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Quissama Park tops list of poaching cases

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The Quissama National Park, in Luanda province, has been the preferred area for the practice of poaching of various species there, informed, on Wednesday, the coordinator of the Project to Combat the Illegal Trade of Wildlife and Human Conflict and Wildlife in Angola.

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Elephants have been the main targets of poachers © Photography by: kindala Manuel | Editions November

Aristophanes da Costa, who was speaking at the seminar on the initiative for the implementation of the aforementioned project, considered that, due to poaching, there is a growing concern regarding the number of animals that enter the List of Animals in Threatened

Extinction .

"Poaching still constitutes one of the serious problems for the Angolan fauna and flora", said the official, for whom the elephant is one of the chosen animals of the poachers.

Compared to previous years, he said that the hunting of elephants has significantly reduced, if the few reports of slaughter of this animal species are taken into account, although there are records of many deaths along the routes.

To face the practice of illegal hunting, Aristophanes da Costa considered it important to make available to communities from different sources of income, with a view to facilitating the exercise of other activities and for this population to abandon poaching within and outside the areas of conservation.

About the Project to Combat the Illegal Wildlife Trade and the Man Wildlife Conflict in Angola, the official considered it to be a significant step towards the evils that weaken the country's biodiversity.

"We are aware that this will not be the only project that will solve the problem, but it is an advance and we believe that, with the emergence of more funds, we can put an end to this problem once and for all", he referred.

He recognized that many more actions are needed to achieve the objectives set out in the project, which aims, among other objectives, to minimize the negative impacts on fauna and flora and end the loss of biodiversity.

Social origins

Aristophanes da Costa said that the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment has received, particularly from conservation areas, reports on poaching. Without advancing the numbers of animals slaughtered monthly, he stressed that "there are many cases".

He stressed that social and economic factors are at the base of the problem that gives rise to poaching. Therefore, he believes that the implementation of well-programmed and financed actions can help to reduce this great impact on the Angolan fauna and flora.

He stressed that one of the major problems in combating poaching has to do with the non-alignment of institutions, such as the courts, the Attorney General's Office, the National Police, the Criminal Investigation Service and others.

"Stealth hunting is a subject that should be taken into high consideration at the level of large structures", concluded Aristophanes dos Santos.