

Well-armed poachers find it easy to avoid rangers patrolling on foot.

Despite the vicissitudes of the last few years, however, the Upemba is still a very valuable national park from all points of view – scientific, aesthetic, touristic and economic, and the wide variety of animals, properly exploited outside the park, could become a valuable source of meat. Curry-Lindahl's recommendations to the Congolese Government include measures concerning the Baluba settlement, the construction of tourist facilities, the appointment of a scientist on a permanent basis to study the urgent problems, and the reintroduction of black rhinos.

A rich area for wildlife, particularly ungulates, in south-east Katanga is the Kundelungu Nature Reserve. On this high plateau 250 km. by 30 km., with gallery forests, savanna grasslands and woodlands and many river valleys, there are roan, sable, hartebeest, reedbuck, duiker, oribi, bushbuck, eland, zebra, bushpig, warthog, elephant, lion, leopard and cheetah (rare elsewhere in the Congo), and a rich bird and reptile life. But there are several threats to this valuable area. Following discussions with the provincial authorities Curry-Lindahl's chief recommendation was that the southern half of the reserve be declared a national park.

In Katanga as a whole Curry-Lindahl strongly recommended that enormous areas of savanna and woodland, which once supported a numerous, rich and diversified fauna and are all seriously depleted thanks largely to the flood of weapons, should be restocked with wild herbivores, and that these should be utilised as a natural resource for food. In his recommendations to the government he also advised protection measures for crocodiles which had been reduced to a precarious situation due to over-hunting. On his return visit to the Congo in May he found that the government had acted on this advice and all three species were protected.

In the Albert National Park, which he visited in May and again in June, he found that the situation in the southern and central sectors was as good as ever, but that the northern sector was again a zone of military operations, the soldiers having moved in as a result of rebel activities. Nevertheless, he found no signs of poaching, and the animals at Ishango by Lake Edward and along the upper Semliki River, including large numbers of hippo, elephant, Uganda kob and waterbuck, were unafraid.

The Mountain Gorilla's Sanctuary

A MEETING of representatives of the three governments concerned in the protection and management of the mountain gorilla's territory on the slopes of the Virunga volcanoes – Congo, Rwanda and Uganda – was urged at the IUCN Lucerne conference last summer, and arranged in Goma last May. Unfortunately the Uganda representatives did not take part, but Congo and Rwanda agreed a number of points: regular consultations, co-ordinating patrols on their common frontiers, agreement on the right of guards to pursue poachers across the frontier and outside park boundaries, and the creation of a permanent joint Commission for the three national parks to ensure close collaboration. The IUCN representative at the meeting, Dr. Kai Curry-Lindahl, urged that the Rwanda government should evacuate all people and cattle in their part of the area and prevent burning, allowing the vegetation to recover naturally. It is hoped that the Uganda government will accede to these resolutions.