



10 arrested for wildlife crimes

Seven of the suspects were arrested for elephant poaching or ivory smuggling.

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CLAMPDOWN: Four elephant tusks and six tusk pieces were confiscated last week. PHOTO: FILE

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Ten suspects were arrested recently in connection with wildlife crimes and four new cases have been registered.

Seven of the suspects were arrested for elephant poaching or trafficking cases, while another suspect was arrested in connection with a rhino poaching case.

A total of 11 illegal wildlife products were seized during these arrests.

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

Elephant tusks

In Windhoek, two Namibian men were arrested on 16 July for being in possession of six elephant tusk pieces. Their vehicle was also confiscated. Johannes Angula Hosea and Petrus Kondjeni were charged with contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act.

On 17 July, Sackeus Erastus was arrested in connection with two old cases. The first was opened at Wanaheda and dates back to May 2018, for which Erastus was charged for contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act. In the second case, opened at Omaruru in February, Erastus was charged for contravening the Nature Conservation Ordinance and illegally hunting a rhino.

At Opuwo, another Namibian man was arrested on 17 July for illegally being in the possession of an elephant tusk. Muzadomure Rutjindo was charged with contravening the Controlled Wildlife and Products Trade Act and contravening the Nature Conservation Ordinance.

Four Namibians were also arrested on the same day at Outjo for being in the possession of three elephant tusks. Two hunting rifles and a vehicle were confiscated during their arrest.

Ngongo Tjiharuka, Iprencia Araes, Wesley Howab and Kambititi Tjiharuka were charged for contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act.

Pangolin skin

In a separate case at Omaruru, two Namibian men were arrested on 18 July for being in possession of a pangolin skin. Steven Ganseb and Lukas Tonateni were charged for contravening the Controlled Wildlife and Products Act.

Three people were also found guilty in wildlife crime cases that were finalised last week in Rundu, Otavi and Nkurenkuru.