

Blueprint for rhino killers

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will be able to say you need to put so much money to fund preservation, security and breeding," he said.

The ultimate goal would be to provide the model to wildlife authorities as a possible blueprint to fight rhino poachers. Ali said that it was unlikely that mathematicians would come up with a solution in five days.

"Next week is only the start of a year-long project. We are very excited about it," he said.

Last year a total of 651 rhinos were killed in South Africa, which has an estimated population of 20 000 white rhinos.

Wildlife authorities have come up with various initiatives to end the slaughter, including beefing up the number of armed rangers at national parks, deploying soldiers on the park's borders, specialised police teams in the park, and using "drone" aircraft.