

Rhino calf found dead after weeks of searching

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THE search for the missing rhino calf at the Ghaub Nature Reserve ended sadly when the baby's carcass was discovered in the bush.

The Director One Namibia, the Ghaub Nature Reserve, and Farm Ghaub, Joachim Rust said their hope to find the calf of Zanna, a rhino cow that was killed by poachers on the farm about three weeks ago, alive never wavered.

According to Rust, the calf was wounded in her hind leg and as result died a slow and painful death.

"When we found her we discovered that the calf had a gunshot wound in its left hind leg. We used helicopters, drones, and search teams but in the end, it came to an extremely sad end," he said.

The search for the calf started immediately after it was discovered that its mother Zanna were killed and maimed for her horns.



PICTURED: A festering gunshot wound in the stomach area of a young rhino bull on the Ghaub Nature Reserve.

Poachers entered the farm about three weeks ago and this is the result of their cruel and indiscriminate shooting. –

Photo: Courtesy of One Namibia

"The next day we found a second cow that had been shot in the stomach. The second cow was still able to walk for another five kilometres before she also died a painful death," he said.

Rust expressed the hope that the cruel and senseless crime will not go unpunished.

In this regard, One Namibia offered a reward of N\$50 000 for information that would lead to the successful prosecution of the poachers.

"We have since discovered that a young bull has also been shot. The wound is festering but veterinarians do not want to dart and operate on the bull at the moment," he said adding that it would be too dangerous and would throw the other rhinos on the farm completely off balance.

Rust said that the calf of the second cow that was killed along with Zanna has since joined a group of other rhinos and she is doing well.



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