

Radioactive rhinos: conservationists try new anti-poaching trick



Members of the Rhisotope Project pull a sedated rhinoceros into place before professor James Larkin (not seen) from the University of the Witwatersrand's Radiation and Health Physics Unit (RHPU) carefully implant dosed and calculated radioisotopes into it's horns at an undisclosed location in the Waterbury UNESCO biosphere in Mokopane on June 25, 2024. South African scientists on Tuesday injected

radioactive material into live rhino horns to make them easier to detect at border posts in a pioneering project aimed at curbing poaching. The country is home to a large majority of the world's rhinos and a hotspot for poaching, which is driven by demand from Asia, where horns are used in traditional medicine for their supposed therapeutic effect. At the Limpopo rhino orphanage in the Waterberg area, northeast of the country, a few of the thick-skinned herbivores grazed in the low savannah. (Photo by EMMANUEL CROSET / AFP) (Photo by EMMANUEL CROSET/AFP via Getty Images)

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