



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. 2590 {NW2973E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 1 September 2023

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

Whether, with regard to the Mapungubwe National Park in Limpopo, she will furnish Ms T Breedt with (a) a copy of the most recent Management Plan for the park, including relevant details of the most recent mammal counts, (b) relevant details of any plans to expand the boundaries of the specified park including plans to acquire the remaining private farms within and/or on the boundaries of the park and (c) relevant details of initiatives to manage the elephant population of the park in conjunction with Botswana and Zimbabwe, including estimates of the elephant population within the park; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

2590. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (a) The Mapungubwe Management Plan is attached as Annexure A. The last animal Survey in Mapungubwe was done in 2014, and below are the results of the mammal counts at the time:

Species	Estimate	Year of last estimate
Blue wildebeest	247	2014
Burchell's zebra	161	2014
Bushbuck	10	2014
Eland	55	2014
Elephant	344	2014
Gemsbok	25	2014
Giraffe	35	2014
Impala	426	2014
Red hartebeest	3	2014
Steenbok	15	2014
Tsessebe	1	2014
Warthog	190	2014
Waterbuck	40	2014
White rhinoceros	4	2022

- (b) Negotiations with owners of the private farms adjacent to the Mapungubwe National Park have begun with a view to incorporate the farms into the National Park. At this stage, the landowners are not interested in selling; however, they are willing to negotiate contractual park agreements. Negotiations are ongoing.
- (c) Management of elephants within the three countries focuses on implementable strategies that respect the sovereign status of the three countries.

Actions taken to manage elephants within the three countries include the following:

- Quarterly engagements with key stakeholders within the Great Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA) are held to discuss a range of management related matters, which include elephant management.

- Technical Task Teams under GMTFCA have been established to address issues of Elephant Management within the three countries.
- Mapungubwe National Park has erected a fence in areas that have poor fencing (which includes private owners) along R572 to better manage the movement of elephants.
- Elephant census will continue to better inform the population management of elephants in the region.

The results of the last elephant survey conducted in Mapungubwe in 2014 indicate that Mapungubwe has a total estimated elephant population of 344 animals. However, due to the nature of the Park, elephants roam around the Transfrontier Conservation Area and move across the borders regularly. The time series of estimates indicates that the elephant population within the Great Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area is stable.



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

DATE: 11/9/2023