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SOCOMUN XXXIII

NOT FRESHMAN E

TOPIC: WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY CRIME



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Wildlife and Forestry Crime

Hello delegates! My name is Eric Pitterle, and I will be your chair for SOCOMUN this year. I'm a senior and this is my fourth year of doing MUN, where I have enjoyed countless fun memories and debates over my time in the program. I have always enjoyed doing committees on various topics because I learn more about the world after each conference. Outside of MUN, I am a Boy Scout currently working on my eagle project and I also play golf in tournaments outside of school. I can't wait to see you all in committee and see how everyone plans on solving our topic!

Hello, my name is Brielle Surgener, and I am so excited to be your vice-chair for SOCOMUN this year! I am currently a junior and participating in my third year of MUN. Through MUN I have gained so much confidence in public speaking and look forward to what I will continue to accomplish in the program. Outside of MUN I play flag football, am a part of our theater crew, do mock trial, and enjoy roller-skating and playing guitar. I'm super excited to meet you all and am looking forward to an amazing SOCOMUN 2024!

Hi my name is Steve Park and I'll be your rapporteur for the SOCOMUN 2024 conference. I am a current sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School and in my 2nd year in MUN. Outside of school, I do fencing competitively and I like to go to amusement parks. MUN has taught me many things, especially public speaking skills. I am very happy to be your rapporteur for SOCOMUN and I look forward to seeing you all.

SOCOMUN is a conference meant to introduce MUN to new delegates and is a very calm environment to see what MUN is all about. This conference aims to teach every delegate how conferences typically run and how to be a successful delegate. Most people within this committee are having their first conference, so if anyone has any questions then feel free to ask me or any other chairs because we will happily help you. **There is no need to stress about committee** and we will be there to help guide you through the process of committee the whole way. There are a few vocabulary words that MUN uses and procedures that are helpful to know in order to understand how the committee is run. Don't worry about knowing everything beforehand though, because we will have a presentation at the start of committee to teach everyone all they need to know. Here is roughly how a committee is run with the procedures and vocabulary that will be used during committee:

First, committee will start with roll call. During roll call, your nation will be called out and delegates must respond with either "Present" or "Present and Voting". If you say "Present and Voting", then you won't be able to abstain during resolution voting, meanwhile, if you respond "Present", you may abstain. After roll call, committee truly begins as the speaker's list will open allowing delegates to raise their placards to be added to the speaker's list. It is highly recommended that delegates raise their placards to be on the speakers list as it is the easiest way to earn points for scoring. After a delegate's speech, other delegates may raise their placard to make comments on the previous delegate's speech which is a good way of earning points. After



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a speech and following comments, delegates may raise their placards to motion for Informal or Formal Consultations. Informal Consultations are times for delegates to talk freely with each other in groups about their solutions. During this time, delegates must find a group of delegates that they'd like to work with to make a resolution group. Once a resolution group is formed, all delegates within it should begin writing their resolution paper that should primarily focus on solutions and implementation for each solution. A good idea for writing resolution papers is to combine similar solutions in order to form a stronger solution. Once all resolutions are completed and submitted, the committee will move into Formal Consultations. During Formal Consultation, delegates from each resolution group will present their resolution and yield time for questions from other delegates on the resolution. Once again, these questions are a good source of points for scoring in the conference. After all resolutions are presented, the committee will move into Voting Bloc where all delegates will either vote in favor, against, or abstain for each resolution. A 2/3's majority vote is needed in order to pass a resolution. Finally, once voting has ended, the committee will move out of Voting Bloc and a delegate will motion to suspend debate. This is the end of committee. If you have any questions about any procedures or how to do anything then please email any and all questions at socomunnote@gmail.com. We'll see you in committee!

E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC:

An extremely useful resource for delegates to use for research is through the E4JMUN Program provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The E4JMUN Program helps delegates learn all about their topics and includes related UN addresses to the issues. Below this paragraph delegates will find links along with a quick description of some sources regarding our topic of Wildlife and Forestry Crime.

- <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/index.html>

This link above will bring you to the main resource page of the E4JMUN Program. Within the page, there are many different topics that you may look into such as our own topic Wildlife and Forestry Crime.

- <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/tertiary/wildlife-crime.html>

This link above will bring you to the UNODC's overview of the wildlife crime topic. Within this page, you may use all 5 of the modules which talk more in-depth about specific areas of Wildlife and Forestry Crime.

- https://www.unodc.org/e4j/data/_university_uni_/2086_world_wildlife_crime_report_trafficking_in_protected_species.html?lng=en

This link will bring you to a world wildlife crime report done by the UNODC. The page includes details of its publication as well as a summary of the report at the bottom of the page. You may also read the entire report by clicking on the publication link.



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Background:

Wildlife and Forestry Crime over the years has grown into an extremely pressing issue as animals come closer to extinction and natural resources are stolen from communities by poachers. According to a UNEP-INTERPOL report, the illegal trade of wildlife alone is projected to be worth up to 20 billion USD per year. This illegal wildlife trade includes the transfer of endangered animals such as Asian big cats, elephants, rhinos, exotic birds, and more. This issue is urgent as the UN itself states, “If wildlife and forest crime, and the corruption facilitating and driving it, are not addressed now, many species of wild fauna and flora will soon become extinct and the criminal networks will continue acting with impunity”(UNODC). Despite the ever-increasing illegal trade of wildlife, it is difficult for governments to act on the issue due to concerns of ignoring the sovereignty of nations that the wildlife comes from. Even though this is a difficult issue to solve, it is at the forefront of many debates within the UN as nations look to find a resolution.

