



Three arrested for wildlife crimes

Two new wildlife crime cases were registered last week, with three suspects arrested for poaching.

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ELLANIE SMIT

WINDHOEK

Only two new wildlife crime cases were registered last week, with three suspects arrested.

This is according to the latest statistics provided by the intelligence and investigation unit within the environment ministry and the protected resource division within the safety and security ministry.

The report for the period 13 to 19 September shows that one of the suspects was arrested in connection with a rhino poaching and/or trafficking case.

On 15 September, a Namibian man, Iita Rehabiam Lipinge, was arrested in Okahao in connection with a case reported in June regarding the possession of a lion carcass and a hunting rifle.

These products were already seized when another suspect was charged in June. However, a warrant for Lipinge's arrest was only issued on the day he was apprehended. He has been charged with the unauthorised supply of arms and ammunition.

Pangolin

In a separate case, another Namibian national Ignasius Mbaraka was arrested at Outjo on 17 September, also in connection with an old case for conspiring to hunt a rhino.

The case dates back to June when a rhino carcass and a vehicle were confiscated. He has been charged with the illegal hunting of specially protected game and for conspiring to hunt specially protected game. He is also a Namibian.

Meanwhile, Namibian Alberto Johannes Joel was arrested on 12 September in Otavi for being in the possession of a pangolin. The case was not reported last week. He has been charged for the illegal possession and dealing in controlled wildlife products.