



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Ref:02/1/5/2**

**MINISTER**

**QUESTION NO. 1666 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

A draft reply to **Mr T Z Hadebe (DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MR ALF WILLS  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

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

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO.1666 {NW1883E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13 of 2015**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 08 May 2015**

**Mr T Z Hadebe (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to the Kruger National Park, she could provide the most recent available figures for the population of (a) sable antelope, (b) roan antelope, (c) blue duiker, (d) red duiker, (e) wild dogs and (f) hippopotamus;
- (2) (a) how effective has the conservation and breeding programmes for (i) roan antelope and (ii) wild-dogs proven to be and (b) what (i) challenges and (ii) successes have been experienced in this regard;
- (3) whether significant poaching of any animals other than rhinos is taking place; if so, (a) which animals and (b) what are the relevant details of anti-poaching efforts in this regard;
- (4) (a) when was the last culling of the elephant population at the Kruger National Park and (b) what are the relevant details of other elephant population control measures?

**1666. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

(1) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f)

<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Sable		340-600 Free roaming animals and based on adaptive sampling survey
Roan Antelope	90	Free roaming animals and based on adaptive sampling survey
Blue Duiker	-	Does not occur in Kruger National Park
Red Duiker	-	Marginal habitat in Kruger. Mainly incidental observations.
Wild Dog	140-160	Estimates from photographic mark-recapture survey
Hippopotamus	5100	Estimate from different river surveys in different years.

(2) (a) (i) Breeding of roan antelope in camps have been successful with annual increases of roan being recorded in both Capricorn and Nwaswishumbe roan camps. Removals have taken place regularly from Nwaswishumbe camp to Capricorn camp.

Free roaming roan antelope are confined to parts of Kruger, with 2 to 3 known herds. They are not actively managed, and their numbers have remained more or less level for the last few years.

(ii) Wild-dogs are not counted annually in the Kruger National Park. Their numbers are determined every 5 years using a photographic survey technique.

(b) (i) and (ii)

Roan releases have had various success rates from our two breeding camps (Nwaswishumbe and Capricorn). More recent releases have been more successful, with animals released in Kruger and Limpopo National Park (NP).

Wild-dog numbers naturally fluctuate widely and are influenced by many variables. Natural immigration is also limited due to fewer dogs still present in the surrounding areas.

(3) (a) and (b)

There has been a dramatic decline in the poaching of animals other than rhino. There are, however, a few sections situated along the park boundary in close proximity with neighbouring

communities where relatively low levels of poaching of smaller animal species such as Impala, Steenbuck and Warthog occur. There are also occasionally poaching incidents involving some of the larger species such as Kudu and Buffalo.

The rather intensified counter poaching interventions currently in place in the Kruger National Park are also having a positive impact in addressing and reducing this type of poaching activity.

- (4) (a) 1994
- (b) Details of elephant population control measures are captured in the approved Elephant Management Plan for Kruger National Park for 2013-2022 and available on [http://www.sanparks.org/assets/docs/parks\\_kruger/elephants/knp-elephant-management-plan.pdf](http://www.sanparks.org/assets/docs/parks_kruger/elephants/knp-elephant-management-plan.pdf).

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