

- HOME PAGE
- ENVIRONMENT
- PROFESSIONAL RHINO POACHERS SUSPECTED



74065

- **ENVIRONMENT**

PROFESSIONAL RHINO POACHERS SUSPECTED

Claudia Rider

- 17 HOURS AGO - 2022-08-17 00:05:00

Windhoek (es/cr) - Namibia has lost five white rhinos on private farms to poachers in the past week, bringing the total number of rhinos poached this year to 39, of which 15 were white rhinos.

According to a farmer from Gobabis district, three white rhinos have been poached on his farm since late July, two of them just last week. For security reasons, however, the farmer cannot be named. Another white rhino was poached on a private farm in Okahandja district, while the carcasses of two other white rhinos - killed by poachers - were discovered on a private farm in Outjo district.

The Gobabis farmer said the poachers seem to be getting inside information on the movements of the rhinos. What is certain is that they are dealing with a large, professional syndicate. There are some clues they are investigating, but nothing concrete at the moment. He said he is also in constant contact with Okahandja and Outjo so they can compare crime scenes and finds.

The farmer explained that the poachers were found to be using a piece of mattress they tie under their shoes. As a result, the foot/shoe print is hardly recognizable. They also noticed that they were constantly changing shoes, using flip-flops and sneakers while covering their tracks. He added that you can tell by the way the horn was cut that it's a professional gang.

Last year 44 rhinos were poached in Namibia, up from 42 in 2020. 57 were poached in 2019, 83 in 2018 and 55 in 2017.