



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. 465 {NW530E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4 of 2022

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

- (1) In light of the R255 million donated by the philanthropist, Mr Howard Buffet, to the Kruger National Park (KNP) and SANPARKS in March 2014 in order to implement an intensive protection zone (IPZ) in the KNP, which include a certain number of sophisticated aids (details furnished), what number of canine units were established;
- (2) whether the canine units were found to be effective; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the enhanced surveillance systems have been implemented; if not, why not; if so, on what date;
- (4) (a) how well trained and capacitated are the SA Police Service and the KNP forensic investigating teams and (b) what number of forensic investigating teams are in the KNP;
- (5) whether, given all of the above, the IPZ is effective in combatting rhino poaching; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

- (1) Seven canine units were established in the Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ). One main canine unit was established close to Phabeni Gate and a further six units in each of the sections that make up

the IPZ, i.e. Skukuza, Pretoriuskop, Stolznek, Malelane, Crocodile Bridge and Lower Sabie.

- (2) All the Section Ranger Posts and entrance gates of the IPZ are effective and were equipped with Canine Capacity.
- (3) The Wide Area Surveillance Sensor (WASS) was introduced in June 2016 and includes the following:
 - Eastern Perimeter Fence Mounted Security System
 - Sabie River Gap Detection System
 - Linear Magnetic Detection System
- (4) (a) South African National Parks' Environmental Crime and Investigation Unit is equipped to deal with all forensic crime scenes in the Kruger National Park (KNP). In addition, the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Mpumalanga Province and the Mpumalanga Provincial Commander of Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit employ qualified Forensic Investigators to deal with poached rhinos and criminal cases in Kruger National Park. Both SAPS and the Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit have qualified and trained staff.
(b) There is one Environmental Crime and Investigations Unit permanently based in Kruger National Park.
- (5) The IPZ has been effective in combating rhino poaching. After ten years of implementing various strategies to combat rhino poaching by poachers who are recruited and managed by crime syndicates, KNP has seen a year on year reduction in the number of rhinos poached since 2015.

Regards



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

DATE: 18/3/2022