

Combating Wildlife Crime in Namibia

Annual Report 2019



Intelligence and Investigation Unit
Wildlife Protection Services Division
Wildlife and National Parks Directorate
Ministry of Environment and Tourism



Protected Resources Division
Criminal Investigations Directorate
Namibian Police Force
Ministry of Safety and Security



Combatting Wildlife Crime in Namibia

Annual Report 2019

This report covers the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

Crime becomes near impossible when good people work together to fight it.



Criminals are members of the public – if the public is vigilant and reports suspicious behaviour and openly condemns all crime, criminal activities become very difficult.

**Report wildlife crime at this number:
55 555**

[all messages and calls are strictly confidential]

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1. Introduction:

The first annual report on combatting wildlife crime in Namibia is a noteworthy milestone. Wildlife crime has become one of the central conservation challenges of our time. Namibia's response to this, since the current wave of crime began, has been underpinned by one central factor – strong partnerships.

Collaboration within and between ministries, and between government, NGOs, local communities, the private sector and international funding agencies has steadily strengthened Namibian efforts to combat the poaching and trafficking scourge. The need to closely link conservation and law enforcement led to the establishment of the Intelligence and Investigation Unit (IIU) under the Wildlife Protection Services Division in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism during 2016-17. This was significantly elevated through the launch of Operation Blue Rhino in mid-2018 – a formal collaboration between the IIU and the Protected Resources Division (PRD) of the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL).

The increasing successes in combatting wildlife crime are not limited to the Blue Rhino Task Team, but are based on broad cooperation amongst various MET and NAMPOL units, with ongoing assistance from the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) and other partners. Flexible funding support from a number of agencies, coordinated via the Rooikat Trust, has provided a key, particularly by enabling fast and adaptive field operations. The use of cutting edge

surveillance and forensics technologies has been a game changer. Amongst many other achievements, these factors have enabled numerous pre-emptive arrests of suspects conspiring to poach rhinos – which has saved a significant number of rhinos, and put the perpetrators behind bars.

Linkages between law enforcement and prosecution have also been strengthened considerably. This has included active information sharing and joint capacity building, which has led to more effective prosecutions and appropriate sentences. Convicted criminals have received substantial penalties, including lengthy prison terms, sending a strong message that wildlife crime will not be tolerated in Namibia.

This report is the result of systematic data gathering and reporting on wildlife crime. Weekly statistics were aggregated throughout 2019 and circulated internally amongst partners for every single week of the year. From mid-August, the weekly wildlife crime report has been included in the weekly NAMPOL crime report to the media. This has led to a surge of coverage on wildlife crime, which has facilitated public awareness and understanding, and again offers a stern warning to criminals. The data is captured in the Namibian Wildlife Crime Database, which now enables a comprehensive system of regular reporting, including special reports on pertinent issues and achievements, such as 'One Year of Blue Rhino' (published in October 2019).

Wildlife crime remains a severe threat to Namibia's economy and biodiversity, as well as to local livelihoods. Yet through cooperation and proactive, innovative approaches, we continue to address challenges as they arise. We look forward to working with all our partners during 2020.



COLGAR SIKOPO
DIRECTOR: WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

2. Background to wildlife crime reporting in Namibia:

Combatting crime is complex and often dangerous. Hardened criminals must be outsmarted to be caught. This can only be done by covertly collecting as much information as possible to incriminate identified suspects. For this reason, investigations are kept secret, as media coverage may influence their outcomes.

The prosecution of suspects arrested in relation to wildlife crimes is just as important as their apprehension. Wildlife crime can only be countered effectively if perpetrators are not only caught, but convicted and adequately punished. To ensure that strong *prima facie* evidence enables the conviction of perpetrators, investigations may continue after the arrest of suspects. Plea hearings, bail applications, pre-trial motions, appeals and trial postponements all mean that court cases may take months or years to be finalised. Here, too, media coverage and premature disclosure of information may influence proceedings. This means that some information on complex wildlife crimes can only be released to the public a long time after such cases were first registered.

Despite the need for a high degree of confidentiality, the public has the right to know that something is being done to counter wildlife crime and protect Namibia's natural heritage. Three lead agencies – the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as the custodians of wildlife in Namibia, the Ministry of Safety and Security as the national law enforcement entity, and the Ministry of Justice as the national judicial authority – are collecting data on wildlife crime in the country. Where appropriate, the data is shared with the public. MET and NAMPOL are collaborating to publish weekly wildlife crime statistics as part of the weekly NAMPOL crime report, as well as monthly, quarterly and annual reports, and

special feature reports. These provide vital statistics, descriptions of selected special interest cases that give real insights into crime complexity and law enforcement challenges, and a variety of other relevant information.

This report is enabled by the formal collaboration between the MET IIU and the NAMPOL PRD under the umbrella of Operation Blue Rhino. Operation Blue Rhino is conducted by the Blue Rhino Task Team, comprised of MET and NAMPOL staff. Operation Blue Rhino receives the active support of all relevant agencies within the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Office of the Attorney-General, and the Rooikat Trust. Namibian partnerships against environmental crime clearly extend beyond the Blue Rhino Task Team to include a broad range of government agencies, local communities, NGOs, private industry and international funding agencies. Further background and a list of current key partners are provided at the end of this report.

This report is prepared for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Safety and Security using data and information supplied by various partners and compiled by the Blue Rhino Task Team, facilitated by the Rooikat Trust.

Pangolins that are seized alive are rehabilitated and released at safe locations



3. Important notes on interpreting Namibian wildlife crime data

Please read carefully to avoid misinterpretation of information:

1. Wildlife crime statistics are compiled on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis.
2. Statistics released of any particular period are not exhaustive. Case reports from regions may be received after the closure of that reporting period. These are added retroactively, which influences overall statistics.
3. Retroactive reporting will be reflected in compounded statistics (monthly, quarterly, annual). There may thus be slight discrepancies between weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports.
4. The latest reporting period will always have the most up-to-date information. Always refer to the latest report available. If a discrepancy raises questions, please enquire about it.
5. All elephant and rhino poaching data presented in this report is based on estimated date of death of the animal, not date of discovery of the carcass. Statistics of carcasses generally present a number of problems:
 - carcasses may be discovered a long time after the death of the animal (sometimes years).
 - the date of death of the animal may be difficult or impossible to determine.
 - some carcasses may never be discovered.
 Presenting statistics of carcasses based on estimated date of death is thus problematic, as statistics need to be adjusted retroactively when carcasses that are estimated to be quite old are discovered. This means that figures presented in this report may differ from figures previously published by the MET.
6. Many wildlife crime cases involve complex investigations, often over longer periods of time, which may or may not lead to the arrest of suspects.
7. Suspects can only be charged with an offense if there is clear, **prima facie** evidence against them, which can be used in a court of law.
8. Suspects are regularly arrested in possession of contraband, including illegal wildlife products and illegal firearms. These are often linked to previously reported poaching incidents, or in some cases to incidents that were previously unknown, but are uncovered through the arrest. All illegal items, and any other objects of relevance, are seized and used as evidence in court cases.
9. When suspects are found in possession of any contraband, such as illegal wildlife products, firearms or ammunition, the vehicles in which they transported those items may be seized as **instrumentality** in the commission of an alleged offence.
10. Follow-up investigations may lead to the additional seizure of firearms used in particular poaching cases, or other illegal firearms kept by the suspects.
11. The origin of seized wildlife products can not always be determined; animals may have been poached in Namibia or in neighbouring countries. This is of particular relevance in the Kavango and Zambezi regions of Namibia.
12. Illegal wildlife products are regularly smuggled into Namibia from neighbouring countries, either for attempted sale in Namibia, or in transit to other destinations.
13. After an initial arrest, investigations in many cases continue for longer periods of time (sometimes several years) and may lead to further arrests or seizures of contraband.
14. Court cases, like investigations, may be drawn out over several years. Direct links between arrest and conviction statistics for any one year should thus not be made (unless a link is specifically noted as part of a statistic).
15. Information on active cases is often extremely sensitive and can not be released to the media, as this would jeopardise investigations. All information that can be released will be made readily available to the media on request.

4. Summary of wildlife crime statistics for 2019:

Note: Statistics are aggregated from all parts of the country, resulting in some cases being incorporated after the publication of a particular report. There may thus be minor differences in numbers between weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports.

INDICATOR	Total 2019
Wildlife crime cases registered (high-value species only):	174
related to pangolin	92
related to elephant	54
related to rhinos (total of both species)	32
cases of conspiracy to poach rhino (pre-emptive arrest cases)	17
Suspects arrested (high-value species only):	363
related to pangolin poaching/trafficking	160
related to elephant poaching/trafficking	100
related to rhino poaching/trafficking	112
pre-emptive arrests related to rhino poaching	69
High-value wildlife products seized:	
Pangolin – total number of seizures	123
– live animals seized	49
– dead animals or skins seized	74
Elephant – complete tusks seized	116
Rhinos – complete horns seized	8
Rhinos dehorned:	310
Estimated number of animals poached:	
Elephant	12
Rhinos	45
Perpetrators convicted (in high-value species cases registered in 2019):	
related to pangolin poaching/trafficking	21
related to elephant poaching/trafficking	7
related to rhino poaching/trafficking	0
Firearms seized (in cases related to high-value species)	29
Vehicles impounded (in cases related to high-value species)	25

Interpretation and notes

- More than half of all cases related to rhino were pre-emptive arrest cases, i.e. the rhinos could be saved.
- Pangolin accounted for most cases, arrests and seizures (123 animals).
- Ivory seizures continue to be significant; the seizures stem from at least 58 dead elephants.
- Special note – the number of elephant tusks seized does not relate directly to the number of elephants killed in Namibia, as some tusks may originate from elephants killed in neighbouring countries. Only 12 elephants are estimated to have been poached in Namibia during 2019.
- Special Note – the individual totals for pangolin, elephant and rhino ‘cases registered’ and ‘suspects arrested’ add up to more than the totals in the ‘cases registered’ and ‘suspects arrested’ categories, because a number of cases and arrests involved more than one of the above species.
- Special Note – ‘wildlife crime cases registered’ include only those cases in which suspects were arrested or products were seized. Cases in which only the carcass of a poached animal was discovered are not included, although these are obviously investigated.
- Statistics are aggregated from all parts of the country, resulting in some cases being incorporated after the publication of a particular report. There may thus be minor differences in numbers between weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports.

5. Notes on 2019 wildlife crime data

Note: Some preliminary data for 2019 was released by various agencies. This report replaces any such preliminary data.

5.1 General

Wildlife crime networks are intricate and their targets are diverse. Some poachers kill for meat to sell to local markets, others kill for high-value products that are traded internationally. The main focus of current Namibian wildlife crime reporting is on a small number of high-value mammals, yet threats to other species, including indigenous plants, are also being monitored. Criminals may target any species of animal or plant that has a financial value, which puts some of Namibia's unique biodiversity at considerable risk. Internationally, crimes related to protected plants are generally called forest crimes, while in Namibia the term, 'wildlife' is at times used to describe any species of wild fauna or flora. Future Namibian wildlife crime reporting is likely to embrace a broader range of species, which may include valuable plants.

5.2 Data categories

Currently, three main categories of wildlife crime data are being collected:

- **High-value species mortalities data** – records discovered carcasses of elephant and rhinos (both black and white rhino). This includes deaths from natural causes and illegal killings. In rare cases, it is difficult to ascertain the cause of death. Only verified poaching mortalities are included in this report.
- **Law enforcement data** – records arrests and seizures related to wildlife crime. Arrested suspects may be charged with a range of offences, including poaching or conspiracy to poach; possession of controlled wildlife products, illegal firearms or other tools of the trade; trafficking in controlled wildlife products; as well as aiding and abetting other criminals. Seizures include controlled wildlife products; firearms and ammunition; other tools of the trade; and vehicles used to carry out a crime.
- **Judicial data** – records the status of arrested suspects in wildlife crime cases and the status of those cases on the court roll. Cases may be finalised or withdrawn, struck off the roll, or ongoing. The status of suspects may be convicted, acquitted, charges withdrawn, in custody, out on bail, or absconded. Due to data collection lags, the status of some cases and suspects is given as unknown.

