

HUGE INCREASE IN POACHING

28 Dead Rhinos This Year – Ministry Emergency Meeting

In recent days, a noticeable number of rhinos have been poached, especially in Etosha Park. The ministry wants to take action.

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Namibia has been hit by several cases of rhino poaching in recent days. Both in the Etosha National Park and on private farms, the finds of killed rhinos increased in the past week. According to the Ministry of the Environment, the number of poached rhinos has thus risen to 28 in the current year 2024. "It is worrying that 19 rhinos have been poached in Etosha National Park, 10 of which were discovered during dehorning operations in March," said Romeo Muyunda, spokesman for the ministry. "Poaching in Etosha National Park is of particular concern as it is our flagship park which has a high concentration of rhinos and other valuable animal species, making it a major attraction for tourists."

Therefore, due to the current situation and the urgency of the matter, an assessment will be carried out in Etosha to determine the full extent of the problem. In addition, the ministry has convened an urgent high-level meeting with the security agencies to clarify the matter.

The ministry also confirmed recent reports of four white rhinos poached on a private farm in the Otjozodjupa region, bringing the total number of rhinos poached on private farms in the country this year to five. In addition, three rhinos were poached on rhino farms and one in the Kunene region. This year, there are a total of 19 black rhinos and 9 white rhinos.

In this context, the ministry also called on the public to take action against poaching and to tackle the challenge together.

At least, according to the ministry, no elephants have yet been poached in 2024.

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