



Ministry of Environment,
Forestry and Tourism

Report Wildlife Crime "SMS to
55555

PRESS RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

24 September 2025

WILDFIRE IN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) wishes to inform the public about the ongoing wildfire in the south-western part of Etosha National Park. The fire, which started outside the park on Monday evening 22 September 2025, is suspected to have originated from nearby charcoal production activities before spreading into the park.

Since its outbreak, the fire has continued to burn with great intensity, fuelled by strong winds and extremely dry vegetation. Despite efforts, the blaze remains difficult to contain and is advancing rapidly in several directions.

The Ministry, supported by the Namibia Defence Force (NDF) and neighbouring communities, has been working tirelessly to manage the situation. Priority has been placed on safeguarding human lives, wildlife, vital infrastructure such as boreholes, patrol camps, and grazing areas. Cut lines have been established to abate the fire, while back-burning efforts were hindered by strong winds and dense, dry grass.

MEFT staff are monitoring the fire closely on the ground while the Ministry's air wing has been dispatched to assess the affected area. The full scale of the damage will only be determined after the fire has been brought under control.

No wildlife casualties have been confirmed so far, though assessments remain ongoing due to the unpredictable and widespread nature of the fire.

The Ministry would like to caution the public and visitors to Etosha National Park to remain vigilant and avoid unnecessary movement in affected areas. The fire situation is unpredictable and may shift rapidly depending on wind direction.

Furthermore, the Ministry reminds all members of the public to use fire responsibly. In particular, individuals and companies involved in activities such as charcoal production must ensure that their operations are conducted safely by clearing surrounding areas and putting adequate fire prevention measures in place to avoid outbreaks.

The Ministry assures the public that all possible measures are being taken to contain the fire in collaboration with the NDF and local partners. Further updates will be provided as the situation develops.

**For more details, contact the Public Relations Office on +264 819528652
info.pro@meft.gov.na**

**Issued by: Ndeshipanda Hamunyela
Spokesperson**

Report Wildlife Crime "SMS to 5555