

International Biodiversity Day commemorated tomorrow

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International Biodiversity Day is commemorated annually on May 22, according to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD).

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Romeo Muyunda, there will be no special, official function to celebrate that day due to the Covid 19 pandemic this year.

"The Covid pandemic has serious consequences for Namibia's tourism and conservation sector and the country's economy. The tourism sector relies heavily on international tourists enjoying Namibia's scenery," said Muyunda.

"About 70% of Namibians are dependent on biodiversity and natural resources."

This year's theme is "Our solution are in Nature" and according to Muyunda, Namibians and the global community are encouraged to look for solutions to the pandemic during the crisis.

"Local and international researchers are encouraged to look for a cure for the virus within our biodiversity," he said.

Muyunda calls on Namibians to refrain from condemning unsustainable practices such as poaching and condemning it.

"Poaching, especially of rhinos and elephants, is one of the biggest threats to our biodiversity and the illegal harvesting of wood threatens our forest ecosystems."

Other challenges are littering, pollution, destruction of habitat by, among other things, sand mines, desertification due to climate change, land degradation due to unsustainable land use and the unsustainable use of natural resources.

"Namibia continuously creates new policies and improves existing policies to ensure a positive impact on the economy, society and the environment," says Muyunda.