



**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. 1895 {NW2231E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 May 2022

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

(1) Whether, in light of the fact that resource gradients through the closure of certain waterholes form an integral component of the Kruger National Park's (KNP) management plan to protect and preserve biodiversity, and considering that the KNP shares open borders with the Associated Private Nature Reserves to create the Greater KNP, the management of resource gradients is included in any contractual agreement between the KNP and the neighbouring private reserves; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether there is a committee and/or any structure composed of the SA National Parks and its neighbouring protected areas within the Greater KNP where the management of resource gradients through the closure of waterholes are discussed; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the further, relevant details?

1895. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

(1) Yes. While the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) Cooperative Agreement, which SANParks and the associated private nature reserves are signatory to, does not necessarily refer to "resource gradients", it stipulates the following:

- The Parties agree to manage ecosystems, including species, habitats, water resources, catchment systems, abiotic systems, disease, alien species, damage-causing animals, fire

management, waste management, energy management and development, green standards and natural resources, within the areas under their management, in accordance with their approved management plans.

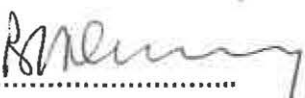
- Sections 7 and 12 of the GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement provides for the development of JMC instruments (best practice guidelines and protocols) for protected area management, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperative programmes, including METT assessments (management effectiveness tracking tools for protected areas), which speak to broader integrated water and land use management.

SANParks is, therefore, satisfied that the management of resource gradients is adequately addressed in the GLTFCA and the APNR management plans.

The Kruger National Park (KNP) and all the adjacent sections of land incorporated as part of the GLTFCA operate at different scales and on smaller properties, it is not possible to create resource gradients at the same scale or extent as within the KNP. The water resource gradients of the APNR, other private community and State-managed reserves open to the KNP are aligned with their specific management objectives, including water provisioning enhancing photographic safaris, game viewing in close proximity of lodges, and water provisioning for lodge operations, as provided for in the GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement.

- (2) Yes, there are various committees and structures where the management of resource gradients through closure of waterholes are discussed, as follows:
- The GLTFCA Joint Management Board (JMB) with Zimbabwe and Mozambique;
 - The GLTFA Joint Management Committee (JMC) (reserves of the western boundary of the KNP, South Africa);
 - The GLFCA Joint Operational Committees (JOCs); and
 - Conservation committees between KNP and APNR.

Regards



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

DATE: ...27.../5.../2022