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SUSPECTED TRESPASSER KILLED BY ELEPHANT

On Saturday 17th April 2004 a body of a man was discovered in the Nyathi Concession area of the Addo Elephant National Park.

Assistant Section Ranger, Oupa Chauke, discovered the partly decomposed body of the man during a routine fence patrol.

The police were immediately called in to investigate and reported that no foul play is suspected. The man was later identified as Monde Ngxwashula, a resident of Paterson.

Mr Ngxwashula's family reported that he went missing about one week ago. The police investigations revealed that he may have been suffering from a mental disorder.

According to SANParks' rangers the injuries to the body and damage to surrounding vegetation indicated that the deceased was almost certainly killed by an elephant cow. He appears to have been collecting prickly pears inside the park at the time of the attack.

As the Nyathi Concession area is fenced with electric game fencing, it is not certain how the deceased gained entry into this 14 000 hectare area of the park.

"We hope that people will eventually understand that wild animals can be dangerous and no-one should enter or travel on foot in a national park without the necessary authorization. We hope not to see this happening again," said Lucius Moolman, park manager at Addo Elephant National Park.

South African National Parks extends their condolences to the family of the deceased man.

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