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Informanté

Big reward offered for the arrest of poachers

Niël Terblanché

THE brutal slaughter of two rhinos on Farm Ghaub in the area of Tsumeb in the past week not only left a huge void in the hearts and lives of their minders but also sabotaged job opportunities for people in the tourism industry of Namibia.

The owners of Farm Ghaub decided to offer a reward of N\$50 000 for information that would lead to the arrest and successful prosecution of the people responsible for the slaughter of Zanna and another rhino cow.

Martin Rust, who helped to raise Zanna since she was a calf, said the award will not only be paid for information about the perpetrators of the crime but also to find out if the horn that the poachers hacked out of her skull, is still in Namibia.

"It is important for us to know if the horn can be found locally or if it has already been smuggled out of the country," Rust said.



PICTURED: Young Zanna and Sheep shortly after she was rescued from certain death in the bush seven years ago. – Zanna during her feeding time which had to be done every four hours for 18 months. – The last picture that was taken of Zanna and her calf just a few days prior to Sunday night's poaching incident on Farm Ghaub. The calf is still missing and if found she will also be called Zanna – Photos: Courtesy of Martin Rust.

The owners of Farm Ghaub raised Zanna by hand in a specially created wildlife sanctuary since she was three months old. They found the rhino calf next to her mother in the bush seven years ago.

The older Zanna died when she got stuck in thick mud after a cloudburst occurred over the wildlife sanctuary.

The family raised the little rescued rhino with a sheep they bought on the same day that they found her in the bush.

The baby rhino was also named Zanna and after raising and feeding her, and eventually reintroducing her to the wild she was killed along with another older cow last Sunday night.

Zanna's little calf has been missing since her mother was slaughtered by the poachers and the family has been searching for her non-stop.

Rust said poaching has devastating consequences because it dramatically reduces the number of animals still in the wild which could lead to the complete extinction of certain species.

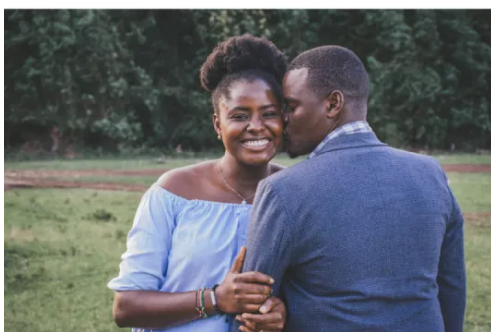
He said poaching also causes the size of protected areas to be reduced because the control of larger protected areas is extremely difficult or even impossible.

"If people reduce the size of protected areas it not only sabotages the economy but it also reduces the number of job opportunities in especially the tourism industry," he said.

He said every incident of poaching causes negative publicity for Namibia which again has a definitive negative knock-on effect on revenue that can be derived from tourism.

Rust said that they are hoping to still find the little rhino calf alive and that the poachers will be brought to book soon.

He requested any person that might have information about the slaughter of the rhino cows on Farm Ghaub or the poachers is requested to contact Detective Chief Inspector Felix Ndikoma at 081 607 5641, Detective Chief Inspector Hendrik Kharugab at 081 260 9153, or Detective Sergeant Willibaard at 085 315 2500, or the nearest Police Station.



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