

'Livestock, wildlife theft problem overwhelming'

Farmers in the Omaruru area are once again complaining that the problem with cattle theft and poaching is overwhelming - so much so that they fear farms will finally be left behind.

"Nothing but charcoal industries will be left, which will lead to numerous job losses in the agricultural and tourism industries."

This is how Markus Trade of the farm Lindholm in the Omaruru area talks, who found a

This is how Markus Trede of the farm Linnholm in the Omaruru area talks, who found a moose on his farm last Tuesday that died cruelly in a wire snare. Six cattle were also poached on his farm over the past two months.

"The moose was a wild animal that occurred naturally - the camp was not fenced off with wildlife protection. Vultures already 'showed' us that something had died some time ago, but we only came across the moose today," said Trede.

"Besides the slaughter of cattle, they also come for the game. You can hardly find a chamois at our or surrounding farms anymore. This trend is destroying Namibia's greatest asset - our wildlife and consequently the tourism industry.

"The worst thing is that they don't even come to collect the meat," he said.

NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS

"We are already doing everything to try to manage the issue. We use herdsmen, fly drones regularly, hire security guards, do regular patrols, use neighborhood watches and have good cooperation with the police, but the problem is overwhelming for many farmers," said Trede.

Trede says he farms on the Omatjette road - 25km northwest of Omaruru.

In another case, an apartment on Bethanie was broken into and a security company's uniforms were stolen. The company's owner on Keetmanshoop warned that people should be wary of armed robberies, where robbers might wear the uniforms of Loubser Security.

- elvira@republikein.com.na



Republican