

Poaching an international concern – Shifeta

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Page no: 1



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ENVIRONMENT and tourism minister Pohamba Shifeta is concerned about the increasing poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife products.

He told visiting Interpol secretary general Jurgen Stock in Windhoek on Tuesday that Namibia could use more help and support from the international community to end the poaching and trafficking of wildlife products.

Stock was in the country on a familiarisation trip as part of his duties after having been appointed secretary general of Interpol in 2014. Shifeta showed Stock stockpiles of ivory and rhino horns worth millions of dollars which were collected over the years from legal and illegal sources.

“Poaching is not an African problem, but since Africa has most of the animals, the international community should also assist in combating this crime. There is a significant number of poaching cases for ivory and rhino horns, but with the support of Interpol, we will make it,” he said.

Shifeta told *The Namibian* later over the phone that the government will auction the ivory and rhino horns, and give the proceeds to the Game Products' Trust Fund which collects and disburses funds to wildlife conservancies.

Stock (56), also paid a courtesy call on vice president Nickey Iyambo and safety minister Charles Namoloh. He was accompanied by Namibian Police Inspector General Sebastian Ndeitunga.

The visitor expressed gratitude to the police for their support, and said Interpol will share information on crime prevention as well as how to deal with organised crime and cyber crime.