5.3 Data sources

- **The MET** – collects data on all discovered carcasses of high-value species. If evidence indicates a protected species was killed illegally, a crime case is registered with the police.
- **The MET and NAMPOL** – collect data on all wildlife crime cases registered at police offices, including statistics on arrests and seizures.
- **The Office of the Prosecutor General** – collects data on all court cases related to wildlife crime, including the status of suspects in those cases.

5.4 Wildlife crime data for the year 2019

The systematic, cross-sectoral collection of wildlife crime data was catalysed by Operation Blue Rhino. Although there were significant developments in collecting and managing this data during 2019, gaps remain. Collaboration between ministries is closing these. The complexity of wildlife crime data makes consolidating statistics from all sources and categories into one comprehensive database an extremely time-consuming process. This has not yet been completed for all datasets. For this reason, this report focusses almost exclusively on the year 2019, and only on the listed high-value species. A comprehensive Wildlife Crime Baseline Report will be published as soon as all historical data has been consolidated.

5.5 Species focus

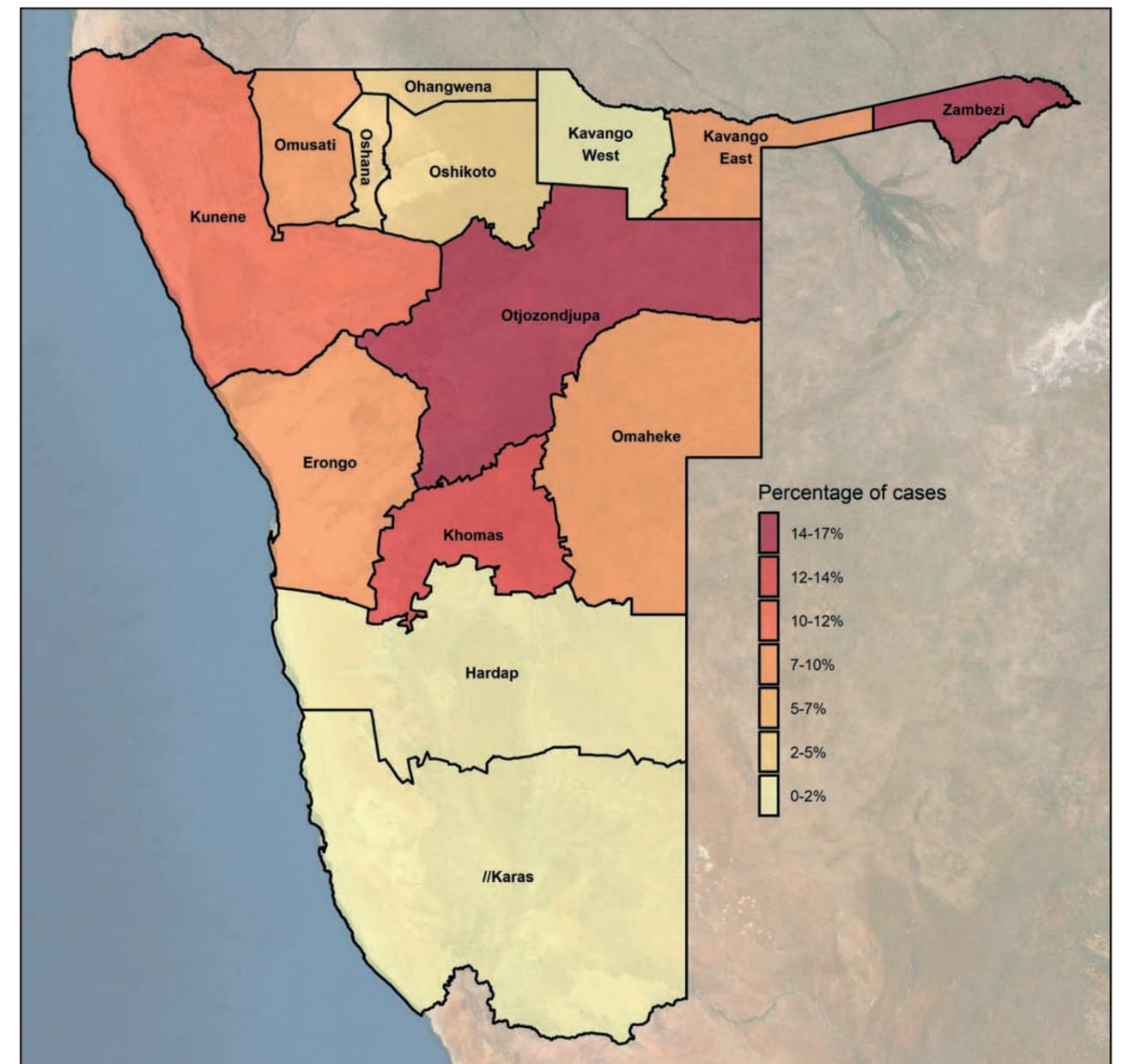
A large number of wildlife crime cases are related to poaching for meat. While all wildlife crime cases are treated as serious, this report focusses on data related to the following high-value species – elephant, rhinoceroses (black and white rhino combined) and pangolin. Rhinos currently represent the most valuable and sought-after wildlife crime target. Data related to rhinos thus receives most attention in this report.

5.6 Other trafficking of fauna and flora

During 2019, a preliminary survey assessed markets and threats related to the illegal trade of all indigenous biodiversity in Namibia. While the survey was not able to collect detailed data, results indicate that the illegal trade in fauna and flora is much broader than previously thought. The survey was initiated and funded by the Rooikat Trust and the Namibia Nature Foundation. Results are published in a separate report.

6. Regional distribution of wildlife crime during 2019:

Note: The map depicts the distribution of all wildlife crime cases registered during 2019, related to any species or charge.



Interpretation and notes

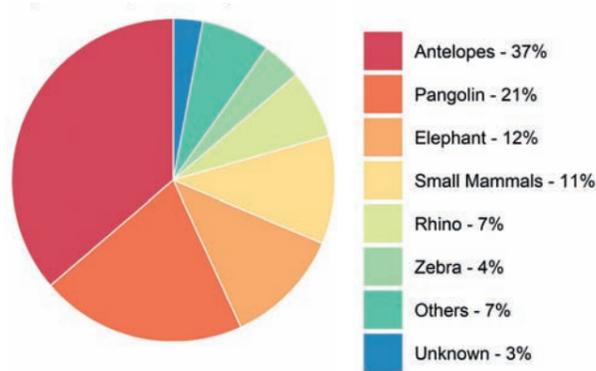
- **The highest incidence of wildlife crimes is in the central, eastern and northeastern parts of Namibia.**
 - **The highest number of incidents were recorded in the Otjondjupa Region.**
 - **Low wildlife densities and fewer high-value species explain the low prevalence of wildlife crime in the south.**
- The map shows the total number of wildlife crime cases registered during 2019, related to any species or charge.
- The map indicates the regions in which cases were registered, not necessarily where the crime was committed. Cases are generally registered at the police station nearest to the place of arrest, which may be in another region than where an incident occurred.

7. Breakdown of important case statistics for 2019:

Note: References to high-value species comprise elephant, rhinoceroses (black and white rhinos combined) and pangolin

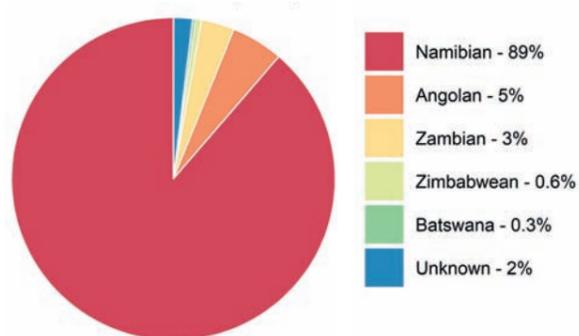
7.1 Ratios of targeted species:

for all registered cases recorded in 2019



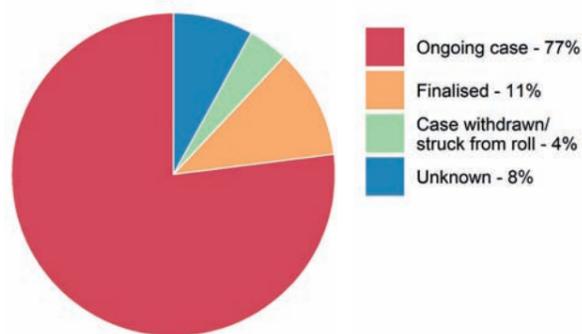
7.2 Ratios of suspects' nationalities:

for arrests recorded in 2019 involving high-value species



7.3 Ratios of court case status:

for registered cases related to high-value species recorded in 2019



Interpretation and notes

Targeted species

- Pangolin is by far the most-targeted high-value species; these are often trafficked alive; most live animals that are seized can be rehabilitated and released.
- Elephant cases make up a significant percentage; these usually consist of ivory seizures; it's rarely possible to link a seizure to a particular carcass.
- Rhino cases (both species combined) make up a significant percentage; many are pre-emptive cases where the animals can be saved.
- Antelopes are poached for meat and include a great variety of species, from dik-dik to eland.
- Ratios are calculated using the number of cases registered per category, not the number of individual animals involved.

Nationality of suspects

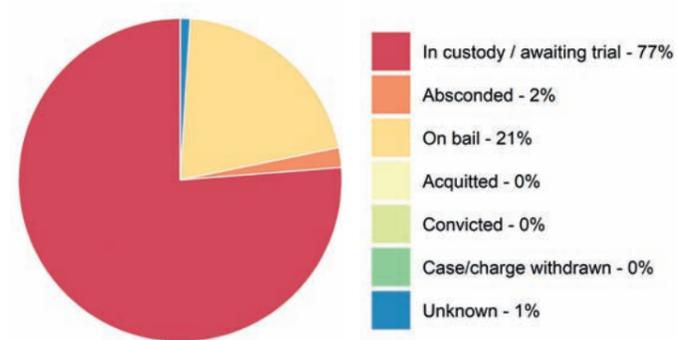
- The majority of wildlife crimes recorded in 2019 were carried out by Namibians.
- Suspects from neighbouring countries make up all other nationalities recorded in 2019.
- Contrary to widespread beliefs, Asians do not feature in the ratio of nationalities recorded in 2019.
- In some cases, the nationality of a suspect has not yet been entered into the database and is thus listed as unknown.

Status of court cases related to high-value species

- Cases related to high-value species are often complex, requiring in-depth investigations and a variety of judicial procedures to be finalised; many cases related to high-value species that were registered during 2019 are thus still ongoing.
- Tracking all court cases related to high-value species that are registered around the country is a complicated process; for this reason, the status of some cases is currently listed as unknown.

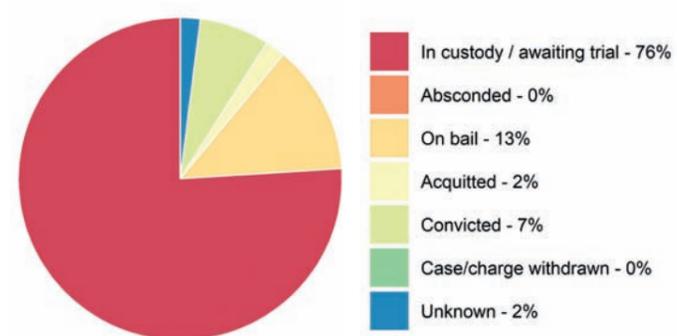
7.4 Ratios of suspects' status in rhino cases:

for suspects arrested in 2019



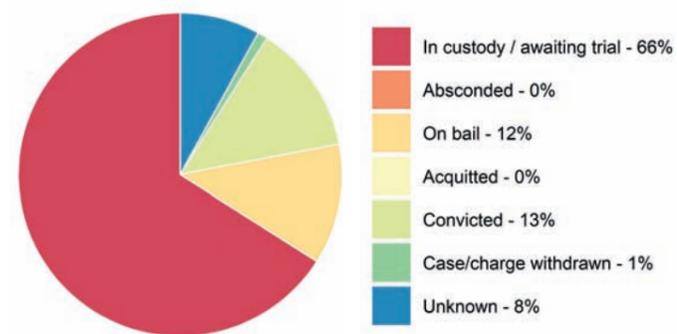
7.6 Ratios of suspects' status in elephant cases:

for suspects arrested in 2019



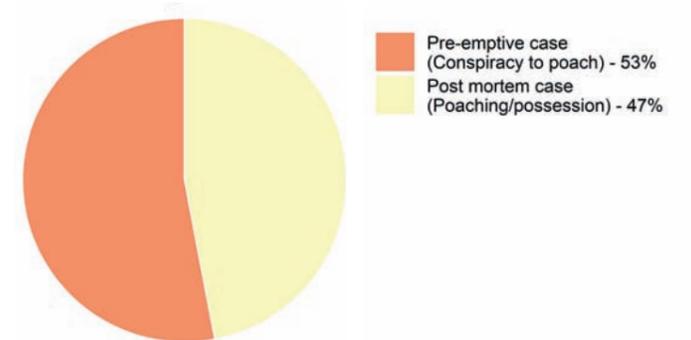
7.7 Ratios of suspects' status in pangolin cases:

for suspects arrested in 2019



7.5 Ratio of case types in rhino cases:

for cases registered in 2019



Interpretation and notes

Case types in rhino cases

- Rhino cases registered include only those cases in which suspects were arrested or products were seized. Cases in which only the carcass of a poached animal was discovered are not included, although these are obviously investigated.
- Pre-emptive cases, in which suspects could be arrested before they were able to kill a rhino, make up more than half of all cases related to rhinos; this represents one of the greatest law-enforcement achievements of 2019.
- The exact number of rhinos that have been saved through pre-emptive arrests is impossible to determine; likely dozens of animals were saved.

