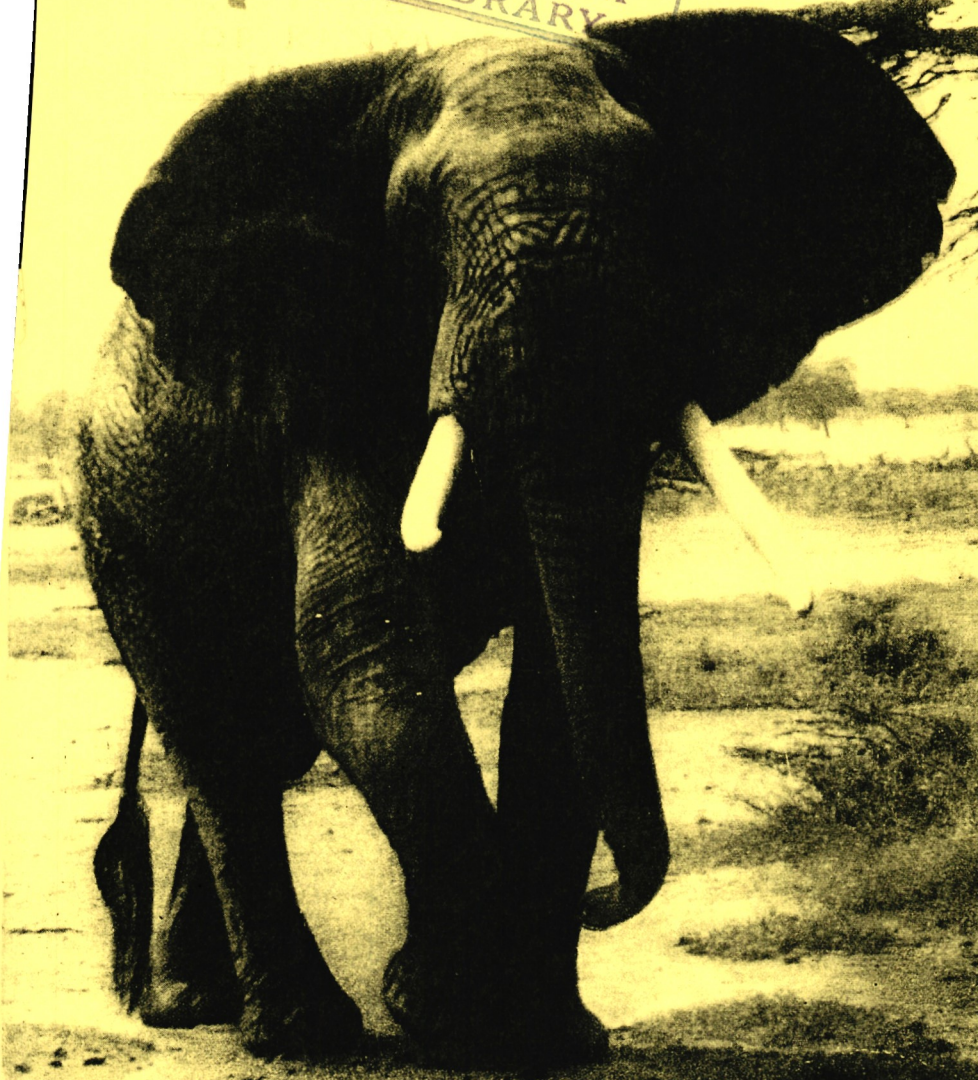


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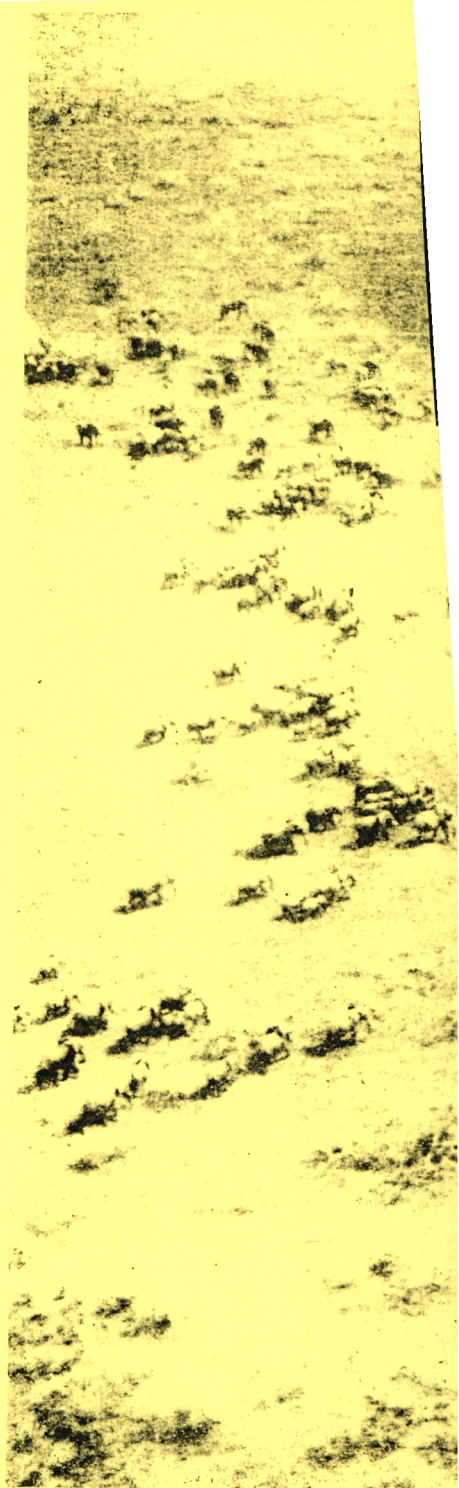


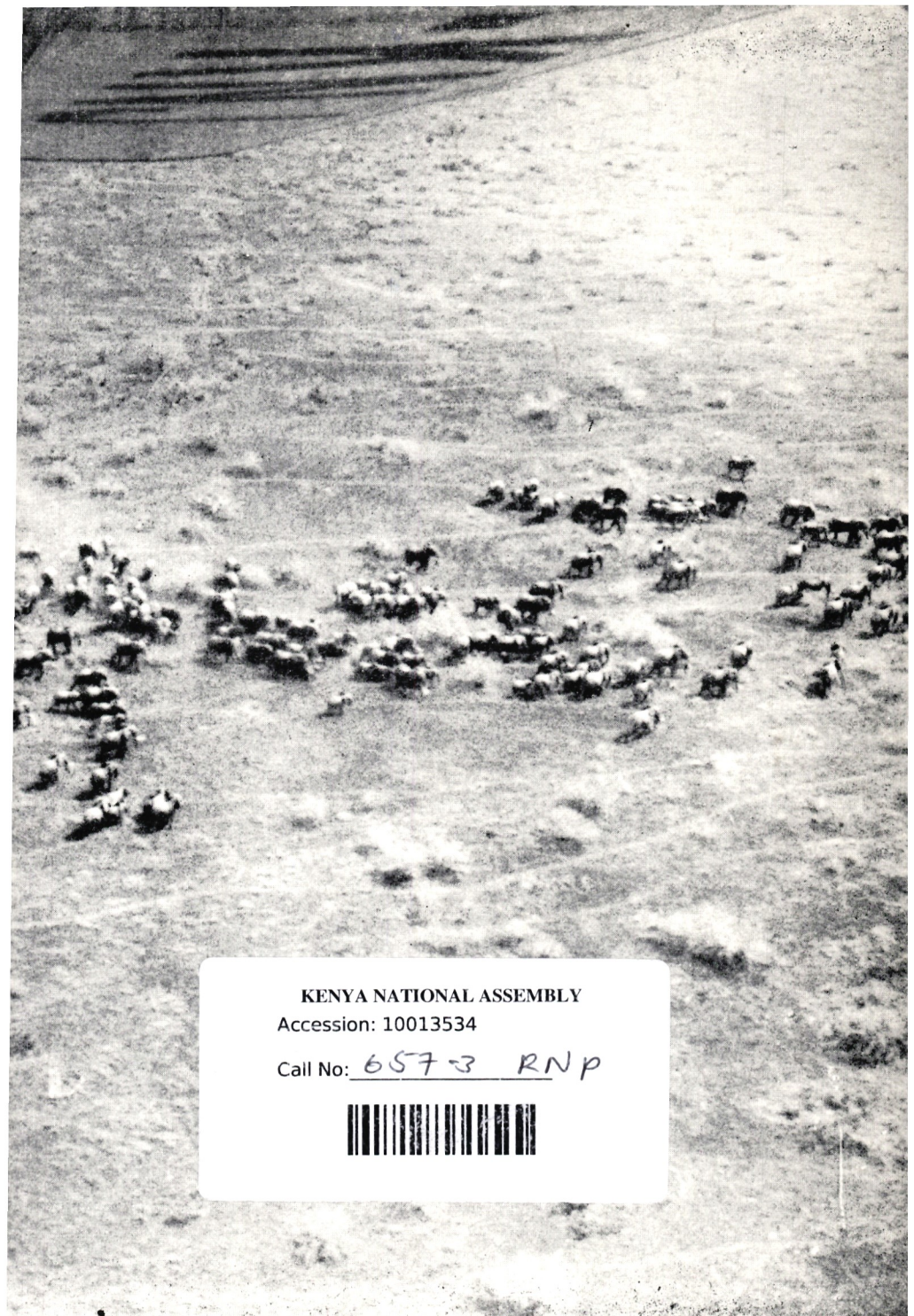
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ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA

1957





KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA

R E P O R T
1957

(TWELFTH YEAR)

Part I Report by the Chairman of Trustees
Part II Report by the Director

P.O. Box 2076, NAIROBI, Kenya.

ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA

(31st December, 1957)

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**Members of Executive Committee of Trustees.*

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(31st December, 1957)

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<i>Records</i>	Mrs. J. Prangley

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<i>Ngong National Reserve</i>		R. Jolley, Esq., <i>Assistant Warden.</i>
<i>Tsavo National Park (West)</i>	}	C. W. Marshall, Esq., <i>Warden</i>
		J. R. Nesbitt, Esq., <i>Assistant Warden</i>
		P. R. Jenkins, Esq., <i>Assistant Warden</i>
<i>Tsavo National Park (East)</i>	}	D. L. W. Sheldrick, Esq., <i>Warden</i>
		F. W. Woodley, Esq., M.C., <i>Assistant Warden</i>
		J. F. Sauvage, Esq., <i>Assistant Warden (Mechanical Section)</i>
<i>Mount Kenya National Park</i>	}	J. B. Alexander, Esq. <i>Warden</i>
<i>Aberdare National Park</i>		
<i>Gedi National Park</i>	}	J. S. Kirkman, Esq. <i>Warden</i>
<i>Coast Historical Sites</i>		
<i>Amboseli National Reserve</i>	}	W. H. M. Taberer, Esq., <i>Warden</i>
		F. D. Lovatt-Smith, Esq., <i>Assistant Warden</i>
<i>Marsabit National Reserve</i>	}	G. H. Dalton, Esq., <i>Warden</i>
		T. G. Adamson, Esq., <i>Assistant Warden</i>
<i>Ologesailie National Park</i>		Dr. M. Posnansky, <i>Warden.</i>

African Ranger Staff

Permanent ranger force for all areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Field Ranger force for all areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA

PART I

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

Towards the end of 1957 we were able to announce that the Tsavo National Park was free of poachers. This is the first time in the history of this area that the heavy toll of wild animals taken by African poachers has been effectively checked.

The campaign against poachers, under the very able and successful command of Warden David Sheldrick to whom we pay particular tribute, extended far beyond the boundaries of the Tsavo National Park. Information obtained during this campaign concerning the huge scale of the poaching activities confirmed and even exceeded the worst fears we have expressed for some years. Reports coming in to the Control Centre at Voi proved that thousands of animals were being slaughtered and trapped for the value of their trophies, in an extensive black market, far in excess of what we had previously believed possible.

We are grateful that the Government of Kenya took heed of our warnings and made funds and equipment available for the campaign. Most sincerely do we acknowledge and praise the very effective contribution by the Kenya Police. The personal interest taken by the Commissioner, and the resolute endeavours of pilots operating aircraft from the Police Air Wing were of the greatest encouragement and value, and made the whole difference between success or failure.

More important perhaps than the actual campaign in the field was a directive issued earlier in the year by His Excellency the Governor. In this Sir Evelyn Baring outlined the policy of the Government towards poaching, which undoubtedly gave a lead to all administrative and other officers. A further important step was that the Kenya Legislature approved amendments to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance in order to impose very increased penalties for poaching offences, and to restrict the carrying of arrow poison.

Thus, by the end of 1957, many endeavours in various ways had contributed to the very material reduction of poaching of wild animals in the Coast Province of Kenya, the main focus of this unlawful and wanton destruction. This however is not the only Province or part of Kenya where poachers operate, and it became obvious that the campaign must change and spread to areas well beyond the reach of the National Parks field forces. It was therefore arranged that the Government would assume full control of the anti-poaching operations outside the boundaries of the National Parks and Reserves, and Warden Sheldrick accordingly handed

over the command of two fully trained field forces, equipment and records to the Chief Game Warden at the close of the year.

Since the National Parks have been responsible for obtaining so much information and for building up this successful campaign over a number of years, we feel justified in stressing how very necessary it is for the Government of Kenya to enable the Game Department and the Police to continue these operations against the poachers. Unless this pressure is maintained the poachers will very quickly revive their activities, and even devise more subtle means of obtaining their booty.

We contend, with absolute conviction, that ways must be found of preventing traders from promoting and organising this illicit trade in trophies, without whose encouragement and arrangements the poachers would have no easy market.

Our hopes for a solution of the problems of Amboseli rose considerably during the year. The 1956 Game Policy Committee issued an interim report which not only recommended various measures to deal with poaching, but also made a realistic endeavour to reduce the conflict at Ol Tukai between Masai cattle and game to its fundamental consideration of the use of water and land. The provision of alternative water supplies to save the swamps and springs known to visitors from many lands will, we hope, prove to be greatly in the interests of game preservation and of the Masai themselves.

It is not in the least surprising that the Masai should have had some misgivings as to the fate of Amboseli in view of some wild statements that appeared in the correspondence columns of the press. A Government statement of policy issued in April, 1957, did much to clarify this confusion. It placed the issue firmly in its right perspective, and outlined the Government's first aim as being the improvement of Masai stock farming mainly by better control of water and grazing, and stated that the next aim was the preservation of game at Amboseli to the greatest extent possible in line with the first aim. This clearly raised the issue into an assessment of proper land usage instead of a dispute between cattle and game.

We wish to disassociate the National Parks from any condemnation of the Masai themselves, since we recognise that they occupy their land, including Amboseli, by right of treaty, and we acknowledge that they have made it possible to protect large numbers of wild animals in their Land Unit for a number of years, for which they must be praised. As long as the problems of Amboseli continue to be examined from the aspect of conservation of the soil and water in the best interests of the economy of Kenya, we can see every hope of finding a satisfactory solution. We therefore await the final report of the 1956 Game Policy Committee with

profound concern, since Amboseli is by no means the only problem of this kind.

A change of Government attitude towards game preservation is undoubtedly emerging in Kenya, and we acknowledge with much satisfaction two important developments. The first is the Government's very effective support of the campaign against poaching, and the second is a recognition that game preservation is a question of proper land usage. This latter is yet to be accepted by the African community, who are so apt wrongly to believe that game is preserved in Kenya for the benefit of the whiteman and his rich friends from overseas.

Wild life is a natural resource, and we hope that in course of time it will be recognised as such by the Africans in Kenya. It is a priceless heritage that will bring them pleasure, knowledge and revenue far greater than they are willing, at this stage, to accept.

We cannot avoid stressing our regrets and disappointment that the Kenya Government did not find it possible to allocate more than £11,000 to the National Parks, which was later arbitrarily reduced to £8,800, for development purposes in the year 1957/58. While we realise full well the financial stringency that has been forced on Kenya, we cannot accept that an allocation of approximately one thousandth part of the total available for the year is consistent with the change in the Government's attitude towards game preservation which we believe we can detect. As a result of this small allocation we have not been able to expand the accommodation for visitors to the National Parks, which is already inadequate, nor have we been able to undertake other developments in the interests of game preservation.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Kenya Wild Life Society for giving its support to the campaign against poaching, and for striving to find a solution of the problems of Amboseli. We regard the large membership of this Society as important evidence of the interest in preservation amongst the European population of Kenya, and we hope that it will be able to invite more support from overseas and from the African people of Kenya.

We endeavoured to assist the progress and expansion of the Kenya Wild Life Society by providing its Chairman with office and secretarial facilities for some eighteen months while he was a member of our Headquarters Staff. We trust that this has proved to be a practical contribution to the work of the Society.

We are pleased to state that the Council of the Wild Life Society has agreed to sponsor a proposal to invite Dr. F. Fraser Darling to make a brief ecological survey in certain of our National Reserves and has allocated £1,000 towards the expenses involved. We regard this survey by such an eminent expert as of the greatest

importance in leading to a solution of wild life preservation problems in these areas, and perhaps to much greater development in faunal research.

