

17 September 2020 | [Nature & Environment](#)

So far 22 rhinos, two elephants poached



An elephant stands under a tree in the Ugab River in western Namibia. This year a total of 22 rhinos and two elephants were poached. Photo: Erwin Leuschner

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Swakopmund / Windhoek (er) - 22 rhinos and two elephants were killed by poachers in Namibia this year. That is less than in the previous two years, said Romeo Muyunda, press spokesman in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, now.

"While our rhino population is still healthy, we may eventually run out of rhinos if they continue to be poached," said Muyunda. According to him, a total of 46 rhinos and 13 elephants were poached in 2019, compared to 78 rhinos and 27 elephants in 2018. For safety reasons, he did not state the current number of rhinos in Namibia, but the number of pachyderms is estimated at more than 24,000 animals.

"We must acknowledge the work of our anti-poaching unit arresting suspects in connection with rhino poaching. The staff in our national parks who increase safety also deserve praise," he said. Thanks to these initiatives, the number of poaching cases has decreased significantly from year to year. "But more needs to be done. It is up to all of us to rid the country of this evil," he continued.

Meanwhile, according to the latest wildlife crime report, a total of 19 people were arrested between September 7th and 13th for allegedly illegally possessing wildlife products. The people are said to have been in possession of eland, warthog and ibex carcasses as well as pangolin scales in various cases.

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