



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref:02/1/5/2

**MINISTER**

**QUESTION NO. 233 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

A draft reply to **Mr O J Sefako (North West: ANC)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**DR B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**(For oral reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 233 {CO354E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.29 of 2017**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 10 October 2017**

**Mr O J Sefako (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

- (a) What are the details of the areas that are being considered for the expansion of the marine and terrestrial areas under protection as parks and protected areas and (b) what progress has been made towards meeting the targets of the National Development Plan? CO354E

**233. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

- (a) In 2009 the first iteration of the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) was approved for implementation. This strategy identified the potential areas to be included into the protected area estate.

Although marine areas were identified in NPAES, Operation Phakisa in 2014 followed a detailed process to identify marine areas to be included in the protected areas system. The NPAES recognises that we need to try to protect a sample of all biomes and ecosystems that occur in South Africa. Particular attention is given to those ecosystems and biomes that have not been well protected in our protected area estate in the past. These include, the Grassland, Nama-Karoo and Albany Thicket, Azonal Vegetation and Indian Ocean Coastal Belt. Savanna as well as inshore and offshore marine ecosystems rivers, wetlands and estuaries. Focus areas for expansion are included in the attached maps (terrestrial and marine) (we are circulating with this response, a terrestrial and marine areas).

- (b) According to Chapter 5 of the National Development Plan – Ensuring Environmental sustainability and an equitable transition to a low-carbon economy, the Department of Environmental Affairs and South African National Biodiversity Institute should implement the protected areas expansion strategy and promote the biodiversity stewardship programme to build conservation partnerships around privately-owned land. The terrestrial protected area estate has been expanded from 6.5% in 2009 to 8.4% (10 243 556 ha) and the marine component to 18 616 180 ha. Currently we have a 12.6 total percentage of land under conservation. Privately owned protected areas currently constitute 36% of the terrestrial protected areas and 4% is community owned.

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