



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: O2/1/5/2

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 1404 { NW1439E }

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2023

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

Considering the fact that the Republic is ranked the 40th driest country in the world due to the arid to semi-arid climate and below-average annual rainfall of 465mm compared to the global annual average of 860mm (details furnished), what plans has her department put in place to (a) collaborate with other relevant departments to aid water conservation and (b) further protect our strategic water resource areas through the implementation of water stewardship programmes that will mitigate the ongoing major water losses in the Republic?

#### **1404. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

(a)(b)

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is the competent authority for water management in the country, and the role of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is to support them to develop their own response plans and programmes.

DFFE supported the DWS to develop the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Framework for nine water management areas. This tool enables practitioners and managers of water management areas to do the assessment of the vulnerability of water to climate change and provide the appropriate responses.

DFFE also supported the development of the National Water Master plan to ensure that it includes climate change response measures, and further supported the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform to train community members on sustainable water harvesting methods. Furthermore, DFFE supported the DWS to develop Practitioner Handbooks for Understanding Current and Future Climate Related Risk and Vulnerability Assessments for the nine priority water management areas, and this work was officially published in 2021.



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

**DATE:** 18/05/2023