



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXII

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**TOPIC: WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY
CRIME**



SOCOMUN XXXII



Wildlife and Forestry Crime

Hiya delegates! My name is Katie Pfeiffer, and I am going to be your chair for SOCOMUN this year! This will be my fourth year in the program, and I am so excited to be starting it off with you all! My favorite committees have always been world crime committees like this because you get to have a real life insight into world problems and make solutions for innocent people and animals. Outside of MUN, I'm on the SM swim team. I also run a bakery named Katie's Konfectioneries stationed in Aliso Viejo. I can't wait to see you all in committee!

My name is Douglas Nilsen, I am a Vice Chair for SOCOMUN. I have been doing MUN for 2 years now and plan to continue doing it. MUN has gotten me to get myself out there and improve upon my public speaking skills. It really is an eye-opening experience and a great program to be a part of. I have been to Cal Berkeley and had many experiences because of MUN. This shaped the person I am today. Outside of school I love to surf and play basketball for SM and hang with friends. MUN is a program that has formed me into a well-rounded gentleman. I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Hello, my name is Brielle Surgener, and I am the rapporteur for the UNODC committee on Wildlife and Forestry Crime. I am currently a sophomore and participating in my second year of MUN and fourth year in Mock Trial. I will soon be completing my sixth conference and I am so glad I made the decision to join MUN last year! Through MUN I have gained so much confidence in public speaking and look forward to what I will continue to accomplish through this program throughout my high school years. Outside of MUN I play Beach Volleyball and love playing my guitar. I also enjoy rollerblading and skating and used to play in-line hockey although now I focus on learning fun tricks. I'm super excited to be involved in the planning aspect of a conference and look forward to an amazing SOCOMUN 2024!

The primary goal of SOCOMUN is to teach delegates how to be successful in an MUN Committee. SOCOMUN also aims to make the conference as fun as possible for delegates, so if this is your first committee, or if you are still new to MUN, **do not stress out about the committee**, we will be here to guide you throughout the conference. With the worries out of the way, there are a few procedural motions that must happen before the MUN part of the MUN conference happens. Before the opening motion, the chairs will play a PowerPoint presentation that will go over the details of the conference and the UN procedures/motions to be used while in committee. After the presentation, we will start the committee by taking roll call. During roll call, Delegates can respond with either "Present" or "Present and Voting." The difference between these two is that "Present and Voting" cannot abstain in voting. After roll call, we will begin by opening debate and then opening the speakers list. When the speakers list is open, Delegates must show their intent to make motions or give a speech by raising the placards that have been given to them during committee. It is highly recommended to put yourself on the speakers list, as it is the easiest way to earn points. After a fellow delegate's speech, other delegates will have the opportunity to make comments on their speech. Over the course of the speeches, delegates can motion for Informal or Formal Consultations, also known as moderated caucus or unmoderated caucus. The difference between the two is an unmoderated caucus (usually called an "unmod"), is working in groups of delegates freely, allowing yourself



SOCOMUN XXXII



to roam about the room as you wish. Once delegates have found the group of people they would like to work with, they may form a resolution group and begin writing resolutions. For resolutions, delegates should **focus on solutions and implementation**, using resources to support the viability of the resolution. After resolutions have been written and submitted, the committee would move into Formal Consultations. During Formal Consultations, resolution groups will present their resolution and yield time for delegates to ask questions on their resolutions. This is also another easy way for delegates to earn points, so it is highly recommended that delegates participate as much as they can. After all resolutions have been presented, delegates will move into voting bloc where they will vote on whether they are in favor, against, or abstaining from that specific resolution. We need a 2/3's majority to pass a resolution. After we finish voting, delegates will move out of voting bloc and motion to suspend the debate, marking the end to the committee. If you have any questions or are confused on any part of the committee or procedures, please email us questions at socomunnote@gmail.com. We are extremely excited to see you all in committee! Good luck delegates!

E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has given MUN Delegates resources to work with regarding Organized Crime through their E4JMUN Program. This program allows delegates to effectively learn about their topics, how the UN addresses these issues, and possible solutions to them. Below you will find links and a short description to sources regarding Wildlife and Forestry Crime, as well as the general hyperlink to the E4JMUN Website.

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

This link is the master hyperlink to the E4JMUN Program. Here you can find all the different topics the UNODC provides for the program, including Wildlife and Forestry Crime.

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

This link is the master hyperlink to the tertiary structure of the E4JMUN Program for Wildlife and Forestry crime. This hyperlink includes 5 other hyperlinks that are modules of this link which discusses Illicit Markets for this Crime, Frameworks for Combatting Wildlife Crime, Responses to Wildlife Crime, Exploitation of Wildlife, and Sustainable Engagement.

[World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in protected species \(unodc.org\)](#)

This link is the hyperlink from the UNODC to a study done by the UNODC about poaching and forestry crime. This link studies illegal trade has a broad explanation of this committee's topic at a global level, and has many background resources needed for writing a position paper and being prepared for the conference.

