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- 36 RHINOS POACHED

POACHED: A total of 36 rhinos have been poached this year. Photo: FILE

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36 RHINOS POACHED

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Eight months into the year and already 36 rhinos have been poached across the country.

In the latest incidents, the carcass of a white rhino was discovered yesterday on a private farm in the Okahandja district. On Monday, the carcasses of two more white rhinos – killed by poachers - were discovered on a private farm in the Outjo district.

Environment ministry spokesperson Romeo Muyunda confirmed this to Namibian Sun, adding that no arrests have been made and investigations continue.

Just last week, the ministry said 33 rhinos had been poached this year, of which 24 were black rhinos and nine were white rhinos.

Those cases included 15 rhinos poached in the Etosha National Park, nine on custodianship farms and another nine on private farms.

Strategies

After it strengthened wildlife strategies in national parks, poaching decreased, the ministry said. However, this has shifted poachers' focus to custodianship and private farms with white rhinos.

It added that the strategies used in national parks will be implemented on these farms to reduce poaching.

These include increased ground patrols, aerial patrols using a helicopter, establishing or strengthening anti-poaching units and the inclusion of ministry and law enforcement agencies in intelligence and law enforcement activities.

Last year, 44 rhinos were poached in Namibia, while 2020 saw 42 poached. In 2019, 57 were poached, 83 in 2018 and 55 in 2017