



Four black rhino killed by poachers

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Poachers have struck a horrible blow in the Uukwaluundhi Conservancy, located in the Omusati Region, by killing four black rhino and wounding three others. The rhino carcasses were discovered last Thursday when the newly established association aiming to protect rhinos in Namibia, HoRN.nam, was called in to assist in tracking rhino in the conservancy.

According to Jaco Muller from HoRN.nam, he was contacted by the concession holder of the conservancy Wouter Smit, who expressed concern over the fact that their rhino have "not been seen much lately". Muller said he flew to the conservancy with a gyrocopter last Wednesday and started his search the following day. The first rhino he found was a bull, which was heavily wounded and could barely walk. Three other rhinos were found that were in good condition, but then he spotted a cow that was shot

through her shoulder. "I immediately informed the owner that he should contact the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. We are definitely dealing with poaching here." Muller said he then discovered two other rhino carcasses. The horns had been removed. According to him, ministry officials were sent per helicopter from Waterberg to assist. Another rhino was found heavily wounded and it had to be put down due to its suffering. Police confirmed the poaching incident, saying that three rhino were shot and that two died instantly and their horns were removed. The third rhino was found alive, but due to its severe injuries, it had to be put down by nature conservation officials. A fourth carcass was also found, but the rhino horns were not removed. Muller said that the animal most likely died due to gunshot wounds it sustained from poachers. Another four rhino were found alive on the conservancy. Three had shot wounds. They have been rounded up and removed from the conservancy and relocated to a safe and secure place. There are apparently no leads yet on the suspects. A reliable source told Namibian Sun that the carcasses were all old and that DNA tests will be done to see if it can be linked to the 14 rhino horns confiscated during the arrest of three Chinese men at the Hosea Kutako International Airport recently.



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