Status of suspects in high-value species cases

- Suspects in custody and awaiting trial in pending cases make up the greater portion of suspects' status in high-value species cases.
- Suspects that have been sentenced in finalised cases make up only a small portion of suspects' status in these cases.
- The ratio of suspects on bail compared to suspects in custody is relatively small in all cases.
- Importantly, wildlife crime cases make up only one facet of criminal activity in Namibia; the capacity of the judicial system to deal with all cases is often stretched.
- Sensitive cases, including those related to rhinos, must be submitted to the PG's Office.
- Securing legal representation for suspects often causes delays.
- Investigations and lab results may take considerable time.
- These and other factors may lead to lengthy prosecution delays, with the result that complex cases may take years to be finalised.

8. Summary of noteworthy cases for 2019:



Tusks seized at Zambezi home



Pangolin seized at Outapi



Ammunition seized during investigations in a rhino case

8.1 Buried ivory

In June 2019, one Namibian national was arrested for being found in possession of 11 large elephant tusks (total weight 219 kilogrammes). The man had buried the tusks under his bed in the earthen floor of his house in the Zambezi Region. The ivory may have been stored there for several years. This indicates that criminals are willing to stockpile contraband until they perceive a good opportunity to sell it, or consider that a long enough period has passed to be safe from surveillance. The origin of the tusks has not yet been clarified.

8.2 Outjo rhino horn theft

Investigations into the theft of 33 rhino horns from a safe in a residential home in Outjo during August uncovered a complex trail of criminality. The horns constituted the legal stockpile of a private nature reserve situated on the border of Etosha National Park. The horns had been removed from the privately owned white rhinos to protect them against poaching. Using modern surveillance and forensics technologies augmented by on-site scrutiny, investigators were able to rapidly identify and arrest seven suspects, all of which are Namibian nationals. They comprise two burglars, two contraband dealers and three rhino horn dealers. Three of the suspects had previous criminal charges against them and remain in custody, while four have been released on bail. Nine of the horns could be traced to two separate sales in Angola, but neither these nor any of the other horns could be recovered. Investigations into the case are ongoing.

8.3 Pre-emptive arrests in rhino poaching

Regularly arresting poachers before they manage to kill an animal must be one of the best and most satisfying ways to combat wildlife crime. In 17 separate cases of pre-emptive investigations during 2019, 69 suspects could be arrested and charged with conspiracy to poach rhino. The arrests are likely to have saved dozens of rhinos. Conspiracy to poach is treated with the same degree of seriousness as if the perpetrators had actually killed an animal. Pre-emptive arrests are enabled by a range of monitoring, surveillance and other information – including the active support of local communities who will not tolerate poaching and report suspicious activities to the relevant authorities.

8.4 Ongoing investigations pay off

In the case of four rhinos poached on a private reserve in 2018, arrests continue to be made, with the latest taking place in June 2019 – a year after the poaching incident. This brings the number of suspects arrested in the case to 14 men and two women. The suspects include poachers, game reserve security guards, intermediaries and a customs agent, all Namibian nationals. The case highlights the complexity of wildlife crime syndicates and the importance of ongoing investigations, including the relentless gathering of evidence that implicates suspects.

8.5 Sentencing of Chinese rhino horn dealers

The four Chinese nationals arrested for trying to smuggle 14 rhino horns out of Namibia via Hosea Kutako International Airport in 2014 lost an appeal against their sentence in the Windhoek High Court in April this year. The perpetrators had each been sentenced to 14 years in prison in September 2016, but had lodged an appeal. The appeal was dismissed, and instead a previous charge of money laundering was reinstated. The four were thus sentenced to 20 years in prison each, sending a stern warning to other criminals. In a second case opened in January 2018, an 80-year-old Chinese national was sentenced in April 2019 to a fine of N\$ 156,000 or ten years in prison for being found in possession of one rhino horn, 60 pieces of ivory, one leopard skin and one cheetah skin. The man paid the fine and was released.

8.6 Stiff sentences for pangolin trafficking

The pangolin has become the most-trafficked high-value wildlife species in Namibia. 123 pangolins were seized in the country during 2019. Approximately 60 per cent of the seizures consisted of skins. Most animals seized alive could be rehabilitated and released. The seriousness of the pangolin trade is being recognised by the judiciary. The case of a Namibian national arrested in September 2019 for attempting to traffic one pangolin skin was processed promptly. In November the perpetrator was sentenced to N\$ 40,000 or three years in prison. He was unable to pay the fine and was sent to jail. This is the highest sentence imposed in Namibia for crimes related to pangolin. Appropriate sentences are important in discouraging further escalation of this trade.

8.7 KAZA ivory trafficking

Namibia's northeastern regions lie at the heart of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, home of the biggest elephant population on Earth. This obviously attracts poachers, who target animals in all KAZA member countries. Ivory is moved through various countries on its way to destination markets, mostly in Asia. Suspects are regularly apprehended while attempting to smuggle ivory into Namibia for sale or onward movement. The arrest and conviction of a Botswana national is a good example. The known ivory trafficker was first confronted during a sting operation in March. Although ivory could be seized, the suspect managed to flee to Botswana. Persistent surveillance finally led to his arrest in October. The trial was quickly concluded and the perpetrator was sentenced to N\$ 100,000 or four years in prison. Unable to pay the fine, he is now serving his time.

8.8 Cross-border collaboration

Criminals work across international borders to reach targeted goods or animals, or move contraband to potential markets. Collaboration between law enforcement personnel from neighbouring countries is thus indispensable in the fight against wildlife crime. Successful arrests in several Namibian cases during 2019 relied on active collaboration with counterparts in neighbouring countries. This includes sharing of information, joint surveillance and joint operations. Collaboration with Botswana and Zambia is particularly effective, and is being strengthened with other countries in the region, as well as with destination countries such as China and Vietnam.

8.9 Resisting temptation

Bribery is a central aspect of wildlife crime. Bribes are regularly offered to park staff to provide inside information on the whereabouts of targeted animals. Customs officials are offered bribes in attempts to smuggle contraband across borders. And investigators may be offered bribes to drop investigations. Several cases were recorded during 2019, where criminals attempted to bribe Namibian investigating officers. The officials involved immediately reported the transgressions and the suspects were charged with this additional criminal offence. Clearly, bribery attempts will only get criminals into more trouble.

9. Summary of events and activities for 2019:

9.1 Characteristics of the year

The year 2019 was characterised by a high number of wildlife crime cases and arrests, a large proportion of which were related to elephant, rhino and pangolin poaching or trafficking. The number of both cases and arrests has increased significantly since 2018. Arrests and seizures related to all high-value species have increased, with pangolin cases and seizures showing the most alarming rise. A significant increase in pre-emptive arrests on charges of conspiracy to poach rhino has stopped numerous poachers before they killed any animals, saving dozens of rhinos.

9.2 Extension of Operation Blue Rhino

Operation Blue Rhino was initiated on 31 July 2018, for an initial period of three months, which was extended several times. The success of the operation was reinforced once again at the beginning of May 2019 through the order issued by the Inspector General of the Namibian Police Force, Lieutenant General Sebastian Ndeitunga, to extend Operation Blue Rhino for one year, until 30 April 2020.

9.3 Environmental Crimes Unit, PG's Office

The Office of the Prosecutor-General established an Environmental Crimes Unit during 2019 to enhance successful prosecutions. The unit consists of seasoned and committed prosecutors, and is reinforced through targeted investments. The Blue Rhino Task Team actively collaborates with the Office of the Prosecutor-General and with individual prosecutors to strengthen cases. This is leading to more convictions and appropriate sentences and is an important step in ensuring that all facets of the complex fight against wildlife crime receive due attention – including conservation initiatives, anti-poaching efforts, law enforcement and counter-trafficking activities, and finally the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators.

9.4 Collaboration with regional teams

While Operation Blue Rhino is the focal point for crimes involving high-value species, the Blue Rhino Task Team could not function effectively without active collaboration with various regional teams. The regional MET, NAMPOL and NDF units provide the foundations of effective law enforcement.

9.5 Capacity building

A range of capacity building was undertaken in Namibia during 2019. This included training for financial investigations and lifestyle audits, intelligence analysis, forensics and the use of various technologies; training of customs officials at eight Namibian border posts; the initiation of a multi-agency task team to intensify customs checks at the Port of Walvis Bay; the development of a court-monitoring system and information exchange between investigation and prosecution units; the elevation of internal and external communications capacities; as well as a variety of workshops and international exchanges to facilitate information sharing amongst various partners.

9.6 UNODC conference, Vienna, Austria

The 28th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the UNODC was held in Vienna, Austria, from 20 to 24 May 2019. A Namibian delegation attended the conference to improve ties with international partners and share lessons learnt. The delegation consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Justice, NAMPOL and the Rooikat Trust. Members of the delegation gave a presentation at a well-attended side event to outline Namibia's partnership approach to combatting wildlife crime and highlight successes and challenges. The presentation was extremely well received and the trip was a great success.

9.7 Interpol Wildlife Crime Seminar

During October, the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China hosted the Interpol Seminar on Combatting Wildlife Crime in Africa in 2019. The Seminar was attended by 18 participants from four African countries, including four representatives from the Namibian Police Force. The intensive 13-day programme provided participants with a good understanding of the measures that China as a destination country has in place to combat the illicit trade in wildlife products. The event also strengthened the relationship between Namibia and China, as well as with representatives from South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Recommendations from the seminar include the drafting of a bilateral agreement between Namibia and China regarding the exchange of wildlife crime information.

9.8 Namibian Wildlife Crime Database

The development of the Namibian Wildlife Crime Database was initiated during 2019. This powerful data management and analysis tool will ideally become the repository for all Namibian wildlife crime data. It will enable the analysis of a range of impacts and trends over time. Crime distribution, impacts on individual species, nationality of suspects, prevalence of particular categories of crime etc. can all be carefully analysed. Criminal activity is tracked over time (days, months, years), space (towns, regions, countries) and category (species, poaching, trade, possession etc). The database also enables consistent wildlife crime reporting.

9.9 Funding support

Many of the recent successes in fighting wildlife crime in Namibia are the result of rapid, proactive responses to incidents. This is enabled through flexible funding and the availability of adequate resources, both for logistics and operations. Ongoing funding of this nature is vital to ensure continued success. In a country with diverse socio-economic development challenges, government resources to fight wildlife crime are limited, making external support indispensable. The Rooikat Trust, a task-oriented Namibian entity, provides substantial support to investigation units, including the Blue Rhino Task Team. This is enabled through primary support from the Wildcat Foundation, supplemented by funds from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, USA. Numerous other partners, including the Global Environment Facility, KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau), the United States Agency for International Development, WWF and the Namibian business community support the fight against wildlife crime in a variety of ways. This includes infrastructure development, crime prevention, community support and other assistance.

9.10 Communications and media coverage

The Blue Rhino Task Team has taken a pro-active approach to communications, creating a number of platforms to share information. Key stakeholders are provided with case alerts as these are registered, while regular reports are shared more widely, including with the media. The increased awareness has had positive effects at all levels.



