



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. 2459 {NW2800E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 24 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 June 2023

Mr N G Myburgh (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(1) What steps has her department taken to salvage the remaining wetlands of the Republic as 50% is destroyed and 30% is in a weak ecological condition;

(2) whether she will furnish Mr N G Myburgh with the details of any plans for the effective recovery of already destroyed and/or seriously damaged wetlands; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

2459. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has taken the following steps to salvage the remaining wetlands of the Republic of South Africa:
 - i. Developing and applying legislation aimed at the sustainable conservation, management, and protection of sensitive ecosystems, including wetlands, to prevent environmental degradation.

- ii. Developing a National Wetland Management Framework (NWMF) that provides for a national coordinated approach to protect, sustainably manage, and restore wetlands across government.
 - iii. Identifying, designating, and managing wetlands of international significance as Ramsar sites (under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), of which South Africa currently has 29 Ramsar sites.
 - iv. Rehabilitating wetlands through the Working for Wetlands and Working for Water programmes of the DFFE. Since its commencement in 2000, the Working for Wetlands programme has invested more than R1,4 billion in the rehabilitation of 1 873 wetlands.
 - v. Commemorating World Wetlands Day and hosting awareness events regarding wetlands.
 - vi. Undertaking wetland research and monitoring, including the development and maintenance of a National Wetland Inventory for enhanced decision-making regarding wetlands and their management.
- 2) Plans for the effective recovery of the 115 wetlands that are to be rehabilitated in the 2023/24 financial year may be viewed by mutual agreement with the Branch: Environmental Programmes.



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

DATE: 28/6/2023