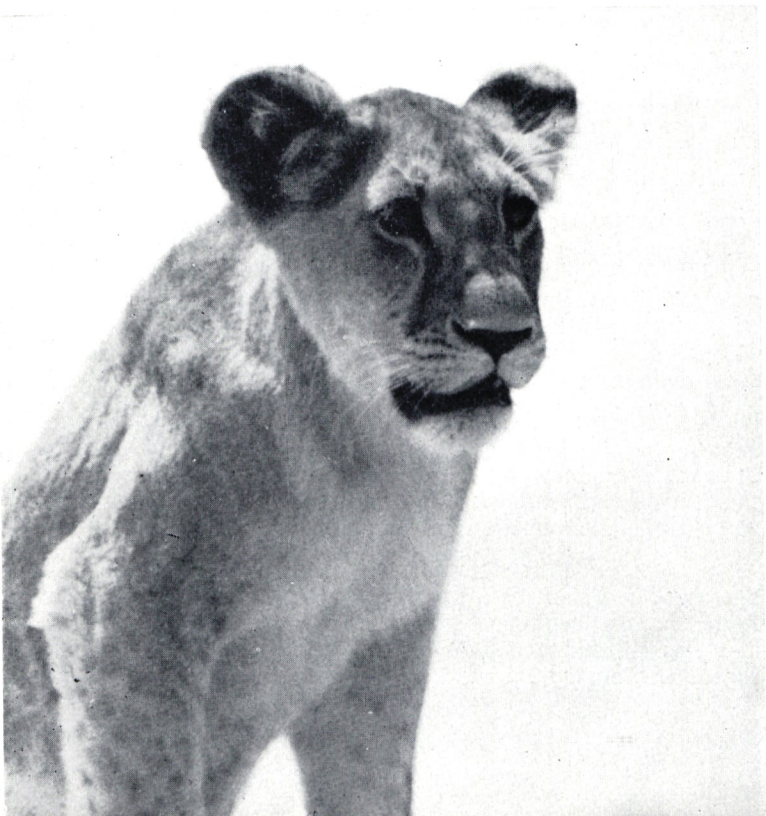
We were sorry to lose the sound advice and encouragement of three valuable members of the Board of Trustees. Sir Arthur Kirby, as General Manager of the East African Railways and Harbours, Mr. Edward Windley, as Minister of African Affairs, and Mr. R. R. Waterer as Chief Conservator of Forests, all retired during the year. We wish them well in their new spheres of activity, and we welcome their successors to the Board, namely, Mr. Farquharson, Mr. C. M. Johnston, and Mr. E. J. Honoré.

Finally, we acknowledge the resolute and effective work of all members of our staff, especially those who were engaged in the hardships and rigours of the campaign against poaching, under the general control of our very efficient Director, Mr. Mervyn Cowie, whose attached report is issued with our approval.

Royal National Parks of Kenya

NAIROBI,
July, 1958.

ALFRED VINCENT
Chairman of Trustees



ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA

PART II

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR

GENERAL

The successful campaign against poaching was undoubtedly the most important achievement of 1957. In fact, it is probably the most outstanding achievement in the history of the Royal National Parks of Kenya.

The first task to which our energies must be directed is undoubtedly the preservation of fauna and flora, for unless we can protect and save a reasonable number of wild animals and their habitats in the National Parks of Kenya, there will be no object in any other form of development, whether in making roads, building tourist accommodation, or anything else. The Tsavo Royal National Park has been very seriously desecrated by the activities of poachers, probably more so in recent years than before, but I believe there are still sufficient wild animals left to survive and to replenish this great sanctuary, which has been allocated for their protection.

Apart from the reconstruction of "Treetops" in the Aberdare Royal National Park, there were no major developments in any other areas. 1957 was a year of heavy rain, and very unseasonable rain. This is the second year in succession that we have had to close various places, such as Amboseli, for wet weather, when they are normally expected to be dry. Rain is, of course, very welcome to the animals and the trees. Rivers flow where there have been deserts, springs emerge, dams fill up, and even lakes are formed. Most of our protégés rejoiced in the continuous rain which fell for most of the earlier part of the year, but it was not so well accepted by the travellers from far away. Nothing can be more annoying than to plan a journey half way across the world to visit a certain game area, having chosen the most suitable season, and then arrive to find the objective out of reach. I have the greatest sympathy with the large number of disappointed visitors both from overseas, and from within Kenya itself, who were unable to reach some of their planned destinations during 1957, due to muddy roads and flooded rivers.

I begin to wonder whether there is a fundamental change in the climatic cycle. Other countries seem to have experienced unusual seasons in 1957 either of intense cold, heat, rain or storms, and it may well be that the world is undergoing a change which points to a different climatic routine. We have, in the past, closed most of the game areas during the two rainy seasons in Kenya, namely in April and May and again in November and part of December. These wet periods were assessed on the basis of records going back

as far as they were available, and in most areas reflect an average of seasons for forty years. It is now perfectly apparent that these seasons are not as constant as they used to be, and we will have to devise a different form of information and advice to intending visitors from overseas.



A flooded road

The impassability of the roads is not the only problem in wet weather. Even if we had sufficient finances to construct all weather roads through many of the main game centres, it would still not enable visitors to see the best display of wild animals. In the low country most wild creatures tend to concentrate on water holes and along the river systems in dry weather, and the tourist roads have been designed for that purpose. During wet seasons, however, animals can find water and fresh vegetation in other and more remote places and it is then not the best time to see and photograph big game.

I cannot avoid expressing the hope that these heavy seasons of rain will continue, and that we may be entering a pluvial period. Much of the low country of Kenya could well do with some continuous years of rain to replenish all the water resources and to regenerate the vegetation which in many parts has grown scanty

through long periods of drought. Wild animals adjust themselves very rapidly to new conditions, and it may well happen that if these heavy seasons of rain continue, the creatures will accept changed habitats and perhaps become more static. The vast migrations of the larger animals, particularly of Elephants, are undoubtedly influenced by rain or rainy seasons. They move over great distances in search of water and fresh vegetation. This may hold out a greater hope of being able to confine many of them within the boundaries of their sanctuaries, and so escape the very disastrous destruction which takes place when they migrate into zones which are the hunting grounds of poachers, or into other places where they come into conflict with human activities.

We, in this generation, are apt to view a situation purely within the limits of our own lifetime, but when we think of evolution and of eternity, we realise that a few seasons of drought or of heavy rain are merely a flash in a long period of time. If one could think in terms of thousands, or even tens of thousands of years, climatic abnormalities would become insignificant. The difficulty, of course, is that we cannot wait ten thousand years before deciding whether to open or close a particular National Park or whether nature will be able to restore a game area plundered by poachers.

This focuses a different light on what is called the balance of nature. It is a phrase that is so often used and yet is seldom understood. Vaguely it implies that nature when uninterrupted operates in a kind of equilibrium. In other words there is a balance, for example, between the predators and the animals upon which they prey, otherwise one group would have destroyed the other. There is also a balance between animals that feed upon vegetation, and the actual growth and regeneration of that vegetation or else they would have destroyed their habitat.

In the course of one generation this is undoubtedly true, and one can see many examples of a state of neutrality between different forces. It is obviously our duty to preserve that balance as we have found it. We must strive to maintain a situation which prevailed before man ceased to be primitive. If we go further back, however, and look at life as if from the distance of another planet, we would realise that nature is never in a state of balance; it is always surging, evolving or changing. The very elements which form part of that balance are also changing, probably more rapidly than we realise.

It would be futile, for example, to argue that the days of the prehistoric animals should be revived, and that, if it were possible, we should recreate dinosaurs, pterodactyls and all the other strange creatures that once roamed the face of the earth. What is important, however, is that we should not, in this generation, either accelerate this process of evolution, or interfere with it to such an extent that

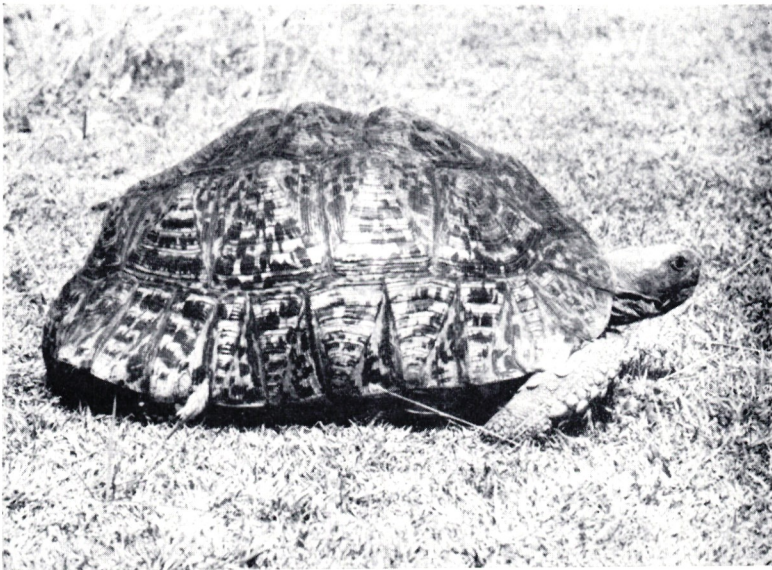
it is completely out of its natural trend. Man has formed part of the balance of nature, in his primitive state, for thousands of years, and has undoubtedly done so in Kenya itself, but man as we know him today no longer fits into the pattern of nature. The extensive killing by poachers is an example of this, because had this destruction continued all across the face of East Africa on the scale that it reached in recent years, clearly no wild animals could have survived.

In my Report last year I drew attention to the need to save Leopards, as the balance of nature had been upset. This was true enough, and still is today, since the number of Leopards that have been either poached or destroyed in all parts of Kenya has been far in excess of what one might regard as natural wastage. The result is that leopards are now fairly scarce, and the animals upon which they normally prey, such as Pigs and Baboons, have increased in certain areas, quite obviously out of all proportion. It was for this reason that I encouraged, and still do encourage, anyone within reasonable reach of a National Park, to give us the opportunity of trapping a Leopard, and moving it to a place where it is more welcome, instead of shooting it on sight. Over the last year this has worked very successfully, and we have moved no less than six Leopards from various places, where they were causing trouble to people or livestock, to the remoter regions of the Tsavo Royal National Park. Although we have not been able to observe them subsequently, we believe that they are now living more naturally and safely.

It would undoubtedly be a tragedy if any particular creature that inhabits the earth today were allowed to disappear in the course of a few years, such as happened to the Passenger Pigeon, but we can only approach this subject with reason, and not attempt to defy the natural trend of evolution. The criterion is clearly that we must endeavour to maintain the situation or natural balance as near as possible to what it was before Western civilisation first made an impact on East Africa. It is very difficult to ascertain exactly what this situation was, as there are no reliable records, but by doing nothing in a hurry or on a large scale to alter nature's balance we are less likely to cause a disaster in the animal kingdom.

For example, there are people that claim that Hunting Dogs must be destroyed on sight as they kill so many other animals. I have found that if one waits to see what kind of situation will develop, more often than not, the Dogs will either disappear or be reduced, by natural hazards, and some state of balance will again be restored. Every creature has some part to play in this story of evolution, and although we are in charge of nature's dominion we have no right to destroy anything simply because we cannot see its particular purpose.

As a review of the year, therefore, I feel content that we have at least endeavoured to restore a reasonable state of balance in the large Elephant herds of the Tsavo Royal National Park by stopping the disastrous activities of poachers, and by allowing other creatures to live as near as possible in their natural way, so as to continue in the normal trend of evolution, without any fundamental changes which otherwise take many thousands of years to achieve.



Go slow

NAIROBI ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

This ever popular game sanctuary, on the outskirts of Nairobi, had more than its normal share of rain in 1957; not that the total recorded for the year in inches was so excessive, but it was widely distributed. Even in the first quarter of the year it was lush and green when we expect to see brown grass and withered trees, typical of the driest time of the year.

The closed seasons of April and May, and November to half way through December, also apply to this Park, but only in a very limited degree. Whereas the other faunal parks are completely closed at these times, the Nairobi Royal National Park remains open. In other words, it is in the nature of a warning issued to all intending visitors that it is not advisable to visit this Park in the seasons of heavy rain. Since the Nairobi Royal National Park is of such considerable interest to local residents, and to hurried travellers at all times of the year, it is kept open as often as conditions will permit. During the closed seasons visitors must expect to find, from time to time, a "Road Closed" notice on any route, placed there by the Warden to protect the roads and the unsuspecting motorist. There have been some occasions, although not very many, when the entire Park has had to be closed after excessive rain.

It is regrettable that some foolhardy visitors remove these "Road Closed" barriers, perhaps in defiance of the restriction, or perhaps because they are unwilling to accept the Warden's judgement of the road conditions. Whatever may be the motive it is a despicable breach of the regulations, and is most unfair on subsequent visitors, who may easily be misled into following a route that is impassable.

Our aim is to improve at least some of the main road systems when funds are available, so that they can be open all through the year. Although game is often widely dispersed in wet weather, the Nairobi Royal National Park is a place that has a great deal of interest to offer under any conditions.

It is a pity indeed that we cannot direct the energies of some of the denizens of this Park to repairing instead of destroying roads. In the forest section, Ant-Bears must have spent a very busy time looking for termitaries along the Naro Gomon route, for no less than 541 Ant-Bear holes were counted in a measured mile.

Some of the tracks suffered very heavy damage with floods earlier in 1957, and it will be some time before they can be repaired. The spectacular route through the Makoyeti Gorge, for example,

will require very extensive improvement and reconstruction before it can again be opened to traffic.

The following adventure of a visitor to this Park, reported in the press in July 1957, indicates how care must be taken, even so near Nairobi. A Radio Officer from Eastleigh Airport set off with a friend who had not been in Kenya before. Their intention was to spend a few hours in the National Park in order to see some of its wild life before the friend went back to England. They stayed out perhaps a little longer than they should have done, and when attempting to cross the Makoyeti Gorge their car failed in the drift. The more they tried to move the more the back wheels ploughed into the mud, until eventually water got into the carburettor and hopelessly stalled the engine. They both spent the night in the car without food, and feeling somewhat desolate.

In the morning they concluded that as they were in a rather remote portion of the Park, the only plan was to go for help, and the Radio Officer set off towards the Hippo Pools, where he knew a Ranger Post could be found. Unfortunately he missed the way and when seeing a signboard pointing to Nairobi, followed that direction.

Meanwhile the friend who stayed with the car, had to wait alone in the haunts of big game.

After walking some distance, the Radio Officer came upon a pride of Lions. He circled them to windward, and as it was fairly late in the day, concluded that they would be lazy, and probably well fed and contented. Having passed this pride without incident he soon encountered another pride, and in trying to avoid them walked straight into a sounder of Wild Pigs. The Pigs evidently had the greater scare and took to their heels with their tails in the air.

Still trundling along he came upon yet another pride of Lions, and as these were rather more aggressive he was not at all sure what to do. He chose what seems to be the most foolhardy plan, and proceeded to throw stones at them. The Lions, being perhaps the most tolerant Lions in the world, put up with this undignified treatment and appalling insult, and moved away instead of retaliating. Eventually the weary wanderer reached a road where he saw a bus loaded with African teachers and children, enjoying the delights of the Park, and was able to attract their attention and obtain assistance.

Meanwhile the friend who had been sitting in the car hailed a National Park bulldozer, and with it and the help of the driver

pulled the car out of the water, started the engine, and drove it on to the Embakasi Gate.

This is not the only occasion when there has been trouble at the Makoyeti Gorge. Some years ago two visitors from Rhodesia very nearly lost their lives by being washed down in a flooded river, which all goes to show that this particular route will have to be considerably improved to avoid hardships of this kind. I hope, however, that the day will never come when the National Parks of Kenya are so organised and so developed that the spirit of adventure, which has so pervaded African history, no longer exists.

People travelling through the southern section of the Park often ask why cattle and dwellings are seen there. I feel that perhaps it is not inopportune to recapitulate the story of our Somali tenants.

Well before the Park was established a number of Somalis took up residence in what was then known as the Nairobi Commonage. Whether their occupation was entirely authorised or not is in some doubt, although the Somalis themselves claim that they were personally placed on the Commonage at the behest of Queen Victoria, as a reward for service to the Crown in the Uganda Rifles before the close of the last century. The tender age of some of the claimants would obviously belie this allegation.

The Government, however, decided that eleven families had some moral if not legal right to remain on the Commonage, and gave them permission to do so, but with very reduced numbers of livestock. Mainly in order to save the soil and vegetation, which had been disastrously overgrazed in the past, the number of cattle were reduced from some 3,500 to 220. The licence holders were granted a life interest, on certain very strict conditions outlined by regulation, to live in the Park and to depasture limited numbers of livestock. It was on these conditions that the Trustees accepted jurisdiction of the Nairobi Royal National Park.

Curiously enough the cattle, their herdsmen, and even the gay coloured shawls of the Somalis, have been accepted by the wild animals as part of the natural scene. Stranger still, the Lions seldom attack the herds of cattle which graze daily in their domain. Thus it is that one often sees Somalis, their servants and livestock, wandering freely in certain portions of the Park, and they will continue to do so, until these concessions expire.

Although tenants in any game area, and especially within this diminutive sanctuary, are not compatible with the objects of a National Park, I must acknowledge that these Somalis are a relatively well behaved group of people. Few of them have

given any trouble over the past twelve years, and they have generally been cooperative and contented.

This situation, as a forced experiment, has proved to me, beyond any doubt, that cattle and game can occupy the same area and be complementary, provided that it is on the very definite conditions that the cattle are limited in number in relation to the carrying capacity of the land and, above all, that the preservation of game comes first. Similar arrangements have worked elsewhere in the past under conditions of good rainfall and grazing, but have failed during a calamity such as an extreme drought. Unless the interests of game are paramount obviously the requirements of cattle will prevail, and as a wild life sanctuary it would be useless. Had it not been for the Governments' firm action in 1946 to reduce the large herds of cattle roaming across what was then called the Commonage, most of this area would have been so eroded that it would have been useless to man or beast, wild or tame.

Lions, as always, are the main interest of all the thousands of people who visit this Park. During the year the Lions never failed to delight photographers and many wide eyed spectators, although the Lions themselves rather rudely display a great air of boredom. Perhaps it is not so much a case of being bored, but of treating people with indifference. Lions in their wild haunts spend the greater part of the day sleeping and resting in strange positions. There is no reason whatever why they should change their habits merely to perform or parade for the convoys of motor cars that converge on any Lion family in the Park. This disdain, or more truthfully perhaps, lack of fear for the human, provokes some visitors to resort to unlawful and very unreasonable endeavours to stir the Lions.

For example, one Sunday afternoon a young Indian gentleman amused himself by leaning out of the rear door of a van and lobbing stones at some Lions peacefully snoozing just ahead of the car. He was quite unaware that the Warden was approaching from behind him, and continued to throw stones. The Warden seized him by the scruff of the neck and removed him bodily into the Patrol Truck. This young man obviously concluded that the Lions had got him, and his terror was intense. He was later charged before a Magistrate, and fined £25 for his foolish activities.

Later in the year the driver of an air travel agency bus allowed his enthusiasm to run away, and deliberately drove his vehicle into a pride of sleeping Lions. Although the passengers in the bus were highly delighted, many other spectators, who had been watching the Lions patiently for hours, were distinctly annoyed. Action was taken against the offender, and he was fined £15.



