



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. 1818 {NW2069E}

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:

Whether, with reference to her reply to question 741 on 24 March 2023, she will furnish Ms T Breedt with the relevant details on the (a) total number of areas within the Kruger National Park that have been identified as Elephant Impact Areas, (b)(i) extent and (ii) location of each such area and (c) further evolution in the criteria for the definition of such areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

1818. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (a) A total of fifty-two (52) areas in the Kruger National Park have been identified as elephant impact areas.
- (b) (i) (ii) See (c) below.
- (c) This study is part of a scientific manuscript drafted for submission to a technical journal. The publication will document the process and, as a part of this, remote sensing woody vegetation maps will be used to quantify tree canopy cover changes over the past 15 years in the areas where large vegetation changes are observed. Each category or area will have its own intervention or suite of interventions (with the recommendation of no intervention in 18 areas). These are very wide-ranging and include the erection of fences to protect sensitive vegetation

and infrastructure, changes to the fire policy to decrease high-intensity fires, and controlling local densities of elephants in small focal areas. As this study has not yet been published, I would request the Honourable Member to allow the scientists to publish the findings before they are released here.



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

DATE: 31/5/2022