

# Revised National Strategy on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement

2021 - 2025



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



# Revised National Strategy on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement

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## Foreword

Unprecedented levels of elephant and rhino poaching across Africa, and Namibia is no exception, are being experienced and these threaten the future of these species and the ecosystem they inhabit. This situation demands a review and update of current strategies and measures to curb illegal hunting and trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products. As poaching groups increase in size, number and sophistication, it is more important than ever that law enforcement responses are robust, reliable and effective.

Wildlife trafficking is slowly becoming a million-dollar criminal enterprise that has expanded to more than just a conservation concern. The increasing involvement of organised crime in poaching and wildlife trafficking threatens peace, strengthens illicit trade routes, and destabilises economies and communities that depend on wildlife for their livelihoods.

Namibia has made tremendous effort and has had significant success stories in biodiversity conservation. An extensive network of national parks was expanded to conserve its globally significant biodiversity. National parks such as Bwabwata, Dorob, Mangetti and Tsau //Khaeb were proclaimed after Namibia's independence. Etosha remains the country's flagship park. These national parks are vital tools for conserving Namibia's essential biodiversity including endangered species.

This strategy therefore provides policy directives, a framework and common approaches to the protection and conservation of wildlife and ensures the effective enforcement of laws governing wildlife resources in the country.



**Pohamba Shifeta, MP, 2020**  
Minister  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER  
PRIVATE BAG 13306, WINDHOEK

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

## Preface

Namibia regards the conservation of biodiversity highly hence its inclusion in the National Constitution. Wildlife is an economic resource that contributes to the National Gross Domestic Product. Tourism, which is identified as one of the economic pillars for the country, is highly dependent on wildlife. Wildlife is contributing significantly to the livelihoods of the local communities, particularly in rural areas.

The strategy gives a brief background on wildlife protection and law enforcement in the country, including specific objectives. It provides for strategic programme areas such as wildlife protection, anti-poaching and law enforcement; investigations and prosecutions; transboundary illicit trade; protection of rhinoceros within protected areas; protection of rhinoceros outside protected areas; protection of elephant; protection of pangolin; community safety and security; partner and stakeholder coordination; and awareness and communication.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism would like to express its deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the development of this strategy. We are grateful to our staff members, line ministries/offices/agencies, non-governmental organisations, private sector, conservancies, farmers and all partner stakeholders who provided essential information for the development of the strategy. We particularly thank the Rooikat Trust for providing support in the facilitation for the compilation of this strategy.



**Teofilus Nghitila**  
Executive Director  
Office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

## Acronyms

ABS	ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING	NAMPOL	NAMIBIAN POLICE FORCE
ACC	ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION	NARREC	NAMIBIA ANIMAL REHABILITATION, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTRE
BNP	BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK	NCE	NAMIBIAN CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT
BON	BANK OF NAMIBIA	NCIS	NAMIBIAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
BRTT	BLUE RHINO TASK TEAM	NDF	NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE
CBNRM	COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION
CGG	COMMUNITY GAME GUARD	NNF	NAMIBIA NATURE FOUNDATION
CITES	CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA	NP	NATIONAL PARK
ENP	ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK	NRWG	NATURAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP
FIC	FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE	NUST	NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GPTF	GAME PRODUCTS TRUST FUND OF MEFT	OPM	OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
IIU	INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATION UNIT OF MEFT	PA	PROTECTED AREA
INL	BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS	PG	PROSECUTOR GENERAL
INTERPOL	INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION	PRD	PROTECTED RESOURCES DIVISION OF NAMPOL
IUCN	INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE	RhODIS	RHINO DNA INDEXING SYSTEM
IRDNC	INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION	RILO	REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE LIAISON OFFICE OF WCO
IWPP	INTEGRATED WILDLIFE PROTECTION PROJECT	SF	SPECIAL FORCES
JOC	JOINT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE	SMART	SPATIAL MONITORING AND REPORTING TOOL
KAZA TFCA	KAVANGO-ZAMBEZI TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA	SOP	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
KFW	KREDITANSTALT FÜR WIEDERAUFBAU	SRT	SAVE THE RHINO TRUST
LAC	LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE	TA	TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY
M&E	MONITORING AND EVALUATION	TFCA	TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA
MAWLR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM	TRAFFIC	THE WILDLIFE TRADE MONITORING NETWORK
MDVA	MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS	TWIX	TRADE IN WILDLIFE INFORMATION EXCHANGE
MEFT	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM	UNODC	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME
MHAISS	MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY	USAID	UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MIRCO	MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION	WCC	WILDLIFE CRIME COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP
MOF	MINISTRY OF FINANCE	WCO	WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
MOJ	MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	WPS	WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES
NACSO	NAMIBIAN ASSOCIATION OF CBNRM SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS		

## 1. Introduction

Wildlife crime in Namibia has become a serious concern that threatens our natural heritage and damages our environment. Well-organised gangs enter vulnerable areas; crime syndicates organise the trafficking of horns and tusks through complex networks leading to foreign markets. If the current syndicate-based wildlife crime is not brought under control it will trigger a vicious cycle which results in enhanced rural poverty.

Without conservation hunting, conservancies in Namibia can't sustainably operate and pay their game guards, this will reduce presence on the ground. News about wildlife crime will reduce attractiveness for visitors in a flagship park like Etosha National Park, and tourism numbers will decline. Income in rural areas will drastically be reduced: community game guards will lose jobs, direct employment created through hunting and tourism will be lost, controlled meat provision is stopped. Secondary industries will be affected, unemployment increases, tax income is reduced. More efforts and costs have to be committed to protect wildlife with lesser chances of success, because to secure their livelihoods rural communities will revert to illegal use of wildlife.

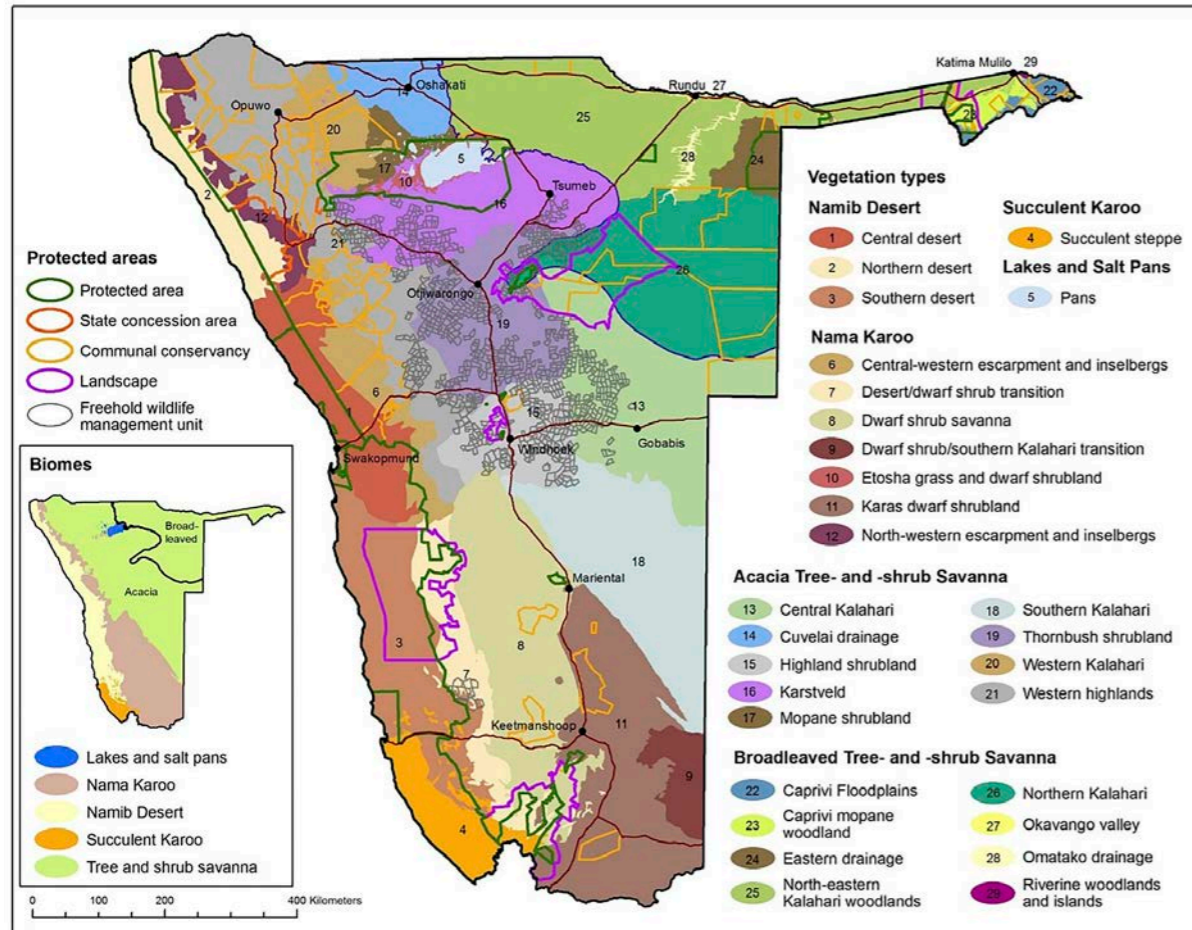
## 2. Background

During the 1970s and 1980s, populations of most large mammals such as rhinoceros and elephant in Africa experienced very sharp declines. This was mainly due to habitat loss and poaching. In some countries, some species even went extinct. However, during the past 25 years, Namibia experienced remarkable recovery of all large mammals, including rhinoceroses and elephants, through commendable and innovative interventions by the government.

Much of Namibia's successes in wildlife conservation are related to the successes in the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Programme. Since the registration of the first four conservancies in 1998, to date 86 conservancies have been registered covering more than 166,179 km<sup>2</sup> and representing more than 300,000 community members. Namibia's CBNRM programme links conservation to poverty eradication through developing the conservation hunting and tourism industries which in turn contribute to the Gross Domestic Product, employment creation and the improvement of the well-being and social upliftment of rural communities. The harvesting of non-timber forest products from community forests brings direct cash benefits to individual members and contributes significantly to household incomes.

Tourism through conservation hunting, particularly of elephant, accounts for much of the revenue generated through CBNRM. Other revenues are generated through joint ventures in lodges and campsites. The total cash income and in-kind benefits generated in conservancies grew from less than N\$ 1 million in 1998 to about N\$ 160,000,000 million in 2019. The revenue is significant at local level as it is complementary to other livelihood earnings.

These local enterprises diversify the economies of communal areas by introducing additional means of livelihoods which in turn serve as a means of buffering communities against climate change. These gains are being undermined by the poaching of elephants and rhinoceroses and the illegal harvesting and trade in wildlife products and other natural resources.



Namibia's Protected Area Network in relation to its biomes and vegetation types

The rising wildlife crime in southern Africa is well documented. While Namibia has historically experienced limited wildlife crime, the rising prices of illicit ivory, rhino horn and pangolin products drive the nature of such crimes in Namibia. Criminal syndicates pursue wildlife products with increasing sophistication using complex networks. Word is out in rural areas that there is serious money to be made from wildlife trade and this gives momentum to opportunistic poaching, especially of pangolin.

Currently Namibia holds the second-largest population of rhinoceros in the world and the world's largest population of black rhinoceros. In Etosha National Park (ENP), the rhino population is valued at more than three billion Namibian dollars. Rhinos also attract thousands of photographic tourists to the country. In recent years, Namibia has also experienced unprecedented levels of rhinoceros poaching.

The world's largest contiguous elephant population of about 250,000 elephants occurs within the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) which comprises Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. About 50,000 elephants occur in northwestern Zimbabwe, about 150,000 in northern Botswana, about 16,000 in northeastern Namibia, and the balance in southwestern Zambia and southeastern Angola.

The criminal syndicates driving wildlife trade continue to develop and extend their networks and use increasingly sophisticated approaches to poach or traffic wildlife products. Each significant success of law enforcement officers results in adaptations by the syndicates. It is widely acknowledged that improved enforcement in Namibia has led to greatly reduced illegal killing of elephant in northeastern Namibia based on carcasses detected and cases registered, but it has also resulted in increased poaching of elephant in Botswana meaning that poachers are able to monitor relative enforcement effort and deploy according to the least risk. Criminals are constantly seeking ways to remain ahead of the law, and law enforcement agencies need to respond accordingly.

Therefore, the illegal killing of wildlife in Namibia has implications for the environment, economy, social aspects as well as animal welfare. Environmental impacts of illegal hunting of wildlife in the country include the immediate impact of killing an existing animal; the effect of reducing breeding numbers and hence the rate of reproduction; and the effects of thinning the gene pool. The economic impacts of the illegal killing of wildlife includes effects in terms of financial cutbacks, job losses, and overall economic sustainability as tourism, being one of the country's priority economic sectors, is heavily dependant on wildlife.

Clearly, Namibia needs to be well prepared to deal with threats to its rhino, elephant and pangolin populations, as well as other wildlife species in the light of recent trends elsewhere in Africa, and particularly those in neighbouring countries. Of growing concern in Namibia is the illegal trade in other natural resources such as timber, rare succulent plants, reptiles and birds. The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Legislation (2017) and the forthcoming regulations will provide an additional means of protecting Namibia's biological and genetic resources, and the associated traditional knowledge.

### 3. Recent trends in wildlife crime

#### 3.1 Wildlife crime summary statistics for the period 01 January 2015 until 03 December 2020

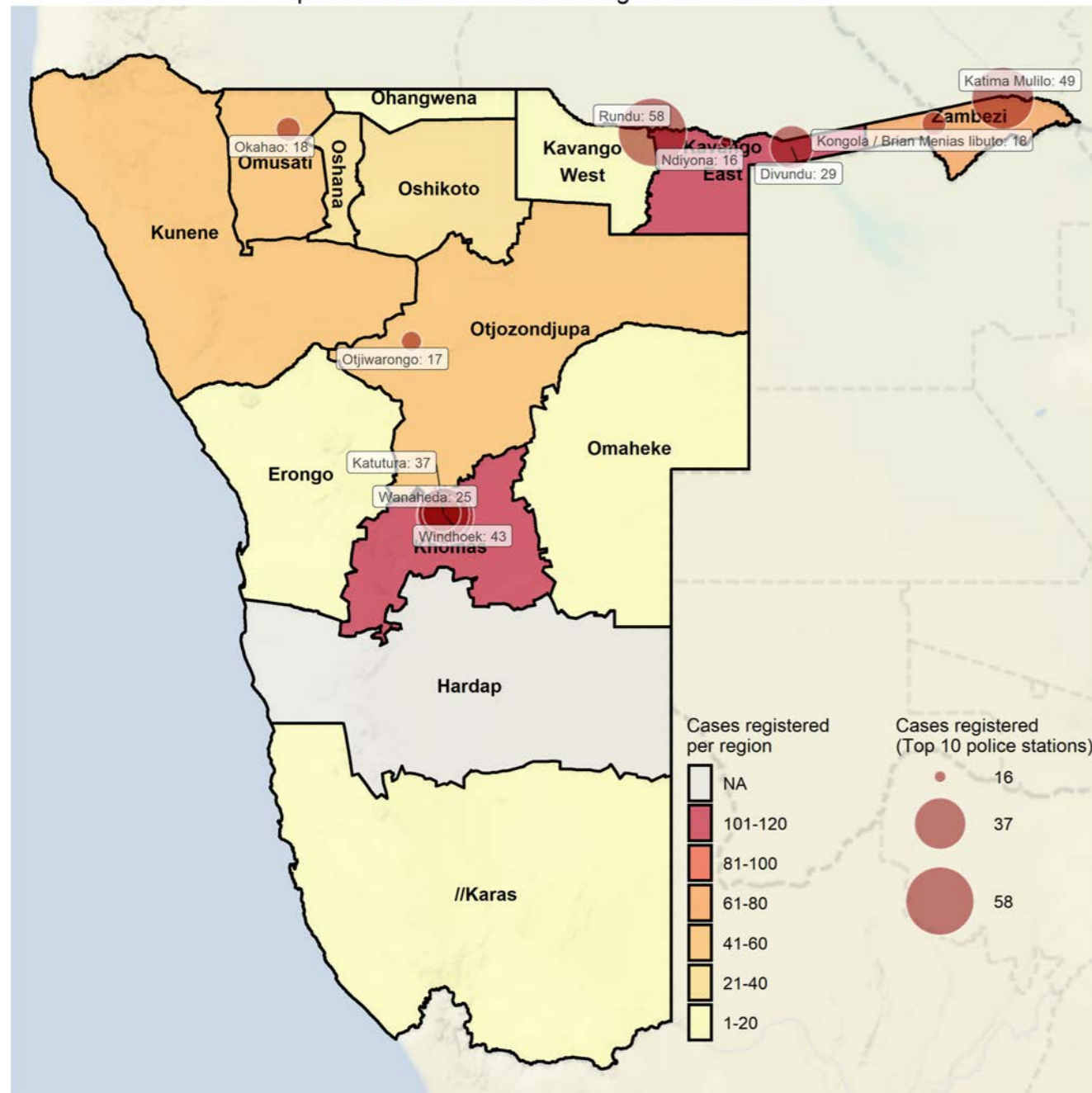
Indicator	Total
<b>Number of wildlife crime cases registered</b>	<b>1,326</b>
Of those, cases related to high-value species	579
<b>Number of suspects arrested</b>	<b>2,950</b>
Arrests related to pangolin poaching/trafficking	504
Arrests related to elephant poaching/trafficking	383
Arrests related to rhino poaching/trafficking (including pre-emptive arrests)	499
<b>Number of wildlife crime cases finalised in court</b>	<b>371</b>
Number of suspects found guilty of wildlife-related charges	565
Number of suspects acquitted of wildlife-related charges	63
<b>Number of court hearings in wildlife crime cases</b>	<b>2,231</b>

#### 3.2 Important notes on interpreting Namibian wildlife crime data

1. Wildlife crime statistics are compiled on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis.
2. Statistics released for 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. Some duplication of data may occur between regional and national reporting. This is identified during final data entry and may lead to a reduction in some totals in some instances.
5. 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.
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.

