



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

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

---

Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 40 {NW44E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1 of 2022**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 10 February 2022**

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

- (1) Given that the Republic was a founding member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Treaty and has a proud and long successful conservation record, what are the reasons that (a) it is legal to hunt an endangered species such as tigers in the Republic and (b) tigers are not included in environmental protected legislation;
- (2) whether the Republic is accountable to CITES; if so,
- (3) whether the Republic reports to CITES how the endangered species of all tigers are being bred to be hunted in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) what steps has she taken to adhere to the agreement that was signed in 1975 that the Republic will respect the Red List of CITES and acknowledge that tigers are on the Red List of endangered species and should not be hunted under any circumstances;
- (5) given that globally the world is working hard to stop the killing and trafficking of tigers and to promote tiger-friendly policies and monitoring tigers, what steps has her department taken to ensure that tigers will be protected in the Republic?

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

- (1)
  - (a) Tigers are listed as Appendix I on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendices, which implies that commercial international trade in these species is prohibited. However, the hunting of tigers in South Africa is not regulated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) as tigers are not endemic in South Africa and are not listed in NEMBA as endangered. Furthermore, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is not aware of any hunting of tigers in South Africa and the annual trophy hunting reports submitted annually by the provincial nature conservation authorities to the DFFE do not indicate the hunting of tigers in their province-specific reports.
  - (b) As indicated above, tigers are not endemic to South Africa and are, therefore, not listed in NEMBA as endangered. Tigers are only regulated through CITES Regulations for the import and export of tiger specimens. Furthermore, any other activities are regulated by the provincial nature conservation departments, where applicable.
- (2) South Africa is a party to the CITES Convention and has promulgated the CITES Regulations (2010) to ensure compliance with this convention. CITES does not control the domestic use of species, but rather regulates international trade between parties. The domestic use of indigenous species is regulated by NEMBA and its supporting regulations, norms and standards (CITES, Alien Invasive Species and Threatened or Protected Species Regulations), as well as the relevant provincial conservation legislation.
- (3) There is no requirement in terms of CITES to report on tigers that are being bred to be hunted. However, the DFFE reports on all export permits issued for tigers, as required by the CITES Secretariat through the CITES Annual Report, which is published on the CITES website.
- (4) Please refer to the response in (1) a).
- (5) The DFFE has developed a draft Policy Position on the Conservation and Ecologically Sustainable Use of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros, which is in the process of being finalised for implementation, following a public participation process that was conducted in 2021. This Policy Position will provide a mechanism to create a new deal for People and

Nature for South Africa, and a phased approach towards the development of an overarching Policy on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Resources. This overarching policy will consider the conservation and management of species at a broader level and may include other big cat species such as tigers.

Regards



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

DATE: 24/2/2022