

Postcode Meerkat surveillance system launched in the KNP

The Postcode Meerkat, a wide area surveillance system, has recently been launched in the Kruger National Park (KNP). The Postcode Meerkat includes a suite of radar and electro-optic sensors that detects, classifies, monitors and tracks human movement in the park across a wide area range. The system is designed to be mobile so that it can be readily deployed to prevent poaching crisis zones developing.



Hazel Johnston and Jo Bucci of the UK People's Postcode Lottery Kathy Bergs, Werner Myburgh of Peace Parks Foundation and Francois Anderson of CSIR listen and look on at the surveillance system demonstration.

Protecting the species

The first of its kind, this technology makes it possible to counter poaching roles in a bushveld environment. The system allows for smart thinking, which allows it to differentiate between humans and animals, while its application guarantees early warning and rapid response capabilities. This will supplement ranger reaction time, allow for better preparation and support the proactive apprehension of poachers, which could save the lives of both humans and animals.

The Postcode Meerkat will increase the KNP's ability to protect rhinos and other vulnerable species and will enhance the capacity to combat wildlife crime, along with the many other systems that improve ranger skills and support. The system also sees to an increase in aerial and ground mobility, gate access control and zones that provide increased wildlife protection.



Visiting delegation of the UK People's Postcode Lottery, SANParks, Peace Parks Foundation and the CSIR staff members at the launch of the Postcode Meerkat Wide Area Surveillance System

Technical and administrative support

Apart from developing and manufacturing the system, South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will provide on-going technical and administrative support to KNP.

Funding for the development and deployment of the Postcode Meerkat is secured by Peace Parks Foundation from the People's Postcode Lottery of the UK, made possible thanks to the lottery players. South African National Parks (SANParks) has also partnered with CSIR to research, develop and manufacture this innovative system.

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