### 3.3 Wildlife crime cases registered related to high-value species

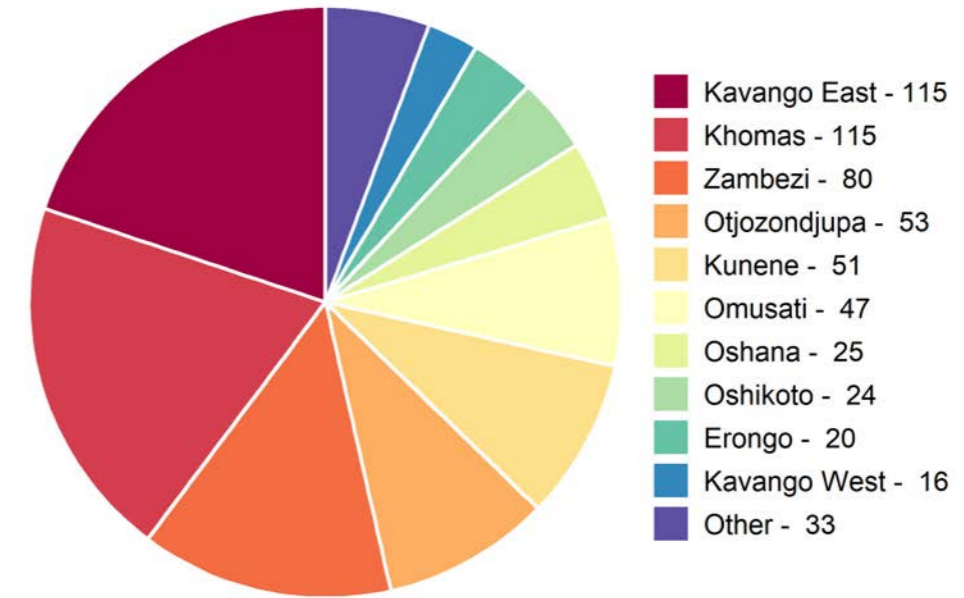
Spatial distribution of cases registered in Namibia



Total number of cases registered: 579  
 Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino

Number of cases registered per region

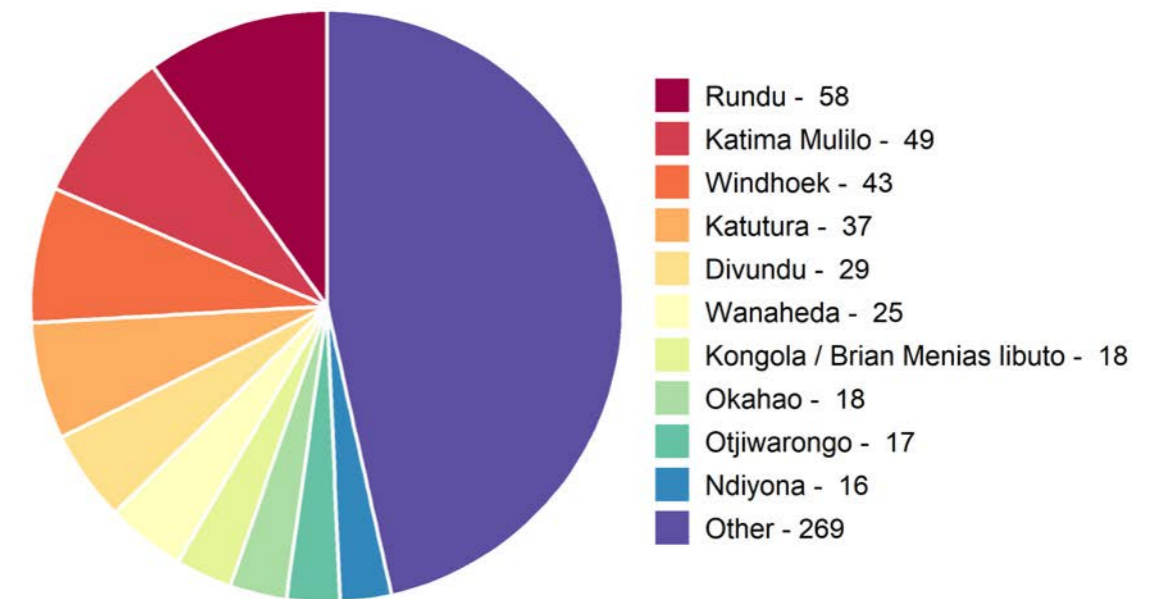
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of cases: 579

Number of cases registered per station

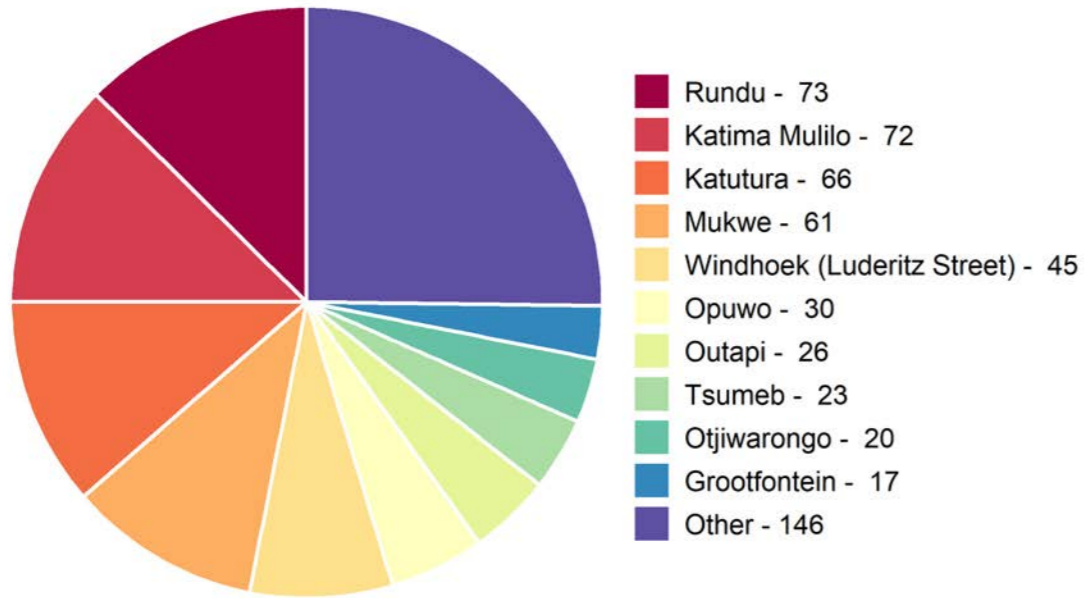
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of cases: 579

### Number of cases per court

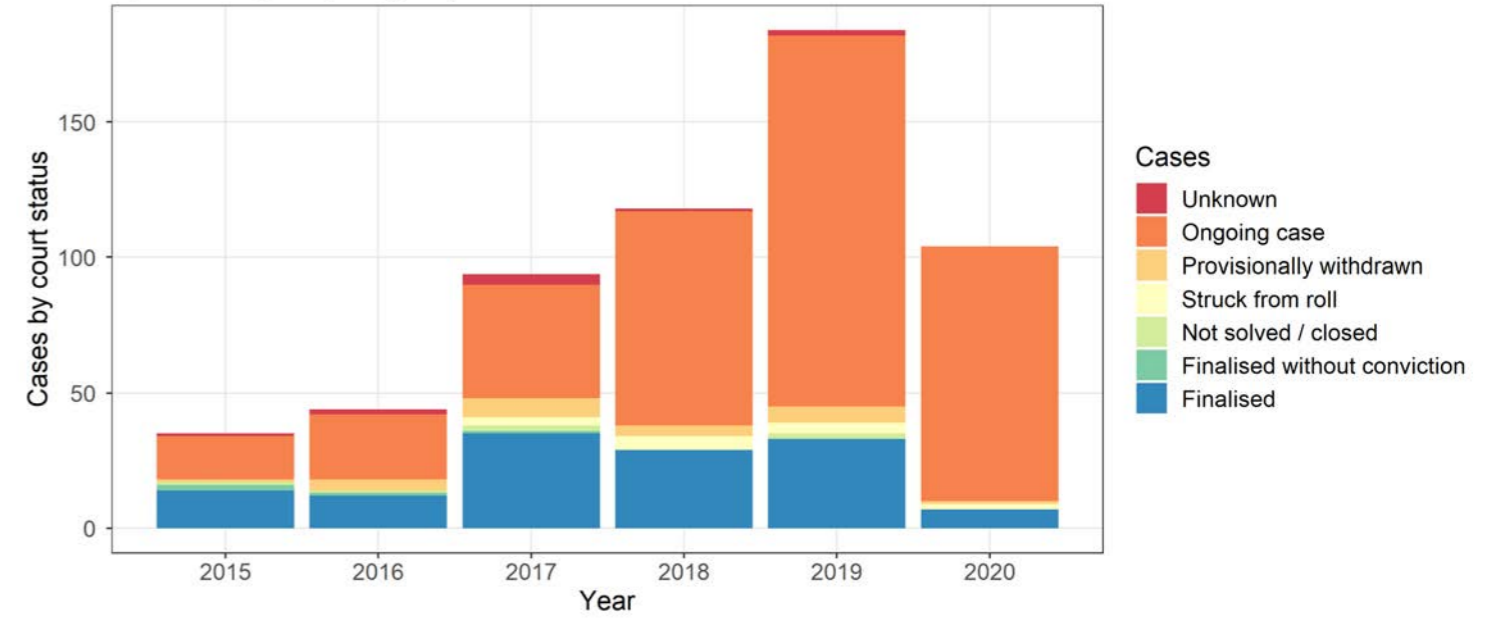
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of cases: 579

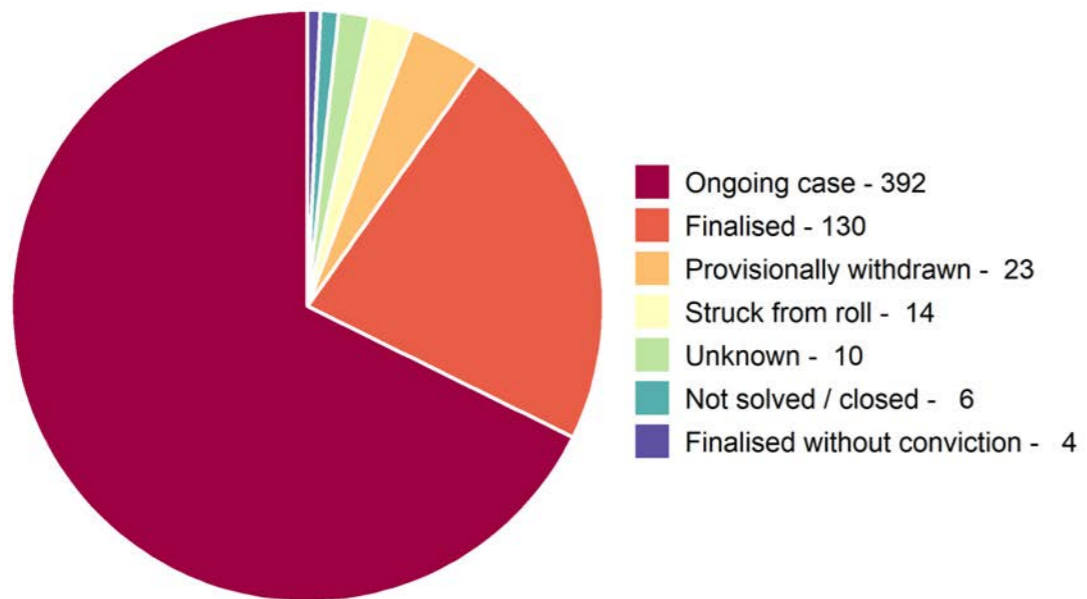
### Number of cases by court status per year

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



### Number of cases by court status

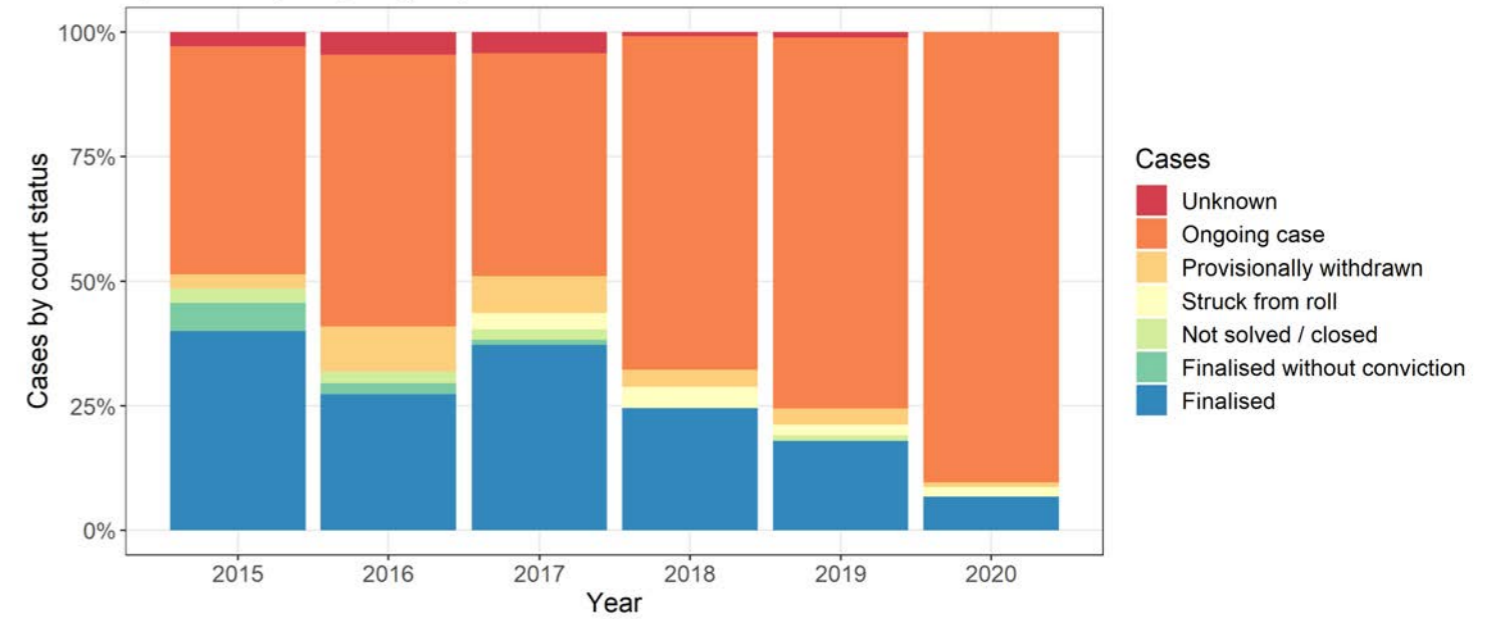
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of cases: 579

### Relative number of cases by court status per year

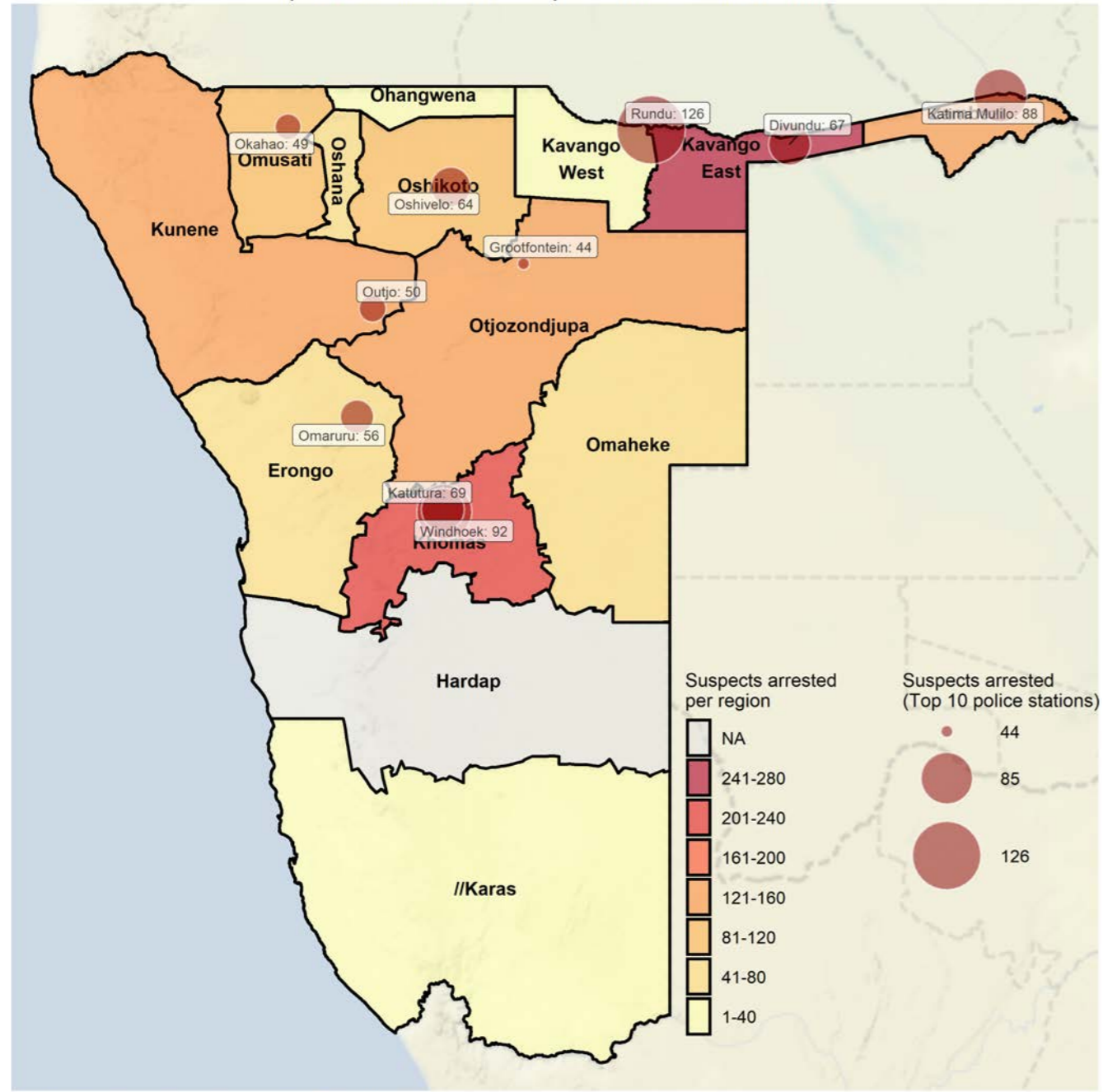
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino





### 3.4 Arrests and convictions related to high-value species

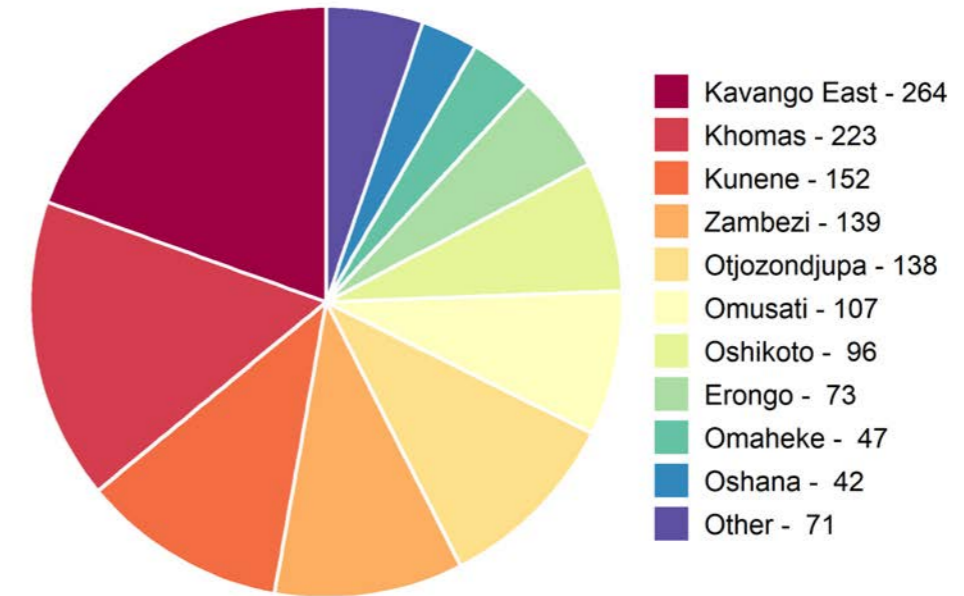
Spatial distribution of suspects arrested in Namibia



