

## SANParks rangers nab 9 suspected poachers in KNP

Nine suspected poachers have been arrested in the Kruger National Park since the 20 July 2019, according to South African National Parks (SANParks). The arrests were effected in three different sections of the park which has borne the brunt of rhino poaching.



Image source: [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

Crocodile Bridge Section has seen three arrests with suspects found in possession of a heavy calibre hunting rifle, ammunition and poaching equipment on the 20 July 2019. Letaba rangers made contact with three suspects who were in possession of a high calibre hunting rifle, ammunition and poaching equipment on the 22 July 2019, adding to the number of more successful arrests in the Park. Tshokwane rangers also arrested three suspected poachers in possession of a high caliber rifle, ammunition and poaching equipment on the 23 July 2019.

The operations were effected with support from the K9 and Airwing. Glenn Phillips the KNP managing executive expressed his appreciation of the hard work that was done by the Rangers Corps, Airwing and K9 units saying, “We are proud of your achievements in the recent past, we salute your commitment and bravery to this campaign.”

### 119 vultures poisoned

In sad news, rangers in the Vlakteplaas section made a grim discovery of the carcasses of 119 vultures next to a poached buffalo. Initial indications are that meat was taken from the buffalo by the poachers, who then laced the remainder with poison which killed 117 white backed vultures, one hooded vulture and a white headed vulture.

The poisoning is being investigated by park officials with cooperation from Mozambican officials. Two of the vulture carcasses are being probed to establish the type of poison that was used to kill the birds. A case has been registered with the police with further updates to follow.

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