



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FORESTRY AND TOURISM



PRESS RELEASE

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UPDATE ON THE CULLING OF WILD-ANIMALS AS A RESULT OF DROUGHT AND FATAL REPORT INVOLVING ELEPHANT

The Ministry with Cabinet approval is contributing game meat to support the drought relief programme by government. The Ministry will contribute 723 animals comprising 30 Hippos, 60 buffalos, 50 impalas, 100 blue Wilderbeest, 300 Zebras, 83 elephants and 100 elands. The animals are sourced from national parks and communal area with sustainable game numbers. Cabinet in decision number 14th/29.08.23/001 approved the "Namibia Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) Report requiring the Ministry to support the drought relief programme with the provision of meat. The animals are being sourced from Namib Naukluft Park, Mangetti National Park, Bwabwata National Park, Mudumu National Park and Nkasa Rupara National Park.

Additionally, the National Conference on Human Wildlife Conflict Management in 2023 resolved among other things that elephant numbers need to be reduced as a measure to assist in reducing prevailing cases of human wildlife conflict. With the severe drought situation in the country, conflicts are expected to increase if no interventions are made. To this effect, 83 elephants from identified conflict areas will be culled, meat will be allocated to the drought relief program under the Office of the Prime Minister.

Elephants to be culled include 12 from Kamanjab and Fransfontein areas in the Kunene region; four (4) from Kalkveld and eight (8) from Grootfontein area in the Otjozodjupa region; five (5) from Omatjete in the Erongo Region; 10 from Ruacana, Tsandi and Okahao in Omusati region; three (3) from EkuloLyanazi, Okasheshete, Uukanga, Ondomb, Tomykunzi and Onoolongo in the Oshana Region; two (2) from Onanke and Cham Cham in Oshikoto region; a total of 7 will be culled in the Kavango West Region in the areas of Tondoro, Musese, Maha, Nzize, Agro tour farms and Mangetti Cattle Ranch and two (2) from Kavango East region.

A combined total of 30 will be culled in the zambezi region of which 10 will be from Salambala, Lusese, Nakabolelwa and Kabbe areas. An additional ten (10) elephants will be culled from the North Complex of Mudumu, while another ten (10) will be sourced from the South Complex of Mudumu.



The culling is being conducted by professional hunters and Safari Outfitters contracted by the Ministry and conservancies in specific areas. To date 157 animals comprising of different species were hunted in Mangetti National Park, 20 in Mahango, 70 in Kwando, 6 in Bufallo and 9 in Mudumo delivering 56 875 kilograms of meat.

This offtake will assist in reducing the negative impact of drought on the conservation of wild animals in both our National Parks and Communal areas. There is no doubt that drought is affecting most sectors conservation included. This will assist in managing the current grazing pressure and water availability by reducing wildlife numbers in some parks and communal areas where we feel numbers exceed available grazing and water. An arrangement has been made with the office of the Prime Minister and Meatco for the Ministry to provide game meat for the drought relief programme.

This offtake will help mitigate the negative impact of drought on wildlife conservation in both our National Parks and communal areas. There is no doubt that drought is affecting most sectors, including conservation. By reducing wildlife numbers in certain parks and communal areas where we believe the population exceeds the available grazing and water resources, we can better manage the current grazing pressure and water availability. An agreement has been made with the Office of the Prime Minister and Meatco for the Ministry to provide game meat for the drought relief program.

This exercise is necessary and is in line with our constitutional mandate where our natural resources are used for the benefit of Namibian citizens. This is also a prime example that conservation of game is really beneficial. We are happy that we can assist the country in this very difficult time and when it's absolutely needed. Not only do Namibians benefit through the meat provided for drought relief, but the ministry has over the years supplied meat for national, regional, and traditional events in line with our policies and laws. Game meat benefits are also extended to communities in rural areas especially those in conservancies.

This underscores the significance of conservation in the country. The Provision of meat improves on people's nutrition and contributes to poverty reduction. This is in addition to other ongoing economic benefits such as employment creation and income generation enhanced by conservation of wildlife species and associated sectors such as tourism.

On this basis, Namibians have reason to support ongoing conservation efforts of wildlife species. We must therefore collectively shun and condemn illegal activities against our wild animals. Poaching among other forms of wildlife crime will compromise on the benefits for which our conservation is intended.

On an unrelated matter, a 48 years old resident of Oshitumbe B Village, in Uukwaluudhi Conservancy was killed by elephants during the night of 25 August 2024. The deceased's identified as Efraim Shivute was discovered earlier this morning by community members. A herd of approximately 20 elephants were observed in the area. Officials of the Ministry have since been dispatched and investigations are ongoing. We extend our sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family. We also want to caution generally that communities in wildlife prone areas must refrain from walking in the bushes at night.

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