

## Volunteers teach Chinese about wildlife conservation

News - National | 2018-05-08

by Okeri Ngutjinazo

Page no: 1



**A CHINESE non-governmental organisation, China House, has taken the initiative to launch a campaign that enhances wildlife conservation amongst the Chinese community.**

Zoe Huang, director of research and development at China House, said the campaign started on 23 April, and will focus on educating Chinese nationals about wildlife conservation and the consequences of poaching.

"For Chinese people, wildlife conservation is a bit far for them, and they do not know much about laws of wildlife conservation. So, what we are doing is to bring wildlife conservation to them, let them understand that buying illegal wildlife products will have serious consequences, and that we need to protect wildlife," she told *The Namibian* yesterday.

For the first time, Huang said, Chinese communities in Namibia have united to organise the campaign to educate Chinese communities about wildlife conservation, and to send a signal that most Chinese business community members are conscious about wildlife conservation, and are eager to create a positive image about the Chinese.

Huang said they have already visited four Chinese companies, and directly influenced 81 Chinese staff at those companies and indirectly influenced more than 650 Namibians on wildlife conservation.

The hour-and-a-half programme starts with the distribution of wildlife conservation brochures to the staff, followed by the showing of a wildlife conservation movie, before the audience is informed about Chinese and Namibian laws on wildlife conservation.

"People will share their experiences, participate in pledging that they will never buy illegal wildlife products, and that they will support wildlife conservation in Namibia," she explained.

The last educational programme will be held today at the China Harbour Engineering Company at Walvis Bay.

Other companies visited for the campaign include China Railway Seventh Group Corporation, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, China Jiangsu International Economic and Technical Cooperation Group, and the Zhongmei Engineering Group.

China House was founded in Nairobi, Kenya in 2014 by Huang Hongxiang to help Chinese nationals integrate into the African countries in which they worked.

"As the founder of China House, Hongxiang Huang is an illegal ivory trade investigator featured in the Netflix Oscar-shortlisted documentary 'The Ivory Game', and a leading expert on China-Africa relations," Huang said.

The ministry of tourism's spokesperson, Romeo Muyunda, told *The Namibian* yesterday that the ministry has also put measures in place to address poaching in the country.

“More resources have been allocated to fight poaching; while more government agencies including the judiciary, police and the defence force have come on board to support our efforts,” he said.

According to Muyunda, 35 rhino poaching cases were reported last year.

“It is sad that poaching is still viewed as the sole responsibility of the Namibian Police and the ministry, despite our continued efforts to encourage all Namibians to join our fight against poaching,” he added.