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# RHINO POACHING DECLINE IN AFRICA

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Windhoek (es/cr) • Rhino poaching in Africa has fallen from 3.9% in 2018 to 2.3% in 2021. This is according to a new report by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the NGO Traffic. The report is intended for the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held in Panama in November this year.

According to the report, at least 2,707 rhinos were poached in Africa between 2018 and 2021. The information comes from 13 countries where rhinos live: Botswana, Chad, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Overall, Africa's rhino population declined at about 1.6% per year, from an estimated 23,562 animals in 2018 to 22,137 at the end of 2021.

According to the report, global lockdowns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have meant that in several African countries poaching decreased drastically in 2020 compared to previous years.

South Africa lost 394 rhinos to poaching in 2020, while Kenya recorded no rhino poaching that year. However, when COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted, some range states reported a new uptick in poaching.

However, the report notes that not all seizure-making parties regularly report information about their holdings to the CITES Secretariat.