

What is Rhisotope Project?

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About Rhisotope Project:

- It was started in 2021 in **South Africa**.
- It aims to make the rhinoceros **horns easier to detect** at border posts and render them useless for human consumption.
- The project involves inserting **two tiny radioactive chips** into the horns of 20 rhinos.
- The **low-dose radioactive material** is designed to be **detectable by radiation sensors** at international borders without harming the animals or the environment.
- The radioactive material is expected **to last five years on the horn**, making it a more cost-effective solution than dehorning every 18 months. Additionally, the team sprayed 11,000 microdots on each treated horn for further identification.
- The team of scientists will take **follow-up blood samples** to ensure the rhinoceroses are effectively protected.
- South Africa, home to the majority of the world's rhinos, has been battling a poaching crisis driven by demand from Asia, where rhino horns are used in **traditional medicine**.

Q1: What is Radioactivity?

Radioactivity is the physical phenomenon of certain elements – such as uranium – of emitting energy in the form of radiation. This energy comes from the decay of an unstable nucleus.

Source: South African scientists make rhino horns radioactive to curb poaching

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/rhisotope-project/>

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