



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 194 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to Ms T J Mokwele (North West: EFF) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS LIMPHO MAKOTOKO
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 194 {CO458E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2016

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Ms T J Mokwele (North West: EFF) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

(a) How will the resolution taken at the 17th Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held in the country recently affect elephant conservation in South Africa (details furnished) and (b) what new lessons, that will inform a new strategy for the conservation of rhinos, have been learnt from this conference?

194. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- (a) The amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in Elephant specimens, adopted at the 17th Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), will come into effect 90 days after the CoP (2 January 2017). The specific amendment referred to "*RECOMMENDS that all Parties and non-Parties in whose jurisdiction there is a legal domestic market for ivory that is contributing to poaching or illegal trade, take all necessary legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures to close their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw and worked ivory as a matter of urgency*". Narrow exemptions to this closure are allowed for as long as these exemptions do not contribute to poaching or illegal trade. The adoption of the amendments to the Resolution will assist in addressing the markets that contribute to poaching and illegal trade; thereby alleviating the pressure on range States affected by high poaching levels. South Africa will be able to continue exploring the potential of its national/domestic ivory markets in contributing to socio-economic development.
- (b) A number of rhino related documents were discussed, and the decisions and amendments to the Resolution on the Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceros will assist in ensuring that all Parties implement actions to conserve rhino and address illegal trade in rhino horn. South Africa will continue to implement its Integrated Strategic Management approach and

will not be developing a new strategy. The key decisions adopted by the CoP relate to matters already addressed by South Africa in terms of its Integrated Strategic Management approach and the implementation of similar measures by other Parties will assist in effectively addressing transnational wildlife trafficking. South Africa recently developed a National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and the implementation of this strategy, once approved, is aimed at breaking the illicit value chain of wildlife trafficking.

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