



A masterpiece of precision  
and quality



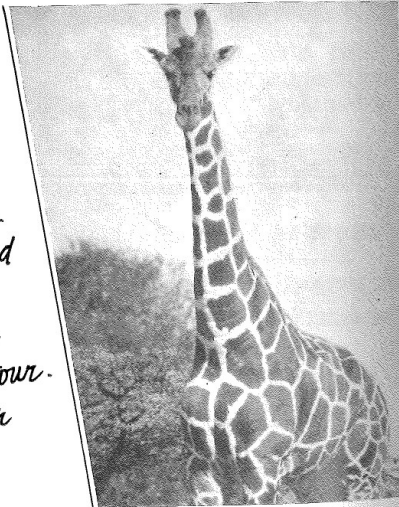
LIP ELECTRONIC is the result of 10 years research and is the first Shock and Water-proof electric wrist watch to be made in Europe. An amazing micro-mechanism, powered by two tiny batteries, replaceable in a matter of seconds, ensures a guaranteed accuracy for a whole year, whether worn on your wrist or locked away for months at a time. LIP ELECTRONIC provides a new and radical answer to the standard, vulnerable, overmechanized watches found on the market to-day.

**S. DIAMANT LTD.**  
\*\*\* Jewellers \*\*\*

Hardinge Street, Nairobi.  
P.O. Box 443, Telephone 24473.

2.  
and saw a fabulous amount of  
game in the N.F.D. including a  
couple of really big tuskers, also  
Greater Kudu and buffalo. We then  
went on to Selby and Holmbergs  
permanent camp at Lake Rudolph.  
Fantastic scenery round there and  
excellent fishing.

I must say the four of us have  
thoroughly enjoyed our 11-day tour.  
It has even worked out cheaper  
than our last holiday in the



Come touring with

**SELBY & HOLMBERG SAFARIS LTD**

P.O. Box 3761  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Phone 25675

# WILD LIFE

Official Journal of the Kenya Wild Life Society  
P.O. Box 20110, NAIROBI 'Phone 23380

Vol. 2 No. 4

December 1960/March 1961

Price 3/-



## CONTENTS

Rhinos in danger .. .. .	6
Drugging techniques .. .. .	9
Story of a pet mongoose .. .. .	11
Bird Photographer's Diary .. .. .	13
Kariba in perspective .. .. .	14
A disease of the eland .. .. .	19
Book Reviews .. .. .	24
Changes in the Sahara .. .. .	27
Flamingoes on Lake Natron .. .. .	30
Letters to the Editor .. .. .	34
Animals and drought .. .. .	36
The future of the Masai .. .. .	40
The Congo: what now? .. .. .	45
Children's Section .. .. .	46
Identification: the E.A. Duikers .. .. .	49
Index to Vol. I & II .. .. .	53



Published quarterly by  
King & Charles,  
Consular House  
Coronation Avenue  
Nairobi Box 8983  
Phone 26762.

Colour blocks for the cover by Messrs.  
Printer Limited, Basle. All black &  
white blocks by Patwa, Nairobi.

Colour cover: Leopard in a tree by  
Donald I. Ker. See page 52.

Copyright in Kenya by the  
Kenya Wild Life Society, P.O.  
Box 20110, Nairobi. Offices:  
Consular House, Coronation  
Avenue. 'Phone 23380.

For Society Officers and Council Members  
see page 33.

# RHINOS IN DANGER

## Facing extinction in Crater

### Highlands

NATIONAL Parks handed over the Crater Highlands to the jurisdiction of the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority on July 1, 1959. Between then and the end of October the same year, eight rhino carcasses were recovered there, resulting in the exaggerated reports of game massacre and a consequent drop in tourist traffic. (See Volume 1, No. 4, p. 12.)

Since then, however, a further 20 rhino have been killed in the Conservation Authority area. Furthermore, 14 rhino skulls have been recovered from the Embulbul Crater, and another 12 in the Oldewye Gorge—both localities included in the Conservation Authority area. A number of the skulls found at both places dated back to the period before the hand-over by National Parks.

