



**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. 786 {NW886E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8 of 2023

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Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

On what basis did her department expressly support the recent export of live cheetah to India in the absence of an annual Non-Detriment Finding?

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

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has sought a non-detriment finding (NDF) advice from the Scientific Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which requires that the export of CITES-listed species may not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

Consequently, it has been determined that all available evidence suggests that the export of cheetah to India will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in South Africa, provided that not more than 19 male and 14 adult female cheetahs are removed from the managed metapopulation per annum. The Scientific Authority has indicated that this off-take is conservative and will be sustainable for the

foreseeable future. Monitoring of the metapopulation will nevertheless continue to ensure that there are no unforeseen negative impacts.

The Scientific Authority has also advised that the managed metapopulation of cheetah in South Africa currently comprises almost 500 cheetahs in over 70 private and state-owned reserves and has shown an increasing trend over the period 2004-2022, with the number of cheetahs in many reserves nearing carrying capacity. South Africa is therefore well placed to assist other range countries to restore cheetah to their native landscapes.



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

DATE:17/3/2023