

29 May 2020 | [Local](#)

Poachers kill two rhinos near Gobabis



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Windhoek (sb) - Eight suspects were arrested this week as part of an investigation into a rhino poaching case. The accused are accused of unlawful hunting of protected wild animals, illegal trade in nasal horns and violations of the weapons law. Four of the suspects were brought before the judge in Otjiwarongo yesterday and, according to the Environment Ministry, remain in custody for the time being. Two more suspects are due to appear in Gobabis and Windhoek in the magistrate's court today. Due to ongoing investigations, the authorities expressed a wish not to publish the names of the suspects for the time being.

On May 26, an employee found the carcasses of two black rhinos on a farm near Gobabis, officials said. Both animals were killed and dehorned illegally. The Ministry of the Environment assumes that the animals were shot with a rifle. Further investigations had led the investigators to Otjiwarongo, where two rhinoceros horns were seized on the same day as part of a coordinated operation. The four suspects are said to have tried to sell the undercover to a covert investigator. According to the authorities, a police officer from the NamPol Department for Personal Protection (VIPP) is also among those arrested in Windhoek.

According to the Ministry of the Environment, further investigations led to an apartment in the Kleine Kuppe district of Windhoek, where two other horns, a hunting rifle and ammunition were confiscated. The house is said to belong to a well-known, self-proclaimed prophet. This was arrested together with three other suspects. According to the authorities, the two cases of confiscated nasal horns in Otjiwarongo and Windhoek are directly linked to the poached rhinos on the farm near Gobabis.

At the beginning of the year, the government made the fight against poaching a high priority. In this context, the authorities warn poachers that the illegal hunt for rhinos and elephants can be punished with up to 25 million Namibia dollars or 25 years in prison (AZ reported).

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