It can therefore be stated, quite conclusively, that during the past three years a *minimum* of 54 rhino have been killed in what is now known as the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority area.

Undoubtedly, other rhino have been killed in more inaccessible spots and the carcasses not yet found—if, indeed, they ever will be found.

How much longer can this state of affairs continue without the rhino becoming extinct there? Certainly his days are numbered unless a very drastic measure of control over the Masai moran, who are gradually eliminating the species, is not taken immediately.

*Why are they being killed? What action can be taken to prevent this wholesale slaughter?*

More than half of the rhino killed have had their horns removed. Investigations have shown that some of the local moran are being engaged as "professional rhino hunters" by visiting traders from a non-Tanganyika tribe.

Since rhino hunting was banned in Tanganyika early last year rhino horn prices have rocketed. Rhino horn trading has become a worthwhile

Because its numbers were already dangerously low, hunting of rhino was banned in Tanganyika early in 1959, but this article discloses disturbing facts about game at Ngorongoro. Based on a report by Tom Lithgow in the 'Sunday News' of November 20th 1960, its forthright conclusions are made doubly significant by the recent (early December) news that many rhino have died of hunger in the Tsavo National Park. The flagrant defiance of game laws shown by young Masai must be quickly checked if the Governments of Kenya and Tanganyika are not to sit idly by and watch the extinction of one of E. Africa's strangest and most interesting animals—extinction that their lack of forceful action will have condoned.

proposition for unscrupulous traders when one pound of horn may sell for as much as 200/-. They have been, and still are, prepared to take the risk, employing Masai moran as hunters, and paying them either cash or in kind—generally, illegal drugs.

There are certain main trunk roads in districts bordering Masailand where police road blocks could be erected periodically to catch the trafficker, *if there was an adequate police force to carry out this function.* Some of the routes are known to the authorities concerned.

Undoubtedly, other rhino have been killed by moran purely from bravado to impress their girl friends or fellow moran with their "courage". Therefore, until such time as the "warrior" of "moran" tradition dies out in the Masai tribe, this will always cause "show-off" slaughter of rhino or lion.

The only other possible reason for a rhino death is the oft-repeated plea of self-defence.

Some moran have escaped punishment in court when they have been caught—which, unfortunately, is seldom the case—with this plea. It is generally difficult to disprove since there have invariably been no witnesses present—or witnesses will not come forward and give evidence.

It is significant, however, in almost every case which has a self-defence plea, and a fresh carcass has been found, that the rhino has been speared behind the shoulder.

Of the first eight slaughtered last year, seven were speared behind the shoulder. The last one, discovered on the floor of the Crater on Thursday, November 3, had spear wounds there, although the horns had not been removed. Practically all the carcasses which have been found intact, or only partially-decomposed, during the past eighteen months, have had spear wounds behind the shoulder.

#### Impossible

It is quite obvious to anyone who has ever been charged by a rhino, or put in the position of having to defend himself, that a spear thrust in this position, under the circumstances, is almost an impossibility. It could be possible only where one man takes the head-on charge and his companion manages to make the thrust from the side. Since, however, in practically every plea of self-defence only one moran has been concerned, obviously his plea does not, or should not, carry weight.

Under the penal section of the Fauna Ordinance it is comparatively easy for a person to avoid conviction for the killing of game, by pleading self-defence. The onus rests on the prosecution to prove that it was not self-defence. First offenders are generally let off lightly, if found guilty, with a fine and an admonition.

The penalty for game offences is a fine and/or imprisonment. It is seldom that the culprit is imprisoned.

Possibly a revision of the Fauna Ordinance, or similar ordinance, is indicated, with fewer, if any, loopholes for offences where an offence is committed, particularly in an area where game is protected, or semi-protected.

Formerly, both in Tanganyika and Kenya Masailand, the communal fining of a Masai Age-Clan, Boma, Manyatta or district group was accepted as being the quickest and most effective antidote to law-breakers.

