

Rhino poaching cases on the rise

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Minister of environment, forestry and tourism Pohamba Shifeta

The minister of environment, forestry and tourism, Pohamba Shifeta, says 36 people have been arrested for rhino-related cases this year alone.

Shifeta was speaking at the handover of 10 vehicles, park management and law enforcement equipment funded by the Integrated National Park Management II (NamParks V & Covid-19 Fund) and Integrated Wildlife Protection projects in Windhoek on Wednesday.

According to Shifeta, it is of great concern that 55 rhinos have been poached to date this year.

"This is compared to 44 rhinos poached in 2021. However, 36 people have been arrested for rhino-related cases this year, compared to 80 in 2021," Shifeta said.

The minister said two elephants have been poached so far this year compared to eight in 2021.

According to Shifeta, "58 people have been arrested for elephant-related cases this year, [compared to] 98 people arrested in 2021. Eight live pangolins have been seized so far this year compared to 21 in 2021; while 24 pangolin skins have been seized this year compared to 66 skins in 2021".

Shifeta added that 48 suspects have been arrested in connection with pangolin-related cases this year, compared to 129 in 2021.

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