



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. 3084 {NW4151E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 33 of 2023

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Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) How prevalent is snaring (a) in and (b) on the borders of the Kruger National Park;
- (2) whether snaring is concentrated in any particular areas; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether there are any discernible snaring trends, if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether snaring is increasing or decreasing overall and/or in any particular areas; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) what total number of snares were detected and/or removed in the Kruger National Park in the (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022 calendar years?

3084. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) (a) Snaring in the Kruger National Park (KNP) is limited within a few kilometres from the perimeter boundary fence.
- (b) Most snares are set along the boundaries of the KNP. However, snared animals are seen throughout the Park as they often move vast distances with snares attached to them. Various programmes have been ongoing to remove snares in high-risk areas, and these

include regular field ranger patrols, daily fence monitor patrols and specific snare removal patrols by South African National Parks (SANParks) Honorary Rangers. Snared or injured animals are reported to the SANParks emergency hotline which operates 24/7, and all reports are actioned for the attention of the Section Ranger, the Veterinary Wildlife Services Unit, or the State Veterinary.

- 2) Over the past three years, snaring has been most prevalent in the sections along the far Northern boundary of KNP, namely: Pafuri Section and the far Western boundary of KNP, namely: Pretoriuskop, Stolsnek and Skukuza Section. Eleven sections reported snares during 2020, 2021 and 2022; and all of these are sections that are situated along the boundary of the Park.
- 3) Snaring trends are linked to seasons, specifically fire and water availability. It is most prevalent during the drier months of the year when animals frequent specific water sources such as rivers and/or streams along the boundary and recently burnt areas. Snares are often set along the various paths leading to the water sources and burnt areas. Therefore, there is an increase in snaring during the drier months of the year.
- 4) Snaring has increased since 2020. No specific research has been undertaken to understand the primary drivers of snaring incidents, but we notice the increase coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic and increased poverty amongst communities adjacent to the Kruger Park.
- 5)
 - (a) In 2020, a total of 2 407 snares were removed.
 - (b) In 2021, a total of 4 454 snares were removed.
 - (c) In 2022, a total of 7 270 snares were removed.



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

DATE: 3.10.2023