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- RHINO POACHING CONTINUES



A rhino bull was recently poached outside of Windhoek. This is said to be the first rhino poaching case this year. Photo is for illustration only. Photo: Claudia Reiter



- **ENVIRONMENT**

## **RHINO POACHING CONTINUES**

Poacher killed in battle with anti-poaching squad

**One rhino poacher was killed and another injured in an exchange of fire between an anti-poaching unit and three rhino poachers on a private farm about 120 km east of Windhoek on Saturday.**

**Claudia Rider**

- 14 HOURS AGO - 2023-01-24 00:10:00

Ellanie Smit

(Edited by Claudia Reiter)

Windhoek

After one of the three rhino poachers was shot dead and the second injured during his arrest, the third accomplice, who initially fled the scene, was arrested on Monday morning.

Namibia Wildlife Protection owner Salmon Vermaak, whose Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) is based at the farm, said the team leader informed him around 11.30am Saturday night that they had spotted a poacher killing a rhino cow and pursuing her calf.

Vermaak asked the team to fire shots in the air to scare off the poachers. This tactic helped, and the poachers fled while the APU team pursued them. According to Vermaak, the area has an excellent security network to protect farmers, and the alarm was raised immediately. "Farmers were quick to provide assistance and set up roadblocks."

During the chase, the poachers began shooting at the anti-poaching team, who then returned fire. One of the poachers was fatally injured and another was injured in the arrest while the third suspect fled. However, the search continued and the third man was arrested on Monday morning. He was spotted three farms away from the scene.

According to Vermaak, a bag with two fresh rhinoceros was secured from the suspects. According to him, the horns came from a rhino bull that was poached before the poachers went after the rhino cow. (The bull is the first rhino poaching case this year.) A hunting rifle, silencer, ax and two cellphones were also found.

Vermaak said there have already been several incidents of poaching on the farm and to prevent the farm from being further targeted, her name will not be released.

A spokesman for the Ministry of the Environment, Romeo Muyunda, also confirmed the incident. "It is unfortunate that a human lost his life. We commend the team involved in tracking the suspects for their work. This is another example of crime not paying."