



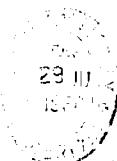
TANGANYIKA

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Annual Report

of the

**Game Department**  
**1959**



pp 1-17 D.K. THOMAS

1960  
PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER  
DAR ES SALAAM  
Price Shs. 3/-



area. The Doma-Mikumi is the nearest game country to Dar es Salaam where one can reasonably hope to see some of the more exciting of the big game animals. The bulk of the fauna which live in this area are elephant, buffalo and impala. Rhino and lions are also present as are the common plains animals such as wildebeest and zebra.

#### GAME ANIMALS

Despite the fact that the rains were well below average there appears to have been little mortality from drought and normal breeding season has been observed.

Reports would indicate that the stocks of game animals continue to show a steady decline, outside sanctuaries, with the possible exception of elephants. Elephants certainly seem to be rather more than holding their own, particularly in the Eastern and Southern Highlands Provinces.

In the 1958 report it was mentioned that the status of three game animals, the cheetah, rhinoceros and lion was giving considerable cause for concern as their numbers were diminishing to an alarming extent. All these three animals received additional protection during 1959. The cheetah was declared Royal Game. The hunting of cheetah had not been permitted since 1955 so this may seem to be of little benefit. It does mean, however, that additional penalties can now be exacted against anyone who unlawfully kills one of these animals. The rhino has been completely protected throughout Tanganyika for a period of five years and this measure has been generally applauded by the hunting fraternity, who realized the danger of this animal becoming extinct in Tanganyika but who often found it difficult to restrain their clients from taking out rhino licences when they were legally entitled to do so. Lions have been protected within the Northern Province for the next two years. In addition to this the hunting of lions in controlled areas has been stopped.

It is too early to say whether these protective measures will have the desired effect of building up the stocks of these threatened animals but it is interesting to note that the Game Ranger, Northern Province, has recorded a decided increase in the number of lions observed since they have been protected. This, of course, does not mean that the numbers have actually increased but that, since enjoying the amnesty from hunting, these animals have become less retiring.

#### LICENSED HUNTING

Departmental headquarters has lost touch with the hunting industry as a result of the move from Tengeru. The number of visitors who come to Tanganyika for hunting and game photography appears to be on the increase, the latter in particular now that the package tours system is in full swing. The total protection of rhino which was imposed during May does not seem to have affected the numbers of visiting hunters.

The controlled area system of regulated hunting, described in my last annual report, has been continued and is proving quite satisfactory. Provision has been made for residents to obtain free controlled area permits to shoot birds and game animals which are included on the schedule of the general licence.

The revenue from game licences for the financial year 1958/59 shows an increase of £6,000 over the previous financial year.

Some concern has been felt over the seeming scarcity of big-tusked elephants but statistics do not bear this out. For instance, five elephants having tusks of over 100 lb. a side were obtained in Masailand during a period of six weeks. At least 10 elephants of the 100 lb. mark or over were shot in the Mpanda Range (the best had tusks of 150 lb. a side. It was obtained by an Arab licence holder). Southern Highlands Province also produced some fine elephants, the biggest having tusks of 117 and 118 lb.

#### ILLEGAL HUNTING AND TRAFFIC IN TROPHIES

Illegal hunting is still being conducted on an intensive scale in many parts of the Territory. Until this is brought under control and all hunting put on a properly licensed basis it is quite out of the question to try and introduce any sound system of game management. It is being increasingly accepted that the best form of land use in many parts of Tanganyika which are totally unsuited for agriculture would be the systematic culling of wild animals for meat and hides. In order to do this properly it is essential that the annual take-off of game from any given area must be regulated so that sufficient breeding stocks remain to keep up the game populations at their optimum levels.

This ideal state of affairs is still a very long way off as can be judged from the following reports from the ranges.

Reports from the Tabora and the Southern Highlands ranges indicate an increase in poaching. The Game Ranger, Same, states that his staff is quite inadequate to make any real impression on the poaching industry and that any law-breaker caught is either extremely stupid or very unlucky.

The Game Ranger, Mpanda, has done some interesting research into the consumption of black powder used in muzzle-loaders. One licensed dealer sold enough of this powder to give 20,000 shots a year. This bought powder is normally diluted with two parts of locally manufactured powder, thus giving a total of 60,000 shots a year. Further, an average of one in every three arrested poachers stated that he used locally made powder only. This brings the total number of shots up to 90,000 a year in one district alone. It is realized that a very false impression can be got from this type of calculation but that it is not all fantasy is borne out by field observations. For instance this Game Ranger counted no fewer than 35 wounded buffalo in the vicinity of Lake Chada. This is an area within a reserve where both man and animal are supposed to be able to walk without risk. Every elephant shot in the Mpanda District, on control or licence, had muzzle-loader bullet wounds.

The Game Ranger, Ngorongoro, reports that there is definite evidence of rhino being killed for their horns in the Crater Highlands. A number of carcasses and skeletons of rhino have been found with their horns removed.

The Game Ranger, Mwanza, has continued his drive against illegal hunters with considerable success. He has instituted a somewhat different system of combating these poachers than previously employed. In the past, a series of full scale operations usually performed in conjunction with the National Parks staff and the motorised police has been the main method of cleaning up the worst areas.

Such sweeps usually resulted in a number of arrests and the confiscation of large numbers of wire snares and other poaching gear. They did a lot of good. The disadvantages were that they were expensive in transport and could, therefore, only be mounted occasionally. The poachers soon got to learn that the safest time to operate was immediately after such a sweep. The system put into practice this year was to establish permanent scouts' posts in strategic areas and to staff each of these with a minimum of at least three scouts. The ultimate aim is to establish a chain of such posts in selected poaching areas, all within two days' march of each other so that patrols can interlink and that these posts can be mutually supporting in case of need. Supervision by senior members of the staff is also made easy. Five such posts have been in operation during the year.

