



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 355 (NW361E)

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2021

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

- (1) Whether she and/or her department are considering differentiating legislation and/or regulations in respect of rural national parks and urban national parks; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether SANParks has any specific (a) protocols and/or legislation, (b) capacity, (c) skills and (d) resources to manage urban national parks differently from rural national parks; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the further relevant details in each case?

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

- (1) No, a national park is one of the types of protected areas as described in section 9 of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act no 57 of 2003) (NEMPA). There is no consideration to differentiate between different types of national parks, as section 20 of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act no 57 of 2003), clearly distinguishes between different kinds of protected areas, of which national parks is one of them.

(2)

- a. South African National Parks (SANParks) implements the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act no 57 of 2003), and associated Regulations. As per the requirements of this Act, SANParks compiles a Management Plan for each park, which is revised at regular intervals. As part of the Management Plan process, individual parks develop a set of internal park rules which are specific to the protected area. The purpose of these rules is to provide an enabling legal framework to support the management of a protected area. This is applicable to all parks including rural, urban and peri-urban parks.
- b. & c. Each protected area has its own particular requirements, which are catered for by the specific area's management. The management of protected areas varies across the land-/seascapes in terms of capacity and skills required. This is not only the case for urban parks, as each protected area has a unique set of drivers. These would also include aspects of the physical, social and ecological land-/seascape.
- d. SANParks has the necessary resources to manage national parks, including those that are located near urban spaces. All protected areas are unique. Physical, social and ecological land-/seascapes factors determine the resources and other requirements needed to manage a national park. All Management Plans have a costing component indicating the area-specific resource requirements. The resources allocated to urban parks and rural parks therefore depend on the circumstances of each protected area. To assess the performance of each national park, there are assessment tools that SANParks uses which are internationally recognised best - practice methods to assess the Management Effectiveness of National Parks. The Park Planning Division at SANParks is responsible for the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessments, which are conducted every second year. Most of our National Parks consistently achieve an average METT score of 71% which indicates that our Parks are

effectively managed. Where there are gaps identified in terms of Management effectiveness, corrective action is implemented and reported.

Regards



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

DATE: 4/3/2021