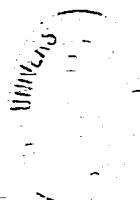


NYASALAND PROTECTORATE



**Annual Report  
of the  
Department  
of  
Game, Fish and Tsetse Control  
for the  
Year ended 31st December**

**1955**



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20. During the year the area centring on Majete Hill in Chikwawa District, hitherto partly preserved as an area where hunting was prohibited, was proclaimed a full Game Reserve. It is about 100 square miles in extent and largely consists of broken stony hills mostly clothed in very light woodland or poor *Brahy-tea* scrub, but it holds a fair population of elephant, zebra, eland, sable and kudu. Mr. G. D. Hayes has recently also observed what he believes to be specimens of the Nyala klipspringer within its confines. The area, though by no means ideal from the game observers point of view, provides a convenient no-man's-land to which game from the extensively cultivated Mwanza Valley may, it is hoped be persuaded to withdraw.

21. The game populations of Kota-Kota and Kasungu Reserves appeared to continue much as usual, with game fairly readily observable at the major watering points during the dry season. The concentration of elephant and other game near the Lifupa-Lingadzi junction in Kasungu, which began to be observed in the dry season of 1953, was maintained during the year under review and it seems fairly plain that this was no chance observation. In Kota-Kota, buffalo and elephant predominated, a total of over 300 of the latter being seen during the month of September, accordingly to an analysis of the Game Reserve Guards reports. Elephant and sable are also now occasionally seen near the main road through the Reserve, an area in which very little has been observable in previous years.

22. The Mwabvi Reserve in Port Herald District continues to build up its population slowly and offers some possibilities of development. In spite of further search, which was considerable without being actually exhaustive, no trace of Nyala has yet been found. The habitat is undoubtedly suitable, and it seems certain that they were there in the past, but it now seems likely that they ceased to exist several years ago. Nevertheless the Reserve remains of considerable value because of its large and apparently increasing rhinoceros population, and as an area to which it may be possible to re-introduce Nyala.

23. The absence of Nyala from the Mwabvi is the more disappointing in that the position of this species in the Lengwe is now causing some concern. Numbers do not seem quite what they were and the animals rather more wild. Depredations by wild-dog and disturbance caused by the noise of heavy road-making machinery on the neighbouring Chikwawa-Ngabu Road, would seem to be the chief causes. These are moderately temporary circumstances, but it is obvious that the tide of general settlement is now lapping very closely round this Reserve and it will be necessary to concentrate a great deal of protective attention on it if the Nyala are to be preserved. It will also be advisable to investigate the possibility of transporting some of the Nyala from the Lengwe to the Mwabvi in the near future.

24. The new Game Ordinance, brought into force during 1954, has not yet made much difference to the situation outside the Game Reserves. The total number of Game Licences taken out shows a slight increase, but it is still some way short of the number of firearm owners.

25. Details of licences taken out during 1955 are given in Appendix IV.

### (c) Fishery

#### STATE OF THE FISH STOCKS

26. The suggestion of a slight fall in the level of open water *Tilapia* stocks, which was shown by the 1953 and 1954 figures for non-African ring-netting in the South-East Arm, is not borne out by an analysis of the 1955 figures. These show a rise in catch per single haul of net of 53 per cent., and in spite of a decrease in the number of hauls from 4,729 in 1954 to 4,214 in 1955 the total *Tilapia* catch of the ring nets increased by 36 per cent. to reach a figure of 287,003 dozens.