



## 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. 1602 {NW1808E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2021

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#### **Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Whether any comprehensive audits of captive lion breeding facilities were conducted in the (a) 2019-20 and (b) 2020-21 financial years; if not, (i) why not and (ii) on what date will the next audit be conducted; if so, what (aa) are the relevant details of such audits, including the total number of facilities that were inspected and (bb) were the results of such audits including permit violations and/or any illegal activities?

#### **1602. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- a) Officials from the provincial conservation authorities who have been appointed as Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), are responsible for monitoring compliance with the provisions of NEMBA, as well as conditions of permits issued in terms of NEMBA and its associated regulations and provincial legislation/ordinances.

In the 2019/20 financial year, DFFE coordinated joint compliance inspections for 31 facilities in Gauteng, Western Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. These compliance inspections were conducted jointly by Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) from both DFFE and provincial conservation authorities.

(b) (i) As stated above, DFFE ensured that all provincial joint compliance inspections for lion breeding facilities were coordinated and concluded in 2020. In 2020/21, DFFE did not coordinate lion breeding joint compliance inspections.

(ii) (aa) In terms of section 87A of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA), the Members of the Executive Council (MECs) of the provinces, who are responsible for the conservation of biodiversity, are the issuing authorities for permits in respect of listed threatened or protected species, which, in this case, includes the registration of captive breeding facilities.

Lions are currently listed as vulnerable species in terms of Section 56(1) of NEMBA; meaning that they are facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future. The international trade in lion specimens is also regulated through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Regulations, 2010, which have also been promulgated in terms of NEMBA. Lions are included in Appendix II of CITES, and the importation of lion into the Republic, or the exportation or re-exportation thereof from the Republic, requires a CITES permit, whether the specimen is alive or dead.

As already indicated, officials from the provincial conservation authorities who have been appointed as Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), are responsible for monitoring compliance with the provisions of NEMBA, as well as conditions of permits issued in terms of NEMBA and its associated regulations and provincial legislation/ordinances.

For the 2020/21 financial year, this question should be posed to provincial authorities via the relevant members in the respective provincial legislatures.

(bb) In terms of the captive lion breeding facilities, where joint compliance inspections were conducted in the 2019/20 financial year, the Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) found that some facilities violated the permit conditions as follows:

Non-compliance	Actions taken
A facility was operating with the permit from the previous owner, while the ownership of the facility had changed.	There is a civil court case between the facility and Provincial conservation authority.
Two facilities were operating with expired permits.	Renewal applications were lodged with the province.
Three facilities were operating without the required permits.	Provincial EMIs were to make follow-up with the provincial permit office on the status quo of the necessary permit applications.

Officials from the provincial conservation authorities have been appointed as Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), and are responsible for monitoring compliance with the provisions of NEMBA, as well as conditions of permits issued in terms of NEMBA and its associated regulations and provincial legislation/ordinances. Therefore, the EMIs at provincial conservation authorities are responsible to undertake Enforcement actions for permit violation and or any illegal activities undertaken in the facility.

**Regards**



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

DATE: 11/6/2021