



## 12 arrested for wildlife crimes

Five men were arrested last week for conspiring to poach a rhino, while another was found guilty of illegal possession and dealing in python skins. He will have to cough up N\$7 000 or spend 20 months behind bars.

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CONSPIRACY: Five suspects were arrested for conspiring to poach a rhino. Photo: FILE

ELLANIE SMIT

WINDHOEK

Twelve suspects were arrested last week for wildlife crimes in connection with five separate cases.

Five of these suspects were arrested for rhino poaching and/or trafficking.

According to the latest wildlife crime report by the intelligence and investigative unit by the environment ministry and the protected resources unit by the safety and security ministry, four illegal wildlife products were seized.

A Namibian, Japizukua Muharukwa, was arrested when he was found with kudu meat at Fransfontein on 25 October, the report read. He was charged for the inability to give satisfactory account of possession of meat.

In another incident at Ngoma, three Namibians were arrested on 27 October after they were found in possession of a blue wildebeest carcass. Sibuku Sinyepe, George Kabozu and Staden Siseho were all charged for the inability to give satisfactory account of possession of the carcass and for illegal possession and dealing of controlled wildlife products. They were also arrested and charged for being in the possession of a shotgun without a licence on the same day.

Live pangolins

Meanwhile, three Namibians were arrested at Epukiro when they were found in possession of two live pangolins on 29 October. Tjovanga Kamburona, Tjarirove Kamburona and Nguvarua Tjombe were all charged for the illegal possession and dealing of controlled wildlife products.

On 29 October at Otjiwarongo, five Namibians were arrested for conspiring to poach a rhino.

Champion Haraseb, Paulus Daniel, Josia Many, Mbike Kakonda and Absalom David were charged with attempting, conspiring and including another person to commit an offence.

They were also charged for the possession of a firearm without a licence and ammunition without a licence. The police confiscated a vehicle, a hunting rifle and five rounds of ammunition.

Furthermore, Hamutenya Mutjireni, who was arrested on 26 June for illegal possession and dealing in two python skins at Kahange, was found guilty last week. He was fined N\$7 000 or 20 months' imprisonment on 27 October.

ellanie@namibiansun.com