

Namibia second best in wildlife conservation

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Françoise Steynberg - Namibia was named the second best country in wildlife conservation on the Megafauna Conservation Index (MCI).

Neighboring Botswana was crowned the winner from 152 countries.

The other countries in the top ten are Tanzania, Bhutan, Zimbabwe, Norway, Central African Republic, Canada, Zambia and Rwanda.

The criteria for a conservation land consist of three elements: the amount of land occupied by megafauna in a country, the percentage of megafauna habitat that is under protection, and the percentage of gross domestic product that is used to fund local and international conservation efforts. applied.

The study was conducted by Oxford University's Game Conservation Research Unit in collaboration with Panthera.

Out of the 152 countries surveyed, the countries that are highest in the rankings of developing countries with only Norway and Canada as developed countries are in the top ten.

The study found that Africa reigns supreme as the best performers. Africa is ranked in the rankings by North America, Asia, Europe and South America.

"Namibia is one of the few countries in the world that is serious about wildlife conservation and is the first country in Africa to include nature conservation in the Constitution," are the hymns sung to Namibia.

"Communal conservation areas have been created that give communities the power to manage their natural resources. It has borne fruit with populations of cheetahs, lions, zebras and black rhinos recovering."

Researchers say some countries simply get it right: "They understand that we do not own the world we live in and that we share the planet with other people."

The countries with the lowest MCI rankings are Iraq, Oman, Liechtenstein, Uruguay, Yemen, Qatar, Libya, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and San Marino. - francoise@republikein.com.na