



## Tourism Ministry may also investigate SRT

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The Ministry of Environment and Tourism says although it does not have any hand in the internal investigation at the Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), it may launch its own probe into the matter. The Save the Rhino Trust confirmed this week that an internal investigation had been commissioned last year after several "concerns" were brought to their attention with regard to an alleged conspiracy between SRT members and poachers. The Kunene Region has been the hardest hit when it comes to rhino poaching in Namibia. The spokesperson for the ministry, Romeo Muyunda, confirmed that the ministry is aware of these allegations and the investigation by the SRT. The ministry has met with the SRT to find more about the allegations, he said. "This is an internal investigation by SRT as part of their institutional procedures and [the ministry] does not have any hand in the investigations. Should there be a need [the ministry] will commission its own investigation in the matter." Asked what would prompt the ministry to investigate the matter further, Muyunda said it would be done if the ministry is given reason to believe the allegations are true, based on a report received from SRT. The internal investigation started in July 2014 and is led by an external investigator - veteran game warden Tommy Hall. It is expected that the investigation will take several more weeks. SRT has said that should any evidence or suspected criminal activity be uncovered, the information would be provided to the Protected Resources Unit of the Namibian Police and appropriate internal action would also be taken.

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