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- POACHING: 106 ARRESTED THIS YEAR



A total of 44 suspects have been arrested for rhino poaching so far this year. Photo archive

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POACHING: 106 ARRESTED THIS YEAR

Most suspects are Namibians

Of these 106, 44 were arrested for rhino poaching and 62 suspects for elephant poaching.

Yandi Du Plessis

- 17 HOURS AGO - - 2022-12-01 00:00:00

Ellanie Smit - A total of 106 suspects were arrested for poaching this year.

Meanwhile, role players are gearing up to step up wildlife protection and law enforcement efforts against wildlife crime in Namibia this festive season.

Of these 106, 44 were arrested for rhino poaching and 62 suspects for elephant poaching.

The Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism's spokesperson, Mr. Romeo Muyunda said that what is disturbing is that 93 of these suspects are Namibians - a group which, according to the ministry, should take the lead in the fight against poaching.

Among the other suspects are eight Angolans and seven Zambians.

He added that nine people were found guilty of poaching-related crimes this year - seven for elephant poaching and two for rhino poaching.

A total of 63 rhinos - 41 black rhinos and 22 white rhinos - have been poached so far this year.

From these poaching cases, 15 rhinos were poached on conservation farms, 22 on private farms and 26 in the Etosha National Park.

In 2021, 44 rhino poaching cases were recorded in Namibia, compared to 42 in 2020, 57 in 2019, 83 in 2018 and 55 in 2017.

"With the increase in poaching incidents in 2014, numerous interventions were undertaken nationwide under the leadership of the ministry to combat wildlife crime. Wildlife crime threatens not only the survival of the species, but the reputation of the country's conservation, socio-economic and tourism development," said Muyunda.

He emphasized that the issue of rhino poaching requires the involvement of all stakeholders, especially members of the public who must report suspected perpetrators to the proper authorities.

"Those who commit these crimes are within our society and therefore we must report suspicious activities to the authorities. As a nation, we must oppose the illegal plundering of our resources by rejecting and condemning wildlife crimes in our beautiful country."

Meanwhile, the elephant poaching figures for this year stand at four. Ten elephants were poached in Namibia last year, 12 in 2020, 13 in 2019, 27 in 2018 and 50 in 2017.

Muyunda further expressed the ministry's appreciation for the work that anti-poaching units are doing all over the country, as well as for the cooperation of other actors in the fight against poaching.

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