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Rhino poachers stopped in their tracks by KZN police

A great victory for the fight against rhino poaching.



by **Andile Sicetsha** — 2020-02-03 10:59 in News



Since the start of the poaching epidemic in 2008 South Africa has lost over 7 900 rhinos - a figure that, despite so much effort, increases daily. Photo: Pixabay

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Law enforcement officials in Hluhluwe and Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal, have been applauded for the stellar work they displayed in intercepting a group of rhino poachers who were on the verge of claiming the life of one of these endangered animals.

KZN police foil rhino poachers plans

According to police spokesperson **Colonel Thembeka Mbele**, the investigation into a vehicle suspected to be carrying a group of rhino poachers was launched by a tip-off.



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Officers sprung into action and pulled the vehicle over. Without facing any resistance from the suspects, the police continued to search the vehicle and struck gold.

“During a search of the vehicle, police found a rifle, binoculars, ammunition, a home-made silencer and cellphones,” Mbele revealed in a statement.

This was a clear indication that the suspects, aged between 22 and 24, were intercepted on their way to hunt for rhino. The most important recovery in the operation was the cellphones.

These will play a very important role in determining the contacts they were in touch with. Mbele added that a look through the cellphone data will also give police a greater understand of the rhino poachers network.

“The suspects were arrested and charged for illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition. They will appear in court soon. Investigations are also underway to establish if they are linked to other crimes in the area,” Mbele revealed.

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**John Stafford**

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