



## environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 527 {NW583E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4 of 2021

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#### **Mrs C Phillips (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Whether the anti-poaching chopper is used to herd animals back into the reserve; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) number of hours on average is the chopper used for herding animals per month and (b) is the cost on average to her department in each month for (i) using the chopper to herd animals and (ii) compensating the crew?

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

The South African National Parks (SANParks) aircraft (helicopters) are being used for all aerial support functions in the national parks. This includes anti-poaching support, veterinary support, research and assisting with Damage Causing Animals (DCAs). The chasing/herding of animals back into the parks happens sporadically when required and is more prevalent during the dry season when animals, especially large herbivores, break out of the parks seeking better grazing land.

- (a) On average, choppers are flown about 6 hours per month in support of these missions to herd animals back into the Park or locate animals that have broken out of the parks.

(b) (i)(ii)

The average total cost per month is R35 000. The SANParks aircraft crew are paid in line with SANParks recruitment policies.

Regards



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

DATE: 12/03/2021  
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