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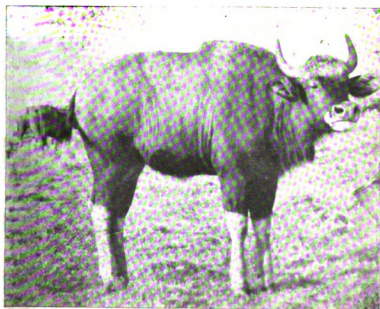
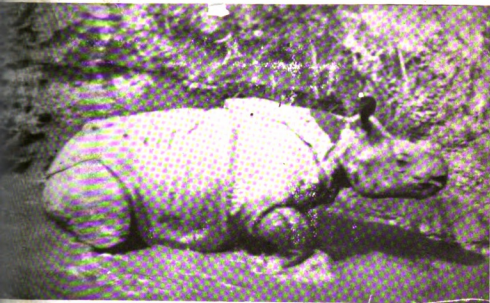
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ASSAM. FOR. DEPT.

Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1946-47



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119. *Elephants*.—At present there are 25 elephants in the department against 0 in the preceding year. Five new elephants were purchased during the year and Sundarmala elephant of Lakhimpur which escaped some years back was fortunately recaptured with a calf. Two elephants died.

120. The subordinate staff in general were united in their demands for better scales of pay, allowances and equipment. Certain Divisional Forest Officers reported that the health of their staff was generally poor due to poor food supplies. Anti-malarial measures on a wide scale were introduced with the purchase of a large quantity of Paludrine, D. D. T. and sprayers steps were taken to install sanitary latrines and wells, and many quarters were reconstructed with increased accommodation.

121. Relations between the Revenue and Forest Officers continued to be satisfactory on the whole.

CHAPTER VIII

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE AND ELEPHANT CONTROL

I.—The Preservation of Wild Life

122. All sanctuaries were maintained during the year and the numbers of Game Watchers were increased in some cases. No poaching cases were detected in the Sonai-Rupa Sanctuary, and in Orang Reserve, in Darrang Division which contains a few Rhinoceros and the Divisional Forest Officer, Darrang, reports that some three packs of wild dogs numbering about thirty animals were seen in the Sonai-Rupa Sanctuary. The Divisional Forest Officer, Nowgong, reports that persistent attempts at poaching in the Laokhowa Reserve continued throughout the year, and in this connection four guns were seized. The Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, has been requested to cancel the licences of guns caught in the Reserve to set an example to others. One Old Rhino that had apparently died of old age was found in this Reserve but the horn had been removed and could not be traced in spite of Police help.

123. The Kaziranga Game Sanctuary of the Sibsagar Division continues to be the most popular Sanctuary in the Province, and as usual attracted several visitors. Efforts are being made to improve the conditions for visitors and to increase control over trespass and poaching, and to remedy the rather neglected state of this and other sanctuaries in the past, but unless a Game Warden is appointed and Game Staff are made permanent and placed on a better scale of pay, progress in the desired direction is impossible. The Department is indebted to Mr. E. P. Gee, Naturalist and Tea Planter, who was always eager to assist and advise, and to His Excellency the late Sir Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam who with his family visited this sanctuary during the year and made some useful suggestions. Sir Akbar was instrumental in securing the interest of the Bombay Natural History Society who are sending a party of experts to visit this and other sanctuaries in the Province next year and to advise on their improvement and control.

124. Probably as the result of an epidemic of anthrax many Rhinos died during the year in the Kaziranga Sanctuary and no less than 16 Carcasses were discovered. These were buried and burnt under the instructions of the Veterinary Department. This represents a serious diminution of the existing stock of Rhinos and emphasises the dangers of grazing of cattle in a sanctuary, as such diseases are transmitted by cattle. One Rhino died in an ordinary way. Another Rhino was knocked down by a running train near Furkating Railway Station and died.

125. A male and a female Rhino were captured successfully and sent to the Chicago Zoo during the year. This time special arrangements were made to keep the animals in stockade for some time after capture to get them accustomed to their new life, and they were transported to Calcutta by Steamer under the personal supervision of the Zoo representative Mr. Ralph Graham.

Removed from service :—1 Forest Guard.

Invalided—2 Foresters (one temporary), 3 Forest Guards and 1 Peon.

Discharged :—1 Forest Guard.

Retrenched :—7 Forest Guards.

Service dispensed with :—2 Forest Guards.

Reduced :—1 Forester.

Died :—1 Deputy Ranger, 2 Foresters and 8 Guards.

103. *Creation of the 3rd post of Conservator* :—The creation of a post of 3rd Conservator was greatly emphasised from the point of view of efficient management of the Assam Forest to the greater advantage of the Province as a whole but the Government are not disposed to consider the subject at present in view of the proposal involving top-heavy expenditure.

Elephants

104. At present there are only 20 elephants in the Department as against 18 at the close of the previous year. During the year under report the 3 new elephants were purchased under Development Schemes but one subsequently died and a sum of Rs.5,500 representing value thereof, had since been written off. The strength of elephants will be gradually increased in order to afford greater facilities to the Divisional Forest Officers for the purpose of extensive touring in the interior.

105. The health of the subordinates is reported to be poor as before and an attempt is being made to bring about an improvement by improving sanitation, water-supplies and living conditions. Due to acuteness of the housing problem in district towns, the office Assistants in Divisions had to experience great difficulties. Attempt is, however, being made to build quarter for office Assistants under Development Schemes. The subordinates and the ministerial staff were hard-hit economically.

