



environmental affairs

**Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 836 {NW1043E}
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2020**

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 May 2020

Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What (a) is the rhino poaching statistics throughout the Republic for (i) January 2020, (ii) February 2020, (iii) March 2020 and (iv) April 2020, (b) anti-poaching initiatives to protect rhinos does her department currently have in place at each national park and (c) has been the annual budget for such anti-poaching initiatives in each of the past 10 financial years;**
- (2) what (a) anti-poaching initiatives to protect elephants does her department currently have in place at each national park and (b) has been the annual budget for such anti-poaching initiatives in each of the past 10 financial years?**

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

1. (a) The national rhino poaching statistics for 2020 are as follows:

(i) January	46
(ii) February	28
(iii) March	46
(iv) April	14

Total: 134

(b) Anti-poaching initiatives to protect rhinos in national parks include the following:

- Ongoing full spectrum of integrated anti-poaching operations throughout the Kruger National Park;
- Collaboration with law enforcement (NATJOINTS and PROVJOINTS), and legal entities (NPA) across park, regional, national and international jurisdictions;
- Alliance partnerships with neighbouring communities, State and private entities bordering the parks;
- Access and movement control mechanisms & technologies being implemented at entrance gates to the parks;
- Canine (K9) deployment and tactics development for anti-poaching and safety and security related operations in the park;
- Rapid air reaction (helicopters & fix-wing) capability to support ongoing emergency, anti-poaching and other safety & security operations;
- Deployment of hi-tech detection technology in the field to support ongoing anti-poaching and safety & security related operations.

(c) Annual budget for anti-poaching initiatives for the past 10 years:

- 2010 - R 73,923,541.00
- 2011 - R 85,531,155.00
- 2012 - R 85,822,032.00
- 2013 - R 93,541,889.00
- 2014 - R 111,088,591.00
- 2015 - R 146,213,993.00
- 2016 - R 121,072,072.00

- 2017 - R 156,390,816.00
- 2018 - R 191,060,868.00
- 2019 - R 183,682,853.00
- 2020 - R 207,029,640.00

(2)(a) The South African National Parks (SANParks) does not have a problem with poaching of elephants in any national park except the Kruger National Park. SANParks launched Project Ivory in the northern part of the Kruger National Park in January 2019 to ensure technical and ranger support for operations in the area. Most of the elephant poaching in the Kruger National Park occurs in the northern parts of the Park. SANParks works closely with partners in the GLTFCA (Greater Limpopo Trans-Frontier Conservation) Area in this regard, and has built up its reaction capability, including tracker dogs, the first-ever horse unit and air support.

(b) The annual budget for anti-poaching initiatives for rhino and other species includes the anti-poaching initiatives for elephants as well. Operation Ivory in 2019 involved the sharing and leveraging off of partner resources within the GLTFCA, but no additional budget to the amounts mentioned in the response to 1(c) above.

Regards


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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 29/8/2020