The price of wire snares has risen from approximately Shs. 5/- per snare to Shs. 15/-. The reason for this is not fully known.

Appendix IV

CONVICTIONS OBTAINED IN DISTRICT COURTS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE FAUNA CONSERVATION ORDINANCE DURING THE PERIOD 1955-1959

Offence	Section	Number of Convictions				
		1955	1956*	1957	1958	1959
Hunting in a Game Reserve	5	30	13	7	34	57
Entering a Game Reserve without a Permit	6	25	28	20	63	67
Carrying a Weapon in a Game Reserve	7	10	9	4	—	15
Causing a Fire or selling Trees in a Game Reserve	8	—	8	—	—	3
Hunting in a Controlled Area without a Permit	11	2	6	38	62	58
Hunting Game Animals without a Licence	12	85	135	195	252	270
Transferring a Game Licence	13(4)	—	2	—	45	6
Hunting Unscheduled Animals without a Permit	18	—	3	5	2	1
Failure to Report Disqualification	21	1	—	—	3	—
Obtaining Licence while not in lawful Possession of Weapon	22	—	—	—	1	11
Failure to carry a Licence while Hunting	23	—	4	5	4	4
Hunting Royal Game without a Licence	24	15	9	16	29	16
Failure to Report Intention to hunt Dangerous Animals	26	—	1	10	2	—
Cruelty	29	—	1	—	2	—
Failure to Report Wounding a Dangerous Animal	30	—	2	2	—	3
Unlawful Loan of a Weapon	31	—	2	17	12	41
Hunting on Private Land without Permission	32	—	1	—	1	—
Hunting Young Animals	33	6	2	1	2	2
Using Unlawful Methods of Hunting	34	35	65	111	135	98
Selling Game Meat without Permission	36	12	18	33	8	35
Dealing in Trophies without a Licence	37	2	3	2	2	—
Illegally Importing or transferring a Trophy	40	—	—	—	3	—
Unlawful Possession of Proscribed Skins	41	—	3	1	—	1
Failure to produce Ivory to Licensing Officer	42	—	3	—	—	—
Unlawful Transfer of Ivory	45	—	5	—	1	—
Failure to Produce a Government Trophy	48	—	—	4	32	12
Unlawful possession of Government Trophy	49	171	169	159	157	145
Failure to produce Licence, Obstructing of Officers, etc.	51	—	3	1	5	1
Failure to stop at Barrier when ordered to do so	52	—	—	1	2	—
Capturing without Permit	19(2)	—	—	—	—	2
Contravention of any Provision of the Ordinance	53(1)	—	—	—	—	5
Total		394	496	632	859	853

\*Figures not complete for West Lake Range.

Appendix V

SUMMARY OF GAME LICENCES ISSUED 1955-1959

Type	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Trophy Dealers	72	72	78	69	63
Professional Hunters	54	58	63	71	58
General Game, Residents	991	972	982	797	788
General Game, Visitors	200	212	219	228	239
Minor Game	—	—	—	—	486
Bird	2,828	3,060	3,467	3,456	3,534
Supplementary Game	2,733	2,268	2,266	1,853	2,287

Appendix VI

SUMMARY OF LICENCES ISSUED IN RESPECT OF ANIMALS AVAILABLE ONLY ON SUPPLEMENTARY GAME LICENCES 1955-1959

Species	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	
					Residents	Visitors
Caracal	—	—	1	3	2	1
Abbott's Duiker	—	1	2	—	1	1
Elephant	509	547	714	385	369	127
Gerenuk	43	32	51	43	1	37
Giant Forest Hog	—	—	—	—	—	2
Greater Kudu	229	128	135	187	12	166
Lesser Kudu	—	80	88	92	7	91
Klipspringer	45	29	39	30	1	51
Leopard	—	76	106	142	28	193
Lion	119	148	163	174	5	125
Black and White Colobus	6	9	5	3	2	4
Blue Monkey	—	9	8	3	—	2
Oryx	114	96	99	108	12	103
Ostrich	17	21	20	18	—	20
Mountain Reedbuck	3	4	1	—	2	2
Rhinoceros	501	306	238	139	8	9
Rock Rabbit	—	3	2	4	2	6
Sable Antelope	71	96	76	129	13	124
Serval Cat	—	13	12	8	2	10
Sharpe's Grysbok	—	2	2	—	1	1
Stintinga	—	17	12	9	16	—
Tree Hyrax	—	1	2	—	1	17

Appendix VII

SUMMARY OF SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES ISSUED FOR ANIMALS AVAILABLE IN ADDITION TO THOSE COVERED BY A GENERAL GAME LICENCE

Species	1959	
	Residents	Visitors
Buffalo	159	211
Bushbuck	1	3
Dikdik	1	7
Duiker Blue, Common and Red	—	6
Eland	5	13
Gazelle, Grant's	—	26
Gazelle, Thomson's	3	16
Hartebeest, Licht	3	9
Hartebeest, Coke's	3	18
Hippopotamus	4	—
Impala	16	38
Oribi	—	7
Otter	—	1
Puku	—	1
Reedbuck, Bohor and Southern	1	5
Roan Antelope	1	15
Steinbuck	—	7
Topi	8	9
Warthog	1	22
Waterbuck	—	9
Wildebeest	5	26
Zebra	6	54