



8) In South Africa, rhino poaching has increased significantly again. The southeastern province of KwaZulu-Natal is particularly affected. Photo: Pete Ball, Pixabay
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RHINO POACHING IN SOUTH AFRICA HAS INCREASED NOTICEABLY

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Pretoria (dpa) – Rhino poaching has increased noticeably in South Africa. Last year, 499 white and black rhinos were illegally killed, the South African Environment Ministry said on Tuesday. This is an increase of 11 percent compared to 2022, said Environment Minister Barbara Creecy.

The southeastern province of KwaZulu-Natal, where 325 cases were registered, was particularly hard hit, said the minister. The hotspot is the province's Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, where 307 illegally killed rhinos were discovered. However, in the famous Kruger National Park in the northeast of the country, rhino poaching fell by 37 percent in 2023, Creecy said.

The environmental organization WWF described the new figures as worrying. “The increase in poaching shows that the situation for African rhinos remains precarious,” said Katharina Hennemuth, an expert on poaching and illegal trade at WWF Germany. The figures prove that it has not been possible to noticeably and sustainably curb the demand for the animals' valuable horn.

Although the international trade in nose horns is banned, rhino horn smuggling to Asia, particularly Vietnam and China, continues. There it is bought at high prices for decoration or to be processed into

powder for traditional Chinese medicine, although there is no scientific evidence of its effectiveness. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) last year, there are an estimated 23,300 rhinos living on the African continent.



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