

MEDIA RELEASE - Thursday 26 June 2003

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FIRE DEVASTATES RHINO BOMAS: ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK

Last night a fire raced through the rhino bomas at the Addo Elephant National Park, burning them to the ground and causing R1 million rands worth of damage.

The fire was discovered at approximately 9pm on Wednesday night, following reports of smoke and flames from restaurant staff, field rangers and an observant tourist.

Staff were hurriedly mobilised into action and attempts made to douse the, by then, raging fire. The fire-fighting efforts made little impact on the fire but did prevent it from spreading. Fortunately none of the park's 30 endangered black rhino were being housed in the bomas at the time.

There is no clue as to how the fire started but arson is suspected and the Police are investigating the matter.

(Click on photos for a larger view)