Lazy and tolerant

The Lions in the Nairobi Royal National Park have grown so used to people, it is almost true to say that they will put up with anything, but there is obviously a limit to the tolerance of any Lion. One day these Lions, which are inherently dangerous animals, will be provoked to retaliate, and I sincerely hope that it does not result in a tragedy involving innocent victims. In any event, it is quite unreasonable for visitors entering this Park to expect that wild and dangerous game is going to perform or move about at a human command as if in a circus. It is fortunate that the wild creatures have the Park to themselves at night, for during the day they undoubtedly have to put up with a great measure of interference from over-zealous observers.

During the twelve years since this Park was first established, the behaviour of visitors has undoubtedly improved. In the earlier days it was a constant struggle to convince sightseers of the necessity for regulations at all, and that they were designed essentially for the safety of the animals and of the people themselves. Although there are always incidents being reported, people entering this Park now generally recognise a measure of responsibility in the sense that every citizen has a duty to protect a valuable heritage.

The Warden and his assistants have the thankless task of continually exhorting and advising visitors to comply with the regulations. The Lions always attract a large number of spectators, especially at week-ends and on Public Holidays, and on such occasions each Lion family requires the personal attention of a Patrol Officer to keep order. One of our Honorary Wardens of long

standing, Ronald Jolley, joined the Royal National Parks in August, 1957, to fill the appointment of Assistant Warden of the Nairobi National Park. I am glad to welcome him to our staff, as he is no stranger to the animals nor to many visitors who know him and his quiet ability and ready willingness to assist anyone in trouble.

In this regard I am very grateful to a number of honorary helpers who take regular duty in the Park, and also to other visitors, who, as a matter of public responsibility, report breaches of the regulations. It is quite surprising that over a long period many hundreds of thousands of people have been into this Park, and have even provoked Lions to the extreme, and yet there has not been a serious tragedy. I cannot say that this means that there never will be, as one cannot predict the occasion when a wild animal may suddenly panic or take defensive action.

In considering these hazards I am firmly of the opinion that the right course would be to allow the responsible Officers in charge of a wild life sanctuary powers of summary punishment. There are precedents for such provisions, both in Kenya and in other countries, and it would be a simple method of dealing with offenders on the spot, leaving them with the opportunity, if they so wish, of having their case heard before a Magistrate. I realise that some people hold that this form of penalty is offensive to the rules of British Justice, but when dealing with such large numbers of people in situations which can involve extreme danger, it is essential to have measures that are really effective, and which can be easily and quickly enforced on a few for the safety of so many.

Having Lions in such a relatively small area, under close and daily observation, means that the Warden's diary is full of stories and incidents, some of which are almost unbelievable. Early in the year Warden Ellis reports that a family of ten Lions killed a large but rather old Cheetah, and solemnly devoured him. This Cheetah, owing to his size, was often taken for a Lioness in the distance. On examining the skull, which was about all that remained, it was found that his teeth, which were very badly worn, rather resembled round ivory marbles. This, however, is no explanation of why the Lions should have decided that the Cheetah was a suitable victim for dinner. The same pride of Lions amused themselves a few nights later by chasing cars along the new Mombasa Road. Traffic on this road travels at great speed, and it was quite miraculous that no Lions were run over. The Warden was called out by the police at 2 o'clock in the morning and, with some assistance, was able to persuade the Lions to return to the Park.

Only scientific research will tell us why these Lions so frequently find it necessary to move out of the Park, or even to resort to raids and pranks which appear quite unnecessary when they have such an abundance and variety of food within easy reach. Cattle, of course, are always a temptation, and I doubt if any Lion will ever be schooled to keep out of this form of mischief. The Veterinary Station at Ngong, in the Ngong National Reserve, always seems

to be an objective for any stray pride of Lions. Over the years there have been frequent incidents at this place, and in the first quarter of 1957 some Lions successfully raided a Boma, killed a heifer, and made a very good meal of it.

The Post and Telegraph Training School, which borders the National Park just near the Warden's Headquarters, is always in some danger of being visited by Lions. One morning a pride of five, one male and four Lionesses, settled themselves down in the grounds of the school, and as they were near the main road, and in a place frequented by many of the students, the Warden had to set about moving them away. Two of the Lionesses resented this treatment, and twice charged the Warden and his line of Rangers, but eventually they were persuaded back to their own province.

Sometimes, but not always, there is a good explanation of why Lions become aggressive. An urgent telephone call from Ngong took the Warden to a hut near the Finch-Hatton Memorial on the Ngong Hills where he found a very frightened African who had been chased into his hut by an angry Lion. It was not surprising that this Lion was touchy as it was found that a snare had been set near the hut, in which a Lioness had been caught. In the early morning when the African came out to see what all the noise was about, he was attacked by the male Lion, obviously in some endeavour to protect his Lioness.

This is yet another example of the danger of snares. Although a snare may be designed and set for some harmless creature, there is no way of knowing what might be caught. If a Lion or a Leopard happens to be snared, it is not unlikely or unreasonable that it will retaliate, and one can expect a situation of extreme danger. It is for this reason, even if for no other, that I pleaded, in my report last year, for assistance from residents round the borders of the Nairobi Royal National Park, to prevent the setting of snares. There has been no evidence of any reduction of this unlawful, dangerous and murderous practice, and so I must again appeal to anyone who has any opportunity of doing so, to prevent the setting and use of wire snares.

Although some years ago I had fears that the Lion population of the Park was getting dangerously low, I now feel happier to report that they appear to be breeding up. In April no less than thirty Lions were seen in the Park itself, and at a later date no less than forty-three Lions were counted in the Park and the adjoining section of the Ngong National Reserve. Numbers obviously fluctuate a great deal, as sometimes several lionesses have cubs at almost the same time, and the population may suddenly rise by anything up to ten or twelve. The mortality rate, however, amongst the cubs is so great that if about fifty per cent reach maturity we praise the mothers for doing well.





" Hello "



Don't you think I'm handsome ?



Why so stand-offish ?



You can never understand the ways of a Lioness



It must be realised that the Lion population in the Nairobi Royal National Park is not entirely static. There are various Lion families that are well known to regular visitors, but occasionally strangers come in from the Ngong National Reserve. This National Reserve, stretching down into the Rift Valley, and beyond it to the south for many miles, is what one might call Lion country. It is not unlikely, nor by any means unusual, for Lions to migrate over vast distances and come into the Park, perhaps attracted by the Lion sing-song which is occasionally heard in the Park. It is quite astonishing how these strange Lions seem to appear whenever a Lioness is in season, which may be nature's way of preventing inbreeding.

In spite of such close observation of these Lion families, it is not always possible to know who is the father of any new cubs. Unfortunately, some of the Lionesses seem to be promiscuous, to say the least of it. One famous Lioness known as Blondie produced a family of cubs in 1955 and nursed them for six days. She then abandoned them, only to take up with a Lion and have another honeymoon. She did precisely the same again in 1957, and abandoned her young family. It is not surprising that the African Rangers have a very apt but rude name for this Lioness as, of course, they judge an animal mainly on its breeding potential.

Warden Ellis reports that as a result of Blondie's second marriage in 1957, she had only one cub. On the 15th November she was in company with her sister, who already had three cubs, and was seen to disappear into the bushes for a short time and emerge carrying an obviously new-born cub, and sit down with it between her paws. Very shortly the three older cubs came up to inspect and play with their new cousin, and far surpassed the Girls of St. Trinian's in their treatment of a newcomer. Having rolled it over and romped with it, they then had a tug-of-war, each pulling a leg. During all this performance Mother Blondie took no notice, and she was obviously not in any way interested in her new arrival. A short short time later Warden Ellis returned to the bushes, and on hearing the unmistakable squeals of the little cub inside, concluded that Blondie must be with it and taking care of it. Within a week, however, Blondie was off again on a honeymoon with a Lion, having obviously abandoned her cub for the second time in one year. This is most unusual in Lion families, as they generally breed once every two or three years, and remain devoted to their cubs until they almost reach maturity.

One would never think that Lions would stoop so low as to kill and eat a Hyaena. Two such happenings were reported during the year. On one occasion a Lioness was seen with a half-eaten carcass of a Hyaena, near the place where Blondie's cubs had been abandoned, and presumably destroyed by Hyaenas. Perhaps this

was retribution by another Lioness for the destruction of the cubs. On another occasion a full grown Lion was actually seen to kill and partly eat a Hyaena, but obviously with some reluctance and a measure of disgust. Lions often show signs of great annoyance on a kill when they are being hounded by Hyaenas. The Hyaenas are usually so anxious to get a mouthful before everything is finished that they take liberties with the Lions. Any Hyaena that ventures too near generally gets into trouble, and is sometimes killed. Seldom, however, does a Lion then resort to eating a Hyaena, and my sympathies go out to the Hyaenas who, after all, are rather pathetic creatures, relying mainly on the crumbs from the rich Lion's table.

Lions undoubtedly invite trouble for themselves, but there is, of course, no way of teaching them otherwise. A Lioness with three half-grown cubs chased a Wildebeest out of the Park and killed it close up against the new Nairobi South Housing Estate. Had the Wildebeest, in its terror, resorted to fleeing into the suburb, no doubt there would have been a nasty situation in between a very closely settled group of houses.

This and other stories all point to the very great need to have a really adequate fence along the town and residential boundaries of the National Park. Plans are in hand and will be developed shortly for constructing a barrier which will consist of a bank of earth on which will be mounted a very sturdy fence. This is the only method which has so far been found satisfactory against stampeding herds of game, or a restless Lion that chooses to wander out of the Park. Once this fence is completed I think that the people who live in the Nairobi South Estate can feel a little safer, and the authorities in charge of the Nairobi West Aerodrome may have less reason to complain of animals being on the landing strip. It will, however, be quite false to imagine that even an expensive fence of this type will be an unassailable barrier, since something is sure to break through it from time to time. Zebra, in particular, display a most determined intention of breaking through a fence and even dig holes to get underneath. It is no great problem for a Lion to get through even a barbed or netting fence, and so the danger will persist, although I hope it will be very materially reduced.

A tragedy befell some of our famous Lions in November, when a band of Masai Moran chased and speared three lions in the Ngong National Reserve. Very prompt action taken by the Police resulted in five of the offenders being convicted and fined £100 each, or six months in detention. It appears that these Moran were strangers to the district, and were merely wishing to blood their spears, in accordance with a traditional custom, although with disastrous results to our pet Lions. Evidence leading to the conviction of these people was not easily obtained, owing to an

obvious reluctance on the part of those who had the information. I hope that in the course of a reasonable period, everyone concerned with administering the law in Kenya will appreciate the significance and importance of the Governor's directive on game preservation, and that Chiefs and Headmen will also accept responsibility for seeing that poaching or wanton destruction of wild animals is prevented.

Prince, the little Lion cub which was rescued by the Warden as a waif in the Ngong National Reserve in 1956, grew up to be a very handsome, tolerant and affectionate animal. By September he had reached the age of eleven months and weighed 140 lbs., when he was taken over by a collector and shipped to the Edinburgh Zoo. Reports show that he suffered from the heat in the Red Sea, but recovered before reaching England, and had great fun chasing dockers round the wharf on arrival.

It is sad to think of this lovely animal being confined in a small space in a climate which to him is obviously unsuitable. As I have said in previous reports, however, there is really no other alternative, since it is impossible to release a Lion once it has grown familiar with people and lost all sense of fear. The only other alternative is for a tame Lion to be destroyed and so, as a choice between the two, perhaps the Edinburgh Zoo is not such a bad fate after all. Strangely enough, when Prince was travelling on a ship through the Mediterranean, there were also other animals on board, and a Cheetah, having apparently grown weary of the journey, jumped overboard. The Captain, to whom all praise must be given, turned the ship round, lowered a boat and rescued the Cheetah after it had been in the water for some thirty minutes. People who have doubts that a Cheetah can swim should take note of this story.

Cheetahs are still regular residents of the National Park, and are often seen in broad sunlight. Two large male Cheetahs killed a Wildebeest one Sunday morning, and were then themselves attacked by eight Hyenas. The Cheetahs put up a very good fight, and chased the Hyenas away. A lucky visitor managed to obtain a complete cinefilm of the whole adventure. One of the Cheetahs got a bone stuck in its mouth which embarrassed it for a considerable time, until finally it managed to dislodge the bone by using one of the ribs of the Wildebeest carcase in the form of a lever.

A most extraordinary thing about Cheetahs, apart from their immense speed, is the variety of noises they can make. They growl although it is more falsetto than base, and is quite alarming. They purr when contented. The purr sounds like rattling a few stones in a tin and can be heard quite far away. The most unbelievable sound, however, is a whistle or squeak when they are calling to each other. It sounds much more like the whistle of a bird than of any mammal, and unless one knows the sound

well, it is difficult to believe that such a shrill sound could possibly be made by a Cheetah.

Cheetahs are apt to kill more often during the day than at night, and it is not unusual to witness one of these exciting adventures. The hunt is often announced by a general alarm, sounded all over the plains by various animals that have spotted the Cheetah, until eventually, with a short stalk and a great burst of speed, some unfortunate victim is singled out. The final rush is almost too fast to follow.

Although Cheetahs appear quite bloodthirsty when on a kill, there is no predator that has such an honourable record in the whole history of association with human beings. They make delightful pets and display few vices. From the days of the early explorers until modern times, there are practically no incidents recorded of Cheetahs becoming aggressive towards human beings. In fact I have never heard of a man-eating Cheetah in East Africa. Difficult to provoke, and even when hunted or captured a Cheetah will seldom retaliate, and so they must be granted the highest award for good behaviour among the larger predators.

I cannot say the same about Leopards. A Leopard when wounded, hunted or cornered, can be one of the most aggressive and dangerous of all animals. There have been many records of people being attacked and even killed by Leopards without provocation. There are also reasons to concede that man-eating Leopards, in their subtle and sinister way, can be far worse than any man eating Lion.



Leopard hiding in a tree

In the first quarter of the year two Leopards, said to live in the Ngong National Reserve, killed a dog and some sheep in the Karen-Hardy Estate area, and were immediately condemned to death. One, the killer of the dog, was tracked down and shot. The other was also tracked, and, after a dangerous hunt, was also shot. This one charged the hunter on sight, and had to be dealt with at very close range.

Another Leopard, living in the Mbagathi River Valley, killed three calves and twenty-five sheep in the Masai Reserve. This must be an all-time record for wanton destruction, since to kill twenty-five sheep is no small task, and certainly far beyond the requirements of any single Leopard. It may have been one of these rare occasions when a wild animal is obsessed by its most savage instincts. The only parallel is perhaps the Honeybadger which has been known to enter a chicken-run and lop off the heads of any number of chickens inside. The owner of the dead sheep and calves was not so impressed with the killing power of a Leopard, and, although strenuous efforts were made to track it down, it disappeared into the extensive cover along the Ngong foothills.

In the second quarter of the year another Leopard almost broke this record by getting through the wall of a hut and killing all twenty-four sheep which were inside. A few days later the same Leopard killed a herd of six sheep which were near Karen Police Station. Considerable efforts were made by Warden Ellis and others to track down this killer or to trap it, but without success.

Some time later a Leopard silently crept into a Karen garden and killed a very lovely Irish Wolfhound, which weighed over a hundred pounds, and dragged the body of its victim nearly a mile through dense bush and forest. A trap was set for it, but again without success.

A lady living in the same district complained through the police that there was a Leopard in her garden, and when the Warden responded to the call and told her that he would chase it away with thunder flashes, she immediately stated that she would rather have the Leopard.

Although these stories may sound amusing and exciting, it is not much fun for people in the Karen district to live in constant danger from Leopards. I must, however, in all fairness both to the wild animals and to the areas which we endeavour to administer, say quite unequivocally that I do not consider Leopards in Karen come from the Nairobi Royal National Park. It is within my personal knowledge that Leopards have roamed in the forested zone

west of Nairobi for many years, and I predict that they will continue to do so. They are seldom seen in the Park itself, and we have very few records of them breeding there. It is simply a case that the rapid expansion of Nairobi has led people to take over a portion of the Leopards' domain, and there is no easy way of ensuring that Leopards will not frequent this area in the course of their normal migrations, breeding and hunting.

The most dangerous situation is to have a wounded Leopard in a closely settled district, and so I must again sound a note of caution and advise that if anyone finds a Leopard raiding livestock or taking dogs, it is far better to appeal for help from someone with experience and knowledge than to attempt either unskilled trapping or shooting. An unwounded Leopard is bad enough, and can at times be expected to attack without good reason, but once harassed, wounded or intimidated, there is no limit to what it will do.

Our endeavours to trap and remove Leopards from the Karen district have been fairly successful, but they are obviously more plentiful in this district than they were some years ago. I have hopes that the Game Department will be able to provide more traps and appoint someone to deal with the "Karen Killer" and his assistants.

The fencing which we propose to construct along the boundaries of the Park bordering Nairobi and the Karen suburbs will not, of course, prevent Leopards moving to and fro. A Leopard is a creature for which no fence can easily be designed, and there is the added problem of the fence having two sides. By this I mean that if animals do happen to stray into Karen from more remote areas, they will then find themselves on the wrong side of the Park fence. In such circumstances it might be better to have no fence at all.

Fencing is equally useless for Baboons, as they can climb over or through anything. Fortunately, the Baboons have not strayed from the Park into Nairobi as they did in 1956, and for the past year they have been reasonably well behaved, although I cannot say the same about the visitors who continue to feed them. Baboons have noticeably increased in numbers in the Karen district. Perhaps this is one of the reasons for an increase in Leopards.

Baboons know instinctively how to deal with scorpions by pulling out the offensive sting before eating them. They also know a good deal about snakes. One morning a small troop of Baboons in the Park were seen baiting and deliberately harassing a very angry and rather frightened Cobra. The Cobra had to give them best.



Some baboons are illiterate

Snakes are not often seen either in the Nairobi Royal National Park or elsewhere, possibly because almost every other creature from an Eagle to a Mongoose usually attacks any snake on sight. Pythons seem to be on the increase, and are more often seen in the lush valleys along the Mbagathi River. One afternoon Warden Ellis found a Python that had just caught and strangled a Thomson's Gazelle. Despite the crowd of cars that soon gathered round, the Python proceeded to swallow the Tommy, commencing with the nose. When the Python had got the Tommy's head and all but a few inches of the horns into its mouth, it attempted to crush the horns level with the skull, so that they would not get in the way. The Python failed in the first and only attempt to do this, and realising defeat, immediately disgorged what had already been swallowed and left the entire carcase. It seems that the Python was put off more by the large number of cars than by the apparently impossible task of swallowing an animal the size of a Thomson's Gazelle.