Total number of suspects arrested: 1352  
 Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino

Number of suspects per region of arrest

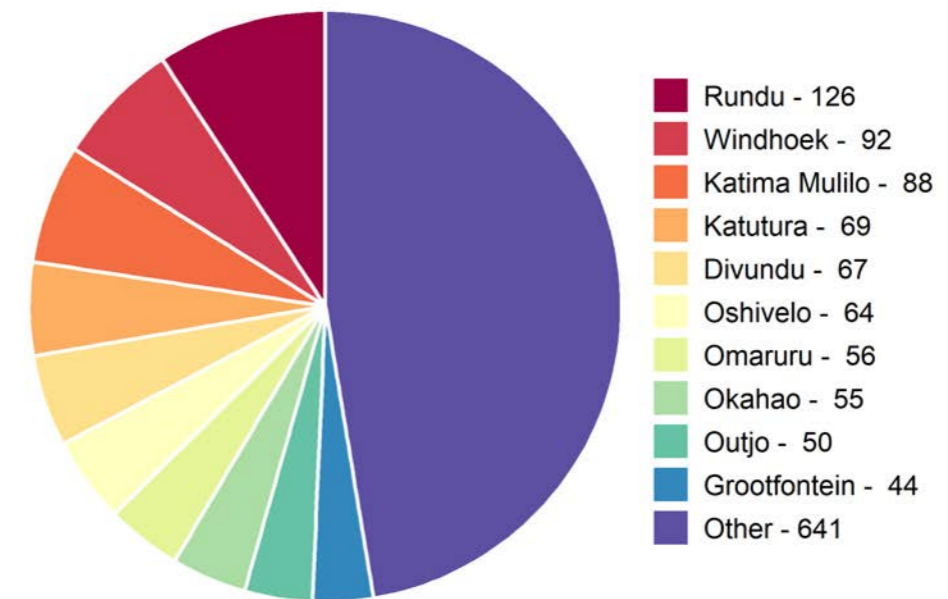
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of suspects: 1,352

Number of suspects per station of arrest

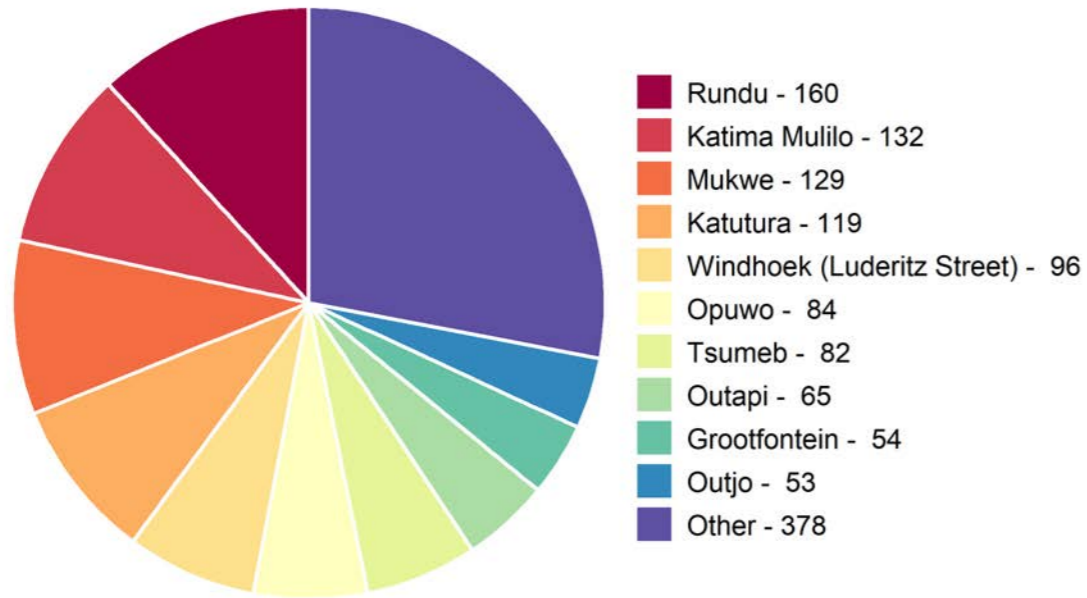
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of suspects: 1,352

### Number of suspects per court

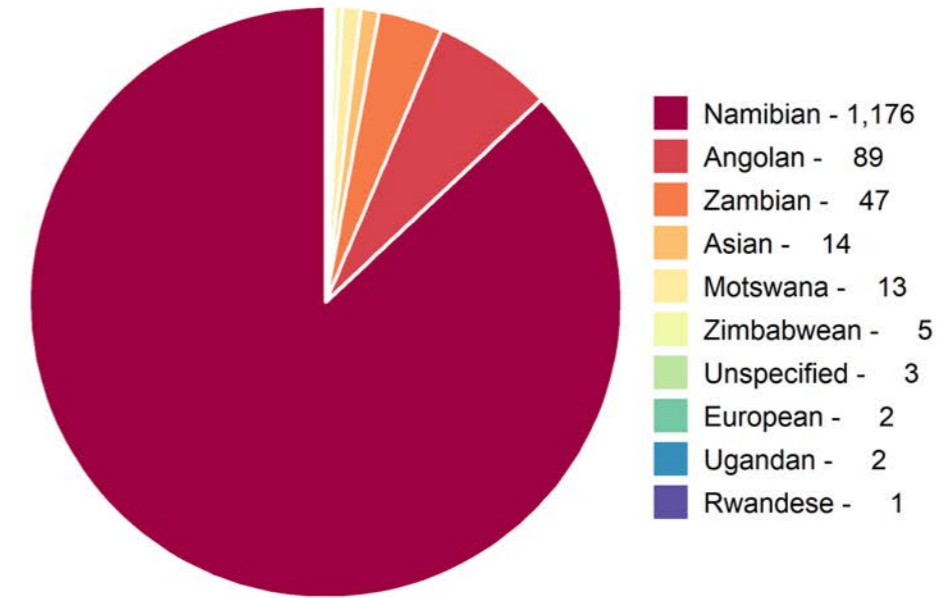
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of suspects: 1,352

### Number of suspects arrested by nationality

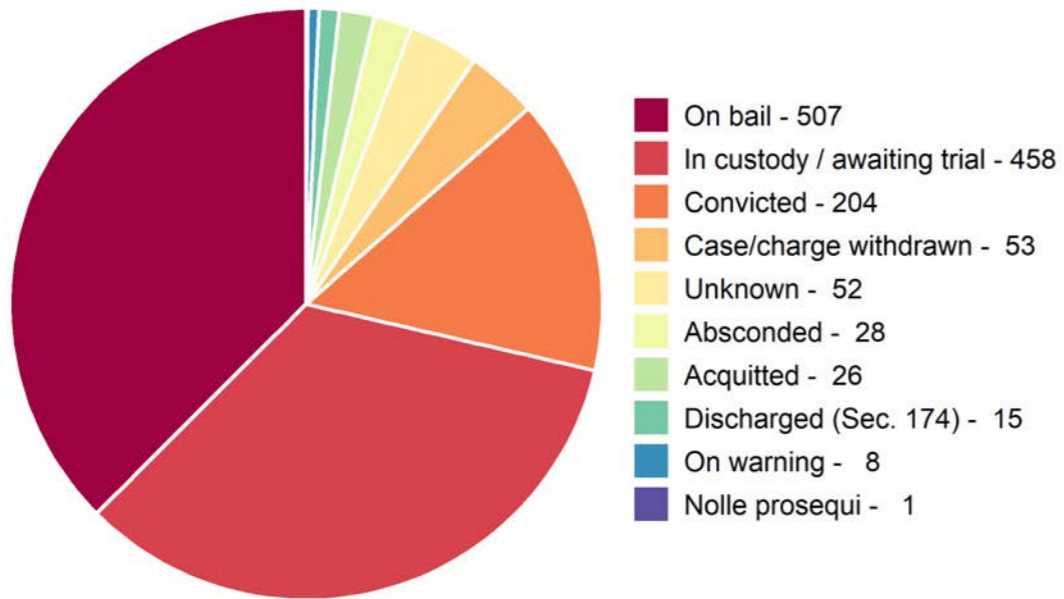
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of suspects: 1,352

### Number of arrested suspects by legal status

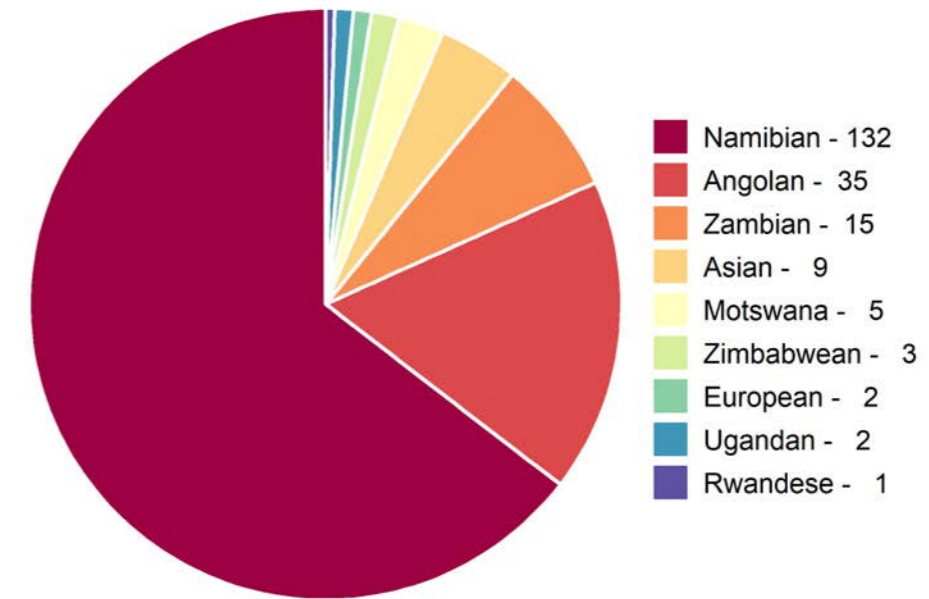
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of suspects: 1,352

### Number of suspects convicted by nationality

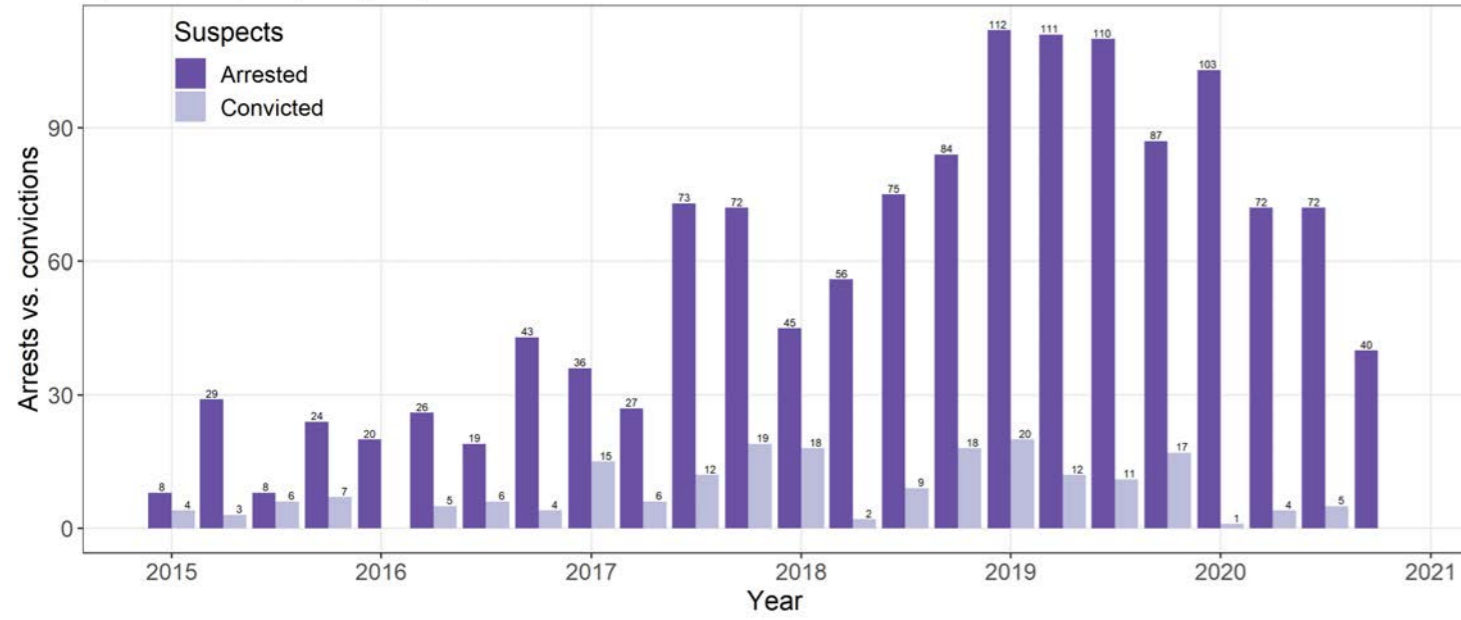
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Total number of convictions: 204

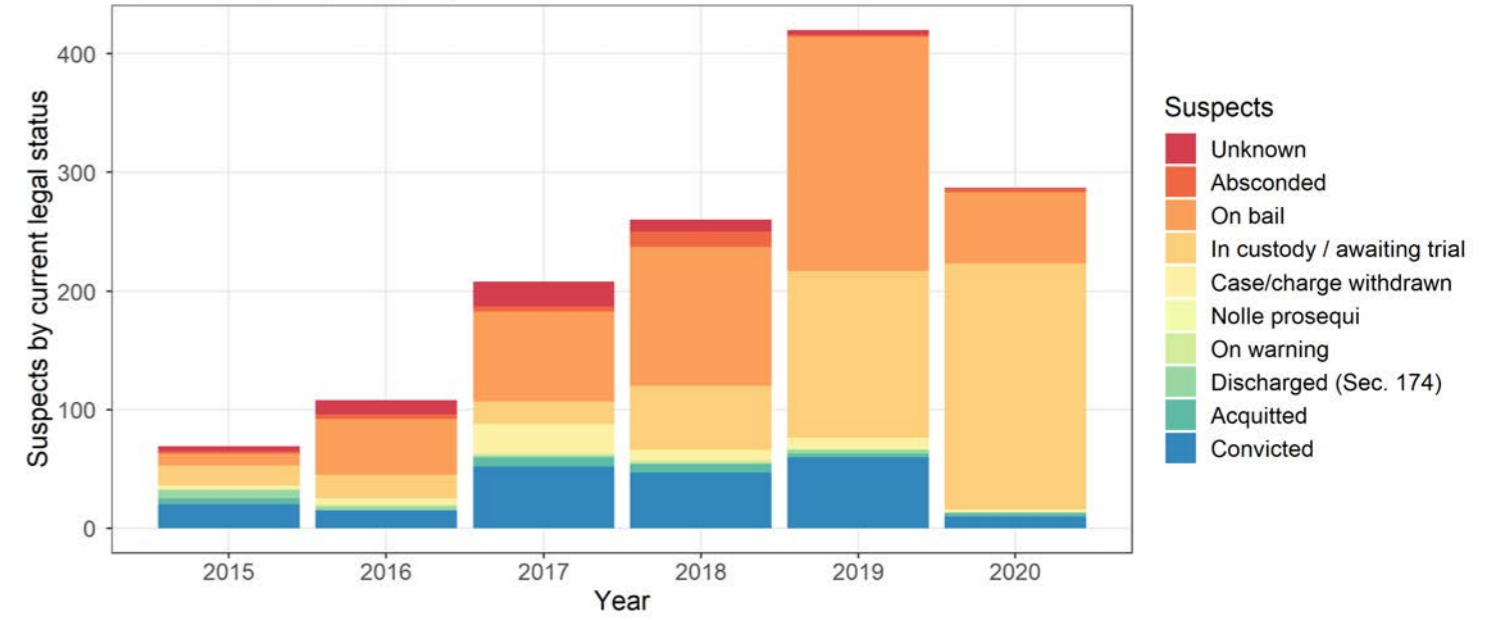
Number of arrests vs. convictions per quarter (depicted by date of arrest)

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



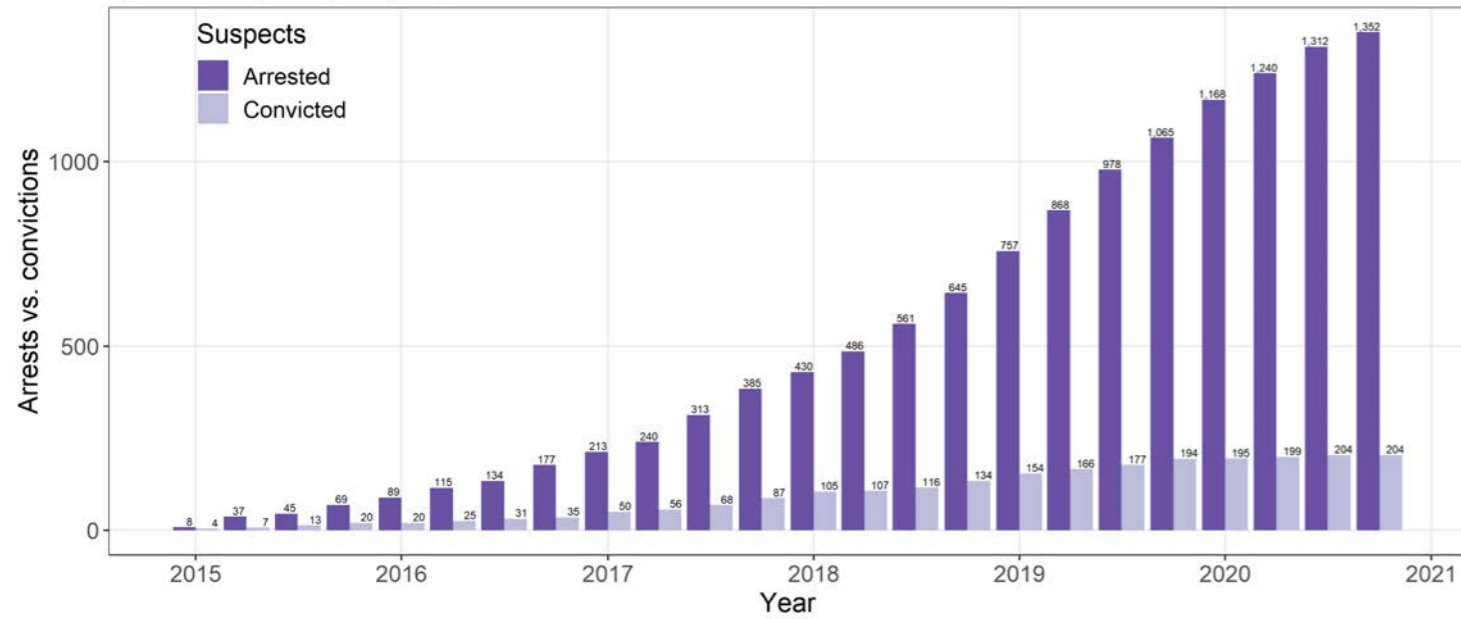
Number of suspects by current legal status per year

