



## Republic of Namibia

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### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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#### **Press Release** **(For Immediate Release)**

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Editors and Journalists

#### **Poaching update, August 2022**

The Ministry has noted that since strengthening our wildlife protection strategies in National Parks, poaching has decreased. However, this has shifted the focus of poachers to custodianship farms and private farms with white rhinos.

To date we have a recorded 33 rhinos poached in Namibia, 24 black rhinos and 9 white rhinos. This year's poaching cases include nine (9) rhinos poached in custodianship farms, another 9 on private farms and 15 in the Etosha National Park. Namibia has recorded 44 rhinos poached in 2021, 42 in 2020, 57 in 2019, and 83 in 2018 and 55 in 2017.

Rhino poaching situation in the country is dynamic, visibly this fight is far from over, but we remain committed in ensuring that poaching of rhinos is significantly reduced if not completely stopped. This however requires the involvement of all stakeholders including members of the public by rejecting poaching in our societies.

In order to strengthen rhino security and prevent further poaching, the Ministry with its stakeholders is implementing strategies used in our national parks in custodianship farms and private farms respectively. This includes, increased ground patrols, aerial patrols (using helicopter) establishment or strengthening of existing of Anti-Poaching Units, inclusion of MEFT and law enforcement agencies in intelligence gathering and law enforcement activities.

The Ministry is however happy that elephant poaching remains relatively low with only two elephants poached this year. Our target moving forward is to reduce elephant poaching to zero. While rhino poaching has been dynamic, elephant poaching on the

other has been steadily declining over the last five (5) years from 50 elephants poached in 2017, 27 in 2018, 13 in 2019, 12 in 2020 and 8 in 2021.

Issued by:

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