



water affairs


Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2135 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)
DATE: 1/9/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2010. 09. 02

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2135

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 20)

2135. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to the Hartbeespoort Dam remediation programme, there is any current involvement of Finnish scientists in the programme; if not, when was the last association of Finnish scientists in this programme; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what (a) is the current area covered by floating islands in the dam, (b) is the optimal area of the dam that needs to be covered by these islands for this programme to be successful and (c) methodology is used to determine the optimal area of the dam that should be covered by floating islands;
- (3) (a) what (i) number and (ii) type of fish was caught as part of the remediation programme in each year since the inception of the programme and (b) what was the target for fish catches in each case;
- (4) whether the targets for fish catches have been achieved in each year since the inception of the this programme; if not, why not, in each case? NW2575E

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REPLY:

- 1) Yes, the Harties Metsi a Me Programme has regular interactions and involvement with the Finnish Scientists, namely;
 - Dr Keto: Limnologist
 - Mr Porra: Environmental Director, Lahti-Technical and Environmental Affairs
 - Mr Malin -Head of Water Protection, Lahti City,
 - Mr Sjoberg -Project Manager, Finnish Environmental Institute
- (2)(a) The current area covered by single floating islands, as per the present design, is 16m² of which there are 357. This totals 5712 m² of floating area with an estimated equivalent wetland functionality of about 856,800 m² of land bound wetland. This equates to approximately 85 hectares of land bound wetland.
- (2)(b) The estimated optimal coverage of floating wetlands and shoreline vegetation in, and on the dam alternatively is 200 hectares (125 000 of the 16 m²) over the next ten years (approximately 10% of the dam's surface area).
- (2)(c) The two main aspects used to determine the optimal area that could be covered by floating wetlands were (i) the potential coverage that could potentially / or had been established naturally along the shoreline according to the depth and slope before the distortion / destruction of the shoreline conditions in the past, (ii) the estimated optimal areas that would be operated and managed sustainably along the shoreline, given the frequency of fluctuation / changing water levels of the dam. Any significant fluctuations would require that the anchors of the floating wetlands be moved, or the anchoring ropes be lengthened to adjust the position of the wetlands accordingly.
- (3)(a)(i) The total number of fish caught as part of the remediation programme is 65.8 tons.

- (3)(a)(ii) The type of fish caught as part of the remediation programme are Carp, Catfish and small amounts of Blue Kurper and Bass.
- (3)(b) The targets for fish caught in each case are 200-300 tons in 2008 and 400-600 tons in 2009.
- (4) No, the set targets were not achieved primarily as a result of under performance by the appointed contractor. Steps were taken to remedy the situation which includes the dismissal of the contractor.

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