Firearms seized during ivory raid at Diyogha village



Training of customs officials by members of Blue Rhino



Regional personnel are the foundation of law enforcement

10. Challenges faced in 2019:

10.1 Urgent cases and follow-up investigations

The high rate of new wildlife crime cases often threatens to draw attention and resources away from ongoing investigations into complex cases. On average, a new wildlife crime case was registered somewhere in Namibia each day during 2019. Nearly half of them were related to high-value species. Attempts to deal as quickly as possible with new cases as they arise result in more resources being applied to 'fresh' cases than to older, often extremely complex cases. Such allocation of time and financial resources enables rapid successes in many cases, but slows the rate of success during intricate follow-up investigations. It is thus important to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable effective, ongoing follow-up investigations.

10.2 Tracing the destination of rhino horns

The case of the Outjo rhino horn theft highlighted the speed with which horns are moved out of Namibia. Within days of the horns being stolen, some were sold in Angola and could not be recovered. The whereabouts of the remaining horns are unknown. The horns of poached rhinos are generally trafficked with similar urgency. The rate of horn seizures compared to arrests in poaching cases thus remains low. Improving search effort at strategic border points may increase success, and first training initiatives were undertaken during 2019. Increased incentives for suspects to disclose the whereabouts of horns may also be effective.



Ivory seizure at Diyogha, the largest such seizure of 2019

10.3 Tracing the origin of ivory

Ivory seizures in Namibia's border regions remain at significant levels. During 2019, 116 individual tusks, as well as numerous tusk pieces were seized in Namibia. The seizures represent at least 58 dead elephants (the number may be much higher – poachers often try to sell individual tusks to reduce risk or divide profits; single-tusk elephants also occur). The origin of much of the ivory remains uncertain. Only 12 elephants are estimated to have been poached in Namibia in 2019. Other elephants may have been killed in Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe or even further afield. Criminals are regularly apprehended in possession of ivory while crossing into Namibia from neighbouring countries. While DNA analyses are costly and time-consuming, tracing the origin of ivory is important in attempts to reduce poaching, rather than merely intercepting contraband and arresting dealers.

10.4 Countering pangolin trafficking

Pangolin are currently considered the most-trafficked wild animals on Earth. The pangolin trade has also exploded in Namibia, with over 400 suspects arrested on charges related to pangolin poaching or trafficking over the past eight years. Almost 40 percent of these were arrested in 2019 alone – an increase of more than 33 per cent from 2018. An awareness campaign and reward scheme initiated by the Namibian Chamber of Environment has helped to sensitise the public to the plight of the pangolin. Numerous community tip-offs that led to arrests have been rewarded. Unfortunately, awareness and reward schemes can have unwanted consequences by spreading knowledge of the illegal value of wildlife. Indications that the scheme is being abused and is stimulating poaching are being scrutinised. New ways to counter this problematic trade are being explored.

10.5 Inadequate resourcing of field personnel

Government funding constraints mean that the MET has not been able to fully establish and staff its dedicated anti-poaching unit. A shortage of vehicles, inadequate camping equipment and limited financial resources to ensure effective field patrols further constrain the ministry. The situation may lead to dissatisfaction amongst field staff and an increased risk of 'inside jobs', where officials turn to criminal activity.

10.6 Ensuring relevant charges

The impacts of poaching on biodiversity are generally the main focus of public attention. Yet wildlife crime is an economic crime with equally serious impacts on the financial stability of sectors such as tourism, as well as on social structures and individual livelihoods. Perpetrators are often part of crime syndicates involved in other illegal activities such as smuggling of diamonds, drugs etc. The Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) enables the prosecution of suspects under a number of charges related to organised crime, money laundering, smuggling and racketeering, in addition to charges directly related to the killing and trafficking of protected wildlife. Investigators and prosecutors are working with the Financial Intelligence Centre and other agencies to ensure the full suite of relevant charges is laid against all arrested suspects.

10.7 Stopping repeat offenders

The number of repeat offenders involved in wildlife crime in Namibia appears significant. International rates of recidivism (convicted criminals who re-offend) may range from 40 to over 70 per cent, depending on the type of offence. Suspects committing a new crime while out on bail may make up over 10 per cent of all committed crimes. During 2019, a number of suspects arrested for wildlife crimes in Namibia were on bail for previous offenses at the time of rearrest. Detailed statistics on recidivism in Namibia will help to counter bail applications of potentially dangerous suspects. This will further strengthen initiatives undertaken during 2019 to sensitise the judiciary to the seriousness of wildlife crime and its negative impacts, as well as to the high value of wildlife and its products.

10.8 Finalising pending court cases

Wildlife crime makes up only one facet of criminal activity in Namibia, which also includes high rates of homicide, rape and domestic violence, fraud, burglary, car theft and other crimes. The capacity of the judicial system to deal with all registered cases is often stretched. Sensitive cases, including all those related to rhinos, must be submitted to the PG's Office. Securing legal representation for the accused often causes postponements. Lab results from ballistics and DNA analyses take time. These factors can lead to lengthy prosecution delays. It may thus take years for complex



Rearrest of suspects on additional charges related to rhino

cases to be finalised. The importance of effectively prosecuting wildlife crimes is nonetheless recognised, and a variety of initiatives are being undertaken to ensure more efficient finalisation of cases.

10.9 Ensuring comprehensive data gathering

The fight against wildlife crime directly involves four ministries – Environment and Tourism; Safety and Security; Justice; and Defence – as well as numerous other entities. Gathering comprehensive data on all aspects of wildlife crime, from the illegal killing of animals, to the arrest of suspects and the seizure of illegal goods, and finally to the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators is a mammoth task. Through active collaboration amongst all partners, effective systems of data gathering and consolidation are being put in place. It will nonetheless take considerable time and resources to ensure that historic data is verified and various data sets are successfully merged.

10.10 A burden on capacities

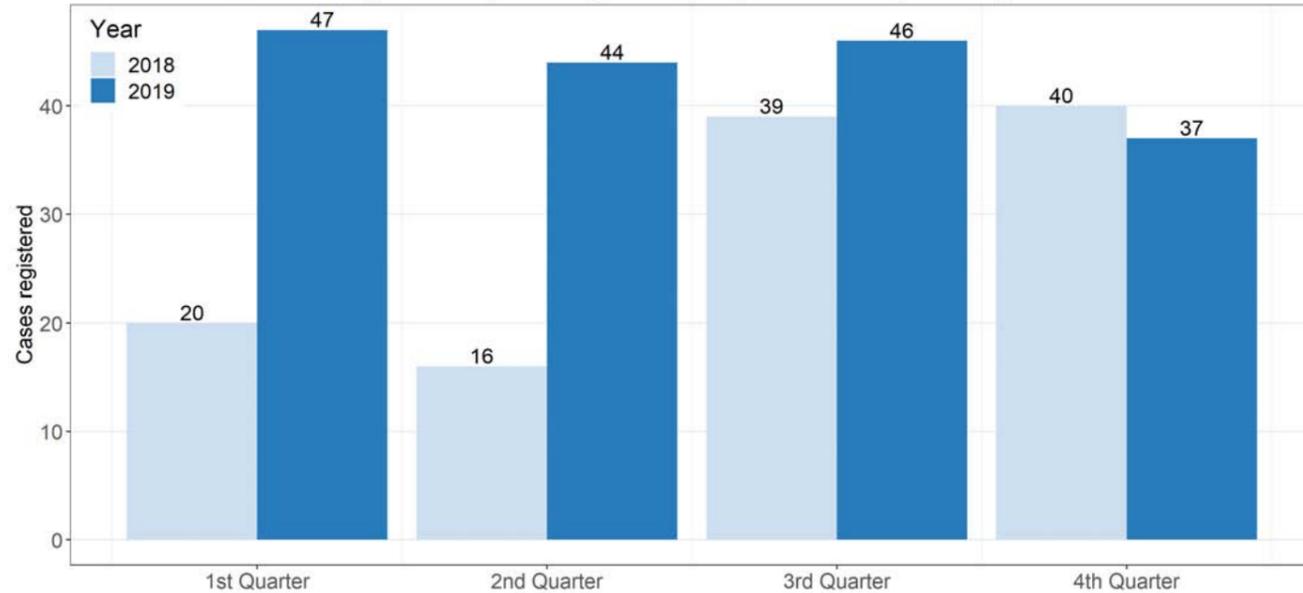
In addition to its direct impacts, wildlife crime is a massive strain on a great range of resources. In order to contain the rapid escalation of serious wildlife crimes, government, NGOs, the private sector and international funding agencies have all allocated immense resources. Yet capacities to deal with this growing vice remain stretched. While more resources are needed, it is equally important that existing assets are used as effectively as possible.

11. Detailed wildlife crime statistics for 2019

11.1 Wildlife crime CASES REGISTERED related to high-value species (2018-2019)

High-value species: elephant, rhinos (black and white rhino combined), pangolin

Wildlife cases related to high-value species registered per quarter for the past two years

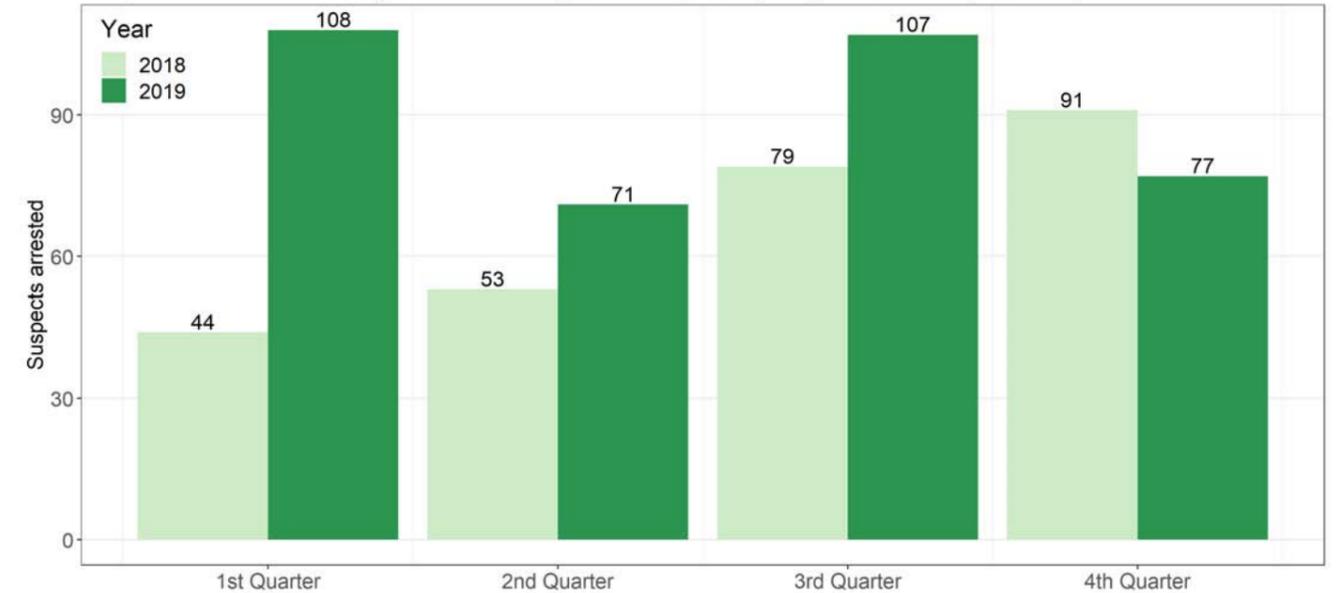


Total cases registered 2018 (high-value species only): 115 | Total cases registered 2019 (high-value species only): 174

11.2 Wildlife crime ARRESTS related to high-value species (2018-2019)

High-value species: elephant, rhinos (black and white rhino combined), pangolin

Suspects arrested on charges related to high-value species per quarter for the past two years



Total arrests 2018 (high-value species only): 267 | Total arrests 2019 (high-value species only): 363

Interpretations and notes

Total number of wildlife crime cases involving high-value species

- The above statistics represent all cases registered during the current reporting period, which were related to either elephant, rhinos (both species) or pangolin, registered anywhere in Namibia.
- Infringements include both actual poaching and the intent to poach; trafficking (i.e. trading) of controlled wildlife products; possession of controlled wildlife products; and other infringements such as possession of illegal firearms, and unlawfully entering a protected area.
- Cases do not always include arrests.

