The National Strategy on Wildlife and Environmental Protection

2026 - 2035

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA





The National Strategy on Wildlife and Environmental Protection

2021 - 2025

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Foreword

Wildlife crime is a highly faceted sphere. Uninformed global consumers from diverse cultures with an appetite for natural products continue to drive demand and thus illicit exploitation, with little or no understanding of potential conservation consequences. The ability to offer illegal products for legitimate sale to global markets via internet has become a huge factor.

The world of criminal actors is similarly complex. Limited access to natural resources or their benefits continues to alienate parts of society, while impoverished communities are drawn into illicit activities to survive. Low wages and limited capacity building in the wildlife protection and law enforcement sectors create vulnerabilities increasing the risk of criminal collusion and corruption. Direct counter crime initiatives cannot be seen as the sole answer to the illegal wildlife trade but must work in tandem with socioeconomic reform and a widespread understanding of environmental threats.

Measures continue to be put in place to produce results, and the results are evidenced by sharp increases in registered cases and arrests, and seizures of illicit goods, firearms and vehicles, as well as a reduction in poaching losses. Namibian partnerships against environmental crim continue to be strengthened between Offices/Ministries/Agencies, non-government entities and the community.

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



Indileni Daniel, MP
Minister

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 as provided for in the National Development Plan 6, is highly dependent on wildlife. Wildlife is contributing significantly to the livelihoods of the local communities, particularly in rural areas.

Strategic program areas in this strategy document include wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement (efficient and effective patrols); use of technologies in the fight against wildlife crime; investigations and intelligence; legal framework and prosecutions; corruption and wildlife crime: tackling corrupt officials involved in wildlife crime; transboundary illicit trade; protection of rhinoceros within protected areas; protection of rhinos outside of protected areas; protection of elephants; protection of pangolins; protection and law enforcement in other emerging threats to animal and plant species; protection of indigenous plants; transgression and non-compliance on environmental matters with respect to rare and endangered species; use of data, information, research to improve current laws and interventions; forensics; community engagement to support law enforcement; 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 Organizations, private sector, conservancies, farmers and all partner stakeholders who provided essential information for the development of the strategy.

MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
08 JUL 2026
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Sikongo Haihambo
Executive Director

Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
AG	Attorney-General
AI	Artificial Intelligence
APU	Anti-Poaching Unit
BNP	Bwabwata National Park
BoN	Bank of Namibia
BRTT	Blue Rhino Task Team
CBNRM	Community-based natural resource management
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CGG	Community Game Guard
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
DoF	Directorate of Forestry
DWNP	Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks
EC	Environmental Commissioner
EMA	Environmental Management Act
ENP	Etosha National Park
FIC	Financial Intelligence Centre
GPTF	Game Product Trust Fund
IIU	Intelligence and Investigations Unit of MEFT
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IRDNC	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
JOC	Joint Operations Committee / Joint Operations Center
KAZA TFCA	Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
LAC	Legal Assistance Center
LE	Law Enforcement
LEAP	Law Enforcement Action Plan
LoRa / LoRaWAN	Long Range / Long Range Wide Area Network
LPR	License Plate Recognition
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MAFWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform
MDVA	Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MHAISS	Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security
MIKE	Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants

MIRCO	Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoJLR	Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations
NAMPOL	Namibian Police Force
NAMRA	Namibia Revenue Agency
NARREC	Namibia Animal Rehabilitation, Research and Education Centre
NCE	Namibia Chamber of Environment
NCIS	Namibian Central Intelligence Service
NDF	Namibian Defence Force
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NNF	Namibia Nature Foundation
NP	National Park
NPFSI	Namibian Police Forensic Science Institute
NRWG	Natural Resources Working Group
NUST	Namibia University of Science and Technology
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PA	Protected Area
PG	Prosecutor General
POCA	Prevention of Organised Crime Act
PRD	Protected Resources Division of NAMPOL
RBAC	Role-Based Access Control
RhODIS	Rhinoceros DNA Index System
RILO	Regional Intelligence Liaison Office of WCO
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SF	Special Forces of NAMPOL
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SNP	Single Nucleotide Polymorphism
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRT	Save the Rhino Trust
TA	Traditional Authority
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
ToR	Terms of Reference
TRAFFIC	The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
TWIX	Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCC	Wildlife Crime Communication working group
WCO	World Customs Organization
WISC-N	Wood Identification Screening Centre of Namibia
WPS	Wildlife Protection Services
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



1 Introduction

The effectiveness of Namibia's conservation systems and approaches has long been recognised as an international example of sustainable use and protection of biodiversity. Yet the impacts of illegal activities and inappropriate development are eroding many previous gains, and are exposing increasing vulnerabilities. Wildlife crime in Namibia remains a serious concern that threatens our natural heritage and damages our environment. Habitat fragmentation and destruction are advancing, while illegal exploitation continues to impact individual species. Innovation and adaptive action are required to counter relentless impacts, some of which may be irreversible.

Severe poaching impacts on rhinos, pangolins and indigenous/endemic plants, and ongoing challenges in other key sectors are highlighting continued vulnerabilities in Namibia's ability to effectively protect its natural resources. Efforts to improve awareness of issues amongst key stakeholders, strengthening of wildlife protection mechanisms, law enforcement and prosecution, and international collaboration in countering wildlife and environmental crime are achieving only limited results. More innovative and integrated approaches are clearly needed to safeguard Namibia's natural resources.

2 Background

Wildlife and environmental crime in southern Africa are well documented. While Namibia has historically experienced limited wildlife and environmental crime, the rising prices of illicit ivory, rhino horn and pangolin products drive the nature of such crimes in Namibia. Criminal syndicates pursue wildlife (animal and plants) products with increasing sophistication using complex networks.

Currently Namibia holds the second largest population of rhinoceros in the world and the world's largest population of black rhinoceros. Rhinos also attract thousands of photographic tourists to the country. In recent years, Namibia has experienced unprecedented levels of rhinoceros poaching.

The world's largest contiguous elephant population of about 227,900 elephants occurs within the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) which comprises Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. About 65,028 elephants occur in north-western Zimbabwe, about 131,909 in northern Botswana, about 21,090 in northeastern Namibia, and the balance in south-western Zambia and south-eastern 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 north-eastern Namibia based on carcasses detected and cases registered. Criminals are constantly seeking ways to remain ahead of the law, and law enforcement agencies need to respond accordingly.

In 2015, 99 rhinos were recorded as poached; in 2016 the number of elephants recorded as poached spiked at 101. During the last five years, 54 rhinos were poached in 2021, 94 in 2022, 81 in 2023, and 85 in 2024. Poaching and trafficking of pangolins also began to escalate alarmingly, as did meat poaching. More recently, poaching and live trafficking of indigenous plants has become yet another sector of major concern. There are indications that trafficking of live reptiles is also widespread but remains mostly undetected.

Whilst poaching of high value species for trade attract a lot of attention, the escalating trend of commercial poaching for meat across private, state, and communal lands in Namibia should not be overlooked, as it is emerging as a serious environmental and economic concern. This illegal activity not only undermines conservation efforts but also threatens the sustainability of wildlife-based tourism and livelihoods dependent on healthy wildlife populations. Evidence indicates that species such as oryx and kudu are potentially being disproportionately affected, with significant declines observed particularly outside protected areas, but also within certain National Parks such as the Namib-Naukluft National Park, suggesting that even areas designated for conservation are not immune. If left unchecked, this could lead to long-term ecological and economic repercussions.

Therefore, the illegal killing of wildlife in Namibia has implications for the environment, economy, social aspects as well as animal welfare. Environmental impact 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. Plant poaching destroys habitats, reduces endemic plants. 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 dependent on wildlife.