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



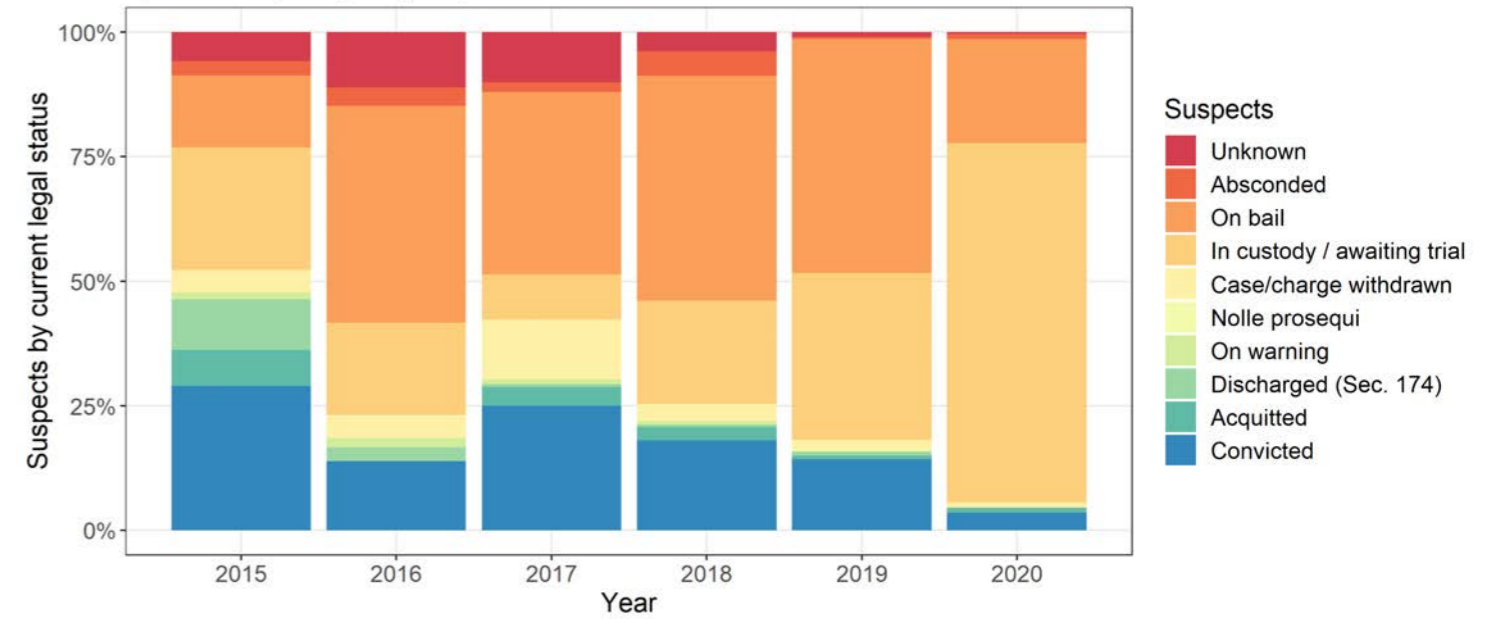
Cumulative number of arrests vs. convictions per quarter (depicted by date of arrest)

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



Relative number of suspects by current legal status per year

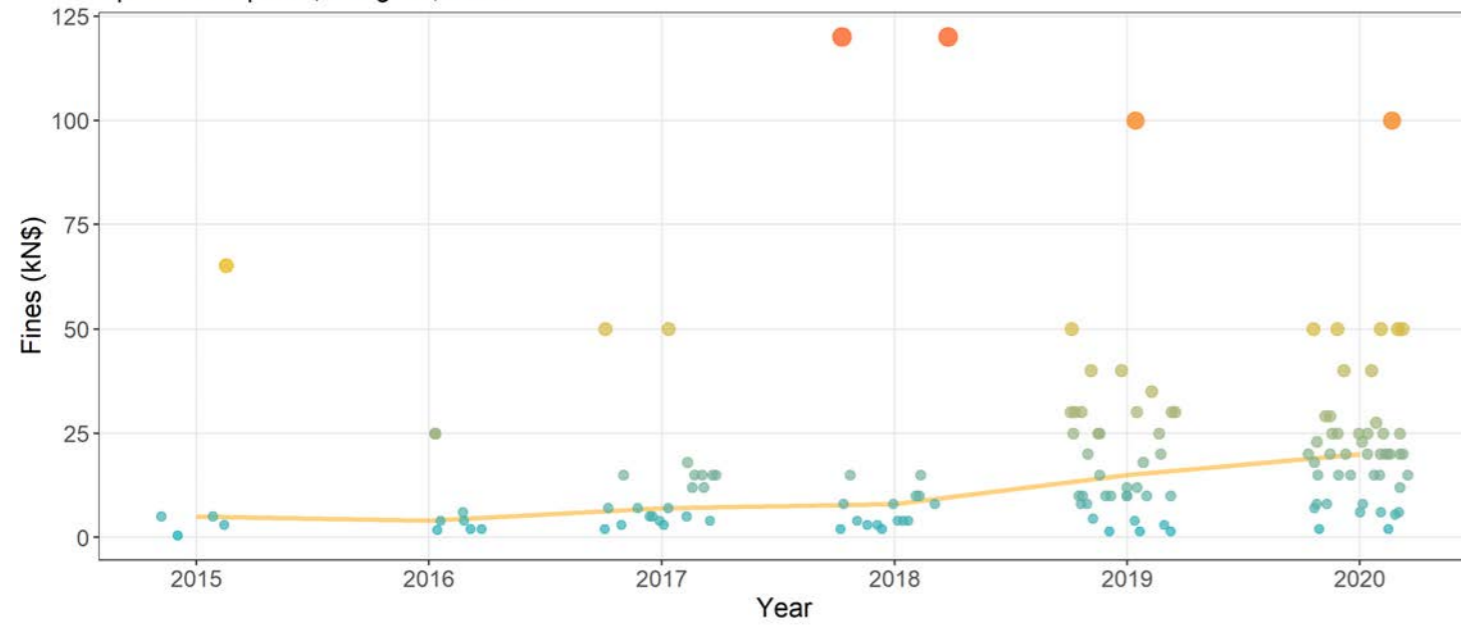
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



### Distribution of fine amounts (thousand N\$) per year

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03

Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



The graphs of fines and jail terms show the changes in the height of sentences over time. The time line (x-axis) indicates the date of sentencing.

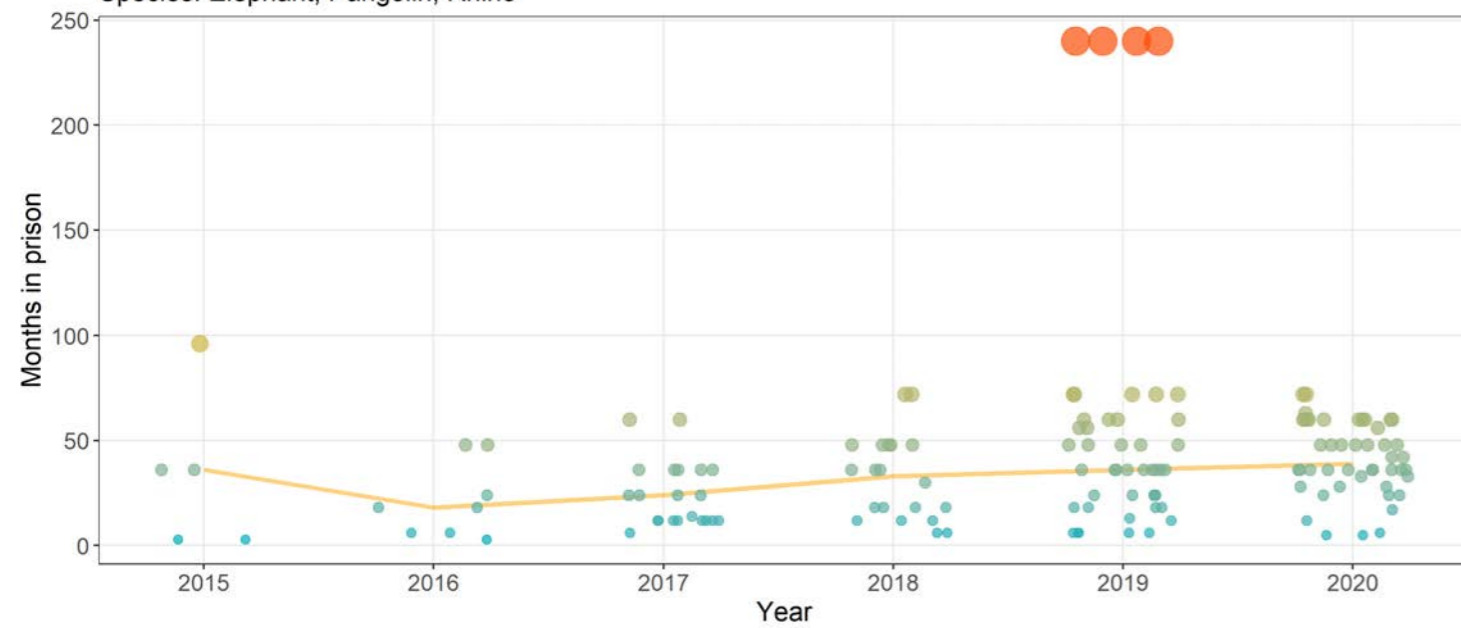
The colour and size of the dots varies according to the height of the sentence, with small blue representing the lowest and large orange the highest.

The few very high sentences are related to complex crimes that were judged to be particularly severe.

### Distribution of jail sentences (months) per year

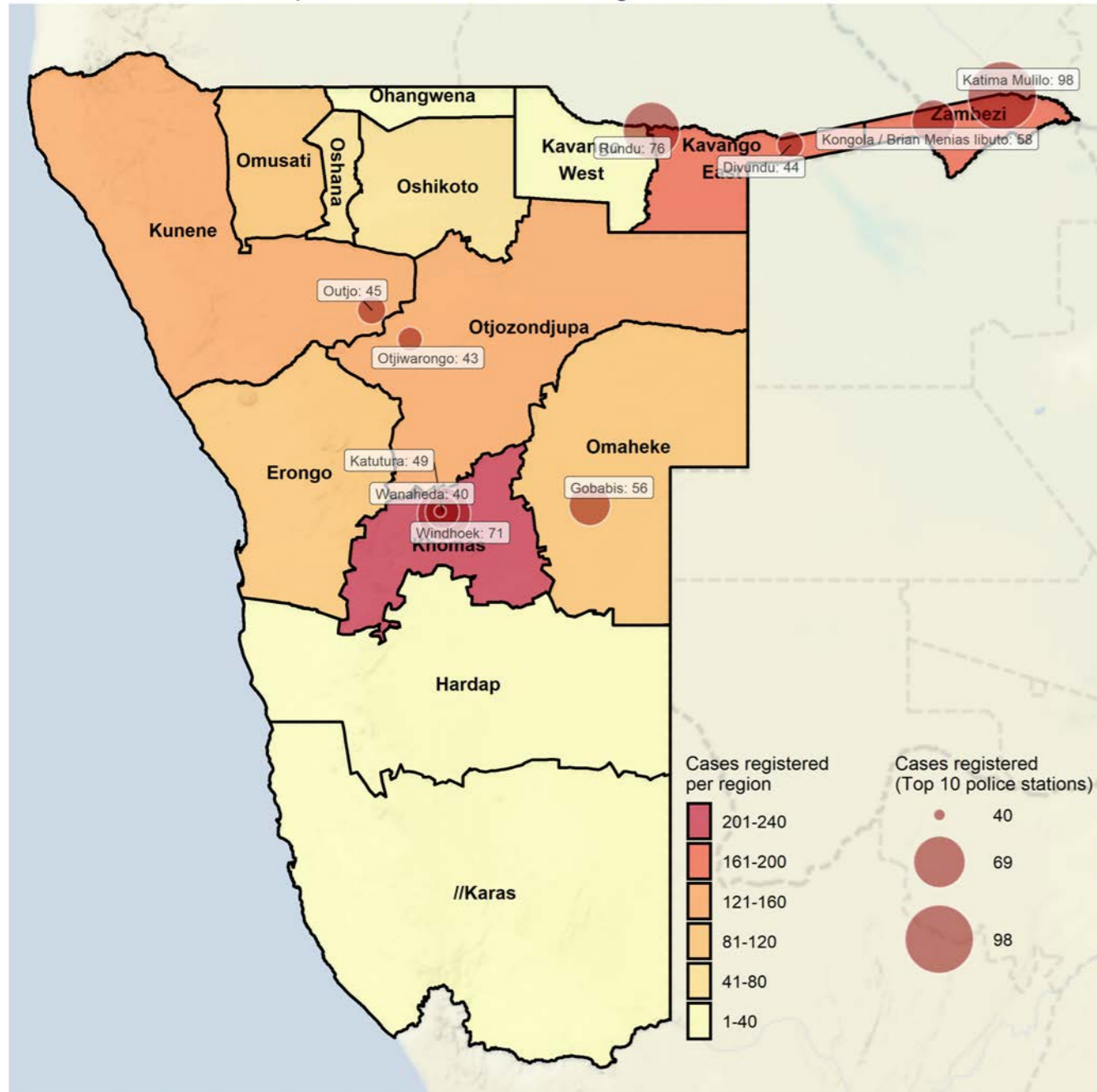
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03

Species: Elephant, Pangolin, Rhino



### 3.5 Wildlife crime cases registered related to all species

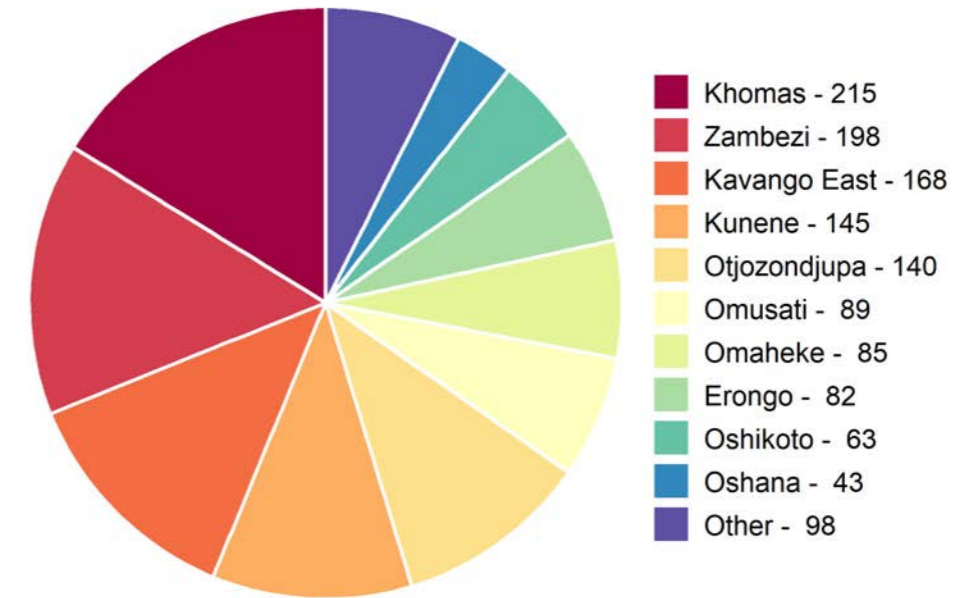
Spatial distribution of cases registered in Namibia



Total number of cases registered: 1326  
 Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: All species

Number of cases registered per region

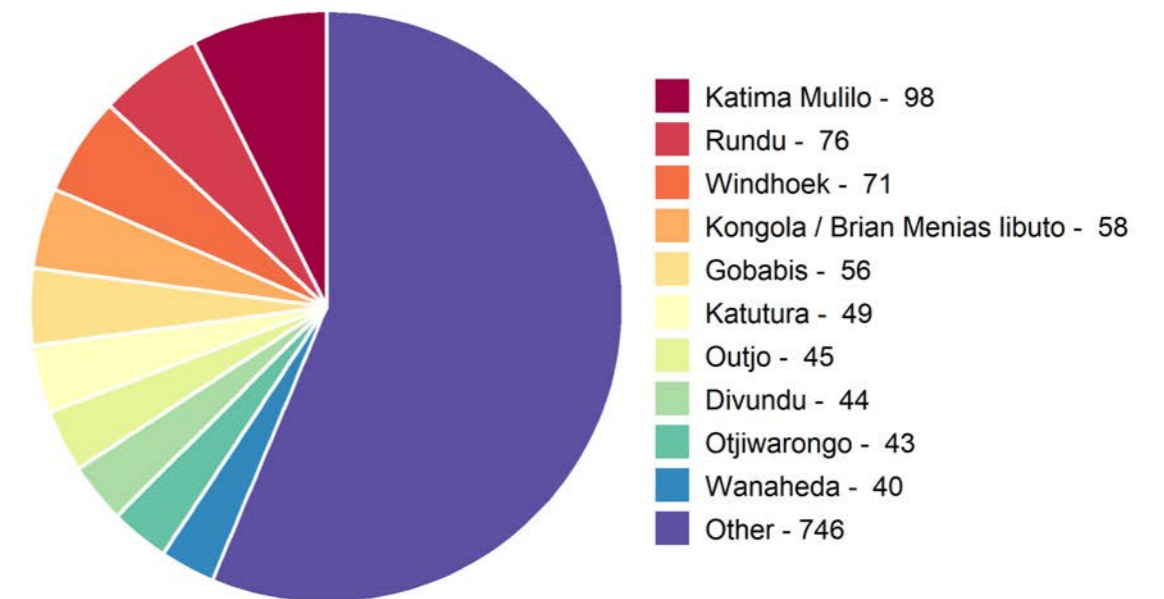
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: All species



