



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. 1445 {NW1763E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 22 April 2022

Mrs C Phillips (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Noting that the hunting export quota for 2022 has been set at 150 elephants and that, according to the press statement of her department of 25 February 2020, only a very small portion of the overall elephant population is hunted in a year, what (a) are the reasons that a hunting quota of 150 elephants has been set, (b) number of elephants were hunted nationally in the (i) 2018, (ii) 2019 and (ii) 2020 calendar years and (c) number of elephants were destroyed nationally as Damage Causing Animals in each of the specified years?

1445. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

The elephant population of South Africa is listed as Appendix II in terms of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), with an annotation that allows for the export of hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes. South Africa has established an export quota of 150 elephants (i.e., 300 tusks) as hunting trophies through CITES, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.14. To date, the Scientific Authority has not deemed it necessary to recommend a reduced hunting quota, considering the status of the South African population (not threatened with extinction according to the regional Red List assessment of 2016 for South Africa, Lesotho and Eswathini). The elephant export quota is based on the annual requests from provincial nature

conservation authorities. South Africa has not exported more than 150 elephant hunting trophies annually.

(b) **Table 1: National Hunting Quota 2018-2020**

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
Hunted	57	49	46	152

(c) **Table 2: Damage-Causing Elephants (DCA), 2018-2020**

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
DCA	62	62	61	185

The African elephant is currently listed as a protected species in terms of section 56 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA). The Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations, 2007, prohibit the hunting of a damage-causing animal (DCA) that is a listed TOPS, by a foreign hunter. Therefore, the exported elephant hunting trophies, as indicated in Table 1, do not involve the elephants hunted as DCAs, as reflected in Table 2.

Regards



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

DATE: 4/5/2022