



## Seven arrested for wildlife crimes

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THREAT REMAINS: Seven suspects were arrested for wildlife crimes last week. PHOTO: FILE

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A total of seven Namibian suspects were arrested for wildlife crimes last week, with three new cases registered.

Five of the suspects were arrested for rhino poaching and/or trafficking cases.

During operations, two wildlife products were seized, five firearms were confiscated as well as 63 rounds of ammunition.

This is according to information provided by the intelligence and investigation unit in the environment ministry and the protected and resource division within the safety and security ministry.

Weapons, ammunition

On 14 April, Michael Aukongo was arrested in Wanaheda for being in possession of three hunting rifles and four rounds of ammunition.

He was charged for contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act. Petrus Ekanga Tangeni was arrested at Oshivelo on 14 April in connection with an old case dating back to March for conspiring to hunt a rhino and theft of rhino horns.

On 19 April, Ludwig Angula Kempkes was arrested in connection with the same case at Oshivelo.

They were both charged with contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act, the Nature Conservation Ordinance and the Riotous Assemblies Act, as well as for conspiring to hunt a rhino and the theft of rhino horns.

They were also charged with contravening the Prevention of Organised Crime Act. A hunting rifle and eight rounds of ammunition were confiscated.

Spotted genet skins

Munango Johannes Muhoko was arrested at Rundu for being in the possession of two spotted genet skins on 15 April. He was charged for contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act.

On 18 April, Simon Elia was arrested at Eenhana for conspiring to hunt a rhino. The following day, three more suspects were arrested. They are Petrus Ekanga Tangeni, Simson Kandume and Salom Josua.

They were all charged with contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act and the Riotous Assemblies Act, as well as conspiring to hunting a rhino. One hunting rifle, 20 rounds of ammunition for a .303 rifle, 30 rounds of ammunition for an AK47 as well as one bullet for a R1 were confiscated.