It has been estimated that the 62,000 or so Masai in Tanganyika possess more than 1,000,000 head of livestock. As a comparatively

very wealthy tribe, communal cattle fining could not unduly financially embarrass them.

Nowadays—*unfortunately*, in the opinion of many Government officers who are in close contact with the Masai—this practise is no longer allowed.

Ever since the first missionary-explorers "discovered" the Masai last century it has been recognised that the tribe has two great loves in its life—fighting, and their cattle.

This has always led to cattle raids and fighting between the Masai and neighbouring tribes, even as recently, on a large scale, as the semi-"war" in Kenya with the Kenya Masai and Wakamba.

Communal cattle fining would therefore assist not only game protection but also be a deterrent to cattle raiding, illegal grazing in forest reserves, illegal fire-raising and the many other offences the Masai commit, making them a continual headache for their neighbours and the administration.

On October 24, a lioness was speared in the Ngorongoro Crater. This was, admittedly, the only *known* case of lion-killing there in the past 18 months. If, however, the moran finds that he can slaughter rhino with comparative impunity, how much longer will lions remain unmolested?

The Ngorongoro Crater has long been famous for two particular species of game—lion and rhino.

Up to last year it was seldom that a visitor to the Crater saw less than five or six rhino in one morning and, often, as many as 40 lion in the same period.

#### No rhino

During the past month three safari parties have visited my farm at Oldeani, next door to the Ngorongoro, returning from visits to the Crater. Two of the parties did not see rhino at all during a one-day visit there. The other party saw one rhino. All three parties saw lion, but only in small numbers.

One man, who has visited the Crater at least a dozen times in the past ten years, said that the lion seemed to be more timid of tourists than ever before. This is not surprising, since moran in the Crater have even been seen to deliberately scare a lion off a kill a few weeks ago.

A visitor to the Crater last month spotted a lion near the long grass at the river. He drove over slowly, into wind, intending to take some photographs. When he was still several hundred yards away a moran who was driving cattle

towards the good grazing deliberately ran straight towards the lion, brandishing his spear, and scaring it off.

No wonder the lion sometimes seem timid towards visitors.

There are still 60 lion in the Crater—above the same as last year at the same period. If, however, they are persistently scared and intimidated by the Masai they will either move out completely, or retire to thicker ground, where they cannot be seen, during the daylight hours.

It is significant that it is seldom the Masai from the few resident bomas on the Crater floor interfere with the game there.

Most of the game interference is from visiting Masai bringing their livestock in from other districts, some as far afield as Loliondo, 100 miles away.

### Mass murder

Little, if any appreciation has been shown by the Masai for the all-important, helpful development schemes, and there has been very little co-operation. Mass murder of rhino, game intimidation, local hooliganism and destruction has been the reward for these endeavours.

Last year, in August, the Governor, Sir Richard Turnbull, warned the Masai in the Conservation Authority area that Government assistance for the development schemes might be discontinued if the "wanton slaughter" of game in their district was not stopped. They were again warned, about three months ago, by the Governor.

Since his last visit several more rhino and a lioness have been killed, 1,200 Masai cattle have been caught illegally grazing in the Northern Highland Forest Reserve last month, water facilities have been abused, and dangerous, widespread fires started in and near the Crater.

Thanks to the efforts of the Conservation Authority the fires were brought under control before they could do too much damage. While the Authority fought one fire some Masai were seen trying to start another nearby!

Heavy, illegal grazing in the Northern Highland Forest Reserve can ruin the top cover there and seriously effect the water table both for Crater, which obtains all its water from there, and the adjoining Oldeani and Wambulu farming districts.

The Game Department hopes to obtain the services of an aircraft for this area next year. This should prove invaluable for game observation, fire-spotting, control of illegal

grazing in the forest reserve, etc.

At Mbulu Mbulu, adjoining the Northern Highland Forest Reserve, there is potentially, some of the finest agriculture farming land in the territory. Cattle-raiding and attacks by the Masai who are, illegally, in the Forest Reserve above Mbulu Mbulu is seriously delaying development plans as the Wambulu are too scared to move into the area.

