



**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. 1498 {NW1737E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 05 May 2023

Ms T Breedt (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether, with respect to the newly implemented online permitting system for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, she will furnish Ms T Breedt with the details of the specifications of the system, including what controls have been built into the online permitting system to avoid unauthorised trades; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) to whom will the information contained in the permitting system be made available;
- (3) whether the information will be freely available to interested parties and the general public; if not, (a) why not and (b) how will interested parties and the general public be able to access information on the database; if so, what are the relevant details?

1498. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) The online permitting system for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was developed based on the applicable Regulation. Its purpose is to digitise, simplify and expedite permit application processes. Permits can only be issued to qualifying applicants upon taking into consideration that digital applications will still be

processed through the existing processes managed by issuing authorities and that a permit can only be processed if all the regulatory requirements have been met.

2) The information is available to CITES management authorities.

3) (a)(b)

The permitting system was designed to process applications electronically and to ensure that information is captured electronically. The provincial management authorities remain the issuing authorities for CITES permits in their respective provinces and they remain responsible for the provision of information on the permits issued in their provinces. Interested parties can gain access to the information through requests to provinces, including, where relevant, the legal provisions stipulated in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000), taking into consideration that permit information contains third party information.



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

DATE: 18/05/2023