

Republikein

Jou land. Jou taal. Jou koerant.

- [HOMEPAGE](#)
- [ENVIRONMENT](#)
- IETERMAGÔ DNA HARNESSSED AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE



Pangolins

- [ENVIRONMENT](#)

IETERMAGÔ DNA HARNESSSED AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE

Yandy Du Plessis

- 19 HOURS AGO - - 2023-07-18 00:00:00

Ellanie Smit - DNA data from goshawks in Namibia is currently being collected, which will help to identify smuggling routes and establish the extent of the international illegal trade in goshawk species.

According to the 2022 report on wildlife protection and law enforcement in Namibia, it is unknown how many magpies have been successfully smuggled out of Namibia.

According to that, the currently available information suggests that the ratio is low, but more research is needed. This includes tracing the origin of counterfeit goods and related trade routes through DNA analyzes of counterfeit goods and counterfeit goods in source, transit and final consumer countries.

"DNA data is collected in Namibia to enable this, but must be matched with data from transit and end market countries to establish the presence and extent of international trade."

According to the report, an international initiative to facilitate such analyzes is currently underway.

It further states that hyenas are currently second only to rhinos as the most targeted high value species in Namibia in terms of the number of cases recorded in 2022.

Out of the 175 wildlife crime cases for high value species registered in 2022, a total of 36 cases were related to maggots.

According to the report, arrests and seizures consist almost exclusively of cases where products are offered to undercover law enforcement officers posing as buyers.

"Itermag products are very rarely seized in other circumstances, such as customs searches at border posts."

Statistics show that 57 suspects were arrested last year in connection with yetermago-related crimes, of which 11 were convicted, while 12 live yetermagos, 28 dead yetermagos and 873 yetermago scales were seized.

According to the report, seizures in this regard decreased significantly during 2022 - 54% lower than in 2021 and 69.2% lower than the peak time in 2019.

In 2021, 66 seizures were made - including live and dead maggots - and in 2019 there were a

total of 79 seizures.

According to the report, live animals make up a significant proportion of Itermago seizures – nearly 40% in some years.

"Whilst it was initially believed that the majority of live-seized magpies could be safely released back into the wild, post-release monitoring has shown that the rehabilitation of magpies is complicated and mortality can be very high - up to more than 50% in hard releases. The latter is where no rehabilitation is done before release."

The report says that although exact mortality rates are not currently available due to monitoring plate errors and other limiting factors, it has become clear that more careful rehabilitation should be prioritized to enable better survival rates.

Release protocols for live maggots are improved by training law enforcement and veterinary experts, formulating pre-release health assessment guidelines, establishing an emergency fund to facilitate the rapid assessment and treatment of seized animals, and providing tags to identify the animals after monitor their release.

– republikein@republikein.com.na