The Government has responded by creating new departments, including the Wildlife Protection Services Division and the Intelligence and Investigation Unit in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, the Environmental Crimes Unit in the Office of the Prosecutor General, and the Blue Rhino Task Team, an interagency collaboration between the MEFT and the Namibian Police Force, which has since grown to embrace much broader collaboration. Furthermore, the interagency Protected Plants Task Team was established in 2023, consisting of members from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, i.e. the Intelligence Investigation Unit (IIU) of the Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) and the Directorate of Forestry, the Protected Resources Division (PRD) of the Namibian Police Force and the Namibia Revenue Agency (NAMRA). National security forces were deployed to priority areas in an anti-poaching capacity, and legislation was revised to enable more appropriate prosecution and sentencing.

Namibian non-government entities and the international community also responded to the rhino poaching crisis with determination. Wide ranging funding support from international partners

significantly boosted Namibian government and community conservation capacities and continues to do so. Substantially increased anti-poaching patrols and public awareness campaigns in community conservation areas quickly began to limit poaching losses here. Private reserves and black rhino custodians also drastically increased their security measures in attempts to ward off incursions.

The measures produced results, evidenced by sharp increases in registered cases and arrests, and seizures of illicit goods, firearms and vehicles after 2015, as well as temporary reductions in poaching losses as provided in section 3 on recent trends in wildlife crime. As registered case numbers began to rise, efficient case finalization resulting in appropriate sentences presented a massive hurdle. A judicial system already facing systematic challenges were being overwhelmed by a surging wildlife crime sector. The Prosecutor General responded by initiating temporary special courts for wildlife cases in wildlife crime hotspots to reduce court case backlogs. A more permanent intervention to expedite case finalization is the dedicated Environmental Crimes Court, inaugurated at Otjiwarongo in 2024.

Clearly, Namibia needs to do more and be well prepared to deal with threats to its rhino, elephant, pangolin populations and indigenous/endemic plants, as well as other wildlife species in the light of recent trends elsewhere in Africa and particularly those in neighbouring countries and current situation in country.

3 Objectives

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

Specific objectives of this strategy shall be to:

3.1 To protect wildlife, especially endangered and threatened species, including indigenous plants from poaching and trafficking, and the wildlife economy (tourism and conservation hunting) that depends on these species.

3.2 To promote the enforcement of environmental and wildlife laws within the country, and in this regard cooperate with neighbouring states.

3.3 To build capacity for wildlife and environmental protection, conservation and enforcement of wildlife laws.

3.4 To facilitate community based natural resource management practices (e.g. conservancies and community forest) for better protection of wildlife resources.

3.5 To provide for an assessment of a law enforcement system 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.

3.6 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 and Labour Relations (MoJLR), Customs and any other law enforcement agencies to respond to wildlife crime with appropriate prevention and countermeasures.

3.7 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.

3.8 To continue with partnerships and stakeholder collaboration in the fight against wildlife crime.

3.9 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.

4 Principles

This strategy is based on the following fundamental principles:

4.1 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.

4.2 Measures must be taken to effectively enforce national legislation pertaining to the environment, wildlife and the rule of law.

4.3 Wildlife is critically important to the tourism and conservation hunting sector which provide important socio-economic benefits, locally, regionally and nationally.

4.4 Wildlife resources both within as well as outside of PAs need to be protected.

4.5 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 rhino and the plant species that take many years to grow.

4.6 Poaching can be eliminated if there is cooperation between and joint implementation of this strategy by all Namibian law enforcement agencies.

4.7 Greater resources can be leveraged and more efficiently used if NGO's, the private sector and international organizations work in synergy with and in support of Government law enforcement agencies.

4.8 There is a need to cooperate with and support local communities in order to efficiently protect wildlife resources.

4.9 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.

5 Requirements for protecting valuable and endangered species

The key ingredients to combatting wildlife and environmental crime in Namibia include:

- Strong partnership networks between Government, support organizations, the public and funding partners.
- Strong partnerships between Namibian law enforcement agencies.
- Building trust among each other.
- 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.
- Elimination of corruption.

6 Strategic programme areas

6.1 Wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement (efficient and effective patrols)

Wildlife crime keeps evolving. New and unexpected sectors continue to emerge, poaching and trafficking tactics keep adapting, markets keep changing. Namibia has achieved diverse successes in shifting from reactive to pre-emptive law enforcement. Some intending poachers are being arrested even before they can kill an animal. Yet law enforcement alone may not stop wildlife crime. Parallel interventions are needed to address drivers and obstacles, including poverty alleviation and broader legal benefits from wildlife.

Combatting wildlife crime may be 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, as well as having presence on the ground with efficient and effective patrols conducted.

Collaboration within and between Ministries, and between government, NGOs, local communities, the private sector and international funding agencies continue to strengthen Namibian efforts to combat the poaching and trafficking scourge, but more still need to be done.

Specific objective

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

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Fully implement and fill all positions under the Wildlife Protection Service Division (Anti-Poaching Unit) and consider operational time of WPS to that of the poachers (day vs night).
- Fill all positions under the Directorate of Forestry that deals with forest protection and law enforcement.

- Improve recruitment and deployment of anti-poaching units with the following measures:
  - Develop and implement WPS recruitment policy that includes minimum of education, specific age structure and requirement for police clearance.
  - Selection process should comply with the WPS recruitment policy framework and the requirements of the Public Service Act. It should include assessments of physical and mental endurance, involve human resources personnel and, where necessary, external experts. Teams should be recruited and trained on a regional basis for specific operational areas, and the Code of Conduct on anti-poaching, including the anti-poaching pledge, should be fully implemented.
  - Training and leadership development considering training a dedicated group to encourage teamwork and leadership after training.
  - Deployment with SOP for the deployment process, deployment done after training with advice of instructors, and joint deployment and operations.
  - On-going training in all related fields of operations.
- Develop skills and capacity with right people to do the work, and right training for the people to do the job.
- Provide adequate budget for sufficient equipment and resources, including:
  - Patrol and camping gear – full implementation of the Uniform Policy.
  - Mobility (appropriate vehicles, fuel, available resources for repairs and tires, horses).
  - Develop essential infrastructure: hides, observation posts.
  - Communication network (radios).
  - Staff accommodation.
  - Aerial support.
  - Ensure flexible funding and procurement processes that are aligned with operational needs to prevent delays in anti-poaching activities.
- Ensure that there are relevant plans for efficient and effective patrols and general implementation of anti-poaching measures, including:
  - Risk assessment.
  - Security plan for the conservation area or key species.
  - Operational plan.
  - Operational maps.
  - SOPs for all levels.
- Ensure that NAMPOL, NDF, NCIS, Customs, Prosecution and other government agencies with a role in anti-poaching and control of wildlife and environmental crime, and the illegal trade of natural resources and have the capacity to deal with the situation.
- Provide capacity assurance and capacity building that covers 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.
- Maintain the existence of Joint Operations Committee for each operational area, for each park or each region as appropriate.
- Fully establish Dog Units for Northeast Regions at Bwabwata National Park and Central Regions at Daan Viljoen Game Park.
- Fully establish a Horse Unit for Etosha National Park and surrounding areas.
- Fully establish Reaction Units to support and provide backups to the Dog and Horse Units.

- Allocation of financial resources to Offices/Ministries/Agencies in respect of wildlife protection and law enforcement by government should be prioritized.
- Access flexible operational support and funding, e.g. donor funding support which can respond to operational needs. Establish a working system for operational support.
- Fully implement SMART / EarthRanger systems in PAs and other conservation areas.
- Continue building trust and establish good working relations among patrol teams and organizations/institutions involved.
- Fully 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.
- Maintain a comprehensive database of issued wildlife utilization permits under the MEFT permit system digitalization.
- Closely engage and liaise between relevant stakeholders on wildlife protection (e.g. appropriate technology and data analysis systems into overall wildlife protection framework through relationships of trust with local landholder circuits).
- Address use of poison as poaching strategy in collaboration with NPFSI and other relevant stakeholders (poisoning of vultures, lions, elephants, etc.).
- Ensure that all personnel involved in wildlife and environmental protection have a wellness program and remain active and motivated at all times.
- Clear all cutlines used for patrols in protected areas and other conservation areas.
- Ensure collaboration between Wildlife and National Parks staff dealing with wildlife crime prevention and those of Forestry.

