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

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FOUR RHINOS, TWO DAYS

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In the less than eight months of 2022 that have already passed, 36 rhinos have already been poached all over the country.

In the latest incidents, the carcass of a white rhinoceros was discovered yesterday on a private farm in the Okahandja district. On Monday, carcasses of two more poached white rhinos were reported on a private farm in the Outjo district.

Mr. Romeo Muyunda, spokesperson for the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism, confirmed the incidents to the media and added that no one has been arrested in this connection and investigations are ongoing.

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

Among these cases are 15 rhinos poached in the Etosha National Park, nine on conservation farms and another nine on private farms.

Since anti-wildlife strategies have been stepped up in national parks, poaching has decreased. However, this has caused poachers to shift their sights to conservation farms and private farms with white rhinos, the ministry said.

Muyunda said to strengthen rhino conservation and prevent further poaching, the ministry and its stakeholders will implement strategies applied in national parks also on conservation and private farms.

The ministry hopes the strategies used in national parks will be effective on these farms to reduce poaching.

These include increased ground patrols, air patrols with a helicopter, the establishment or strengthening of anti-poaching units, as well as the involvement of the ministry and law enforcement agencies in intelligence and law enforcement operations.

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

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