



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. 176 {NW184E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2024

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

Whether it is the official position of (a) her department and (b) the SA National Biodiversity Institute that a legal, well-regulated trade in rhino horn is key to solving the rhino poaching crisis; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the full, relevant details of the official position?

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

- (a) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and its public entities acknowledge that rhinoceros poaching in South Africa is a complex matter that requires an integrated, whole-of-society approach. The DFFE, therefore, previously embarked on several consultative processes towards finding a lasting solution to the rhinoceros onslaught. These include Rhinoceros Issue Management, Committee of Inquiry, High-Level Panel, White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use, and recently, the Policy Position on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Rhinoceros, Lion, Leopard and Elephant. The Committee of Inquiry made several recommendations that must be implemented before international legal trade in rhinoceros horn can be considered. These recommendations were seen by the committee as important to ensure a sustainable legal trade mechanism with limited impact on rhinoceros in the wild. The recommendations are related to the following key focus areas:

- Biological management;
- Security (law enforcement);
- Responsive legislation;
- Community empowerment; and
- Demand management.

The DFFE is in the process of developing an integrated Biodiversity Management Plan for black and white rhinoceros, drawing from lessons learned from processes convened over the years and informed by the rich tapestry of our recent policy work. The Biodiversity Management Plan is a product of a co-development process with a variety of stakeholders and will be published for public comment as soon as the intergovernmental processes have been concluded.

- (b) The South African National Biodiversity Institute fully supports the DFFE's position on this matter.



MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 28/2/2024