



19 charged with wildlife crime

September 15, 2020 | [Crime](#)



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Francoise Steynberg - A total of 19 suspected wildlife criminals were arrested and charged last week.

According to the Wildlife Crime Report of 7 to 13 September of the Namibian Police and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, five new cases have been lodged.

Several game products, one vehicle and 28 ammunition were seized.

Four suspects have been arrested in connection with rhino poaching or attempted robbery.

Three men who allegedly wanted to poach a rhino in Etosha National Park remain in custody after appearing in the Outjo Magistrate's Court on Monday.

An Angolan citizen, Mr. Joaqui Markulinus, and two Namibians, Messrs. Pentecosta Ruhozu and Ebson Kahuure Karipindikirue, appeared on charges of the illegal hunting and conspiracy of the illegal hunting of specially protected game (a rhino), as well as the illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition and obstruction of justice.

They were captured on Thursday between Kamanjab and the farm Marinhohe by Kamanjab's Protected Resources Unit (PRU), the head of the Blue Rhino task force, comm. Barry de Klerk, said.

"It is alleged that the accused were dropped off to poach a rhino in the Etosha National Park. The police received a tip and responded quickly," reads Nampol's weekly crime report.

"The three were arrested with a .458 hunting rifle and 11 cartridges of the same caliber in their possession."

The case of the accused has been postponed until October 26 for further investigation, as well as for them to obtain legal aid.

Mr. Elifas Mwashindandje Mashuna was arrested last Monday in connection with an old rhino poaching case that took place at Omitara in August last year.

In an old elephant poaching case of 2018, an accused who was released on bail, Mr. Paulus Hamutenya, failed to appear in court in Rundu last Wednesday. A warrant for his arrest was therefore issued against him.

At Oshifo is another Angolan, Mr. Nalimanguluke Kalimbo, and Namibians, Messrs. Tyitokota Kalekela, Sam Mulilo and John Mulele, were arrested last Wednesday with four ietermagôvelle and a musketeer cat skin.

A Zambian citizen, Mr. Nyambe Kanyebu, and a Namibian man, Mr. Tubakwa Matota, was allegedly arrested by Katima Mulilo last Monday with a warthog carcass in their possession.

At Ndiyona, Mr. Murauli Leonard Hamutenya and Mungamba Venantius were also allegedly caught with an elk carcass last Monday.

Seven Namibian men, Mr. Frans Fesh Shigwedha, Teofelus Amadhila, Wilbard Hendrik, Johannes Jacobus, Adolf Imalwa, Andreas Jacobus and Levi Levi, were apparently arrested last Friday with a ibex carcass in their possession at Onaanda.

A vehicle, a shotgun and 17 cartridges were seized.

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