



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. 671 {NW809E}

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) In view of the fact that SANParks is considering moving rhino from the Kruger National Park (KNP) to sanctuaries in order to establish founder populations (a) how will the sanctuaries be defined and (b) what are the reasons that rhinos will be better protected in sanctuaries than in KNP;
- (2) (a) how does a sanctuary differ from any other privately-owned reserve, (b) who will fund the specified sanctuaries, given that private rhino owners have indicated that they cannot afford the costs of rhino protection and (c) which entity and/or individual will have ownership of the rhinos and their progeny?

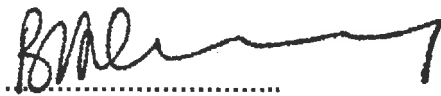
671. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

1.
 - a) A team of experts from South African National Parks (SANParks) and the Wilderness Foundation is developing detailed criteria for defining and selecting areas across the country for consideration as rhinoceros sanctuaries. The team is also looking at existing national parks that have low or no rhinoceros populations.
 - b) Poaching is the main driver behind the decline in the rhinoceros population in the Kruger National Park and, although other parts of the country experience poaching, SANParks

has lost less than five rhinoceros in other rhinoceros parks in the past five years. Part of the success behind low poaching rates in the other parks is size and the ability to control/manage access control in smaller parks or private reserves, among other factors. SANParks intends to explore the option of moving rhinoceros into smaller (less than 100 000 ha) safe zones away from poaching hotspots.

2. a) There is no difference between sanctuaries and privately owned reserves as long as they are located in areas that experience low poaching pressure. The current proposal will consider both existing national parks and buying new land for conservation and, where applicable, partnerships with the private sector.
- b) SANParks will use its land grant and mobilise funds, in collaboration with partners, to buy additional land for rhinoceros conservation away from poaching hotspots. SANParks is not looking at selling or giving rhinoceros to private game reserves, except where mutually beneficial opportunities arise.
- c) SANParks will remain the owner of the rhinoceros and their progeny. Other ownership arrangements will depend on the development and evolution of the project depending on whether other State or private actors participate in the project and whether their participation necessitates consideration of alternative ownership models.

Regards



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

DATE: 18/03/2022