

- [HOME PAGE](#)
- [ENVIRONMENT](#)
- [MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT: 33 RHINOS AND TWO ELEPHANTS POACHED THIS YEAR](#)



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- [ENVIRONMENT](#)

# MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT: 33 RHINOS AND TWO ELEPHANTS POACHED THIS YEAR

**Claudia Rider**

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Windhoek (cr) - According to the Ministry of the Environment (MEFT), 33 rhinos were poached this year, of which 24 are black rhinos and nine are white rhinos. "Nine rhinos were poached on trust farms, another nine on private farms and 15 in Etosha National Park," the environment ministry said in a statement. Namibia recorded 44 poached rhinos in 2021, 42 in 2020, 57 in 2019, 83 in 2018 and 55 in 2017."

However, the ministry also says that elephant poaching remains relatively low with only two elephants poached this year. "Our goal for the future is to reduce elephant poaching to zero. While rhino poaching has been dynamic, elephant poaching has steadily declined over the past five years: 50 elephants poached in 2017, 27 in 2018, 13 in 2019, 12 in 2020 and 8 in 2021."

The statement also states: "The Ministry has found that rhino poaching has decreased since we have strengthened our wildlife conservation strategies in national parks. However, this has shifted the focus of poachers to trust farms and private white rhino farms."

The Ministry continues to work to ensure that poaching of rhinos is significantly reduced, if not stopped altogether. "However, this requires the involvement of all stakeholders, including the public, in opposing poaching in our society."

In order to improve the safety of the rhinos and prevent further poaching, the ministry, together with the stakeholders involved, is implementing strategies that are already being used successfully in the national parks. These should now also be implemented on farms under trusteeship or private farms. "This includes increased ground patrols, air patrols (using helicopters), establishing or augmenting existing anti-poaching units, and involving MEFT and law enforcement agencies in intelligence gathering and law enforcement.