



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1995 {NW2556E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 34 of 2020

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

- (1) Whether a quota for leopard trophy hunting is being considered for 2020; if not, why not; if so, what are the reasons; and
- (2) what is the quota for elephant trophy hunting for 2020 by (i) area and (ii) reserve?

1995. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) Regulation 3(2) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Regulations, 2010, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004), requires the CITES Management Authority (in this instance, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries) to consult with the Scientific Authority on the setting and management of quotas.

In the process of determining the 2020 leopard quota, the Scientific Authority considered information relating to the population trends of leopard in South Africa. This information included reports on leopard monitoring data and analysis showing population trends over at least the last three years. Furthermore, consideration was given to reports of all leopard killed in the provinces, in both the categories of Damage Causing Animals (DCAs) or animals involved in human wildlife conflict.

Additionally, the Department convened a stakeholder consultation meeting on 04 June 2019, where members of the public were requested to provide related scientific data for consideration by the Scientific Authority while it was determining the 2019 leopard quota. This consultation meeting also involved information sharing on, *inter alia*, leopard monitoring techniques, available scientific evidence and background on the CITES leopard quota.

In their written submissions to the Scientific Authority, stakeholders expressed a range of divergent views which were considered in the quota determination. Since no leopard quota was allocated in 2019, the allocation process was deferred to 2020. After considering all the relevant information, the leopard quota for 2020 is therefore eleven male leopards, of seven years of age or older. None of these animals may be hunted in National Parks.

- (2) The African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) was listed in Appendix I of the Convention in 1990, with the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe being split-listed as Appendix II. In Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), the CoP to CITES recommended that elephant range States that wish to authorise export of raw ivory as part of elephant hunting trophies, as defined in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on Permits and certificates, should establish, as part of its management of the population, an annual export quota expressed as a maximum number of tusks, and implement the provisions and guidelines in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Management of nationally established export quotas.

As a result of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), South Africa has an annual elephant export quota of 300 tusks from 150 animals approved by CITES. This quota is allocated annually to provinces - based on requests received from the provinces. None of these animals may be hunted in National Parks. In total Provinces only issue permits for 50 elephants to be hunted per year, on average, compared to the CITES approved 150 elephants eligible to be hunted. Top regulations limit hunting to solitary male animals or damage causing animals.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 10 September 2020