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- 7 HOURS AGO - 2023-11-26 14:25:00

A total of 24 elephant tusks were seized while one suspect was arrested and seven others escaped during searches of their vehicles in the Zambezi region on Friday.

According to the Environment Ministry, members of the ministry, police and armed forces searched vehicles as part of an intelligence-led operation to pursue a syndicate of Zambian nationals engaged in cross-border elephant poaching in the Zambezi region, using neighboring Botswana as a transit country.

Security forces intercepted the vehicle carrying the elephant tusks.

Twelve elephant tail coils, two pots, two butcher knives and an inflatable mattress were also found. The suspects' vehicle, a silver Nissan Latino, was also seized as evidence at Katima Police Station.

A 37-year-old man was arrested and detained at Katima Mulilo Detention Centre.