



**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. 352 {NW365E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2022**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 February 2022**

**Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to the R255 million donated by philanthropist Howard Buffet in March 2014 to the Kruger National Park (KNP)/SA National Parks to implement an intensive protection zone in KNP, (details furnished), she will furnish Ms A M M Weber with a detailed breakdown of (a)(i) how the money was spent and (ii) on what; if not, why not; if so, on what date;
- (2) Whether the helicopter was bought; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) What number of vehicles equipped with sophisticated sensors were acquired?
- (4) Whether the sensors were planted on the fencing at the Mozambique border; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) (a) What amount and (b) which programmes were implemented to ensure cross-border criminal investigations and intelligence networks?

**352. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (1) a) Mr Howard Buffet originally committed to a donation of R257 million through his organisation titled The Nature Conservation Trust to fight rhinoceros poaching at the Kruger National Park (KNP). SANPARKS signed an agreement with The Nature Conservation Trust and a project manager was appointed to monitor progress and report to Mr Buffet. The Nature Conservation Trust withdrew R65 million due to delays in the supply chain process of SANParks in the implementation of one of the projects, namely the Aerostat Project for Surveillance of Rhino Poaching. This left a balance of R192 million as the total commitment from The Nature Conservation Trust.

SANParks had, however, already committed projects to an approximate amount of R183 million, leaving a shortfall of R94,1 million, which was then covered by the operational budget of SANParks.

SANParks only received R89 782 624,00 and supplemented this with R94 144 123,00 from its own resources to implement the project with the hope that the money would be reimbursed by the funds from The Nature Conservation Trust, as per the commitment. The balance of the funds (R103 million) held in The Nature Conservation Trust was not transferred to SANParks and, therefore, the full commitment was not fulfilled. The funds were used in the KNP between May 2014 and June 2016, focussing mainly on the Intensive Protection Zone. A breakdown of how the funds were used for the projects that were implemented is indicated in the table below.

(i)(ii)

<b>EXPENDITURE LINE ITEM</b>	<b>COST</b>
Six reaction forces trained, equipped, including canine capacitation and accommodation	R5 608 716,00
Five gate canine systems	R4 112 162,00
Two helicopters with night capability	R48 963 193,02
A Joint Operations Centre complex	R32 028 801,81
A microwave communication backbone	R9 718 048,00
12 vehicles, in other words, customised Land Cruisers and Polaris	R5 371 327,62
A well-managed information system based on an informer network	R12 124 248,00
Two detective sensor cables were planted (one on the fence in the eastern boundary and an underground cable in the western boundary)	R66 000 251,50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R183 926 747,95</b>

- (2) Two helicopters with night capability were purchased for an amount of R48 963 193,02. The helicopters are still functional and are used for anti-poaching activities at the KNP.
- (3) A total of 12 vehicles were purchased; six are Land Cruisers customised with dirt road mobility systems, and the other six are Polaris with an off-road mobility system, at a total cost of R5 371 327,62. All vehicles are still functional and are used for anti-poaching activities at the KNP.
- (4) Two sensor systems were installed on the Mozambican boarder. A seismic sensor cable was mounted in the intensive protection zone fence and an underground magnetic sensor cable was also installed in the intensive protection zone. The sensor systems cost R66 000 251,50.
- (5) (a) An amount of R12 124 248,00 was spent on strengthening the intelligence capacity of the Environmental Crime Investigation (ECI) Unit of SANParks.
- b) The money was spent on strengthening intelligence gathering, including the capability of the internal ECI Unit of SANParks.



**MS B D CREECY, MP**

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

DATE: 28/02/2009