



14 caught for wildlife crimes

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SEIZED: Hippo teeth were among the illegal wildlife products confiscated. Photo: NWR

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Fourteen suspects have been arrested in connection with wildlife crimes and seven new cases have been registered.

Three of the suspects were arrested in connection with rhino poaching or trafficking.

According to the information provided by the intelligence and investigation unit within the environment and tourism ministry and the protected resources unit within the safety and security ministry, 11 illegal wildlife products were seized.

In the Zambezi Region at the Menias Brian Libuto police station two Zambian nationals were arrested on 27 September for being in possession of a live pangolin.

Milupi Gideon Mwakamwi and Inyambo Emmanuel Mwiya were both charged with contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act and the Immigration Control Act.

At Kamanjab, a Namibian was arrested on 28 September for being in possession of a python skin. Josef Karunga was charged with contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act.

Rhino conspiracy

Two Namibians and an Angolan were arrested at Grootfontein for allegedly conspiring to hunt a rhino. The case dates back to August this year.

Kaventji Ngandi, a Namibian, was arrested on 28 September, while Kahama Ngumbi was arrested the following day. The Angolan, Vintilinu Makopi was arrested on 30 September. They were all charged with contravening the Riotous Assemblies Act and the Nature Conservation Ordinance. Another Angolan, Agustu Nankwaya, was arrested at Onaanda in the Omusati Region on 29 September for wounding a lion. He was charged with contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act and the Nature Conservation Act. A hunting rifle found in his possession was confiscated.

Lion shooting

In a separate incident also at Onaanda a Namibian, Eino Silvanus, was arrested on 29 September and a hunting rifle and ammunition was confiscated from him. He was charged for contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act and the Nature Conservation Ordinance.

At Rundu, another Namibian, Rupare Tjindumba, was arrested on 30 September for being in possession of a pangolin skin and five hippo teeth. He was charged with contravening the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act.

A Namibian, Pekaha Vetumunaije, was rearrested on 1 October at Oshivelo after he failed to appear before court after being released on bail in connection with three rhino poaching cases dating back to September 2018. He was charged with contravening the Riotous Assemblies Act and the Arms and Ammunition Act.

At Katima Mulilo, two Zambians were arrested on 3 October for being in possession of a duiker carcass. Mukiti Kukiti and Milelo Milelo were charged with contravening the Nature Conservation Ordinance and the Immigration Control Act.

In another incident three Namibians were arrested at Mururani for being in possession of a steenbok carcass, while a hunting rifle and one vehicle were confiscated from them.

Mathew Mwetudahana, Shiikwa Israel and Shihinga Paulus were charged with contravening the nature Conservation Ordinance.