



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

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**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 1 October 2025

**UPDATE ON THE WILDFIRE IN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK AND THE  
SURROUNDING AREAS**

Following the second aerial assessment conducted on Tuesday, 30 September 2025, no active fires were detected within Etosha National Park (ENP). Mopping-up operations are ongoing, and ground monitoring teams remain deployed to ensure that previously contained fires do not reignite. To date, a total of 853,946 hectares, representing 38% of the park's area, has been affected.

The total strength of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) deployed in and around ENP stands at 364 personnel. Of these, 40 NDF members will remain inside the park to support mopping-up and monitoring operations. Additionally, nine Drone Support Unit members will assist with aerial fire surveillance, while 30 NDF Air Force personnel will continue supporting aerial operations both inside and outside the park. A further 80 NDF members remain deployed outside ENP.

Earlier today, the Ministry deployed three veterinarians to Etosha National Park to attend to any injured wildlife. Officials are closely monitoring water points and strategic animal movement corridors for signs of distress. Visitors to the park are urged to immediately report any sightings of injured animals to park management so that

veterinarians and staff can respond promptly. The priority remains to extinguish fires outside the park while ensuring timely care for affected wildlife.

Outside ENP, the Ombonde fire remains active. A combined team of 45 personnel, including NDF members, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) staff, and community volunteers, has been dispatched to contain and extinguish the fire. A smaller fire detected between Ekeeholongongo and Onambandje Yomilunga poses no immediate threat, as it is surrounded by previously burned terrain and is not spreading. Fires around Amarika and Onkaanka, including all surrounding areas of Amarika, have been successfully extinguished.

An assessment is underway to determine the full extent of the damage, including wildlife casualties. This process may take several days. The assessment will also evaluate any shortfalls in the implementation of the Fire Management Strategy for Protected Areas, with corrective measures to be considered where necessary.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all Offices, Ministries, and Agencies (OMAs), Regional Councils, Private Sector partners, Communities, and Farmers for their dedication and unwavering support. Their collective efforts have been instrumental in the progress made toward extinguishing the wildfires.



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Indileni Daniel, MP  
**Minister**