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# Police on the hunt for rhino poachers who **KILLED** two rhinos

Police are on the hunt for rhino poachers after two rhinos were found **KILLED** and dehorned on a safari farm in Paterson

by [Michelle Swart](#)

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Police are on the hunt for rhino poachers after two rhinos were killed and dehorned. Image: Google maps/Pixabay.

The police in the Eastern Cape are searching for poachers who shot, killed, and dehorned two rhinos on a safari farm in Paterson on Wednesday evening, 1 February.

**ALSO READ:** [Chinese national guilty for illegal dealing in rhino horns](#)

**TWO RHINOS FOUND DEAD DURING A GAME DRIVE**

Allegedly, the last sighting of two adult rhinos (male and female) was during an afternoon game drive on 1 February.

The following afternoon on 2 February, the bodies of both rhinos were found dead during a game drive with their horns hacked off.

An investigation into the illegal hunting of protected animals without a permit is underway.

**ALSO READ: [Mozambican rhino poachers sentenced to 22 and 33 years in jail](#)**

#### POLICE ASKING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The [police are appealing to the public](#) for assistance in tracing the suspects.

Anyone with any information can contact the SAPS Provincial Wildlife Coordinator, Captain Mornay Viljoen, at 082 319 9216.

Crime Stop at 08600 10111, or the nearest police station.

Confidentiality and anonymity are guaranteed.

#### WHY ARE RHINOS BEING POACHED?

Rhino horn is used in [traditional Chinese medicine](#), but it is increasingly seen as a symbol of success and wealth.

The demand for horn has led to a rise in poaching across all habitats, with South Africa, home to the majority of the world's rhinos, facing the most severe threat.

To combat the growing issue of poaching, anti-poaching programs are investing heavily in their efforts.

Poachers use tranquilizer guns to immobilise the animal, hack off its horn, and then leave it to slowly and painfully bleed to death.