6.2 Use of technologies in the fight against wildlife crime

The use of new and advanced wildlife monitoring technology is shifting the wildlife security and management paradigm. These digital technologies are helping wildlife conservationists and researchers around the world to monitor and manage wildlife with more precision and efficiency. Technological advances have provided park management with an array of technologies to gather information about fauna and flora from afar. Understanding the appropriate technologies required in decision-making, identifying key areas within a wildlife management area where investment may provide both short- and long-term benefits with respect to technologies, is essential prior to employing them. Some national parks and game reserves around the world are currently using poaching detection technologies to detect intrusion and prevent wildlife poaching. These technologies can aid in the immediate protection of endangered wildlife species.

Obviously, no single technological tool can be used to acquire all the information needed for wildlife security and management, and often multiple technologies are deployed. The development stage of most technologies is such that a human observer is still required to analyze and interpret the data to translate them into meaningful information, and reaction teams are needed to react to a perceived threat. The increasing use of technological tools creates a wealth of data, yet developing tools to turn this data into information is lagging. In this realm of data processing, turning data

into information, investment may provide both short- and long-term benefits in decision-making regarding wildlife management and protection.

Hence, it is imperative to identify and apply appropriate technologies for targeted areas, and identify challenges faced by anti-poaching and wildlife crime. In various wildlife-protected areas worldwide, a wide array of technologies and techniques to gather information have been used. Each technology provides unique capabilities that may not be available within other technologies. Conversely, each technology may also present limitations not otherwise experienced with other methods. Due to ever-evolving technologies, most protected areas have moved from simply providing internet connectivity at Park Headquarters (HQ) to more advanced solutions such as deploying thermal cameras at fence lines and a low-range wide area network (LoRaWAN or Sigfox) network of sensors to track people, rangers, visitors, vehicles, natural resources, and wildlife.

Specific objectives

- To establish a surveillance and conservation technology plan and wildlife security and management requirements for protected areas other conservation areas.
- To identify different surveillance and conservation technologies/techniques that can be used to fight wildlife crime.
- To provide a roadmap for setting up and installing the required infrastructure for the identified technologies.
- To quantify resources necessary for setting up and installing the required infrastructure for the identified technologies.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Strengthen the existing SMART data collection system in protected areas in combination with the new installation of the EarthRanger platform to establish a unified monitoring platform. The integration of these two systems will allow for collecting relevant patrol information, tracking patrols, vehicles, and collared animals in real time, viewing of live feeds from cameras, and generating analysis and reports to inform conservation strategies in the park.
- Expand the use of SMART/EarthRanger to the K9 and horse units.
- Utilize the digital Motorola radio system and/or SMART/EarthRanger for efficient internal communication, ranger tracking, and additional technology tools to supplement staff, threat, and wildlife monitoring.
- Modernize operational planning and accelerate decisions by making relevant information for park management and wildlife protection more readily available.
- Test and install appropriate camera systems at park gates, water holes, and other key areas for wildlife protection, integrating them with AI analysis, real-time alerting, and enable these to be centrally monitored from station operations rooms (24/7) using the integrated SMART/EarthRanger platform.
- Explore the implementation of License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology, scanning of driver's licenses, fitting vehicles with tracking device and digital recording of permits for improved access control. Link to BRTT database of license numbers of interest.
- Implement the vehicle number plate recognition systems.

- Explore the implementation of Radar Intrusion Detection System using radar technology for an early warning in the event of an intrusion, and threat identification and classification, through the electro-optical sensors.
- Explore the use of cellphone detectors in protected areas and other conservation areas.
- Revive park-neighbour relations and identify areas of collaboration, including with regards to technology.
- Improve understanding of vulnerable areas along the boundaries of the park.
- Integrate existing collars for key species into the SMART / EarthRanger joint platform to make collar locations more readily viewable to appropriate MEFT staff.
- Deploy more collars and tags for improved wildlife monitoring.
- Deploy real-time mobile cameras at key locations to monitor wildlife and potential threats.
- Intensify the use of SMART / EarthRanger for effective patrol monitoring and planning.
- Enhance vehicle tracking using the current radio system for improved fleet management and speed control, and rapid communication with patrol teams.
- Improve radio coverage in protected areas with appropriate numbers of repeaters.
- Implement Garmin InReach devices for patrol tracking, remote communication and emergency response and integrate these into the SMART-EarthRanger platform.
- Implement the tracking of canine and horse units.
- Implement water quality sensors using LoRa technology to monitor and ensure the health of water points.
- Integrate electric fence sensors to monitor the integrity of electrified park boundaries.
- Explore the viability of:
    i. Acoustic monitoring systems for early detection of threats like poaching or unusual activity.
    ii. A tourist-monitoring system via SMART Collect to understand better how tour operators and visitors flow through the park and in what patterns.
    iii. Mobile phone detection and geofencing to provide alerts in targeted areas.
    iv. Footfall sensors along fences to detect the movement of people in specific areas, particularly along borders, property perimeters, or sensitive zones. This technology is particularly valuable for monitoring and preventing illegal activities such as trespassing, smuggling, or poaching.
- Implement the usage of drones for quick patrol area scans, follow-up on points of interest, and patrol support. Matrice 300RTK – Universal Edition (Afridrones Aviation cc).
- Leveraging the new SMART-EarthRanger platform, develop strict role-based access control (RBAC) policies based on specific roles and responsibilities within the park's operations to ensure that users only access the data and systems necessary for their roles.
- Implement robust logging mechanisms to track user activities, system access, and data modifications.
- Developing SMART profiles for all permanent and temporary staff working in protected areas and other conservation areas for ranger safety/security and for recording screening/vetting/polygraphic and integrity testing/training/acquaintances/etc.
- Filling critical positions (people manning the operations rooms, data analysts, and IT personnel)
- Train appropriate staff on data management, analysis and scrutinization, and maintenance of technologies employed.
- Address the intermittent internet connectivity at all park stations and WPS sub-stations with either terrestrial-based point-to-multipoint WIFI or Starlink satellite internet.

- Ensure each station has a fully equipped operations room consisting of large format screens, PCs, necessary software for surveillance and monitoring and appropriate communications equipment for monitoring and coordination.
- Improve the infrastructure, equipment and capacity of the central control room in protected areas. This includes developing a separate space for the control room, fully equipped with the necessary connectivity, IT equipment and software, and furnishings to accommodate key control room staff, including the analysts, manager and surveillance monitors. Allow for ability to convene in person and online strategic meetings.
- Develop a clear organizational structure/organogram for WPS, with updated job descriptions for existing and new positions.
- Conduct a skills assessment and provide training and capacity building as required.
- Partner with BRTT to provide essential analytic support, whilst building capacity within the MEFT WPS staff.

6.3 Investigations and intelligence

Poaching and illegal wildlife trade is a million-dollar, global enterprise attracting organized 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 organizations.

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

Financial investigations should also be prioritized as is the key to locking away the proceeds of crime. Financial investigations and prosecutions can seek out and seize the proceeds of crime, no matter in what form or place they may be hidden. The important principle is that perpetrators will no longer get away with hoarding proceeds of crime. Revisions to POCA legislation during 2023 created provisions for dealing with money laundering and unexplained wealth.

