

03 December 2020 |

## Poaching is out of control

### Poachers on Farm Clausthal slaughtered eight oryx antelopes

Poaching and cattle theft in the Karibib area is spiraling out of control. Thanks to a large-scale operation by a private anti-poaching unit, four suspected poachers who had hunted eight oryx have now been caught. Two men were caught in the act.



Thanks to a large-scale operation, several suspected poachers who are said to have slaughtered at least eight oryx antelopes in the vicinity of Karibib have now been caught. Photos: K-SAPU APU



The poachers hung the meat of the slaughtered oryx to dry at their camp. Photo: K-SAPU APU

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By Erwin Leuschner, Swakopmund / Karibib The

anti-poaching unit K-SAPU APU (Kühne Security and Anti Poaching Unit) has been in constant use for more than three months. "Poaching and cattle theft are out of control. We are now being reported to 50 percent more cases than four months ago," said Butzi Kühne from K-SAPU APU yesterday in an interview with AZ.

According to him, between two and seven cattle are stolen and slaughtered from farms in the vicinity of Wilhelmstal, Karibib and Usakos every week. But the poaching of wild animals has also increased significantly. "In the past seven days alone, we've investigated a case of eight stolen cattle. Other cases were also reported. 25 goats were stolen in one case and 20 sheep in another," he said. His unit investigated the cases and found some of the stolen cattle. All cases occurred within a radius of around 80 kilometers around Karibib, but the Wilhelmstal farm has also been particularly hard hit: more than 50 oryx antelopes were hunted there this year alone.

Thanks to a large-scale operation by K-SAPU APU, four alleged poachers have now been caught. "Unfortunately, we did not catch two defendants in the act and later arrested them, although we are very sure that they were involved. You will definitely be released again," said Kühne. The other two defendants were caught red-handed and will remain in custody until their next trial on December 8th.

According to Kühne, there were a total of five men who slaughtered eight oryx antelopes on the Clausthal farm (Khan River Lodge). "We called in reinforcements from several farmers and struck last Saturday at 3 o'clock in the morning. A total of 31 people helped us," said Kühne. The perpetrators had set up a camp on the farm, where they built wire snares and tin traps and slaughtered the eight oryx antelopes. "When we struck, we were able to provide

two men. The other three escaped on foot, "he said. And: "Unfortunately, we couldn't follow them in the evening because of poor visibility."

Kühne put the value of the oryx antelopes at a total of 32,000 Namibia dollars. During the mission he discovered and secured a total of 82 wire loops and metal traps. "Farmers need to be careful and vigilant and report any signs of suspicious activity immediately," he said, adding, "Things are getting out of hand."