



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1335 {NW1599E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13 of 2022

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Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether she will advise on her department's strategies to scale-up investments in the environment by partnering with the private sector to provide for nature-based solutions, which could mitigate against the current trend of negative environmental and ecological impacts of socio-economic development, thereby ensuring a nature-positive outcome for future generations; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

1335. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) developed the South African Ecosystem-based-Adaptation (EbA) Strategy and associated guidelines, which form a general foundation for the future development of EbA and broader adaptation responses to climate change within the land domain. The strategy is aimed at implementing a programme of activities that will enhance the resilience of ecosystems and people in their respective locations. The EbA is regarded as one of the tools/measures that are falling within the concept of Nature-based Solutions.

EbA is defined as the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the effects of climate change. The EbA secures means of conserving the country's exceptional biodiversity, while providing necessary ecosystem services to rural and urban communities in a manner that is resilient to climate change.

To this effect, DFFE together with SANBI, has engaged the private sector through the National Business Initiative (NBI) to educate the private sector on the concept of EbA and to sensitise the sector to the opportunities presented by EbA. The outcomes of the EbA innovative finance study will form the basis of our further engagements with the private sector to scale up financing for EbA in a bid to strengthen our ecological systems thereby enhancing the resilience of the socio-economic systems.

Through a partnership with the South Africa Country Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the department has developed innovative EbA finance and gender mainstreaming measures among other things. The EbA innovative finance measures are aimed at scaling up the implementation of EbA projects for maximum positive impact.

Regards



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

DATE: 11/4/2022