



## Multi-million fines for wildlife crimes

21 February 2017 | Local News

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism yesterday tabled a bill for an amendment to the Nature Conservation Ordinance to increase fines related to rhino and elephant poaching from the current N\$200 000 maximum penalty to a maximum penalty of N\$25 million.

The bill proposes a period of imprisonment for convicted poachers of rhino or elephant to be increased to a maximum of 25 years, up from 20 years.

These changes would mark a milestone for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, under the leadership of Pohamba Shifeta who has long campaigned for harsher penalties for anyone found guilty of illegal hunting of these protected and endangered species.

The bill includes an increase of fines related to all other specially protected species from the current maximum of N\$20 000 to N\$10 million and an imprisonment period of five to ten years.

Moreover, the amendments include a fine related to all protected species from the current maximum of N\$4 000 to N\$500 000 and an imprisonment period from four to five years.

The bill proposes fines related to illegal hunting of all other species from N\$2 000 to N\$500 000 and an imprisonment period of five years, up from two years.

Shifeta explained that the new fines were based on studies and comparisons with penalties in neighbouring countries.



(<https://d3rp5jatom3eyn.cloudfront.net/assets/million-fines-for-wildlife-crimes2017-02-210.jpg>)

JANA-MARI SMITH