Total number of cases: 1,326

Number of cases registered per station

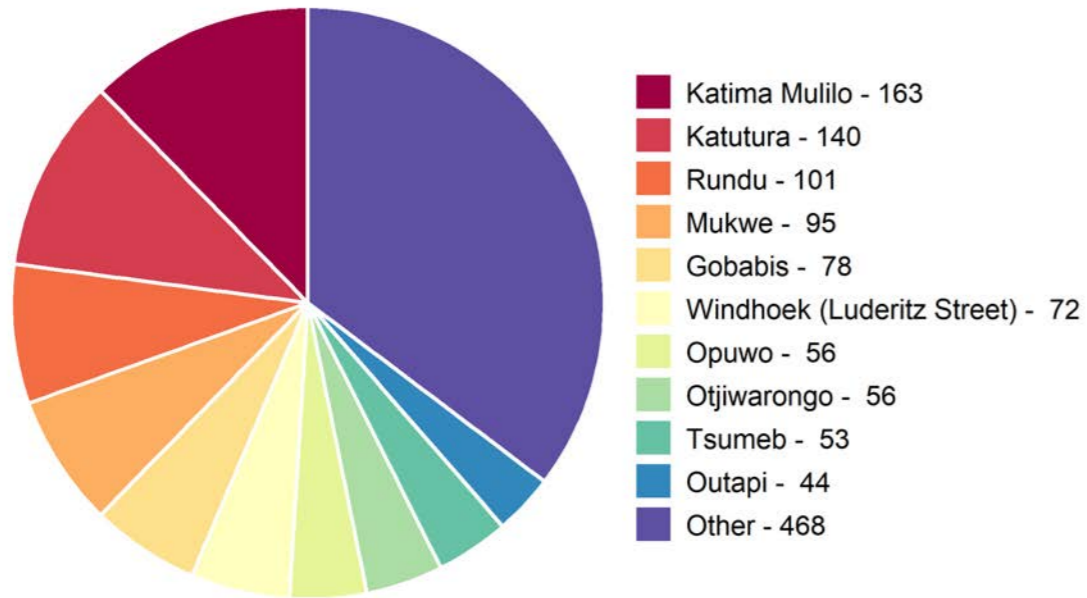
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: All species



Total number of cases: 1,326

### Number of cases per court

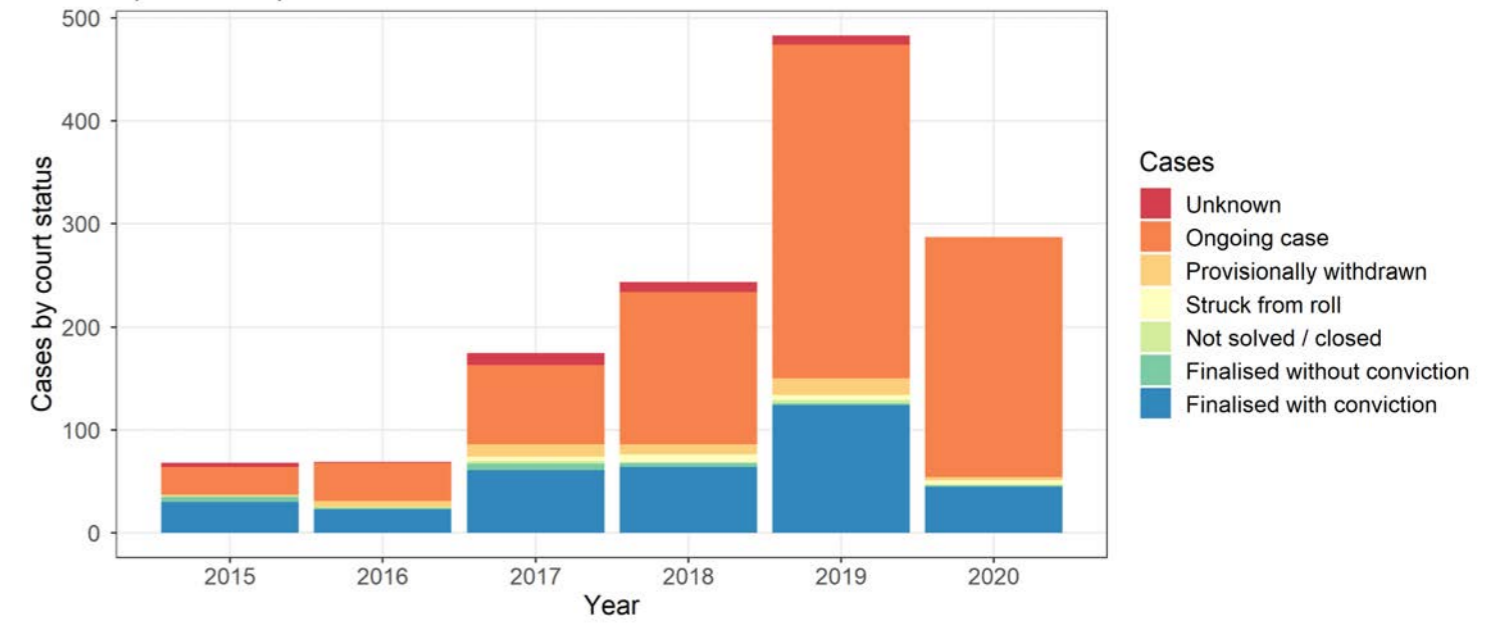
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



Total number of cases: 1,326

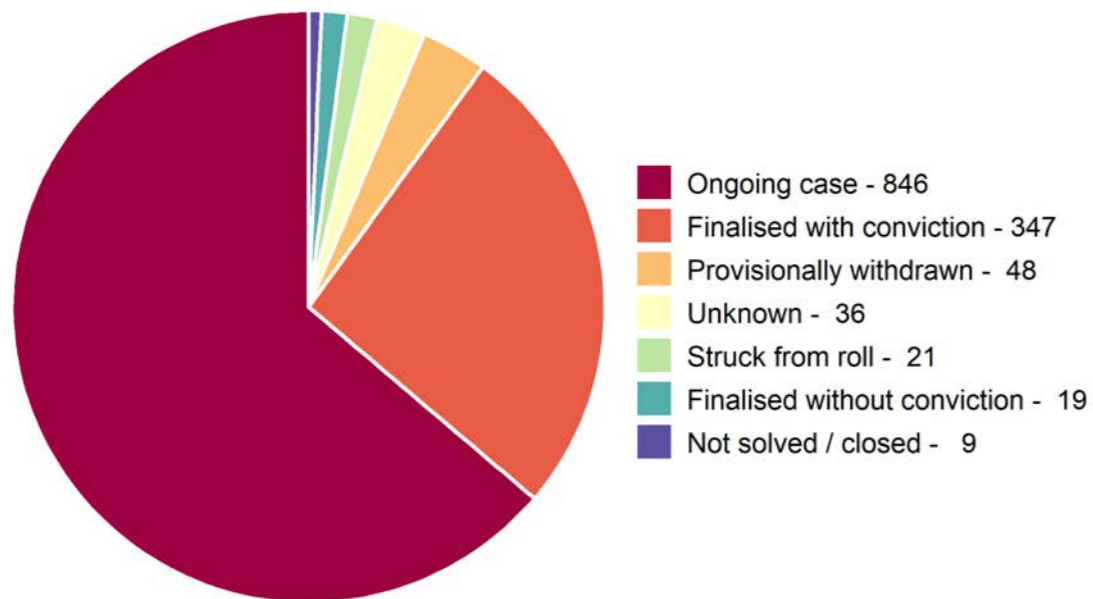
### Number of cases by court status per year

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



### Number of cases by court status

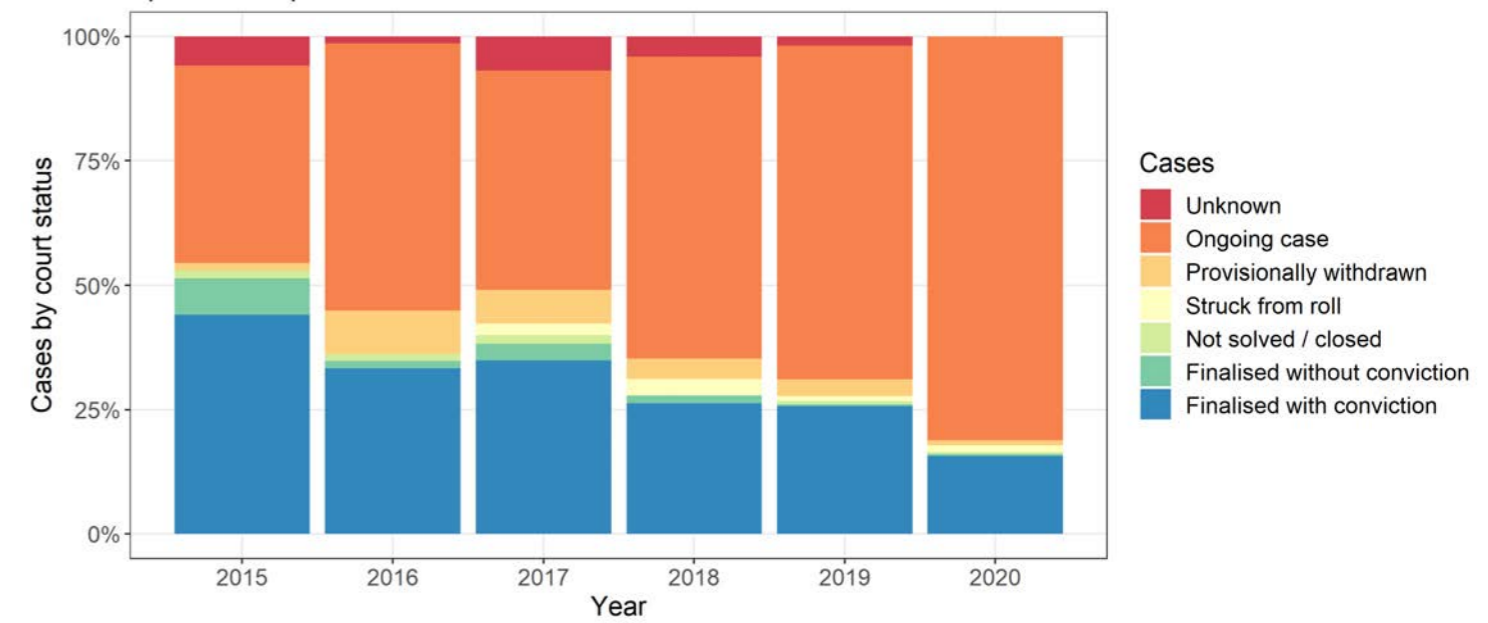
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



Total number of cases: 1,326

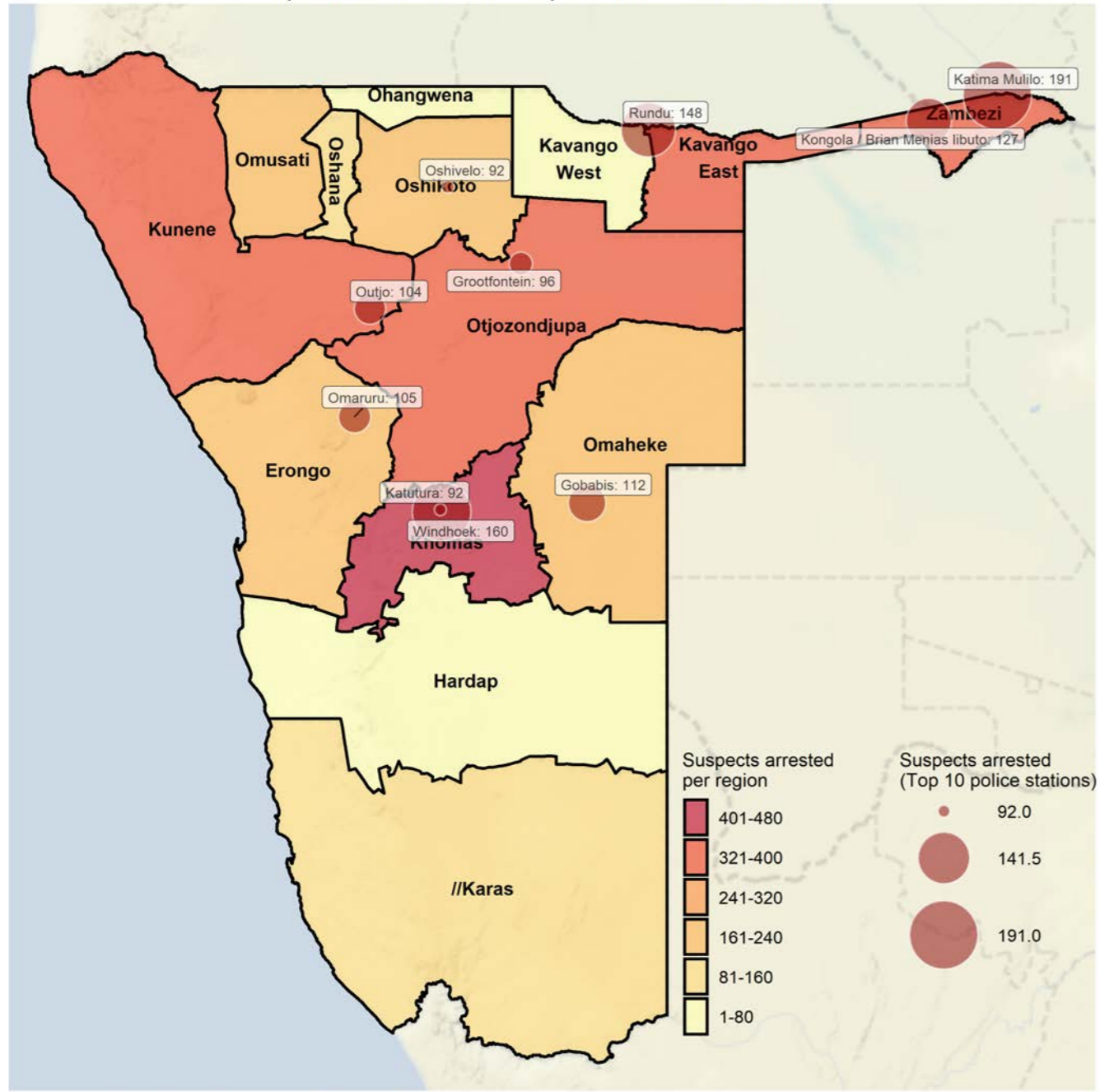
### Relative number of cases by court status per year

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



### 3.6 Arrests and convictions related to all species

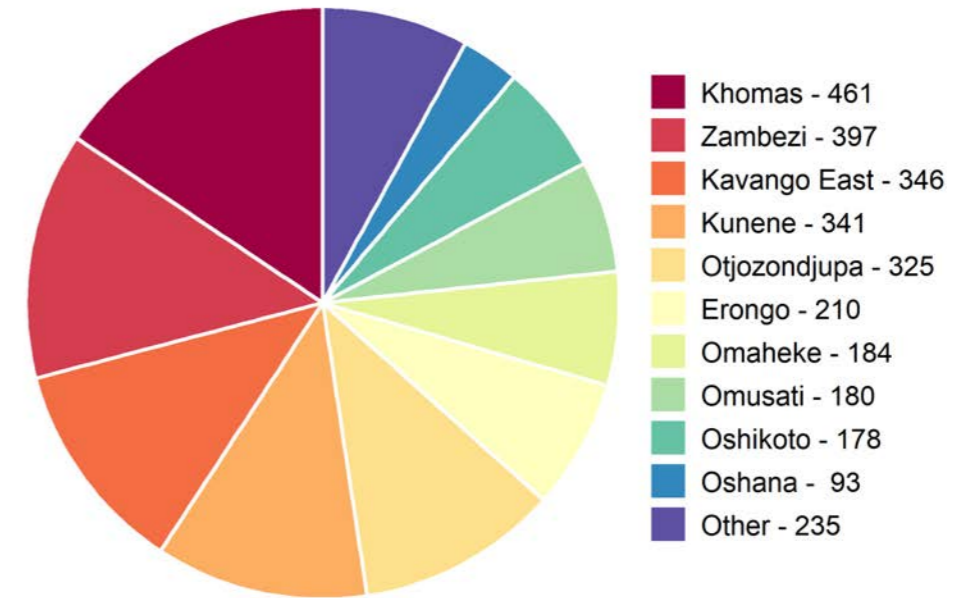
Spatial distribution of suspects arrested in Namibia



Total number of suspects arrested: 2950  
 Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: All species

Number of suspects per region of arrest

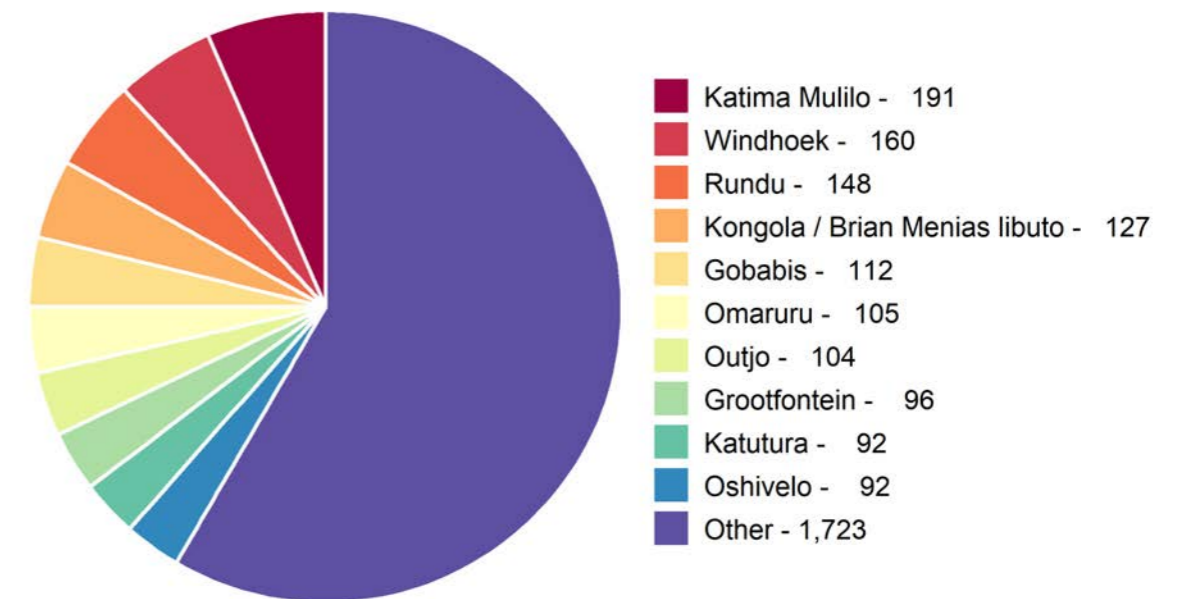
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: All species



