

## Namibia commended for efforts against fauna and flora trafficking

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**WINDHOEK - Namibia was commended for its efforts to address the challenges trafficking in wild fauna and flora pose to the country's natural resources and its social and economic development.**

In a media statement issued by the Anti-Corruption Commission on Friday, chief of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Jorge Eduardo Rios said Namibia has underlined the importance of being proactive in protecting its wild fauna and flora.

Rios made the remark during a five-day workshop on building the baseline of Namibia's preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife and forest crime in Windhoek, which started on Monday.

He emphasised the need to focus on continuing to build national capacity in investigation, prosecution and conviction, and the need to strengthen regional and international cooperation.

"The strong cooperation with UNODC, other development partners, as well as civil society organisations is key to strengthening Namibia's capacity to address wildlife and forest crimes," Bartholomeus de Klerk, deputy commissioner in the office of the Inspector General and national head of the Protected Resources Division, said during the workshop.

The chief control earden and head of the intelligence and investigation unit in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Theunis Petersen, stressed the importance of these efforts to safeguard the natural treasures of Namibia, with the support of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (ICWC) partners.

In the first part of the workshop, a reference guide for investigators and prosecutors with relevant legislation to assist public prosecutors and law-enforcement officers in creating a strong case file from the outset, was developed.

The second part of the workshop was a working session where participants completed the full ICWC indicator framework assessment, and were provided with the opportunity to discuss the findings of another workshop held in November 2018.

The workshops brought together 27 officers from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Agriculture,

Water and Forestry, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Namibian Police Force, the Financial Intelligence Centre, and the department of customs and excise. — Nampa.