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PN detained two men with 10 rhino horns that they intended to sell for 4 million Kz - It was necessary to kill 10 animals at serious risk of extinction to obtain them

The Criminal Offenses Investigation Directorate (DIIP) detained in flagrante two nationals in possession of 10 rhinoceros horns that would be sold for four million Kwanzas, in the Nambambi neighborhood, on the outskirts of the city of Lubango, Huíla province, this Thursday said. fair to the police.



Photo: DR/Archive

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October 28, 2021 at 4:07 pm



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The men, aged 21 and 32, were detained today, Thursday, 28, on public roads, after being questioned during a police operation and will be presented to the Public Ministry magistrate on Friday, 29, accused of trafficking in horns of rhinoceros.

African rhinos are among the wildest species most at risk of extinction and are protected by various international and national laws and are listed by CITES, the International Convention on the Trafficking of Fauna and Flora at Risk, and in which this species is at risk. pride of place.

Despite this, obtaining 10 rhino horns required the death of 10 wild animals, which, due to their small number across the continent, is even considered extinct in Angola, although in recent years it is possible that some have crossed the border. from Namibia or Botswana and have bred on national territory, this represents a serious blow to the efforts to conserve this species, which is one of the most valuable for countries that invest in tourism as a source of income and job creation.

During police interrogations, the suspects claimed to have acquired the rhinoceros horns from a citizen who is a fugitive from the authorities, from the province of Kuando Kubango, "with the aim of marketing the horns worth four million Kwanzas and, after the sale the detainees would have their commission," he said, in a statement to the police.

Even with the decree prohibiting the slaughter, trafficking and sale of ivory, which, however, came into force in 2016, poachers do not obey the Executive Decree that "prohibits the sale of ivory and its derivatives in the country". (1)

According to Novo Jornal, these cases involving the slaughter of wild animals protected by law have gained ground in alarming proportions in Angola.

During this year in Bengo province, the Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) detained a 50-year-old man for trafficking in ivory and killing elephants.

In the province of Kuando Kubango, a man, whose identity was not revealed at the time of the facts, was a forest guard, was also arrested for trafficking in ivory, slaughtering elephants and selling pangolin skin, in the municipality of Dirico.

Elephant tusks and pangolin scales are the most sought after elements and the ones that have been the genesis of the most apprehensions.

Asia is the main destination market for these animal parts, especially pangolin scales and rhinoceros horns, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine, the main one being their use as a sexual stimulant that science guarantees has no foundation since the rhinoceros horn is composed of precisely the same material that constitutes human nails.

the red list

Angola's Red List of Species, which considers CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), includes four categories, with the A, of the extinct species in the country, including the Black Rhinoceros, the Castanha Hyena and the Penguin of the Cable.

Na categoria B, espécies ameaçadas de extinção, estão, entre outras o Leão, a Chita, o Mabeco, a Hiena-Malhada, a Zebra de Montanha, o Gorila, o Búfalo Vermelho, o Manatim Africano, a Palanca Negra Gigante, a Raposa das Areias, o Macaco de Brazza, o Chimpanzé, o Búfalo, a Girafa de Angola, o Babuíno, a Tartaruga de Couro, o Papagaio Cinzento, a Raia Manta, o Tubarão Azul e o Tubarão Tigre.

A categoria C, de vulneráveis devido à actividade humana, é composta por 18 espécies de mamíferos, como o elefante e o leopardo, 31 de aves, 10 de répteis, como o crocodilo e a jiboia, quatro de peixes, quatro de insectos, seis cetáceos, nomeadamente a Baleia Azul, um crustáceo e 30 vegetais, entre os quais o tradicional Imbondeiro.

Category D, which includes invasive species, integrates the Cacusso by eliminating native species when out of their habitat, and 17 of plants.

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