



**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. 1279 {NW1420E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13 of 2023

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Ms T Breedt (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What total number of (a) rhinos and (b) lions were poached in national parks countrywide in each specified year of the past five years;
- (2) what steps are being taken by her department to combat the poaching of these animals?

1279. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) The following table presents the number of rhinoceros and lions poached at SANParks over the past five years:

Table 1: Number of rhinoceros and lions poached

Year	(a) Number of rhinoceros poached	(b) Number of lions poached
2018	423	3

2019	328	7
2020	247	5
2021	209	4
2022	124	2

2) The following has been done to combat the poaching of wild animals in the past five years.

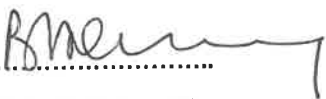
During 2020, seven integrated wildlife zones were introduced across South Africa to protect the country's rhinoceros. These are similar to the integrated protection zones previously utilised within national parks and provincial reserves, and sees an expansion of the effort to protect the world's largest black and white rhinoceros populations. By introducing a zoning approach, the necessary resources are being redirected to areas most in need of support. It also strengthens cooperation between the State and private role players, and is aligned to the objectives of South Africa's National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking. The concept is based on multi-party cooperation, but will ensure the use of appropriate technologies to ensure surveillance, early warning and detection in an effort to become more proactive.

Conservation and antipoaching efforts have intensified countrywide as a joint effort made by the collaborative initiatives of State-owned conservation areas, government and private landowners to reduce the poaching of iconic species such as rhinoceros and elephants in South Africa. More targeted deployment of resources is being implemented by the roll-out of the CMORE situational awareness platform into the integrated wildlife zones. Through this single technology platform, all role players are able to collaborate, making use of real-time insights and analytical capability, linking, for example, camera traps and ranger patrols while integrating a range of other systems.

Collected information and communication flows through the Environmental Enforcement Fusion Centre (EEFC) that continues to support the teams at a tactical and strategic level in the private and public sector. Our analytical capabilities have also improved, resulting in increased capacity to identify those involved in the illegal killing and trafficking of our wildlife, as well as improved and expanded investigations by multidisciplinary teams.

South Africa has also enhanced its focus on addressing money-laundering linked to illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT) under the auspices of the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) and has

developed a private–public partnership/working group to assist in the effective and efficient combatting of financial crime, as well as enhancing a collective understanding of financial crime trends to encourage effective coordination between financial institutions and law enforcement in identifying, detecting and disrupting financial flows from IWT, and to increase the prospects of success of the detection, financial investigations and money laundering prosecutions linked to IWT.



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

DATE: 2/5/2023