

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

*Presented by the Council to the Annual General Meeting,
16th April, 1957.*

The Society's Activities.—Just as 1955 was a year of endeavour in the field of publicity, so 1956 has been one of effort in direct conservation. Much time and work was expended in discussions and correspondence on the future of the Serengeti National Park, Tanganyika. They culminated in arrangements being made for Professor W. H. Pearsall, F.R.S., to carry out an ecological survey of the area. An account of the preparatory work by the Society was contained in *Oryx*, Volume III, No. 6. Professor Pearsall's report will be published shortly.

International Meetings.—The Society was represented at the meeting in Holland of the European Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation and at the General Assembly in Edinburgh of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. At Edinburgh the Secretary represented also the Wild Life Protection Society of Ceylon.

Nyasaland.—The Society continued to support the efforts of the Nyasaland Fauna Preservation Society to establish a nature reserve or national park on the Nyika. The Colonial Development Corporation's experimental forestry plantation in the area has been discontinued.

Northern Rhodesia.—The Honorary Treasurer paid a special visit to Lochinvar Ranch on behalf of the Society. This wonderful reserve, both for the red lechwe and for birds is, at the moment secure. Should its future be threatened by development, every possible effort to preserve it will be made.

Southern Rhodesia.—Following the report of the Commission of Inquiry on human and animal trypanosomiasis, the Society urged the formation of further nature reserves. It is believed that a more enlightened attitude towards wild life preservation is in prospect in Southern Rhodesia.

Tanganyika.—Grave reports continued to come in of lawless wild life destruction in Tanganyika. African poaching of game, regardless of the future, is prevalent and widespread.

Uganda.—The Society wishes to express its appreciation of the support given to wild life preservation by Sir Andrew Cohen, who has just retired from the Governorship of Uganda. His tour of office saw the establishment of the first two national parks, The Queen Elizabeth and the Murchison.

Singapore.—Representations by the Society resulted in satisfactory restrictions being placed on the export of orang-utans from Singapore. As import restrictions were already in force, a measure of protection for this animal has been secured. Its future is, however, still in jeopardy as there are many other ports through which illegal export from Sumatra and Borneo can be carried on.

Kindred Societies and Conservation Authorities.—Throughout the year the Society kept in touch with kindred societies and like-minded individuals in many parts of the world. Among them were the Game Preservation and Hunting Association of Northern Rhodesia, the Southern Rhodesia National Hunters and Game Preservation Association, the Wild Life Societies of Kenya and Tanganyika, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Indian Wild Life Board (through Mr. E. P. Gee).

Meetings.—Four meetings of the Council and three ordinary General Meetings and the Annual General Meeting were held.

The Journal.—The usual three numbers of *Oryx* were published. A total of 5,190 copies were printed at a cost of £886.

The increase in cost of £245 since 1955 was mainly due to increases in printing charges but a total of twenty extra pages and five additional illustrations were published.

Covenants and Bankers' Orders.—All members are asked to consider paying their subscriptions by deeds of covenant and by bankers' order. The deeds of covenant greatly increase the Society's income; bankers' orders, whether or not accompanied by deeds of covenant, mean a considerable saving in office work and stationery.

Accounts.—The excess of expenditure over income this year of £475, compared with income over expenditure last year of £269, a difference of £744, is largely due to the following income not being repeated this year:—

Share of Festival Hall meetings	£
Balance of Mr. Mervyn Cowie's lecture tour	208
Legacies, now put direct to Balance Sheet	107
	202
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	£607
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The principle followed now is that neither legacies nor other donations are regarded as ordinary income, but as an addition to the accumulated funds which cannot be assumed to recur. Such receipts have therefore been credited to the Reserve Fund.

Below is a statement showing the assured annual income of the Society and the normal expenditure, both based on the 1956 accounts:—

Assured Annual Income.

	£
Members' subscriptions	1,050
Tax recoverable on Covenants	200
Interest on Investments	400
Sale of Journal	50
Profit on Christmas Cards (average)	60
	£1,850

Annual Expenditure

	£
Salaries, Pension premium, Travelling	990
Printing of Journal	800
Stationery, Postage and Office Expenses	430
Rent of Offices	250
Films (three years' average)	70
Subscriptions to other bodies (including I.U.C.N., £20)	30
	£2,660

The extent to which the Society depends upon the generosity of donors can be clearly seen. Without donations and the fact that the Zoological Society of London offsets its charge for office accommodation by a grant, the annual expenditure might be expected to exceed income by about £800.

The great generosity of our Vice-President, Dr. Willard G. Van Name, must be specially recorded.

Progress of the Society.—The progress of the Society from 1949 to 1956 is shown below:—

At 31st December—	<i>Membership.</i>	<i>Deeds of Covenant.</i>
1949	980	2
1950	1,074	69
1951	1,160	88
1952	1,217	158
1953	1,218	108
1954	1,230	181
1955	1,250	230
1956	1,336	302

Acknowledgments.—The Council expresses its thanks to Mr. Maurice Wilson for his painting of polar bears for the Christmas cards. It was unprecedentedly successful, being sold out by the middle of November (8,000 cards).

Thanks are offered also to those who gave lectures and showed films at General Meetings, and to Mr. E. P. Gee for so generously giving the Society a copy of his lovely film "Kaziranga".

The Society is, as always, most grateful to the Zoological Society of London for office accommodation and for the unstinted help given by the Society's staff throughout the year.