

Write a letter to the editor

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Cruel snares - absent farmers encourage poaching



Often the animals die cruelly in the traps. Photo: Kai-Uwe Denker





On the Ameib farm, four armed rangers protect the game from poachers. Nevertheless, animals perish in numerous snares. Photo: Katharina Moser

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Ameib / Windhoek (km) - Farms in Namibia are repeatedly affected by heavy poaching. The farms whose neighboring farms are inhabited by non-Namibians who live abroad most of the time, suffer most from the heap of killings. This fact is systematically exploited by poachers to cross farm boundaries and escape criminal prosecution. An example of this situation is the Ameib guest farm owned by Hagen Denker.

Since 2015, the Denker family has arrested 26 poachers and handed them over to the police. Two of them were related to rhino poaching and three to snare. Most of them, however, poach dogs at night to catch the animals and then kill them with spears. "It is very difficult to catch the snare plate in the act. We try to remove the snares before game gets in," says Kai-Uwe Denker. According to this, the Ameib farm loses around 15 head of game every year, around two thirds of them oryx and one third of mountain zebras. "This is because the oryx can be easily caught with dogs and run very distinctly on the deer tracks on which the snares are set." The latter also applies to mountain zebras, which, however, cannot be caught by dogs. Other game is less affected; two giraffes, a rhinoceros, a kudu and a springbok have been lost in these years. "We can only curb poaching through the daily work of game rangers, otherwise we would be poached just as empty as our neighboring farms," says Denker. Ameib has employed four game rangers. Poachers enter the farm especially during the full moon phase, but often they can only be proven that they have entered the farm illegally, but not the poaching itself. Therefore, judicial convictions that are reasonable in terms of punishment are very rare, according to Denker logistical and financial effort. otherwise we would be poached just as empty as our neighboring farms," says Denker. Ameib has employed four game rangers. Poachers enter the farm especially during the full moon phase, but often they can only be proven that they have entered the farm

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