

## UNDP supports 'War on Poaching'

This month, UNDP Namibia supported the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to launch the Anti-Poaching Billboards around the country, as well as the Anti-Poaching Law Enforcement Centre at Waterberg.

As the poaching of rhinos and elephants in Namibia continues to be a serious concern, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) through MET, together with the armed forces, are proactively and aggressively tackling this serious challenge.

The billboards, which are strategically placed at certain points around the country, aim to increase awareness about poaching and the illicit trafficking and trade of wildlife. Due to the limited public information about the risks, impact and cost of poaching on the economy and society at large, GRN decided to ensure that Namibians are provided with the correct and necessary information.

UNDP Namibia commends GRN for recognizing the risks that poverty and the lack of alternative livelihoods could play in poaching and the illegal trafficking of wildlife.

The rise of poaching in Namibia has highlighted, an institutional gap, and a gap in skilled professionals. An understanding of standards and best practise, when it comes to poaching was lacking.



*Anti-Poaching Billboard outside Okahandja.*



*Minister of Environment and Tourism Hon. Pohamba Shifeta and UNDP Resident Representative Kiki Gbeho unveiling the anti-poaching billboard in Okahandja.*

The Anti-Poaching Law enforcement training center will ensure that a cadre of trained anti-poaching officials will be available to manage all activities related to poaching; ranging from inspection and detection all the way to prosecution.

UNDP Resident Representative to Namibia, Kiki Gbeho, says the ongoing battles against illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking are problems that are high up on the agenda of the international community.

“The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 expresses global determination to combat the illegal trade in wildlife. In an effort to wage war against poaching, UNDP Namibia funded the billboards and law enforcement training centre to the tune of N\$6 million dollars,” Gbeho said.

Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Pohamba Shifeta announced that GRN will engage commercial farmers to join forces with GRN, to combat poaching on privately owned land.