



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Subject: Update on the elephant Auction

We hereby inform the public that the ongoing elephant auction in Namibia is at an advanced stage. The Ministry is currently busy with the capturing of the 57 elephants that were successfully sold in the auction.

A total of 37 elephants has already been captured consisting of 15 to remain in Namibia and 22 to be exported to the a destination to be announced at the end of the tender process.

The 15 elephants that remains in Namibia were captured from Omatjete area, Erongo region and already supplied to Naankuse as a successful bidder. The 22 elephants meant for one of the export destinations were captured from Kamanjab commercial farming area in the Kunene region and supplied to G.H Odendaal as one of the successful bidders. The elephants are currently safely kept in a quarantine facility waiting to be exported. Family herds were captured for this purpose.

The remaining 20 is still to be captured pending the issuance of CITES permits from the country where the elephant's will be exported, a signed agreement and full payment. Namibia Wildlife Vets and African Wildlife Vets did all captures with permission from the Ministry. We want to deny allegations that there are elephants designated for China.

We expect to generate N\$5.9 million from the auction of which N\$4.4 million is already paid to the Game Product Trust Fund.

A total of 170 elephants were offered in a tender advertised on 3 December 2020 and closed on the 29th January 2021. The elephants that were put on auction includes 30 from Omatjete area, 50 from Kamanjab-commercial farming area, 60 from Grootfontein-Kavango cattle ranch area and 30 Grootfontein-Tsumkwe area.

With this auction, we intend to reduce elephant numbers in specified areas to minimize human elephant conflicts which has become persistent leading to extensive damages to properties, life losses and a disruption of people's livelihoods.

The funds generated through this auction will be transferred into the Game Product Trust Fund to be reinvested in the conservation and management of wildlife resources and rural development including in community conservancies. In particular, the funds will be used for human wildlife conflict management, management of National Parks, species conservation, wildlife protection and law enforcement, Community Based Natural Resources Management and Rural Development.

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