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Rhino. Photo: AZ archive

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# RHINO POACHING ON THE RISE

**Ellanie Smit, Frank Steffen**

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Windhoek (es/ste) - The number of rhinos poached this year is now 57, compared to the 44 rhinos killed by poachers last year.

Environment Ministry spokesman Romeo Muyunda confirmed when asked that two white rhinos were poached on private farms last week. He said that while there has been recent poaching in Etosha National Park, no rhinos have been poached in the park for the past week. However, he was unable to provide the latest figures.

"I can confirm that there have been reports of rhino poaching across the country. One incident was reported at a private farm near Waterberg, and another at a farm near Hosea Kutako International Airport (HKIA). Another rhino was injured by poachers on both farms. We have also seen or discovered poached carcasses in Etosha in the past, but for the past week there has been no poaching in the park."

In 2021, 42 rhinos were poached and in 2019 there were 57 (in 2018 and 2017 there were 83 and 55 respectively).