



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. 1713 {NW1922E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16 of 2021

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Mrs C Phillips (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What are the relevant details of the criteria used in identifying suitable beneficiaries to receive animals from SA National Parks (SANParks).
- (2) (a) how did a certain person (name furnished) qualify to receive 100 animals from SANParks when he is clearly a wealthy individual with an established business with an alleged turnover of R41 million in 2014 already, (b) on what basis did SANParks decide to loan or donate 100 animals to the specified person and (c)(i) which animals of each species and (ii) what number of each specified animal were donated to the person;
- (3) whether the 100 animals were loaned to the specified person; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) how and (b) after what period will SANParks ensure that the animals are returned and not hunted?

1713. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) South African National Parks (SANParks) uses the following criteria for the identification of suitable candidates for wildlife loans:
 - **Step 1.** SANParks publishes an Expression of Interest in two major newspapers i.e. Rapport and Sunday Times to (1) explain the SANParks Wildlife Economy Programme

and (2) to call upon previously disadvantaged individuals to apply for a wildlife donation or a loan.

- **Step 2.** After having received all wildlife donation/loan applications or requests within the due date as published in the Expression of Interest, a compliance screening for mandatory requirements is performed on all applications received.
- **Step 3.** SANParks Wildlife Economy Steering Committee, which consists of different employees with various expertise, performs a technical review of all applications that meet the mandatory requirements against a set of criteria for all wildlife donations and loans. The Committee refers the eligible applications for a feasibility assessment.
- **Step 4.** A site visit inspection for the feasibility assessment is conducted by a SANParks specialist team comprising of the following fields; operations, security, science, veterinary, socio-economic transformation and organisational governance. The feasibility assessment includes compliance against the property detail, wildlife distribution, habitat suitability, wildlife management history, legal history, security management, governance structure and business forecasting.
- **Step 5.** The SANParks Wildlife Economy Steering Committee considers the feasibility assessment from the site visit inspection reports submitted by the SANParks specialist teams and recommends the successful applications for official approval.
- **Step 6.** The Wildlife Steering Committee submits a report with recommendations to SANParks EXCO who then considers the report and recommends successful applications to the Board for approval. Upon Board approval of applications, successful applicants of wildlife donations and loans are informed of the outcome and sign a custodianship agreement with SANParks.
- **Step 7.** The capture and delivery of the wildlife to the approved applicants is planned and executed accordingly.

All applications are subject to a background check if applicants (1) are legitimate people with a legitimate registered company/business, and (2) provide the credentials claimed in his or her application, and (3) if the Company/business has the company directorship as claimed in his or her application. The method being followed includes the (a) Southern African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII), (b) Master's Integrated Case Management System (ICMS), (c) Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, and (d) Xpert Decision Systems Consumer Trace.

- 2) (a) SANParks received an application for a wildlife loan from the said applicant on 30 April 2019. The application was screened and met the mandatory information requirements. The SANParks Wildlife Economy Steering Committee performed a technical review of the application against the set of criteria for all wildlife donations and loans and referred the application for a feasibility assessment. Individuals of the SANParks specialist team for the North west Province visited the property in Koedoesberg for a site inspection on 02 December 2019. In summary, the compliance assessment against the set criteria for all wildlife donations and loans showed the following functionality results:

Functionality/Feasibility Score Summary*		
Criteria	Weighting	Score
Property	15	5
Wildlife distribution	15	5
Habitat	15	5
Wildlife management history	10	5
Legal history	10	5
Security management	10	5
Governance	10	5
Business forecasting	15	5
Total Functionality		100%
0 – not compliant, 3 – somewhat compliant, 5 – fully compliant		

*This table represents the functionality/feasibility by the application by scoring each criteria set for the wildlife donation/loan against the level of compliance given the specific weighting of each criteria.

SANParks Wildlife Economy Steering Committee considered the outcome of the feasibility assessment from the site visit inspection report submitted by the SANParks specialist team on 04 June 2020 and recommended the application for official approval. There are five different independent institutional platforms which deal with the applications; (i) SANParks Specialist Teams, (ii) SANParks Wildlife Economy Steering Committee, (iii) SANParks EXCO, (iv) Conservation and Socio-Economic Transformation sub-Committee of the Board, and (v) SANParks Board. In July 2020, EXCO considered and deliberated the financial implications of the application (amongst the other applications) as recommended by the SANParks Wildlife Economy Steering Committee and recommended the application to the Board for approval. In September 2020, the Board considered and approved all the applications as recommended by EXCO. The applicant in question was duly informed of the outcome of his successful

application for a wildlife loan on 12 October 2020, whereafter SANParks signed a wildlife loan Agreement with him on 19 November 2020. The agreement records the terms and conditions upon which the applicant accepts and keeps in custodianship the wildlife in question on loan.

(b) As detailed above, the applicant met all the relevant criteria to qualify for a Wildlife Loan.

(c) (i)(ii) The following species and numbers were approved on loan for the applicant; 30 Red hartebeest, 20 Plains zebra, 33 Springbok, 20 Eland, 30 Gemsbok, 6 Giraffe, 30 Impala and 10 Buffalo.

3) The applicant in question received a wildlife loan from SANParks and accordingly SANParks signed a Wildlife Loan Agreement with him on 19 November 2020.

(a) The Wildlife Loan Agreement records the terms and conditions upon which the applicant accepts and keeps in custodianship the wildlife in question on loan. The Parties acknowledge that custodianship of the wildlife on loan is granted for the purpose of supplying the game farmer with founder herds of game to increase the game farmer's participation in the wildlife industry in order to play a meaningful role in the wildlife economy.

(b) SANParks signed a custodianship agreement with the said game farmer and the agreement shall continue for a period of three years after the wildlife has been translocated to the property. In terms of the agreement, the emerging game farmer is not allowed to make any decision regarding the loaned animals without SANParks' consent, this includes hunting.

Regards



**MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 18/6/2021