

- HOME PAGE
- ENVIRONMENT
- RHINO POACHERS REMAIN HIGHLY ACTIVE



Photo: Catherine Moser

ENVIRONMENT

RHINO POACHERS REMAIN HIGHLY ACTIVE

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Two black rhinos were poached again on two private game farms in the areas around Otjituuo and Otjiwarongo. One of the two female animals was even pregnant. The number of poached rhinos in Namibia has risen to a total of 48, 32 of which are endangered black rhinos. According to investigator Maureen Mbeha of the Otjozondjupa Region Police Department, the pregnant rhino was shot dead by unknown suspects and both rhino horns were chopped off. The value of the loss is estimated at one million Namibian dollars.

On August 22, the second rhino poached was on a farm near Grootfontein – the names of the farms were not disclosed to protect the remaining rhinos. The loss is around 500,000 Namibian dollars. According to the police, no suspects have been arrested in either case.

For all of last year, the poaching count has been 44 - that number is now almost reached in August.

At least one success was reported by Onguma Safari Camp near Etoscha, whose APU team (Anti Poaching Unit) was able to locate two poachers who were armed for rhino poaching. While one of the two managed to escape, the team managed to apprehend the other. He sustained injuries and was treated in hospital before being handed over to the police.