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Great contribution to the fight against poaching



The managing director of Standard Bank, Vetumbuavi Mungunda (left) hands over the off-road vehicle to Environment Minister Pohamba Shifeta (right)



The anti-poaching dog unit consisting of Alex, Benno, Baron and Nora and their carers pose with the Environment Minister Pohamba Shifeta (center) Photos: Claudia Reiter

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Windhoek (sb / cr) - The Standard Bank has donated an all-terrain vehicle worth 840000 Namibia dollars to the Ministry of the Environment, which is intended for use by the anti-poaching dog unit in the fight against organized environmental crimes. Minister of the Environment, Pohamba Shifeta, took the Toyota Land Cruiser's bowl, which was specially tailored to the needs of the unit, yesterday in Windhoek and handed it over to the dog handlers. "According to a advice that was given to me, we should stand up for nature and leave it in an even better condition for the next generation," said the managing director of Standard Bank, Vetumbuavi Mungunda, the donation.

In addition, organizations such as SWAVET, MDS Animal Health and the Rhino Park private hospital have donated products for the care of the dog season, such as medicines for the animals and first aid kits for their carers. "We believe that these dogs do a very special job in protecting our wildlife. Therefore, they should stay healthy and be able to work every day," said Christiane Hass, Managing Director of Hills & MSD Animal Health.

The relay consisted of five dogs and their carers who were trained at the police training center on Waterberg, as the minister explained. One of the dogs, which has already been trained at a higher level, is already in use in the Etosha National Park, the remaining animals are to follow soon. According to the environment minister, the dogs are trained to search buildings, vehicles, luggage and open spaces for firearms, ammunition and illegal game products such as ivory, nasal horns, pangolin scales and poached meat products. They are also able to absorb and follow human weather. "Since their first use in 2017, the dogs have been successful in 52 cases nationwide," said Shifeta.

According to the Environment Minister, poaching and arrest cases have decreased. "Compared to 46 rhinos and 175 arrests in 2019, only 17 rhinos have been poached this year, and 89 people have been arrested in this regard." The number of poached elephants has also decreased from 13 last year to two this year. "Three live pangolins were confiscated and 53 suspects arrested this year. Last year there were 49 pangolins and 160 arrests," said the minister.

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