



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: 02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 879 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Dr P J Rabie (DA) 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 WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 879

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 14 of 2013

NW1098E

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 03 May 2013

Dr P J Rabie (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What is the estimated amount of jackass penguin breeding pairs;
- (2) What are the reasons for the decrease in the numbers of jackass penguin breeding pairs;
- (3) what is being done to stop the decrease in the number of jackass penguin breeding pairs?

Dr P J Rabie (DA)

SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT

HANSARD

PAPERS OFFICE

PRESS

THE MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ANSWERS:

- (1) 18 683 breeding pairs in 2012 in South Africa (Jackass Penguins are now referred to as the African Penguins).
- (2) Historical reasons for decreases include harvesting of penguin eggs, which stopped in 1967, and loss of habitat through guano scraping, which made penguins susceptible to heat stress and aerial predation. Present factors influencing the ongoing decrease include oil spills, movements of their prey away from their west coast breeding localities and competition with fisheries for food on the west coast.
- (3) Responses to pollution events are addressed by the Department with considerable assistance from other agencies such as SANCOB in order to reduce mortality. Studies of closures of fishing of small pelagic prey species around key penguin colonies to improve food availability are under way. Artificial nests that provide protection from heat and predators such as gulls have been placed at colonies. Research into the movement of adults and fledgling chicks is being undertaken.

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