

Rhino poachers' remain in custody 89 ietermagôskubfi confiscated

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Francoise Steynberg - Four suspected rhino poachers remain in custody after they allegedly poached a white rhino bull and injured a white rhino cow in the Grootfontein district.

Mr. Dave Uatenguainja Ngumbi (35) of Opuwo and the 40-year-old Mr. Ngange Hengua Kaipi from Windhoek was arrested last Wednesday and two Grootfonteiners, Messrs. Alfred Katupao Rukee (49) and Lucas Katupao Hidinwa (38), were arrested at Grootfontein last Friday.

According to the game crime report, the rhino poaching allegedly took place between 22 July and 15 August on a farm in the Grootfontein district in the Otjozondjupa region.

The accused apparently removed the horns from the rhino and tried to sell them.

A silver Nissan Qashqai with registration number N 8284 G was seized.

The four appeared in the Grootfontein Magistrate's Court on Monday on five charges, namely the illegal hunting of a rhino, the removal of the rhino's horns, the trade in rhino horns, a conspiracy to poach a rhino, as well as the offense of the Organized Crime Prevention Act (Poca).

During the court proceedings, all four indicated that they were going to defend themselves.

The case was adjourned until November 24 for further police investigation.

BIG FOUND ON RUNDU

According to the weekly wildlife crime report from 17 to 23 August by the Namibian Police and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, a total of 13 suspects were arrested and seven new cases were filed.

Several game products were seized with 89 ieternagô scales believed to be in the possession of mr. Asser Kaundu Hausiku was found on Rundu.

A diving carcass was also last Tuesday at Rundu with mr. Tcice Gcaghu found.

Two leopard skins were seized on Rundu last Thursday, which were allegedly in the possession of Mr. Willem Sindimba was found.

On Katima Mulilo are two Zambians, Messrs. Mwiya Lubonaa and Mubita Nakweti, and the Angolan citizen, Mr. Feley Lister Mateu, last Tuesday apparently caught with a warthog carcass and the skin and moon hair of a zebra. They are also charged with violating immigration law.

Another Angolan, mr. Mubita Nakweti, and a Namibian, mr. Moses Zakaria, was apparently arrested with two lizards on Tuesday at Omuthiya.

In the capital, Mr. Joseph Erasmus is believed to have been caught with a gemsbok carcass.

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