



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 3509 {NW4322E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 37 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 30 September 2022

Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What (a) total number of baboon hunting permits have been granted in the Republic over the past five years and (b) is the breakdown of the permits granted in each province;
- (2) whether there are any plans to review the (a) protocols regarding the hunting of baboons and (b) granting of baboon hunting permits; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are relevant details;
- (3) whether there are areas of the Republic where baboon populations are deemed to be at risk; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, where are the specific areas?

4409. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) (a) According to section 87A (1)(a) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA), the Minister is the issuing authority responsible for deciding on an application for a permit for the carrying out of a restricted activity involving specimens of a listed threatened or protected species—(i) in a national protected area; (ii) that is a marine species; or (iii) applied for by an official, on behalf of—(aa) a provincial department or provincial organ of state responsible for the conservation of biodiversity in a province; (bb) a national protected area; (cc) the South African National Biodiversity Institute; or (dd) an organ of state in the national sphere of government.


In terms of section 87A (2) of NEMBA, the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) is the issuing authority responsible for deciding on an application for any permit not listed in section 87A (1) (a) and for species not listed in accordance with Section 56 of NEMBA. This means that all applications from private individuals are lodged with the provincial conservation authorities except as indicated in section 87A (1).

With the above, the department has not issued any permits nor received any permit applications over the past five years in accordance with Section 87A(1) of NEMBA relating to baboons as they are not listed as a threatened species or a protected species in terms of Section 56 of NEMBA; this function falls within the purview of the provincial issuing authorities as indicated in 1 (a) above.

(2) (a) and (b)

There are no plans by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to review protocols regarding the hunting of baboons or the granting of permits for the hunting of baboon, since the function to develop such protocols and to issue hunting permits for baboon fall within the purview of the MECs.

(3) The 2016 Regional Red List status for baboon (for South Africa, Eswatini and Lesotho) is indicated as Least Concern. The assessment has, however, indicated that local subpopulations in KZN have been shown to be threatened with extinction. In instances like these, provinces are empowered by law to develop legislation and other conservation tools to address localised conservation concerns.



.....
MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 14/10/2022.....