Specific objectives

- To broaden formalized 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 maximizing 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.
- To build capacity in the intelligence and investigation teams.

- To leverage international investigative and intelligence collaboration opportunities to support national efforts.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Ensure that investigations and intelligence operations are comprehensive, in that they capitalize on the full range of techniques and supporting technology available, are systematic in their approach to collecting, organizing 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.
- Maintain the operational term of the Blue Rhino Task Team (BRTT) for the period covered by this strategy (five years).
- Strengthening of the Intelligence and Investigations Unit (IIU) within the Division: Wildlife Protection Services of MEFT in dealing with wildlife and environmental issues.
- Broaden and formalize partnerships with implementing partners in investigations and intelligence support on wildlife and environmental issues.
- Identify investigators in MEFT at regional/park level and ensure that they are trained to investigate cases and conduct such in collaboration with NAMPOL.
- Support and strengthen transboundary cooperation.
- Maintain and expand informer network and streamline informer's payments, and make funding available for the network/system, and ensure that an informer fee structure including at regional level is properly established and well managed.
- Secure sustainable and flexible financing for investigations and intelligence and maintain a system of operations.
- Formalize international co-operation agreements such as 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.
- Develop appropriate system for sharing of information between NCIS and investigators of MEFT and NAMPOL.
- Decentralize valuation of wildlife products to the regions in order not to delay investigation in cases.
- Prioritize and maintain focus on financial investigations and money laundering.
- Prioritize and maintain focus on firearm investigations, gun shops involvement and other cross cutting issues.

6.4 Legal framework and prosecutions

Effective operationalization 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 prioritize wildlife crime cases.

Specific objective

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

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Treat wildlife and environmental 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.
- Urgently complete and promulgate the delayed 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.
- Urgently finalize and promulgate amendment to the Forestry Act and associated Regulations.
- Apply other laws such as the Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA), regulations and enforce them to deter illegal hunting of wildlife and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, as well as issues of money laundering.
- Conduct annual training needs assessment to inform planning of training events and provide a mentorship programme to provide support to prosecutors. Such needs assessment and training curricula shall comprise provisions for diligent process and an overall human rights-based approach within law enforcement.
- Provide for needs-based training for magistrates, prosecutors and investigators in a coordinated and strategic manner.
- Conduct needs-based training on case preparation and ensure proper and timely consultation whenever there are bail hearings on cases before court.
- Support the dedicated Environmental Crime Unit in the Prosecutor General's office regarding trial preparation 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.
- Hold special wildlife courts in strategic locations to remove court backlogs and to finalize high profile cases.
- 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 and environmental cases are in court.
- Update manual for valuation of species to assist investigators in determining the value of species and products involved in wildlife and environmental crime.

6.5 Corruption and wildlife crime: Tackling corrupt officials involved in wildlife crime

Namibia is mindful that insiders can be part of crime, which is an issue that needs to be continually addressed. The following are potential areas and instances where corrupt practices may occur in the wildlife crime sphere:

- Employment irregularities: isolated incidents of alleged inappropriate and unprocedural practices in recruitment, selection and appointment of staff members and officials.
- Conspiring with others to commit wildlife crime offences: these perpetrators can be anyone privy to information that can advance these criminal activities.
- Abuse of office/position: certain compromised members/officers in protected areas or other jurisdictions, abuse their offices/positions and actively take part in poaching activities. A member who is entrusted with protection/safeguarding of wildlife products can lead to such products being missing or stolen.
- Creating mistrust and allege conniving: certain elements within law enforcement agencies and wildlife management sometimes can influence arrested suspects to lay false charges of assault and/or theft against the members who took part in operations that led to their arrests and corruptly obtaining medical certificates as proof of such injuries. These allegations cause demotivation as members in these cases drag on for a long time, members losing out on possible promotion as they are not considered due to these pending allegations.
- Defeating the cause of justice: incidents of contaminating rhino crime scene and evidence/exhibits.
- Court and investigation process manipulation: whenever there is a lack of consultation and/or oversight in the criminal justice system, it has the potential to create opportunities for the manipulation and/or misuse of court and investigation process.
- Mistrust sowed by deception and misinformation can severely harm successful working relationships.
- Misuse of State resources/assets: sporadic incidents of this nature have been reported/detected (i.e. vehicles, arms and ammunition) to facilitate/enable poaching and poaching syndicate's activities.
- Border entry points collusion: private sector corruption by false declaration on customs forms, fraudulent documents. GRN sector corruption by law enforcement offices' facilitation of such misdeclaration and fraudulent documentation.
- Private sector corruption: other forms of this can be detected where certain gun shops employees sell ammunition to poachers without producing firearm licenses.
- Embezzlement/theft/fraud: entrusted with funds and redirect them for own personal benefit.

Specific objective

- To eradicate the involvement of government officials and other insiders (private sector, SOEs, NGOs, community conservation) in wildlife crime.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Ensure that potential areas and instances where corrupt practices may occur in the wildlife crime sphere do not take place at all.

- Ensure that policies and procedures with respect to selection and recruitment, including integrity management procedures (including screening/vetting) in selection are addressed efficiently and effectively.
- Regular integrity assessment and screening of existing MEFT staff and any other staff/ officers working on wildlife and environmental protection matters.
- Monitor staff who leave service and may become a threat later and develop regular monitoring of members even after deployment has ended.
- No members of security forces and law enforcement agencies should be deployed within the operational area without screening. When possible, vetting should take place.
- Raise awareness amongst staff members and deployed members of security forces and law enforcement agencies on potential recruitment by poaching syndicates and equip them with counter measures/procedures.
- Incorporate financial literacy training and security awareness in an integrity management plan and implement as such.
- Fully establish the Wildlife Protection Services division and Forest protection unit of MEFT that is screened/vetted and managed better over time and deployed for longer periods, rather than constant rotation of new personnel. This can help reduce exposure by limiting the number of people with awareness of operations (improved operational security).
- Take full action against identified or detected corrupt officials.
- Foster pride and team spirit within wildlife protection services to strengthen ethical commitment and collective accountability, to reduce the risk of corruption and enhancing the integrity of conservation efforts.
- Understand the personal situation of WPS and other staff, to identify areas of vulnerability, and develop support mechanisms as appropriate.
- ACC to be included in all forums dealing with wildlife and environmental crime.
- Empowering local communities as a strategic pillar in combating wildlife crime, as their knowledge, stewardship, and active participation are essential for long-term conservation success.

6.6 Transboundary illicit trade

There is a need to focus on 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 (NAMRA and NAMPOL) with regard to illicit wildlife trade.
- Number of ungazetted border crossings and the extent of the porous borders with some neighbouring countries.
- 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 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

- Optimize the use of the customs legislation for the purposes of combatting illicit wildlife trade.
- Formalize operations agreements between border law enforcement agencies (including cross-border agencies) and optimize risk management principles.
- Strengthen the utilization of World Customs Regional Intelligence Networks (RILO) and SADC Law Enforcement Strategy.
- Formalize international co-operation agreements.
- Provide awareness training and capacity building to all border control agencies in line with this strategy and its approaches.
- Support the operationalization of the multi-agency task team for the Container Control Programme as well as other similar task team initiatives.
- Ensure that law enforcement O/M/A conduct border patrols and enforce compliance at borders and entry points of the country.
- Ensure that JOC for transboundary patrols and cooperation are established and operational.

6.7 Protection of rhinoceros within protected areas

Namibia holds the second largest population of rhinoceros in the world. 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 trends elsewhere in Africa and particularly those in neighbouring countries.

Specific objectives

- To stop rhino poaching in PAs through:
    - Optimization of innovative and proactive counter-poaching activities.
    - Implementation of practical, proven and cost-effective interventions, including dehorning.
    - 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.
        - Species movement.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Maintain the existing JOC for each PA – linked to a central command center and structure in Windhoek.

