



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 815 {NO5252E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 46 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 21 November 2023

Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment :

Whether she will take any steps in relation to the prohibition of the export of live lions in terms of the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act, Act 2 of 2022, both in general and specifically in relation to recent restrictions imposed on the export of CITES-listed species to the Lao People's Democratic Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

Yes, in response to a notification from the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), dated 21 November 2023, which imposes a trade ban in all CITES species for commercial purposes involving the Lao People's Democratic Republic, South Africa will not issue any permits for Laos until the compliance matters are adequately addressed by the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Furthermore, the draft Policy Position on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros (draft Policy Position) was published for public comment for a period of

30 days in Government Gazette No. 49322 of 19 September 2023 under Government Notice No. 3889. Reference to rhinoceros includes white and black rhinoceros.

One of the proposed Policy Objectives of the draft Policy Position relates to international trade in live specimens of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros. The proposed action to facilitate the implementation of this Policy Objective is that legislation be promulgated *“to prevent the introduction of live specimens of the five species into captivity, to prevent the export of specimens of the five species, except to range states or any other appropriate and acceptable destinations with suitable habitat on the African continent, for reintroduction in the wild”*.

The implementation of the Policy Position will be followed by a process to put legislative provisions in place, where required, to achieve the objectives of the Policy Position. Depending on the provisions of the final Policy Position when it is published for implementation, the export of live specimens of the five species to captive facilities, or to other destinations where the habitat is not suitable for their well-being, can be prohibited in terms of section 9A of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA). This section of NEM:BA came into effect on 30 June 2023 when the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act, 2022, was promulgated into law.



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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 26.11.2023