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TARGET: The number of poached rhinos continue to rise this year. Photo: FILE

• ENVIRONMENT

60 RHINOS KILLED FOR THEIR HORNS

Poaching incidents rise

Three white rhinos were recently poached on private farms in the Windhoek district. Ellanie Smit

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Sixty rhinos have been poached this year, far exceeding the total of 44 rhinos that were killed for their horns last year and the 42 in 2020.

In the latest poaching incidents, two white rhinos were poached on a private farm near Seeis in the Windhoek district between Friday and Monday at an unknown time.

According to the police, the rhinos were shot and all their horns were removed.

The value of the two rhinos is estimated at N\$660 000.

In another incident, also on a private farm in the Windhoek district in the Nauchas area, the carcass of a white rhino bull was discovered by a member of the anti-poaching unit who was patrolling the area last Thursday.

Big loss

According to the police, it is suspected that the rhino was poached between 18 and 20 October as the animal was last seen on 18 October.

The suspects allegedly entered the farm and killed the rhino with unknown firearms and removed both its horns.

"During further investigation, the bullet fragment was retrieved from the animal, and this is a clear indication that the animal was killed for its horns," the police report concluded.

The rhino bull is valued at N\$450 000.

In 2019, a total of 57 rhinos were poached, compared to 84 in 2018, 55 in 2017, 66 in 2016 and 97 in 2015.