Although Baboons eat a large quantity of grass and insects they are also predators. One of the Somali tenants reported a strange incident, when a Thomson's Gazelle gave birth to a youngster and within a few minutes a male Baboon came along and seized the baby Tommy, and began to make off with it. It was then stopped by two Hyaenas, who also seized the baby Tommy. A Somali herdsman standing nearby rushed in to save the Tommy and also seized it, and a general tug-of-war developed. Each of the contestants eventually went away with a small share of the victim. It is not unusual to find Baboons killing and eating young animals.

Towards the end of the year a most extraordinary prank was perpetrated in Nairobi. A Python was found in a telephone kiosk in the New Stanley Hotel. It was later taken and released in the Nairobi Royal National Park. There was no logical explanation of this unusual item of lost luggage, and it would appear that the Python had been intentionally left in the telephone kiosk, either as a joke or as a means of getting rid of it. Under any circumstances it is not the kind of creature that one would like to find in the very confined space of a telephone box.

Ostriches are now fairly plentiful in this National Park, and large clutches can often be seen. One nest containing forty-two eggs was found. Twelve eggs had been discarded, leaving thirty for incubating. There is an old African hunter's tale that Ostriches always lay and discard extra eggs for Jackals and other enemies in order to protect the remainder. Forty-two is a fair number of eggs for any bird to lay, and obviously not more than a small proportion can reach maturity. Eventually only ten chicks were hatched from this very large brood, and it appears that quite a number of eggs were stolen by visitors as the nest was easily visible from the main road. It always seems to me to be an absolute miracle that Ostriches can be reared at all. Every kind of creature preys upon the eggs and also upon the young chicks, and so to see a large flock of Ostriches wandering across the plains is simply one of those amazing achievements of nature. It is all the more despicable that visitors should have stolen some of the eggs, contrary to all the laws governing a National Park.

Ostriches are not very wise creatures, and if a place had been selected for a nest far away from roads or even in the Ngong National Reserve there may have been a better chance for this hen to bring out more chicks. The Ngong National Reserve is essential for the future of the Nairobi Royal National Park as it provides a migrational zone as well as a reserve to replenish the many species of animals so frequently seen in the Park itself.

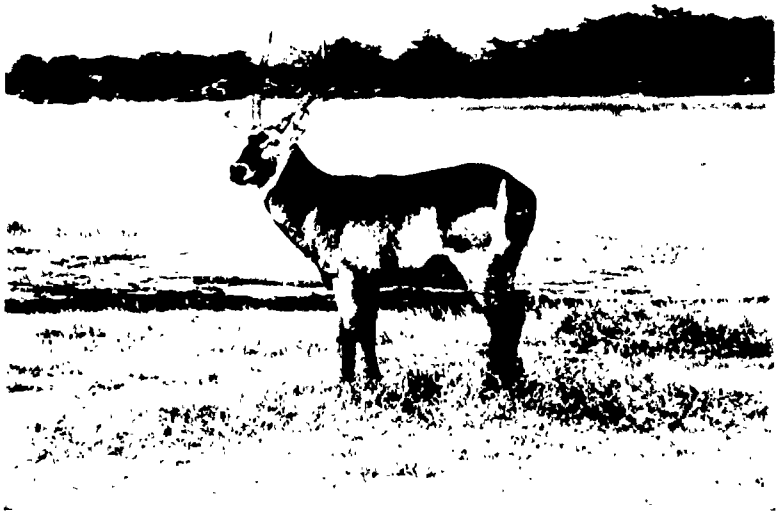
For a number of years the Trustees have considered that the boundaries of this National Reserve should be altered so as to exclude a portion near the Ngong Hills which is already closely settled by Africans, and to include instead a portion to the South, so as to embrace more of the migrational limits of the residents of the Nairobi Royal National Park. I hope that before much more time goes by these boundaries can be settled, and a better method of administration can be applied to the Ngong Reserve, so that the spearing of Lions and other incidents that occur from time to time can be prevented. The National Reserve could then fulfil its essential role as an adjunct and as a reservoir for the Nairobi Royal National Park. This Reserve, if open to the public, would add very considerably to the great variety of animal life in the Park itself, and its four hundred different species of birds. The Ngong Hills are unique for their scenic grandeur, wild flowers and fauna. The thickly wooded valleys shelter many a large animal and are full of surprises. The Warden found this to be true when he was trying to deal with a bad Buffalo. As he fired at the Buffalo, a Rhino and two Lions broke from the same thicket. This adventure would surely qualify for inclusion in the explorers' tales of wildest Africa of the last century.

Thus, in the course of a year, this miniature sanctuary, the Nairobi Royal National Park, virtually on the outskirts of the main city of East Africa, continues to contribute a fund of information and stories for the nature lover. It also provides opportunities for game photographers which are almost unlimited. More than two hundred thousand human eyes observe incidents in this Park in the course of a year, and there must be many strange and interesting adventures which never reach the knowledge of the Warden or other Officers concerned with its administration. Long may it survive.

I cannot conclude this record of events in the Nairobi Royal National Park for 1957, without paying very special tribute to our great friend and adviser, Colonel C. A. Brown, who died towards the end of the year.

Colonel Brown was a keen naturalist and photographer, and was always willing to show his fine films to any interested audience. It was he who provided pictures to stage a public meeting in Nairobi in 1938 to promote interest in the establishment of National Parks in Kenya. For twenty years he was an effective and ardent supporter of game preservation. He was found dead at the wheel of his car in the Nairobi Royal National Park. We and the wild animals who respected him so much will mourn his loss, and always treasure the wise advice he was so ready to give.





A gentle Waterbuck

TSAVO ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

The Tsavo Royal National Park, and the hinterland to the north, for years has been the main focus of poachers. Information obtained by the anti-poaching campaign in 1956 revealed that the situation was far worse than even we had expected. 1956 closed in a spirit of hopefulness in that there was a very active and effective campaign being conducted against the whole poacher racket.

This was most heartening, as the National Parks, from well before the Mau Mau emergency, had been struggling to deal with the poachers, as well as to convince the people and Government of Kenya of the gravity of the threat to Kenya's wild life. Much of this history was recorded in my report for 1956, and it is as well that it was so recorded, since, in the satisfaction of later achievement, people and organisations in Kenya and elsewhere are apt to overlook the single-handed and strenuous endeavours of the National Parks, over a long period, which culminated in such a successful achievement.

Thus, there could have been no better New Year message, and no greater encouragement given to those engaged in the campaign, than the directive issued by His Excellency the Governor on January 2nd, 1957. In this directive the Governor stated that he was disturbed by the great threat to Kenya's wild life caused by the activities of poachers. These activities had become so extensive as to present a serious danger to the preservation of the game population of the Colony. The directive drew attention to the existing Law whereby various offences could be punished under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance and the National Parks Ordinance. The Governor's directive went on to say that he wished all Officers, particularly those of the Administration, and of the Police, to make themselves familiar with the provisions of these Ordinances and to take all possible measures to put down poaching.

At almost the same time the Government gave authority for two additional Field Forces to be recruited and trained under National Parks arrangements. These two forces were formed and organised on the same lines as the National Parks' Field Force which had already proved so successful. Additional European Officers were seconded for the purpose, and even lent by other Departments. By the 15th February approximately eighty men had been recruited, and their training commenced at Voi under the command of Warden Sheldrick. They were drawn from the Northern Frontier District, and consisted of Somalis, Orma, Samburu and Turkana. The training of the two mobile forces continued until the middle of March, by which time they were considered to be sufficiently ready to undertake their first operation under the tutelage of some of the older campaigners.

An area south of the Mombasa-Nairobi road down to the Tanganyika border was selected as being suitable for the deployment of a large number of men. The Voi, Hola and Makindu forces were also sent to this area. The Tanganyika Police and Game Department were involved in the operation, and co-operated by putting up road blocks, and patrolling the Tanganyika side of the border. Unfortunately one of the informers, normally engaged in this kind of operation, thinking perhaps that the local people would carry out reprisals against his family, warned those living in the district, and the results were most disappointing. The experience gained, however, was of the greatest value, and the two new forces learnt a great deal from it. A total of thirteen men were arrested for various game offences. After this operation the two new forces proceeded to the respective areas allotted to them, namely Hola and Makindu. A total of seventy-eight convictions were obtained during the quarter.

Heavy rain in April and May hampered the anti-poaching operations, particularly in the Tana River district, where the Hola Force was virtually marooned for several weeks. In spite of many difficulties the Hola and Voi forces were most successful, and poaching was considerably reduced. Nothing is more successful than success, and as a result of the support given by the Police and the Administration many poachers were captured or put to flight in this combined operation spreading over many thousands of miles.

The National Parks' Voi force was in the field continuously from the beginning of October 1956 up to July 1957 under the able command of Assistant Warden Woodley and Assistant Warden Jenkins. The hardships of this form of operation were extreme, since for long periods the Forces had to operate without water, and often without any form of transport. Much of their time was spent between the Tana and Galana Rivers, an area seldom travelled by anyone except poachers, and as a result they became very experienced in this type of bush navigation, even to the extent of outwitting the wily poacher himself.

Without modern equipment this campaign could not possibly have been so successful. Radio communication was maintained almost continuously between the different Forces and the headquarters at Voi. A considerable variety of radio equipment was made available by the Police and the Army, which proved to be of the greatest value in the anti-poacher campaign. Aircraft of the Kenya Police Air Wing were able not only to point out routes and objectives to the Forces on the ground, but also to supply them with food and water on occasions when they were desperately in need. The pilots had to fly over country which, for the greater part, was devoid of any landmarks, and certainly most inhospitable. During the rainy seasons sudden storms frequently threatened to cut

off the aircraft from base, and at times the pilots had to use Emergency airstrips hastily constructed in the bush. In spite of all these difficulties they never failed to make contact with the ground patrols when really necessary to do so, and they were responsible for the recovery of a considerable quantity of ivory spotted from the air. It was not surprising, therefore, that the poacher gangs soon learnt to be afraid of aircraft, and even go the length of surrendering to one of the Forces, or to the Headquarters at Voi, announcing that they could no longer operate under such difficult and dangerous conditions.

Some of my sympathy still goes out to the poacher himself, for he is a man of considerable knowledge and courage, operating in a hinterland which virtually is a No-man's-land. If it were not for the trader who inspires, organises and finances the whole of this poaching racket, the poacher would have no easy market.

An address by a Police Officer who was in charge of the operations against the illicit traffic in ivory and Rhino horn at the Coast, given to an audience of the United Kenya Club in Mombasa, certainly left no doubts in any one's mind as to who might be to blame for this unlawful trade. Local ivory merchants were in the audience, and listened to the officer condemning traders in no uncertain terms for encouraging the African poacher to kill and trap animals in order to obtain the trophies.

In his opinion, the poacher himself was seldom paid more than Shs. 2/- a pound for the ivory, and Shs. 2/50 a pound for Rhino horn. The middleman or transporter then got up to Shs. 8/- a pound for ivory and Shs. 10/- a pound for Rhino horn, assuming both to be of the highest quality. It was the receiver, however, in the end who made the most of the illicit deal by obtaining anything up to Shs. 35/- a pound for ivory and Shs. 80/- a pound for Rhino horn. Later in the year these prices went up considerably higher and exceeded the previously known records, even for the black market.

The Police Officer placed the blame fairly where it lay, by stating that the African poacher who digs a pit, or shoots a poisoned arrow into the stomach of an Elephant, often does not know any better. It was the receivers, in his opinion, who were supposed to be educated, civilized people, and it was they who were responsible for the entire poaching operations. He considered that the Kenya Government lost more than £50,000 a year in revenue as a result of the activities of the poachers.

In the third quarter of 1957 Warden Sheldrick was able to report that the Coast province had been almost cleared of poachers. He could quite definitely say that the Tsavo Royal National Park was free of this menace. This was the most dramatic news, and

the finest achievement since the National Parks were established. It was quite apparent from these operations that poaching had been on such a huge scale that, unless the campaign had been launched, quite clearly there would have been few animals left either in or near the Tsavo Royal National Park.

News from informers and from poachers who had surrendered soon built up a pattern which influenced Warden Sheldrick to arrange a search of hitherto unknown localities. The Voi force was moved into a District known as Ushingu in July and, although no signs of poachers were seen, it was obvious that a tremendous slaughter of elephants had taken place during the past year.

Altogether 50 large hideouts were found and 381 carcasses, many of which were still marked by bush flags or bunches of grass tied on poles to enable the poachers to return for their booty another day. Some of the dead Elephants had obviously not been located by the poachers, and 92 tusks weighing 1,601 lbs. were recovered by the patrols.

As a result of this safari it was decided to search two other areas, namely, Midu and Didimabule, where a similar slaughter was reported to have taken place. Thirty hideouts and 390 carcasses were found at Midu, and 171 tusks weighing 3,365 lbs. were recovered. At Didimabule 32 hideouts and 509 carcasses were found, and 181 tusks weighing 3,249 lbs. were collected. In addition, a total of some 1,589 lbs. of butt ends and tips, discarded by the poachers, were also recovered during the course of this operation.

This enabled me to announce to the Legislative Council in October 1957 that this operation, occupying a period of some nine weeks, with patrols working in an area not more than twenty-five miles long and twenty miles wide, between the Galana and Tana Rivers, had actually located 1,280 Elephant carcasses, few of which had been killed more than two years before. Many of the skeletons showed that the animals were immature, indicating that the mothers had been destroyed leaving the calves to die. About one in five of the carcasses found still retained tusks, proving that the poachers had merely conducted a wholesale slaughter of Elephants concentrated on water holes during a rainy season, and left them rotting.

This is, in my experience, the greatest slaughter of Elephants that has ever been recorded in such a small area in Africa. Judging from the number of tusks recovered it is quite fair to say that at least 3,000 Elephants were destroyed during the previous two years in the area between the two rivers. It is a waterless and featureless piece of country where the patrols experienced the greatest difficulty

in operating at all. Many rangers had to spend nights out in the blue. On two occasions Rangers were entirely lost for several days, and when found were in a state of complete collapse.

In addition to the difficulties of finding their way through this waterless bush the Rangers had many hair-raising experiences with dangerous game. Encounters with Elephants, Rhinos and Lions, became almost a common occurrence, and only the more dramatic adventures were related. A party of three Rangers had a very narrow escape from an Elephant, and one was actually covered with saliva as the Elephant attempted to get hold of him with its trunk. They had to become experts in shinning up a tree, as they were so frequently charged by irate and terrified Rhinos.

Obviously the poachers themselves did not always have an easy time, and a skeleton of one was found in one of the hideouts. Some of the poachers who had surrendered, and were acting as guides, stated that this was a Mkamba who had been killed by a Lion caught in a trap. Another version of the story, which sounds more likely to be true, was that the dead poacher had been murdered by his companions for the ivory known to be in his possession. Another report came in to the effect that a gang of some thirty Wakamba poachers had lost their way in the vicinity of Dakabima Hill, and all had perished from thirst.

Almost at the same time information came in from other patrols that in an area near the Teita Hills more than a thousand game pits, all in use, had been found in a relatively small area. Between the pits wire nooses were suspended, and in some cases bush fences had been constructed to direct the animals either into the nooses or into the pits. Some of these lines of snares and pits extended for a distance of one and a half miles. Under these conditions it is difficult to see how any creature could survive.

Although information that had been collected from 1950 onwards indicated that poaching was going on all through the Coast province of Kenya on a very big scale, no one in his wildest guess could have predicted the actual extent of the slaughter. Thus the discovery of 1,280 Elephant carcasses in one place, and something over a thousand game pits all in use elsewhere, confirmed that the campaign was more necessary than anyone had previously conceded.

By the end of the year some sections of one of the Forces were moved to the far West of Kenya to operate on Mount Elgon, and another Force was moved to the North to operate against the Mboni Somali hunters between the Tana River and the Somaliland boundary. This was rendered possible by the complete success of the poacher campaign in the Tsavo Royal National Park, and its adjoining hinterland to the north.

During the period of the intensified campaign which occupied some fifteen months, a very much shorter period than we had originally expected, no less than 25,219 lbs. of ivory were recovered, and 462 lbs. of Rhino horn. In addition 429 persons were convicted of poaching offences, and a great number of hideouts were destroyed.

Nevertheless, it was estimated that the ivory and Rhino horn which found its way into the black market, and was not recovered by the anti-poaching forces, must have exceeded £100,000 in value.

Thus 1957 closed with the satisfaction of great success. In this great achievement all praise must go to David Sheldrick and his very resolute and capable assistants, whose names will stand as a fine team of men who tackled a difficult job and did it well. In paying very deserved tribute to the Field Forces in the anti-poaching campaign, I must mention in particular those who so ably supported David Sheldrick, namely :

Billy Woodley, M.C.
Peter Jenkins
David McCabe
“ Punch ” Bearcroft, M.B.F.
Derek Hellens
Roy Drummond
Hugh Massy
Denis Kearney
David Brown
Alan Childs
Rex Taylor
Ian Parker

I wish to acknowledge the very real assistance received from the Kenya Administration, and particularly from the Coast Provincial Administration. Offers of help were also received from many sources, but for a variety of reasons it was not always possible to make use of volunteers. Nevertheless, it was most encouraging to know that so much interest was being taken in the campaign, and so much support was forthcoming for it. I wish to make special mention of Major E. C. B. Elliot, one of our honorary wardens from Nyeri, who spent many weeks assisting the anti-poacher forces entirely at his own expense.



The terror of poachers



Peace again

Just after the close of the year it was arranged that Warden Sheldrick should hand over command of two Field Forces and all equipment and information, to the Chief Game Warden of Kenya, and retain only the one original National Parks Field Force. This was a right and proper development, since the anti-poacher operations had spread far beyond the boundaries of the National Parks. I wish the Game Department well in their task of keeping poachers under proper control, and trust that the destruction of wild animals will never again be allowed to reach the scale of the last few years.

