

Journal of African Elephants

SPOTLIGHTING THE PLIGHT OF AFRICA'S ELEPHANTS



NEWS

Zimbabwe: Five poachers gunned down

© 13TH DEC 2020



By **Wallace Ruzvidzo** – Sunday Mail

FIVE poachers were gunned down by Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (Zimparks) rangers in 10 incidents of armed confrontation in national parks this year amid an intensifying crackdown on poaching by authorities.

Poaching activities declined significantly this year, thanks to the introduction of new anti-poaching strategies that include deployment of high-tech drones to monitor conservancies, retraining of rangers and the introduction of a shoot-to-kill policy.

According to statistics from Zimparks, 20 elephants were killed by poachers this year, down from 30 killings recorded last year. Only eight rhinos were killed this year, down from 29 in 2019. Four lions were poached this year matching the same number of predators that were killed last year.

Zimparks spokesperson Mr Tinashe Farawo told The Sunday Mail that introduction of the shoot-to-kill policy has deterred illegal incursions into conservancy areas.

“Twenty elephants were poached this year, marking a significant decrease from the 30 that were killed in 2019,” said Mr Farawo.

“We have had 10 armed contacts with poachers this year, with five of them leading to fatalities. If you look at it, five years ago we would have about 500 elephants poached in a year but with the introduction of new strategies by management, we are bringing the numbers down.

He said rangers had intensified patrols after Zimparks acquired more vehicles.

“We are also working with the International Fund for Animal Welfare to help with protecting elephants especially in the Hwange National Park and also other partners to fight poaching.

“Before the new management came in there were a lot of constraints especially in terms of vehicles but now we have managed to procure over 100 vehicles for patrolling and tracking and this has helped us become more visible around the protected areas. We are now also harnessing technology by deploying drones and this helps us in monitoring wildlife and the protected areas. We are now able to detect intruders early and this has really helped to curb poaching.”

He said the Judiciary handed down tough sentences on poachers and this has helped deter would-be offenders.





Five poachers gunned down

Wallace Ruzvidzo Sunday Mail Correspondent FIVE poachers were gunned down by Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (Zimparks) rangers in 10 incidents of armed confrontation in national parks this year amid an intensifying crackdown on poaching by authorities. Poaching activities declined significantly this year, thanks to the introduction of new anti-poaching strategies that include deployment of ... Continue reading

S The Sunday Mail

0

Share on Facebook

Tweet

Follow us

Share this:



Related

[3 poachers shot dead in Buby Conservancy \(Zimbabwe\)](#)
4th Aug 2019
In "News"

[Elephant poaching and illicit financial flows](#)
14th Apr 2020
In "News"

[59 poachers arrested \(Zimbabwe\)](#)
21st Mar 2020
In "News"

Tagged [poaching elephants](#), [Zimbabwe](#), [Zimbabwe elephant poachers](#)

[← Want to Fight Climate Change? Start by Protecting These Endangered Species](#)

[The New Big 5: How Wildlife Photography Can Help Save Threatened Species →](#)

Search ...



SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE NEW POST NOTIFICATIONS.

Name

