



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 1353 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to **Mr T Z Hadebe (DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS JUDY BEAUMONT
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1353 {NW1454E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.14 of 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 04 May 2018

Mr T Z Hadebe (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

- (1) With regard to the discovery of a human strain of tuberculosis (TB) in elephants in the Kruger National Park in 2016, what is the total number of elephants that were (a) diagnosed with human tuberculosis and (b) discovered to have been infected with bovine tuberculosis in the Kruger National Park;
- (2) whether any other species have been found to have been infected by either of these strains of tuberculosis in the Kruger National Park; if so, what other species are affected by either or both strains of TB in the park;
- (3) whether any other parks are affected; if so, what is the name of each affected park;
- (4) what steps is her department taking to deal with diseased elephant?

NW1454E

1353. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

1.
 - (a) In 2016, human tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) was diagnosed in a single bull elephant that had died of the disease north of Tshokwane, Kruger National Park (KNP).
 - (b) None - no further cases of the disease have been confirmed.

2. No other species in KNP have been found to be infected with human tuberculosis. All other cases of tuberculosis in KNP wildlife species have been caused by bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*). *M. bovis* has been confirmed in multiple species including *inter alia* African buffalo, lion, leopard, kudu, warthog, banded mongoose and baboons.

3. Currently human and bovine tuberculosis have not been diagnosed in any other national park.

4. South African National Parks (SANParks) is considering implementing targeted testing of elephants in KNP for human tuberculosis to determine if the diseased elephant of 2016 was an isolated case or other elephants have been infected and subsequently developed tuberculosis. SANParks, in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch, is developing appropriate diagnostic tests for TB in elephants in order to implement the targeted testing.

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