In this article I have gone to great pains to suggest methods of controlling the Masai in the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority area. There is one, drastic step, which would however prove completely effective. *That would be to move the Masai out of the area completely and renew the status of National Park for the Crater.*

This Territory gains ever-increasing revenue from tourist traffic. Our game is a priceless heritage which must be protected at all costs. The Oldeani farming area and Mambulu Reserve bordering the Forest Reserve provide more than £500,000 worth of agriculture produce every year.

Should a comparatively small number of Masai, with an excessive number of livestock, be allowed seriously to interfere with the country's revenue?

Living in a background of tradition and superstition, and 25 years, at least, behind the times, they have kept at arm's length all efforts to bring them into line with other, more progressive tribes and the "wind of change" sweeping through Africa.

### Far behind

This, in some respects, admirable denial of civilization has left the tribe far behind in the march of progress. It may, indeed, be too late—whatever efforts are made on their behalf—for them to catch up.

Unfortunately, their attitude of lawlessness affects not only themselves but also the future of fauna and flora, other tribes and, in effect, Tanganyika's economy.

While the British Government has been, and is, lenient with the Masai, and sympathise with their reluctance to give up their old way of life and their mono-tribal attitude, it remains to be seen whether the new Tanganyika Government will have the same tolerance.

Other Tanganyikans feel, naturally, that the future of the country, protection of the priceless heritage and imperative survival of all species of game, is more important than pandering to one of the smallest tribes whose practically sole asset to the Territory is their anthropological value.

When the interests of people and game conflict, a humanitarian method of removing the animals must be found. Game destruction must give way to game preservation: since we first published an article on the control of wild animals

by drugs last December, considerable advances have been made and the drugging technique to capture and move animals which would otherwise be in danger of slaughter is now fairly widely and successfully used.

## PROGRESS IN DRUGGING TECHNIQUES

B. CARTER, Game Warden  
i/c Capture

IT was in 1959 that the Kenya Game Department first became interested in the capture and movement of animals by drugs. The capture gun, a weapon powered by soda siphon gas and firing a hypodermic dart had arrived from the country of its origin, America, and was being used for experiments on game by several scientists. I joined the Game Department in October of that year and had the privilege of working with Mr. Lee M. Talbot and his wife in their studies of the wildebeeste.

Lee Talbot was using the 'gas gun' as we called it, but we found that it had definite limitations, one of the most important ones being range and he was evolving a gun that fired the dart by a small explosive charge when I left him. I had become interested in the old fashioned crossbow and when I found a similar enthusiasm in Mr. Christopher Archer, the Nairobi architect, we went into business together.

However, it was not as easy as I, at any rate, had first imagined. It had been decided that I should concentrate our very limited resources on rhinoceros at first as they were on the danger

list of extermination and yet did not present the obvious technical difficulties as did, for example, elephant. One of the main problems has always been the drug, and how to find a container large enough to carry the requisite dose.

The concentrated drugs that produced a form of paralysis need accurate estimation of the prospective patient's weight and allow very little scope for over-dosing, and consequent death. Except in rare cases it is not easy to estimate the weight of a rhinoceros, half hidden in bush and ready to run or charge at the first screech of a tick-bird.

The Parke-Davis anaesthetic, Sernyl, was brought to our attention by Dr. Werthessen, an American scientist, who was using it for experiments on baboon. He very kindly assisted us to obtain a small quantity and Mr. Monks, the Nairobi chemist, and myself set forth one day to inject it into a captive rhinoceros that had been obtained for us by Mr. Randall, the trapper. We were very gratified when the animal went down for several hours and then recovered.

The advantages of this drug were that the animal stayed down much longer than with the other preparations and that the requisite quantity could be got into the syringes at our disposal.

### Learning the crossbow

In the meantime Mr. Archer, our armourer, had produced a crossbow with a two hundred pound pull that could make a six inch group at seventy yards. This was the result of several months of experiment. All that then remained was for me to learn how to use it and to do so I

*A warden of the Game Dept. aims the Crossbow during experiments with the drug sernyl which has proved the most effective combination yet used.*

