

# Republikein

*Jou land. Jou taal. Jou koerant.*

## **Poachers with seven elephant tusks arrested** No end in sight, say anti-poaching units

23 July 2021 | [Crime](#)





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Elvira Hattingh - Two people were caught on Katima Mulilo and Kahenge with a total of seven elephant tusks in their possession, while two more people were caught trying to dispose of python skins and crocodile skins respectively.

According to the latest wildlife crime report, ten people were arrested in Namibia between 6 and 17 July in connection with eight cases of poaching, or because they were in possession of game products of protected game.

Further, suspected poachers were caught after hunting two warthogs, a gemsbok and an impala on Outjo and Sangwali, respectively, while a live eating mago was found in a suspected poacher on Hochfeld's property.

This follows after four suspects were arrested last Monday when they were caught with four rhino horns in a minibus. They were on their way to Opuwo, from Kamanjab on the Werda road.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Romeo Muyunda, confirmed the case, adding Namibia is stepping up its fight against poaching and other wildlife crimes "to the point where an arrest has been made for every rhino poaching case".

#### AGAINST UNITS

Meanwhile, several private poaching units told Republican they could not keep up with the arrest of poachers and livestock poachers.

Windhoek K9 Academy's mr. Rickus Spangenberg says wildlife crime has increased drastically in recent months and the setting of wire traps, for hunting with dogs or off the road with a silencer on guns, is the order of the day.

He does not foresee an end to farm theft any time soon, especially not with Covid-19 restrictions that leave more and more people unemployed and hungry.

Another of the country's largest anti-poaching units, Nyime,'s Mr. Stephen Weyand says they have also recently seen an increase in crime on farms, especially when it comes to setting traps and poaching game and livestock.

He says that especially in places where anti-poaching units operate, crime is under control.

The CEO of Intelligence Support Against Poaching (Isap), Mr. Fritz Kaufmann says the whole country is currently under pressure when it comes to crimes on farms, especially the Otjozondjupa region where "many things are going on".

Kaufmann agrees vigilance and vigilance are the best defenses against crime. "Landowners, pay attention to strange cars driving around, take their registration marks. Let your neighbors know if you notice strange vehicles," he says.

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