

<http://letabaherald.co.za/39189/africanparks-ecologist-killed-rhino-rwanda-park/>

#AfricanParks: Ecologist killed by rhino in Rwanda Park

Krisztián Gyöngyi, an ecologist, was killed Wednesday morning by a rhinoceros in Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

June 8, 2017

Gyöngyi Krisztián.



This was confirmed in a statement issued by the park management yesterday, Wednesday June 7, and can be seen as a loss for all who knew Kris and for rhino conservation across the continent.

“It is with utmost regret that I inform you that Krisztián Gyöngyi was killed this morning by a rhinoceros in Akagera National Park in Rwanda while out tracking animals in the park. Kris was instrumental in supporting the reintroduction efforts of the black rhino into Friends of Akagera National Park, and was on the ground training rangers how to track and protect them,’ Peter Fearnhead CEO of African Parks said.

While his family has been informed, details of the incident are still being gathered.



A 21 month old male rhino treated of his snare injury by Kris. Image: Rufford Small Grants

Krisztián was a rhino specialist with more than five years of experience monitoring and conserving rhinos in both Majete Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde National Park in Malawi.

His Master’s degree was on habitat capacity on the black rhinoceros in Majete, and he had been carrying out his PhD research on the conservation ecology of the black rhinoceros in Liwonde National Park since 2012.

“

He leaves behind his wife Orsi and his young daughter.

‘This is a tremendous loss for all of us, especially for rhino conservation efforts in Africa. On behalf of everyone at African Parks, our sympathies and condolences are with his family,’ Fearnhead said.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40201730#share-tools>

Rhino kills Hungarian conservationist in Rwanda

8 June 2017

A conservationist who played a key role in reintroducing the eastern black rhino to Rwanda has been killed by one of the animals, a wildlife group says.

Krisztián Gyöngyi was tracking animals in the Akagera National Park when he was killed, African Parks added.

It did not give more details, but rhinos usually charge and kill people with their horn.

Eastern black rhinos became extinct in Rwanda about a decade ago, and were reintroduced in May.

African Parks brought 20 rhinos from South Africa to the Akagera National Park.

The death of Mr Gyöngyi, who was from Hungary, was "very tragic" and a "huge loss", African Parks CEO Peter Fearnhead said in a statement.

He was a rhino specialist with more than five years' experience, and was instrumental in supporting efforts to reintroduce the black rhino to Rwanda, Mr Fearnhead said.

In the 1970s, more than 50 black rhinos lived in the Akagera National Park, but their numbers fell as a result of wide-scale poaching.

The last confirmed sighting of the species was in 2007 until African Parks reintroduced them in May after taking steps to improve security at the reserve.

<https://wolfgangthome.wordpress.com/2017/06/08/wildlife-researcher-killed-by-rhino-in-akagera-national-park/>

RHINO KILLS RESEARCHER IN AKAGERA

(Posted 08th June 2017)

Only weeks into the relocation of Eastern Black Rhinos from South Africa to the Akagera National Park in Rwanda has disaster struck, when a wildlife researcher attached to the rhino monitoring team in the park was killed by one of the beasts.

The tragedy unfolded yesterday morning, Wednesday 07th June, when during a routine training and monitoring exercise a rhino attacked Mr. Krisztián Gyöngyi who died soon after inspite of prompt assistance by other park staff.

‘Krisztián was instrumental in supporting the reintroduction efforts of the black rhino into Akagera, and was on the ground training rangers how to track and protect them’ read a statement signed by Africa Parks Chief Executive Mr. Peter Fearnhead. African Parks is joint venture partner with the Rwanda Development Board and manages the park on behalf of Rwanda.

Condolences are expressed to the late Krisztian’s family, friends and colleagues.