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Suspected poachers caught



Three suspected rhino poachers were arrested with a gun on Saturday with the help of farmers and the K9 anti-poaching unit after the carcass of a pregnant white rhino cow was discovered on Friday at a lodge in Gobabis district. Photo: private

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Windhoek (cr) - Three suspected rhinoceros poachers were arrested with a gun on Saturday with the help of farmers and the K9 anti-poaching unit after the carcass of a pregnant white rhinoceros was discovered on Friday at a lodge in the Gobabis district.

According to the head of the "Blue Rhino Task Force", Barry de Klerk, other suspects who are said to have the nasal horn of the cow with them are on the run. "Three suspects were arrested Saturday by police and a private anti-poaching unit at a roadblock outside Gobabis. Those with the horns in their possession are still at large," De Klerk told sister newspaper Republikein on Sunday.

The rhinoceros carcass was apparently discovered by a hunter on Friday and the manager of the lodge was informed, who in turn asked the police for help. He confirmed that this was the first case of rhino poaching at the lodge in question. However, for security reasons, the name of the lodge will not be published.

According to Rickus Spangenberg from the anti-poaching unit K9, he and his partner, five dog handlers and their dogs as well as an officer from the Ministry of the Environment followed the tracks from Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon to an informal settlement in Gobabis, where the suspects were picked up by vehicles. "The police were alerted and set up a roadblock outside of Gobabis, where the three suspects were arrested with a gun and bloody clothes and shoes," said Spangenberg.

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