- Maintain rhino unit and specialized tasks in accordance with the Rhino Management Plans.
- Specialized law enforcement and reaction units.
- Make screening/vetting and integrity testing in PAs with rhino compulsory for all stakeholders.
- Implement SOPs in all PAs.
- Implement SMART systems in all PAs.
- Develop structures to ensure the flow of information and field intelligence.
- Implementation of stakeholder forums incorporating PAs, Regional Offices, TAs, Conservancies, neighboring communities, District Watches, Farmers Unions, White Rhino owners, Black Rhino Custodian farms, NAMPOL and NDF SF as applicable.
- Implement best practices security systems at entrance gates.
- Implement and constantly revise site-specific Security Plans for PAs.
- Build scientific capacity and wise partnerships:
    - To ensure the unbiased auditing of populations.
    - To develop and implement sound and efficient population management.
    - To investigate the possibility of developing in country DNA analysis capacity.
    - To undertake DNA sampling of all rhinos and maintenance of a National DNA database linking to the Regional DNA Database kept by RhODIS.
- Implement the Species Management Plans (Strategies) for black rhino and white rhino in Namibia that clearly states their population management measures, use and species protection.
- Implement a National Dehorning Strategy for rhinos.
- Support biological management, optimal demographic and genetic management of rhino population.
- Provide flexible funding for anti-poaching operations, and ensure that procurement processes of the GRN and external partners is aligned to the operations and does not cause any delays in actions of anti-poaching operations.

6.8 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 utilized. This sparked the concept of the Custodianship Programme involving free-hold farms. Black rhinoceros also occur in communal areas, mainly conservancies.

White rhinos in Namibia occur under both private and public ownership, on freehold and government-owned land, respectively.

The following issues need to be addressed:

- Custodian Programme
    - Clear and implemented security strategy for the Rhino Custodian Program.
    - Regular screening/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 of private white rhino movement into country and from farm to farm.
    - Established and functional, supported and recognized white rhino owners' association.
    - Veterinarian interventions on privately owned white rhinos.
- 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 estimates and performance.
- General
    - Lack of dedicated operational budget to acquire, maintain and replace equipment.
    - Need for a structured dissemination of field intelligence to support pro-active anti-poaching activities.
    - Shortage of specialized support.
    - Standardized monitoring and evaluation program (SMART).

Specific objective

- To minimize 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

- Implement and constantly revise site specific Security Plans for rhino on communal land.
- Implement and constantly revise Security Plans for rhino custodians on freehold land.
- Implement the rhino custodian strategy.
- 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.
- Provide flexible funding for anti-poaching operations and align GRN and partner procurement processes with operational requirements to avoid delays
- Implement approved and innovative biological management to optimize 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 Namibian based.
- 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 tourism strategy for communal areas with rhino population.

6.9 Protection of elephants

Elephants occur across the entire north of Namibia with two main subpopulations in the northeast and the northwest. Land use pressure, range and habitat loss, human elephant conflict, and illegal

killing for both meat and ivory all pose threats to the long-term survival of elephant populations across Africa. However, by far the most acute threat facing African elephants in most parts of the elephant range arises from large scale illegal killing for ivory and the illegal ivory trade.

Specific objective

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

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Fully implement the National Elephant Management Plan.
- Staff, equip and deploy the MEFT WPS unit.
- Implement security plans and SOPs for north-eastern NPs.
- Maintain 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 protected areas.
- Implement the SMART system for all patrols – MEFT, NDF and NAMPOL.
- Develop and implement protocols for the collection of biological data from all elephant mortalities.
- 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 for all elephant areas.
- Ensure DNA collection at carcasses to link confiscated tusks with carcasses.
- Provide flexible funding and efficient procurement for anti-poaching operations to avoid delays in anti-poaching measures.
- Ensure that migratory and wildlife corridors are maintained and protected.
- Implement the MIKE program in targeted sites and consider expanding the program to other elephant home ranges.

6.10 Protection of pangolin

There is a huge international demand and trade in spite of CITES-listing. Lack of understanding of Namibian markets, trade routes and smuggling methods is a concern that need 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

- Finalize and implement a management plan for pangolin, including revitalizing the Pangolin Working Task Team to steer certain action 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 throughout 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.
- Support rehabilitation and release and monitoring of live confiscated individual animals.
- Provide flexible funding for anti-poaching operations and align GRN and donor procurement processes minimize delay of operations.

6.11 Protection and law enforcement in other emerging threats to animal and plant species

Some emerging threats require urgent attention and collaborative efforts from governments, conservation organizations, and local communities to protect Namibia's wildlife.

Specific objective

- To monitor and implement measures that manage and control threats to wildlife in the country.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Monitor and control the following:
  - Illegal live trade in reptiles, birds and mammals.
  - Illegal activities related to trophy hunting and dealing in game and game products.
  - Illegal activities involving large predators.
  - Trade in body parts.
  - Commercial meat poaching.
  - Trafficking of marine/aquatic species (abalone, seal parts, etc.)
- Manage Human Wildlife Conflict by controlling the expansion of human settlements and agricultural activities into wildlife habitats reducing conflicts between people and wildlife that result in crop damage, livestock predation, and threats to human safety. Effective management measures help to prevent the indiscriminate killing of wildlife, particularly species such as elephants.
- Ensure that there is no habitat loss and fragmentation caused by urban development, agriculture, and mining activities and no encroachment on natural habitats, reducing space for wildlife to thrive and disrupting migration patterns and causing poaching.
- Ensure that infrastructure and industrial development such as the construction of roads, fences, and other infrastructure and industrial projects that can fragment habitats and disrupt wildlife migration, leading to possible mortalities is controlled and managed to prevent poaching.
- Control and manage veld fires to prevent animals from being exposed to poaching.

- Create buffer zones to protected areas to prevent illegal activities by those neighbouring protected areas and other conservation areas.

6.12 Protection of indigenous plants

Over the past five years, poaching of succulent plants and illegal trade in timber has exploded in Namibia. The live trade in ornamental plants has emerged as a major threat to Namibia's indigenous flora resources, which needs to be countered through holistic interventions at various levels.

Specific objective

- To counter the trade in indigenous live plants, through both local and transnational interventions and collaboration.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Identify key personnel and ensure specialist training for specialized tasks.
- Specialized law enforcement and reaction units.
- Implement SOP on Care of Seized Succulent Plants.
- Implement SOP on Sampling Methods FOR Seized Timber
- Implement SOP for identification, collection, documentation, transportation, and chain of custody maintenance of questioned timber samples.
- Implement Timber Permit Application, and where applicable SOP in CITES Permits.
- Implement SMART/EarthRanger systems.
- Develop and implement valuation guide for indigenous plants and timber species.
- Develop structures to ensure the flow of information and field intelligence.
- Collaborate with landowners on suitable habitats for relocation of confiscated live plants.
- Implementation of stakeholder forums incorporating PAs, Regional Offices, TAs, Conservancies, neighboring communities, Farmer's Unions, Custodian landowners, NAMPOL, NAMRA as applicable.
- Establish a joint funding coordination forum to secure targeted funding and ensure timely, flexible interventions when needed.
- Increase awareness and law enforcement efforts by all law enforcement agencies.
- Research to increase the understanding of the status, distribution, densities and biology of succulent plants and timber species in Namibia.
- Support community awareness campaigns to disseminate information for reporting suspicious activities.

6.13 Transgression and non-compliance on environmental matters with respect to rare and endangered species

The Environmental Management Act (2007) seeks to promote the sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources by establishing principles for decision making on

matters affecting the environment. The Act is explicit on a number of important guiding principles including "Namibia's cultural and natural heritage including, its biological diversity, must be protected and respected for the benefit of present and future generations".

