



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1817 {NW2068E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 18 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 19 May 2023

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

- (1) Whether the SA National Parks (SANParks) is monitoring elephant movements between the Kruger National Park (KNP) and Limpopo National Park in Mozambique; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any studies have been conducted and/or are planned by SANParks regarding the effect that elephant movements between the two parks are having on the elephant population of the KNP; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) to what extent have fences between the two parks been removed, including plans to remove and/or re-erect such fences?

1817. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) Yes, SANParks monitor elephant distributions and movements through:
 - (a) Participation in the implementation of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Elephant Conservation Framework, a key element of which is sharing population distribution and estimates between South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique; and

- (b) Collaboration with various research institutions and non-government organisations that place satellite transmitters on elephants.
- (2) Yes, studies focused on the interpretation of comparative survey results and two recent publications summarised movements and connectivity as illustrated by a sample of elephants fitted with satellite transmitters by researchers. SANParks is completing two studies on the influence of elephant movements on population trends in Kruger National Park. Recently published studies include:
- (a) Smit, I.P., Peel, M.J., Ferreira, S.M., Greaver, C. and Pienaar, D.J., 2020. Megaherbivore response to droughts under different management regimes: lessons from a large African savanna. *African Journal of Range & Forage Science*, 37(1),65-80.
 - (b) Henley, M.D., Cook, R.M., Bedetti, A., Wilmot, J., Roode, A., Pereira, C.L., Almeida, J. and Alverca, A., 2023. A phased approach to increase human tolerance in elephant corridors to link protected areas in southern Mozambique. *Diversity*, 15(1), .85.
 - (c) Huang, R.M., Van Aarde, R.J., Pimm, S.L., Chase, M.J. and Leggett, K., 2022. Mapping potential connections between Southern Africa's elephant populations. *Plos One*, 17(10), .e0275791.
- (3) There is no fence between Limpopo National Park and the Kruger National Park. This is in line with the stated purpose and objectives of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park.


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

DATE: 30/5/2023