Changes in the number of registered cases from year to year

- Many factors influence the number of wildlife crime cases registered. These can include changes in law-enforcement effort, and changes in the number of crimes being committed.
- Suspects may be charged with a number of offenses, sometimes under separately registered cases.
- The same suspects may be re-arrested in new cases over time (having been released or acquitted).
- Wildlife crime in Namibia has undoubtedly increased significantly in recent years, but there have also been significant increases in the effectiveness of law enforcement, especially over the past three years.

Interpretations and notes

Total number of wildlife crime arrests related to high-value species

- The above statistics represent all suspects arrested on charges related to any type of wildlife crime infringement in connection with either elephant, rhinos (both species) or pangolin, registered anywhere in Namibia during the current reporting period.
- Infringements include both actual poaching and the intent to poach; trafficking (i.e. trading) of controlled wildlife products; possession of controlled wildlife products; and other infringements such as possession of illegal firearms, and unlawfully entering a protected area.

Changes in the number of arrests from year to year

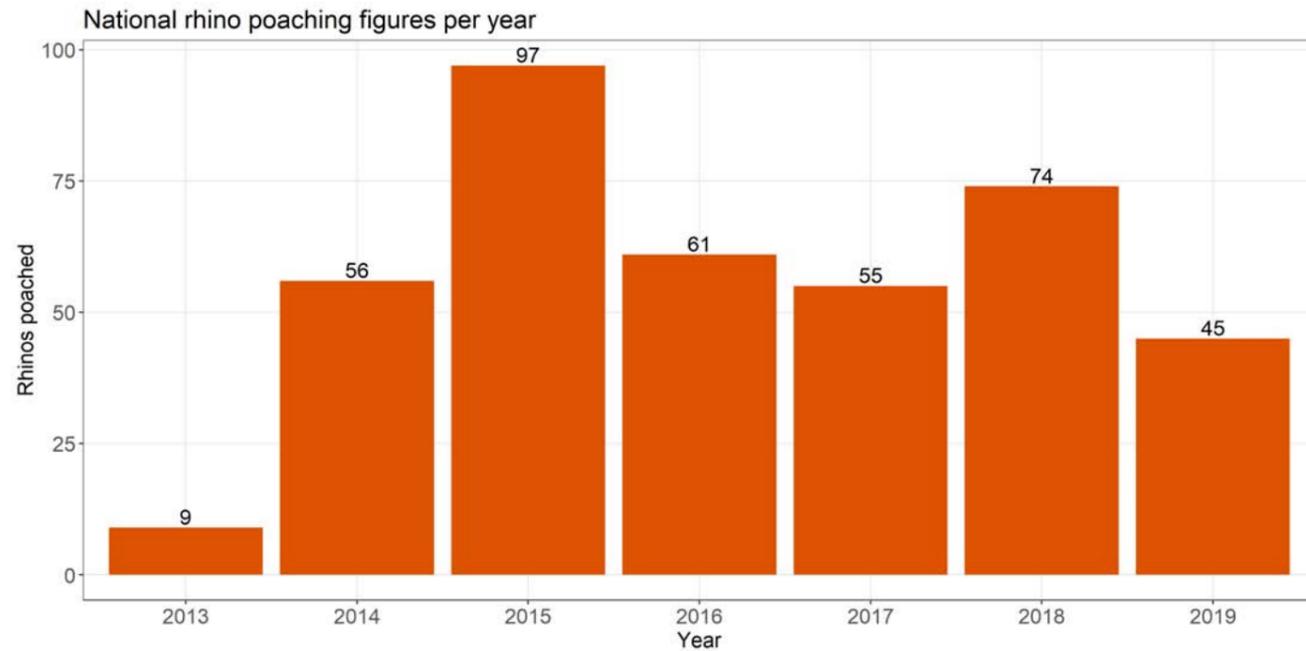
- Many factors influence the number of arrests made. These can include changes in law-enforcement effort, and changes in the number of criminals involved in crime.
- Many wildlife crime cases involve complex investigations, often over longer periods of time, that may or may not lead to the arrest of suspects.
- Suspects may be charged with a number of offenses, sometimes under separately registered cases.
- The same suspects may be re-arrested in new cases over time (having been released or acquitted).
- Suspects can only be charged with an offense if there is clear, **prima facie** evidence against them, which can be used in a court of law.

11.3 ESTIMATES OF POACHED RHINOS (2013-2019)

NOTE - STATISTICS REPRESENT ESTIMATES, BASED ON DISCOVERED CARCASSES OF POACHED RHINOS.

ESTIMATED DATE OF DEATH WAS USED TO ASCRIBE CARCASSES TO A PARTICULAR YEAR.

Estimating date of death for old carcasses is extremely difficult. Some carcasses may remain undiscovered.



THE ABOVE STATISTICS REPRESENT ESTIMATES ONLY

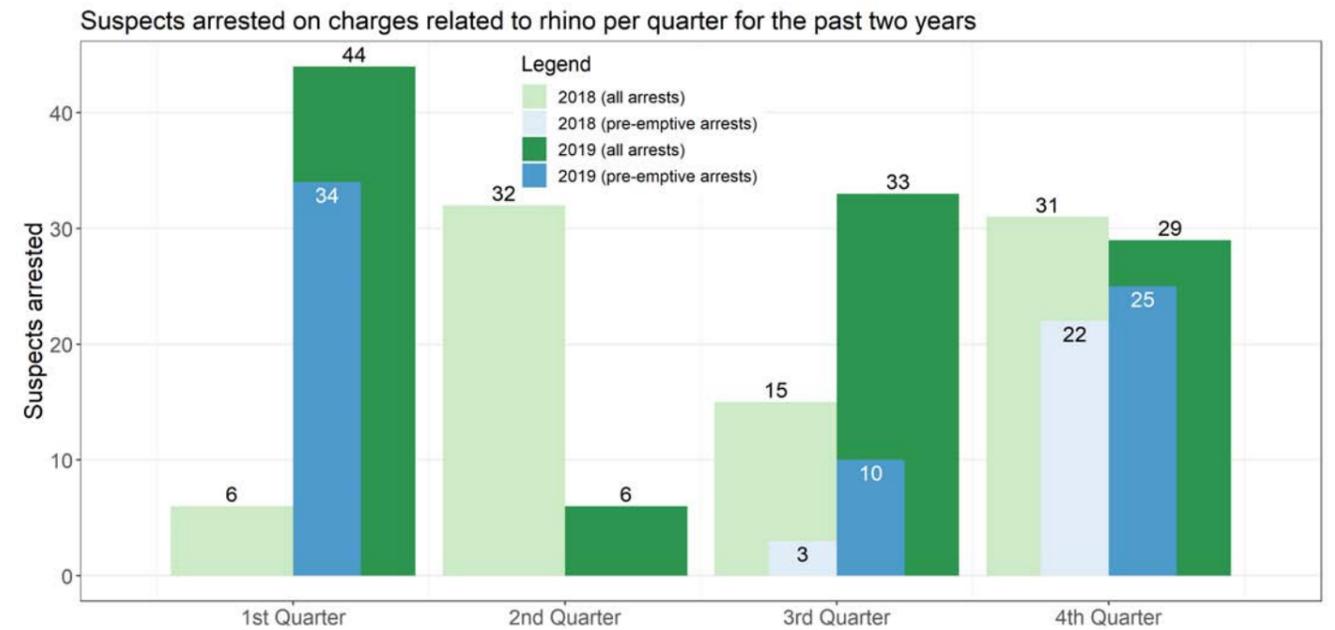
Interpretations and notes

Estimates of poached rhino

- **Special Note – all rhino poaching data presented in this report is based on estimated date of death of the animal, not date of discovery of the carcass.**
- Statistics of rhino carcasses generally present a number of problems:
 - carcasses may be discovered a long time after the death of the animal (sometimes years).
 - the date of death of the animal may be difficult or impossible to determine.
 - some rhino carcasses may never be discovered.
- Presenting statistics of rhino carcasses based on estimated date of death is thus problematic, as statistics need to be adjusted retroactively when carcasses that are estimated to be quite old are discovered. This means that figures presented here may differ from figures previously published by the MET.
- Finding animal carcasses in vast bushland (e.g. Etosha National Park), or remote, inaccessible terrain (e.g. Erongo-Kunene Community Conservation Area) can be extremely difficult or impossible, even with the aid of helicopters and other modern technology.
- Fluctuations in numbers of discovered carcasses are thus influenced by search effort as well as poaching intensity.
- Investigations use the date of discovery of a carcass as the basis and then scrutinize all available evidence. CITES categories are used to classify the approximate age of carcasses to aid investigations.
- **The statistics show a slight reduction in the estimated number of rhinos poached. While there may be undiscovered carcasses, it is believed that pre-emptive arrests and other improvements in law enforcement have led to a reduction in rhino poaching in Namibia.**

11.4 ARRESTS RELATED TO RHINOS (2018-2019) (black and white rhino combined)

Note – pre-emptive arrests indicate poachers arrested before they could kill a rhino.



Total arrests related to rhinos 2018: 84 | Total arrests related to rhinos 2019: 112

Pre-emptive arrests 2018: 25 | Pre-emptive arrests 2019: 69

Interpretations and notes

Total number of arrests related to rhinos

- Total arrests related to rhinos include both the actual poaching of rhinos and the intent to poach rhinos; trafficking (i.e. trading) of rhino parts; possession of rhino parts; aiding and abetting criminals; or other infringements.
- There are clear fluctuations in the number of arrests each month. The causes for these fluctuations are complex.
- Some cases may be ongoing for several years, and arrests may be made at any time during this period.

Pre-emptive arrests

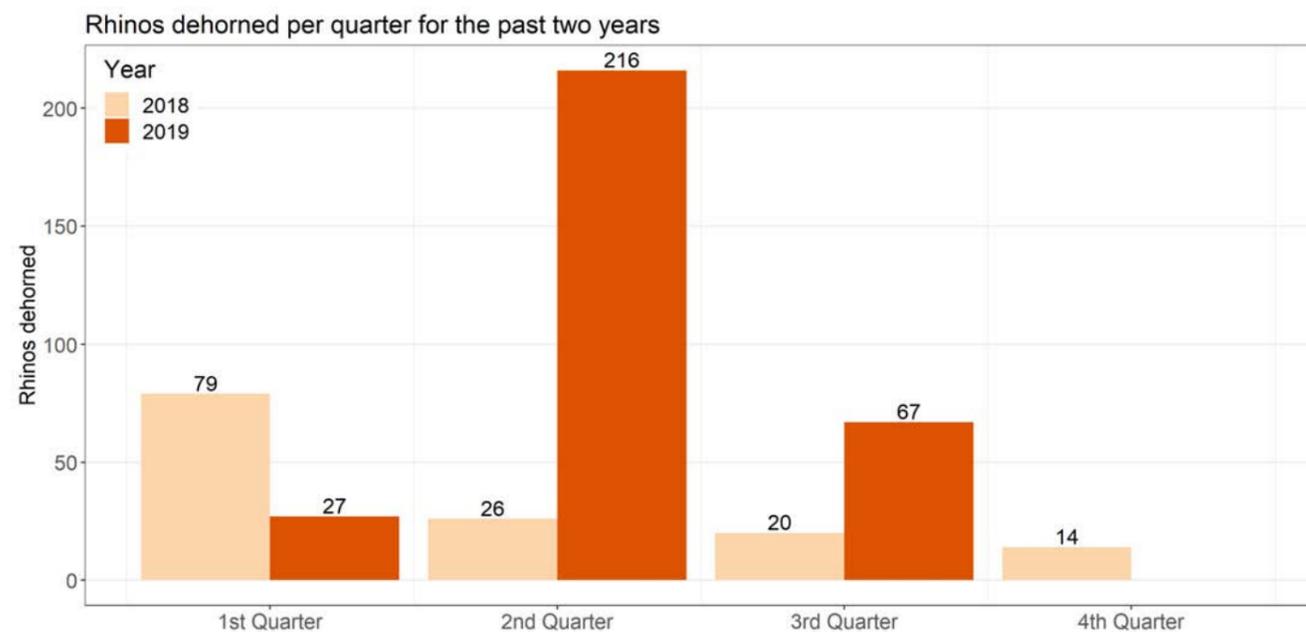
- Pre-emptive arrests made up close to 62% of all arrests related to rhino during 2019.
- Pre-emptive arrests are those arrests where poachers are arrested while planning or attempting to poach a rhino, but have not yet killed a rhino.
- Suspects in pre-emptive arrests are charged with conspiracy to poach rhino (also known as intent to poach).
- Charges in pre-emptive arrests are based on a variety of incriminating evidence, which may include unlawful entry into a game park, possession of illegal firearms, carrying of firearms in a game park etc.
- Through the effective use of a range of monitoring, surveillance and forensics technology, as well as other information, investigators have been able to make an increasing number of pre-emptive arrests.

