

BRIEFING NOTE: RHINO CONVICTIONS- APRIL 2015 TO DATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

48 accused convicted of the following charges:

- Possession of Rhino Horn (6);
- Dealing in Rhino Horn (2)
- Illegal hunting of Rhinos (8)
- Conspiracy (6)
- Illegal possession of fire- arm or ammunition/ supplying firearms in relation to rhino poaching (25)
- Trespassing (25)
- Other charges (3)

(Bracket refers to number of accused convicted)

3 accused acquitted;

3 withdrawn

88.8% CONVICTION RATE

TYPE OF SENTENCES METED OUT

24 accused sentenced to direct imprisonment;

21 accused sentenced to a fine; and

3 accused given a wholly suspended sentence.

EXEMPLARY SENTENCES:

1. S v A Sithole, W Nyathi, B Nugere (All Mozambican)

Trespassing in KNP, Possession of fire-arm and ammunition.

Arrested 15/6/2015 and sentenced on 26/8/2015.

Effective sentence for each: 9 years imprisonment

2. S v PJ Mgwenya, S Mpangane, TG Mchunu, C Zutha (All RSA)

Trespass in KNP, Possession of fire-arm and ammunition

Sentenced on 22/4/2015 to 5 years for trespassing and 10 years for possession of fire-arm and ammunition. **Effective sentence: 15 years imprisonment**

3. S v M Abondi, S Tibane, G Zitha (All Mozambican)

Trespass in KNP, Illegal hunting, Possession of fire-arm and ammunition, Possession of dangerous weapon.

On 14/5/2014: Charges withdrawn against G Zitha. Each of the others sentenced to 5 years for trespassing, 10 years for illegal hunting, and 15 years on remaining counts. **Effective sentence: 30 years imprisonment.**

FOREIGN NATIONALS INVOLVEMENT

15 Mozambicans, of which **14** sentenced to direct imprisonment.