One of the indirect results of the campaign against the poachers was that we were able to ascertain a great deal more information about the numbers and movements of animals that normally live in the Tsavo Royal National Park. In January, for example, Warden Sheldrick reported that from an aerial census, he estimated that there were just over two thousand elephants in the Park. In April, as a result of a further aerial census when 1,980 Elephant were actually counted in the section between the Voi River and Maungu, he estimated that the total number in the Park was probably in excess of 3,500. Again in October, following another aerial census carried out with the help of Dr. Beuchner, a Fulbright scholar who was working in Uganda, a total of 2,639 Elephants were counted between the Galana River and the main Mombasa/Nairobi railway line. This figure included a concentration of approximately 500 seen watering near Sobu. As a result of this, he estimated the total number of Elephants in the Park at that time as being something in the region of 4,000.



The Tana River, Northern objective of the Elephant migrations

It was not possible, however, for the observers to come to any conclusions as to why Elephants move so frequently, and over such great distances. It is known that when the rains break Elephants travel anything up to fifty miles in a night, and it seems their main requirement is food rather than water. This is one of the problems that so urgently requires scientific investigation in order that we, who are charged with the management of these wild life areas, could perhaps design better methods of retaining the wild animals within their allotted sanctuaries.

In the third quarter of 1957 Warden Sheldrick drew attention to a large concentration of Elephants in a section of the Park south of the Galana River, and near the lower reaches of the Voi River. The destruction of trees and vegetation caused by them was most noticeable along the Voi River valley. Large areas were completely devastated, and may take many years to recover. It is difficult to account for this destruction, as large portions of the Park still remain unaffected, and no noticeable increase in the Elephant population has been recorded.

It is possible that inadequate rain in the past few years may have caused a lack of creepers and succulents which normally furnish part of the Elephants' diet, and they were therefore forced to push over some of the larger trees to reach and eat the shoots and branches.

During the last 18 months it has been clearly noticed that a number of Baobab trees have been torn to shreds by Elephant. In some cases the trees were so badly damaged that they have been felled or later blown over by the wind. One of the Officers in charge of a poacher patrol reported that he found the carcass of a Rhino under one of these fallen Baobabs. It was not clear whether the tree killed the Rhino, but it seemed most likely that this was the cause of its death. This destruction of Baobab trees, some of the oldest in East Africa, is clearly a new custom of the Elephants. Obviously if they had been feeding upon Baobabs for hundreds of years, many would have shown the scars, or else there would have been fewer of such trees in existence.

Fairly heavy and well distributed rain during 1957 improved the vegetation in most areas, and with a few more good rain years it seems likely that the Elephants will return to their normal routine of feeding on vegetation which does not amount to destroying their own habitat. In spite of the very heavy toll of elephants by poachers, and the poor condition of the vegetation, it seems that the Elephant population is still adequate to survive, and we have stepped in just in time to save the great Elephant herds of the Tsavo Royal National Park.



Picturesque people who live North of the Tana



Very interesting information came in from patrols operating in the arid country near the Dakabima Hills. They saw many Rhinos, Lions and Leopards, which are not normally associated with these semi-desert conditions. As there was no water in this area for a distance of at least fifty miles in any direction during the dry season, it is difficult to understand how these animals were able to survive. The patrols noticed that the game was feeding on a type of very milky euphorbia which grows there, which may enable the ungulates, at least, to go for long periods without water. This particular kind of euphorbia does not grow in the Tsavo Royal National Park itself, and its absence may account for some of the periodic game movements and also explain why a large number of Rhino died of thirst near Makuka in October, 1956.

A Lion was actually seen by an African corporal, pulling up young *Sansivera* shoots and chewing the fibre, presumably to obtain moisture. *Sansivera*, of course, is quite a favourite diet of Elephants, and along an Elephant path one can see little rolls of fibre which have been decorticated and then discarded, rather by the same process as Africans treat sugar cane.

Water and rain are the greatest factors in influencing the movements of game in these arid areas. I like to distinguish between water and rain, because by water I mean surface water held in small catchment dams or in water holes and rivers. Rain is primarily important for its effect on vegetation. Warden Marshall reports an interesting experiment in the Western section of the Tsavo National Park. Near his headquarters he had, for some time, maintained a small drinking pond supplied from a borehole. In March he noticed that about ten Elephants had taken up permanent residence near his house, and this threw a great obligation on to the staff to keep the waterhole filled at all times. If the Elephants turned up to drink only to find the waterhole dry, they would not hesitate to come up to the main compound and dig up the waterpipes in their desperate need of water.

During the next quarter another seven Elephants joined what came to be known as the "Kamboyo Drinking Club," and two Buffaloes, two Rhinos, and a small family of Warthogs, were also enrolled as permanent members. Even after the rains, when game normally scatters to other regions, some Elephants stayed anchored to this small waterhole. This seems to prove that, in this section of the Park at least, water is the main requirement, and furthermore that there is enough vegetation to eat even in periods of drought.

One of the Elephants, who is a founder member of the "Kamboyo Drinking Club," apparently found delight in taking up a station along the main road from Mtito Andei to the Warden's

headquarters, and frequently chased motor cars. He was quite undeterred by a Ferguson tractor which was being driven along the road, and having scared the driver and his passenger well into the bush, he then stood within a few yards of the tractor merely assessing its potential danger until he eventually gave up interest and moved off.

The water for the "Kamboyo Club" is supplied from a borehole and is very brackish. It may well be that the saline content is attractive to many of these animals, and they may not relish fresh or sweet water nearly so well. It does, however, establish that additional surface water in certain areas would ensure a wider distribution of game, and make use of sections of the Park which, for many months in dry weather, are quite out of reach for many of the larger animals. This is one of the many subjects which requires a great deal of investigation and points, as ever before, to the very great need of scientific research.



Sacred Ibis resting at Kandecha Dam

When it comes to assessing the effect of rain, the problem is much more difficult. Elephants have a very pronounced instinct, and seem to know when rain has fallen even fifty or eighty miles away. For no obvious reason the Elephants set off on a safari, and soon enjoy the new growth of vegetation brought on by

the rain. Thus the provision of surface water by catchment dams, boreholes and the like, is not alone the solution of the migration problem. It requires something more than this, and may even point to growing certain types of plants not found in the Park, which are very necessary to the Elephants, to keep them within their sanctuaries.

Mudanda Rock, one of the most famous places for seeing a large concentration of Elephants in the Tsavo Royal National Park, is a very typical example of the problem of water in relation to game movements. Occasionally this rock catchment fills a pool beneath, and the water attracts Elephants from a large district. The vegetation nearby is usually dry and scanty and not in itself attractive to Elephants.

It does occasionally happen, and only perhaps once every four years, that the rock pool holds water when it is dry for many miles around, and this causes a remarkable concentration of Elephants. Some years ago over five hundred Elephants came in to drink within the short space of two hours. Early in January 1957 Mudanda Rock was attracting a fair number of Elephants, and an important Parliamentary Delegation visiting Kenya was conducted to the Rock. They watched hundreds of Elephants drinking, bathing and carrying out all their various rituals. Soon after the delegates departed one of the most dramatic adventures in the story of the wilds took place, witnessed only by two African Rangers.

Five bull Elephants came in to drink, in a scene of relative peace, with the heat haze shimmering across the low arid bush. Three of the bulls had their fill and moved off. The two that remained obviously showed signs of spoiling for a fight. They were both very heavy tuskers, and one of them suddenly charged the other and drove him off for about eighty yards into the bush. This was evidently too much even for a pacifist, and he turned round and faced up to the aggressor. Both Elephants met head-on, and the aggressor, who had straighter tusks, proved the more deadly. His right tusk entered the roof his opponents' mouth, and the left tusk pierced the throat with such tremendous force that the pacifist was lifted right off the ground. The aggressor then withdrew and the unfortunate opponent fell to his knees. The aggressor then made a further charge and impaled the other one in the shoulder, and evidently through the heart, for it rolled over, dead.

The victorious bull then returned to the water for a drink and was obviously not entirely unscathed, for he was seen to be bleeding profusely from several wounds in the chest. He wandered along the shore of the pool, and after another drink came back to the scene of the battle. Seeing the dead Elephant lying on the ground he flew into a rage, charged again and drove his tusks through the top of the dead animal's head and well into its brain. He then

turned the huge carcase over until it was facing the other way. Having decided that his unwilling opponent was really dead, the aggressor moved off and stood under a tree about a hundred yards away.

One of the Rangers who witnessed the battle moved down to the scene to investigate, but had to flee for his life when the angry Elephant spotted him and charged. This Ranger, incidentally, was on one occasion taken by a Lion on the Athi River not far from Kibwezi. He was moving some cattle to that station, and during the night while asleep wrapped in a blanket under a tree, a Lion sprang on him, grabbed him by the thigh and dragged him towards the bush. Fortunately the Lion became entangled with the blanket, dropped the ranger and made off. Even today he has the scars of this miraculous escape.

Shortly after the great Elephant duel another herd of Elephants approached the water, but were promptly chased away by the angry bull and forced to make a very large detour before they could get a drink. The proud victor then mounted guard over the dead body of his opponent for approximately six hours before returning to the bush. The dead Elephant's tusks weighed 113 and 109 lbs., showing that he was undoubtedly a very heavy mature bull. The aggressor was much the same size, and carried equally heavy ivory.

Although the carcase remained at Mudanda Rock for some weeks, it is surprising how quickly such a large animal can be disposed of by all the various creatures that prey upon it. Vultures assembled from all corners of East Africa, and for days on end one would see a tremendous scuffle of these ugly birds fighting for a share of the spoil. It is sad to think that such a fine Elephant should have met his death for no apparent reason, but I suppose, like in any other walk of life, creatures get mad with each other, and take reprisals, not always perhaps with such fatal results.

It is most unfortunate that the Parliamentary Delegation, which left just before the battle, and a large party of Merchant Seamen, which arrived at the Rock just afterwards, did not witness this dramatic adventure. It is even more of a pity that no one was there with a camera to record this sad but very unusual drama.

There is now fairly convincing evidence that Elephants have a strange habit of removing the tusks of their dead comrades. Warden Sheldrick notes that over the past eight years, having recovered a great number of tusks from Elephants that have either died as a result of arrow wounds or from natural causes, he has found in many instances that the tusks have been removed and carried anything up to half a mile from the carcase. In other cases the tusks have been shattered against trees or rocks. A Waliangulu ex-poacher, who is a very reliable observer, claims that he has actually

witnessed an Elephant carrying tusks from the carcase of a dead comrade. For a time it was thought that Hyaenas may have been responsible for moving tusks, but quite obviously no Hyaena could manage either to drag or move a tusk weighing 80 or 100 lbs. for such a considerable distance, and obviously for no purpose. The lack of any teeth marks on the tusks, and also the fact that some of them are smashed, goes to show that it can only be Elephants that resort to this practice.

Elephants are very wise and intelligent animals, but it is difficult to understand what the actual motive is in some of their activities. For example, it has been found on many occasions that Elephants cover up anything which to them is perhaps offensive. A new road, a dead animal, or some foreign smell like a new signboard, seldom escapes their attention. It is often covered up with bushes and grass until it is absolutely hidden from view.

It is ridiculous to assume that Elephants realise that they are hunted by poachers for the sake of their ivory, and so attempt to hide the ivory of any dead comrade. It does, however, complicate the operations against the poachers, as when a carcase is found a very extensive search has to be made to find the tusks. The poachers themselves usually bury or hide the tusks, but if they fail to do so, the Elephants accept the responsibility.



Oryx

The general conclusion over the year is that game in the Tsavo Royal National Park appears to be on the increase. This is most heartening, and is probably attributable to the better rains and less poaching. Warden Marshall describes how large herds of Eland, Oryx, Zebra and Giraffe were seen on the Mbuyuni Plains in the second quarter of the year. One herd of Eland was estimated to exceed 300 in number. Warden Sheldrick notes also in the same period that Buffalo were definitely on the increase. Whereas six years ago it was quite an event to see Buffalo, they are now often seen in large herds. In the last quarter of the year smaller game, particularly Impala and Waterbuck, were observed in fair numbers along the Athi River upstream from its junction with the Tsavo.

In spite of the many patrols and frequent inspections of different areas, snaring still goes on in various places near the Park. An Elephant had to be shot on the Tsavo River in October because it was quite unable to move. It had a snare around its foreleg, and the wire had cut right through the flesh to the bone. The unfortunate creature must have been in very great pain, and it had obviously made very serious attempts to remove the wire with its tusks. As a result deep grooves had been cut in the tusks, indicating the force which had been unsuccessfully applied. A bull Buffalo was also found snared at Mackinnon Road and had to be destroyed.



The Chyulu Range—often ravaged by fire

Strangely enough, this Buffalo made no attempt to break the wire and merely stood still like any domestic ox, presumably accepting that it had no chance of escape.

Under present conditions it is almost impossible to hope for any proper control over grass fires. Fires are started either by accident or on purpose, often by railway and road maintenance gangs. In the dry season high winds can so easily pick up a piece of burning vegetation and carry it for several hundred yards, only to start up another fire, perhaps across a road or firebreak.

Another very general cause of fire is the honey hunter. It has been the practice for many Wakamba in the past to maintain bee hives in the remoter regions of the Tsavo Royal National Park, and even today they do not respect the existence of the Park, nor are they deterred from crossing its boundaries. To obtain the honey they smoke out the bees and invariably start a bush fire. In order to bring this undesirable practice to an end, and at the request of the District Commissioner, Kitui, permits were issued to a number of Wakamba honey-hunters to enter the Northern part of the Park so as to remove their honey barrels, which they claimed had been placed there long before the Park had been established. The gesture, however, was of no avail, since the Wakamba merely took advantage of the opportunity to collect a quantity of honey and very few barrels.

One Mkwamba, who was given permission to enter the Park, whilst endeavouring to take a hive, was set upon by the bees and fell out of the Baobab tree where it was installed. He fell some 25 feet and broke an ankle and dislocated his thigh. The man was unable to move and continued to be attacked by the bees for several hours. He was entirely on his own, and had not informed anyone where he was going. His chances of being found were therefore extremely remote. Having lain in the blazing sun for several hours, and had to deal with the very aggressive bees, a new problem arose. A bush fire started by another honey-hunter some miles away swept towards him, and although he was in considerable pain he managed to drag himself to a small open piece of ground to escape from the heat of the flames raging around him.

The fire died down and he remained there all night, having to contend with other problems such as snorting Rhino and hungry Lions not far away. By sheer luck on the following day some National Park Rangers happened to be on patrol in the vicinity, and were attracted by his moans and groans. They found him in poor state and took him to the nearest road to wait for Assistant Warden Jenkins, who took him to hospital some thirty hours after he fell out of the tree. On his way to hospital he told Peter Jenkins that if he survived he would return to work for the National Parks without any wages, as he felt so eternally grateful. The story is even

more pathetic because it seemed very unlikely that the man would survive at all, or if he did, that he would be anything but a cripple for the rest of his life.

It is astonishing what the human body can stand. One often grumbles about a headache or a sore toe, and yet one should imagine for a moment the plight of this unfortunate honey-hunter, who was not only in very great pain but was also badly stung by bees. He must have been very thirsty and yet had to lie in the heat of the sun and the fire. He had to spend the night on the ground with wild animals threatening him on all sides. It was in the nature of a miracle that the Rangers found him and that he was near a road and that transport came by.

Access by road and by air both prove to be absolutely essential in dealing with poachers or in any other of the many duties of administering a wild life sanctuary. During the year airfields were constructed at Ithumba in the far north of the Park, and also at Ndiandasa, both places being otherwise very difficult to reach. In order to maintain better control of the northern section of the Park, an administrative centre was established at Ithumba. Assistant Warden Jenkins had for a time to leave the anti-poaching duties in order to supervise the building of this new administrative centre.



'Ithumba'. Warden's House

A spring of water was piped into a reserve tank, making it possible to construct a small cottage and quarters for African Rangers. All praise goes to Assistant Warden Jenkins for achieving these developments under extremely difficult conditions, when at times the road between Ithumba and Voi was cut off for long periods by floods in the Galana River. Ithumba is a most effective control point, and a very impressive establishment.

The year ended in a spirit of optimism. With good rains and the Park clear of poachers the Wardens, the African staff and the animals had great expectations for 1958. These expectations, as far as the animals are concerned, are usually related to the seasons of rain. As far as the staff are concerned their expectations are usually related to the amount of money the Kenya Government finds it possible to allocate for further development. One almost wishes we could adopt the methods of a Monitor Lizard and virtually go into a torpor during the dry seasons or, what means much the same to us, during the periods when no money is available for further work.

Assistant Warden Woodley is now very convinced that this type of animal, the Monitor Lizard, or more correctly, *varanus albogularis*, can shut itself away from the world for quite long periods. In September he saw one lying in a comatose condition on a horizontal branch of a Hadama tree a few miles north of the Lali Hills. Each time he passed this tree during a period of eighteen days he found the Lizard in precisely the same position.

I am sure there must have been many times when the Officers and Rangers engaged in the active phase of the campaign against poachers must have wished that they could also go into a torpor to find a little respite from the very strenuous duties of living in the bush for months on end.

All praise goes to the Wardens, Assistant Wardens, African Rangers and other staff of the Tsavo Royal National Park for a year of great achievement, for clearing the Park of poachers, for maintaining roads, Safari Lodges and other tourist attractions and in addition for finding time to deal with the thousand and one little obligations which fall to a Warden's lot.



MOUNTAIN ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS

Good news came from the Mountain Royal National Parks in 1957 in that Mount Kenya, which had been closed during the Mau Mau Emergency, was again opened on restricted terms. Although up to the end of the year it was still necessary to obtain Police permission to enter what was virtually a closed district, various parties were allowed onto the mountain, including climbers, surveyors, and a reconnaissance group planning a large expedition as Kenya's contribution to the International Geophysical Year.

Even in the first quarter of the year Warden Alexander obtained permission to make a reconnaissance of certain proposed routes up the Mountain and also to take with him African Rangers for training. It was interesting to note the reactions of these African Rangers who had never previously been face to face with either snow or ice in its natural state. Some of them suffered slightly from mountain sickness, and one complained that when sitting on the Lewis Glacier it appeared to be going round and round. Two of them reached an altitude of over 16,000 feet and no doubt returned to tell their friends of all their strange adventures on the white mountain.

About the same time a party from the Survey Department of Kenya, led by the very experienced rock climber, Mr. R. Caukwell, made an attempt to place a survey beacon on Point Batian. The Mountain however was so badly shrouded in mist that the beacon had to be left on Nelion, which for survey requirements will serve much the same purpose.