The impact of pre-emptive arrests

- Pre-emptive arrests are considered the most successful law enforcement intervention related to rhino poaching.
- Pre-emptive arrests save the lives of targeted rhinos, but still lead to the conviction of the criminals.
- The knock-on effect of the disruption of syndicates means that a considerable number rhinos are saved through each pre-emptive arrest.
- Under Namibian legislation, the laws and penalties regarding the conspiracy to commit an offence (in this case rhino poaching) are applied in the same manner as if the perpetrator had committed the actual offence.

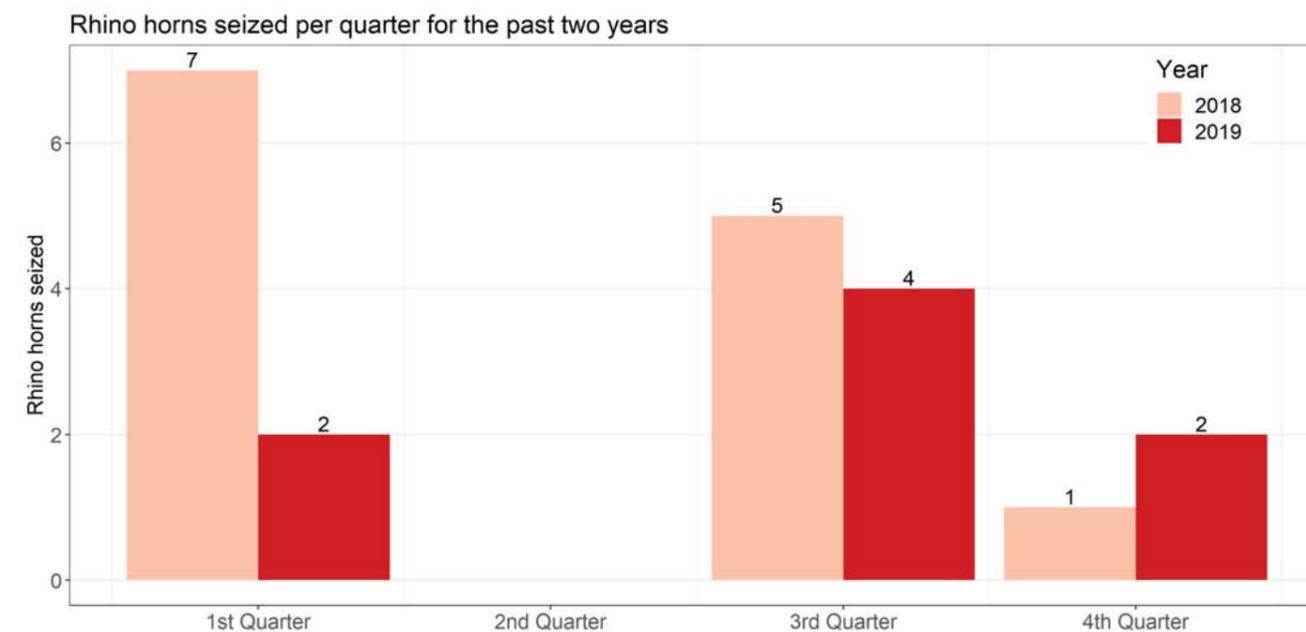
11.5 DEHORNING OF RHINOS – number of rhinos (2018-2019) (black and white rhino combined)

Note - rhinos are dehorned to make them uninteresting to poachers and protect them from being killed.



Total rhinos dehorned 2018: 139 | Total rhinos dehorned 2019: 310

11.6 RHINO HORN SEIZURES – number of complete horns (2018-2019) (black and white rhino combined)



Total rhino horns seized 2018: 13 | Total rhino horns seized 2019: 8

Interpretations and notes

Dehorning of rhinos

- The horns of a rhino grow continuously throughout the animal's life. The horns can be cut off without pain or injury to the animal (in the same way people cut their hair or fingernails). Both black and white rhino naturally have two horns, although these may vary significantly in size. In very rare cases, a small third horn may be present on some animals.
- To dehorn a rhino, the animal is tranquillised by a professional team which includes an experienced wildlife veterinarian. The horns are cut off just above their growth base. Once the procedure has been completed, the animal is safely released. As the horns grow relatively quickly, dehorning needs to be repeated at intervals of 12 to 24 months to be an effective deterrent against poaching.
- Dehorning is an expensive operation. It is usually carried out with the aid of a helicopter to locate and dart the targeted animals.
- The horns of all Namibian black rhino remain the property of the government, while the horns of privately owned white rhino remain the property of the rhino owner. Rhino owners must, however, apply for a special permit to dehorn their rhino and store the horns.
- Namibia has successfully used dehorning as a means to help protect rhinos against poaching since the late 1980s.

Interpretations and notes

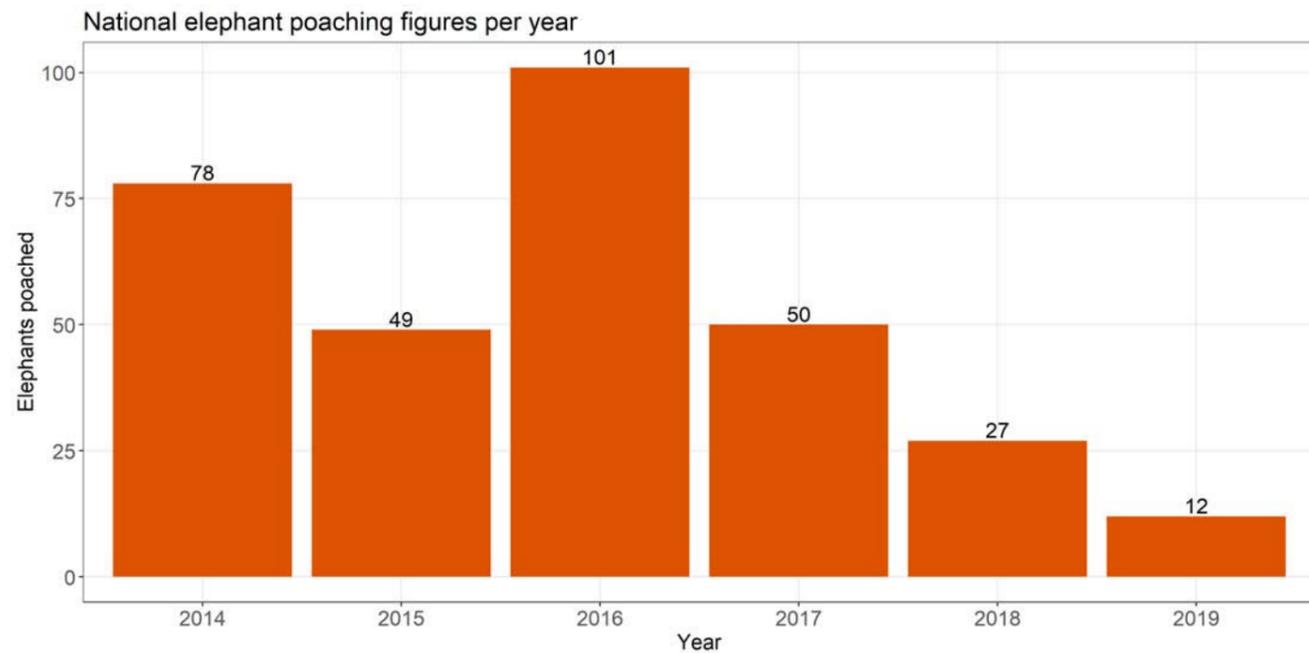
Seizures of rhino horn

- A low number of rhino horns are confiscated compared to both the number of rhinos poached and the number of arrests made related to rhinos.
- Intricate trade routes exist for the rapid movement of rhino horns out of Namibia to neighbouring countries and destinations further afield.
- Evidence from investigations indicates that moving rhino horns out of Namibia appears to be the first priority for criminals involved in poaching and trafficking rhinos.
- Even when suspects are arrested only a day or so after a poaching incident, the rhino horns have often already been moved out of the country.
- Criminals will also attempt to dispose of the incriminating evidence of rhino horns as soon as there is any sign of law enforcement, which may lead to some rhino horns not being recovered during investigations.
- Through effective monitoring, surveillance and forensics technology, investigators have recently been able to arrest suspects in a number of cases in possession of fresh rhino horns before a rhino carcass had been discovered; the location of the poaching incident was then determined through further investigations.

11.7 ESTIMATES OF POACHED ELEPHANT (2014-2019)

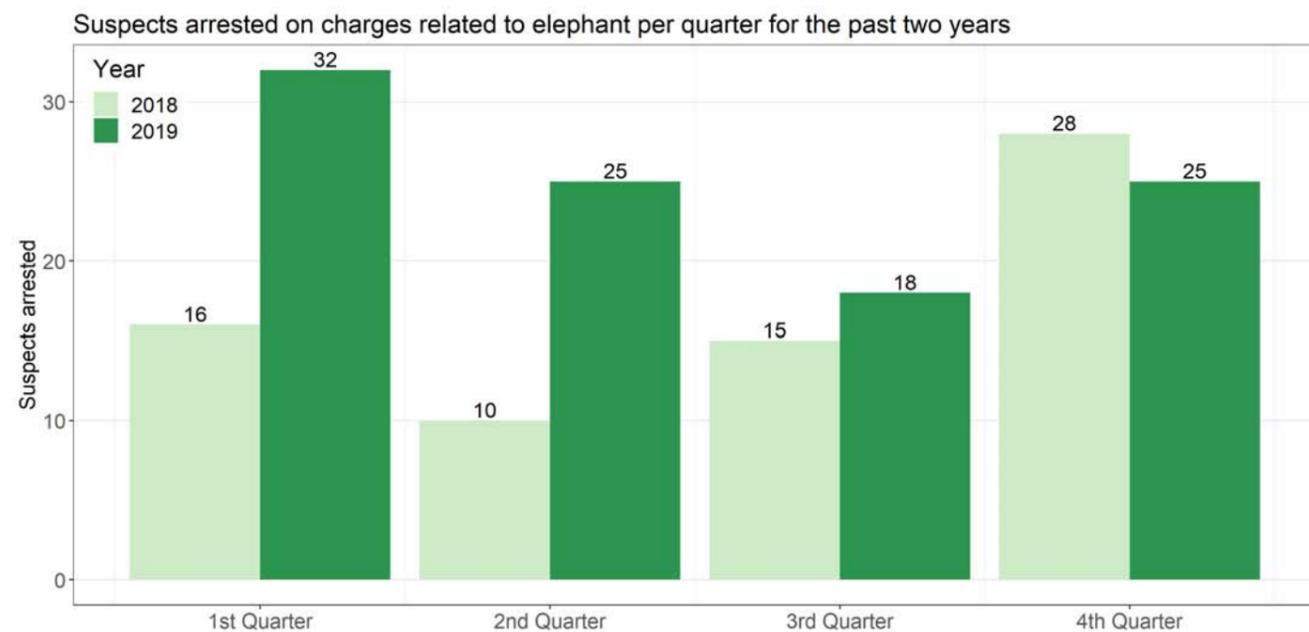
NOTE - STATISTICS REPRESENT ESTIMATES, BASED ON DISCOVERED CARCASSES OF POACHED ELEPHANTS. ESTIMATED DATE OF DEATH WAS USED TO ASCRIBE CARCASSES TO A PARTICULAR YEAR.

Estimating date of death for old carcasses is extremely difficult. Some carcasses may remain undiscovered.



