



**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. 3648 {NW4837E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 41 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 03 November 2023

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

(1) Whether, noting the periodic reports in the media of incidents of human wildlife conflict in the Republic, her department maintains any national record of such incidents; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the full details of incidents of human wildlife conflict in (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022;

(2) whether she will furnish Ms H S Winkler with reports of her department on the (a) extent of human wildlife conflict in the Republic in the specified period and (b) existing strategies and/or plans to deal with Human Animal Conflict in the Republic; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

3648. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

1) (a)(b)(c)

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) does not maintain records of human wildlife conflict in the Republic of South Africa.

2) (a)


The information required is not within the purview of the DFFE and may be obtained from the relevant provincial issuing authorities.

(b)

In terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA): Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations, 2007, permits are required for the carrying out of restricted activities involving damage-causing animals of listed TOPS. The TOPS Regulations provide for permissible options and methods for the management of these damage-causing animals. Furthermore, the DFFE has developed Guidelines for the Management of Damage-Causing Animals in South Africa, which provide minimum requirements for methods that may have a negative impact on biodiversity, thereby aiming to reduce the impact on biodiversity.

The White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity (White Paper) was published in the *Government Gazette* for implementation on 14 June 2023. The White Paper requires the development and implementation of appropriate measures and tools to prevent, mitigate or manage human-wildlife conflict. The White Paper further requires a National Human-Wildlife Coexistence Strategy that promotes human-wildlife coexistence, as well as an integrated approach to the management of human-wildlife conflict.

Furthermore, the draft revised TOPS Regulations that were published in the *Government Gazette* of 12 October 2023 for public comment introduce a duty of care on any person whose activities may result in conflict with specimens of listed TOPS, to implement reasonable measures to limit or prevent damage being caused by damage-causing animals.



MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 13/11/2023