

FORUM: Environmental Commission 2

TOPIC: Addressing Wildlife Trafficking and the Smuggling of Endangered and Protected Species

SUBMITTED BY: United Kingdom

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Belgium, Netherlands, France, Spain, Finland, Germany, Egypt, Canada, Italy, Austria, Australia

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,

Defining illegal wildlife trafficking as the illegal trade, poaching, smuggling, capture or collection of endangered species, protected wildlife (including animals or plants that are subject to harvest quotas and regulated by permits), derivatives, or products thereof,

Addressing the issue of the illegal selling, buying and entrapment of animals on the verge of extinction, *Recalling* the Lacey Act, enacted during the 1900s in the United States of America in which the trafficking of animals was illegalised,

Alarmed by the links between wildlife trafficking and zoonotic diseases, which pose significant threats to global health, as seen by the COVID-19 pandemic,

Encouraged by the collaboration between the governmental units and even the establishment of a whole new unit in aims of tackling the problem of animal trafficking,

Emphasizing the need for a treaty on the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora,

Stressing the need for enhanced enforcement of wildlife protection laws and the eradication of demand for illegally traded wildlife products,

1. Urges for global effort to prevent wildlife trafficking, by improving and adjusting:
 - b) Air customs, border patrol, port security through means as such but not limited to:
 - a. requiring official, government approved papers for the transport of animals or plants,
 - b. conducting more thorough searches of the cargo by INTERPOL and Law enforcement,
 - c. equip airports and border patrol with x-ray scanners to detect hidden wildlife,
 - d. Position tracker hounds to identify trafficked wildlife,
 - e. Create wildlife trafficking databases to monitor both illegal and legal trade of wildlife,
 - b) Legal frameworks by:
 - a. funding research to eradicate any possible legal loopholes which could benefit poachers
 - b. implementing harsher punishments for both the consumers and the traffickers
 - c. creating laws and penalties in which all Member States will have similar punishments for the same crimes when it comes to illegal wildlife trade
 - d. educating judges and other judicial bodies about the effect of poaching;
2. Suggests the establishment of a department specialised in the protection of exotic pets and the exotic animals kept in zoos in order to prevent any mishandling by :

- b) providing regular checks so as to make sure the animals are:
 - i. properly taken care of,
 - ii. not causing any problems to communities and their people,
 - b) raising awareness on the topic of wildlife trafficking;
3. Recomends that substances that can be used to harm wildlife, such as cyanide and products of trafficked animals, such as bushmeat and rhino/elephant horns, be made unavailable to the public by:
- b) banning of the certified harmful substances, such as the aforementioned,
 - b) improving and strengthening legal frameworks by implementing penalties with heavy fines and imprisonment,
 - b) spreading awareness on the wrongdoing of wildlife trafficking in ways, such as but not limited to,
 - i. awareness campaigns,
 - ii. international media coverage,
 - iii. incorporating such topics to school curricula;
4. Asks for the creation of the Safeguarding of Protected Areas and Punishing Offenders (SPAPO) body, under the auspices of the United Nations, which would work with the relevant member states struggling with inadequate safeguarding of their protected areas, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to ensure the security of these areas by implementing measures such as, but not limited to:
- b) an endeavour, organized by SPAPO with the help of INTERPOL, to recruit police forces in the protected areas that are missing one to prevent trespassers from committing crimes like poaching,
 - b) the reviewing assesses member state laws on wildlife trafficking to ensure clear prohibition exits,
 - b) the establishment of enclosures in the protected areas of the relevant member states that lack them, surrounded by electric barriers to minimize unnecessary activity,
 - b) the creation of an international-functioning website that would include:
 - i. grievance and redress-mechanism that would allow people to report any signs of illegal activity within the wildlife-protected areas,
 - ii. a guideline book where the operation and work of SPAPO is thoroughly explained,
 - iii. all the basic and further known information regarding the wildlife-protected areas that are part of SPAPO
 - iv. a web page dedicated to volunteer work, where teenagers and adults could offer their services to SPAPO,
 - b) funding supported by Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, in order to provide the means to uphold the above;

5. Urges all member states to reform and upgrade their educational curriculum for it to include an environmental program that would include activities such as, but not limited to:
 - b) providing information regarding:
 - i. the importance of wildlife conservation, the ethical and environmental consequences that wildlife trading poses,
 - ii. agriculture and animals, especially the endangered species and the importance of their care,
 - b) field trips to protected areas, such as the ones where smuggling of endangered species occurs to enhance their curiosity and interest through visual first-hand experiences and learning,
 - b) signing up the class for volunteer work within these protected areas;

6. Expresses its hope for the creation of an international and intergovernmental body, that would work with and through the funding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to reinforce the protection of endangered species by:
 - b) researching and inspecting the food chains of member states, to ensure that the products used by them are not a result of wildlife trafficking,
 - b) contributing to international agreement like global biodiversity and framework which ensures that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.