



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

Press Release

(For Immediate Release)

01 April 2024

Editors and Journalists

Update on the rhino and elephant poaching situation in Namibia

The Ministry has unfortunately recorded 28 rhinos poached in Namibia to date in 2024. It is concerning to note that 19 were poached in the Etosha National Park of which 10 were discovered during dehorning operations throughout the month of March. Poaching in Etosha is particularly concerning because this is our flagship park and has a high concentration of rhino conservation and other high value species making it a major attraction of tourists. On the basis of the current situation and the urgency, an assessment is being undertaken in Etosha to establish full extent of the problem. Furthermore, an urgent high-level meeting by the Ministry with the security clusters has been called to dissect the matter.

The Ministry also confirms recent reports of four white rhinos poached on a private farm in Otjozodjupa region, this brings the total of rhinos poached in private farms in the country to (5) five for the year. Additionally, three (3) rhinos were poached in rhino custodianship farms, and 1 in the Kunene region bringing the overall total to 28 for the year consisting of 19 black and 9 white rhinos.

The country has not recorded any poaching case of elephants so far in 2024.

In this moment, we call upon our array of stakeholder including members of the public to summon their conscious and patriotism and join the Ministry in this difficult fight against poaching of high value species. We remain committed to fight poaching at all cost to ensure we achieve our obligation of protecting our wildlife to benefit the current and future generations of Namibia. We shall endeavour, to strengthen our interventions and sharpen our strategies moving forward. This discovery, calls for collective action by all of us. We condemn the barbaric actions of those involved and urge anyone with any information that may assist us in apprehending the suspects to come forth.

No arrests have been made in the recent cases so far, cases were opened and investigations continue.

Media Contact: Public Relations Office; +264 61 284 2840, info.pro@meft.gov.na, 0811407844.

Issued by:

Romeo Muyunda

MEFT Spokesperson

