

Nine rhinos have been harvested so far in 2020 Two stuck with ammunition

06 April 2020 | [Crime](#)



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Nine rhinos have been stripped so far this year and one elephant has been mowed for its ivory.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Romeo Muyunda, the majority of these rhinos were stripped on private farms.

Two Namibian men allegedly trying to steal a rhino were arrested on Wednesday.

According to the weekly wildlife crime report of the Namibian Police's Unit for Protected Resources and the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism's Intelligence and Investigation Unit, the men were arrested in Oshakati.

One .303 shotgun and 38 of those shotgun cartridges, as well as four cartridges of a .30-06 shotgun and one cartridge of an R1 assault rifle were reportedly taken from the two.

They were charged with violating the Firearms Act, as well as conspiracy to hunt specially protected wildlife.

Only one felony case was brought during the week of March 23-29.

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In the Omaruru Magistrate's Court, a suspected rhino poacher, Mr. Yi Chen Yu, granted \$ 100 bail last Monday and his co-accused, Messrs. Absalom Fillimon, Nghiyelepo Edward and Paavo Nepembe were released on bail of N \$ 20,000 each.

They are facing a charge of illegally possessing two rhino horns and their case has been postponed until June 15 for a trial date.

Two suspected thieves of 33 rhino horns, Messrs. Petrus lipinge and Pendapala Herman were also granted bail of N \$ 30,000 each in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court in Katutura last Monday.

Their Namibian co-accused, Mr. Ludwig Nangolo and the Angolan citizen Mr. Fortunato Queta was denied bail.

They are accused of stealing the 33 rhino horns from a walk-in safe from a lodge owner's home on Outjo. The lodge owner stalked his rhinos and kept the horns in his safe.

The accused's case was postponed until June 4 for further investigation. ? - francoise@republikein.com.na