



Another rhino killing discovered in Kunene

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Another case of rhino poaching has been discovered in the Kunene Region. An old carcass of a rhino was found on Sunday in the area of Etendeka. The discovery came barely a week after the skull of a rhino that had been poached was found in the same area. The spokesperson of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Romeo Muyunda, yesterday confirmed to Namibian Sun that the rhino carcass that was discovered on Sunday was indeed poached. Muyunda said the rhino had been shot and the horns had been removed. According to him the rhino carcass was discovered in the area of Etendeka, which is a tourist concession area next to Palmwag. It is believed to have been killed at least a year ago. On July 17, members of the Save the Rhino Trust discovered an old rhino skull while they were on a routine patrol in the Etendeka area. Upon closer inspection of the skull it was found that the horns of the rhino had been cut off with a sharp object. That skull was also believed to be more than a year old. Muyunda said it is likely that the two incidents are related. It is also believed that the two rhino poaching incidents could be tied to the 14 rhino horns that were confiscated earlier this year when three Chinese suspects were arrested at the Hosea Kutako Airport. DNA tests will be done to confirm this. Namibian Sun reported last week that the escalation of rhino and elephant poaching in Namibia will have a devastating effect on the country's tourism industry if it continues unabated. Experts in the tourism industry told Namibian Sun that these impacts will include a drop in tourist arrivals, job losses in the sector and revenue losses. The country's reputation will be harmed and it may even pose a political risk for the government if the recent surge of commercial poaching is not curbed. WINDHOEK ELLANIE SMIT