



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. 1868 {NW2204E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17 of 2022

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Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

With reference to the requirement to register breeding facilities, and noting the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna Resolution 12.5 (details furnished) that urge parties to ensure adequate management practices and controls to ensure tiger parts and derivatives do not enter the illegal trade, what (a) specified controls has her department implemented to ensure compliance with the resolution, (b) number of facilities have been audited in terms of the controls and (c) were the results thereof?

1868. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

(a) The following has been implemented to ensure compliance with Resolution Conference 12.5 (Rev CoP18):

- Adopted the national CITES Regulations and reviewed the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations (still to be approved for implementation) to ensure that there are provisions for deterrent penalties and to ensure it addresses illegal trade in and/or possession of illegally traded specimens of native and non-native Asian big cat species, as well as products labelled as or claiming to contain specimens of native and non-native Asian big cat species;

- Ensure that environmental management inspectors (EMIs) receive the relevant and effective training and support in the gathering and use of information, wildlife crime investigative techniques, collecting evidence, inter-agency liaison and cooperation, and preparing cases for prosecution;
 - Encourage conservation authorities and the South African Police Service (SAPS) to apply strict enforcement controls and vigilance in addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens and any associated illegal trade in specimens of other big cat species;
 - Encourage the SAPS to use innovative enforcement methods, such as anti-money laundering approaches, forensic analytical techniques, intelligence-led enforcement and strengthening enforcement efforts at key points of entry and exit;
 - The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is responsible for compliance and enforcement activities at the OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA). The main function of the DFFE's EMIs deployed at ORTIA is to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) and its Regulations, and to take enforcement action once non-compliance has been detected. This is done by checking compliance with, among others, the permits issued for the export, re-export or import of CITES listed species (such as tigers) in relation to consignments moving through ORTIA;
 - The DFFE also ensures that certain key role-players are aware of the requirements of biodiversity legislation. An example is the development of training material for the South Africa Revenue Service Customs officials, which is now part of the Customs training curriculum;
 - The DFFE worked with the laboratory at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in order to ensure that the DNA of lion could be differentiated from tiger bones. This was done when South Africa was legally exporting lion bones from captive bred lions to ensure that no tiger derivatives illegally entered the trade (Note: The last legal shipment of lion bones was exported in 2019 under the 2018 CITES quota).
- b) In terms of section 87A of NEMBA, the Members of the Executive Council (MECs) of the provinces, who are responsible for the conservation of biodiversity, are the issuing authorities for permits in respect of listed threatened or protected species, which, in this case, includes the registration of captive breeding facilities, permits issued in terms of CITES, as well as the related compliance and enforcement functions.

Since tigers are bred and usually kept in facilities with other big cats, such as lions and leopards, the auditing or compliance inspections for these facilities is the responsibility of the provincial conservation authorities. The DFFE is, therefore, not in a position to answer the question on the number of facilities breeding/keeping tigers that have been audited by the provinces.

The DFFE is in the process of requesting information from the provincial conservation authorities regarding the number of facilities that are breeding and keeping tigers. The aim of this request is for the DFFE to initiate a joint compliance and enforcement operation later in the year and to continue with the operation in 2023/2024.

- c) As stated above, the DFFE is unaware of the results from compliance inspections undertaken by the provincial authorities at facilities that are breeding/keeping tigers. The project that will commence this year will provide an opportunity to obtain a more accurate national picture of the compliance status of these facilities.

Regards



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

DATE: 27 | 8 | 2022