

Poachers' barbaric act

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by Adam Hartman



IT is not just the stock theft figures for 2013 that are staggering, but the poaching of wildlife is just as worrisome and one beleaguered farmer from Omaruru can vouch for that.

Adrian Lang of Okapekaha last month alone lost more than 30 animals that were trapped in snares and hacked to pieces for their meat. It was last month too when the gruesome poacher bush veld abattoirs were discovered in remote areas of the farm. Lang, over the past weekend, however, made even more gruesome discoveries of poaching on his farm.

While he and the police special task force were trying to clean up the farm of the snares, an eland cow, probably with calf considering the animal's swollen udder, was found.

"It looked like it was killed by poachers with dogs, assegais and knives. They took only the front and back quarters. They cut the border fence next to railway road from where the meat was loaded on to a vehicle," said Lang, asking: "Will this cruelty ever stop?"

According to statistics provided by the police spokesperson, Deputy Commissioner Edwin Kanguatjivi, between January and December last year 267 cases of poaching were reported. For this year, from January to September, 281 cases have been recorded. Therefore, there has been an increase.

In monetary terms for 2013 alone, Lang has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars to poachers. Besides dealing with that,

he is also awaiting judgment on an appeal he made in the Windhoek High Court. He appealed against a five-year imprisonment sentence imposed on him on a charge of culpable homicide at the end of his trial in the Swakopmund Regional Court on 15 April this year.

Besides the poaching on Lang's farm, remains of zebra near the truck road to Rooibank near Walvis Bay have also suggested that poaching is also rife in Dorob and Namib Naukluft parks.

"One can clearly see that the zebras have been cleverly slaughtered. All their legs have been cut-off and thrown in the sanc near the road with skin and what looks like flesh," a resident informed The Namibian last week.

The resident also said remains of animals apparently poached were also thrown into the reeds near the harbour town's water works and 'bird paradise'.

"When the municipality, once in a while, burns up the reed, evidence of poached animals is burnt along with it," he explained. "We have no idea how many animals have been poached."

Kanguatjivi said last week that 7 971 cattle and small livestock have been reported stolen so far this year. They are estimated at N\$22,5 million based on average commercial value.

The police have made 776 arrests in connection with these reported incidents and 1 274 charges related to stock theft opened. Only 1 935 of the stolen cattle have been recovered (alive or as meat), which gives a recovery rate of about 25%. The Namibian is still awaiting figures from Kanguatjivi for poaching during 2013.

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- Our beloved country's past should not be reason to act inhuman and cruel to animals. If we measure our standards based on what Mahatma Gandhi said " The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated" then the words barbaric killers befit this pure excuses as humans. The most unfortunate part is that they live between us.... and THEY BREED! - Jordan | 1970-01-01 [9835]
- Oe also need enerst explanation! Why is it that when wild animals from the farms are pounced, then all of a surden they belong to someone, even the policy services referd to them as "people"s properties". But when they are along the road, causing fatal accidents to motor vehicle and p*agers, these animals do not belong to any person. For all accidents that took places on the public raod-cased by these wild animals, was/were there any owner charged because his/her wild animals from his/her farm caused injuries/death to p*agers of a certain vehicle or caused demaage to the vehicle (someneone"s propoerty,) beyond repair?? The answer is a lound NO. Then can the government stop doing injustice to those who pounce! - Eva | 1970-01-01 [9836]
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- Katya, agree with you 100%,its barbaric and cruel to do this to poor animals,

its not acceptable at all. - kasiku | 1970-01-01 [9838]
- aluta I think this people must cm to jr hm and do anything what they want cause they are poor neh - marks | 1970-01-01 [9839]
- Eva u are right u need to be told that if a wild animal is on jr farm is jrs why cause is on jr farm but if that specific animal cm to my farm and then is mine but if it is on public road it belongs to the goverment - marks | 1970-01-01 [9840]

- IT IS A SAD SITUATION JUST LIKE LANDLESSNESS - GEORGE STEVEN #GOAXAB | 1970-01-01 [9841]
- Hunger???? This are sick psychopaths!!! - Katja | 1970-01-01 [9842]
- I hope that if the Ministry of Safety and Security will overcome this only by: (Take all the Grade 10&12 failures who are roaming the streets train them in contacting Pa-troll in and around towns, farms, villages, cities etc. They will be working under Public Service Policies, and they will be paid in allowances not salaries. They will be on roads, streets and everywhere where people are making movements this I know it will help even with poaching as the poachers will not have chance to enter farms fences from main roads nor will they load meat and transport it to their places as this groups of patrolling are everywhere. In towns it will even helps with house breaking, attack on innocents people on streets etc. The money to do this I am sure is there, if you compare to all the millions tax payers lost on the hands of some selfish fat cats who enriched themselves to date, is b* to use the money for the b*ment of our societies, than keep it then it end-up in the wrong hands. Is my own opinion. - Frans Ndjahera | 1970-01-01 [9843]
- Is meatco an Afrikaner company?Why advertising positions with the requirement of Afrikaans?Meatco is discriminating the majority of people in Namibia particularly young people.Hence should do away with Afrikaans requirement anyway this is Namibia its official language is English not AfriKkaans. - Nelago Thobias | 1970-01-01 [9844]