Total number of suspects: 2,950

Number of suspects per station of arrest

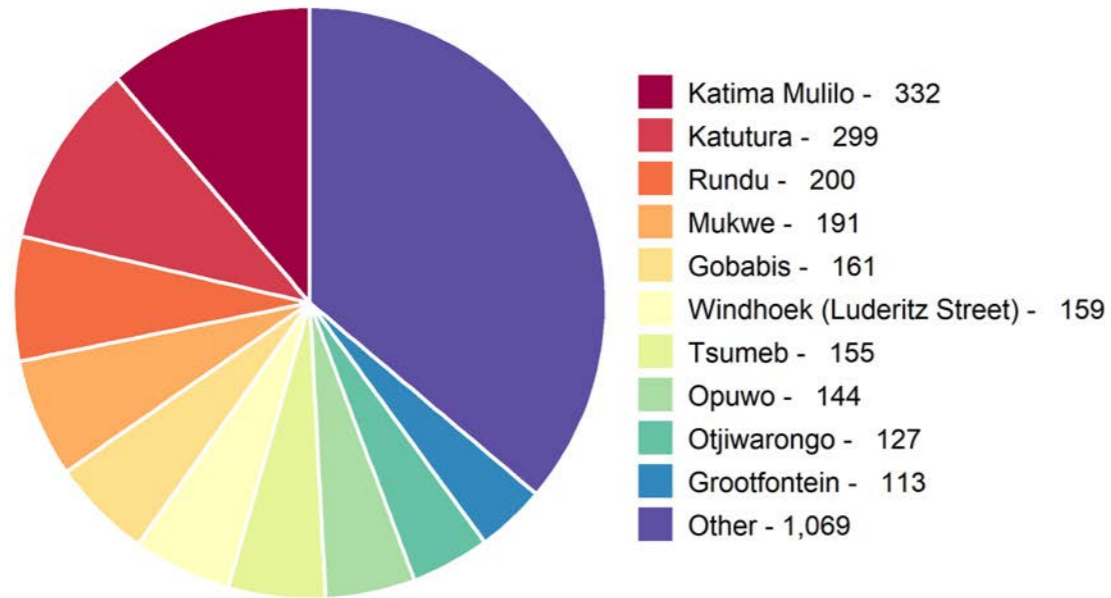
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
 Species: All species



Total number of suspects: 2,950

### Number of suspects per court

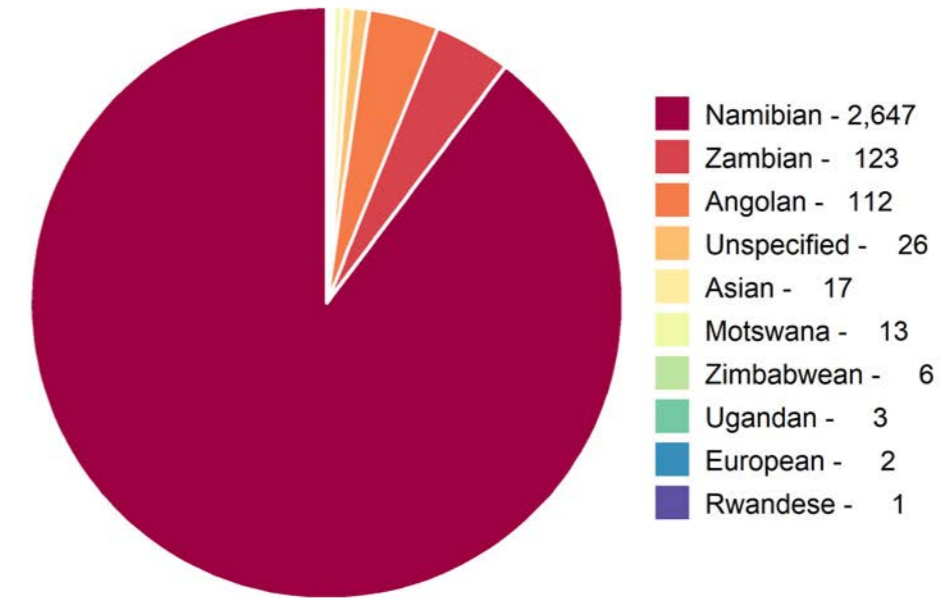
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



Total number of suspects: 2,950

### Number of suspects arrested by nationality

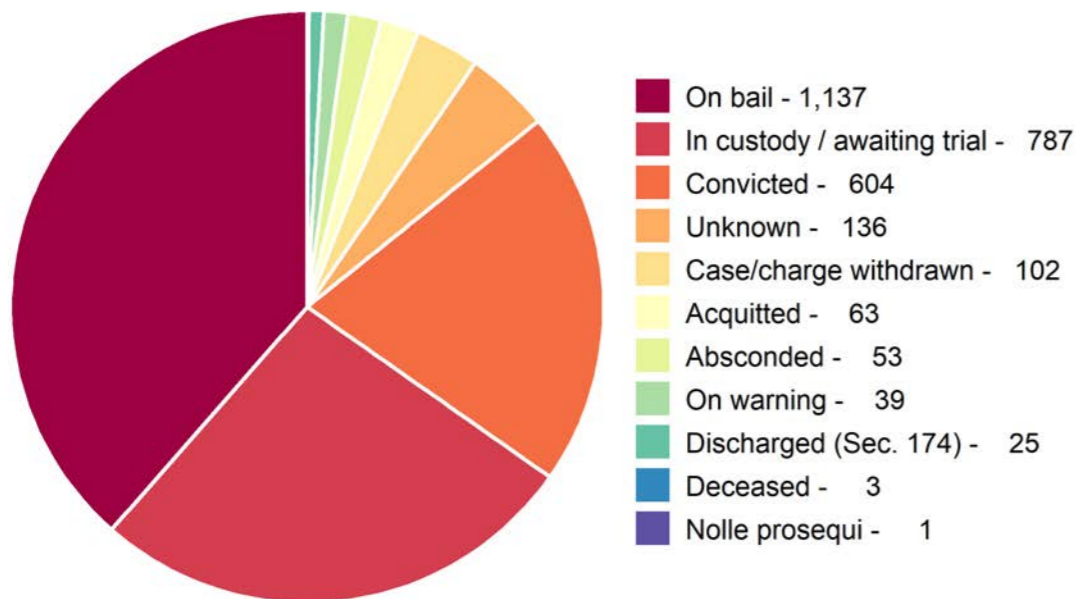
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



Total number of suspects: 2,950

### Number of arrested suspects by legal status

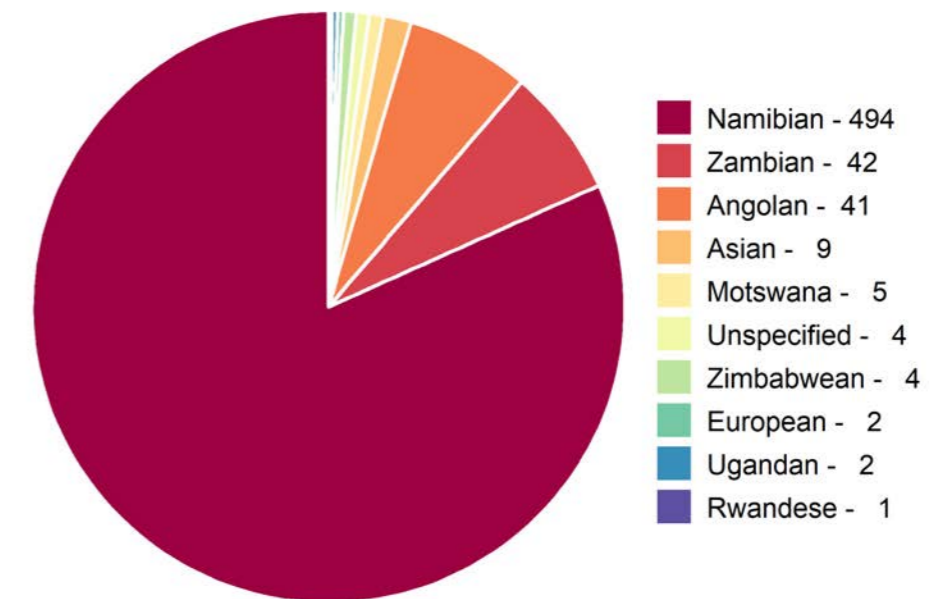
Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



Total number of suspects: 2,950

### Number of suspects convicted by nationality

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03  
Species: All species



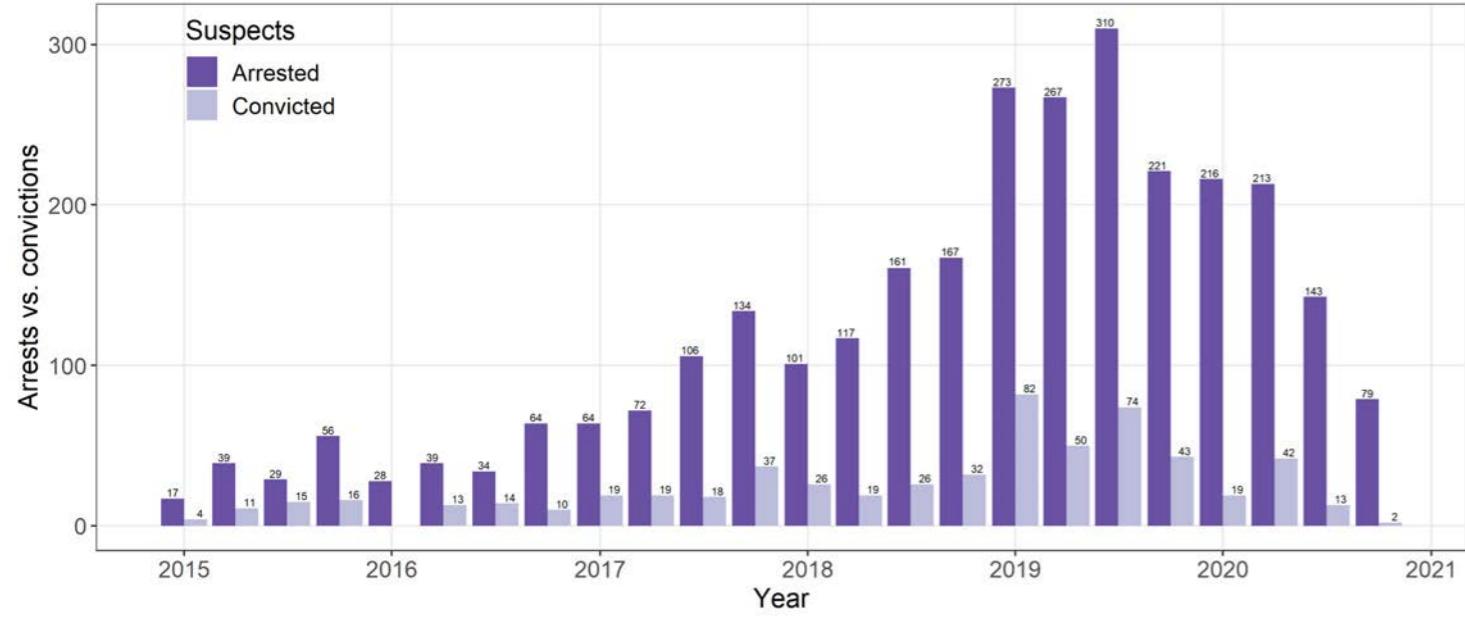
Total number of convictions: 604



Number of arrests vs. convictions per quarter (depicted by date of arrest)

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03

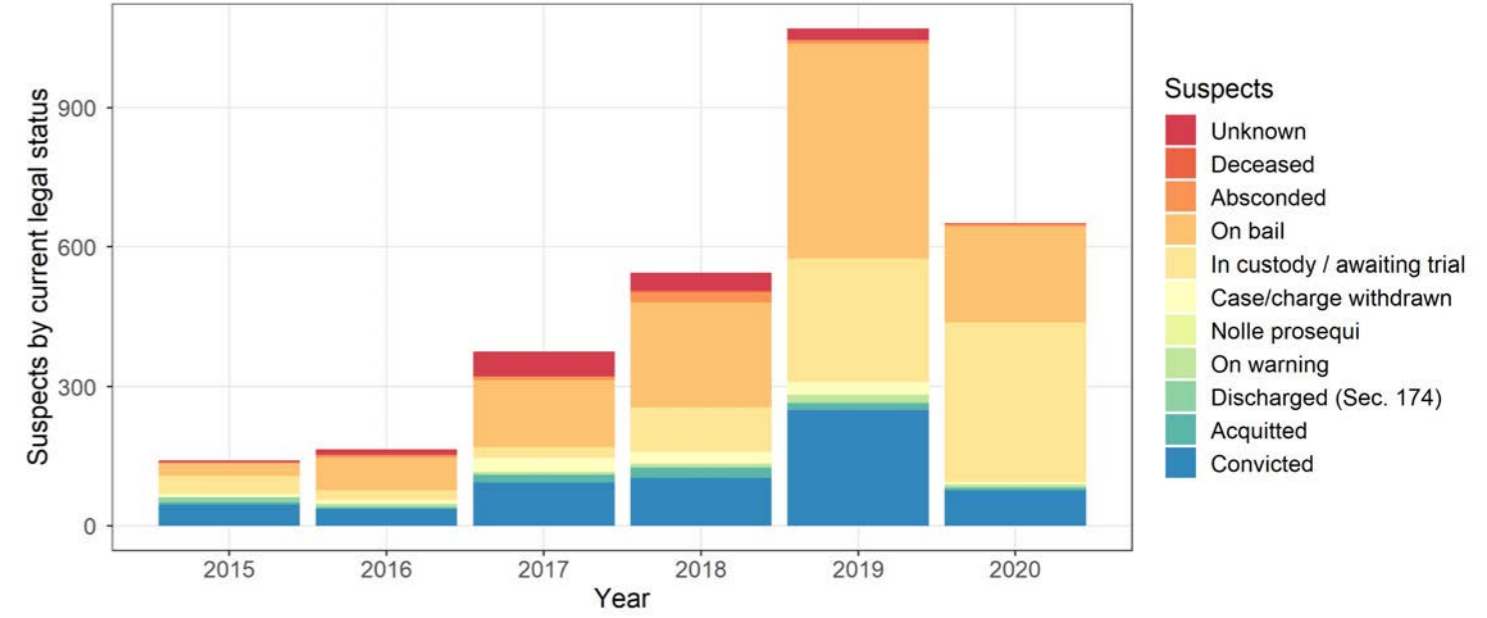
Species: All species



Number of suspects by current legal status per year

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03

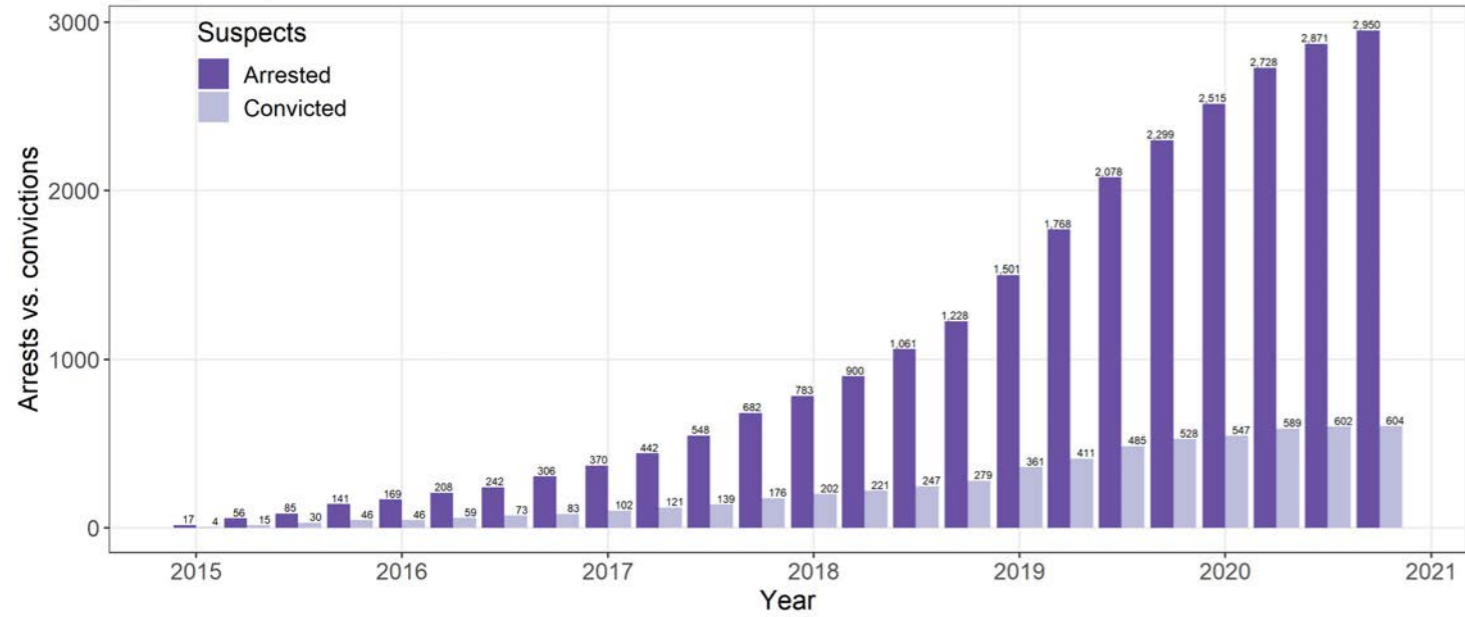
Species: All species



Cumulative number of arrests vs. convictions per quarter (depicted by date of arrest)

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03

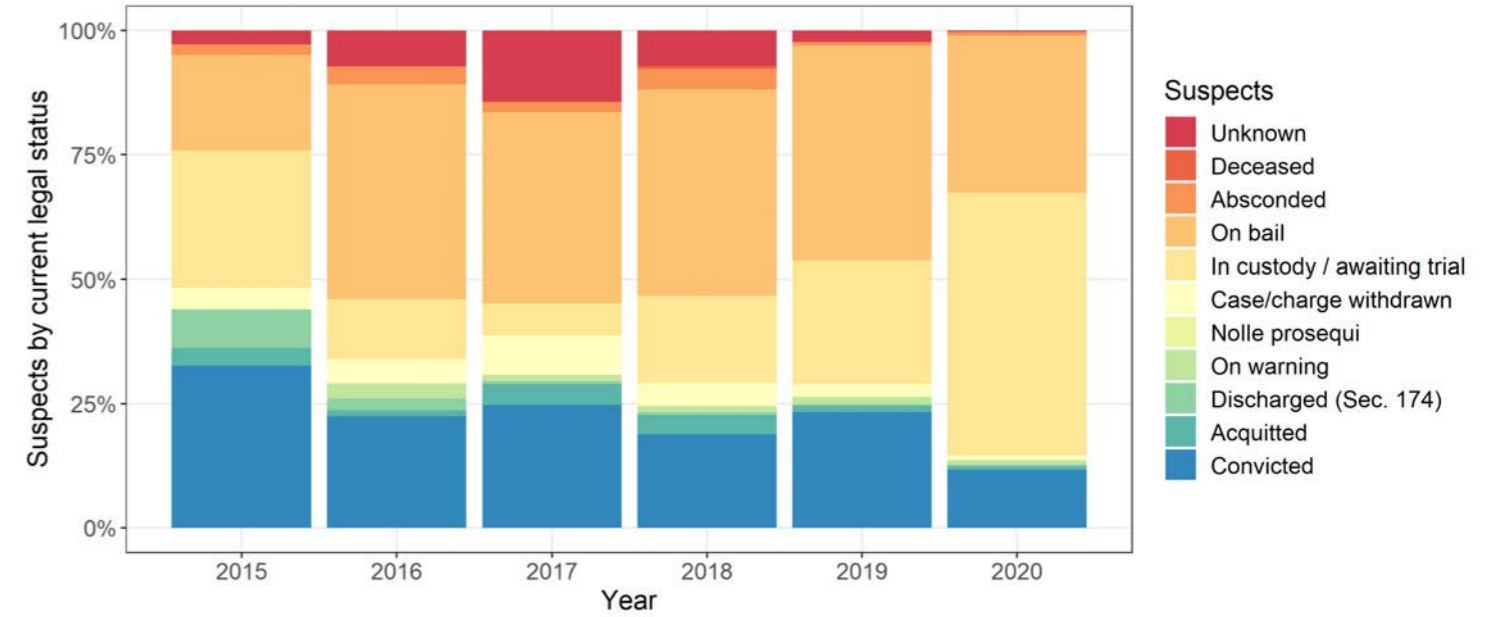
Species: All species



Relative number of suspects by current legal status per year

Period: 2015-01-01 until 2020-12-03

Species: All species



## 4. Objectives

The primary objective of this strategy is to establish within the country, and within the framework of the national laws, common approaches to the protection and conservation of wildlife and to ensure the effective enforcement of laws governing wildlife resources.

