



Another rhino poached in Kunene

21 April 2014 | Local News

Another rhino has been poached, this time in the Kunene Region.

According to Nampol spokesperson Edwin Kanguatjivi, members of Save the Rhino Trust discovered the carcass of a black rhino near Palmwag Lodge last week Monday. He said that the carcass was discovered with both horns removed, and on closer inspection it was found that the rhino had been shot. According to him the carcass of the rhino had been lying there for approximately three to four weeks before it was found. No arrests or recovery of the horns have been made. Last Wednesday the environment ministry issued a media statement addressing the arrest of three Chinese nationals in connection with allegedly trying to smuggle 14 rhino horns out of the country. The ministry statement did not mention the recent poaching of a white rhino near Windhoek, as well as the Palmwag incident. The statement issued by the ministry's acting permanent secretary Theo Nghitila said it noted with great concern the recent poaching activities in the country, and mentioned the incident involving the three Chinese men. Nghitila said the ministry and Nampol are investigating these illegal activities further. "The Government of Namibia is not and will never be secretive about the cases of illegal killing of wildlife and illicit trade in wildlife products, as this can only be counter-productive to our efforts to curb illicit trade in wildlife products and promote conservation," Nghitila said. He added that due to the sensitivity of these cases, which are still under investigation and before the courts, the ministry has not been able to give answers to questions about specific and ongoing cases. "Government condemns these ill-intentioned activities of rhino poaching and calls upon those involved to refrain from such activities with immediate effect or risk their chances of being caught and facing the full wrath of the law," said Nghitila. He said the ministry will continue to strengthen its efforts to combat poaching with effective crime prevention and law enforcement. This would be done through the co-ordination and integration of activities, such as planning, monitoring and adaptive management, as well as through a strong and effective presence on the ground. Law enforcement efforts include dedicated investigation units that focus on criminal syndicates and organised crime, in collaboration with the police, army, judiciary, intelligence service, communities and farmers, which includes the training and retraining of staff.