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## NEWS LETTER

Dear Friend of Ngorongoro,

This News Letter, although it will be circulated to all old friends, is particularly addressed to the many friends we hope to make, following the General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, due to be held in Nairobi in mid-September. Both pre- and post-Assembly tours have been arranged which it is hoped will bring many of the world's distinguished conservationists to Ngorongoro.

For the benefit of these new friends and as a reminder to our old readers, it should be explained that our News Letters are of limited circulation, designed to give background information concerning policy, planning and research, whilst the Bulletins are issued to visitors to provide information on the current situation which it is hoped will make a visit to the Area more interesting and instructive.

**ADVISORY BOARD.** A successful meeting of the Advisory Board was held in Arusha on the 23rd July. The Minister himself was able to attend for part of the time and welcomed a number of newcomers who were stranding-in for those unable to attend. For the first time we had a member of the Tourist Board present - Chief Abdiel Shangali, the Board's new Chairman - and it is hoped that a representative of the Board will always attend in future.

In his opening speech the Minister put his finger on the most pressing problem confronting the Conservation Area when he said:

"Amongst the most difficult problems with which we have to grapple is the illegal intrusion of cultivators. If this is allowed to continue the very foundation of the Conservation Area will be undermined. I look to all concerned to find a positive solution to this problem. It is not unlike other squatter problems with which I have been concerned which have been or are being solved by co-operative effort".

Steps are currently being taken to bring this problem under control. Government has authorised a statement of policy to be issued in the following terms:

"Government has decided that the greatest profit to the Nation will accrue if the Ngorongoro Conservation Area is used as an area in which the Masai can practise their pastoral mode of life and in which game viewing and tourism should be developed to the full.

It follows that agricultural development should not be encouraged, as this is not compatible with the above two objectives. This is nothing new. On the inauguration of the Conservation Area in July 1959, orders were passed prohibiting the cultivation of new shambas. Further, an order was also made by the Minister that all aliens should be registered and should pay an annual fee of \$ 5/- for a permit to dwell in the Area. This law has been announced at Barazas at Endulen and elsewhere but as yet no fees have been collected.

From now on it must be understood by all:

FIRSTLY that the law concerning the payment of permits to live in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area will be enforced.

SECONDLY that the case of those who moved in the Area before the Conservation Ordinance was passed will be considered, and suitable places found within or outside the Area for them to live.

THIRDLY that those who come into the Area and cultivated illegally will be required to move as soon as suitable arrangements can be made."

This policy statement was considered by the Local Consultative Panel when it met on the 26th August: advice was given to the Conservator as to how best to implement Government policy. On the two following days barazas were held at Ngorongoro and Endulen respectively to announce this policy, attended by a number of important officials and politicians, viz. Mr. Walwa M.P., Regional Commissioner, Mr. Mwinjisi, M.P. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Matsis, M.P., Mr. Edward Mbarnoti, M.P., Chief Executive Officer of the Masai District Council, the Regional Police Commander, the Area Commissioner, the Conservator and members of his staff. There is no doubt that this array of political and administrative talent, all speaking with one voice, impressed upon the locals that Government had only one policy and intended to carry it through. The implementation will be assisted by the secondment of a District Officer to the Conservation Unit, and by the establishment of a small police patrol, one sergeant and two constables in housing provided by the Conservation Unit. This is preparatory to the building of a B class police post (manned by an inspector and ten men) which has been accepted in principle but for which funds are still being sought.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. The Dairy Demonstration, which visitors will observe as they pass through the Lerai Gate, continues to prove successful. The buildings are an unhappy inheritance from the Prison Camp established to construct the Lerai descent road, but creepers and trees will in the course of time disguise its ugliness. The scheme is designed to serve three purposes (i) to supply milk to the residents and visitors at Ngorongoro, (ii) to demonstrate the potentialities of certain limited areas, where the emergent Masai could practise modern intensive dairying, and (iii) to supply a higher grade of stock to raise the standard of the Masai herds in the outlying areas. This last presents many problems, not the least, the eradication of East Coast Fever; the dip (with its adjacent demonstration fodder crop) which visitors will observe on the grasslands to the west of the Conservation Office, is a first step towards solving this problem.

