

ACT No. VI OF 1879.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 22nd March, 1879).

An Act for the preservation of wild elephants.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the preservation of wild elephants; It is hereby enacted as follows:— Preamble.

1. This Act may be called "The Elephants Preservation Act, 1879:—" Short title.

It extends to the territories now respectively administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and the Chief Commissioners of Oudh, the Central Provinces, British Burma and Coorg; Local extent.

and the Local Government may, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, extend it to any other local area by notification in the local official Gazette.

So far as regards the power to make declarations and rules, it shall come into force on the passing thereof. In other respects it shall come into force on the first day of April, 1879. Commencement.

2. The words "kills or catches elephants," in section 25, clause (i), of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, and the words "killing or catching elephants," in section 31, clause (j), of the same Act, shall be repealed in every local area to which this Act extends or is extended. Repeal.

3. No person shall kill, injure or capture, or attempt to kill, injure or capture, any wild elephant unless— Killing and capture of wild elephants prohibited.

- (a) in defence of himself or some other person;
(b) when

- (b) when such elephant is found injuring houses or cultivation, or upon, or in the immediate vicinity of, any main public road or any railway or canal; or
- (c) as permitted by a license granted under this Act.

Rights of Government with respect to certain elephants and tusks.

4. Every elephant captured, and the tusks of every elephant killed, in any of the cases mentioned in section three, clauses (a) and (b), by any person not licensed under this Act, shall be the property of Government.

License to kill and capture wild elephants.

5. The Collector or Deputy Commissioner of any district may, subject to such rules as may for the time being be in force under this Act, grant licenses to kill, or to capture, or to kill and capture, wild elephants in such district :

Provided that no such license shall authorize any person to enter upon any land without the consent of the owner or occupier thereof.

Power of Local Government

6. The Local Government may from time to time, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council,

to declare what are main roads and canals, and to make rules as to licenses.

declare what shall be deemed to be main public roads and canals within the meaning of this Act, and

make rules consistent with this Act for regulating

(a) the grant and renewal of licenses under this Act,

(b) the fees (if any) in money, tusks or captured elephants to be charged on such grant and renewal,

(c) the time during which such licenses shall continue in force, and

(d) the conditions (if any) on which they shall be granted.

All such declarations and rules shall be published in the local official Gazette and shall thereupon have the force of law.

Penalty for contravening section 3.

7. Whoever, in contravention of section three, kills, injures or captures, or attempts to kill, injure or capture,

capture, any wild elephant, shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees for each elephant concerned ;

and whoever breaks any condition contained in a license granted under this Act shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

Any person convicted of a second offence under this section shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

When any person holding a license under this Act is convicted under this section, such license shall become void and shall be delivered up to the convicting Magistrate.

8. Any officer of Revenue or Police, or any forest-officer, who may find any person killing, injuring or capturing, or attempting to kill, injure or capture, any wild elephant, except in the cases mentioned in section three, clauses (a) and (b), may require him to produce and shew a license granted to him under this Act.

License to be produced and shewn on requisition of certain officers.

Any person who, on such request, wilfully refuses or is unable to produce and shew such license as aforesaid, shall, in addition to any other punishment to which he may be liable under this Act, be punished with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

9. Every prosecution under this Act shall be commenced within six months from the commission of the offence in respect of which it is instituted.

Limitation of prosecution.

10. The amount or value of any fee payable under any license granted under this Act may be recovered from the licensee as if it were an arrear of land-revenue.

Recovery of fees.