



## Two more rhinos poached in Etosha

21 November 2014 | Environment

Another two poached rhino carcasses have been discovered in the Etosha National Park, following an intensified two-week operation to reduce the escalating poaching problem in Namibia. Police spokesperson Deputy Commissioner Edwin Kanguatjivi yesterday confirmed they are hot on the heels of the suspects and arrests are expected soon. The latest incidents bring the numbers of poached rhinos for the year to 20. This is double the number of rhino poaching incidents recorded between 2005 and the end of last year, when Namibia had lost fewer than 10 animals. The joint operation between the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the police - called Enya-ro-ongava (rhino horn) - started on November 6 and ended yesterday. Kanguatjivi said the operation was aimed at combating the escalating poaching incidents in Namibia. According to him, the operation

had focused on finding poached carcasses and searching for poachers in Palmwag and Etosha and the conservancies surrounding them. He said a report will be released next week, which is expected to shed more light on the number of poached carcasses that have been found during the operation. He said it will also highlight the successes and challenges which were involved in the operation. Ministry of Environment and Tourism spokesperson Romeo Muyunda confirmed that two rhino carcasses had been found in Etosha with their horns removed. The first carcass was found on November 12 and the other last Sunday. He said both animals were shot. They were found in the vicinity of Ombika. This brings the total of poached rhinos in Etosha this year to three. The first Etosha carcass was discovered at the end of last month with 10 gunshot wounds. Its horn had also been removed. Three further rhino carcasses were discovered in Palmwag Concession of the Anabeb Conservancy earlier this month during ministry dehorning exercise. Meanwhile, the Swapo Party Youth League (SPYL) has expressed concern over the increase in rhino poaching incidents in the country. The organisation said it condemns the senseless killing and poaching of rhinos and slammed Namibians who were being used by international syndicates. "Our wildlife must be allowed to live in peace and all the criminals that are doing this must be hunted down and dealt with by the law," the SPYL said in a statement. It said government should urgently create a specially-dedicated anti-poaching unit within the ministry that is adequately staffed with well-trained game wardens, rangers, and soldiers. WINDHOEK ELLANIE SMIT



(<https://d3rp5jat0m3eyn.cloudfront.net/asse>)