Another step forward is the control of the use of pastures has been taken in the fencing of the dams on the Eastern Serengeti. These are not seen by visitors to the Crater, but formed an essential part of the



scheme whereby the Masai gave up their rights on the Western Serengeti, i.e. in the National Park, in return for the promise of development in the Conservation Area. It proved impossible to control the grazing, either by cattle or game, in the vicinity of the dams until these were fenced, but this work has now been completed around four dams out of seven.

In the Crater itself, the few resident Masai have continued to co-operate closely with the Conservation Unit. One "boma" (village) which expressed a desire to move to rest the grazing, agreed to establish itself on the edge of the long grass area on the east of the Crater floor. We will observe with interest whether the reduction of the grass by grazing encourages the game to utilise an area which they avoid when the grass is high. If this cropping does not prove sufficient, it may be necessary to try a controlled burn when the ploughing and burning of the fire trace along the base of the eastern wall of the Crater is complete. (see below).

Another feature that our visitors may note is the use of the bamboo in the construction of Masai bomas in the Crater. This has been undertaken as a co-operative exercise in conservation by the Conservation Unit and the Masai concerned. It is obvious that the woody vegetation on the floor of the Crater is very valuable as animal habitat and that on the Crater wall as water catchment. On the other hand, the thousands of acres of bamboo on Oldeani Mountain can stand some cropping without risk, so at request of the Masai themselves, they were given permission to cut the bamboo required, whilst the Conservation Unit transported it without cost, to the site of the boma. It is hoped that these two examples will impress on the local Masai the fact that Conservation does not indicate a negative attitude; "thou shalt not....." but rather a positive approach "this is a better way of utilising the natural assets of the Area".

**RESEARCH.** The contract of the research worker appointed under the Nuffield Pasture Research Scheme is shortly due to expire, so this officer has been given a period to complete the write-up of his results at Tengeru. Meanwhile the Serengeti Research Unit has kindly undertaken the reading of the rain gauges and the observation of the enclosures on the Serengeti which were established under the Nuffield Scheme.

In the Crater itself the wildebeest are under observation by Mr. Estes, Cornell University, working under a grant from the National Geographic Society, who is concentrating on their social behaviour. Dr. Klingel, of the Serengeti Research Unit, is a frequent visitor in pursuance of his research into the zebra. The marking of game, particularly of wildebeest by Mr. Orr, lately Assistant Conservator, Game, has been put to profitable use, as in Mr. Orr's absence observation of the marked animals has been maintained by a Voluntary Service Overseas worker. We have been promised another worker under the same scheme as a replacement in September to ensure the continuity of the work for at least another year. The results of Mr. Orr's work are being written up and will be published in due course.

In conjunction with the East African Veterinary Research Organisation the collection of blood samples has continued for the furtherance of research into rinderpest and malignant catarrh. Mr. W. Plowright, the senior pathologist at E.A.V.R.O. read two papers concerning these diseases at the World Veterinary Congress held in Hanover, Germany in August.

**OLDUVAI.** The Archaeological sites in the Olduvai Gorge where Dr. Leakey is conducting his excavations are developing into a tourist attraction - somewhat ahead of our capacity to cope with the tourists! Dr. Leakey, with an initial grant of £500 from Conservation Funds, is establishing a "Museum-on-the-Spot" whilst Tanganyika's newly appointed Director of Antiquities is arranging for guards and guides. But before these plans have come to fruition the fame of Olduvai, with its 1,750,000 years-old Zinjanthropos has started to attract unauthorised parties, as many as six Land Rovers being observed in a single party. So the provisions of the

Conservation Ordinance have been called into play, a temporary permit system evolved and authorised guides provided. Full details are given in Bulletin No. 6. issued simultaneously with this News Letter.

