



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 189 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Mr M P Mapulane (ANC) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 189 {NO2006E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 24 of 2016

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 30 August 2016

Mr M P Mapulane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What is the country's state of readiness to host the 17th Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to be held from 24 September to 5 October 2016;
- (2) do we have a common Africa position with other countries affected by rhino poaching; if not, what are the substantive issues underpinning the different perspectives; if so, what is the position in this regard? NO2006E

189. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

(1) The South African government has made the necessary arrangements to ensure the successful hosting of the 17th CoP to CITES and to effectively participate in the CoP.

A Local Organising Committee (LOC) was established in 2015 to oversee all logistical arrangements relating to the hosting of the CoP. The following government departments and entities are represented on the LOC:

- i. National Prosecuting Authority
- ii. Department of International Relations and Cooperation
- iii. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- iv. Department of Trade and Industry
- v. South African Police Service
- vi. South African Revenue Service
- vii. State Security Agency
- viii. Department of Home Affairs
- ix. Department of Health
- x. South Africa Tourism
- xi. Airports Company South Africa (ACSA)
- xii. Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)

An Inter-Departmental Substance Committee (IDSC) was also established in 2015 to ensure thorough and participative preparations are done for the 17th CoP to CITES. The IDSC facilitated inter-departmental consultation and policy discussions relating to the matters to be considered at the 17th CoP to CITES; and considered stakeholder comments submitted on the proposed proposals and documents to be discussed. Two stakeholder engagements took place and six IDSC meetings have taken place.

(2) The 17th CoP to CITES will discuss a number of documents that relates to proposed actions to be taken to address illegal trade in wildlife. The only rhinoceros specific documents to be discussed are:

- a) CoP17 Doc. 68 Species specific matters – Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)
- b) CoP17 Prop.7 Proposal by Swaziland to alter the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Swaziland's white rhino, adopted at the 13th Conference of Parties in 2004, so as to permit a limited and regulated trade in white rhino horn which has been collected in the

past from natural deaths, or recovered from poached Swazi rhino, as well as horn to be harvested in a non-lethal way from a limited number of white rhino in the future in Swaziland

Although an Africa Preparatory meeting took place from 8 – 12 August 2016 to discuss key issues to be deliberated on at the 17th CoP to CITES (including African lion, pangolins, African grey parrots and timber issues); rhino related documents were not discussed at the meeting. South Africa did however coordinate a process to develop an “African rhino range States’ African Rhino Conservation Plan”. The plan includes the following key components range States regard as essential in addressing rhino poaching and ensuring the conservation of rhino across its range:

- Protection, law enforcement, investigations, prosecutions & intelligence;
- Biological management guided by effective monitoring, including range expansion;
- Capacity;
- Coordination;
- Adequate sustainable finance;
- Support – Political;
- Support – Local communities and livelihoods;
- Support through public communication and actions

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