



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1540 {NW2865E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 November 2019

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

- (1) Whether, in view of the fact that on 30 January 2009 the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas was proclaimed a World Heritage Site in terms of the World Heritage Convention Act, Act 49 of 1999, which also nominated and inscribed a buffer zone, the buffer zones have shrunk and/or extensions of the core have been made since proclamation and inscription; if so, (a) how and (b) what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether buffer zones have been proposed on the urban edge; if so,
- (3) whether this poses a risk (a) to conservation, (b) for fire and (c) for wildlife conflict;
- (4) what steps are being taken to protect (a) conservation endeavours from impacts from the urban edge and (b) the urban edge from impacts from the Park;

- (5) whether buffer zones will be conserved and not reduced in future; if so, what form of landscape will the buffer zones take that will benefit both the Park and the urban edge, especially given urban needs and climate impacts?

1540. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES REPLIES:

1. The Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site (CFRPA WHS) was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) World Heritage List in 2004 under criteria (ix) and (x). At the time of inscription in 2004, the site was made up of 8 protected areas covering a total area of 557,584 ha, and included a buffer zone of 1,315,000 ha located in the southwest corner of South Africa, centred on the Western Cape Province but also expanding into the Eastern Cape Province. Following inscription, the site was successfully proclaimed in terms of national legislation as a World Heritage Site on 30 January 2009. The site was further expanded to include additional areas of value and these areas were approved by the Unesco World Heritage Committee during its 39th session in July 2015.

The approved extension by Unesco brought the size of the World Heritage Site to 1,094,742 hectares, thus significantly increasing the size of South Africa's biodiversity areas with outstanding international recognition. The extension also increased the number of protected area clusters making up the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas WHS from 8 to 13 protected areas. The extended Cape Floral Region Protected Areas property comprises 1,094,742 ha of protected areas and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 798,514 ha. The buffer zone is made up of privately owned land, declared Mountain Catchment Areas and other protected areas, further supported by other buffering mechanisms that are together designed to facilitate functional connectivity and mitigate the effects of global climate change and other anthropogenic influences. Processes are currently underway to proclaim the extension in terms of the national legislation.

2. Buffer areas have been delineated, however there was a concern that these buffer areas may not effectively protect the core CFRPA's WHS. Although there are various tools that are currently being used in both the Western and Eastern Cape provinces to guide decision-making in environmental management and development planning in areas surrounding the core of the WHS, these tools are not aligned sufficiently. In this regard, the Department has appointed a service provider to assist in developing the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) for

the CFRPA WHS for the period of Eighteen Months which will effectively incorporate the existing plans and policies. The objectives of the EMF would be as follows:

- I. To develop an EMF in a manner that assists in planning for the core areas of the CFRPA WHS, by filling gaps in current sensitivity mapping and protected area zonation;
 - II. To develop an EMF in a manner that will assist in determining the "Zone of Influence", and, thus, potential buffer expansion areas, for each of the 13 Clusters.
 - III. Determine an effective buffer area within which land and water should be managed so as to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for any adverse effects to the core of the CFRPA WHS.
 - IV. An EMF tool aligned with the Western Cape and Eastern Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plans (buffer) and existing Protected Area Zonation schemes, to serve as a spatial screening mechanism for EIAs in the study area through the augmentation of an environmental constraints dataset which indicates the issues that should be investigated in more detail during the EIA process.
 - V. To develop an EMF aligned with the Western Cape and Eastern Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan Handbooks or similar (buffer), and existing Protected Area Management Guidelines, as a tool that provides strategic context for EIA applications in the study area through the development of management zones dataset to indicate through the decision support matrix whether an envisaged activity is compatible in a specific area/zone or not as seen from a strategic perspective.
 - VI. To develop an EMF aligned with the Western Cape and Eastern Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plans (buffer) and existing Protected Area Zonation schemes, as a tool to inform strategic spatial planning in the area through the development of management zones dataset which, in future, inform the development of a Spatial Development Framework (SDF) responsible for strategic spatial planning and guiding land use management in the area.
3. This Question is addressed under 1 and 2 above. In addition, the issue of wildfires has received significant focus through Working On Fire programme which is a government-funded programme as well as through revised and improved legislative and enforcement measures over the past decade.