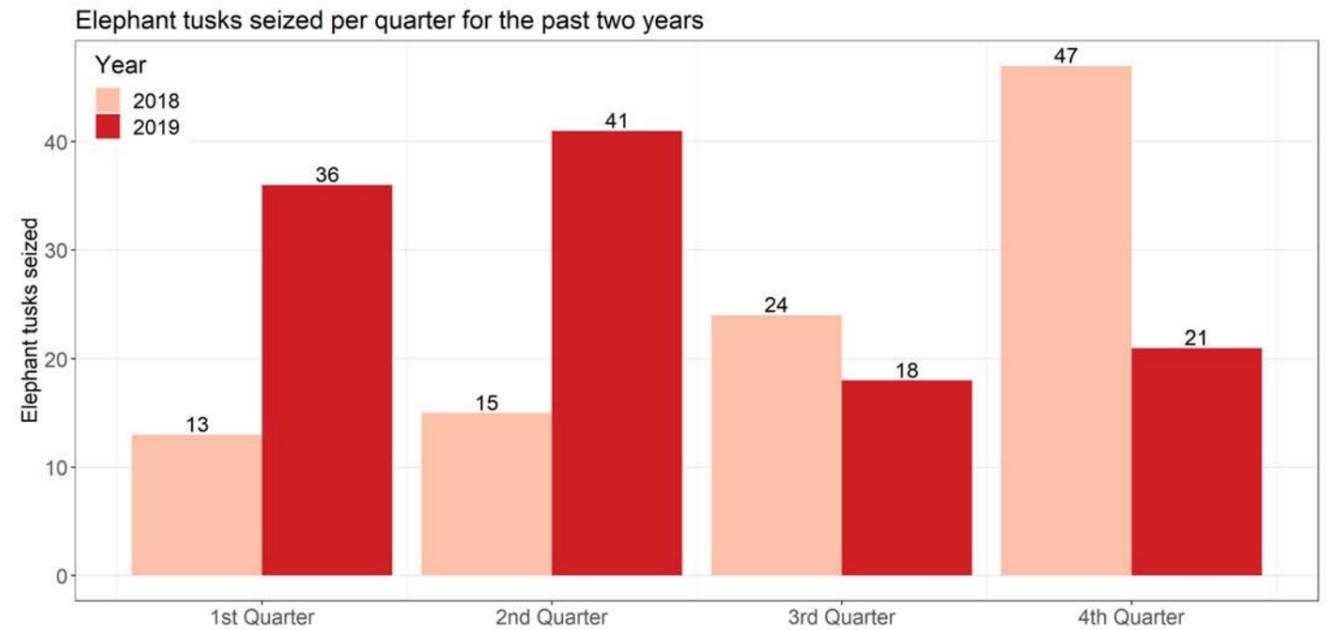
THE ABOVE STATISTICS REPRESENT ESTIMATES ONLY

11.8 ARRESTS RELATED TO ELEPHANT (2018-2019)



Total arrests related to elephant 2018: 69 | Total arrests related to elephant 2019: 100

11.9 IVORY SEIZURES – number of complete tusks (2018-2019)



Total elephant tusks seized 2018: 99 | Total elephant tusks seized 2019: 116

Interpretations and notes

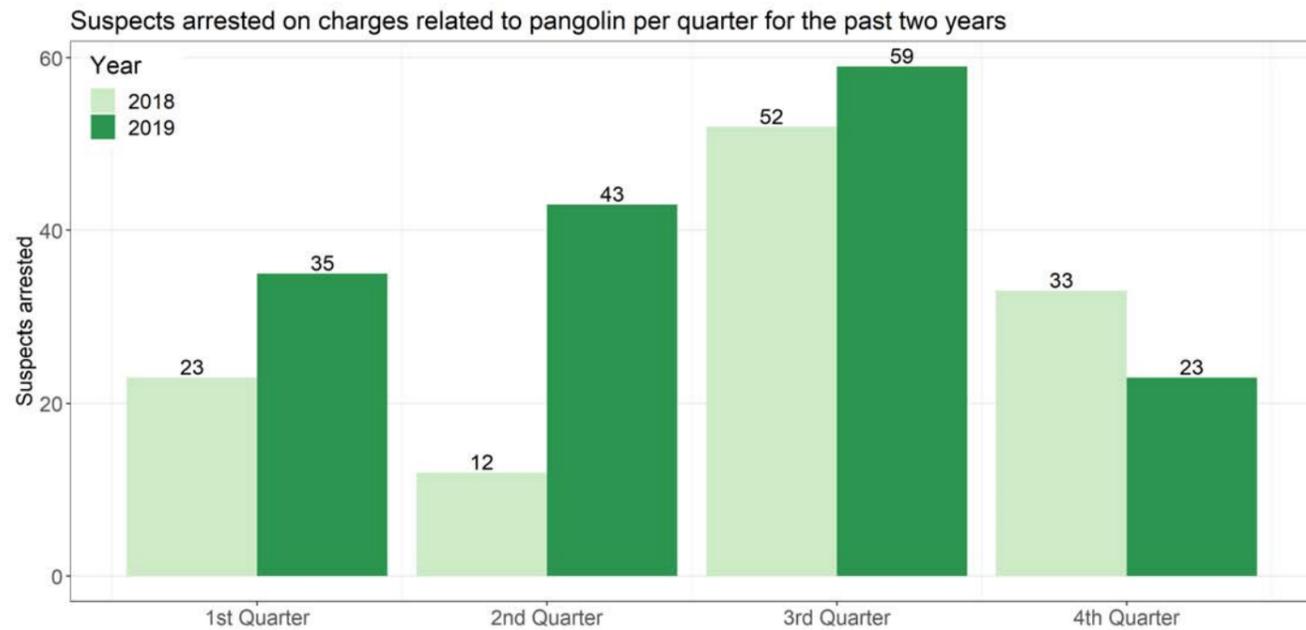
Estimates of poached elephant

- **Special Note** – all elephant poaching data presented in this report is based on estimated date of death of the animal, not date of discovery of the carcass.
- Statistics of elephant carcasses generally present a number of problems:
 - carcasses may be discovered a long time after the death of the animal (sometimes years).
 - the date of death of the animal may be difficult or impossible to determine.
 - some elephant carcasses may never be discovered.
- Presenting statistics of elephant carcasses based on estimated date of death is thus problematic, as statistics need to be adjusted retroactively when carcasses that are estimated to be quite old are discovered. This means that figures presented here may differ from figures previously published by the MET.
- Finding animal carcasses in vast bushland (e.g. Etosha National Park), or remote, inaccessible terrain (e.g. Erongo-Kunene Community Conservation Area) can be extremely difficult or impossible, even with the aid of helicopters and other modern technology.
- Fluctuations in numbers of discovered carcasses are thus influenced by search effort as well as poaching intensity.
- Investigations use the date of discovery of a carcass as the basis and then scrutinize all available evidence. CITES categories are used to classify the approximate age of carcasses to aid investigations.
- **The statistics show a clear reduction in the estimated number of elephants poached. While there may be undiscovered carcasses, it is believed that improvements in law enforcement have led to a significant reduction in elephant poaching in Namibia.**

Seizures of ivory and arrests related to elephant

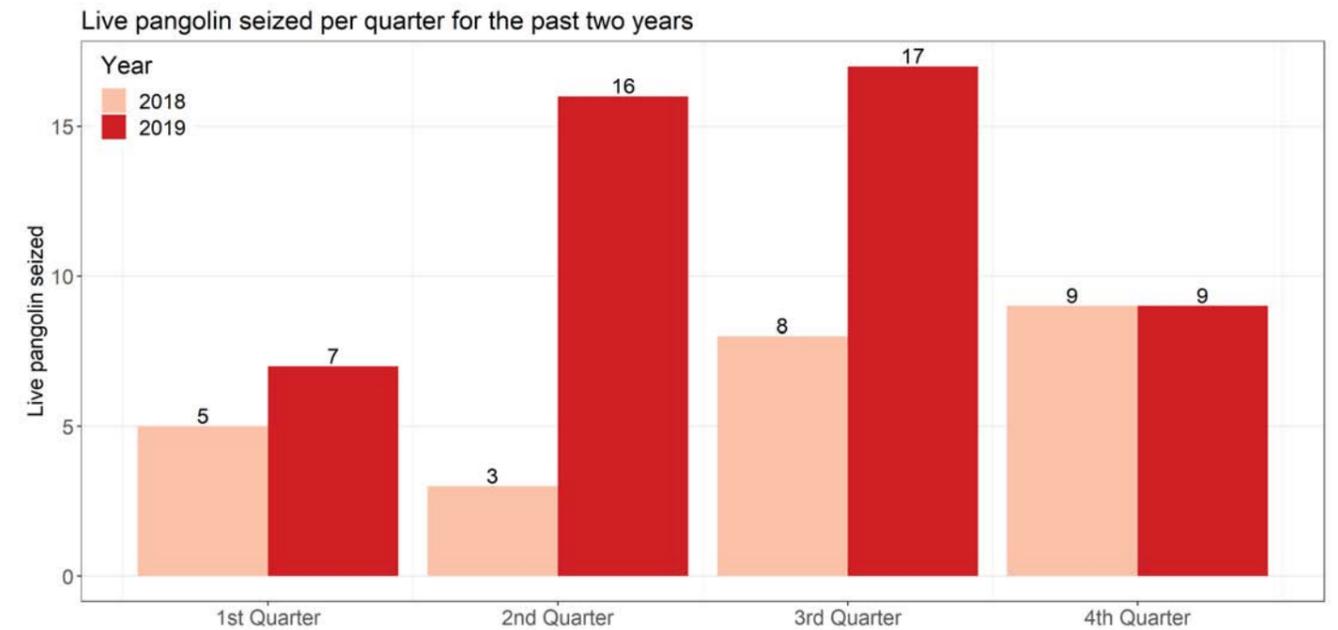
- Arrests related to elephant have increased in the past year. Ivory is regularly smuggled into Namibia from neighbouring countries, either for attempted sale in Namibia, or in transit to other destinations. The origin of seized ivory can rarely be determined; animals may have been poached in Namibia or in neighbouring countries. This is of particular relevance in the Kavango and Zambezi regions of Namibia.
- Ivory may be hidden (sometimes even buried) by criminals for longer periods (sometimes years)
- Date of confiscation of ivory can rarely be linked to the date of death of the animal. Ivory confiscated in 2019 may originate from elephants killed in 2018 or earlier.
- **Special Note** – the amount of ivory seized does not relate directly to the number of elephants killed in Namibia, as some ivory may originate from elephants killed in neighbouring countries. Only 12 elephants are estimated to have been poached in Namibia during 2019.

