

Relentless Fight Against Rhino Poaching in Kruger National Park

In a relentless fight against illicit wildlife crime including rhino poaching, South African National Parks (SANParks) confirms two recent anti-poaching incidents in the Kruger National Park, underscoring the bravery of our rangers.

Rangers came into contact with suspected poachers on Thursday, 5 February 2026 at the Malelane section of the park, while no arrests were made, a high-caliber rifle and bags were recovered at the scene.

The seizure of these items represents a significant disruption to poaching activities.

In the Stolznek section of the park on Friday, 06 February 2026, Rangers engaged in a second contact.

One suspect was fatally wounded during the confrontation.

These incidents highlight the ongoing dangers faced by rangers in their daily efforts to protect South Africa's wildlife.

The recovery of weapons and equipment demonstrates the effectiveness of ranger patrols and the commitment to safeguarding rhinos from relentless poaching threats.

SANParks commends the courage and dedication of its rangers, who continue to put their lives on the line to protect our natural heritage. The fight against poaching remains a priority, and SANParks will continue to intensify operations to ensure the survival of rhinos for future generations.

The two incidents have been handed over to the South African Police Service (SAPS).