



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. 2265 {NW2680E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23 of 2022

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

- (1) Whether, following the meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Forestry and Fisheries and the Environment held on 19 April 2022, minimum norms and standards for welfare are only being developed for the five species in the report of the High-Level Panel that was appointed to review policies, regulatory measures, practices and policy positions that are related to hunting, trade, captive keeping, management and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what norms and standards will apply for other animals;
- (2) by what date is it envisaged the norms and standards will be published for public participation;
- (3) (a) by what date is it envisaged the establishment of the Welfare Forum will be completed and
(b) what is the role of the Welfare Forum, given that it is separate from the Wildlife Forum?

2265. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) The High-Level Panel (HLP) made a number of recommendations regarding the development of norms and standards/minimum standards, including to develop –
 - a) minimum norms and standards for welfare within all aspects of the sector relating to the five iconic species;

- b) norms and standards for the management of lion, rhino and leopard, and reviewing existing norms and standards to address challenges and improve impact;
- c) norms and standards for damage-causing animals; and
- d) a national responsible and sustainable hunting standard for the five iconic species.

The Minister is empowered to develop national norms and standards in terms of section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA). Non-compliance with norms and standards *per se* is currently not declared as an offence in terms of NEMBA and, therefore, such norms and standards on their own are not enforceable unless they are included as a condition to the permits that are issued by issuing authorities (provinces that issue CITES and TOPS permits).

In response to the recommendations of the HLP, in this 2022/2023 financial year, a process to develop one set of enforceable Norms and Standards in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the management of elephant, rhinoceros, lion and leopard, which will include components of responsible hunting, the management of damage caused by these animals, as well as the welfare of these animals in the wild, will be initiated in consultation with issuing authorities.

- (2) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) will embark on a consultation process on the management of the iconic species with experts during the 2022/2023 financial year, followed by the development of Draft Norms and Standards for the management of elephant, rhinoceros, lion and leopard, by December 2023 which will be ready for intergovernmental consultation in Quarter 4 of 2023/2024 and will be published for public comment in the first quarter of 2024/2025 financial year.
- (3)(a) The Wildlife Welfare Forum will be formally established once the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment approves the Terms of Reference (TOR). The DFFE is in the final stages of consulting relevant stakeholders on the draft TOR. It is envisaged that the final draft TOR will be approved in the second quarter of the current financial year, in other words, the period July-September).
- (3)(b) The primary aim of the Wildlife Welfare Forum is to promote the well-being and welfare of wild animals as far as it relates to the conservation, management and ecologically sustainable,

responsible and humane use of wildlife. It is further aimed at, among others, providing a platform for consultation and improved collaboration among relevant government departments and entities, as well as between government and non-governmental organisations representing the well-being and welfare of wild animals.

Regards



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

DATE: 23/06/2022