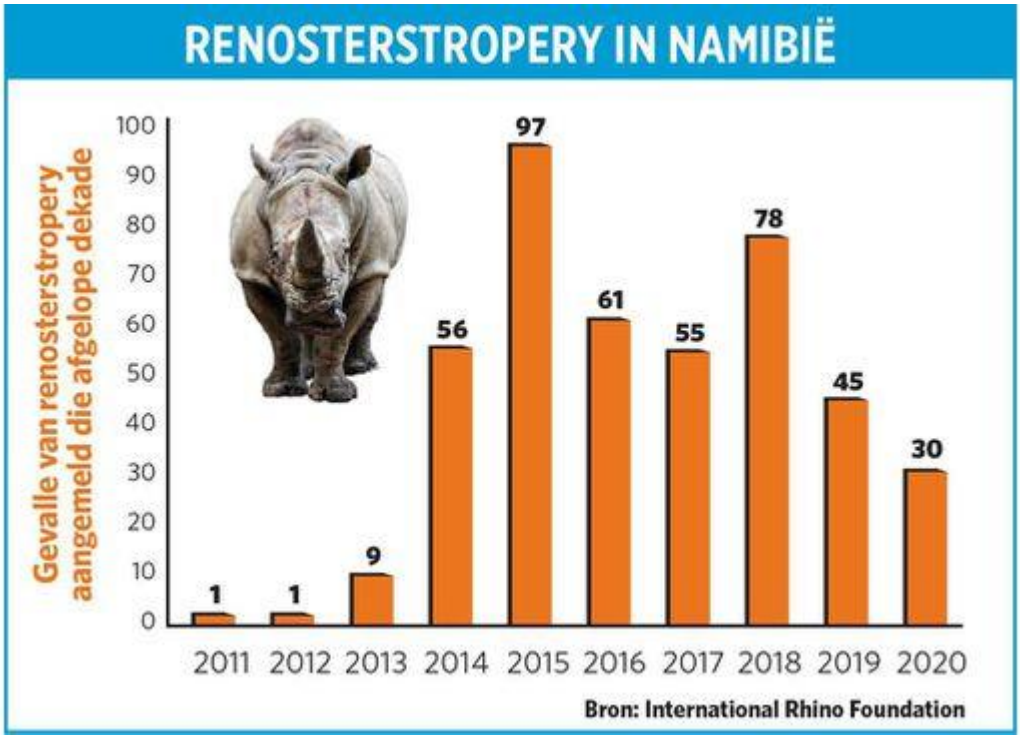
Republikein
Jou land. Jou taal. Jou koerant.

Namibia is doing well with rhino conservation

Poaching remains a threat

28 September 2021 | Environment



1.

2.

0 0 0

Katharina Moser - The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has published its annual report on the state of rhino populations worldwide and Namibia has been identified as the country with the largest white rhino population.

However, the situation of rhinos in Africa and around the world is worrying. The number of white rhinos on the African continent has decreased over the past year due to poaching. With a current population of about 18,000, that number has declined by 12% over the past decade.

In the Kruger National Park, once home to the largest white rhino population, there are now about 3,500 white rhinos - 67% less than in 2011 when that number was 10,621. This means that there may be even fewer rhinos in Africa than are accepted.

Although poaching initially declined by 2020, more cases were reported thereafter with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated measures. According to the report, Botswana in particular is plagued by the poaching of white and black rhinos, the market of which is controlled by an organized criminal network that stretches across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia, Namibia and Botswana and to black markets in Vietnam word. The IRF therefore called for better communication between the governments and institutions involved to save the rhinos from Botswana.

Currently, only about 5,500 of the endangered black rhinos remain, but the population is growing. Over the past decade, that number has grown by about 16-17%.

Namibia is home to most rhinos and is 90% the "stronghold of the southwestern subspecies". According to the report, the Etosha National Park is home to the largest black rhino population in the world.

"The numbers are gradually growing under an established and innovative nature conservation program run by the Namibian government. The future of the south-western subspecies therefore depends on Namibia's ability to maintain these protection standards. ”

However, poaching and droughts remain a threat to Namibia's rhinos.

"Despite the great challenges, the black rhino population in Namibia has grown by more than 6% thanks to the efforts of private and government nature reserves, and the number of white rhinos has more than doubled," she said. Cathy Dean, head of Save the Rhino Fund International (SRI), said.

- republikein@republikein.com.na