



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 1667 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. 1667 {NW1884E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13 of 2015

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 8 May 2015

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

- (1) Whether, with reference to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park established in 2002 and which forms part of the Peace Park Initiative, she could provide relevant details on the (a) current status of the roll-out of the integration of the parks in (i) Zimbabwe and (ii) Mozambique, (b)(i) extent and (ii) status of removing boundaries between South Africa and (aa) Zimbabwe and (bb) Mozambique and (c) challenges experienced as a result of the boundary removal process in each instance;
- (2) what is the anticipated completion date of the entire integration process; and
- (3) what total cost has been incurred in the integration process by the Government and other state entities to date?

1667. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- (1)(a)(i) The physical integration (bridge over Limpopo River and border post) between Kruger National park (South Africa) and Gonarezhou National Park (Zimbabwe) has not been finalised, however, the location which is intended to create a linkage between Kruger National park and Gonarezhou National Park has been identified and agreed to by stakeholders of the two Countries.
- (ii) The physical integration between Kruger National Park in South Africa and Limpopo National Park in Mozambique has been achieved through the establishment of Giriyondo Tourists Access Facility (border post) which facilitate movement of tourists between Kruger National Park in South Africa and Limpopo National park in Mozambique.

The programmatic integration: Like other TFCAs, the GLTP provide a platform for coordinating conservation across boundaries. The joint governance structures have been established as provided for by the Treaty that establishes GLTP. These structures provide appropriate environment for parties to the treaty to discharge their duties effectively. The governance structures in GLTP are functional and meet on regular basis. They include Joint Ministerial Committee, Joint Management Board and Joint Park Management Committees which focus on park level collaboration and implementation. Further, a number of joint management tools have been developed and implemented. They include the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Joint Cross Border Operations Protocol among others. Whereas the purpose of the IDP is to guide management of Transfrontier Park as integrated unit, the Joint Cross Border Protocol provide basis for joint operations between country components. Joint operations need to be strengthened for purposes of combating poaching.

- (b)(i) 43km of the fence between Kruger National Park and Limpopo National Park has been dropped; and
- (ii) (aa) no fence has been dropped between South Africa and Zimbabwe.
(bb) 43km of the fence between Kruger National Park and Limpopo National Park has been dropped.
- (c) There has not been any reported challenges as a result of the dropping of the 43km fence.

- (2) The completion period for integration process, which involves construction of infrastructure such as the bridge and border post linking Kruger and Gonarezhou National Parks, is dependent on the availability of funds. In the meantime, the three countries are engaging the Security Clusters with a view to promote cross border trails such as hiking, kayaking and cycling activities as part of the integration process which does not require huge investments.

- (3) South Africa invested R40 Million in the construction of the Giriyondo Tourist Access Facility. The investment included the installation of Information Technology (IT) equipment.

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