



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. 3920 {NW5159E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 45 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 17 November 2023

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

- (1) Since 1 January 2023, what (a) total number of animals were caught in snares in each of the national parks managed by SANParks, (b) species of animals were ensnared and (c) number of snares were removed in each of the national parks and (d) measures are currently in place to prevent snaring;
- (2) Whether the efforts to prevent snaring have proven to be effective; if not, why not; if so, what steps have been taken to reinforce the specified measures;
- (3) (a) What community engagement processes have been undertaken in the Kruger National Park (KNP) to address snaring and (b) on what date did the specified engagements take place;
- (4) Whether any investigation will take place into the drivers of the significant increase in snaring in the KNP; if not, why not; if so, on what date is it envisaged that the plans to (a) address the snaring and (b) identify the drivers of snaring will be formalised;
- (5) Whether her department has been able to establish whether it is possible that the fence of the KNP itself is used as snare material; if not, where is the material for the snares being sourced from; if so, what are the relevant details in this regard?

3920. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) (a)(b) The number of animals and species that were caught in snares in each of the national parks managed by SANParks as listed below:

National Park	Number of animals
Camdeboo National Park	1
Zebra	1
Kruger National Park	414
Baboon	4
Black-backed Jackal	1
Buffalo	135
Bushbuck	4
Cheetah	2
Duiker	2
Eland	8
Helmeted Guineafowl	3
Hyaena	7
Impala	115
Kudu	25
Leopard	1
Lion	9
Nyala	23
Warthog	14
Waterbuck	7
Wild Dog	4
Wildebeest	2
Zebra	48
Mapungubwe National Park	18
Baboon	2
Black Wildebeest	1
Eland	1
Giraffe	1
Hyaena	4
Impala	6
Lion	2
Zebra	1
Grand Total	433

(c) The number of snares removed in each of the national parks is listed below:

National Park	Number of snares found and removed
Addo Elephant National Park	67
Augrabies Falls National Park	4
Bontebok National Park	2
Camdeboo National Park	55
Kruger National Park	7 477
Mapungubwe National Park	387
Marakele National Park	4
Tsitsikamma National Park	1
Grand Total	7 997

(d) Current initiatives include information sharing amongst rangers and law enforcement officials about snaring 'hotspot areas' as well as the *modus operandi* of perpetrators. This informs planning for patrols and inspections. Snaring mostly occurs in the vicinity of fence lines and is mostly prevalent in areas where fencing material is stolen. SANParks has recently employed 74 Environmental Monitors who will be assigned to monitor the hotspot areas around the Kruger National Park where snaring is prevalent.

(2) Snaring is still a problem, especially in Kruger National Park (KNP). Regular patrols are undertaken in areas known as snaring hotspots. Volunteer groups such as the SANParks Honorary Rangers also assist with snare removal campaigns. This includes recording and reporting fence theft, incursions and evidence of potential perpetrators. All snares found are removed, recorded and destroyed. As stated above, additional human resources will be deployed at hotspot areas to address the challenge.

(3) (a) Regular meetings with Community Forums are being held where several matters, including wildlife crime (and snaring), are discussed.

(b) The following meetings were specifically held to discuss wildlife crime:


(i) 28 August 2023 - Mutele Community near Kruger National Park.

(ii) 29 August 2023 - Dumela Community in Mozambique.

(iii) 30 August 2023 - Sengwe Community in Zimbabwe.

(iv) 26 and 27 October 2023 - Wildlife Crime including snaring was also discussed during a Traditional Leaders Forum held at Mopani camp in KNP.

- (v) Dialogue sessions on snaring will be held on 4-7 December 2023 at Bende Mulale Community (2 sessions) and Makuya Community. Similar sessions are planned early in 2024 for the Phabeni, Numbi and Matsulu communities.
- (4) (a) No investigations on drivers of snaring have been done, however SANParks intends to significantly enhance community engagement processes around the Kruger National Park to better understand the key drivers of snaring and co-develop intervention mechanisms with communities. Community engagements are planned to take place in December 2023 and January 2024.
- (b) Not applicable. SANParks intends to engage further with communities to understand the key drivers of snaring.
- (5) Some parts of the KNP fence have been used for snaring material, but this makes up a small number of snares found. The majority of snare material is thought to be stolen from lodges and building sites outside KNP or purchased from hardware stores.


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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: ...28/11/2023