and Area.*

1. **Northern Circle.**—There are at present 5 areas notified as sanctuaries distributed as follows:—

Name of Sanctuaries.	Area in square miles.	Forest Division in which situated.	Species for which the Sanctuary is primarily constituted.
Senchal ..	10	Darjeeling ..	All species except bear.
Jaldapara ..	23	} Buxa ..	Rhinoceros.
Bhutri ..	8		All species of animals and birds.
Pana ..	5		
Gaburbasra ..	15		

(2) *Alterations to Boundaries.*

2. There was no change during the year.

(3) *Establishment.*

3. Besides the normal strength the following staff was entertained in the Buxa Division for the protection of sanctuaries:—

(a) One Deputy Ranger and Ten Forest Guards specially sanctioned for the purpose of rhinoceros protection, *vide* Government of Bengal, letters Nos. 863-For., dated the 15th August 1935, and 10622-For., dated the 25th August 1932, respectively.

(b) Ten Forest Guards entertained in the Temporary Establishment and engaged as Game and Fish Wardens whose pay and expenses are met by the Toorsa Sankosh Fishing and Shooting Association.

The staff was under the efficient control of Forest Ranger, Babu Annada Nanda Roy, who acted as Honorary Game Warden in addition to his other normal duties.

4. The proposal to bring the posts of a Deputy Ranger and 10 temporary Forest Guards as per (a) above, on to the permanent establishment is under the consideration of Government.

(4) *Offences.*

5. In the Darjeeling Division one case of attempting to catch a bird was reported during the year and the case was compounded by the Divisional Forest Officer.

6. In the Buxa Division one case of illicit hunting and killing of a male and of a female Sambhar deer was reported from Chilapata Range which ended in conviction of all the accused under the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act and the Indian Forest Act.

7. It is suspected that a number of Mechias of Assam, who are reported to have first introduced Rhino poaching in Bengal, still haunt Bara Salkumar under the pretext of religious preaching amongst their community. Their activities are being watched efficiently and are under control for the time being.

(5) *Infectious diseases.*

8. There was no infectious disease in the Sanctuaries during the year.

(6) *Number, Distribution and Habits of Animals.*

9. Rhinoceros, tiger, leopard, hog-deer, swamp-deer, Sambhar, bear, bison and pig were seen roaming quite freely within the Jaldapara Sanctuary. A few Chital have also made their appearance in this locality for the first time for many years. These facts indicate successful preservation and protection.

Tigers have increased in number in the Jaldapara reserve and it may become necessary to reduce the number.

One male rhino calf wandering aimlessly near the Salkumar Forest of Chilapata Range was captured on the 18th September 1936. Unfortunately it died on the 17th November 1936.

(7) *Proposals for Improvement of Protective Measures.*

10. No proposal for new Sanctuaries was submitted; but a proposal for reservation of approximately 674 acres of khas land to extend the South Borojhar reserve as reported last year was submitted through the Civil authorities.

11. (8) *Southern Circle.*—Nil.

CHAPTER II—FORESTS OTHER THAN SANCTUARIES.

(1) *Name, situation, approximate area and description of any Reserved Forest for Sanctuaries.*

12. **Northern Circle.**—The foundation of the Sanctuaries mentioned in the foregoing chapter has contributed to a large extent to the successful preservation of existing wild life.

13. There was no change during the year in the area of the reserved forests in the Darjeeling district except those falling under Class III leased to the Darjeeling Shooting and Fishing Club for the better protection of game and fish. The usual annual contribution of Rs. 350

26. **Southern Circle.**—The cases of infringement against the game laws reported from the divisions during the year are as follows:—

Vanishing Mammals of Asia—Liste Approximative Des Mammifères Dont L'existence est menacée Asie.

Serial No.	Description.	Former Range and No.		Present Range and No.		Causes of depletion or extinction.	Economic uses or importance.	What measures are being undertaken for the preservation of the species concerned.
		Range.	Number.	Range.	Number.			
	Usibae (Himalayan Bear).	Darjeeling Forests	Formerly very numerous.	Darjeeling Forests of 113 square miles.	Number have been reduced to a more reasonable and safer figure.	Danger to man	Their skins have a certain value.	The forests of the Senchal Range, an area of about 12 square miles of the Darjeeling Forest Division have been closed to the shooting of all game excepting bear.
	Melastoe usinus (South Bear).	Ditto	Formerly available in the Tista Valley.	Ditto	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
		Jalpaiguri Forests	Not known	Jalpaiguri	Not known	No sign of extinction at present.	None	None.
		Buxa Forests	..	Buxa Forests	200	A Game sanctuary to the extent of 25 square miles is being maintained.
		Chittagong Forests	Fairly common.	Chittagong Forests	200	Killed while milking crop.	Little importance	Nil.
		Jalpaiguri Forests	Bare	Jalpaiguri Forests	Bare	Not known	None	None.
2	Fellidae nebulosa (clouded Leopard).	Buxa Forests	..	Buxa Forests	5	This species is very rare.	..	A Game sanctuary to the extent of 25 square miles is being maintained.

