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Project figures state that in South Africa, a rhino is killed roughly every 20 hours. Image: @savetherhino

Five suspected rhino poachers gunned down in KZN

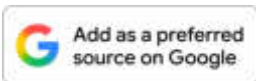
The murder of the alleged rhino poachers in KwaZulu-Natal comes as rhino populations remain under severe pressure from poaching.



By **Nokwanda Ncwane**

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in **News**



Five alleged rhino poachers were shot and f...ounded in a shootout with police in

Police reportedly gathered intelligence that the alleged suspects were travelling along the R618 Road towards a game reserve.

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A stop and search operation was set up along the same road and when the suspects arrived at the roadblock, a shootout ensued between police and the suspects, KZN police spokesperson Colonel Robert Netshiunda explained.

“Five suspects were shot and fatally wounded, and they were found in possession of a hunting rifle with a silencer and two pistols. No police officer was injured during the shootout,” he said.

SNIFFER DOGS JOIN POACHING FIGHT

Meanwhile, South Africa has bolstered its fight against rhino poaching. Recently, two specially trained sniffer dogs were flown from Germany to South Africa to strengthen [anti-poaching efforts](#) and help protect rhinos and other endangered wildlife.

The dogs were [transported from Frankfurt](#) as part of the “Save the Rhino” project, which places trained detection dogs with anti-poaching teams operating in remote areas. Once deployed, the animals help rangers detect illegal wildlife products and other contraband linked to poaching networks.

The deployment comes as rhino populations remain under severe pressure from poaching. Project figures state that in South Africa, a rhino is killed roughly every 20 hours. Numbers have also fallen sharply, from more than 22 000 in 2012 to around 13 000 today.

Rhino horn remains [highly sought after](#) on the black market, despite being made of keratin, the same substance found in human nails and hair. Poaching syndicates also target elephants and pangolins, increasing demand for better detection tools.

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