The animals that are specifically targeted more than others are often for traditional practices or fur. Two of the most well-known poached animals are the elephant and rhino. These two animals are hunted for their tusks and horns because they are made of ivory which is incredibly sought after. A pound of ivory is sold for approximately 3,300 USD which only encourages poachers to target these animals. This trade expands further throughout the world as big cats in Asia are poached for their fur and exotic birds for their feathers. Recently the wildlife trade has utilized the routes of the human trafficking trade where they gather in secret bases to trade animals. Another new development in the illegal trade business is the transition of the black market to become online. The online trade has grown immensely as some social media platforms such as Facebook struggle to shut down animal traffickers.

On top of wildlife crime, forest crime is also extremely profitable for criminals which only entices them to do more. It is estimated that 51-152 billion USD is made per year from forest crime. Illegal logging is rampant in developing nations as companies or individuals gather high-value endangered wood species. A large amount of forestry and wildlife crimes are from groups of people or companies who set their entire business up around poaching.



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Possible Solutions:

During delegates' speeches and informal consultations, they will present their solutions to other delegates. A good way of organizing solutions is to label them as long-term or short-term solutions. It is important to know all the possible effects of your solution and how to fully implement it in the world rather than just simply saying that this will happen. If you can answer the typical who, what, when, where, and how questions about your solution then you have a good foundation! While planning your solutions, **it is important to note that funding is not a concern as the UN's 5th Budgetary Committee and the World Bank will cover any costs of resolutions.** The final important note for making solutions is to make sure they follow your country's policy. In MUN, we are acting as the representative for our country, and we must stand by what the country would actually want. For example, if a delegate is from the United States, they should not act or make solutions that would align perfectly with China's country policy. Make sure to follow your country's policy because points may be deducted if you are not following it.

There are countless solutions that delegates can come up with to solve this issue. This topic synopsis will provide a few starting points for solutions that don't go into detail, but provide an idea of what a solution could be. The details of solutions are up for the delegates to create. Remember, these solutions are simply examples and it's highly encouraged to try to be creative and think of all the solutions you can!

One solution for solving forestry crime is to implement a tracking system on all logging operations. A mandatory sticker or badge on all timber trade would ensure that all timber trade is tracked. Illegal timber trade and fraud would be significantly harder for companies to commit as all logs would be tracked from the forest, to the mill, and to the store. The shortcoming of this solution is that this would be likely ineffective in developing countries that don't have as much forest management. However, there are many NGOs (Non-government Organizations) that would be eager to help.

Another solution could be to have a UN Peacekeeping regiment gathered to track down and arrest poaching rings. As long as the nation permits, this would enable foreign troops to perform missions to track down poachers in other nations. To keep the peacekeepers in order and to help them succeed, NGOs that are well experienced in hunting poachers may be involved as trainers to lead the UN Peacekeeping regiments. Delegates should think about what NGOs would work best and also how to ensure countries would be willing to have these regiments within their land.

Another solution that is often overlooked due to its simplicity, is to simply raise awareness of the crimes being committed. Raising awareness can come in the form of pamphlets, newspapers, social media campaigns, advertisements, education in school, etc. By raising awareness, people would be more wary of illegal trade and more likely to call it out if they see it. This will increase the pressure on illegal activities and force criminals to either need to be much more secretive or be caught due to the increased exposure. Delegates should think about how best to increase awareness and why that way would be the most successful over other ways.



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Another solution to possibly branch off of is to create a regulated farming system of the materials that poachers want. This would require a lot of monitoring to ensure that the animal population stays healthy while also being able to provide the materials necessary for profit. This solution allows for a legal job for poachers to change to that protects all sides. Delegates must think about the implementation of this solution for how regulating an animal population would work.

Finally, another solution to possibly work off of is to expedite the process of tagging all endangered animals in order to ensure their safety. By tracking them all through tags that don't bother the animals, we can monitor and protect the animals while also learning more about them. Delegates must think about ways to quickly respond to animals with tags being taken and also ways to apply the tags without harming workers.

There are a multitude of solutions that delegates can come up with and it is highly encouraged to try to be as creative as possible. This issue covers a wide range of problems from land to sea, so we encourage as much variation as possible with solutions. Good luck with your research and we look forward to seeing all your amazing solutions in committee!

Questions to Consider:

The following questions are meant to support delegates to find out what they need to research. None of these questions are required to answer, they are simply to help delegates find a path of research if they don't know where to start.

1. What is your country's stance on the issue and has it taken any action on it?
2. What NGOs are relevant to forestry and wildlife crime? Would any of these NGOs be useful to cooperate with in your solutions?
3. Are there any ways to reduce the spread of illegal trade online? How can social media companies be convinced to adopt algorithms to remove wildlife crime advertisements?
4. What is the international community doing in response to this issue? How could their actions apply to your own solutions?
5. How do people get into the career of poaching? Is there a typical root cause of it? Is there a way to reduce the influx of new poachers?
6. How can environments be healed after an animal's population is reduced? Is there a way to replenish the ecosystem without harming the balance or accidentally adding more problems to the environment?
7. What specific details could be used to implement your solutions? How would it be carried out and what issues may arise if your solution were to happen in real life?
8. How much are people aware of forest and animal crime in nations where it is prevalent? Do they view it as an issue? How would natives react to foreign people tracking down poachers?



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