

## Four caught poaching near Wilhelmstal

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**KARIBIB District Watch members arrested four suspects on Wednesday night for poaching an oryx in the Wilhelmstal area.**

An incident report from the Karibib District Watch stated that at around 21h00, gunshots were heard on a farm in the area suggesting the presence of poachers.

Three teams of the watch group's members were immediately dispatched, with the Karibib, Omaruru and Okahandja police called to assist, together with the Omaruru District Watch.

The suspects were intercepted on the road between Wilhelmstal and Okahandja, and arrested, while their vehicle was impounded by the police. One oryx carcass was recovered.

"As one big team, we can make a difference," the report said.

Police spokesperson Kauna Shikwambi yesterday confirmed the incident to The Namibian, stating that the suspects are expected to appear in the Okahandja Magistrate's Court today.

Drought conditions, combined with poverty, continue to tempt individuals and syndicates to steal livestock and poach wildlife, police inspector general Sebastian Ndeitunga told this newspaper recently.

Norbert Kuhne of the Karibib District Watch also said the hardest-hit areas in Erongo when it comes to poaching and stock theft was the district which covers Karibib, Otjimbingwe, Wilhelmstal and Usakos.

He said there is a need for more human and other resources like vehicles and communication devices to be deployed, and more support from courts with harsher sentences being meted out to ensure the problem is snuffed out.