

# GPS-Camera Implants Protect Rhinos from Poachers

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A U.K.-based conservation and animal welfare nonprofit named Protect has created a new device to help protect the dwindling rhinoceros population from poachers.

The invention is called the Anti-Poaching Intelligence Device (RAPID). It is composed of a series of GPS tags, heart rate monitors, and embedded cameras.

*The Verge's* Amar Toor [explains](#) [1] how RAPID works: A heart rate monitor gets inserted under the rhino's skin. An increase or decrease in the rhino's heartbeat will issue an alert to the closest control center in a park.

Park employees can activate a tiny camera implanted in the rhino's horn to see what is going on. Next, the authorities can pinpoint the rhino's location via a GPS built into a leather collar worn by the rhino, and immediately deploy anti-poaching forces.

Rhino poaching has risen considerably in recent years due to the high prices the horns command on the black market, particularly in Asia. Poachers can make up to \$65,000 [per kilogram](#). [2]

Toor notes that [government figures](#) [3] indicate poachers killed more 1,200 rhinos in South Africa last year.

Protect plans on distributing more prototypes within the next few months with an eye for a wide launch by 2016.

Protect gave the video below to Toor who posted it on his own Youtube channel. The clip shows RAPID in action.

**Source URL (retrieved on 09/15/2015 - 12:03am):**

<http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/videos/2015/07/gps-camera-implants-protect-rhinos-poachers>

### Links:

[1] <http://www.theverge.com/2015/7/21/9008467/rhino-horn-camera-anti-poaching-rapid-protect?>

[2] <http://www.ibtimes.com/cocaine-minus-risk-rhino-horn-trade-explodes-africa-1569192?&>

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[3] [http://www.savetherhino.org/rhino\\_info/poaching\\_statistics?](http://www.savetherhino.org/rhino_info/poaching_statistics?)