



Rhino poaching skyrockets

20 April 2015 | Environment

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has announced that 31 rhino carcasses have been found since April 8. In a statement issued over the weekend, Permanent Secretary Simeon Negumbo said the illegal hunting of rhino in Namibia must be brought under control rapidly. Negumbo said an investigation was under way to determine the cause of the deaths, as some carcasses were old and still had their horns. He said the ministry intends to strengthen its efforts in order to ensure effective crime-prevention and investigation units that focus on poaching syndicates and organised crime. "We once again condemn such ill-intentioned activities of rhino and elephant poaching and call upon those involved to refrain from such activities with immediate effect or risk of being caught and face the full wrath of the law," he said. According to recent media reports, 116 elephant and 10 rhino had been poached in Namibia between 2012 and May last year. This prompted the ministry to start dehorning rhinos in an attempt to make them worthless to poachers. In March this year, New Era newspaper reported that the Erindi Private Game Reserve, which is home to about 20 000 wild animals, had dehorned all its rhinos to discourage poachers.

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