It must be remembered that this Mountain, going up to a height of a little over 17,000 feet, was first climbed by Sir Halford Mackinder in 1899, and was not again assailed until thirty years later, when Wyn Harris and Shipton of Everest fame, found a route up to the summit. There are still remnants of Mackinder's famous expedition to be found on the Mountain. This was truly a great achievement, since he had to bring with him trained Swiss guides, and to contend with all the difficulties of using equipment and supplies which were not up to modern standards. In one of his camps there still remains a number of tins, some of which apparently contained many pounds of biscuits and revealing the rather astonishing price of 4 d. stamped on the tin.

The high moorlands of this ancient mountain are not the place where one expects to find large animals, but Warden Alexander reports tracks of Elephants and Buffaloes at over 13,000 feet. It is quite common to find traces of Leopards living well up above 15,000 feet, and they appear to live mostly on the numerous Rock

Hyrax which abound in this zone. These Hyrax are very large when compared with their cousins down below, and they are relatively tame. Other smaller creatures found were Harsh Furred Mice (*Lophuromys Aquilus Zena*) and also Tree Dormice (*Claviglis Murinus Raptor*).

The skeleton of a Colobus Monkey was found among the rocks at 15,500 feet, and although most of the hair was still on it, it was difficult in such cold atmosphere to estimate the time the corpse had been there. It must have been taken up by an Eagle, as there is no other obvious explanation how it got to the snow line.

One of the most extraordinary observations, however, is that a small pack of three very healthy looking Wild Dogs were seen at 14,000 feet. This is most unusual, and one wonders what these Hunting Dogs were able to find to eat, or how they were able to endure the intense cold at night.

The bird life in these high mountain zones is most interesting. Many species depend for their food on the few flowering alpine plants, insects, and small creatures which live in such low temperatures. Snipe are frequently seen, as are Malachite Sunbirds nesting in the giant groundsel.

Towards the end of the year much activity developed in the first stages of the International Geophysical Year Expedition. It had been the hope of the leader, Dr. Loupekine, that it would be possible to take a four-wheeled vehicle well up to the base of the Lewis Glacier. All endeavours, however, proved that it was impossible to cross a very wet soft section just above the forest belt, at about 12,000 feet. The expedition had therefore to resort to mule transport and aircraft to supply them with their requirements.

A conclusion emerged from many of these inspections, in that a route up the Teleki Valley chosen years ago by Warden Hayward was the most spectacular access to the higher regions of the Mountain, and would undoubtedly prove to be the best. A road originally constructed by the National Parks up to 9,000 feet on this route had to be abandoned at the beginning of the Emergency. Operations against Mau Mau, however, necessitated keeping this road open, and although it is not in good condition it is still usable. In course of time I hope that we will be able to find a way of building a road across the bad section of bog and into the Teleki Valley. It is then that people who are not perhaps so resolute, will be able to reach these high regions, and see for themselves, the extraordinary scene of alpine vegetation, glaciers, hanging tarns and huge valleys, which make up the spectacular grandeur of the higher levels of Mount Kenya.

The next good news to report is that in the middle of the year the reconstruction of "Treetops", the famous tree house in the Aberdare Royal National Park, was completed and it was opened to the public. The story of "Treetops" goes back to the early 1930's, when Warden David Sheldrick's father, who was farming in that district, knew of this waterhole in the forest and took Major Sherbrooke Walker and some of his guests there to see game.



The charred stump of the tree which held the First "Treetops"

From this emerged the idea of building a "Wendy House" in a large fig tree, which attracted people from all over the world. It was made even more famous by being the place where Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth spent the night only to learn in the morning of the tragic death of her father, King George VI.

As the campaign against Mau Mau was intensified, it became impossible to continue taking visitors to "Treetops", and in 1954 it had to be closed. Soon afterwards the original Tree House was burnt and utterly destroyed by the terrorists.

After much planning by Major Sherbrook Walker, and many delays, Mr. Tom Arthur was engaged to carry out the construction of a new "Treetops". It was impossible to find a tree as suitable as the original fig tree, and so the new structure had to be mounted on stilts consisting of forty foot poles. It is situated in a slightly better position in relation to the pool, since it enables photographers, in particular, to have the afternoon sun behind instead of in front.

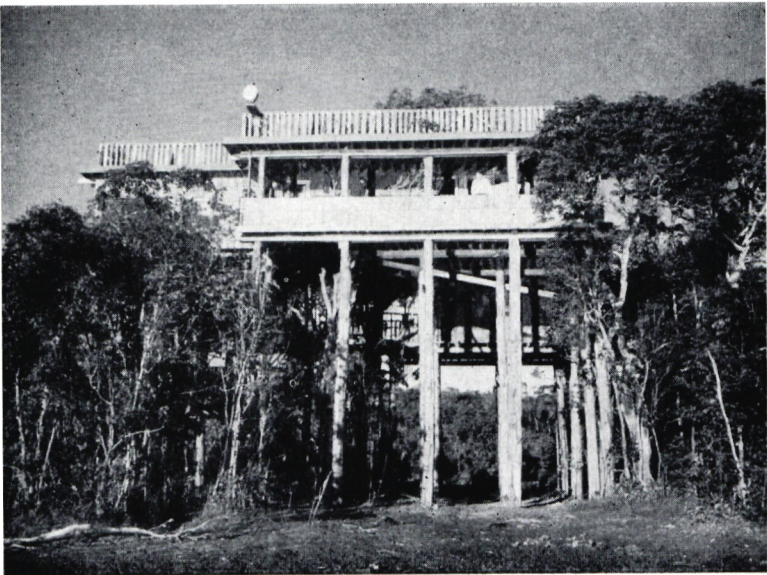
In the middle of June 1957, "Treetops" was re-opened with a small ceremony to which certain interested people were invited. The guests were by no means disappointed in the style of structure or in the animals which paraded for them to see. It is of a more elaborate style, equipped with all modern arrangements. The greatest feature is that the animals have apparently not suffered unduly from years of persecution under Mau Mau conditions. Elephants, Buffaloes, Rhinos, and all the smaller forest dwellers still like the water in this pool, and enjoy a lick of salt, much to the delight of the observers who sit in comfort on the balcony of the new "Treetops".

This new structure stands as a great tribute to the determination of Major Sherbrooke Walker, and to Mr. Tom Arthur who built it. The plan was supported and approved by the Trustees at a cost of over £5,000 made available from National Park sources. The arrangement is that "Treetops" is leased to Major Sherbrooke Walker to operate on much the same lines as the previous "Wendy House", and with the benefit of the vast experience he has gained over some twenty-five years. It will, I trust, retain its position in the world as one of the most famous National tourist objectives.

"Treetops" is situated in a salient of the Aberdare Royal National Park which borders on a closely settled district where farmers cannot be expected to go on having their crops plundered by big game. Considerable discussion took place on this problem at a meeting in Mweiga at the end of the year, and again I wish to praise the farmers for their tolerance. Fair progress was made



The plaque on the Old tree



"Treetops" the Second

towards the solution of this difficulty by forming plans for the construction of a really game-proof barrier to consist of a ditch and a fence designed to stop even the wily Elephants from leaving the Park in favour of tempting crops.

The Aberdares remained closed for security reasons during most of the year, although it was possible on two occasions for the Warden and others to inspect certain portions of the Park

One surprising feature is that the high moorland does not appear to have as much rain as lower down in the forest belt. Even after some years without maintenance the roads built by the Emergency Forces were found to be in fairly good condition. There will be many pleasures in store for travellers who eventually go over this high mountain range. Scenically, it is quite outstanding; climatically, it is most invigorating.

The Warden reports that in September he had to make an examination of the Gura Waterfalls in connection with a scheme for obtaining electric power, and describes them as quite enchanting. The Falls can only be reached on foot, although they are within two miles of the main road over the saddle of the Mountain. The going is very tough, over high grass hummocks, and through bamboo. The first waterfall to be seen is the largest, and it cascades in three tiers for about 700 feet, and then falls for another 300 feet down rapids to its junction with another stream. The total fall is at least 1000 feet.

The waterfalls are contained in a kind of cirque, about a mile in diameter, and the second fall is to the south and directly on the opposite side to the first fall. The river first leaps into what might be described as a secret gorge, which cannot be seen until one is almost within it. This gorge is protected by thick bamboo and vertical cliffs, and appears to be almost impossible to reach. Looking down into the gorge there is a deep clear pool 120 feet below, and full of fish which must have gone over the fall. It is an inviting and mysterious place to explore. After falling into the secret gorge the river travels along for perhaps a quarter of a mile and then drops into the main cirque. On the cliff edge where it precipitates is the most magnificent view, not only of all these beautiful waterfalls but of the forested valleys and plains well down below.

The Aberdare Moorlands are by no means without game interest, and perhaps one day we might be able to find places where the elusive Bongo can regularly be seen. Three of these beautiful animals stood at fairly close quarters above the Kiandongoro track. This is perhaps appropriate, as Kiandongoro means "the



The Gura Falls—over 1,000 feet. (Photo by J. B. Alexander.)

place of the Bongo". Eland, Rhino, Buffalo and some of the more interesting smaller animals such as Red Duiker, can also be seen in parts of this upper moorland.

Melanism seems to be more common in cold damp areas, as on a previous occasion I saw a black Leopard near the top waterfall, and on a recent visit I also saw a black Serval Cat.

Fishing is also promising on this moorland, and I think perhaps with the assistance of the Fisheries Research Station on Mount Kenya, we can look forward to the day when fishing is one of the features of a holiday on the high moorlands of the Aberdares.

The end of the year saw the beginning of a new phase in the Mountain Royal National Parks. The active phase of the Emergency was drawing to a close, giving opportunities for development on the mountains which have not been available for many years. In the course of the next year or two, if funds can be made available for this purpose, I can foresee every chance of giving visitors remarkable enjoyment in the strange rugged scenery of Mount Kenya, or the soft gentle moorland of the Aberdares, each with their unusual range of small animals, and their wonderful display of wild flowers, including the famous giant groundsel and lobelia, as well as many others including hypericum (St. John's Wort), violets, helichrysum (the mountain everlasting), gladioli, hibiscus and edelweiss. Difficult to accept perhaps that this alpine and high moorland scenery straddles the Equator.





On the move



Just as ugly as mama

MARSABIT NATIONAL RESERVE.

In 1957 the great deserts and mountains of the North also had more than their normal share of rain. The Chalbi Desert (as the name implies) a place where rain can seldom be expected, was turned into a vast lake of at least fifty miles long. Sokorte Dikka, the crater in which nestles the Forest Lodge on Marsabit Mountain, collected enough water to form a small lake. Sokorte Gudo also known as Lake Paradise, increased in depth, and held more water than it has done for many years.

The increase in rain caused many changes in the whole ecology of the North. A profusion of wild flowers appeared in barren places which had for so long been dusty plains. Elephants moved off the mountains, and even smaller game moved out of the forest on Marsabit Mountain. Assistant Warden Adamson advances the theory that some of these animals had to move out because of an unusual invasion of flies. These were not Tsetse flies, but are commonly known as Buffalo flies. Being blood-suckers, they cause great irritation and pain even to the larger thick-skinned animals.



The Uaso Nyiro River

The tragedy of the year was the death of our famous character Mohamed, the old elephant of Marsabit. When found he had been dead for about two months. It was not possible to ascertain the exact cause of death, although Warden Dalton believes that it was entirely due to natural causes. This famous old Elephant, who was last seen in September, and still in good fettle, was thought to have fallen victim to poachers. Since his tusks were not missing it is fairly clear that he was not killed by arrows or spears.

Mohamed had one magnificent tusk, the other having broken off in some bygone period. For years the weight of his good tusk had been variously estimated as well over 170 pounds, and rather less for the broken tusk, but when actually weighed the figures were 141 and 117 pounds. The unbroken tusk measured ten feet nine inches. The nerve cavities inside the tusks were rather longer than would be expected, and about two feet of each tusk were carried inside his head.

Descriptions of any famous animal are usually exaggerated, but the weight and length of Mohamed's unbroken tusk certainly justified the reputation which this old Elephant acquired well beyond the shores of Kenya. We are sad to lose this living legend. It seems that Mohamed did not leave Marsabit Mountain in his later years. Fabulous stories even went so far as to say that he could not travel far without the aid of another Elephant to carry the great weight of ivory. Another story claimed that he could not walk forwards through thick bush.

It is not possible to estimate Mohamed's age, but on examining his teeth it was found that he was on his last row of molars and they were badly worn. This indicates that he had reached the end of his life. The teeth of an Elephant come forward like a fan continuing to grow all through its life. When the last reserves are used up the Elephant can no longer survive.

Many of these stories and legends, however fantastic they may be, will live on in memory of this great Elephant. He was known and respected not only by the residents of Marsabit, but by many people who journeyed to see him from distant lands.

It is possible that another Elephant may eventually grow in fame to equal the reputation of Mohamed of Marsabit. This Mountain seems to shelter a number of Elephants carrying very heavy ivory. Another one that died in March last year had tusks weighing 128 pounds. Mohamed's successor has already been named as Ahmed, and has been seen on various occasions. Observers are now reluctant to estimate the weight of Ahmed's tusks, but some people claim that both tusks are likely to be heavier than Mohamed's great tusk. I trust that he will have the sense to stay in his sanctuary.

The Northern part of the Reserve is by no means free of poachers, and I can only hope that none of the fine and spectacular Elephants of Marsabit will fall into the clutches of some miserable poacher who is out to obtain the trophies, saw them up into pieces and smuggle them out to make ivory bangles for someone in a distant land. Tribes such as the Boran and the Turkana are hunters by nature, and it is extremely difficult to prevent poaching over such a vast area. Few offenders have been brought to book, but in June four Boran were convicted of killing an Elephant and were fined £100 by the local council of elders. The tusks were also recovered.



" Untamed Africa ". (Photo by Merrell Dalton)

The worst section of the Reserve for poaching is undoubtedly in the North and West including Mount Kulal and Nyiro. This portion of the National Reserve has for some time been regarded by the Trustees as not falling suitably within the Reserve, since it is not possible to achieve total protection of game therein, especially in the lower country where it is in conflict with the Samburu and their cattle. For the past few years there has been an arrangement with the Game Department to take care of this Northern Section, but their resources have not been sufficient to prevent the poachers taking a heavy toll. Some of the culprits come from Abyssinia, and form into fairly large bands of armed men. It requires far

more than a few African game scouts on patrol to deal with a force of this kind. I hope that the Field Forces will soon be able to turn attention to poaching in the North.

I wish to pay a very sincere tribute to Officers of the Administration for their co-operation, and particularly to the District Commissioner of Marsabit, Mr. Wild, for his valuable support in 1957. People who, perforce, have been stationed at Marsabit have shown great tolerance towards the wild animals that share the mountain with them. It is not uncommon to find Greater Kudu grazing in the District Commissioner's garden, or an Elephant pulling up the fences round the Superintendent's house. A few Buffalo seem to live permanently on what they can collect in the *Boma* itself, and Assistant Warden Adamson has had to take some fairly strong measures against them. The Superintendent of Police was actually knocked down by a Buffalo in his own garden luckily without any serious injury, but this surely must be beyond the limits that any ordinary person could be expected to tolerate.

It is an extraordinary thing, when people live in such close proximity to big game, especially dangerous animals, that so few fatal casualties result. The trouble is that the attractions of a garden or planted crops are very great for a Buffalo. During the day they retreat into the thick forest on the Mountain, but at night the position is reversed. It is then that the people retreat into their houses. This is not surprising when one realises that most wild creatures can see very well at night, whereas man with all his ingenuity and intelligence is almost helpless in the dark.

Nevertheless, meeting an Elephant or a Buffalo in one's back garden on a dark night is not a pleasant or a safe experience. It is for this reason that the Assistant Warden at Marsabit had to destroy some of these dangerous marauders to maintain a state of peace between man and beast. It is unfortunate perhaps that these Buffalo cannot learn to live like domestic cattle, for they would probably be much more welcome in the D.C.'s garden if they remained peacefully in a paddock, or grazed on the lawns below his house. Once the feeling of fear were completely removed, there is no reason why these creatures could not learn to be harmless, but I think it would be extremely difficult to regard a Buffalo as anything but a thoroughly dangerous animal.

Perhaps a lesson could be taken from a very strange occurrence reported by Warden Dalton. He describes how some Baboons living near his house have made friends with a young female Impala. On three occasions the Rangers have seen the Baboons and the Impala playing together. Some of the young Baboons were seen to climb on the back of the doe and ride about. On another occasion an old male Baboon sat down in front of the Impala, and put his

fingers in her ears, apparently looking for ticks. At no time did the Impala protest or show any signs of fear. Although in the past there have been unconfirmed stories of Baboons riding on the backs of Waterbuck to cross a particularly thorny belt of country, this is an unusual case of a relationship between an Impala and Baboons. It is more astonishing because Baboons quite frequently seize and eat young Impala soon after they are born. One would imagine that there would be very definite animosity between them, or at least a very great sense of fear.



" Grevy Zebra " (Photo by Merrell Dalton)

Another strange incident is reported from Laisamis, in the centre of the Reserve, where some Hyaenas killed two Rendille children. Hyaenas are generally condemned for their ugliness and their cowardice, and they seldom become aggressive. It is their particular lot that they should scavenge, and pick up carrion left by other predators. Occasionally, however when they are particularly numerous or ravenous they form into packs and under such conditions can well be expected to attack quite large animals and even people.

Farmers in various districts of Kenya frequently have great trouble with Hyaenas killing livestock. I have noticed that Hyaenas

increase in numbers when there have been several good seasons of rain. Increased rain brings on better grazing and allows other animals to breed up. Under such conditions there is more for the Hyaenas to eat either during calving seasons or from the natural mortality of older animals. Sooner or later, however, apart from the farming areas, Nature seems to adjust its own balance again. The Hyaenas evidently fail to get enough food, and so go down in numbers until they become relatively rare in certain districts.

Although a journey to Marsabit Mountain is still somewhat of an adventure, visitors have not been unrewarded when staying at the Forest Lodge. Buffalo have become more used to human activities, and a herd of about sixty were quite often seen feeding and watering in the crater below the Lodge.

