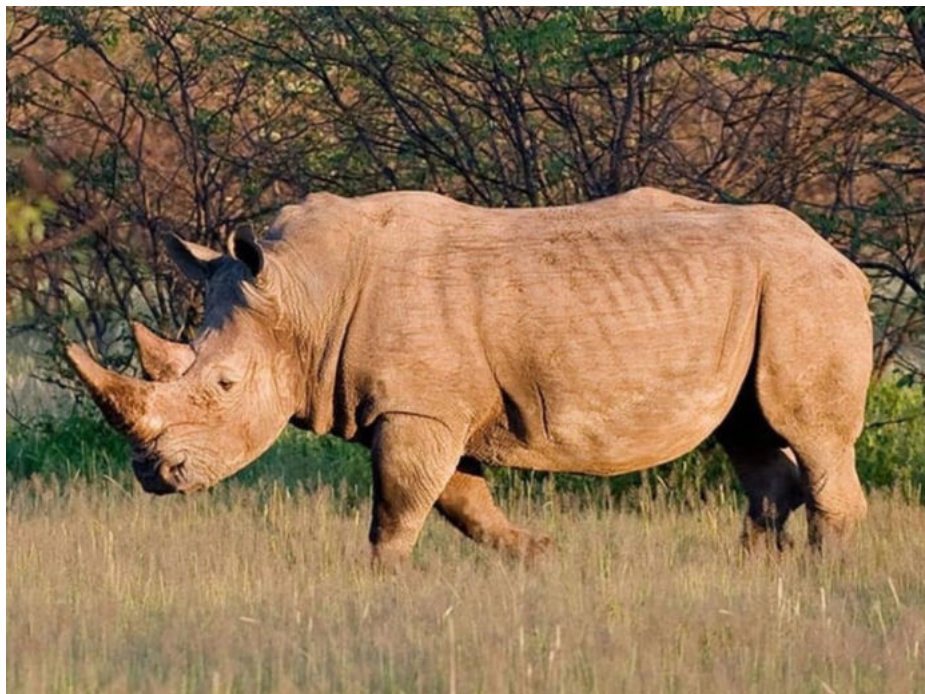


Republikein

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- SIXTY RHINOS WERE POACHED THIS YEAR



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

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SIXTY RHINOS WERE POACHED THIS YEAR

Poachers attack farms in Windhoek district

A farm owner in the Windhoek district is the center of a police investigation after a suspected poacher was shot dead on Sunday and his alleged accomplice was found.
Ella Smith

- 17 HOURS AGO - - 2022-10-27 00:00:00

Ellanie Smit and Ronelle Rademeyer - Sixty rhinos were poached this year compared to 44 rhinos last year and 42 in 2020.

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

According to the police, the rhinos were shot and 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 Nauchas area in the Windhoek district, a member of an anti-poaching unit – which patrolled the area on Thursday last week – discovered the carcass of a white rhinoceros bull.

According to the police, it is suspected that the rhino was poached between 16 and 20 October as the animal was last seen alive on 18 October.

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

"During further investigation, a bullet fragment was removed from the animal which is a clear indication that the animal was killed for its horns," says the police report.

The rhino bull's value is estimated 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.

Meanwhile, it appears that the 41-year-old man who was wounded on Sunday on a game farm east of Windhoek when he and his alleged accomplice allegedly shot at the farm owner and his workers, was arrested two years ago at Outjo for alleged rhino poaching.

Mr. Thomas Eino and his accomplice, one Pieter, were spotted by the farm owner and his workers on Sunday around 17:00 when they were patrolling the farm. They apparently tried to approach the two armed trespassers from different directions when the two allegedly pulled away

and started shooting at them.

The farm owner allegedly returned fire and both men were hit. However, Pieter was fatally wounded.

Warrant Officer Silas Shipangeni, spokesperson for the police in the Khomas region, confirmed yesterday that although a case of murder and attempted murder has been opened, no one has yet been arrested.

He also confirmed that Eino is still in Katutura State Hospital where he is being treated.

According to his Facebook profile, he was previously employed by the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture.

Republikein's sister newspaper Namibian Sun reported in June 2020 when Eino together with Mr. Jan Haodom, Kamati Tchipito, Mutenha Josef Homateni, Michael Ntsambo Jonas and Alfred Horaseb were arrested at Outjo.

The police seized one rhino horn and the vehicle allegedly used for the crime. They were all charged with breaching the conservation ordinance, illegal hunting and conspiracy to commit an offence.

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