

S. Africa rhino poaching toll hits record near 700

September 22 2013



An adult white rhino looks on at the Entabeni Safari Conservancy, Limpopo, 300 kms north east of Johannesburg on July 31, 2012. Poachers have killed a record 688 rhinos in South Africa so far this year, more than the entire number slaughtered in 2012, according to figures issued Sunday, World Rhino Day.

Poachers have killed a record 688 rhinos in South Africa so far this year, more than the entire number slaughtered in 2012, according to figures issued Sunday, World Rhino Day.

South Africa is home to the world's biggest rhinoceros population but killings have surged in recent years to feed black market demand in Asia for their horns, from just 13 reported incidents in 2007.

South Africa's renowned Kruger park, which borders Mozambique, suffered the largest number of killings, with 425 [rhinos](#) killed since January, according to the environment ministry figures.

WWF's rhino coordinator Joe Shaw warned recently that the situation was becoming even more critical, with the number of rhinos killed set to exceed births, leading to an overall [population decline](#).

Asian consumers falsely believe the horns, the same material as fingernails, have powerful healing properties.

South Africa is home to around 80 percent of the world's rhino population, estimated at more than 25,000.

A total of 668 were killed in South Africa last year.

© 2013 AFP

Citation: S. Africa rhino poaching toll hits record near 700 (2013, September 22) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-09-africa-rhino-poaching-toll.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--