



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1112 {NW1364E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 25 March 2022

Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) In light of the hunting and export quota of 10 leopards for 2022 that was set on 25 February 2022, what number of Damage Causing Animal permits for the lethal management of leopards were issued in (a) 2017, (b) 2018, (c) 2019, (d) 2020 and (e) 2021;
- (2) whether it can be reliably established that hunted leopards are seven years old or older when leopards are normally hunted at night; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) (a) what are the reasons and (b) on what basis has a 2022 leopard hunting quota been set when there is a consensus in the established Leopard Advisory Forum of her department that there is a lack of general and robust data in relation to leopard populations in SA;
- (4) (a) what are the reasons and (b) on what basis has a 2022 leopard hunting quota been set when the Leopard Advisory Forum has made no recommendations yet?

1112. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) Number of Damage Causing Animal permits for the lethal management of leopards issued;

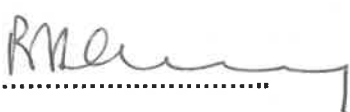
(a) 2017	(b) 2018	(c) 2019	(d) 2020	(e) 2021
2	3	7	4	1

(2) It is possible to assess the age of a male leopard, including when it is hunted at night by means of spotlights or floodlights. This is because a number of characteristics are indicative of the maturity of male leopards and need to be assessed in combination with one another (including but not limited to dewlap size, extent of facial scarring, condition of the ears) instead of in isolation of one another. An extensive set of photographs illustrating the various characteristics is available online to assist hunters in improving their competence in assessing the age of male leopards.

(3) (a)(b)
The Leopard Advisory Forum (LAF) is a consultative forum which was established with the sole mandate of engaging stakeholders on issues pertaining to ecologically sustainable conservation of leopards across the landscape in line with section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Therefore, the purpose of the forum does not necessarily involve establishment of the leopard quota. The setting of leopard quota is a process outside the mandate of the LAF; furthermore, the 2022 quota was set before the establishment of the LAF.

(4) (a)(b)
See the response in (3) above.

Regards



**MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE:4/4/2022.....