



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. 808 {NW987E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 11 March 2022

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

- (1) What is meant by the term reactive short to medium-term culling which is referred to in the current Kruger National Park elephant management plan (details furnished);
- (2) whether such culling or lethal management was implemented during the specified plan; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the culling or lethal management is planned for the future; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether she will provide Mrs C Phillips with a copy of the Ministerial Plan for reactive short to medium-term culling; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

- (1) The Kruger National Park Elephant Management Plan (2013-2022) presented various management interventions that could be considered to reduce the size of an elephant population, and included contraception, range manipulation, translocation, and culling. Importantly, it also presented interventions that could be used to change elephants' spatial use of habitat. The latter is important as a large body of research shows that large tree loss, for instance, is related to how intensely elephants use landscapes and not directly with the number

of elephants. Certain areas of the park, referred to as elephant impact areas, experience large numbers of elephants that are also using the areas very intensely. In such cases, reactive short- to medium-term culling (as prescribed in the Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephants) may need to be considered. However, to implement this option, an approved elephant culling plan is required. The Kruger National Park does not have an approved elephant culling plan and, as such, it has not implemented that particular management action of the plan.

- (2) As stated in the response to Question (1), this action of the Elephant Management Plan has not been implemented.

- 3) The Kruger National Park Elephant Management Plan will be reviewed in the second quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year. The review will be informed by the large body of evidence regarding elephant management, the extensive stakeholder engagement that took place in developing the 2018 Kruger National Park Management Plan, as well as the various policy processes taking place currently around elephant management, including the National Elephant Management Strategy, the Review of the Norms and Standards for Elephant Management, and the GLTFCA Elephant Management Framework. Currently, there is no decision on the culling or lethal management of elephant planned for the future.

- (3) As covered in Question (1), the short to medium reactive culling intervention has not been pursued during the period of the current plan and, therefore, there is no approved Ministerial plan for culling elephants. It worth noting that the current Minister is not in favour of culling as a management option.

Regards



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

DATE: *25/03/2022*