



Elephant, rhino poaching continues unabated

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The escalation of rhino and elephant poaching in Namibia continues unabated, with yet another case reported at the weekend. This follows the discovery of an elephant carcass in a village located in the Bwabwata National Park in the Kavango East Region. The police have confirmed that the elephant was discovered by villagers at Mwitjiku, which is located west of the park. Police spokesperson Inspector Slogan Matheus said preliminary investigations indicate that the elephant was poached. The carcass was found with two gunshot wounds and two projectiles were retrieved from the elephant. No arrests have been made and police investigations continue. There has been an escalation in poaching cases in the last few months. Last month, an elephant was poached in Kavango, while the Ministry of Environment last week confirmed that its officials recently discovered five rhino carcasses in the Kunene Region. Another rhino poaching incident was reported in the Etosha National Park. Of the five rhino carcasses discovered in the Omatendeka area of Kunene during a dehorning exercise about two weeks ago, four had been poached. The rhinos were presumably shot last year already. Environment Ministry spokesperson Romeo Muyunda yesterday confirmed that the elephant that was shot and killed on Saturday at the farm Springboklaagte near Dordabis had been declared a problem animal. He said the ministry received reports that the elephant had caused major damage on several farms and a team was sent to assess the extent of the damage. The elephant was apparently heading for the Hosea Kutako International Airport, which posed a risk, said Muyunda. "The elephant was therefore declared a problem animal and destroyed," he said. The elephant had been dubbed the 'Kalahari Elephant' as it had travelled from the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in the past few months. WINDHOEK ELLANIE SMIT