

News

# Two Rwandese Nationals Sentenced to 12 Years in Jail for Poaching

Arafat Nzito • July 4, 2021 1 minute read



Two Rwandese nationals identified as Habimana Sabanitah and Sobomana Augustine have been sentenced to 12 years in jail for illegal entry and killing of protected wildlife species.

The two, both residents of Rwamwanja refugee settlement in Kamwenge district, were found in possession of a dead bush buck inside Katonga Wildlife Reserve.

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According to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the two were arrested on June 28, 2021 by UWA personnel inside Katonga Wildlife Reserve.

“They were found in possession of a dead bush buck, 2 pangas, 2 sharp spears and 8 wire snares that were used to kill the animal,” UWA stated.

Upon arrest, the suspects were transferred to Kyegegwa police station and later produced before the Chief Magistrate’s Court of Kyenjojo to take plea.

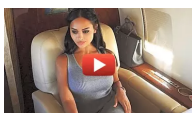
The accused pleaded guilty to the counts as charged of illegal entry and killing a protected wildlife species.

Prosecution led by Latif Amis argued that the two deprived the wider public and national economy the benefits of conservation including tourism, employment and foreign exchange earnings.



He noted that court had to send a clear signal to the public to desist from such criminal acts especially now that tourism is seriously hit by the corona virus pandemic and that poaching doubles the jeopardy.

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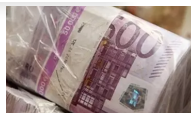
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The Chief Magistrate conformed with the prayers of the state citing that tourism plays a key role in Uganda’s economy.

She sentenced the convicts to a fine of 100 currency points (Shs 2,000,000) or serve 4 years in jail for illegal entry and 10000 currency point (Shs 200,000,000) or serve 12 years in jail for killing a protected wildlife species.



The sentence will run concurrently.

Illegal hunting for bush meat and poaching for ivory are some of the crimes that Uganda is grappling with today, according to UWA.

“In most cases, the wildlife trafficking supply chain starts around rural communities near wildlife habitats from where it feeds into the urban centers on its way out of the country.”

To curtail this, UWA put in place four units that is enforcement units, intelligence, investigations and prosecution units across the country.

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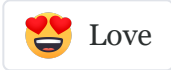

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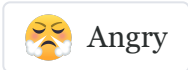
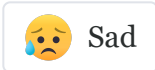
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