



**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. 2168 {NW2574E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22 of 2022

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Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(1) Given that the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) falls under the jurisdiction of the SA National Parks (SANParks) and is home to many wild animals, which can lead to conflict between humans and animals, what steps has SANParks taken to manage dangerous animal species within the boundaries of the TMNP;

(2) Whether SANParks has a Standard Operating Procedure and/or policy on fence line maintenance, including fire breaks; if not, why not, in each case; if so, does SANParks install fencing infrastructure in strategic areas where there is a potential conflict between humans and animals?

2168. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

1) Baboons are the main source of human wildlife conflict around the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP). In order to address the challenges, South African National Parks (SANParks) has implemented the following interventions:


- The appointment of baboon monitors at Cape Point. This has been a very effective means of reducing human wildlife conflict.
- Supporting neighboring communities with the construction of electric fences to prevent baboon movement into residential areas.
- The placement of baboon-proof waste bins at picnic sites and park visitor centers.

- Warning signage in visitor centers (discouraging the public from feeding baboons) and educational information brochures at Cape Point.

SANParks recently hosted a round table discussion with key stakeholders to further enhance management interventions and to find new solutions to address baboon management around the TMNP.

- 2) SANParks manages all national parks, including the TMNP in line with the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) (NEMPA); other relevant legislation, such as the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998) (NVFFA); as well as other policies and park management plans. Vast areas of the Peninsula mountain range have always been unfenced, non-gated and open access areas to users and visitors. This long-accepted arrangement continues in the park. SANParks has installed baboon deterrent measures in strategic areas such as electric fences at specific recreational, tourism and administrative sites (for example, braai sites, offices, visitors' accommodation). A Fire Management Plan is in place, which addresses the maintenance of the circum-peninsula firebreak by the park and City of Cape Town with the support of the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association.

Regards



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MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 13/6/2022