



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. 2851 {NW3270E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29 of 2023

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Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether there are any plans in place to prevent legal trade from being used as a cover for illegal trade and the stockpiling of lion bones; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

2851. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

There has been no legal trade in lion bones since the Gauteng High Court ruling of 2019 declaring the bone quota as being unconstitutional. As a result of this ruling and the relevant legislation, the Minister has not authorised an annual quota.

Since 1 March 2019 the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment has employed a tagging system for lion hunting trophies. The implication of this system is that all hunting trophies of captive-bred lions must be tagged immediately after the hunt. The details of the tag are included in the documentation that is issued after the hunt including export permits. Additionally, the provincial management authorities are requested to introduce random inspections of lion trophies throughout the value chain (including at taxidermist and freight agencies to verify the origin of the trophies).

From a law enforcement perspective, the Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) from national and provincial governments as well as the South African National Parks are enforcing the relevant legislation, namely the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act and the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, and other relevant regulations on a daily basis. This includes the prevention of illegal trade of Threatened and Protected Species (TOPS) as well as species listed on the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Following the North Gauteng High Court declaring the lion bone export quota unconstitutional in 2019, the only lion specimens that can be exported legally are live animals, hunting trophies and personal or household effects (which means dead specimens, parts and derivatives that form part of belongings of a private individual and that form or are intended to form part of his/her normal possessions read with Article VII paragraph 3 of CITES). If a shipment of lion bones is detected at a port of entry and/or exit, it will be confiscated and investigated. It is currently not illegal to keep or have lion bones in one's possession with the necessary permits.



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

DATE: 15/9/2023