



MEDIA RELEASE

08 March 2012

Three suspects were arrested at Sandveld Nature Reserve near Hoopstad yesterday on Wednesday 07/03/2012. Two of the suspects entered the Reserve on Tuesday and slept over at the camping site in the Reserve. The third suspect joined them on Wednesday morning and all three suspects went for game drive in the reserve.

All suspects attempted to leave the reserve at 18h15 and during a routine check at the gate; the gun and scheduled medicine were found in their position. They could not produce the permit to possess the medicine.

Hoopstad police were summoned and all three suspects were arrested on suspicion of rhino poaching. All three suspects are charged on possession of controlled medicine. Police investigations are continuing. The management of Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs wish to thank the members of the staff for vigilance that led to the arrest of the suspects.

It is hoped that this action will send a strong message to all those who are involved in rhino poaching and other environmental crime. The joined rhino poaching task force that consists of police, military, green scorpion of Detea, SARS and other law enforcement agencies would continue to be on high alert on rhino poaching activities in the Free State.

In August 2011 two rhinos were killed at Sandveld Nature Reserve.

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Compiled by Communication Unit
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