



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. 669 {NW807E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 04 March 2022

Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) On what date is it envisaged that the revised (a) Kruger National Park Management Plan and (b) Elephant Management Plan, which are currently the subject of review, will be (i) completed and (ii) open for stakeholder and public participation;
- (2) whether she will furnish Mr D W Bryant with (a) the details of the stakeholder and public participation processes that will be followed in respect of the plans and (b) copies of the draft revised plans; if not, why not, in each case; if so, on what date in each case?

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

1. (a) The review of the Kruger National Park (KNP) Management Plan will start in 2027 and will be concluded in 2028.
 - (b) (i) The KNP Elephant Management Plan will be reviewed during 2022 and will be finalised by the end of December 2022.
 - (b) (ii) The stakeholder and public participation process for the KNP Elephant Management Plan will be held in the second half of 2022.

2. a) The review of the KNP Management Plan is governed by section 39(3) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) (NEM:PAA). The stakeholder participation process for the KNP Management Plan will be outlined closer to the time of the review. Section 41(2)(e) requires that the management plan contain procedures for public participation, including participation by the owner (where a contractual agreement exists between the owner and SANParks), any local community or interested party. SANParks works with stakeholders to ensure that –
- stakeholders are notified of participation processes through appropriate mechanisms;
 - the process provides the opportunity for input from all stakeholders within reasonable timeframes, emphasising the sharing of information, joint learning and capacity building;
 - processes recognises all knowledge, indigenous and ordinary, as well as the diversity of values and opinions that exist between stakeholders;
 - feedback is provided on the outcome of the process to stakeholders, demonstrating how their inputs have been considered in the decision-making process.

This process is prescribed in NEM:PAA and is followed strictly by SANParks during the revision of every park management plan.

The current Elephant Norms and Standards do not require a public consultation process in reviewing a reserve's elephant management plan. Provision is also made for protected areas to have the elephant management plan under the larger park management plan, which is a product of a widely consulted process with stakeholders (see section 6.3 of the Elephant Norms and Standards). In the case of the KNP, the elephant management plan is under the Herbivory Lower-Level Plan under the Biodiversity Higher-Level Objective.

Details of the consultation process for the review of the Elephant Management Plan will be shared with all relevant stakeholders once finalised at the end of Quarter 1 (June 2022).

- b) The next KNP Management Plan review will start in 2027 and the Elephant Management Plan in the second semester of 2022. Currently, there are no draft revised plans, with only the approved 2019 plan being available. The draft KNP management plan will be available in mid-2027.

The draft Elephant Management Plan will be an internal document and will be available at the end of Quarter 2 (September 2022).

Regards



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

DATE:18/02/2022.....