

## Africa Sustainable Conservation News

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### South Africa – SANParks laments arrest of employees for alleged rhino poaching



Date: October 24, 2020 Author: somervillesustainableconservation © 0 Comments  
South African

Three staff members of SANParks found with fresh rhino horns following a vehicle chase outside Kruger Gate.

by Mike Simpson 2020-10-24 06:49 in News

SANParks has expressed its disappointment at the arrest of three of its staff members this week in connection with rhino poaching.

The employees, two of whom are security guards while the other is attached to technical services at one of the Kruger National Park rest camps, appeared in court on Thursday following the discovery of fresh rhino horns in their vehicle.

In a statement released by SANParks on Friday, the Managing Executive for the Kruger park, Gareth Coleman, said it was “always disheartening when colleagues from SANParks are involved in criminal activities. It breaks down trust amongst employees, which impacts on our responsibilities to act as an effective conservation authority serving the people of South Africa”.



The SanParks Airwing in action over the Kruger National Park. Photo credit: Lloyd Horgan of Vertical Valor. Via Facebook

#### THEY WILL EVENTUALLY BE CAUGHT

He added: “Whilst they may succeed in the short term, history shows that they will eventually be caught and this will be at the expense of their employment, the wellbeing of their families and community.”

Coleman said he could not comment on the merits, or otherwise, of the current case.

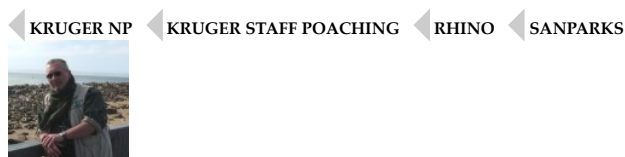
The three employees were arrested outside Kruger Gate during an intelligence-driven law-enforcement operation by SANParks, the SAPS Crime Intelligence Unit, Sabi Sands private game reserve (which borders the Kruger National Park) and Skukuza SAPS Stock Theft Unit.

#### TRIO’S VEHICLE WAS CHASED

According to the SANParks statement, the law-enforcement team chased the vehicle in which the trio were travelling and when it was brought to a stop they found the rhino horns inside.

Isaac Phaahla, GM of Communications and Marketing at the Kruger park, said that between July and September 2020, the anti-poaching teams arrested 16 suspected poachers inside the park and confiscated seven rifles.

The teams also observed and followed-up on 410 poaching activities, sightings, spoor and camps in the last three months



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Journalist, academic and writer on African wildlife journalism and politics. Specialist on eastern and southern Africa, politics and human aspects of conservation, lion-human relations, elephant conservation and ivory, rhino conservation, journalism, radio and propaganda. View all posts by [somerillesustainableconservation](#)

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