

KNP expects decline in rhino poaching

Statistics show that 82 rhinos were poached for their horns and 13 alleged poachers were arrested in KNP.

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Tumelo Waga Dibakwane 1 minute read

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The Kruger National Park (KNP) expects a decline in rhino poaching incidents due to heavy sentences imposed on five poachers in November.

The acting managing executive of the KNP, Dr Danny Govender, commended the Skukuza

Regional Court for imposing lengthy jail terms in recent cases and said it shows they are making good progress in fighting rhino poaching.

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Khensa Timote Chauke (23)

"This is a huge triumph for the work of our dedicated rangers who work tirelessly to ensure criminals responsible for poaching our wildlife are brought to book. Rangers are the first ring in the chain of justice. It is satisfying when the court hears strong evidence presented by the prosecution and metes out sentences commensurate with the heinous nature of the crime committed. We are grateful to all who presented credible evidence before the court and are happy that our courts are sending such a strong message to would-be criminals," she said.



Silvester Sidney Zitha (40)

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Sipho Titus Khosa (34)

According to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment's (DFFE) rhino poaching statistics released for the period between January and June, there was a loss of 210 rhinos

on state properties and 49 on privately owned parks. A total of 82 of these rhinos were poached for their horns in the KNP. Sixty-nine people were arrested in connection with rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking. Of these, 13 alleged poachers were arrested in the Kruger.

Govender said although the official statistics for the second half of the year, to be released by the DFFE, are only expected in December, a decline in poaching numbers in the KNP is expected.

