

Names disclosed of deceased Bwabwata poachers

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The names of two alleged poachers who died in a skirmish between them and police and Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) members within the Bwabwata National Park on Wednesday, were disclosed by the deputy inspector-general.

Major-general James Tjivikua said in a statement that preliminary information available identified them as Paolo Shimonomono and Paulo (surname still to be verified). Both are in their 40s.

A third suspect was wounded during the clash. He was found with an Angolan identity document and Namibian voter's card, which also leaves his real identity unconfirmed. He is currently in the Rundu State Hospital.

The alleged poachers were found in possession of an AK 47 assault rifle, 25 rounds of ammunition and a homemade silencer within the Bwabwata National Park and Buffalo Core area 21 kilometres east of Divundu.

"In an intense follow-up investigation, two more suspects were implicated on the same case and arrested," said Tjivikua.

These two Namibians, aged 34 and 32 years, will soon appear in court. Their identities are withheld until they appear in court soon.

A third suspect, whose identity is also known, is still on the run.

According to the statement, 24 elephants were lost in Bwabwata since September 2016.

Barely a week ago, another poacher was shot and killed by the APU in the same park. His accomplice fled the scene.

- Nampa