Assistant Warden Adamson has done well to put a road through from this Forest Lodge to Lake Paradise. It climbs steeply through very thick forest and along the rims of the various craters until it emerges on the edge of Sokorte Gudo. It is perhaps a dangerous drive, in that one goes through some of the densest forest on the Mountain, where Elephant, Buffalo or Rhino may be encountered at very short range.



The forest on Marsabit Mountain



" Exercise care " !

In certain seasons the wild flowers are very beautiful, and it is difficult to believe that such a lush and fertile zone exists in the centre of what is otherwise a desert for many miles all round. This new road is intended to go on through the forest down to the largest of all the craters on the Mountain, namely Gof Bongoli, and then back to the main Isiolo-Marsabit road. This will provide a circuit, and a variation of scenery, which will add greatly to the enjoyment of visiting the Marsabit Forest Lodge.

The Safari Lodge on the Uaso Nyiro River, at the South end of the Reserve, continued to be the most popular of all our Safari Lodges. Seldom can anyone go to this Lodge without finding something of great interest. In October Elephants virtually took charge of the Lodge, and destroyed much of the euphorbia hedging round the bathrooms and kitchens. Lions were also seen on two occasions wandering about in the Lodge perimeter at night.

As each year closes I say a prayer of gratitude that someone has not been in trouble with some dangerous animal. The extraordinary thing is that in the earlier days of exploration in East Africa, hunters record how they were molested and attacked by all kinds of wild animals. I think it possible that these stories are slightly embellished but even so it seems fairly clear that big game was much more



Greater Kudu Bull. (Photo by Merrell Dalton)

dangerous in those days. The position now is almost ridiculous, since so many people visiting National Parks and especially Safari Lodges gain the impression that because an animal is in a protected area, it must, for that reason, be relatively tame and harmless.

This is certainly not true of the Northern Area. The D.C. at Maralal reports that at least twenty-two tribesmen in his district were killed by game during 1957. The tranquil appearance of the Lions in the Nairobi Royal National Park undoubtedly gives rise to the fallacious belief that wild animals are no longer dangerous. I can only hope that visitors will take heed of warnings issued by notices and in pamphlets advising that care must be taken, and wild animals must be treated for what they are. The Marsabit National Reserve still remains the most undeveloped and unspoilt area in which we operate, and this word of caution applies there more than anywhere else. It offers the resolute traveller a great feeling of adventure, and a glimpse of a part of Kenya as it used to be, before Western methods changed its appearance.

AMBOSELI NATIONAL RESERVE

Some progress was made towards the solution of the Amboseli problems during the year. As a result of the early recommendations of the Game Policy Committee, investigations were made into the hydrological potential of Ol Tukai. Mr. Campbell of the Hydraulic Branch of the Public Works Department undertook a survey, and towards the end of the year his report certainly showed good promise of being able to find alternative water supplies for cattle outside the main swamp areas.

In the early part of the year very good rain fell, although well out of season. This was a great annoyance to visitors, especially those who had travelled from afar, but it was a great blessing for Amboseli. One of the results of this extra dispensation of rain was a better regeneration of vegetation, especially of the famous yellow stemmed acacia trees which were in danger of being destroyed. Another result was that the vast herds of Masai cattle, which normally move into Ol Tukai at the end of the dry season in February or March, did not do so, as they were able to find water and grazing elsewhere.

This established certain conclusions which we have believed for some time, but without proof. The main conclusion was that the Elephants were seen to feed almost exclusively on the swamp grasses and reeds, and on very few occasions resorted to pulling down trees. It is therefore fair to assume that if the Elephants were not unduly harassed or disturbed by large herds of cattle in the swamps, they would not be so destructive.

Another feature was that there was a very marked increase in the number of birds. Although Ol Tukai is famous for its Rhinos and other big game, it is perhaps not fully realised that it is one of the best places in East Africa to see a surprisingly wide variety of birds.

In spite of the difficult conditions and bad roads, the number of visitors to Amboseli increased in 1957. It is likely that this was due partly to the attention which was focused on Ol Tukai by the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Margaret towards the end of 1956. The area also received a great deal of publicity through the Kenya Press by ardent game lovers writing to protest against the destruction caused by Masai cattle.

In spite of some rather unwise and certainly unjustified criticism of the Masai through the Press, Warden Taberer reports a cooperative attitude from the Masai earlier in the year. Soon after heavy rain had fallen in the outlying districts in January, a vast migration of cattle occurred. There was a continuous movement of cattle out from Ol Tukai, from Sim Sim at

the Eastern end to Meshananai in the North-West, a distance of some seventeen miles, and this went on for several days. During this big migration of cattle we were very gratified that the swamps of Ol Tukai were not used as a staging point, and young trees were not cut down to repair old *bomas* or to build new ones.

It has been said by Officers of the Administration and others, that the National Parks are most unpopular with the Masai, due to their efforts to preserve game in an area which the Masai claim for cattle. Although a conflict of interests is obviously likely to lead to difficulties and strong feelings, I do not accept that the attitude of the Masai Elders is anything but cordial and co-operative.

I feel sure that the Masai themselves recognise that the Government has every intention of preserving game at Amboseli so long as possible. What really causes alarm and ill feeling is when unjustified and unfounded reports reach the ears of the Masai that there is an intention of turning them out of Ol Tukai and depriving them of land which they have every right to use. These stories naturally tend to harden their attitude and direct their misgivings towards the National Parks. For the same reasons they tend to concentrate more cattle in the Ol Tukai swamps than they really need to do.

This is unfortunate but the main reason for trying to apply a proper land use scheme to Ol Tukai is in defence of the water and vegetation. Excessive grazing whether for one reason or another is not in the best interests of the area itself or of the Masai.

Over a long period of years, during which Warden Taberer has been in charge of Amboseli, I wish to record that I consider that his relations with the Masai have been fair, cordial and reasonable. There have, of course, been minor incidents over the spearing of Lions or Rhinos, or some such event, when hard words have been said, but in general terms I believe that the elders of the Ol Tukai clans respect the Warden for his fair play, tolerance and kindness.

Evidence of this attitude is quite apparent from certain arrangements made by the Warden with the local elders. For example by agreement with the Masai, he constructed a number of small dams designed for the protection of birds or for watering game, which the Masai respected quite loyally and kept their cattle away from those places. The elders admit that their discipline over the younger generation is not as good as it used to be, and the *Moran* are apt to get into mischief. It is these youngsters who are mainly to blame for the unfortunate incidents of spearing Lions or other animals sometimes for no reason whatsoever.

I consider that Assistant Warden Lovatt-Smith also contributed a great deal to the good relations with the Masai. It is unusual



A dainty Grants Gazelle—and the bare ground



Wildebeeste on the dusty plains



The changed face of OI Tukai after rain



for Masai Elders to accept the judgment of a young man, but during the Warden's long absence, due to illness, David Lovatt-Smith had to assume full responsibility for Amboseli, and he fulfilled these duties with great credit, and very much to the approval of the Masai and the Administration.

In the early part of the year the total Lion population had fallen dangerously low, and very strenuous efforts had to be made to protect the two main families. One is generally based on Kitirua at the West end of the Reserve and the other is known as the Kania pride, taking its name from the elderly Lioness who dominates the pride. When the Masai moved into the forest belt, patrols had to keep a constant watch on the Lion families to prevent the cubs being speared.

Although one would imagine that Lions would have no difficulty in getting enough to eat with all the game normally found in Amboseli, it is surprising how often they have to go hungry. Reports show that the Kania pride had, on one occasion, to go for a period of eleven days without making a kill.

The problem is not so much that the Lions must be able to find a quarry and kill it, but to do so in a place where they will not be molested by the Masai. The Lions have now grown so afraid of the Masai that even if they are on a fresh kill and obviously hungry, they will at once leave it and bolt for the bush on the sight or scent of a Masai. This means that unless the kill is made early in the evening the Lions have no chance of a square meal, and anything left unguarded is finished off by Vultures and Hyenas. In spite of these hazards, however, Warden Taberer reports an increase in the Lion families, and the year ended with an average of thirty-three full grown Lions living within easy reach of the Safari Lodge.

During the period of heavy rain when there were few cattle in the forest belt, it was noticed that Hippo enjoyed more freedom. Instead of having to rely on the security of the deep water in the swamps they came out into the open grasslands and were frequently seen and photographed grazing well away from cover. Buffalo were quite a common sight, and three large herds were frequently on view. Eland were also seen to be using the swamp waters, and staying for long periods at Ol Tukai.

The Rhinos of Amboseli still maintain a lead in being the greatest attraction for visitors. There were occasions during the year when at least eight were seen together, and Gertie and Gladys, the two famous Rhinos with extremely long horns, have certainly played their part in building up the Rhino population. These two Rhinos are seldom free from carrying or nursing calves.



" Gertie "



Half a dozen Rhinos



"Pixie"—Gertie's earless calf

Although the Lions are at times very hard put to find enough to eat under conditions of snatching something while they can, they never seem to attack Rhino calves. On the other hand, it is quite astonishing how the Lion cubs can survive at all, because when a Lioness has to make a long trek to water, or go on a hunt, the cubs are exposed to all kinds of dangers. On one occasion the Warden saw the Kania pride moving off with the youngsters trailing well behind. Two of the cubs were very far in the rear of the main pride, and stopped for a rest. Five wild dogs came up from behind, spotted the cubs and made for them at once. Fortunately the Lioness was very alert, and was back in a flash to drive the dogs away.



" A family of all ages "



They know the Warden's truck

Although I have seen Rhinos chasing birds, Baboons and other smaller creatures, I have never seen a Rhino go for a Lion cub. I suppose they have each learnt over the years not to meddle with other peoples children.

This leads on to one of the most extraordinary stories in the relationship between Lions and Rhinos. Some years ago a young Rhino took up his abode at the waterhole in front of the Safari Lodge. When he first came with his mother, who a year later produced another calf, he soon grew used to the noises and activities of the camp. When the others moved off, he remained in this area which he adopted as his own particular stamping ground. He would frequently be seen in broad daylight either sleeping or browsing in full view of the bandas of the Safari Lodge.

The Kania pride of Lions often used the same waterhole, and it was a common sight to see the pet Rhino lying out in front under a tree, surrounded by the Lions, sometimes within a distance of fifteen feet. The Lions took no notice of the Rhino, nor did he show any concern for the Lions. Towards the end of the year, when Warden Taberer returned from a very severe illness, he was pleased to see the Rhino occupying the same position, and the Kania pride of Lions still intact.

By this time the Rhino was nearly five years old, and could be regarded as fully grown, and weighing something over a ton and a half. A few nights later the Warden was awakened by the most frightening wailing and squealing, but thinking it was a dispute between some Hyaenas, he took no notice. The noise persisted, and so he decided to investigate.

From the headlights of the Landrover he was utterly astonished to find the Rhino had been set upon by the two male Lions of the Kania pride. They had pulled him down onto his side, and one Lion had hold of his cheek, while the other kept him there by lying across his ribs and biting into his neck. The Rhino, in a state of terror, was struggling to get up and screaming like a pig.

In an attempt to save the pet Rhino, Warden Taberer with difficulty managed to drive the Lions off, and was very pleased to see the Rhino get up to his feet and show defiance. He backed his car away, and no sooner had done so when one of the Lions rushed back, reared up over the Rhino, grabbed him across the back and pulled him down onto his side once more. This amazing feat of strength was achieved without any apparent effort. Once the Rhino was down the other Lion tore in and grappled him under the shoulder and broke his leg at the joint.

This was obviously the end of the Rhino, as he would have no hope of surviving after such a bad mauling and with a broken leg, and so the Warden returned to his house to collect a gun, and dispatched the unfortunate creature. By the light of day he inspected the scene and found the entire pride feeding on the remains of the Rhino.

Although this drama took place at night, the lights of the car made it easy to see that one Lion was capable of pulling down an almost fully grown Rhino. If only this could have been recorded on a film, it would have astonished many of the nature lovers of the world. What is even more extraordinary than the strength of the Lions themselves, is the fact that these creatures had lived in a state of harmony for many years, and in recent times had shown a form of friendship towards each other by sharing a waterhole, and the shade of the same tree. Only hunger or some savage instinct must have suddenly prompted these Lions to attack and destroy what was undoubtedly a very friendly Rhino.

It is sad to relate that this was the very Rhino which presented itself, with such honour, to H. R. H. The Princess Margaret when she arrived at Ol Tukai Lodge on her memorable visit towards the end of 1956.

Although Amboseli is relatively free of poachers operating on the scale they do in or near the Tsavo Royal National Park, it has many other problems. The tracks used by visitors are excessively dusty, and must, at some stage, be surfaced to make it possible for motor cars to travel through without being covered in clouds of fine lava ash. The Lodge itself requires a great deal of renovation and repair, as it has deteriorated over the years. Nevertheless, Amboseli offers the most interesting display of game one could find anywhere in Kenya, and it has the added attraction of an amazing variety of birds. If it were not that the wild animals were so badly harassed by vast herds of cattle and those attending them, and the vegetation so plundered by thousands of hooves, it would undoubtedly be the most amazing game sanctuary anywhere in Africa.

Good rains and a very genuine endeavour being made by the Government to find alternative water supplies for cattle, ended the year on a note of optimism. If during the course of the coming year a solution is found of the conflict of interests, I foresee great opportunities of improving Amboseli up to the standard which it amply justifies. We were all very glad to see Warden Taberer return to his duties after a very severe illness, and all praise goes to him for the trials and disappointments of administering a wild life sanctuary which has been so continuously fraught with problems, of which there is no easy or immediate solution.

NUMBER OF VISITORS. 1957.	1956	1957
Nairobi Royal National Park	114,575	119,532
Tsavo Royal National Park (West)	7,998	8,085
Tsavo Royal National Park (East)	7,792	8,152
Amboseli National Reserve	5,723	6,547
Marsabit National Reserve	1,524	699
Gedi Royal National Park	4,656	4,522
Ologesailie Royal National Park	721	959
Kariandusi Prehistoric Site	750	1,112

FINANCE

In accordance with the provisions of the National Parks Ordinance, I attach statements of account presented in more detail than in previous years. The Accounts for 1956 and for 1957 have now been audited by the Colonial Audit Department, and a copy of the Audit Report is included with the Accounts.

MERVYN COWIE

NAIROBI,
August, 1958.

Cover and all photographs (unless otherwise stated)
by Mervyn Cowie.



GEDI ROYAL NATIONAL PARK.**(HISTORICAL SITE)**

Work at Gedi was carried out at several points on the Town Wall and at another house between the Wall and the Main Street. The Warden's time was principally occupied with the cataloguing of the finds from the previous years work which is now up to date.

Development was hampered by the intermittent showers of rain which went on throughout the year, and which necessitated more attention to grass and weeds in the houses and courts than is normally necessary.

The two points on the Town Wall chosen for investigation were the North-West and North Gates. The North-West Gate was cracked by fire, and surrounded by a heavy deposit of burnt material and stones. This has not been found at any of the other gates and it is possible that it was deliberately destroyed by fire. In front of the gate was buried a small jar or 'fingo' which was considered a charm to ward off evilly disposed persons.

Work at the North Gate was directed towards the Ditch and the space between the Town Wall and the edge of the scarp. It was found that the original defence of the town on this side had been a deep ditch which had been allowed to silt up before the town wall was built. During the period of the wall the ditch was broad and shallow but protected on the side of the counter-scarp by a 'zariba' of stout posts with thorns between them. This had been burnt, but there was nothing to show whether this had happened at the end of the life of the town or at some later time. The excavation on the scarp revealed a structure of red earth walls with plaster faces which had been demolished when the town wall was built. After the building of the town wall and gate a stone structure had been built over it to the edge of the scarp. Work will be continued here in the New Year.

In the other area a large house the House of the Long Court, adjacent to the House on the Wall, was cleared. This house extended from the Town Wall to the Main Street, and consisted of two long rooms, the outer with lavatory at one end, two rooms at the back, and two at one side, of which the outer opened on to a domestic court with five drainage pits. It is unlikely that these were all in use at the same time, and it is probable that this house had a long life. The main entrance from the street had been blocked on one side only, showing that at the end it was, at least partially, in ruins. In the court were found a number of sherds of vessels which had already been found in an area between the House of the Cistern and the Palace. It is believed that the rubble

around the House of the Cistern was dumped here when it was rebuilt in the late sixteenth century.

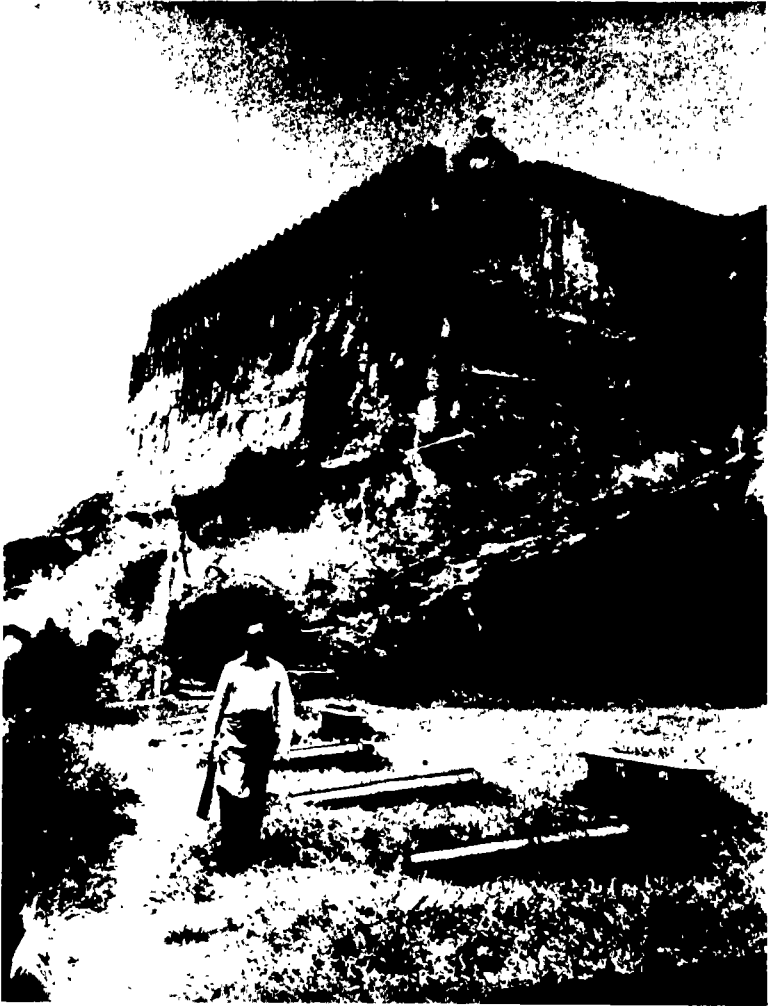
The high proportion of fifteenth century porcelain found in surface areas suggests that town life came to an end in the early sixteenth century. At the end of the sixteenth century an attempt was made to restore the town, but this did not extend over the whole area. There remained areas of ruined houses with their old rubble and sherds, which would occasionally be turned over for stones for building. The end of Gedi in the early sixteenth century could be connected with the sack of Mombasa in 1528 by Nuno da Cunha, in which the people of Malindi had taken part. After the Portuguese had gone on to India the Mombasans attempted to revenge themselves on Malindi. They were beaten off by eighty Portuguese convalescent soldiers who had been left behind, but for whom Gedi would have been without protection and would have paid the price that could not be exacted from Malindi. There is no mention by the Portuguese of Gedi or any town in the area of Gedi, and this could be explained by the fact that for the greater part of the sixteenth century—the period of the Portuguese establishment at Malindi (1512—1593)—it was a heap of ruins. At the end of the century when it was being rebuilt, the Portuguese had moved to Mombasa and would have had little occasion to mention it.

