



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. 697 {NW774E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 3 March 2023

Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(1) Whether her department has taken any steps to engage provincial authorities to establish a unified national policy on hunting primates, including bushbabies, chacma baboons and vervet monkeys as it is reported that all of the provinces in the Republic, except the Free State, also give specific protection to and require a permit for hunting bushbabies and that five of the nine provinces do not require a permit to hunt chacma baboons and vervet monkeys; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,

(2) whether (a) the specified species can be hunted throughout the year, including during the breeding season and (b) the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, North West and Limpopo require a permit to hunt chacma baboons and vervet monkeys; if not, what is the rationale behind the non-uniform process; if so, what steps, if any, are being taken to standardise the process as it appears in its current form to be wide open to criminal abuse to the detriment of the species concerned?

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

(1) There are no plans by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to establish a national policy for the hunting of bushbabies, chacma baboons or vervet monkeys. None of the three species are in danger of extinction and, therefore, do not require regulation at

national level. Nature conservation is a functional area of national and provincial legislative competence, and falls within the purview of the provincial authorities to develop relevant species-specific policies.

(2)(a)(b)

The following information applies to Chacma baboons, vervet monkeys and bushbabies:

- North-West: A permit is required for the hunting of bushbabies, which can be applied for at any time. Issuance of the permit is subject to scientific advice, but it is unlikely that it will be issued. During the period 2018 to date, no hunting permits for bushbabies have been issued. At present, no permit is required for the hunting of baboons and vervet monkeys. These species can be hunted any time of the year.
- Limpopo: A permit is always required for the hunting of bushbabies, but it is unlikely that a permit will be issued. A landowner may hunt a baboon or vervet monkey without a permit throughout the year, whereas the hunting of these two species by other persons is subject to a hunting season that is proclaimed open by the MEC by notice in the *Government Gazette*.
- Eastern Cape: Although bushbabies are not found in the Eastern Cape (except for thick-tailed bushbabies that are found marginally at the coast), a permit is required for the hunting of bushbabies. Baboons and vervet monkeys may be hunted throughout the year in accordance with a hunting proclamation issued by the MEC by notice in the *Government Gazette*.
- Western Cape: The bushbaby is not listed in the Western Cape conservation legislation as it is not found naturally in the province. Therefore, the need for a permit for the hunting of the species will be irrelevant. Baboons and vervet monkeys may be hunted throughout the year in accordance with a hunting proclamation issued by the MEC by notice in the *Government Gazette*.

The need to regulate activities, such as hunting by provincial conservation authorities, depends on the localised circumstances that apply within each province. No steps are being taken by the DFFE to standardise approaches with regards to the hunting of baboons, vervet monkeys or bushbabies as none of these species warrant protection at national level.



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

DATE: 14/3/2023