Another problem connected with Olduvai is the risk of cattle trampling priceless archaeological material. The Masai have no wish to graze the steep thorny slopes of the Gorge, but are driven to do so by the wildebeest which for some two to three months in the year carry the malignant catarrh so dangerous to cattle. A demand for the complete closure of the Gorge to grazing would be met by a not unreasonable counter demand for the closure of the plains grazing to wildebeest! The suggestion of the Advisory Board is that known sites of value should be fenced and thus protected from all types of animal interference - including human.

**TOURISM.** The numbers of visitors continue to increase. We have issued 5533 entry permits in the first seven months of 1963 as against 3335 in the same months of 1962 - an increase of sixty-six per cent. Vehicle permits are 1228 to date, as against 425 in 1962 but last year the Lodge vehicles entered free, so the comparison is not a true one.

The Youth Hostel is now in frequent use, parties having visited from as far afield as Dar es Salaam Training College and Dodoma Secondary School.

By the time the IUCN Assembly meets the first of our Information booklets should be on sale (price sh2/50) entitled Ngorongoro's First Visitor. It presents a translation of the diary of Oscar Baumann, who visited the Crater in 1892. Translated by Mrs. Organ and annotated by the writer, this well-illustrated booklet should greatly increase the interest of a visit to the Crater by putting the present-day situation into historical perspective.

We are lucky to have secured as our publishers for this series the East African Literature Bureau. Further titles under preparation will cover Early Man at Olduvai and in Ngorongoro, Day trips in and around Ngorongoro, Masai Place Names in Ngorongoro and the History of European Settlement in Ngorongoro. Check lists of birds and animals are also being compiled.

Messrs Caltex have undertaken the preparation of a perspective map of the Crater on lines similar to those covering the Kenya and Uganda National Parks. The first proof has been checked and textual material and photographs supplied. Similarly Messrs. Esso are sponsoring the production of a brochure on the same lines as that dealing with the Manyara National Park. Here again maps, material and photographs have been provided by the Unit. It is too much to hope that publication of one or both of these will coincide with the IUCN Meeting, but if visitors wish to leave their address it would be possible to arrange for copies to be forwarded.

The 1:250,000 map of the Area compiled by the Survey Division of the Ministry of Lands, Forests and Wildlife, from the aerial surveys of 1958, 1959 and 1960 has proved very popular and a second edition is under preparation. Even when the more accurate quarter degree sheets are published by Overseas Surveys, the local map is likely to remain popular as it shows on a single sheet the whole of the Area and the surrounding country which unfortunately falls on to four quarter degree sheets.

Ngorongoro continues to feature in the press both local and overseas. An article on the plague of stomoxys flies which the Crater suffered from in 1962 will appear in the East African Wildlife Society's Journal of which the first number will be published in time for the Assembly. Mrs. Elspeth Huxley published two articles in the Daily Telegraph about Tanganyika's National Parks and game policy: these were supplemented by a letter from the Conservator.



In conclusion the issue of this letter is taken as an opportunity for conveying to the IUCN delegates the Minister's most sincere hope that large numbers of them will take the opportunity of visiting Ngorongoro and the other National Parks, Game Reserves and similar features which it is the Tanganyika Government's firm intention to preserve for posterity.

Since this letter was drafted, fire broke out in the very area which we had intended to burn. As the point of commencement was in thick grass and woody shrubs, not visited either by Masai or itinerant honey-hunters, the only likely explanation is that tourists, seen to be looking for lion in the area concerned, inadvertently started this fire. Unfortunately in addition to burning the area we wished to, the fire crossed the Engare Nanyuki River in one place, and also the fire trace. Prompt action however, got both these extensions under control, so the outbreak really did more good than harm. It has also taught us several lessons (i) that burns to clear the trash must be later in the year (ii) this being so, fiercer fires can be expected, so traces must be adequate; (iii) as even wheel tracks can check a fire, a graded road, backed by hand labour can be a very effective break. Although some visitors deplore any manifestation of fire, it is obvious that it must be used as a tool of management since one cannot control the grazing of wildlife as one can cattle on a paddocked dairy farm.

Yours sincerely,



H. A. FOSBROOKE  
CONSERVATOR

2nd September, 1963