It empowers the Environmental Commissioner (EC) to implement key requirements of the Act and issue clearance certificates for listed project activities which are deemed to fulfil requirements of the Act. The Act also provides for the Minister to appoint environmental officers who are empowered, in accordance with the provision of the Act to investigate possible cases non-compliance with the provisions of this Act. Members of MEFT's IIU and WPS in general are tasked with investigating environmental crime that includes and would be empowered to investigate contraventions of this Act.

Strategic objective

- To empower members of the MEFT's IIU and BRTT partners and other appointed Environmental Officers in DoF and DWNP to investigate transgressions of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) where there is a direct impact upon biodiversity both inside protected areas and beyond.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Identify key areas on non-compliance that fall within the remit of the IIU and key law enforcement partners.
- Identify key members of IIU/partners and other staff members in DoF and DWNP in the regions and National Parks who can respond to transgressions and provide training to ensure that the team has capacity to investigate often complex cases that require knowledge of legislation beyond that of the EMA.
- Identify Acts that may be relevant to investigations and ensure that officers are aware and conversant with such legislation – e.g. Acts related to water, mining etc.
- Create partnerships with MEFT appointed environmental officers in the regions to ensure timely responses to possible transgressions.

6.14 Use of data, information, research to improve current laws and interventions

Namibia has developed a culture of data collection and use for adaptive interventions. This is being applied in many ways in the wildlife crime sector, but research, data collection and uses can be expanded to strategically address diverse wildlife and environmental protection, and law enforcement needs and threats.

Specific objective

- To proactively and strategically use targeted research and the very rich data that is being collected in Namibia in any applicable interventions that will further the overall objective of wildlife protection and law enforcement in Namibia.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Support, development and maintenance of the Integrated Wildlife Crime Information System in MEFT.
- Support, development and maintenance of Case Tracker, and refinement of data-use systems for optimizing information analysis.
- Research of specific sectors/dynamics to better inform interventions on valuation of products; and market dynamics, demand and supply, trafficking routes and nodes, etc.
- Use data to identify *modus operandi* and target areas, to predict incursions, and to guide interventions, both related to protection and investigations.
- Develop case studies to improve understanding of crime dynamics and inform future interventions, and to share approaches and activities with relevant stakeholders.
- Use data interpretation and analysis to enable strategic interventions.
- Identify data gaps and find ways to fill these through additional data collection.
- Use data strategically to inform target audiences, both internal and external.
- Build capacity in wildlife crime information management in the MEFT.

6.15 Forensics

Forensics plays a vital role in anti-poaching efforts, investigations, and wildlife protection. The following are some of the key aspects:

- Evidence collection and analysis: forensic experts collect and analyse evidence from crime scenes, such as DNA, fingerprints, ballistic evidence, as well as footprints and any other evidence left behind to identify perpetrators and link them to crimes.
- Wildlife identification: forensic analysis helps identify the species, origin, and authenticity of wildlife products, such as ivory, and rhino horn.
- Poaching investigation: forensic experts help investigate poaching incidents, tracing the source of weapons, ammunition, and other equipment used in poaching.
- Intelligence gathering: forensic analysis of seized materials, like phones and computers, can provide valuable intelligence on poaching networks and syndicates.
- Prosecution support: forensic evidence is crucial in court proceedings, helping to build strong cases against poachers and wildlife traffickers.
- Deterrence: the use of forensic science in anti-poaching efforts can deter potential poachers, as they know the risks of being caught and prosecuted are higher.
- Conservation efforts: forensic science can also inform conservation efforts by identifying the source and movement of wildlife products, helping to protect endangered species.

In Namibia, where wildlife conservation is crucial, forensic science can significantly contribute to protecting the country's rich biodiversity.

Specific objectives

- To capacitate the NPFSI Forensic laboratory and make it fully operational for wildlife forensic in Namibia.
- To provide collaborative management with identified external forensic laboratories.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Contribute towards budget or motivation for larger budget for NPFSI due to a larger case load or contributions from MEFT, NGOs, and development partners for consumables and reagents, evidence collection kits and evidence bags.
- Continue providing vouchered reference samples to the NPFSI.
- Provide additional training in consultation with NPFSI – sample collection and kits training, training for scientist and interpretation of analysis.
- Refine Standard Operating Procedures in respect of MEFT SOP regarding evidence collection.
- Investigate possibility of collaborative sequencing with private laboratories.
- MEFT scientists to be seconded or assist with analysis at NPFSI on wildlife crime.
- Explore capabilities to do individualized DNA COMPARISON ON WILDLIFE and on more species.
- Develop microsatellites SNP for elephant and pangolin.
- Procure sequencer, sharing of SNP panels, reagents and consumables.
- Formalize collaboration with Rhinoceros DNA Index System (RhODIS), and any other agreed forensic laboratory, and ensure that there is a corporation agreement or Memorandum of Understanding.
- Assist with the development of facilities at the National Forensic Laboratory to cater for the collection, storage and analysis of DNA and ballistic evidence.
- Strengthen national capacity analysing digital data.
- Stakeholders to strengthen all evidence analysis capabilities (fingerprints, footprint identification, ballistics, etc.).

6.16 Community engagement to support law enforcement

Community conservation is unlocking the potential of natural resources as 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 CBOs, are the custodians and active managers of communal natural resources as 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 combating wildlife crime. Communities should continue to benefit from wildlife resources in accordance with existing and future policies and legislation on wildlife utilization, particularly such communities that are neigbouring protected areas such as Etosha National Park. Due to the proximate to endangered high value species, criminals use rural areas to infiltrate areas with high value species.

Inadequate provision of intelligence and cooperation from rural communities for proactive and reactive operations to direct law enforcement agencies for the prevention and investigation of wildlife crime needs 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 and Community Forest Guards in Community Forest. Community Game Guards and Community Forest 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, as provided by the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill/Act.
- Provide for good park neighbor 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 on community livelihoods, particularly those arising from human-wildlife conflict, should be mitigated and minimized to the greatest extent possible. This includes establishing a structured, transparent, and accessible system for managing and reducing the impacts of human-wildlife conflict, while clearly defining the responsibilities and measures required to avoid, prevent, and minimize such impacts.
- Conduct crime threat analysis in, around and close to areas with threatened species.
- Conduct awareness programs such as:
    - Sport tournaments.
    - Traditional Authorities consultations.
    - Awareness through churches.
    - Awareness of community meetings.
    - Improve awareness through exchange visits.
- Work out a strategy to improve park neighbour relations using the National Policy on Protected Areas Neighbours and Resident Communities (allow the neighbours to visit the parks through established structures and forums).
- Create good coordination and communications between security forces and the communities adjacent to the protected areas.
- Increase benefits and rewards for communities that play a role in safeguarding rhinos and other wildlife species that inhabit or pass through their area.

6.17 Partner and stakeholder coordination

Enthusiastic and well-intended support from Namibian NGO's, private sector, international organizations and the donor community can be divisive and wasteful if not properly coordinated and aligned to a national Strategy.

Unclear mandates and 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 organizations 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 shared vision.

Strategic approach and key interventions

- Optimize the opportunities for co-operation provided for in international agreements and treaties.
- Expand international linkages where appropriate.
- Streamline the formalization of individual international exchanges to improve approval systems for authorization of cross border operations.
- Support the development and activities of stakeholder forums both regional and national.
- Identify accredited resource persons and mentors within partner organizations and stakeholder groups to provide support to identified areas of need.
- Undertake annual support needs assessments to guide the planning and provision of budget and resource allocations by both government agencies and supporting organizations.
- Develop a mechanism to ensure that donor support aligns with the needs identified in this Strategy.
- Maintain existing committees on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement involving Offices/ Ministries/Agencies consisting of the following structures and with specific terms of reference:
    - Ministerial Committee
    - Committee of Senior Officials
    - Technical Committee
    - Strategic Intelligence, Security and Joint Operation Committees, at specific area levels
- Consider merging the Committee of Senior Officials and Technical Committee to form the a "Steering Committee" should membership continue to be the same for the two committees.
- Maintain a National Stakeholder Forum with specific terms of reference that meets at least once every two years, and ensure that stakeholders including NGOs report back on their activities through this forum.
- Establish 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 operationalization of the Honorary Nature Conservators.
- Implement the SADC Law Enforcement Strategy.

