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Poachers caught at Karibib

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by [Adam Hartman](#)

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STOLEN ... A bakkie-load of dried meat from eight oryx illegally hunted on a farm at Karibib.

FIVE men, of which three escaped, were caught by the police and anti-poaching units at Karibib in connection with poaching on Friday.

Butzi Kühne, of Kühne Security and Anti-Poaching Unit, says anti-poaching units in the area last week received information about suspected poachers being dropped off near Wilhelmstal.

During the course of last week, trackers were sent to the area to investigate.

"We found the tracks of the vehicle that dropped them off, and found two places where they camped for a night or two. Farm owners were informed to be vigilant and to be on the lookout for any suspicious persons or activities," Kühne says.

On Friday evening the five men were spotted at a makeshift camp on a farm and were captured.

Three of the suspects managed to escape, and couldn't be tracked due to poor visibility.

Investigations are ongoing, Kühne says.

Upon further investigation, eight slaughtered oryx (valued at about N\$32 000) were discovered and removed, as well as 58 traps and snares, which two of the suspects pointed out.

"At their camp, we found more traps they were making. A total of 82 traps and snares were discovered," he says.

A case of eight stolen head of cattle is ongoing. Three of these animals have been slaughtered, one recovered and four are still missing.

Other recent stocktheft cases include that of 25 stolen goats, of which none have been recovered; 20 stolen sheep, of which 15 have been recovered; and three have been found slaughtered with two still missing, and five head of cattle – all slaughtered.

All of these crimes took place in a radius of approximately 80 km around Karibib.

In 2020 one farm recorded over 50 cases of oryx poached on that farm alone.

The Karibib district is one of the hardest hit areas in Namibia in terms of poaching.

Two weeks ago, dozens of crude snares were also discovered and removed from a farm in the area.