### Specific objectives of this strategy shall be:

1. To protect wildlife, especially rhinos, pangolins and elephants, from poaching and trafficking, and to safeguard the wildlife economy (tourism and conservation hunting) that depends on these species.
2. To promote the enforcement of wildlife laws within the country and in this regard cooperate with neighbouring states.
3. To build capacity for wildlife protection, conservation and enforcement of wildlife laws.
4. To facilitate community-based natural resource management practices (e.g. conservancies) for better protection of wildlife resources.
5. To provide for an assessment of a law enforcement systems and of current practices in order to ensure diligent process regarding relevant social safeguard requirements, the application of an overall human-rights based approach and protection of local communities from harm in the context of law enforcement related operations and procedures.
6. To strengthen law enforcement activities and better prepare the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL), Namibian Defence Force (NDF), Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Customs and any other law enforcement agencies to respond to wildlife crime with appropriate prevention and countermeasures.
7. To identify the law enforcement lead and partner agencies for each of the components of this strategy and to mandate their joint implementation of the components of this strategy.
8. To build partnerships and stakeholder collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.
9. To provide awareness on the need to protect wildlife, and communicate matters related to wildlife protection and law enforcement in order to prevent wildlife crime from happening.

## 5. Principles

### This strategy is based on the following fundamental principles:

1. Protected areas are the cornerstone of Namibia's conservation programme and will continue to play an important role in the conservation of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity, and tourism development.
2. Measures must be taken to effectively enforce national legislation pertaining to wildlife and the rule of law.
3. Wildlife is critically important to the tourism and conservation-hunting sectors, which provide important socio-economic benefits locally, regionally and nationally.

4. Wildlife resources both within as well as outside of PAs need to be protected.
5. The ultimate long-term goal is to stop poaching (rather than perpetually catch poachers) as this is both cost effective and Namibia cannot afford to lose extremely rare slow-breeding animals such as rhinos.
6. Poaching can be eliminated if there is cooperation between, and joint implementation of this strategy by, all Namibian law enforcement agencies.
7. Greater resources can be leveraged and more efficiently used if NGOs, the private sector and international organisations work in synergy with, and in support of, government law enforcement agencies.
8. There is a need to cooperate with and support local communities in order to efficiently protect wildlife resources.
9. There is a need to cooperate with neighbouring countries to manage and protect shared wildlife resources, and with overseas countries to close down illegal trafficking routes and illegal markets.

## 6. Requirements for protecting valuable and endangered species

### The key ingredients to combatting wildlife crime in Namibia include:

- Strong partnership networks between government, support organisations, the public and funding partners.
- Strong partnerships between Namibian law enforcement agencies.
- Strategic planning and innovative action including pre-emptive intelligence-led actions before crimes are committed.
- Use of all available technologies.
- Active sharing of information and other resources.
- Responsive and flexible funding.
- Ongoing adaptation to changing threats and needs.

## 7. Strategic programme areas

### 7.1 Wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement (anti-poaching)

Combatting wildlife 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.

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, but more still needs to be done. There is therefore a need to address the following issues:

- Absence of a fully established MEFT Wildlife Protection Services Division.
- Coordination and trust between and within MEFT, NAMPOL and NDF among the ground staff and officers.
- Need for equipment as well as the means for replacing existing equipment.
- Insufficient operational funding.
- Need to build capacity – this includes both manpower and skills.
- Lack of appropriate infrastructure including accommodation for field-based staff and officers.
- Need for a security buffer area adjacent to certain PAs.
- Proper control at gates of PAs and other control points.
- Structured approach to gathering and utilising intelligence information (need to prevent the crime from happening).
- Building of capacity in specialised units such as rapid response units including canine units and trackers.
- Proper structure and strategies for patrol planning and monitoring put in place and implemented.
- Information flow between parks, regional offices and head office.
- Appropriate and suitable technologies to enhance combatting wildlife-crime efforts.

#### **Specific objective**

- To provide comprehensive and effective anti-poaching services to protect wildlife resources, in particular high-value wildlife resources such as rhino, elephant and pangolin.

#### **Strategic approach and key interventions**

- Fully establish a Wildlife Protection Services Division with specific and focused subdivisions and sections within the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, with the abilities, motivation and dedication that matches or exceeds that of the poachers they are up against. The division must be appropriately funded.
- Ensure that NAMPOL, NDF, NCIS, Customs, Prosecution and other government agencies with a role in anti-poaching and control of illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products have the capacity to deal with the situation.
- Provide for capacity assurance and capacity building that cover the integration of appropriate provisions to ensure diligent process and an overall human-rights based approach within law enforcement.
- Ensure that NAMPOL and NDF teams operating in PAs and other conservation areas are efficient, effective and motivated, and consist of the appropriate number for the specific area.
- Establish a Joint Operations Committee for each operational area, for each park or each region as appropriate.
- Develop and implement structured security plans and standard operating procedures for each PA, and for key species.
- Establish dog units for northwestern and north-central regions at Etosha National Park, and for northeastern regions at Bwabwata National Park.
- Establish a horse unit for Etosha National Park and surrounding areas.
- Allocation of financial resources to offices/ministries/agencies in respect of wildlife protection and law enforcement by government should be prioritised.
- Establish a “conservation fee” for the use of protected areas where such fee will be used for wildlife protection; human-wildlife conflict mitigation and preventative measures; and management and

maintenance of national parks through the Game Product Trust Fund.

- Access flexible operational support and funding, e.g. donor funding support which can respond to operational needs. Establish a working system for operational support.
- Establish and implement SMART systems in PAs.
- Build trust and establish good working relations among patrol teams and organisations/institutions involved.
- Establish private anti-poaching initiatives for private farms and other areas as may be appropriate, and fully implement the Honorary Conservator Programme in a more coordinated and structured manner.

## **7.2 Investigations and intelligence**

Poaching and illegal wildlife trade is a million dollar, global enterprise attracting organised and complex criminal syndicates. These groups operate across borders, exploiting gaps in enforcement to facilitate and fund the poaching and trafficking of vulnerable species. Increased cooperation and capacity building among government law enforcement investigators is critical to dismantling these organisations.

While field patrols remain an essential element of law enforcement operations, if their effectiveness is to be optimised, they need to be complemented by investigators and intelligence-led operations. The following issues need to be addressed:

- Optimising cooperation for multi-agency operations.
- Shortage of equipment and flexible funding.
- Lack of coordinated intelligence sharing mechanisms.
- Shortage of skilled investigators and analysts.
- Lack of a national data base for all wildlife DNA to enable fast access to forensic evidence for the prosecution of poaching cases.
- Lack of staff for the analysis of IT and ballistic evidence relating to wildlife crime cases.
- Understaffed National Forensic Laboratory and underdeveloped with regard to wildlife crime and wildlife crime evidence.

#### **Specific objectives**

- To broaden formalised partnerships for investigations and intelligence and enhance multi-agency cooperation with the support of senior management in the relevant offices/ministries/agencies.
- To ensure that investigators and intelligence operations aim to provide tactical and strategic information to support wildlife law enforcement activities with the aim of preventing illegal activities and maximising the chances that perpetrators are apprehended.
- To develop investigations and intelligence operations to a professional level and achieve results in specific cases.
- To conduct investigations and intelligence activities in a manner that will deter poaching of wildlife and the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

#### **Strategic approach and key interventions**

- Ensure that investigations and intelligence operations are comprehensive, in that they capitalise on the full range of techniques and supporting technology available, are systematic in their approach to collecting, organising and managing information, and are integrated with other aspects of site-based wildlife law enforcement operations.

- Provide benchmarks that are critical for developing comprehensive, systematic and integrated investigations and intelligence operations, and which can make significant contributions to improvements in law enforcement effectiveness.
- Extend the operational term of the Blue Rhino Task Team (BRTT) for the period covered by this strategy (five years).
- Strengthen the Intelligence and Investigation Unit (IIU) within the Division: Wildlife Protection Services of MEFT.
- Broaden and formalise partnerships with implementing partners in investigations and intelligence support.
- Support and strengthen transboundary cooperation.
- Maintain and expand informer network and streamline informer's payments.
- Secure sustainable and flexible financing for investigations and intelligence and maintain a system of operations.
- Formalise international co-operation agreements such as the mutual legal assistance for obtaining evidence, i.e. statements, DNA samples, wildlife product exhibits, as well as extradition and other relevant agreements.
- Provide official passports for easy travel to investigators involved in transboundary investigations.
- Assist with the development of facilities at the National Forensic Laboratory to cater for the collection, storage and analysis of DNA and ballistic evidence.
- Develop appropriate system for sharing of information between NCIS and investigators of MEFT and NAMPOL.
- Decentralise valuation of wildlife products to the regions in order not to delay investigation in cases.

### 7.3 Legal framework and prosecutions

Effective operationalisation and implementation of relevant laws and regulations is crucial, and appropriate penalties, prosecution and sentencing must be in place. There is a need to support and strengthen prosecutors and magistrates in the handling of wildlife cases and ensure that key enforcement agencies and prosecuting authorities collaborate effectively and efficiently. There must be consistency in sentencing and bail, and support is needed to further improve case preparation for wildlife crime cases, and prioritise wildlife crime cases.

#### Specific objective

- To strengthen legal systems and the prosecution of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife product cases.

#### Strategic approach and key interventions

- Treat wildlife crime as a serious crime and work to ensure that enforcement efforts adequately protect wildlife and curb the poaching of wildlife, and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.
- Complete and promulgate the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill and associated regulations to give full effect to the country's advanced and innovative policies. Penalties should be appropriate and sufficient to deter offenders.
- Apply other laws such as the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) regulations, and enforce them to deter illegal hunting of wildlife and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.
- Conduct annual training needs assessments to inform planning of training events and provide for a mentorship programme to provide support to prosecutors. Such needs assessments and training

curricula shall comprise provisions for diligent process and an overall human-rights based approach within law enforcement.

- Provide for a needs-based training for magistrates, prosecutors and investigators in a coordinated and strategic manner.
- Conduct needs-based training on case preparation and ensure properly and timely consultation whenever there are bail hearings in cases before court.
- Support the dedicated Environmental Crime Unit in the Prosecutor General's Office in high-profile wildlife crime cases, and strengthen prosecutors and magistrates in the handling of wildlife cases. Ensure that key enforcement agencies and prosecuting authorities collaborate effectively and efficiently.
- Conduct a feasibility study on the creation of dedicated wildlife courts and provide for specialist prosecutors that are knowledgeable of relevant wildlife-crime related legislation and the appropriate prosecution of offenders.
- Clear procedures for arrest and charging of suspects, including responsibilities of different agencies must be established with systems in place for monitoring wildlife crime cases.
- Ensure that there is proper consultation between investigators and prosecutors before wildlife cases are in court.
- Increase efforts to target corrupt public officials and members of the anti-poaching units who make poaching and wildlife trafficking possible, by linking technical assistance with anti-corruption cooperation and taking appropriate actions by the authority.

### 7.4 Transboundary illicit trade

There is a need to focus customs law enforcement and control on both imports and exports. The role of customs in law enforcement with regard to illicit trade of natural resources must be clear. The following issues need to be addressed:

- Misconception regarding the purpose and role of risk management within customs and from stakeholders.
- Need for capacity building and training of border law enforcement officials (both Customs and NAMPOL) with regard to illicit wildlife trade.
- Number of ungazetted border crossings and the extent of the porous borders with Angola and Zambia.
- Inadequate law enforcement equipment at borders.
- Lack of formal cooperation mechanisms for border control agencies and other stakeholders.
- Lack of formal cooperation regarding processes for sharing of samples (e.g. DNA) and evidence.

#### Specific objective

- To create an enabling environment for border officials from all agencies to jointly work towards combatting illegal transboundary trade in wildlife products.

#### Strategic approach and key interventions

- Optimise the use of customs legislation for the purposes of combatting illicit wildlife trade.
- Formalise operations agreements between border law enforcement agencies (including cross-border agencies) and optimise risk management principles.
- Strengthen the utilisation of World Customs Regional Intelligence Networks (RILO).
- Formalise international cooperation agreements.
- Provide awareness training and capacity building to all border control agencies in line with this strategy and its approaches.

- Support the operationalisation of the multi-agency task team for the Container Control Programme as well as other similar task team initiatives.
- Ensure that NAMPOL and NDF conduct border patrols and enforce border compliance.

### 7.5 Protection of rhinoceros within protected areas

Namibia holds the second-largest population of rhinoceros in the world and the world largest population of black rhinoceros. Namibia has also experienced unprecedented levels of rhinoceros poaching and clearly there is a need to be well prepared to deal with threats to rhino populations in the light of recent trends elsewhere in Africa, and particularly those in neighbouring countries. For rhino protection within protected areas, the following issues need to be addressed:

- Clear and endorsed anti-poaching command structure in PAs.
- Need for a clear and effective communication channels linking PAs on operational levels to ministerial level.
- Need for specialised training for certain specialised positions.
- Need for an approved and implemented action plan for each PA.
- Need to have structured and formal stakeholder forums around specific PAs.
- Need of a structured dissemination of field intelligence to support proactive anti-poaching activities.
- Well-established and specialised law enforcement and reaction units.
- Appropriate structures and strategies for patrol planning and monitoring.
- Scientific support to ensure unbiased auditing of rhino populations, as well as effective and efficient population management to mitigate poaching losses.
- Need for approved and implemented SOPs.
- Continuous vetting and integrity testing of all staff in PAs with rhino, as well as working directly with rhino in PAs.

#### Specific objective

- To minimise rhino poaching in PAs through:
  - Optimisation of innovative and proactive counter-poaching activities.
  - Implementation of practical, proven and cost-effective interventions.
  - Implementation of an impartial monitoring and evaluation system to:
    - evaluate staff performance and effectiveness,
    - ensure optimum use of operational funding,
    - ensure activities and interventions are proactive,
    - rapidly adapt to changing circumstances.
  - Implementation of approved science-based techniques to:
    - ensure accurate population estimates,
    - ensure optimum population growth.

#### Strategic approach and key interventions

- Establish a JOC for each PA – linked to a central command centre and structure in Windhoek.
- Identify key personnel and ensure specialist training for specialised tasks.
- Specialised law enforcement and reaction units.
- Make vetting and integrity testing in PAs with rhino compulsory for all stakeholders.
- Develop, approve and implement SOPs in all PAs.
- Implement SMART systems in all PAs.

- Develop structures to ensure the flow of information and field intelligence.
- Formation and implementation of stakeholder forums incorporating PAs, regional offices, TAs, conservancies, neighbouring communities, district watches, farmers unions, white-rhino owners, black-rhino custodian farms, NAMPOL and NDF SF as applicable.
- Develop approved action plans for PAs and ensure the correct and timeous implementation.
- Assess current security systems at entrance gates and implement best practices.
- Develop a joint funding regulating forum that can secure targeted funding and ensure flexible and timeous interventions as needed.
- Develop, implement and constantly revise site specific security plans for PAs.
- Build scientific capacity and wise partnerships to:
  - ensure the unbiased auditing of populations,
  - develop and implement sound and efficient population management,
  - investigate the possibility to develop in country DNA analysis capacity,
  - undertake DNA sampling of all rhinos and maintenance of a National DNA Database linking to the Regional DNA Database kept by RhODIS.
- Develop and implement the species management plans (strategies) for black rhino and white rhino in Namibia that clearly state their population management measures, use and species protection.
- Develop and implement a National Dehorning Strategy for rhinos.
- Support optimal biological, demographic and genetic management of rhino population.

### 7.6 Protection of rhinoceros outside of protected areas

Namibia's vision for black rhinoceros states that by 2030, the subspecies *Diceros bicornis bicornis* is re-established in viable, healthy breeding populations throughout its former range, and sustainably utilised. This sparked the concept of the Black Rhino Custodianship Programme involving freehold farms. Black rhinoceros also occur in communal areas, mainly conservancies.

White rhino in Namibia occur in both private and public ownership, on freehold and government land respectively.

The following issues need to be addressed:

- Black Rhino Custodianship Programme
  - Clear and implemented security strategy for the Black Rhino Custodianship Program.
  - Regular vetting and integrity testing mandatory for custodians and all staff.
  - Established functional and motivated anti-poaching units.
  - Scientific support to ensure the unbiased auditing of rhino populations and effective and efficient population management to mitigate poaching losses.
- White Rhino (privately owned)
  - Control over movement of privately owned white rhino into country and from farm to farm.
  - Established and functional, supported and recognised white-rhino owners association.
- Lack of security plans for rhino populations on communal land
  - An approved and funded security plan with SOPs.
  - Lack of integrity testing and vetting of staff involved with rhino.
  - Independent auditing of population estimate and performance.
- General
  - Lack of dedicated operational budget to acquire, maintain and replace equipment.

- Need for a structured dissemination of field intelligence to support proactive anti-poaching activities.
- Shortage of specialised support.
- Standardised monitoring and evaluation program (SMART).

#### Specific objective

- To minimise rhino poaching outside PAs through the development and implementation of a security plan for rhino on communal land and rhino custodians on freehold land.

#### Strategic approach and key interventions

- Develop, implement and constantly revise site-specific security plans for rhino on communal land.
- Develop, implement and constantly revise security plans for rhino custodians on freehold land.
- Develop structures to ensure the flow of information and field intelligence from rhino custodians/owners/managers in areas with rhino.
- Ensure that stakeholder forums are established and functional.
- Develop a joint funding regulating forum that can secure targeted funding and ensure flexible and timely interventions as needed.
- Develop and implement approved and innovative biological management to optimise rhino population growth by making use of experienced specialists in population dynamics.
- DNA sampling of all rhinos and maintenance of a DNA database which is Namibia based.
- Safekeeping of privately owned horns with MEFT.
- Inspection of farms with white rhinos by MEFT and adherence to permit conditions by farmers.
- Develop and implement a strategy that will exclude areas with rhinos outside PAs from prospecting and mining.
- Develop and implement a tourism strategy for communal areas with rhino populations.

