



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 16 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Mr Z S Makhubele (ANC) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

MS NOSIPHO NGCABA  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

(For oral reply)

**QUESTION NO. 16 {NO465E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 3 of 2016**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 23 February 2016**

**Mr Z S Makhubele (ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) As part of a broader strategy in opening up the wildlife economy to local communities, what is her departments state of readiness to ensure the implementation of the wildlife economic project in conjunction with local communities that are in proximity to national parks where incidents of rhino poaching are unacceptably high;
- (2) what is the Government's priority areas for implementing wildlife economy projects?

## 16. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- (1) The department has developed a National Biodiversity Economy Strategy that aims to grow the contribution of nature based activities to the country's economy. This strategy includes several elements that relate to local communities living in proximity to the national parks, amongst other elements. The aim is to provide these communities with alternative livelihood strategies and development projects as well as incorporating them into rhino poaching responses. The department has a number of specific community engagements implemented through the People and Parks Programme. These include appointing youth to engage the rhino poaching affected communities on the social impact/ consequence of rhino poaching as well as community-based sanctuaries.

South African National Parks (SANParks) has initiated a range of programmes aimed at bringing communities neighboring national parks into the wildlife economy. This is part of a broader programme aimed at the socio-economic development of communities adjacent to national parks, within the context of parks playing a role as drivers of local economic development particularly in the rural areas where many parks are situated.

A number of these programmes are in the area adjacent to the Kruger National Park which has a very high incidence of rhino poaching. Projects being initiated in the Kruger Park area include the following:

- Wildlife ranching project initiated with Nkambeni and Bevhula/Gidjani communities, where R10m has been allocated by DEA for fencing in each of the designated areas in the 2016/17 financial year. Game capture and translocation will take place in the winter of 2017;
- Support to the Mashishimale CPA through the donation of game with translocation planned to take place in the winter of 2016;
- Support to the Awelani Community Reserve in respect of fencing and game donation.

The Department's state of readiness to ensure the implementation of the wildlife economy projects is at an advanced stage as there are a number of projects already being implemented. 107 community development projects are currently underway to respond to a number of aspects. In order to scale up on these projects and deliver greater benefits along the entire wildlife value chain, the department has embarked on a process to develop detailed operational plans with public and private stakeholders.

- (2) .Government's priority areas in developing the wildlife economy are informed by a number of areas. These areas include those rural areas where the need is greatest, particularly (but not exclusively) where there has been a settlement of land claims and the initiation of wildlife and eco-tourism economies have the potential for assisting in the development of the affected communities. The rural poverty nodes have also been prioritised for bioprospecting based enterprises.

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