News

28 FEBRUARY 2024

South African National Parks and Namibian Rangers Unite Against Poaching

In a landmark display of cross-border cooperation, |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park Field Rangers from South Africa joined forces with their Namibian counterparts to conduct regular joint river patrol along the Orange River. This milestone collaboration marks a significant achievement following a three-year interruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The joint patrol, integral to the management of the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP), aimed to address the rampant illegal gillnet activities that have been decimating fish populations in the area. These clandestine operations not only pose a threat to local businesses reliant on the river but also endanger the delicate riverine ecosystem which is home to a diverse array of species.

During the first operation on 15 November 2023, the combined efforts of South African and Namibian rangers led to the apprehension of five suspects engaged in illegal fishing activities. The suspects were swiftly taken into

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custody by Namibian officials and transported to Aussenkehr for the issuance of fines. Additionally, a cache of illicit fishing gear, including nets, scissors, pangas (machetes), and floating devices (inner tubes), was confiscated, further disrupting the illicit operations and threatening the region's biodiversity.

This cross-border conservation collaboration serves as a shining example of solidarity in protecting our planet's ecological treasures. It showcases the power of international cooperation in addressing complex environmental challenges and emphasizes the importance of collective action in safeguarding our natural heritage for future generations.

Moving forward, the commitment to joint patrols and collaborative conservation efforts between South Africa and Namibia will be conducted on a regular basis. By building on this historic partnership, both countries can further strengthen their capacity to protect the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park and its transboundary ecosystem, ensuring its continued prosperity for years to come.

Issued By

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