

ENVIRONMENT

Direct jail sentences a win in fight against South Africa's wildlife trade

Sheree Bega 30 Aug 2022



Improved integration and coordination has helped law enforcement track cases in pangolin trafficking. (Photo by Sylvain Cordier / Bios)

A six-year jail sentence for a man who **smuggled** 1 100 Emperor scorpions, 42 Bell's hingeback tortoises and 10 years imprisonment for elephant poachers in the **Kruger National Park**. A 10-year jail sentence for a **pang**

These are some of the successful convictions highlighted by Frances Craigie, the chief director of enforcement for **forestry, fisheries and the environment**, at a conference on countering the illegal wildlife trade in Southern Africa and the **Attorney General Alliance–Africa** hosted the three-day event.

“We are really beginning to see the efforts over many years of getting direct imprisonment for these matters.”

Craigie, who addressed delegates on the difficulties and opportunities in prosecuting wildlife crime in South Africa. Under the types of **crime** reported over a five-year period were 100 372 murders, for example. Between 2015 and 2020, the country recorded 4 620 rhino poaching

“So how do you go into a court and show that those are the cases, but murders were 100 372? ... You need to work with the prosecuting authority, with the magistrates, to say despite the fact that these are the figures, the environmental issues are just as important.”

She said it was important to understand the number of dockets in the court system and how full the court even including issues here around **state capture**, **corruption**, all of those other offences that have really ta South Africa in the last few years.”



A South African Park authority ranger prepares tools to open the carcass of a poached and mutilated white rhino as a South African Police Se evidences on the killing September 12, 2014 at Kruger National Park. As investigators comb a scene of a dehorned rhino in South Africa's Kru have already been smuggled out of the country to Asia, highlighting the extent of organised poaching cartels threatening the endangered spe (Photo by MARCO LONGARI / AFP)

Support the journalism that helps you navigate your world

Subscribe to the M&G today for just R30 for the first three months* to gain access to this story and subscriber-only newsletters, events and a weekly cryptic crossword.”

Digital - Quarterly (R 30.00)

[Have a discount code? Click here](#)

Username

Password

E-mail Address

Full Name

LEAVE THIS BLANK

Subscribe now!

[Existing subscriber? Login](#)