

112 porcupine skins seized

14 May 2020 | Crime

Four suspects believed to be part of a rhino poaching gang were granted N\$5 000 bail each last week.

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SEIZED: More than 100 porcupine skins were confiscated last week. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

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Three suspects were arrested last week for wildlife crimes in two separate cases.

Two of the suspects were arrested in connection with elephant poaching and/or trafficking cases.

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

During operations, police also seized one firearm and four rounds of ammunition.

Elephant tusks, porcupine skins

At Rundu, two Angolan nationals were arrested on 7 May for being in possession of six elephant tusks, a kudu skin and 112 porcupine skins.

Daniel and Jobe Kambinda were charged with contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act.

In a separate incident at Menias, Brian Mangimba was arrested on 8 May for contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act. He was allegedly found in possession of a shotgun and ammunition.

His nationality has not been confirmed.

Poaching gang

Meanwhile, four suspects believed to be part of a rhino poaching gang were granted N\$5 000 bail each on 6 May.

The case dates back to 2018.

Aldrian Masule Musisanyani, Mishake Lemmy Muhinda, Liebelo Eric Manja and Dominic Mitanimiyi Shando appeared in the Outjo Magistrate's Court.

The matter was postponed for further investigation to 19 August.

In September 2018, Manja and Musisanyani were arrested at a roadblock at Divundu after they were allegedly found in possession of three pieces of rhino horn taken from a freshly killed animal, as well as an illegal firearm.

Muhinda was also implicated in the matter. The rhino horn pieces were taken from the same animal.

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