6.18 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 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.

Specific objective

- To refine and implement a wildlife and environmental 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

- Provide regular crime statistics to the press and key partners for dissemination to the public.
- Produce an 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 and environmental 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.
- Reactivate 55555 wildlife and environmental crime reporting system.

Annex 1: Action Plan

Annex 1: Implementation Action Plan

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
1.	**Wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement (efficient and effective patrols)**	Fully implement the filling of positions of the Wildlife Protection Service Division in MEFT	147 staff members appointed	Fully functional and motivated WPS in place	MEFT	OPM	Y1 Y2 Y3
		Provide capacity to current Anti-poaching Units	Some members already trained	Appropriate reaction and response	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	Conservancies Community Forest Field based National & international NGO's Custodian farm owners Watch groups	All years
		Maintain JOC for each operational area	Structures exist	JOC operational	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	NCIS	All years
		Implement security plans for Protected Areas	Security plan exists for parks and conservation areas	Security plans in place for all Protected Areas	MEFT NAMPOL	National & international NGO's	All years
		Expand Dog Units to Bwabwata and Daan Viljoen and maintain existing K9 Units	Dog Units exist at Waterberg Plateau Park and Etosha National Park	Functional units at ENP, DVNP and BNP	MEFT	NDF NAMPOL GPTF NNF National & International donors	Y1 Y3
		Fully establish and maintain the Horse Unit for Etosha National Park	Horses purchased and training conducted	Unit established at ENP	MEFT	GPTF National & International donors	Y1
		Review and update the Conservation Fee for Protected Areas	Conservation approved and operational	Increase in fee structure	MEFT	MoF	Y1

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Access and establish a flexible funding support to respond to operational needs	Basic support from some NGOs and international organizations exists	Structured and functional system put in place	MEFT	Rooikat Trust NNF WWF National & International donors Local and International partners	All years
		Cooperate with private anti-poaching initiatives for private farms and other areas	One initiative exists in Kunene Region	Well established and recognized Anti-poaching initiatives	MEFT NAMPOL	Custodians White rhino owners Watch groups	All years
		Digitize MEFT permit system					
		Integrate relevant CCTV systems into overall wildlife protection framework through trusted relationships with local landholder circuits			MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	Rooikat Trust WWF	
		Address use of poison as poaching strategy					
		Alignment of National Strategy with LEAP strategy			MEFT BRTT		All years
		Facilitate planned targeted joint operations	None	No. of planned cross-border joint operations	NAMPOL	NNF NamRA	All years
2.	**Use of technologies in the fight against wildlife crime**	Implement the technology plan for Etosha National Park	Plan exists	Technology supporting patrol efforts	MEFT	Other support O/M/A and external organizations	
		Rollout the use of technology to other protected and conservation areas			MEFT	Other support O/M/A and external organizations	
3.	**Investigations and intelligence**	Extend operational term of BRTT to align with period of this plan	BRTT exists	Five-year extension granted	NAMPOL MEFT	NDF Rooikat Trust	Y1

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Strengthen through appropriate training and recruit more staff to strengthen the IIU of MEFT	Five staff members in place	At least five more staff members recruited	MEFT	OPM MoF	Y1 Y2
		Support and strengthen transboundary cooperation	Transfrontier Conservation Areas in place	Structures established where TFCAs exists	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	NCIS NNF Rooikat Trust	All years
		Maintain and expand informer network	System in place	Expansion implemented	NAMPOL MEFT BRTT	NCIS Rooikat NNF	All years
		Continue monitoring social media and new cases to extract data for trends and drivers of trade	Currently being done	Monitoring data available	MEFT	IIU Rooikat Trust	All years
		Secure sustainable and flexible financing for investigation and intelligence		More funding secured	MEFT NAMPOL	NCIS Rooikat Trust National & International donors	All years
		Formalize international cooperation agreements such as 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 USFS Local and International Partners	Y2 Y3
		Conduct valuation of wildlife and forest products to the regions to speed up information for court system	Valuation system in place at HQ	Decentralization process approved	MEFT NAMPOL	NNF WWF Local and International Partners	Y2
		Priority focus on financial investigations connected to environmental crimes			FIC NAMPOL BRTT	Rooikat Trust	

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Deepen investigations into gun shops			NAMPOL		
4.	**Legal framework and prosecutions**	Enact the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill	Bill endorsed by Cabinet	Bill promulgated	MEFT	MoJ AG Parliament	Y1
		Finalize amendments to the Forest Act and associated regulations			MEFT	MoJ AG Parliament	
		Provide for needs-based training for magistrates, prosecutors and investigators	Three trainings conducted	At least one training conducted per year	MEFT MoJ NAMPOL	LAC WWF	All years
		Support Environmental Crime Unit in the PG's Office	Unit established	Functional unit	PG Office	MEFT NAMPOL Local and International Partners	All years
		Hold Special Environmental Courts in regions			PG Office	Rooikat WWF	
5.	**Corruption and wildlife crime: Tackling corrupt officials involved in wildlife crime**	Increase efforts to target corrupt public officials and members of the Anti-Poaching Units	None	No public official or member of APU involved in wildlife crime	MEFT NAMPOL NDF	NCIS ACC	All years
		Implement the Code of Conduct and pledge for all MEFT staff and those supporting LE efforts					
		Screen all personnel (existing and new) and contractors accessing Parks as well as those supporting law enforcement efforts					

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Create a working group to address the LE members flagged during the screening process					
		Use information of personnel screening for further investigations and disciplinary action					
6.	**Transboundary illicit trade**	Continue the utilization of World Customs Regional Intelligence Networks	Network exists	Strengthened and operational	Customs	RILO TRAFFIC NCIS	All years
		Formalize international cooperation agreements	Draft agreements exist	Agreements signed	NAMPOL Customs	INTERPOL	Y2 Y3
		Provide awareness training and capacity building to all border control agencies	None	Training conducted to all border control agencies	NAMPOL Customs	MEFT NNF	All years
		Maintain the multi-agency task team for the Container Control Programme	None	Task team appointed	Customs NAMPOL	MEFT NCIS UNODC	Y2
		Conduct border patrols	Patrols conducted in certain areas	All borders patrolled	NAMPOL NDF	MEFT NNF	All years
7.	**Protection of rhinoceros within protected areas**	Maintain specialized law enforcement and reaction units	None	Units established and in place	MEFT NAMPOL	National & International donors Local and International partners	All years
		Implement SOPs/Action Plans/Security Plans for rhinos in all Protected Areas	None	Plans drafted and approved	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	NAMPOL National & International donors Local and International partners	All years
		Implement SMART / EarthRanger systems in all PAs	SMART system in place for ENP	System operational for all PAs with rhinos	MEFT	Local and International partners	All years

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Implement security systems for selected parks and implement accordingly	None	All parks with rhinos have a system in place	MEFT	NAMPOL Local and International partners	All years
		Implement Species Management Plans	Draft plans in place	Species Management Plans approved	MEFT	MEFT	All years
		Implement a National Dehorning Strategy for rhinos	None	Dehorning Strategy drafted and approved	MEFT	NAMPOL Local and International partners	All years
8.	**Protection of rhinoceros outside of protected areas**	Revise 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 Union	Y1
		Revise 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	Y1
		Maintain Rhino AGMs for rhino protection outside protected areas	None	Forum members appointed	MEFT	NAMPOL NDF NCIS NNF IRDNC SRT Conservancies TAs Tour guides/companies Farmers Union Custodians White rhino farmers Watch Groups	Y1
		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
		Implement strategy that will exclude areas with rhinos from prospecting and mining	None	Strategy developed and approved	MEFT	Custodians White rhino farmers	All years

