



**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. 1308 {NW1568E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13 of 2022

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

- (1) What is meant by reactive short- to medium-term culling in the current Kruger National Park Elephant Management Plan;
- (2) whether such culling and/or lethal management was implemented during the currency of the Ministerial Plan for Reactive Short- to Medium-term Culling; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, will she furnish Mrs C Phillips with a copy of the specified Ministerial plan;
- (3) whether culling and/or lethal management in terms of the Ministerial plan is planned for the future; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

1308. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:


- (1) The Kruger National Park Elephant Management Plan (2013-2022) presented various management interventions that could be considered to reduce the size of an elephant population and included contraception, range manipulation, translocation, and culling. Importantly, it also presented interventions that could be used to change elephants' spatial use of habitat. The latter is important as a large body of research shows that large tree loss, for instance, is related to how intensely elephants use landscapes and not directly to the number of elephants. Certain areas of the park referred to as elephant impact areas, experience large

numbers of elephants that are also using the areas very intensely. In such cases, reactive short- to medium-term culling (as prescribed in the Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephants) may need to be considered. However, to implement this option, an approved elephant culling plan is required. The Kruger National Park does not have an approved elephant culling plan and, as such, it has not implemented that particular management action of the plan.

- (2) As stated in the response to Question (1), the elephant culling aspect of the Elephant Management Plan has not been implemented.
- (3) The Kruger National Park Elephant Management Plan will be reviewed in the second quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year. The review will be informed by the large body of evidence regarding elephant management, the extensive stakeholder engagement that took place in developing the 2018 Kruger National Park Management Plan, as well as the various policy processes taking place currently around elephant management, including the National Elephant Management Strategy, the Review of the Norms and Standards for Elephant Management, and the GLTFCA Elephant Management Framework.

There is no plan to cull elephants in the future.

Regards



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

DATE: 13/4/2022