



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 390 {NW396E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2021

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 19 February 2021

Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether, with reference to SA National Biological Institute's statement in their presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on the 26 January 2021, that they plan the stocking of animals and a marketing campaign which will be implemented to improve current infrastructure and to further market National Zoological Gardens, she will advise (a) which animals are planned to be acquired and (b) at what cost;
- (2) whether there has been no scientific, conservation and/or educational justification to date for doing so; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

- (1) The stocking of animals at South African National Biodiversity Institute's National Zoological Garden is implemented using its annual Animal Collection Plan which outlines the current animal collection species, numbers at its disposal, surplus species and species identified as required or wanted in the collection. This plan is primarily derived from the current species and the type of facilities i.e. enclosures that already exist at the National Zoological Gardens. The annual collection plan is a working document and constantly changes throughout the year,

depending on current circumstances and available animals within the desired species etc. It is important to also note that some of the dynamics that affect the plan are as a result of donations or confiscations received and also permit requirements amongst other.

The National Zoological Garden is currently working on the planned imports of some international species including capybara, a number of marine fish and red pandas in 2021. Most of our animals are received as donations, a loan or as part of trade agreements (mostly within the Zoo fraternity world-wide). It is extremely difficult if not impossible to quantify the cost of implementing the animal collection plan. For animal purchases, price depends on sex, age, breeding status, genetic makeup and the availability of the animals.

The table below provides a summary of the current species requirements as at the current financial year on a species level based on the existing animal collection plan.

No. of specimens	Current Status	Surplus	Wanted (Required)	Desired status (Full complement)
Invertebrates	247	0	0	0
Amphibians	39	25	37	51
Fish	1,682	136	761	2,307
Reptiles	351	167	45	229
Birds	1,140	174	319	1,285
Mammals	417	109	146	454
TOTAL	3,876	611	1,308	4,326

- (2) A number of scientific publications have pointed out the value of zoos and the animals in their collections. Some of these benefits include
- Catalysing the public's interest in environmental problems and conservation.
 - The important role zoos play in conservation education and animal care.
 - The opportunity for citizens to accessibly and affordably experience seeing animals that they would be unable to see in the wild

- Zoological garden facilities contribute to the development of knowledge of endangered species, as well as their veterinary care and preservation

Regards



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

DATE: 4/3/2021