



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. 3085 {NW4152E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 33 of 2023

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Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

How did SANParks take into account the conclusions of the 2020 Elephants Alive Recommendations Concerning the Proposed Elephant Offtakes of the Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR) in supporting and/or commenting on the proposed APNR Elephant offtake of 55 elephants, as Elephants Alive recommended that only 35 elephants be hunted (details furnished)?

3085. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

Umbabat and Balule form part of a regional elephant population with major contributors from the Kruger National Park (approximately 30 000), private nature reserves (approximately 3 000) and Gonarezhou (approximately 10 000).

When populations are large, proposed harvesting is evaluated as acceptable if it is unlikely to impact the dynamics of the species. Given the latest surveys, the lowest likely number of elephants in the entire region is estimated to be just over 40 000.

Our scientific models, therefore, suggest that the removal of 55 elephants is far below the predicted 1 880 beyond which elephant dynamics will be influenced. Based on these reflections, the proposed APNR elephant offtakes will have negligible effects on the dynamics of elephant populations in the region.



MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 30/9/2023