



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2423 {NW2773E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 09 June 2023

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

- (1) What was the estimated total elephant population of the Kruger National Park as at 31 December 2022, bearing in mind that the elephant population was estimated to be 27 992 elephants at the end of 2021;
- (2) how was the estimate arrived at;
- (3) on what date was the last count conducted;
- (4) what were the confidence intervals within which the specified number was calculated;
- (5) whether she has found that the method used is consistent with the counts of previous years; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

2423. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) The Kruger National Parks has an estimated total elephant population of 31,675.
- (2) The aerial survey targeted 11 ranger sections using two helicopters. The survey overlaid 6x6 km blocks across southern Kruger to cover the entire region. Observers systematically completed transects comprising a 200 m observation strip on each side of the helicopter within each block, with flights 45 m above ground at a speed of 65 knots. The survey team comprised a pilot, a data recorder and two observers. The geographical observations noted during the two surveys allowed scientists to overlay the original 3x3 km sample blocks as defined in 2020 and used since then.

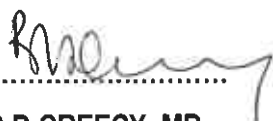
A revised Jolly's estimator allowed estimates. Note that the survey only focused on southern Kruger where previous surveys noted that 49.1% of the total population was encountered there. This allowed an estimate for the entire Kruger.

(3) The survey was conducted from 15 August 2022 to 8 September 2022

(4) 95% Lower Confidence Limit: 30,562; 95% Higher Confidence Limit: 32,894

(5) Yes, the method used is consistent with the methods used in the previous counts.

Regards



MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 20/6/2023