
Lifestyle

Exclusive: State of poaching in the Kruger National Park (Latest Stats and data)

Ad Feature by **The Kruger Safari Co**

Published 22nd May 2024, 20:30 BST

Updated 22nd May 2024, 21:02 BST



Rhinoceroses have been most critically impacted by the poaching crisis

Kruger National Park has faced a severe poaching epidemic for decades, particularly targeting its iconic wildlife.

This vast expanse, covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres in northeastern South Africa, is home to a diverse array of species, including the "Big Five": lions, leopards,

rhinoceroses, elephants, and buffaloes.

However, it is the rhinoceroses, both black and white, that have been most critically impacted by the poaching crisis.

The origins of this epidemic can be traced back to the mid-20th century when commercial poaching began to escalate.

Read More



'Pre-loved' designer store to sell items for £1,000 including Chanel and Prada



Founders of £500m firm started in bedroom make rich list with Beckhams and Elton John



Kruger National Park has become a focal point in the battle to save the rhino

By the 1970s and 1980s, demand for rhino horn, driven by its perceived medicinal properties and status symbol in certain Asian cultures, soared. This demand led to an

unprecedented slaughter of rhinos, pushing their populations to the brink of extinction.

Despite international trade bans and increased protective measures, the 21st century has seen a resurgence in poaching, exacerbated by sophisticated criminal syndicates and high market prices for **rhino horn** .

Kruger National Park has become a focal point in this battle, given its significant rhino population, which constitutes a substantial portion of the world's remaining rhinos.

The park's vast and often impenetrable landscape makes it challenging to monitor and protect its wildlife comprehensively.



Despite international trade bans and increased protective measures the 21st century has seen a resurgence in poaching

Poachers, equipped with advanced weaponry and technology, have exploited these vulnerabilities. They often operate in well-coordinated groups, using helicopters, night vision equipment, and tranquilizers to track and kill their targets, then smuggle the horns out of the country.

Reports indicate that thousands of rhinos have been killed over the past decade.

The poaching crisis has also affected other species, as poachers often kill elephants for their ivory and engage in illegal hunting of other animals for bushmeat or the illegal wildlife trade.

In response, Kruger National Park has intensified its anti-poaching efforts, employing a multifaceted approach that includes increased patrols, advanced surveillance technology such as drones and satellite imagery, and collaboration with local and international law enforcement agencies.

Despite these efforts, the battle against poaching in **Kruger National Park** is far from over. The fight to preserve Kruger's wildlife is a crucial component of the broader struggle



BREAKING woman, 96 Royal fans horrified Flooding blocks major train route 9 killed at election r

albeit fragile, success in conservation efforts. In 2023, Kruger saw 78 rhinos poached, a 37% decrease from the previous year.

Population Impact

Despite these gains, the damage over the years has been severe. Rhino populations in Kruger have suffered drastically, with a reported decline of 59% since 2013.

The white rhino population, once a conservation success story, has been particularly hard hit. The recovery of these populations is slow, compounded by low birth rates and high mortality.

Factors Contributing to the decline in poaching

Several factors contribute to the recent decrease in poaching. Increased patrolling and advanced monitoring technologies have been pivotal.

Strengthened laws and faster prosecution processes have deterred poachers. In 2023, South Africa saw significant legal successes, with 35 poachers convicted from 36 cases related to rhino poaching.

Efforts to involve local communities in conservation and share the benefits of wildlife tourism have played a role in reducing local support for poachers.

Challenges Ahead

The decline in poaching numbers does not mean the crisis is over. The reduced number of rhinos makes each poaching incident significantly impactful.

Added to this, the success in Kruger has pushed poachers to other regions, particularly KwaZulu-Natal, which now reports the highest incidents of rhino poaching in South Africa.

The socio-economic challenges surrounding the park, including poverty and unemployment, contribute to the poaching problem. Effective conservation strategies must address these broader issues to ensure sustainable outcomes.

You might like: **'Game changer' in fight against rhino horn poachers**

Towards the Future

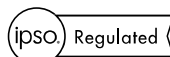
The ongoing battle against rhino poaching in Kruger National Park requires continued vigilance and innovation. With international support and local commitment, there is hope for the rhino populations, but the path to recovery remains steep and fraught with challenges.

Ensuring the safety of these majestic animals calls for a multi-faceted approach, combining conservation efforts with socio-economic development to achieve long-lasting results.

Related topics:

[South Africa](#)

[Animals](#)



This website and its associated newspaper are members of Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

Follow us on

Explore

[News](#)

[What's On](#)

[Best in Sheffield](#)

[Sheffield United](#)

[Sport](#)

[Retro](#)

[Lifestyle](#)

[Sheffield Wednesday](#)