4. This Question is addressed under 1 and 2 above.

5. This Question is addressed under 1 and 2 above.

Regards



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MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 29/11/2019



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1539 {NW2864E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 November 2019

Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) What measures have been put in place to protect the urban interface of Cape Town from wildfires in the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP);
- (2) What (a) is being done to manage the fynbos biome and associated fire risk inside the TMNP; (b) Are the management strategies for dealing with both fire risk given the fire dependent biome and fire risk as exacerbated by alien infestations and extreme climate events;
- (3) What is the condition of the jeep tracks that allow firefighters to access the mountain;
- (4) Whether any measures are in place to protect urban edge homes from fire; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

1539. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES REPLIES:

- (1) SANParks and the City of Cape Town with support of the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association have established and maintain a system of fire breaks. The circum-peninsula fire break network is a perimeter fire break that has been established. The fire break network is approximately 150km long on SANParks, City, State and privately-owned land. Highly trained and equipped firefighting crews that specialise in wildfire management are available. A myriad

of aerial (both rotary and fixed-wing) and ground fire-fighting resources are available if necessary including a Volunteer Wildfire Service.

2. (a) The highly diverse and unique vegetation is both fire-prone and fire-adapted, and the use of fire forms an integral part of ecological management. Prescribed burning is one of a set of necessary interventions in the management of any fire-prone and fire-adapted vegetation type. Prescribed and stack burning is executed to reduce the fuel loads and therefore the associated risk, rejuvenate the fire adapted and fire-dependant vegetation, and to form an essential part of operations aimed at eliminating the invasive alien plants.
- (b) Yes. The alien infestation in certain areas is a result of more than a century of commercial timber planting and harvesting and it may take as many years to fully rehabilitate an area. This process is labour intensive and presents a number of management challenges. To exacerbate the problem, most of the invasive alien trees and shrubs found are also fire-adapted and their ability to produce large numbers of seeds facilitates their proliferation and spread after fires.

Alien invasive plant clearing is an on-going process and will continue for many years as seeds of these plants remain viable in the soil for decades.

- 3 The Jeep tracks are in a good condition. Basic maintenance of areas and tracks are undertaken. Maintenance is an ongoing process and volunteer groups also assist. However, many fires are successfully dealt with, without using a track network.
- (4) Yes. SANParks and the City of Cape Town with support of the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association has established and maintains a system of fire breaks. Highly trained and equipped firefighting crews that specialise in wildfire management are available. A myriad of aerial (both rotary and fixed-wing) and ground fire-fighting resources are available if necessary including a Volunteer Wildfire Service.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 29/11/2019



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1537 {NW2862E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 November 2019

Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (a) What is the (i) annual income of the Table Mountain National Park and (ii) breakdown of each sector of income generated from (aa) fees for permits to access Cape Point and Boulders Beach, (bb) the Aerial Cableway Company, (cc) Wild Card cards, (dd) picnic sites and (ee) other specified forms of income and (b) what amount of the specified income is reinvested into the Table Mountain National Park?

1537. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES REPLIES:

Please find answers below:

- (a) (i) The annual income for Table Mountain National Park for the period 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 was **R 307 973 959**.
- (aa) Conservation Fees to access Cape Point and Boulders Beach and Boulders Penguin Colony was **R242 120 205**.
- (bb) Concession Fees from Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company is **R40 867 957**

(cc) My Green Card and Activity Permits income is **R 2 932 296**

(dd) Picnic Sites - **R2 935 918**

(ee) Other specified forms of income

- Tourism Income from (Accommodation, Recreational Fees etc) is **R8 681 589**
- Other Income from (Filming, Rentals, Service charges etc) is **R4 916 056**.

(b) SANParks has not made a calculation of income directly re-invested in the Table Mountain National Park. However below is a breakdown of key expenditure items for the Park:

- Cost of Operations – **R90 417 632** (excludes corporate costs)
- EPWP projects – **R14.7 million**
- Infrastructure Programme - **R17 875 068**

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 29/11/2019



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1541 {NW2866E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 November 2019

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

- (1) Whether the Table Mountain National Park is managed differently as an urban national park, compared with rural national parks; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether SA National Parks has any specific protocols and/or legislation, capacity, skills and resources to manage urban national parks differently from rural national parks; if so, (a) how and (b) what are the relevant details?

1541. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES REPLIES:

- (1) No. The Table Mountain National Park is managed like all other National Parks. SANParks' primary function in terms of National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEM: PAA) 57 of 2003 is to manage, conserve, protect and control all national parks and any other protected areas assigned to it by the Minister, and Table Mountain National Park is managed accordingly.

