



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. 1446 {NW1764E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14 of 2022

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

- (1) Whether, with reference to the press release of her department on 25 February 2022, wherein it was stated that income generated by trophy hunting is especially critical for marginalised and impoverished rural communities, whereas it is given that almost all hunting in the Republic takes place on private land and on poorly managed provincial reserves, her department has studied the benefits of hunting to rural communities; if not, (a) why not and (b) what evidence does her department have to support the assertion that income generated by trophy hunting is especially critical for marginalised and impoverished rural communities; if so, what are the relevant, details of such studies;
- (2) what are the details of benefits that were received from trophy hunting by marginalised and impoverished rural communities in (a) 2018, (b) 2019 and (c) 2020?

1446. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) It must be noted that even though hunting occurs in private land, hunting incentivises local communities through job opportunities created within those private facilities. Hunting destinations are located in far flung rural areas and thus create job opportunities for the rural poor. Employees at these facilities are able to support their households and spend their income on goods and services in their area of residences which ultimately contributes to growing the local economy.

(a)(b)

Prof Peet Vander Merwe from the University of the Northwest showed that hunting creates jobs, particularly in rural areas where employment is mostly needed. Research conducted in three of the top hunting provinces showed that hunting created approximately 31 500 jobs. In Limpopo, Northern Cape, and Free State, 17 806, 9 072 and 4 558 jobs respectively were created during 2016/17 alone. Typical employment created directly includes guides, professional hunters, skinner, trackers, catering, housekeeping, maintenance, conservation management, anti-poaching and taxidermy.

Further evidence can be obtained from the Global Ecology and Conservation Journal (Volume 16, October 2018) written by Saayman M, van der Merwe, P., Saayman, A, titled "The economic impact of trophy hunting in South Africa", which shows that Trophy hunters spend US\$250 million per annum in the country and that the impact of this spending on production in the economy is US\$341 million and that the Trophy hunting supports more than 17 000 employment opportunities.

Furthermore, evidence gathered from Management Authorities after hunting takes place and discussed through the Inter-Provincial Professional Hunting Committee (IPPHC) indicates that an amount of R1,374 billion was generated from hunting during 2019 (see the spreadsheet attached). Provincial hunting registers which are compiled when issuing permits to Professional Hunting Outfitters contain detailed hunting information about clients, the species hunted, the number of species hunted including the number of days a particular species was hunted. Professional Hunting Outfitters also share information with their associations on revenue generated including the revenue generated per species hunted during the hunting season.

(2) (a)(b)(c)

As indicated under item (a) above, the benefits for rural communities remain access to job opportunities. Once transformation of the sector is more widespread there would be more communities and previously disadvantaged people who will start owning and operating their own hunting operations.

Regards



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

DATE: 09/05/22