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Catherine Moser

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Windhoek (km) - Cross-border syndicates appear to be involved in rhino poaching in Namibia, according to rhino conservationists. While rhino poaching rates are declining across the African continent, Namibia has seen a worrying number of cases in recent months. According to Save the Rhino Trust director Simon Uri Khob, reports show that syndicates of rhino poachers from South Africa are operating in Namibia, targeting primarily commercial farms. This was reported by the US international news portal VOA. The Etosha National Park is also particularly affected.

"It's a problem," Khob said. "The only thing I can say is that we need to do more outreach to the communities in the areas." According to Salmon Vermaak, who heads anti-poaching unit Namibia Wildlife Protection, his team has received two reports of rhino poaching in the past four months, the first cases since the organization began operating in the region eight years ago, according to VOA. "We're tracking potential poachers on the farms that we service," Vermaak said. "The Department of Forestry figures show how big the increases are. There are definitely syndicates operating between here and South Africa."