



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

Press Release (For Immediate Release)

30 January 2023

Editors and Journalists

Re: Update on Poaching Statistics 2022

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism hereby provide update on the poaching of high value species, namely elephants and rhinos, in the country. Elephant poaching figures have declined steeply over the past years from the highest figure of 101 in 2015, 50 in 2017; 27 in 2018; 13 in 2019; 12 in 2020; 10 in 2021 and only 4 in 2022. The four poached elephants in 2022 include 2 in Zambezi Region, 1 in Kavango West Region and 1 in Kunene Region.

It is our hope that these figures will continue to descend until we reach the zero-poaching target. For this year, no elephant has been poached.

Rhino poaching on the other hand remains a serious concern with 87 rhinos poached in 2022, consisting of 61 black rhinos and 26 white rhinos. The 2022 poaching cases include 15 rhinos poached on rhino custodianship farms, another 25 on white rhino private farms and 46 in the Etosha National Park. In previous years, Namibia has recorded 45 rhinos poached in 2021, 43 in 2020, 61 in 2019, 84 in 2018 and 55 in 2017. This year, 1 rhino has been poached.

We note with serious concern that our flagship park, Etosha National Park is a poaching hotspot. The Ministry and its partners in wildlife protection and law enforcement will step up efforts against wildlife crime in Etosha National Park particularly to curb rhino poaching.

Immediate improved interventions have been put in place across the country, under the leadership of the MEFT to fight wildlife crime. Wildlife crime threatens not only the survival of the species but the reputation of the country's conservation, socio-economic and tourism development. Namibia's growing tourism sector is hugely dependent of wildlife.

The rhino poaching situation requires the involvement of all stakeholders. Members of the public should report suspected perpetrators to the authorities. The perpetrators of these crimes are within our society, and therefore we should report suspicious activities to the authorities. We must as a nation stand against the illegal plundering of our natural resources by rejecting and condemning wildlife crimes in our beautiful country.

We appreciate the work that our anti-poaching units across the country, comprising of the MEFT, Namibian Police Force, Namibia Defense Force, Game Farms and Conservancies are doing. We salute the work of the Prosecutor General's Office, Namibia Central Intelligence, Blue Rhino Task Force, Non-Governmental Organizations, farmers, private sector, development partners and members of the public for the corporation and collaboration in this fight.

Media Contact: Public Relations Office; +264 61 284 2840, info.pro@mef.gov.na, 0811407844.

Issued by:

Romeo Muyunda

Chief Public Relations Officer/ Spokesperson

