



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 123 {CW198E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10 of 2021

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Mr A Arnolds (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether any SA National Parks staff members have been involved in the poaching of rhino for their horns; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

Yes, SANParks staff members have been involved in Rhino Poaching since 2009. 40 staff members who were found guilty of being involved in rhino poaching have been dismissed.

In dealing with rhino poaching related offences SANParks runs a parallel process alongside the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). Firstly, employees are charged in line with the SANParks Disciplinary Policy and procedures. In terms of the SANParks Disciplinary Policy and procedures, poaching/unauthorised hunting and killing of animals fall under Category 1 offenses, and employees found guilty of such are dismissed after the first offence. This internal disciplinary process was followed in respect of the 40 employees mentioned. Secondly, employees who are guilty of rhino poaching are also criminally charged by the NPA and the South African Police Service.

Criminal charges for poaching of rhinos were laid against all 40 employees. So far, one employee has been convicted with a sentence of four year's imprisonment or a R20, 000 fine. Two years of the four year sentence are suspended for five years. All other cases are still pending

Regards



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

DATE: 26/3/2021