



**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. 4559 {NW5688E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 50 of 2022

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Mrs K N F Hlonyana (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Why has the drive to remove alien plants not been replaced with an afforestation drive in all the areas along the Mont-Aux-Sources foothills?

4559. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

Areas with afforestation potential that contain invasive alien plant species enhances the process of issuing the required authorisations as the land is taken as disturbed, since Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies are required mostly on undisturbed land. Therefore, if identified sites fall under areas with the potential of afforestation, they can be considered accordingly when licence applications are received. However, when EIA studies are conducted for the issuing of licences for afforestation, heritage sites are taken into consideration, together with other sites that are sensitive in terms of biodiversity, riverine areas and aquatic systems. Therefore, heritage sites would be excluded from the afforestation activity and a licence application on land, which constitutes a heritage site, would not be approved.

The Mont-aux-Sources foothills is an Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife protected area and World Heritage Site. The Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife project in question is funded through the provincial Department of

Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) Invasive Alien Species Programme (IASP) intervention.

High Altitude Teams have not worked at Mont-aux-Sources. The closest teams are at Cathedral Peak and Monks Cowl, which is 200 km away.


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

DATE: 4/12/2022