Visitors to Gedi included H.E. Sir Evelyn and Lady Mary Baring, Dr. A. H. J. Prins, Professor C. R. Boxer and Dr. Carlos de Azevedo. The Warden conducted the Right Honourable Alan Lennox Boyd round Fort Jesus on the 31st October.

The Gulbenkian Foundation donated £1,000 to the restoration of Fort Jesus. This sum was spent in bringing out Professor C. R. Boxer from London and Dr. Carlos de Azevedo from Lisbon, to study with us the problems that would be involved in the conversion of Fort Jesus into a Historical Monument and the site of the coast museum. A joint report was sent to the Gulbenkian Trustees with a request for financial assistance.

Two general studies on coastal archaeology were published. *Culture of the Kenya Coast in the Later Middle Ages*. Bull. South African Archaeological Society XI 44 December 1956. *Historical Archaeology in Kenya 1948—1956*. *Antiquaries Journal* 1-2 January-February, 1957.

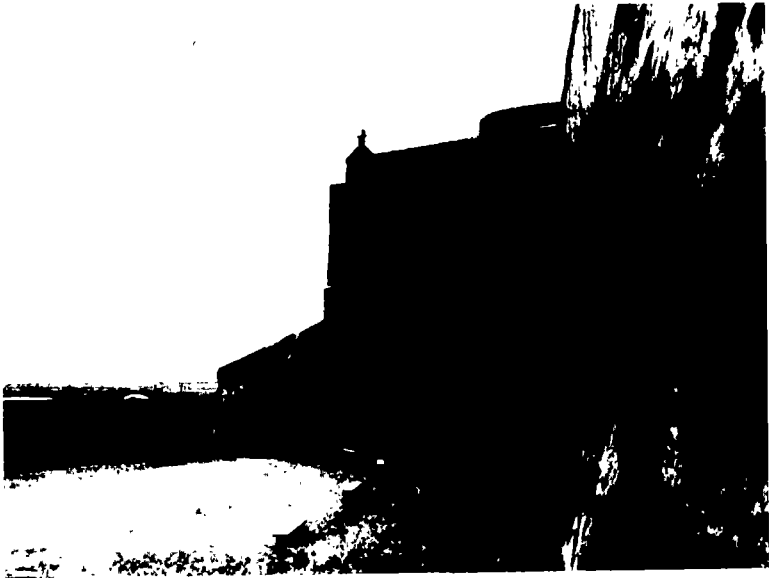
J. S. KIRKMAN.



Fort Jesus



Fort Jesus (Photo by Marrell Dalton)



PREHISTORIC SITES.

This was the first year since the Emergency started when full and free access to the sites was again possible. The year was therefore one of great changes, particularly at Olorgesailie, where a showcase museum, illustrating all aspects of the life of hand axe man, was completed in the main banda; a programme of rebuilding undertaken; and improvements made in the facilities for overnight visitors. The speed of the developments and the hopes for completing a similar showcase museum at Kariandusi had to be restricted due to financial limitations.

Altogether a total of 2071 visitors were recorded at the two sites (Olorgesailie 959; Kariandusi 1112), an increase of some 25% over the 1956 figure. The most spectacular increase was made at Olorgesailie, when in the last six months, after publicising the completion of the museum in July, 672 people visited the site, an increase of 97% over the equivalent period of 1956. Of the visitors some 92% of those to Olorgesailie were from Kenya itself, mostly people out for a "Sunday outing", whilst at Kariandusi some 34% were from outside the Colony, a striking illustration of the value of the roadside site.

The overnight accommodation at Olorgesailie was used by 130 visitors, and the fully booked nature of the camp every weekend from late September testifies to the growing popularity of the Rest Camp and the value of a continued improvement of the facilities provided, which in 1957 included the provision of individual washing arrangements in each banda. The sale of soft drinks, the proceeds of which go to the Prehistoric Sites Research Excavation Fund, proved a welcome innovation to the all too thirsty and often ill-provided visitor.

At Kariandusi a pleasing garden has been laid out around the site and the approaches brightened by a gay display of flowers. Gambles Cave was again only visited on direct request either to the Warden or Dr. L. S. B. Leakey. The sites were visited by several important archaeologists and geologists. Two temporary exhibitions were organised in the year at Olorgesailie showing the results of recent excavations and the uses of aerial photography in archaeology.

In March and April two excavations were conducted at Olorgesailie. The first excavation was of a group of supposed Masai burial mounds, the second and larger excavation was of a site similar to those occasional camp sites on the land-surfaces within the camp, but at a higher level. An industry recalling that first found at Hope Foundation in Southern Rhodesia was discovered.

From July 21st to September 12th a research excavation was conducted at Lanet near Nakuru, at which a Neolithic house site of

the type described by Mrs. Leakey from Hyrax Hill was excavated and a large earthwork of a type previously unexcavated was trenched. The earthwork, of impressive dimensions, was probably some form of seasonal cattle enclosure which could be defended if need be, and much of the value of the excavation lay in the finding of large quantities of animal remains and charcoal on the ground surface buried by the earthwork bank. It is hoped that the site will be dated by a Carbon 14 determination being undertaken by Yale University on the charcoals, whilst the study of the mammalian remains, many of which may be domestic animals, is being undertaken by Professor Zeuner of London University, and should tell us something about the type of Kenya's first domestic animals and possibly a little about the origins of agriculture in East Africa. Though a certain amount of casual labour was employed, a total of 13 European volunteers also assisted for varying periods, including six senior boys and girls from the Nairobi Grammar Schools, who were given a certain amount of instruction in Field Archaeology. The Party was housed in the Royal Agricultural Society's Show Ground at Nakuru and generous help in kind given by many of the local bodies. The kindly interest of the farmer was greatly appreciated. Special thanks are due to Mrs. R.D. Brown, Mrs. P. Cooke and Miss J. Filmer, qualified Archaeologists who gave much help.

Two rescue digs were conducted. One at Machakos where a nineteenth century burial group was revealed by building operations for a new African Women's Training College, and the other in order to record the position and structures of two iron smelting furnaces accidentally turned up in ploughing operations on the North Kinangop. It was impossible to assign a date to the site.

The Warden made a number of research safaris in the Kitale, Nandi and Baringo districts to inspect Neolithic and later sites in order to fit the site excavated at Lanet into its correct cultural perspective. It was noted with great concern that in the Uasin Gishu and Kitale European farming areas and along the Elgeyo escarpment in the Baringo Reserve, stone houses, irrigation works and terracing of Late Prehistoric date, popularly assigned to the "Sirikwa people" are being rapidly destroyed by farming activities. Many of the sites, cursorily described by Huntingford in his pioneer archaeological work of the 1920's, have completely disappeared. Unless drastic steps are taken, the next thirty years will severely rob us of these interesting Iron Age structures that are being swept away by the plough or broken up to provide building stone for European farms and native shamba walls. It is to be hoped that finances will be made available to map and plan these structures and excavate and protect a selected number of them before they are all destroyed and lost to the archaeological record.

It is considered that increased publicity about these Iron Age sites, which though not graced by venerable antiquity are of vital interest in the above mentioned areas and in the Mara Reserve and Nyanza district, would serve to create a public awareness of the richness of our post-palaeolithic cultural heritage and lessen the dangers of destruction through ignorance, by both Europeans and Africans.

A total of sixteen lectures were given by the Warden, including a course of nine in conjunction with the Extra-Mural Board of Makerere College. These have undoubtedly served to help popularise the activities of Prehistoric Sites within the Colony.

M. POSNANSKY.



APPENDIX

ACCOMMODATION

Safari Lodges are maintained for visitors at the following places and are within reach by normal private transport. The distances quoted are from Nairobi. Accommodation fees are from Shs. 15/- to Shs. 20/- per person per night (children under 16 half price). This is inclusive of crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils and lamps.

Amboseli National Reserve : Ol Tukai Safari Lodge

via Emali—Mombasa Road—143 miles

via Namanga—Great North Road—153 miles.

Tsavo National Park (West) : Ngulia Safari Lodge via Mtito Andei on the Mombasa Road—175 miles

Kitani Safari Lodge, via Mtito Andei on the Mombasa Road—185 miles.

Tsavo National Park (East) : Aruba Safari Lodge

via Voi on the Mombasa Road—234 miles.

Marsabit National Reserve : Uaso Nyiro Safari Lodge

via Isiolo on the Marsabit road—210 miles.

Marsabit Forest Lodge (Reservations by special arrangement only).

via Isiolo on the Marsabit road—358 miles.

Ologesailie National Park : Rest Camp

On the Magadi road—42 miles.

Beds, Dunlopillo mattresses, pillows, mosquito nets, chairs, tables, kitchens, baths or showers, hot and cold water, firewood and servant's quarters, are provided at all Safari Lodges. Visitors have to take with them blankets, sheets, pillowcases, towels, and food.

The Ol Tukai Safari Lodge is provided with electric light and a shop equipped with a variety of tinned food and visitors' normal non-perishable requirements.

All reservations at Safari Lodges must be made through the Head Office of the Royal National Parks of Kenya, P.O. Box 2076, Nairobi (Room 302, Mansion House : Telephone 20745).

<i>Closed Seasons</i> : 1st April—31st May, inclusive	}	Ol Tukai
		Ngulia
1st November—15th December inclusive	}	Kitani
		Aruba
1st April—31st May Inclusive	}	Uaso Nyiro
1st November—20th December inclusive (subject to no rain)		
15th October—31st December inclusive	}	Marsabit
15th March—14th June inclusive (subject to no rain)			Forest Lodge

ROYAL NATIONAL

BALANCE SHEET AS AT

LIABILITIES

Capital and General Fund Accounts :	£	s. cts.	£	s. cts.	£	s. cts.
Balance on Capital account			3,176.	—		
Balance on General Fund account Brought forward from 31/12/56	1,710.	16.17				
Add balance as at 31/12/57	410.	8.39				
		—————	2,121.	4.56		
					5,297.	4.87
Reserves :						
Staff Home Leave Passages and Arrears of Salaries			704.	—		
Gratuities and Retiring Benefits			1,500.	—		
Donations Suspense Account	2,329.	18.85				
Add Donations received during 1957	116.	12.70				
		—————	2,446.	11.55		
General Reserve a/c			20,000.	—		
Nairobi National Park Fencing			600.	—		
Interest on Investments			145.	6.85		
					25,395.	18.40
Current Liabilities :						
Sundry Creditors			2,641.	12.16		
Income Tax Reserve a/c (Staff)			247.	4.—		
Prospecting Deposits			25.	—		
					2,913.	16.16
Bank Overdraft (unsecured)					2,103.	2.33
					—————	
					£35,710.	1.76
					—————	

ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA,
 NAIROBI.
 17TH JULY, 1958.

M. H. COWIE, *Director.*
 G. D. HOLIDAY, *Accountant*

The above Balance Sheet and the attached Accounts have been audited in accordance with Section 11 (2) of the Royal National Parks of Kenya Ordinance (Cap. 215) I have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required and I certify as the result of my audit, that in my opinion the above Balance Sheet and the attached Accounts are correct subject to the comments contained in my attached report dated 22nd July, 1958.

NAIROBI
 22ND JULY, 1958.

(s) C. W. HODGES,
Controller & Auditor-General.

PARKS OF KENYA

DECEMBER 31ST 1957

ASSETS

	£	s. cts.	£	s. cts.
Cash in Hand (all areas)			824.	10.18
Investments :				
Deposits at 5% in Land and Agricultural Bank			23,000.	— .—
Current Assets :				
Sundry Debtors	758.	8.24		
Advances (Motor Vehicles)	827.	15.—		
Deposit Accounts with E.A.R. & H. at Voi and Mtitio Andei	73.	11.19		
Interest Accrued on Investments	324.	15.02		
Sale of Trophies, November, 1957 (Received January 1958)	7,597.	2.09		
			9,581.	11.54
Stocks-in-Hand :				
Sundry items, including publications for sale	1,653.	14.35		
Miscellaneous stores on hand	650.	5.69		
			2,304.	— .04

£35,710. 1.76

ROYAL NATIONAL

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL FUND

EXPENDITURE

	£	s. cts.		£	s. cts.
To Staff Salaries, Allowances, Pensions' Fund, Home Leave	£	s. cts.		£	s. cts.
Passages and Medical Insurance	38,591.	6.41			
„ Provision for Gratuities and Retiring Benefits for African Staff	1,500.	—.—			
„ Publications and Publicity	944.	19.68			
„ Printing, Stationery, Rent, Rates, Telephone, Electricity and General Expenses	5,522.	11.07			
„ Workmen's Compensation Insurance	651.	14.50			
„ Travelling Expenses, Maintenance of Transport, Licenses, and Insurance	13,820.	14.55			
„ Replacement of Motor Vehicles	4,770.	19.25			
„ Repairs and Renewals, Maintenance of Radio Equipment Sundry Small Tools	282.	10.76			
„ Upkeep of Buildings, Safari Lodges, Roads, Water Supplies Boundaries and Fences, Dams, and Airstrips	7,519.	6.80			
„ Rangers Expenses and Equipment, Patrols, Arms and Ammunition, Game Control, Anti-Poaching and Trophy Rewards and Expenses	19,227.	10.16			
„ Upkeep of Prehistoric Sites	2,034.	18.—			
„ Excavations and Upkeep of Historical Sites	269.	11.08			
„ Grants paid to the Masai and the Samburu in respect of Amboseli and Marsabit National Reserves	1,024.	8.—			
			96,160.		10.26
„ Amounts written off (see footnote)				413.	19.20
„ Interest on Investments transferred to Reserve				145.	6.85
„ Balance on General Fund Account carried to Balance Sheet				410.	8.39
				£97,130.	4.70

NOTE : The details of amounts written-off by authority of the Board of Trustees are as follows :

Bad Debt	}	Due to defalcations during 1955	{	£292.18.90
Loss of Cash	}		{	100.11.—
Burglary at Head Office				20.9.30
			£413.19.20	

PARKS OF KENYA

ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1957

REVENUE

	£	s. cts.	£	s. cts.
By Grants-in-Aid received from Kenya Government			62,003.	19. 96
„ Entry and Accommodation Fees	22,000.—	.25		
„ Sales of Publications	£1,015.—	.35		
Less Discounts	22.	10. 70		
			992.	9. 65
„ Sundry Revenue, including Fees for photography		1,123.	16. 89	
„ Sale of Trophies		10,351.	13. 83	
„ Rent, “Treetops” Hotel		179.	8. 17	
			34,647.	8. 79
„ Interest on Investments			145.	6. 85
„ Sundry Revenue for 1955 not previously brought to account				91. 11
„ Pensions Fund—contributions refunded in 1955 now taken to Revenue		241.	18. 10	

£97,130. 4. 70

ROYAL NATIONAL

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE

	£	s.	cts.	£	s.	cts.
To Roads, Bridges, Boundaries and Surveys, Fencing				1,651.	2.	61
„ Safari Lodges, Buildings, Ranger Posts, Staff Housing, Stores and Offices				7,054.	6.	90
„ Dams and Water Supplies				132.	3.	87
„ Films, Publications, Library & Information Room Equip- ment				92.	17.	63
„ Motor Vehicles & Road Machinery				2,475.	19.	10
„ Radio, Scientific Instruments, Tools and Equipment				941.	6.	20
„ Office Equipment & Furniture				322.	8.	80
„ Development of Prehistoric Sites				628.	6.—	
„ TRANSFER TO RESERVE :						
General Reserve account	20,000.					
Nairobi Park Fencing		600.				
				20,600.	—.	—
„ Balance on Capital Account carried to Balance Sheet				3,176.	—.	31

£37,074.11.42

REPORT BY THE CONTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL ON FOR THE YEARS

As certified thereon I have examined the accounts of the Royal National Parks of

2. Losses arising from defalcations in previous years and referred to generally in paragraphs of Trustees and are incorporated in the accounts for 1957.
3. Shortages of tyres and tubes amounting to £541.14.89 were written off and this amount Account for 1956.
4. The figures appearing in the Accounts in respect of Prehistoric Sites represent amounts matter was first raised in my report on the accounts for 1952.

NAIROBI,
22ND JULY, 1958.

PARKS OF KENYA

FOR THE YEAR 1st JANUARY TO DECEMBER 31st 1957

REVENUE

	£	s. cts.	£	s. cts.
By Balance on Capital Account at December 31st 1956 brought forward			6,474.	11.42
„ GRANTS RECEIVED :				
Kenya Government (1955/57 Development Plan)	10,000.	—.—		
E.A. Railways & Harbours Boundary Adjustment Allowance	20,600.	—.—		
			30,600.	—.—

£37,074.11.42

THE ACCOUNTS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA 1956 AND 1957

Kenya for the years 1956 and 1957.

4 and 5 of my Report for the years 1954 and 1955 have now been written off by the Board appears as expenditure in the Statement of Income and Expenditure on the General Fund paid to Dr. Leakey and no documents have been seen to support the final expenditure. This

(s) C. W. HODGES,
Controller & Auditor-General.

