

## **Kruger Park to empty dam poisoning wildlife**

August 03, 2007 *Edition 2*

JOHANNESBURG: A dam in the Kruger National Park will be emptied this weekend to rid it of an algal poison which has been killing animals over the past two years, park authorities said.

"We didn't take the decision to breach the dam lightly, but our primary concern is to stop the spread and effect of this deadly algal poison," said the Kruger Park's head of conservation services, Freek Venter.

The Nhlanguzane Dam is in the far south-eastern area of the park, south of the Lower Sabie rest camp and north of the Crocodile Bridge rest camp and the entrance gate, said park spokesperson Raymond Travers.

**He said the first outbreak of microcystis poisoning was in 2005 when 54 carcasses were found, including those of white rhino, lion, cheetah and zebra.**

At the time, water levels were low and there were 100 hippopotami living in the dam. However, overgrazing and a veld fire dispersed the hippo population to the Sabie and Crocodile rivers and there were no more deaths until June when dead white rhino, zebra and wildebeest were found.

Travers said construction machines would be on site until Monday. - Sapa

## **Zambia left with one, injured rhino**

June 13, 2007 *Edition 1*

LUSAKA: **Poachers have shot the last two white rhinos in Zambia**, killing one and wounding the other, in a night operation at the Mosi-Oa-Tunya national park in Livingstone.

The two endangered animals were in a heavily guarded zoological park near Victoria Falls. The horn of the female rhino that died was removed.

The wounded male was being treated, said Maureen Mwape, of the Zambia Wildlife Authority, which is investigating.

The male is the last of six acquired from South Africa in 1993 after poachers wiped out Zambia's white rhinos. - Sapa-AFP