



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1693 {NW2083E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 28 of 2020

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1693. Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(1) How has the National Elephant Research Strategy been integrated or taken into account by the High-Level Panel (HLP) (details furnished);

(2) whether she has found that, despite the considerable work that has been done in the preparation of the National Elephant Plan and the fact that the Plan has not been finalised, the conclusions arrived at by the HLP regarding elephants will be premature and risk conflicting with the National Elephant Plan; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how does she intend to address and resolve conflict this?

1693. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

(1) The High-Level Panel has received a briefing on the National Elephant Research Strategy and the processes that led to the development of the Strategy. The Panel has not yet however developed any recommendations or conclusions relating to this or to other issues contained in the Panel's Terms of Reference.

The next step in the Panel's work will be to consider the submissions received from stakeholders and to engage in stakeholder consultation. The Panel will then be in a position to

consider all information placed before it, including the National Elephant Research Strategy, in order to draw conclusions and recommendations.

- (2) The development of the National Elephant Conservation Strategy for South Africa, referred to as the National Elephant Plan was initiated in 2019 as a strategic document to provide a high-level vision and strategic objectives for the management and long-term conservation of elephants in South Africa, while contributing to the well-being of people. The conservation strategy will also assist in the further revision of the current Elephant Norms and Standards. The development of this strategy was affected by the current pandemic. Several workshops were planned to finalise the strategy which will still continue.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 6/8/2020