



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 374 {NW388E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 February 2022

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

Whether, in light of the recent report by the FOUR PAWS Animal Welfare Foundation, titled *Year of the Tiger: Big cat farming in South Africa: the need for international action*, which reveals the extent of intensive captive tiger breeding in the Republic (details furnished), she has been informed (a) of the (i) commercial export of live tigers and their parts to known hotspots for illegal wildlife trade and (ii) subsequent contravention of decisions set out by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), of which South Africa is a party to and (b) that the lack of effective regulations, laws and monitoring of big cat trade in the Republic is sentencing big cat species to a life of commercial exploitation for trade in their parts and subsequent use in luxury goods and traditional medicine; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what is (aa) being done to prevent this and (bb) the Government's position on the findings of the specified report?

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

- (a) (i) No, the Minister has not been informed about commercial export of live tigers, but she is aware of the export of live tigers from South Africa to other CITES Parties for non-commercial purposes, such as breeding and zoological purposes.

It should be noted that all Appendix I species such as tigers can only be exported from South Africa if they are for non-commercial purpose and are from registered non-commercial facilities. This type of export will require an import permit to be issued first to confirm that the tigers will not be used for commercial purposes. South Africa has a stricter domestic requirement for the export of Appendix I species. The facilities need to be registered first with their Provincial Management Authorities and, furthermore, the importing country is required to issue an import permit before the exporting permit can be issued.

These provisions only apply to tiger facilities which are internationally exporting tigers for non-commercial purposes. Any other export for commercial purpose is prohibited.

- (ii) South Africa issues permits for non-commercial purposes in line with CITES requirements, and the permits are issued by the provincial issuing authorities as they are responsible for the issuance of such permits.

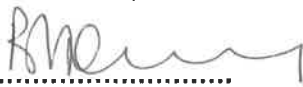
- (b) (aa) and (bb)

South Africa has a strong policy and legislative framework in place for the conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity, and its track-record in this area is internationally recognised and lauded. The overall framework for environmental governance in South Africa is established in South Africa's Constitution, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996). International trade in wildlife (including tigers) is regulated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA); its subsidiary regulations, including the CITES Regulations of 2010; various provincial legislation and other applicable legislation administered by other state departments.

South Africa's CITES legislation is category A in terms of CITES compliance with legislation requirements. Category A implies that South Africa is fully compliant with the requirements of CITES. South Africa will continue to strive to improve its management, compliance monitoring and

enforcement measures, where necessary, to ensure that legal trade is sustainable and not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

The Minister has requested the Environmental Inspectorate to analyse the report from Four Paws and report back to her if there is any contravention of the law in any of the transactions on tigers.



MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 28/2/2022