**Ref:02/1/5/2**

**MINISTER**

**QUESTION NO. 3760 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

A draft reply to **Mr W M Madisha (Cope)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MR MARK GORDON**

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP**

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 3760 {NW4444E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 40 of 2015**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 October 2015**

**Mr W M Madisha (Cope) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

Whether she approached the United Nations with a view to soliciting its support for South Africa and other African countries that are losing rhinos, elephants and other wildlife through systematic and wide-scale poaching in order for this matter to be dealt with at both national and international level, leading to a treaty coming into force so that South Africa and other African countries can continue to derive economic benefits through ecotourism and community based enterprises linked to the efficient management of wildlife and ecosystems; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**3760. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

No. Existing multilateral agreements are being used to address poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, as well as ensuring that economic benefits can be derived from the efficient management of wildlife and ecosystems.

The Convention on Biological Diversity is a United Nations convention that has, as objectives, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. Furthermore, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) provides for sustainable utilisation, and is aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. South Africa is a Party to these conventions, and through collaboration with other Parties, issues of concern, including poaching, is being addressed, while sustainable utilisation is promoted.

**--ooOoo--**