



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 149 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to Ms E Prins (Western Cape: ANC) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

MS LIMPHO MAKOTOKO
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 149 {CO406E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2016

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 October 2016

Ms E Prins (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

What diplomatic efforts are in place to stem the flow of products poached in the Southern African Development Community countries (details furnished)?

149. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

South Africa has a number of bilateral arrangements with fellow BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries in relation to illegal trade in wildlife products from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. In particular, South Africa has signed two bilateral agreements with the People's Republic of China that include specific cooperation arrangements relating to illegal wildlife trade. In addition, South Africa has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on Biodiversity Conservation and Protection with Vietnam as well as Cambodia to enhance cooperation with the governments of these countries on biodiversity management, conservation and protection, compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and other relevant internationally binding Conventions amongst others.

In terms of these cooperation agreements, relevant authorities exchange information and experiences on CITES enforcement, issues pertaining to permits and compliance with the Convention as well as conducting joint operations on compliance with CITES Permit conditions. The cooperation agreements also include elements aimed at increased awareness of the general public and mass media. Within the SADC region, South Africa is actively cooperating bilaterally with Mozambique to combat the scourge of poaching, particularly in the Kruger National Park, as well as illegal wildlife trade through the signing of the MoU on Biodiversity Conservation and Management in April 2014 and the implementation plan of this MoU. In addition, South Africa is cooperating with other SADC countries through the implementation of the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy 2016-2021, which has the overall objective to significantly reduce the level of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife fauna and flora

and enhance law enforcement capacity in the SADC Region by 2021. This strategy includes cooperation in law enforcement and anti-poaching initiatives, which is in line with the provisions of the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement.

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