



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. 2207 {NW2615E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22 of 2022

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Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- 1) What extent of land (a) in total is currently under the protected area network in the Republic and (b)(i) is state-owned and (ii) is under private protected areas;
- (2) what is the extent of the protected area network that has been secured via stewardship agreements?

2207. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

1. (a) Protected areas are declared under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) (NEM:PAA). Protected areas are defined in terms of NEM:PAA as follows:

SYSTEM OF PROTECTED AREAS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Kinds of protected areas

The system of protected areas in South Africa consists of the following kinds of protected areas:

- special nature reserves, national parks, nature reserves (including wilderness areas) and protected environments;
 - [Para. (a) amended by s. 3 of Act 31/2004]
- world heritage sites;
- marine protected areas;
 - [Para. (c) inserted by s. 3 of Act 31/2004]
- specially protected forest areas, forest nature reserves and forest wilderness areas declared in terms of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998); and
- mountain catchment areas declared in terms of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act, 1970 (Act No. 63 of 1970).

11 810 748.53 ha of land comprises the protected areas of South Africa. This figure is further explained in the table below

b) The table below indicates the total figure for the Conservation Estate, including declared protected areas captured in the Register of Protected Areas. Areas overlapping are dissolved to ensure that areas are not counted more than once. Conservation areas are not declared as protected areas and include areas such as biosphere reserves and botanical gardens.

Mar-22			
Analysis of final % of conservation estate			
CA = Conservation areas (not declared)			
PA = Protected Areas (declared)			
Type	Size (ha)	SA Area (ha)	%
CA (no overlap) Minus PA	8 484 932.62	121 909 000.00	6.96%
PA (no overlap) Minus MPA	11 810 748.53	121 909 000.00	9.69%
Full Total Area (no overlaps)	20 295 681.15	121 909 000.00	16.65%

- I. As per the above figure the state-owned component of declared protected areas is 6 760 981 ha.
 - II. The privately-owned component of declared protected areas is 5 049 767 ha.
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2. The extent of the protected area network that has been secured via stewardship agreements comprises 900 635 ha (31 March 2022).

Regards



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

DATE: 17/6/2022