Serial No.	Description.	Former Range and No.		Present Range and No.		Causes of depletion or extinction.	Economic uses or importance.	What measures are being undertaken for the preservation of the species concerned.
		Range.	Number.	Range.	Number.			
	<i>Felis tigris</i> (Bengal tiger).	Buxa Forests	Buxa Forests ..	200		What measures are being undertaken for the preservation of the species concerned.
		Sundarbans Forests.	Extensive	Sundarbans Forests.	Unknown	Jungle clearing and extension of cultivation.	<p>Fat is used medicinally for rheumatism and impotency.</p> <p>(a) Skin—For decoration and making "Asan".</p> <p>(b) Fat for medicinal purposes.</p> <p>(c) Nails used as charm and lockets.</p> <p>(d) Lucky bone much valued by shikaris and for medicinal purposes.</p> <p>(e) Mustaches for medicinal use.</p>	A game sanctuary to the extent of 26 square miles is being maintained.
3	<i>Rodentia-Pentalagus ferresi</i> (Hispid Hare.)	Jalpaiguri Forests	Rare	Jalpaiguri Forests	Unknown	Used to be shot during "hawa shikar" which is not carried out very often now-a-days.	None	None.
4	Rhinocerotidae <i>Rhinoceros Sondaicus</i> .	Do.	Do.	Do.	Nil	Poaching probably, but of very rare occurrence in this century (only one recorded in 1900 at Chilla-pata by Mr. Grieve).	Sold for aphrodisiacal purposes.	As they are extinct no measures can be taken.
		Chittagong Forests	Extinct	Chittagong Forests	Extinct	Poaching	Parts used as aphrodisiac.	Nil.
	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Jalpaiguri Forests	Common	Jalpaiguri Forests	4 or 5	Probably shooting and poaching and possibly disease.	Aphrodisiac	Bengal Rhinoceros Preservation Act, 1932 (Bengal Act VIII of 1932).

Rodentia-Pentalagus fernesi (Hispid Hare.)	Jalpaiguri Forests	Rare	..	Jalpaiguri Forests	Unknown	Used to be during shikar, is not out very now-a-da.
Rhinocerotidae Rhinoceros Sondaicus.	Do.	Do.	..	Do.	NH	Poaching bably, b very rare rence in century one rec in 1900 at pata by (Grieve).
Rhinoceros unicornis	Chittagong Forests	Extinct	..	Chittagong Forests	Extinct	Poaching
	Jalpaiguri Forests	Common	..	Jalpaiguri Forests	4 or 5	Probably shoo and poach and poss disease.

(a) *Improvement.*

41. **Northern Circle.**—A scheme has been started for the breeding of pheasants near Takdah and a portion of reserved forests (Lingding Lopchu and Him blocks) has been set aside for this purpose (about 1,300 acres). An aviary has been erected by the club in which to breed birds. The idea of the scheme is to fully stock the area chosen with game birds in order that there will be sufficient birds in it to sell the shooting within it, on special terms. It is too early to report on the success or otherwise of the venture, but members of the club and the Forest Department, are keenly interested and are doing well all to make it a success.

42. **Southern Circle.**—The Dantmara and Andhermanik forests in the extreme north of the Chittagong Division appear to be a suitable country for hog-deer.

(b) *Protection.*

43. **Northern Circle.**—The outstanding problem of the moment is undoubtedly that of coolie poaching. Guards are being armed for their self-protection. Government have also vested certain powers of forest officers on the Honorary Game Wardens. But it is doubtful if either of these measures will completely revolutionise the situation, although they may help very considerably. The solution of the problem would appear to be the effective co-operation between the Forest Department, the game associations and the tea garden managers whose estates border upon the reserved forest. The chief difficulties in the way of such effective co-operation are the admitted lack of adequate forest staff to attend to any but the most important source of revenue, and garden managers' natural reluctance to sacrifice coolies, who may be, in all other respects, law abiding and satisfactory workers. There is, however, a growing appreciation of the fact that as long as persons may infringe the Forest Act with impunity so long will there be a tendency to consider all law and order with contempt, and that this tendency is certain to have an undesirable effect upon tea garden labour forces as a whole.

44. **Southern Circle.**—In some localities of the Chittagong Division organised poaching by local jotedars is suspected. Sometimes licensed guns are lent to poachers.

(c) *Training of Forest Guards.*

45. **Northern Circle.**—Training of Forest Guards in discipline, use of firearms, elementary law and physical training as for police recruits will certainly smarten them up to deal with armed poachers in the forests, and it is hoped that in time some system under which such training can be given to recruits will be practicable.

(d) *Shooting rules.*

46. The revised shooting rules put up in 1932 are still under the consideration of Government.

CHAPTER III—CONTROL OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

47. The Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling, referred applications for gun licenses to the Divisional Forest Officers for applicants residing in the localities covered by forest divisions. It has now become a generally accepted fact that no new gun license is granted for sporting purposes, unless the applicant becomes a member of the Shooting and Fishing Club. The large number of guns in Nepal, however, continue to make protection from poaching near the border very difficult.

48. In the Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions cases of renewal of gun licenses were thoroughly scrutinised and licenses of undesirable persons were cancelled by the Deputy Commissioner, Jalpaiguri, on the recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officers.

49. **Southern Circle.**—The usual control was exercised on the sale of ammunition and issue of gun licenses to the public of the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts Districts.

Nature of expenditure.

61. The expenditure borne by Government solely for game protection was only Rs. 216 for rewards.

62. The direct expenditure incurred by the Torsa Sankos Shooting and Fishing Association was as follows:—

	Rs.	a.
(1) Pay and allowances of Forest Guards (Game Warden)	1,595	0
(2) Miscellaneous—		
	Rs.	a.
(a) Rewards	50	0
(b) Cost of uniform supplied during 1936-37	51	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	101	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,696	4

63. The expenditure borne by Government for game protection solely was:—

	Rs.
(1) Pay and allowance of game warden (the post was honorary)	Nil.
(2) Pay and allowances of the staff specially employed for rhinoceros protection	1,586
(3) Miscellaneous (rewards)	81
	<hr/>
	1,667

64. **Southern Circle.**—As no special staff is entertained for the preservation of game and fish in this circle no expenditure was incurred.

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E. A. C. MODDER,
*Conservator of Forests,
Southern Circle, Bengal.*