(2) SANParks does not have separate protocols for management of urban Parks. In line with the provisions of NEMPAA, a Park Management Plan is developed for each national park and the Table Mountain National Park is no exception. The current approved TMNP plan was prepared with extensive stakeholder and public engagement. As with all other national parks, this intensive plan preparation process identified and recognised the context of the Park. Lastly, SANParks has all the skills and capacity to manage any form of a National Park.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 29/11/2015



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 335 {CW527E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29 of 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 November 2019

Mr A B Cloete (Free State: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether her department has received any requests for funding from the Lejweleputswa District Municipality for the purchase of land where Sol Plaatjie was born in order to declare it a heritage site; if so, how much was requested;
- (2) whether her department will fund the purchasing of such a site; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

- (1) No, the department did not receive any requests for funding from the Lejweleputswa District Municipality for the purchase of land where Sol Plaatjie was born in order to declare it a heritage site

- (2) The questions posed do not fall within the core business and the mandate of the Department. These questions should be directed to the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and its relevant entities within the Province.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 29/11/2019



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1578 {NW2904E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 November 2019

Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 458 on 5 September 2019 and particularly with reference to paragraphs 3 and 4, there is any scientific evidence to restrict line-fishing in the demarcated areas, as there is a widely held belief that the restrictions pertain more to complaints from residents in the Clansthal area rather than on any scientific basis; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the further relevant details;
- (2) what are these (a) vulnerable and over-exploited species of line fish and (b) subtidal and intertidal resources referred to in her reply?

1578. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES REPLIES:

The final MPA design considered both the scientific evidence for the size and location of the no-take zone needed for effective conservation and balanced the size requirements for this no-take zone as much as possible to allow for continued access by fishers in adjacent areas. The positioning of the Clanshall Conservancy, although we were aware of it, was not a consideration. The following considerations were taken;

- (1) The expanded Aliwal Shoal MPA emerged from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's systematic conservation plan (Harris et al. 2012) and was supported by analyses undertaken for the 2011

National Biodiversity Assessment (Sink et al. 2012). As such this work emerged from systematic analyses rather than complaints from Clansthal residents. A key element of design were rocky shore and sandy beach ecosystem types that were not well represented in South Africa's Marine Protected Area network. There is a body of research that reports on the impact of shore angling. The Phakisa MPA technical team provided technical advice to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries that includes information on linefishing and the effect of shore angling on resource abundance. Some of the key references are provided below for your information

- (2) Over-exploited linefish and those vulnerable to over-exploitation through shore based linefishing include the Dusky Kob *Argyrosomus japonicus*, Bronze bream *Pachymetopon grande*, Zebra *Diplodus hottentotus*, Yellowbelly rockcod *Epinephelus marginatus* and catface rockcod *E. andersoni* (Mann 2013, Winker et al. 2015). Intertidal resources that require protection include the brown mussel *Perna perna* and various mollusc and worm bait species. Priority subtidal resources that require protection include the East Coast Rock Lobster *Palinurus homarus*, redbait *Pyura stolonifera* and oysters *Striostrea margaritacea*. Note that recent work by Mann et al. (2015, 2016) has shown the importance of having a network of fully protected no-take MPA zones to ensure connectivity between more resident reef fish species. They showed that no-take zones of a minimum size of at least 3-6 km (linear distance along the coast) of suitable surf-zone reef habitat needed to be replicated every 15-20 km to ensure connectivity between protected surf-zone fish populations (Mann et al. 2016). This was based on movement patterns of the dominant species found in the area as well as other research reporting on estimated egg and larval dispersal distances (Green et al. 2015).

Key references

Harris JM, Livingstone T, Lombard AT, Lagabrielle E, Haupt P, Sink K, Mann B, Schleyer M. 2012. Marine Systematic Conservation Assessment and Plan for KwaZulu-Natal – Spatial priorities for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in KwaZulu-Natal. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

Green AL, Maypa A, Almany G, Rhodes K, Weeks R, Abesamis R, Gleason M, Mumby PJ, White A. 2015. Larval dispersal and movement patterns of coral reef fishes, and implications for marine reserve network design. *Biological Reviews*. 90(4), 1215-1247.

Mann BQ. (ed). 2013. Southern African Marine Linefish Species Profiles. Special Publication No. 9, Oceanographic Research Institute, Durban: 343pp.

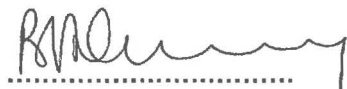
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Mann BQ, Cowley PD, Kyle R. 2016. Estimating the optimum size for inshore no-take areas based on movement patterns of surf-zone fishes and recommendations for rezoning of a World Heritage Site in South Africa. Ocean & Coastal Management. 125: 8-19.

Sink KJ, Holness S, Harris L, Majiedt PA, Atkinson L, Robinson T, Kirkman S, Hutchings L, Leslie R, Lamberth S, Kerwath S, von der Heyden S, Lombard AT, Attwood C, Branch G, Fairweather T, Taljaard S, Weerts S, Cowley P, Awad A, Halpern B, Grantham H, Wolf T. 2012a. National Biodiversity Assessment 2011: Technical Report. Volume 4: Marine and Coastal Component. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

Winker H, Attwood CG, Kerwath SE. 2015. Assessment of stock abundance of inshore fish resources included in the "basket of species" to be allocated under the small-scale fisheries policy. Linefish Scientific Working Group (LSWG), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cape Town, South Africa.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 29/11/2019