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Human-animal conflict

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AFRICA (AFRIKA)

LIVESTOCK AND GAME FARMERS SUFFER HUGE LOSSES

Francoise Steinberg

2 DAYS AGO - 2024-02-27 00:00:00

A comprehensive analysis by the Livestock Producers Organization (LPO) shows staggering losses of almost N\$14.4 million caused by predators, theft, drought-related diseases and disasters as well as problem animals in 2023.

This astronomical amount stems from only 1,248 incidents reported by LPO members, representing a fraction of the total livestock sector, according to the Namibia Agricultural Union (NLU).

"Farmers feel discouraged because nothing is being done about their situation and therefore the reporting is very low. Efforts should be made going forward to motivate farmers to participate in these statistics in order to get a more representative figure,"

Predator attacks emerge as a prominent factor in livestock losses, accounting for more than N\$5.64 million.

Cattle, sheep, goats, game and some other farm animals are the victims of predators, with 552 reported incidents resulting in the loss of 5,686 animals.

Incidents with elephants and other problem animals such as warthogs, baboons and porcupines point to the challenges of human-animal conflict.

"There were 44 reports of conflict with the above wildlife resulting in property damage of N\$678,700, highlighting the need for sustainable approaches to mitigating human-animal conflict."

According to the NLU, the prolonged drought is responsible for losses of more than N\$4.8 million in livestock and wildlife deaths due to disease and disasters. This is according to 380 reports.

Theft and poaching remain an ongoing problem, resulting in over N\$3.25 million in losses. Cattle, sheep, wildlife and other assets, including solar equipment, are targeted.

"With 270 reported incidents, this aspect of losses requires a coordinated effort between law enforcement agencies, communities and farmers to curb such illegal activities," the NLU believes. - francoise@nmh.com.na

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