### 7.7 Protection of elephant

Elephants occur across the entire north of Namibia with two main subpopulations in the northeast and the northwest. A potential threat to elephants is poaching. The following issues therefore need to be addressed:

- Need for security plans and SOPs for PAs.
- Illegal timber imports from Angola through the ungazetted border posts in BNP, with the timber subsequently being collected from villages within BNP, creates an established route for trafficking.
- Roles of different organisations and institutions need to be clear.
- Incidence of ivory seizures does not necessarily correlate with illegal killing – the age and origin of ivory is not always determined.
- Need for a National Elephant Management Plan.

#### Specific objective

- To develop and implement an integrated approach to the protection of elephants nationally and across borders.

#### Strategic approach and key interventions

- Develop a National Elephant Management Plan.
- Staff, equip and deploy the MEFT WPS Division.
- Develop security plans and SOPs for northeastern NPs.

- Establish a JOC for each PA.
- Develop liaison and coordination structures between law enforcement agencies and PA residents and neighbours.
- Develop and staff access control facilities in PAs.
- Implement the SMART system for all patrols – MEFT, NDF and NAMPOL.
- Station an aircraft and pilot at northeastern PAs.
- Develop and implement protocols for the collection of biological data from all elephant mortalities.
- Develop and provide training on protocols for MEFT, NDF and NAMPOL law enforcement officers for guiding interactions with residents and visitors within and around PAs. Such training curricula will comprise provision for diligent process, community protection and an overall human-rights based approach within law enforcement.
- Establish transboundary security plans, transboundary patrols and prosecutions, mainly for the Namibian component of the KAZA TFCA.
- Ensure that there is collection of DNA at carcasses to link confiscated tusks with carcasses.

### 7.8 Protection of pangolin

There is a huge international demand for and trade in pangolin in spite of its CITES listing. Lack of understanding of Namibian markets, trade routes and smuggling methods is a concern that needs to be addressed. Rehabilitation and monitoring of seized and released animals, compounded by seizures in widespread locations that generally do not have the resources and skills, must be clear. Lack of understanding of key drivers for successful releases must also be addressed.

#### Specific objective

- To develop and implement an integrated approach to the protection of pangolins.

#### Strategic approach and key interventions

- Develop and implement a management plan for pangolin, including a Pangolin Working Group to steer certain actions for pangolin management and protection.
- Increase awareness and law enforcement efforts by all law enforcement agencies.
- Research to increase the understanding of the status, distribution, densities and biology of pangolins in Namibia.
- Support community awareness campaigns to disseminate information including the pangolin hotline for reporting suspicious activities.
- Create a reward system for pangolin-related information and protection thereof.

### 7.9 Community safety and security

Community conservation is unlocking the potential of natural resources as a driver of economic growth and rural development across much of Namibia, and it is linking huge areas of the country into vast conservation landscapes where wildlife can roam for the benefit of the people.

Local communities, through conservancies, are the custodians and active managers of communal natural resources. Government, through the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, has

provided a framework for empowerment, growth and development through enabling legislation. Communities, therefore, have a role to play in stopping poaching and combatting wildlife crime. Due to their proximity to endangered high-value species, criminals use rural areas to infiltrate areas with high-value species.

Lack of intelligence and cooperation from rural communities, which can enable proactive and reactive operations to direct law enforcement agencies for the prevention and investigation of wildlife crime, need to be addressed.

#### **Specific objectives**

- To provide direction and guidelines to support the development of safe and secure rural communities which are impermeable for criminals and criminal activities.
- To ensure that communities actively contribute to wildlife protection and crime prevention.
- To ensure that communities are trained and provided with necessary skills on relevant provisions in the law enforcement system, including their own rights and responsibilities.

#### **Strategic approach and key interventions**

- Provide for a functional, well-established, trained and equipped Community Game Guard System in conservancies. Community game guards shall be trained and equipped to support enforcement related activities, and paid through income generated from natural resources and other funding sources.
- Provide for community game guards to be appointed as honorary nature conservators.
- Provide for good park neighbour and resident relationships and regular communications and consultations, so that communities understand the importance and value of wildlife. Create benefits for communities from wildlife.
- The impacts of wildlife, especially human-wildlife conflict on community livelihoods, should be mitigated and minimised as far as possible. This will include the integration for the requirement of a structured, transparent and accessible system to address and mitigate human-wildlife conflict impacts (including any responsibilities to avoid/minimise such impacts).
- Development of a Community Wildlife Crime Prevention Forum.
- Conduct crime threat analysis in, around and close to areas with threatened species.
- Develop a sustainable and flexible funding system for the forum that will support the security initiatives of the forum stakeholders/partners.

### **7.10 Partner and stakeholder coordination**

Enthusiastic and well-intended support from Namibian NGOs, private sector, international organisations and the donor community can be divisive and wasteful if not properly coordinated and aligned to a national strategy.

Unclear mandates, roles and responsibilities lead to confusion, competition, inefficiencies and conflict between entities that should be working together. There is therefore a need for proper coordination and collaboration, as well as clear roles and responsibilities on wildlife protection and security by all institutions and organisations involved, so that poaching is put to a stop.

#### **Specific objective**

- To ensure comprehensive engagement between government and all partners, nationally and

internationally, that acknowledges the contributions of all stakeholders and that defines roles and responsibilities at all levels following the principles of common trust and a shared vision.

#### **Strategic approach and key interventions**

- Optimise the opportunities for cooperation provided for in international agreements and treaties.
- Expand international linkages where appropriate.
- Streamline the formalisation of individual international exchanges to improve approval systems for authorisation of cross-border operations.
- Support the development and activities of stakeholder forums, both at regional and national levels.
- Identify accredited resource persons and mentors within partner organisations and stakeholder groups to provide support to identified areas of need.
- Undertake annual training-needs assessments to guide the planning and provision of training to law enforcement officials.
- Undertake annual support-needs assessments to guide the planning and provision of budget and resource allocations by both government agencies and supporting organisations.
- Develop a mechanism to ensure that donor support aligns with the needs identified in this strategy.
- Establish and operationalise committees involving offices/ministries/agencies, consisting of the following structures with specific terms of reference:
  - Ministerial Committee
  - Committee of Senior Officials on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement
  - Technical Committee on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement
  - Strategic Intelligence, Security and Joint Operation Committee
- Establish a National Stakeholder Forum with specific terms of reference that meets at least once a year, and ensure that stakeholders, including NGOs, report back on their activities through this forum.
- Establish a Friends of the Parks Programme. This is a programme which encourages donors, the private sector and other stakeholders to get involved and support wildlife protection and crime prevention in the spirit of goodwill and through a coordinated and structured approach. The programme should include operationalisation of the Honorary Nature Conservators Programme.
- Create a system and mandate for the recognition of anti-poaching units on private land and in other areas where it is necessary.
- Implement the SADC Law Enforcement Strategy.

### **7.11 Awareness and communication**

In order to address wildlife protection efficiently and effectively, there is a need to conduct awareness and educate the communities and the general public on wildlife matters. It is also necessary to provide information on wildlife crime and consequences thereof. There is also a need to engage other stakeholders such as traditional authorities, regional councils, NGOs, private sector and line ministries on how best to protect wildlife. The following issues therefore need to be addressed:

- Lack of understanding of wildlife protection and wildlife crime issues.
- Trust between partners, stakeholders and the public.

#### **Specific Objective**

- To refine and implement a wildlife crime communications approach that is based on the principle of active collaboration amongst all key stakeholders, and that serves to inform the public and key stakeholders of the efforts, impacts and challenges of wildlife crime enforcement partners.

### **Strategic Approach and key interventions**

- Establish and support the functioning of the Wildlife Crime Communications (WCC) Working Group.
- Facilitate the participation of identified officials in the Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (TWIX) platform and other relevant law enforcement platforms.
- Provide weekly and quarterly crime statistics to the press and key partners for dissemination to the public.
- Produce the Annual Wildlife Crime Report.
- Develop strategic wildlife crime updates that inform the public. This should include radio talk shows in different languages.
- Support partners who are involved with the dissemination of wildlife crime information and awareness campaigns.
- Implement a well-established and functional environmental and conservation awareness program on wildlife protection and the importance of wildlife conservation.
- Develop information and awareness material for wildlife protection and law enforcement.

### **Annex 1: Action Plan**



Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Time Frame	Cost N\$
1. Wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement (Anti-poaching)	Establish the Wildlife Protection Services Division in MEFT	Seven staff members appointed	Fully functional and motivated WPS in place	MEFT	OPM IWPP	Y1 Y2 Y3	140,000,000
	Provide capacity in current anti-poaching units	Some members already trained	Appropriate reaction and response	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	Conservancies Field based NGOs Custodian farm owners Watch groups IWPP	All years	50,000,000
	Establish JOC for each operational area	Structures exist	JOC operational	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	NCIS	Y1	20,000,000
	Develop and implement security plans for protected areas	Security plan exists for ENP	Security plans in place for all protected areas	MEFT NAMPOL	Local and international donors	Y1 Y2	150,000,000
	Establish dog units in Etosha National Park and Bwabwata National Park	Dog unit exist at Waterberg Plateau Park	Functional units at ENP and BNP	MEFT	NDF NAMPOL US Fish and Wildlife IWPP INL	Y1 Y3	50,000,000
	Establish a horse unit for Etosha National Park	None	Unit established at ENP	MEFT	GPTF IWPP	Y2	50,000,000
	Establish a conservation fee for protected areas	None	Cabinet and Treasury approval	MEFT	MoF	Y1 Y2	300,000
	Access and establish a flexible funding support to respond to operational needs	Basic support from some NGOs and international organisations exists	Structured and functional system put in place	MEFT	Local and international partners	All years	
	Establish private anti-poaching initiatives for private farms and other areas	One initiative exist in Kunene Region	Well-established and recognised anti-poaching initiatives	MEFT NAMPOL	Custodians White-rhino owners Watch groups	Y2	500,000
	Extend the operational term for BRTT	BRTT exists	Five year extension granted	NAMPOL MEFT	NDF Rooikat Trust	Y1	
2. Investigations and intelligence	Recruit more staff to strengthen the IIU of MEFT	Two staff members in place	At least five more staff members recruited	MEFT	OPM MoF	Y1 Y2	10,000,000
	Support and strengthen transboundary cooperation	Transfrontier conservation areas in place	Structures established where TFCAs exist	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	NCIS	All years	1,000,000

Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Time Frame	Cost N\$
	Maintain and expand informer network	System in place	Expansion implemented	NAMPOL MEFT BRTT	NCIS	All years	5,000,000
	Secure sustainable and flexible financing for investigations and intelligence	Rooikat Trust providing assistance	More funding secured	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	Rooikat Trust Local and international partners	Y1 Y2	
	Formalise international cooperation agreements such as the mutual legal assistance for obtaining evidence	Draft agreements exist	Agreements signed	NAMPOL Customs		Y1 Y2 Y3	
	Develop facilities at the National Forensic Laboratory to cater for collection, storage and analysis of DNA and ballistic evidence	National Laboratory exists	Infrastructure and equipment for DNA and ballistic evidence provided	NAMPOL	MEFT Local and international partners	Y2 Y3	10,000,000
	Decentralise valuation of wildlife products to the regions	Valuation system in place at HQ	Decentralisation process approved	MEFT NAMPOL	MoJ	Y2	200,000
	Complete and promulgate the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill	Bill endorsed by Cabinet	Bill promulgated	MEFT		Y1 Y2	100,000
	Conduct annual training needs assessment	None	Training assessment report produced	MEFT	NAMPOL MoJ Supporting NGOs	Y2	50,000
	Provide for a needs-based training for magistrates, prosecutors and investigators	Three trainings conducted	At least one training conducted per year	MEFT MoJ NAMPOL	LAC USAID KfW	All years	500,000
	Support Environmental Crime Unit in the PG's Office	Unit established	Functional unit	PG's Office	MEFT NAMPOL Local and international partners	All years	5,000,000
	Conduct feasibility study on the creation of dedicated wildlife courts	None	Feasibility report produced	MoJ MEFT PG's Office	Local and international partners	Y2	200,000

Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Time Frame	Cost N\$
	Increase efforts to target corrupt public officials and members of anti-poaching units	None	No public official or member of APU involved in wildlife crime	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	NCIS ACC	All years	500,000
<b>4. Transboundary illicit trade</b>	Formalise operations agreements between border law enforcement agencies	Draft agreements exist	Agreements signed	NAMPOL Customs	INTERPOL	Y2 Y3	300,000
	Strengthen the utilisation of World Customs Regional Intelligence Networks	Network exists	Strengthened and operational	Customs	RILO TRAFFIC NCIS	All years	1,000,000
	Formalise international cooperation agreements	Draft agreements exist	Agreements signed	NAMPOL Customs	INTERPOL	Y2 Y3	300,000
	Provide awareness training and capacity building to all border-control agencies	None	Training conducted to all border-control agencies	NAMPOL Customs	MEFT	All years	3,000,000
	Operationalise the multi-agency task team for the Container Control Programme	None	Task team appointed	Customs NAMPOL	MEFT NCIS UNODC	Y2	500,000
<b>5. Protection of rhinoceros within protected areas</b>	Establish specialised law enforcement and reaction units	None	Units established and in place	MEFT NAMPOL		Y2 Y3	5,000,000
	Develop and implement SOPs/action plans/ security plans for rhinos in all protected areas	None	Plans drafted and approved	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT		Y2 Y3	1,000,000
	Implement SMART systems in all PAs	SMART system in place for ENP	System operational for all PAs with rhinos	MEFT	Local and international partners	Y2 Y3 Y4	5,000,000
	Develop security systems for selected parks and implement accordingly	None	All park gates where there are rhinos having a system in place	MEFT	NAMPOL Local and international partners	Y2 Y3 Y4	10,000,000
	Develop and implement species management plans	Draft plans in place	Species management plans approved	MEFT		Y1	300,000

Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Time Frame	Cost N\$
	Develop and implement a National Dehorning Strategy for rhinos	None	National Dehorning Strategy drafted and approved	MEFT	NAMPOL Local and international partners	Y2	300,000
<b>6. Protection of rhinoceros outside of protected areas</b>	Develop and implement security plans for rhinos on communal land	None	Security plans developed and approved	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT SRT	NNF IRDNC Conservancies TAs Tour guides/companies Farmers unions	Y2 Y3	2,000,000
	Develop and implement security plans for rhino custodians on freehold land	Draft exists	Security plans developed and approved	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	Custodians White-rhino farmers Watch groups	Y2	500,000
	Establish stakeholder forums for rhino protection outside protected areas	None	Forum members appointed	MEFT	NAMPOL NDF NCIS NNF IRDNC SRT IWPP Conservancies TAs Tour guides/companies Farmers unions Custodians White-rhino farmers Watch groups	Y1	500,000
	Ensure safekeeping of rhino horns	None	Storage facilities identified	MEFT NAMPOL	Custodians White-rhino farmers	Y2	200,000
	Conduct inspections of farms with white rhinos and adherence to permit conditions	None	Inspection schedule agreed and implemented	MEFT NAMPOL	Custodians White-rhino farmers	All years	3,000,000
	Develop and implement strategy that will exclude areas with rhinos from prospecting and mining	None	Strategy developed and approved	MEFT	Custodians White-rhino farmers	Y2	1,000,000

Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Time Frame	Cost N\$
	Develop and implement tourism strategy for communal areas with rhino populations	None	Strategy developed and approved	MEFT	NAMPOL NDF NCIS NINF IRDNC SRT Conservancies TAs Tour guides/companies Farmers union Custodians White-rhino farmers Watch groups	Y2	1,000,000
<b>7. Protection of elephants</b>	Develop a National Elephant Management Plan	Consultant appointed	Management plan developed and approved	MEFT	NAMPARKS 4	Y1	1,000,000
	Develop security plans and SOPs for North East Parks	None	Security plans developed and approved	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	Conservancies IRDNC	Y2 Y3	1,000,000
	Develop liaison and coordination structures for communities leaving inside National Parks	Structure exists	Structure for BNP approved	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	Kyaramacan Association	Y2	500,000
	Station aircraft and pilot at north east parks	None	Aircraft secured and stationed in BNP	MEFT		Y3	1,000,000
	Establish system and collect DNA at carcasses to link to confiscated tusks	None	DNA collected	MEFT NAMPOL		All years	500,000
<b>8. Protection of pangolin</b>	Establish a Pangolin Working Group	None	Working group members appointed	MEFT	NCE	Y1	200,000
	Develop a National Pangolin Management Plan	None	Management plan developed and approved	MEFT	Pangolin Working Group	Y2	1,000,000
	Create a reward system for pangolin-related information and protection thereof	None	Reward system created	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	NCE Rooikat Trust	Y2	500,000
<b>9. Community safety and security</b>	Train and appoint community game guards as honorary nature conservators	None	Game guards appointed as honorary nature conservators	MEFT	Conservancies	Y2	300,000

Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Time Frame	Cost N\$
	Develop a Community Wildlife Crime Prevention Forum	None	Members of the forum appointed	MEFT	Conservancies NGOs Private sector	Y2	500,000
<b>10. Partner and stakeholder coordination</b>	Expand international linkages	None	Expansion conducted	MEFT NAMPOL	Local and international partners	All years	1,000,000
	Undertake training-needs assessment for law enforcement officials	None	Assessment report produced	MEFT NAMPOL	Supporting NGOs IWPP	Y2	300,000
	Undertake needs assessment to guide planning and budget provision	None	Assessment report produced	MEFT NAMPOL	Supporting NGOs	Y2	300,000
	Develop a mechanism to ensure that donor support aligns with the needs identified in the strategy	None	Mechanism established and approved	MEFT	Local and international partners	Y2	200,000
	Establish and operationalise committees involving offices/ ministries/agencies	Ad hoc committees exist	Committees established with specific membership and agreed ToR	MEFT	MDVA MHAISS MoJ NAMPOL NDF NCIS PG's Office	Y1	200,000
	Establish a national stakeholder forum	None	Forum members appointed	MEFT	MDVA MHAISS MoJ NAMPOL NDF NCIS PG's Office Conservancies Supporting NGOs IWPP Local and international partners Private sector	Y1	500,000
	Establish the Friends of the Parks Programme, including the Honorary Nature Conservator Programme	Programmes launched	Steering committee appointed with specific ToR	MEFT	Local and international partners Supporting NGOs Private sector	Y1	300,000

Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Time Frame	Cost N\$
	Implement the SADC Law Enforcement Strategy	Strategy in place	Actions in the strategy implemented	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	Conservancies Supporting NGOs Local and international partners	All years	500,000
<b>11. Awareness and communication</b>	Establish the Wildlife Crime Communications Working Group	Ad hoc committee in place	Working group formally appointed	MEFT NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust IWPP	Y1	200,000
	Provide weekly and quarterly crime statistics and produce Annual Wildlife Crime Report	Reports being produced	Constant reporting	MEFT NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust	All years	1,000,000
	Implement a well-established and functional environmental and conservation awareness program	None	Functional environmental and conservation awareness program in place	MEFT		All years	10,000,000
	Develop information and awareness material for wildlife protection and law enforcement	Some stickers and brochures produced	More materials produced	MEFT	Supporting NGOs Local and international partners	All years	20,000,000
	Establish and operationalise appropriate committees	None	Committees launched	MEFT	IWPP Rooikat Trust	Y1	500,000

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

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