106. Relations between the Revenue and Forest Officers continue to be good.

CHAPTER VIII

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE AND ELEPHANT CONTROL

I. The Preservation of Wild Life

107. All sanctuaries were maintained and there was no change in the number of area during the year. In the Sonai Rupai, Orang and Kaziranga Game Sanctuaries Game is reported to have increased. As far as possible, the prevention of poaching was done by the staff: in respect of the cases pending in the court as mentioned in paragraph 123 of the last year's report one culprit was convicted to 2 months rigorous imprisonment and the other discharged.

108. In the Game Sanctuary of Laokhowa Reserve in the Nowgong Division 3 Rhinos were drifted during flood and reported to have been killed by villagers. Two horns thereof only were recovered but no trace could be found of the third. In the North Kamrup Game Sanctuary near the Beki river a very old Rhino was found dead but the horn could not be recovered even with the help of Police. It appeared to have died of old age.

109. *The Kaziranga Game Sanctuary*.—During flood most part of the Sanctuary goes under water and the Game moves towards the Hills and takes to high ground. It is reported that 2 Rhinos died by fighting and one Rhino was killed illegally, of which the case is pending in the court.

110. During the year 3 Rhinos were captured for despatch to the London Zoo. But it was very unfortunate that 2 of them died—one died at Santahar due to injuries received by dashing against the cage and the other due to injury received in the leg at the time of capture. The third one was sent successfully to Calcutta Zoo after the close of the year for despatch to London.

111. The policy of allowing professional graziers to graze their herds in some areas within the Sanctuaries and of selling the right to catch fish in certain beel was continued.

II. Elephant Control

Kheddah and Mela Shikar

112. The following table gives the result of Elephant Hunting Operation for the year 1946-47 :—

District	Method of hunting	No. of elephants captured including releases and shots			No. of elephants shot or released or death (Royalty payable)			No. of elephants shot or released (Royalty not payable)			Total No. of elephants of which Royalty is payable
		Tusker	Makhna	Female	Tusker	Makhna	Female	Tusker	Makhna	Female	
Darrang ..	Mela Shikar.	7	7	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Nowgong	Mela Shikar.	17	16	35	1	1	..	..	..	..	68
Sibsagar ..	Mela and Kheddah.	10	15	27	..	1	..	..	..	..	52
Lakhimpur	Mela Shikar.	7	3	17	1	..	..	..	..	..	27
Sadiya ..	Mela Shikar.	8	3	11	..	1	1	..	..	..	22
Cachar ..	Mela Shikar.	4	4	11	1	..	4	..	..	..	19
Sylhet ..	Mela and Kheddah.	7	6	49	2	..	1	2	1	19	40
Kamrup ..	Mela Shikar.	9	6	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Mela and Kheddah.	6	11	30	..	..	..	1	1	1	44
Khasi States	Mela Shikar.	9	2	12	..	1	..	..	..	..	23
		84	73	218	5	4	6	3	2	20	350
			375			15			25		

Monopoly fee of Rs.2,01,476 and Royalty of Rs.2,35,920 realised excepting that on 3 Tuskers, 2 Makhnas and 20 Female elephants. Most of them are small elephants caught in Sylhet Kheddah Mohal which died after capture.

P. D. TRACEY,

Senior Conservator of Forests, Assam.

Statement of Wild Animals shot in Assam during 1945-46

All India serial number	Species	No.
1a	Tiger	52
1b	Tigress	13
2	Leopard or panther	51
3	Wild Cats (Species to be given if known)	35
4	Lynx .. .. .	..
5	Hunting leopard or cheetah	6
6	Hyena .. .. .	..
7	Wolf .. .. .	..
8	Wild Dog	69
9	Martens .. .. .	..
10	Ratel .. .. .	..
11	Brown bear .. .. .	..
12	Himalayan black bear	2
13	Malayan bear .. .. .	..
14	Sloth bear	63
15	Wild Elephat	24
16	Rhinoceros Unicornis	4
17	Gaur or bison .. .. .	..
18	Goyal or mithan	5
19	Banting or tsine .. .. .	..
20	Wild buffalo	5
21	Urial or sharpu .. .. .	..
22	Bharal or blue sheep .. .. .	..
23	Ibex .. .. .	..
24	Markhor .. .. .	..
25	Tahr .. .. .	..
26	Nilgiri wild goat or Nilgiri ibex .. .. .	..
27	Screw or Himalayan great antelope .. .. .	..
28	Goral	19
29	Nilgai or blue bull .. .. .	..
30	Four horned antelope .. .. .	..
31	Black buck .. .. .	..
32	Indian gazelle or chinkara .. .. .	..
33	Barking deer or kakar	409
34	Kashmir deer or hangul .. .. .	..
35	Swamp deer or gond or barasingha	17
36	Brow-antlered deer or thamin .. .. .	..
37	Sambar	54
38	Cheetal or spotted deer or axis deer .. .. .	..
39	Hog deer or para	74
40	Musk-deer .. .. .	..
41	Mouse-deer .. .. .	..
42	Pangolin .. .. .	..
43	Crocodile (muggar) .. .. .	..
44	Charial .. .. .	..
45	Python	9
46	Others (species to be given)	883
	Pigs	220
	Hares	10
	Porcupines	116
	Wild Monkeys	237
	Ape	32
	Squirrels	243
	Jackels	25