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Develop and implement tourism strategy for communal areas with rhino population	None	Strategy developed and approved	MEFT	NAMPOL NDF NCIS NNF IRDNC SRT Conservancies TAs Tour guides/companies Farmers Union Custodians White rhino farmers Watch Groups	Y1 Y2
9.	**Protection of elephants**	Implement National Elephant Management Plan	Consultant appointed	Management Plan developed and approved	MEFT		Y1
		Implement security plans and SOPs for Northeast Parks	None	Security plans developed and approved	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	Conservancies IRDNC	Y2 Y3
		Collect and analyze DNA at carcasses / confiscated tusks	None	DNA collected	MEFT NAMPOL	National & International donors Local and International partners	All years
10.	**Protection of pangolins**	Strengthen the Pangolin Working Group	None	Task Team members appointed	MEFT	NCE	Y1
		Finalize and implement the Pangolin Management Plan	None	Management Plan developed and approved	MEFT	Pangolin Task Team National & International donors Local and International partners	Y1
		Implement a reward system for pangolin related information and protection thereof	None	Reward system created	MEFT NAMPOL BRTT	NCE Rooikat Trust	All years
11.	**Protection and law enforcement focused on emerging threats to wild animal and plant species**	Establish working group to focus on live trade in reptiles/birds/mammals			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL	National and International organisations	

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Establish working group to focus on investigating illegal activities related to trophy hunting and sale of live animals by game dealers			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL	MEFT NAPHA National & International donors Local and International partners	
		Establish working group to focus on trade/poaching/ trafficking of predators			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL	MEFT National & International donors Local and International partners	
		Create regional groups to target commercial meat poaching			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL	MEFT NAMPOL	
		Develop capacity and appropriate teams to deal with trafficking of marine/ aquatic species (abalone, seal parts etc.)			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL	MEFT MAFWLR NNF MEFT National & International donors Local and International partners	
12.	**Protection of indigenous plants**	Refine and implement EarthRanger to support protection, investigation and rehabilitation of seized plants			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL NBRI	Rooikat NNF	
		Develop and review SOPs for MEFT staff, obtain approval and implement associated training.	SOPs for issuance of permits, for seizure and handling and rehabilitation of protected plants and WISC sampling have been established and some training provided	SOPs established and approved, training provided to MEFT officials - all officials have signed SOPs agreeing to issue permits accordingly.	MEFT (NBRI, IIU, DoF)	NNF USFS	On going

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Identify and train personnel for specialized tasks (relocation of plant, expert witness)	Training provided to DoF and law enforcement in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025	Training conducted	MEFT	IIU NBRI USFS NNF National & International donors	Y1 Y2 Y3
		Conduct annual interagency workshop on IWT at border posts across the country to strengthen capacity and facilitate interagency cooperation regarding law enforcement			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL NBRI NamRA	NNF MEFT National & International donors Local and International partners	
		Facilitate site specific inter-agency transboundary interactions to target plant trade issues	None	No. of in-person interactions	IIU	NNF Rooikat Trust	All years
		Conduct research to increase the understanding of the status, distribution, densities and biology of succulent plants and timber species in Namibia.			NBRI NUST UNAM	National and International organisations National and international tertiary institutions	
		Identify and collaborate with landowners for relocation and monitoring of confiscated live plants.			NBRI	MEFT NBRI NNF	
		Establish specialized law enforcement and reaction units including staff of BRTT			MEFT NAMPOL NamRA	NAMPOL MEFT (BRTT, IIU)	
		Awareness raising with prosecutors and magistrates	None	Training and materials distributed to prosecutors/ magistrates in all regions	MEFT (DoF & OPG)	USFS NNF WWF	Y1 & Y2

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
13.	**Transgression and non-compliance on environmental matters with respect to rare and endangered species**	Identify key areas of possible interventions by IIU and partners. This would include risk evaluation of impacts of key biodiversity hotspots/ species of national concern					
		Facilitate appropriate training of EMA and associated Acts to ensure capacity to investigate transgressions in accordance with IIU mandate					
		Establish working relationships with regional environmental officers and other key regional partners					
14.	**Use of data, information, and research to improve current laws and interventions**	Support maintenance & refinement of Integrated Wildlife Crime Information System & Case Tracker					
		Update manual on valuation of wildlife/plant products			MEFT NBRI PG Office BRTT	NNF WWF	
		Constantly research/ monitor market dynamics, supply & demand, trafficking nodes & flows of illicit wildlife products			MEFT BRTT	Rooikat Trust National & International donors Local and International partners	

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
		Provide support to priority areas to analyse and predict incursions and to guide interventions both related to protection and investigations.			MEFT BRTT NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust National & International donors Local and International partners	
		Develop case studies to improve understanding of crime dynamics and to inform interventions and to share approaches/activities with relevant stakeholders			MEFT BRTT PG Office NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust National & International donors	
		Identify data gaps and analytical outputs to enhance investigative operational efficiency and to respond to changing modus operandi of criminal syndicates			MEFT BRTT PG Office NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust National & International donors	
		Actively pursuing to make greater use of data/ packaging of data to inform both internal and external audiences			MEFT BRTT PG Office NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust National & International donors Local and International partners	
15.	**Forensics**	Engage with NPFSI to ensure that wildlife crime investigations are enhanced through appropriate forensic support			NPFSI	All law enforcement partners	
16.	**Community engagement to support law enforcement**	Train and appoint Community Game Guards as Honorary Nature Conservators following the repeal of the Nature Conservation Ordinance	None	Game Guards appointed as Nature Conservators	MEFT	Conservancies Local and International partners	Y3

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
17.	**Partner and stakeholder coordination**	Expand international linkages	None	Expansion conducted	MEFT NAMPOL	Local and International Partners	All years
		Undertake needs assessment to guide planning and budget provision	None	Assessment report produced	MEFT NAMPOL	Supporting NGOs	Y2
		Maintain 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
		Maintain, as revised, 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 office	Y1
		Hold National Stakeholder Forum every second year (starting 2026)	None	Forum members known	MEFT	MDVA MHAISS MoJ NAMPOL NDF NCIS PG office Conservancies NNF Local and International Partners Private Sector	Y1
		Create flexible funding for emergency interventions	Programme launched	Steering Committee appointed with specific ToR	MEFT	Local and International Partners Supporting NGOs Private sector	Y1
		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

	Strategies	Activities/Tasks	Baseline	Possible Indicator(s)	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners	Timeframe
18.	**Awareness and communication**	Establish the Wildlife Crime Communications Working Group	Ad Hoc Committee in place	Working Group formally appointed	MEFT NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust NNF WWF	Y1
		Provide weekly and quarterly crime statistics and produce Annual Wildlife Crime Report	Reports being produced	Constant reporting	MEFT NAMPOL	Rooikat Trust	All years
		Implement a well-established and functional environmental and conservation awareness program	None	Functional environmental and conservation awareness program in place	MEFT	MEFT Local and International partners	All years
		Develop information and awareness material for wildlife protection and law enforcement	Some stickers and brochures produced	More materials produced	MEFT	USFS NNF Supporting NGOs Local and International Partners	All years
		Develop effective and strategic INTERNAL and EXTERNAL communications					
		Maintain the operations appropriate committees	None	Committees launched	MEFT	Rooikat Trust	Y1 All years

Notes

Notes



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

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