



## Anti-poaching measures pay off

For the second week, statistics indicate that only one wildlife crime has been recorded per week.

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CONSPIRACY: A Namibian man was arrested on 8 April at Oisere in connection with an old case of conspiracy to hunt a rhino.  
PHOTO: FILE

ELLANIE SMIT

WINDHOEK

The tightening of anti-poaching security measures during the coronavirus state of emergency is paying off, with only one new wildlife crime case registered last week, while two suspects were arrested.

This is according to statistics provided by the intelligence and investigation unit within the environment ministry and the protected and resources unit within the safety and security ministry.

Two live tortoises were seized during this period.

According to the police, a Namibian man was arrested on 7 April at Usakos and charged for contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act. Jason Hamutenya was found in possession of two live tortoises. In another matter, a Namibian man was arrested on 8 April at Oisere in connection with an old case of conspiracy to hunt a rhino. The case dates back to last August. Matias Kaurikendkengererau was charged with contravening the Riotous Assemblies Act.

In the matter regarding the theft of 33 rhino horns from a farm in the Outjo District that occurred last April, three accused appeared in the Otjiwarongo Magistrate's Court last week for plea and trial.

Galius Ipinge, Nestor Ngula and Ipinge Dominikus appeared in court on 6 April and their case was postponed to 12 May. They were remanded in custody.

No compromise

This is the second week that the statics indicate that only one wildlife crime has been recorded per week.

Environment ministry spokesperson Romeo Muyunda recently assured that wildlife security would not be compromised during the lockdown period. He said anti-poaching activities would not be affected by the coronavirus state of emergency, but would be stepped up instead.

He said they knew criminals would try and take chances during this time, but added that the authorities are on full alert.