



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For oral reply)**

QUESTION NO. 201 {NO1123E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10 of 2022

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

In light of the recommendations pertaining to the lion bone trade emanating from the High-Level Panel Report into the Management of Elephant, Leopard, Lion and Rhino, what are the details of the immediate steps that her department has taken to address the situation of lions that are still remaining in captivity on farms?

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

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has developed a draft Policy Position on the Conservation and Ecologically Sustainable Use of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros (draft Policy Position), which has been published for public participation and finalised based on comments received. The draft Policy Position contains a policy objective relating to the closing of captive lion facilities.

The DFFE has further developed a draft White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity (draft White Paper), which will be published in the *Government Gazette* for public participation in the immediate future.

The implementation of the Policy Position is dependent on the finalisation of the draft White Paper for implementation. Subsequently, the necessary legislative provisions will be finalised and taken through the necessary consultation processes in order to give effect to the above-mentioned policy position, as soon as they are concluded.

An integrated exit strategy will be required in order to provide a coordinated and systematic approach towards the implementation of the above-mentioned policy objective. Due to the complexities to be considered in phasing out captive lion facilities, as well as the lions in those facilities, the DFFE is in the process of obtaining approval to appoint a service provider to develop such a strategy. The intention is to engage with stakeholders in a series of participatory workshops to ensure buy-in to the exit strategy. A workshop with affected provinces is planned for 24 March 2022. This is to develop and ensure a coherent approach across national and provincial spheres of government. Following this, further workshops with stakeholders will take place. I am not anticipating any trade-in lion bones for this year, or in the foreseeable future as I have recently made a determination on a zero export quota under CITES provisions for trade-in lions part and derogatives including lion bones.

Regards



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

DATE: 25/10/2022