11.10 ARRESTS RELATED TO PANGOLIN (2018-2019)



Total arrests related to pangolin 2018: 120 | Total arrests related to pangolin 2019: 160

11.11 LIVE PANGOLIN SEIZED (2018-2019)



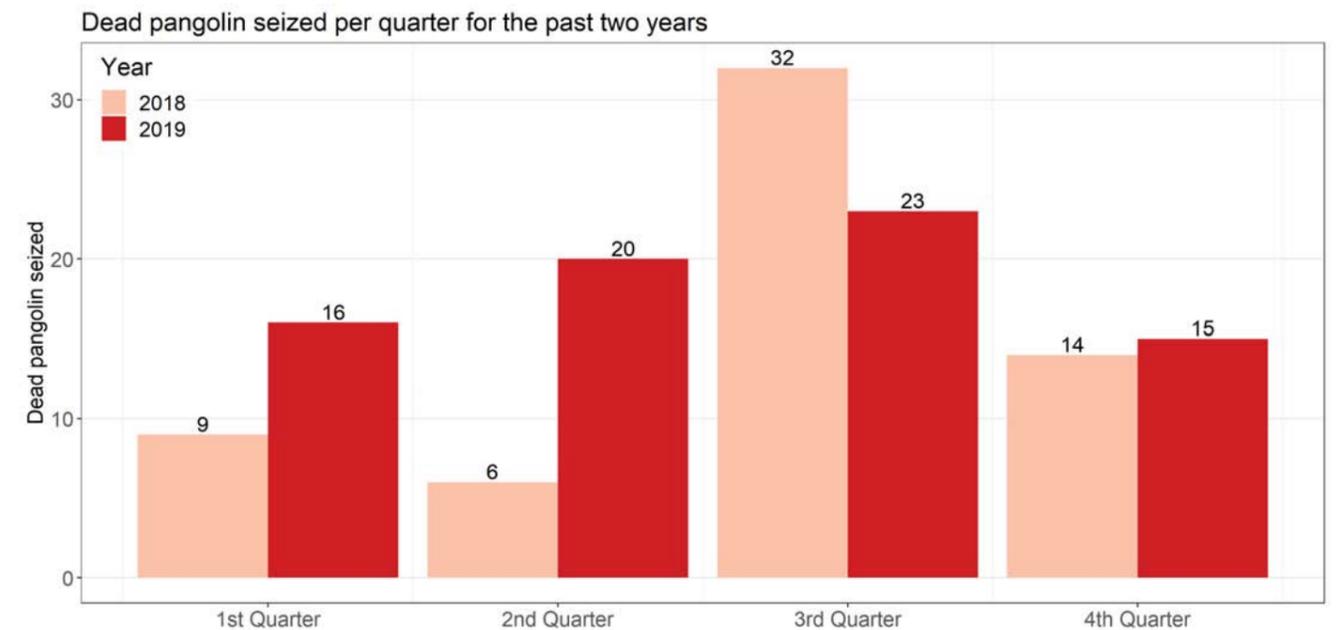
Total live pangolin seized 2018: 25 | Total live pangolin seized 2019: 49

Interpretations and notes

Seizures and arrests related to pangolin

- Pangolin are currently the most-trafficked wild animal in Namibia – and the world.
- Arrests related to pangolin have increased by about 33% in the past year, while seizures have increased by about 43%.
- The sharp increase in pangolin trafficking in Namibia in recent years is a response to the growing international trade.
- An awareness and reward scheme has been effective in raising awareness of pangolin trafficking in Namibia and has facilitated a number of arrests.
- Live pangolin make up close to 40% of all pangolin seized.
- Live pangolin that have been seized are rehabilitated and released back into the wild at secure sites.
- Most dead pangolin are seized as dried pangolin skins, although a small number of complete pangolin carcasses have been seized.
- During periods of extreme drought, pangolin may become increasingly day-active; this may lead to unusually high numbers of pangolin sightings and incorrect assumptions regarding their abundance; it may also lead to increases in incidental pangolin poaching.

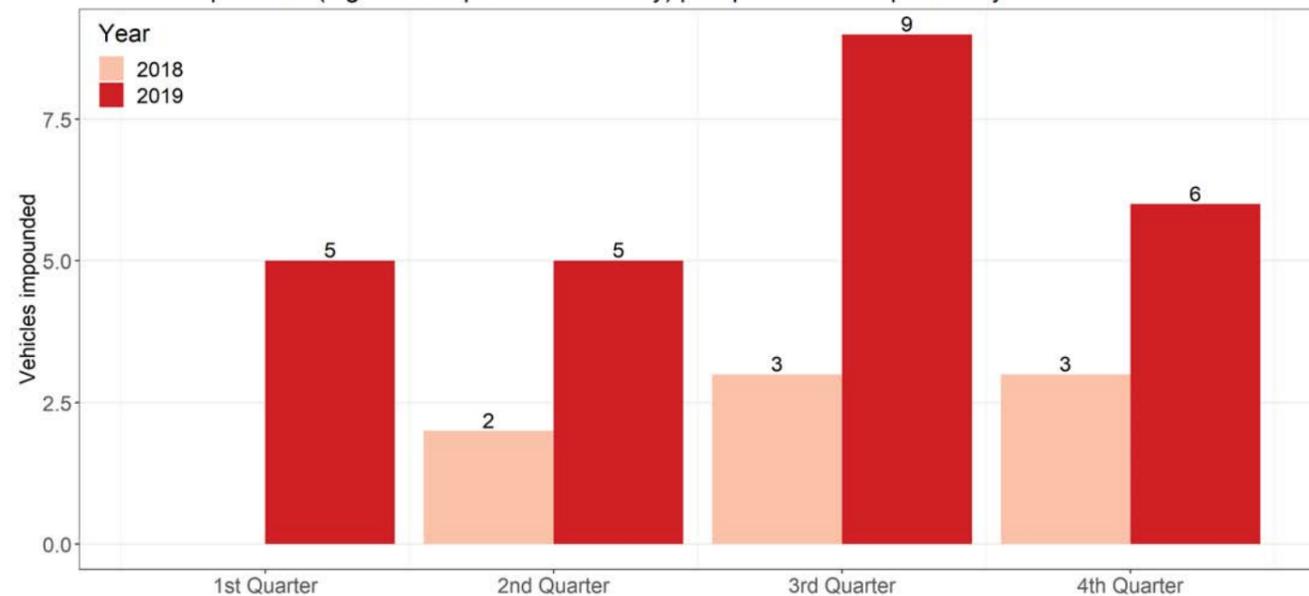
11.12 DEAD PANGOLIN SEIZED – mostly as complete skins (2018-2019)



Total dead pangolin seized 2018: 61 | Total dead pangolin seized 2019: 74

11.13 VEHICLES IMPOUNDED (2018-2019)

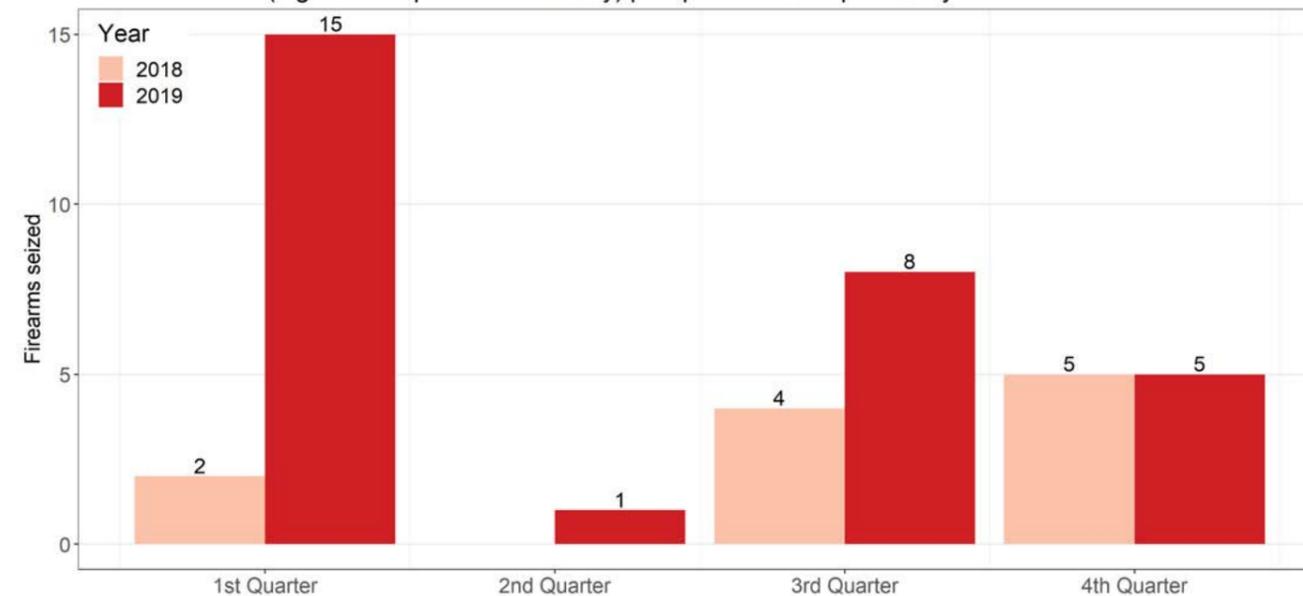
Vehicles impounded (high-value species cases only) per quarter for the past two years



Total vehicles impounded 2018: 8 | Total vehicles impounded 2019: 25

11.14 FIREARMS SEIZED (2018-2019)

Firearms seized (high-value species cases only) per quarter for the past two years



Total firearms seized 2018: 11 | Total firearms seized 2019: 29

Interpretations and notes

Impounding of vehicles

- When suspects are found in possession of any contraband, such as illegal wildlife products, firearms or ammunition, the vehicles in which they transported those items may be seized as **instrumentality** in the commission of an alleged offence.
- In 2019, a number of vehicles were seized during pre-emptive arrests of suspects conspiring to poach rhinos.
- If suspects are convicted as charged, any vehicles or other property that has been impounded in relation to the charges may be forfeited to the state.
- The forfeiture of expensive vehicles represents a significant additional punishment for criminals.

Interpretations and notes

Seizures of firearms and other contraband

- Suspects are regularly arrested in possession of illegal firearms and other contraband; these are often linked to previously reported poaching incidents, or in some cases to incidents that were previously unknown, but are uncovered through the arrest.
- Follow-up investigations may lead to the additional seizure of firearms used in particular poaching cases, or other illegal firearms kept by the suspects.
- The increase in arrests during 2019 has also led to an increase in the seizures of firearms.

12. Namibian Partnerships against Environmental Crime

12.1 General

Namibian Partnerships against Environmental Crime (N-PaEC) is a broad coalition between government agencies, NGOs, private sector, local communities, international funding agencies and the general public.

Disregard for all laws gives criminals an edge, as conservation and law enforcement agencies need to adhere to rules and regulations. By working together and creating strong partnerships across a broad range of institutions and individuals, N-PaEC can significantly reduce the criminal edge.

Through N-PaEC, the ministries of Environment and Tourism and Safety and Security seek to engage all concerned stakeholders in the fight against wildlife crime. The below list is not exclusive and should be continually expanded to strengthen Namibia's conservation and law enforcement efforts.

The government welcomes all constructive stakeholder engagement.

12.2 List of current partner organisations

GOVERNMENT

Anti-Corruption Commission
Financial Intelligence Centre
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Directorate of Forestry
Ministry of Defence
Namibian Defence Force
Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Wildlife and National Parks Directorate
Wildlife Protection Services Division
Intelligence and Investigation Unit
Game Products Trust Fund
Ministry of Finance
Customs and Excise Directorate
Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Safety and Security
Namibian Police Force
Criminal Investigations Directorate
Protected Resources Division
Serious Crime Unit
Office of the Attorney-General
Office of the Prosecutor-General

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
Intelligence Support Against Poaching
Legal Assistance Centre
Namibia Nature Foundation
Rooikat Trust
Save the Rhino Trust
WWF In Namibia

NGO UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS

Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
Namibian Chamber of Environment

INTERNATIONAL FUNDING AGENCIES

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, USA
Global Environment Facility
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
United States Agency for International Development
Wildcat Foundation
WWF

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Communal conservancies
Communal farmers
Freehold conservancies
Freehold farmers
Black-rhino custodians
White-rhino owners

PRIVATE INDUSTRY

General business community
Mining industry
Tourism and conservation-hunting industries

Support from Namibian companies and individuals is overwhelmingly positive and extremely wide-ranging. While it is impossible to mention all contributions here, each contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

13. Abbreviations and acronyms

13.1 Nationality abbreviations:

Ang	Angola
Bot	Botswana
Chi	China
Nam	Namibia
SA	South Africa
Zam	Zambia
Zim	Zimbabwe

13.2 Acronyms:

ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
AG	Attorney-General
BRTT	Blue Rhino Task Team
CCPCJ	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CR	Crime Register
DC	Deputy Commissioner
FIC	Financial Intelligence Centre
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPTF	Game Products Trust Fund, MET
ICCCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IIU	Intelligence and Investigation Unit, MET
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, USA
IRDNC	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
ISAP	Intelligence Support Against Poaching
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
LAC	Legal Assistance Centre
MAFWA	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Affairs
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MHAI	Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MSS	Ministry of Safety and Security
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
NAMPOL	Namibian Police Force
NCE	Namibia Chamber of Environment
NDF	Namibian Defence Force
NGO	Non-government organisation
NNF	Namibia Nature Foundation
N-PaEC	Namibian Partnerships against Environmental Crime
PG	Prosecutor-General
PRD	Protected Resources Division, NAMPOL
SRT	Save the Rhino Trust
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCO	World Customs Organisation
WPSD	Wildlife Protection Services Division, MET



Wildlife Protection Services Division
Wildlife and National Parks Directorate
Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Protected Resources Division
Criminal Investigations Directorate
Namibian Police Force
Ministry of Safety and Security



Report wildlife crime at this number:
55 555
[all messages and calls are strictly confidential]

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