Background:

Wildlife and Forestry crime is defined as the illegal "taking, trading, importing, exporting, processing, possessing, obtaining, and consumption of wildlife fauna and flora" (United Nations). The United Nations estimates that the annual value of illegal wildlife trading is between 7 billion and 23 billion USD. "Wildlife and forestry crime is the world's fourth largest illegal trade – a lucrative illegal business with far-reaching and devastating consequences not just for the environment but also for society, public health and global economics," ("Wildlife and Forestry Crime: Worldwide Seizures in Global INTERPOL-WCO Operation") said the INTERPOL Secretary General in 2020 when wildlife and forestry crime soared to the 4th most profitable type of crime. This issue has



SOCOMUN XXXII



been highly debated in the United Nations, where countries must tread a careful balance between violating national sovereignty and allowing dangerous criminals to roam free.

The most trafficked animals and animal parts are tiger skins, caviar, elephant ivory, rhino horns, exotic birds, and reptiles. Illegal animal trafficking is usually done in illegal markets, such as the black market, but the unlawfully obtained hides and tusks are sometimes put into legitimate trade channels or shops. When the illegally traded wildlife is discreetly traded in bona fide markets, poachers have a much larger client base, thus having the potential to make more money than if the products were sold on the black market. “Africa is a key region for this illicit activity. Two of the highest-value and most consistently sought-after wildlife products, ivory, and rhino horns, come from Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique” (“Illegal Wildlife Trade”).

While precious fauna and flora are being harvested and exported illegally at a massive scale in many countries, local law enforcement agencies lack the numbers and power to be able to confront these poachers. Given that the lands on which these species roam are so vast, illegal killings can be discovered years after the crime was committed (Cooke). The poachers will even go so far sometimes as to set up their own “ruling” system in the lands where they poach, becoming militant and imposing taxes on civilians.

Possible Solutions:

When delegates present their solutions to their fellow delegates in informal and their speeches, he or she must consider the short term and long-term implementation, sustainment, effects, and potential consequences of such action. (Answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of the solutions!) However, please do note delegates, that here at SOCOMUN, **funding is not considered a critical issue while implementing solutions, as it is assumed the UN’s 5th Budgetary Committee and the World Bank will help sponsor any resolutions passed that could require excessive spending.** Additionally, delegates must consider their own country’s policy on the issue, and debate in line with their nation’s wishes and ideology. Delegates need to keep in mind that when they are debating, they are representing their given nation for the conference. For example, delegates that are from the United States but are given the nation of France to represent for the conference, should not be using United States country policy (you will get points taken off for this), but rather using France’s country policy.

There are many different solutions for delegates to consider, and for the sake of allowing delegates to be creative and think more deeply about the issue, this topic synopsis will only cover the basics of the issue, such as what kinds of possible solutions can be used, with more creative solutions, implementation, and other logistics up to the delegates to think about and bring to the conference.

One solution for delegates to consider is spreading awareness on Wildlife and forestry crime. Many people disregard this method of crime because it is not the crime that shows up on the news or is protested about. By increasing awareness on your topic, especially with the younger generation or on social media, delegates can again traction with other countries to hopefully pass legislation in the future as well. “Win hearts and minds,” as Hubert Lyautey said.

Another good solution that delegates can consider is increasing aid for developing nations. Although this is theoretically not directly part of Wildlife and Forestry crime, it is an indirect factor of this illegal trade. In poorer nations, there is often a poorer quality of life, leading citizens to reach out to methods like organized crime in order to make a



SOCOMUN XXXII



living wage for themselves. Delegates should think about the embezzlement of funds, lack of law enforcement, and what drives a person to crime.

Another solution that delegates can consider is adding more national and internationally protected parks with the endangered species in them. Delegates should consider on these solutions how to regulate the protection of these parks, and the upkeep of them as well. Delegates should also think about how to keep these parks from becoming targets for poachers.

Delegates could also think about the development of military or law enforcement personnel to catch and preemptively stop these crimes before they happen. This could take the form of military drones, armed forces, or regular police personnel. When writing the solutions, delegates need to think of what names to call each forces, how they will be implemented without infringing on a nation's sovereignty, and how these solutions can work in the long run.

Another possible solution is rethinking about possible penalties for wildlife and forestry criminals when they are caught. Oftentimes, the poachers and traders that are caught doing illicit trade that are caught are let off easy or let off of punishment early through series of bribery or threats. Delegates must consider how to combat international corruption on all levels, and think beyond the topic of wildlife and forestry crime when addressing the root causes of corruption.

Finally, delegates can consider solutions to decrease the dependence on illegal wildlife crime through other practices such as farming. Farming is a good alternative to Wildlife and Forestry crime because it offers a much more stable, legal, alternative for a way to sustain oneself. Delegates must explain in their solutions how this approach will be implemented and how it will be deemed sustainable.

In general, there are even more solutions that can be created than just the ones that are listed here. Delegates are encouraged to get creative! Each unique country can make an impact on the issue of Wildlife and Forestry Crime. We also strongly encourage delegates to cover the vast scope of the issue, including both land and sea aspects of the issue, as well as indirect causes/factors concerning the issue. Good luck to all the delegates forming their solutions! We look forward to seeing all your creative ideas in committee!

Questions to Consider:

The questions given below are to help delegates in research and are not required to be answered. You can choose to consider these questions while doing research, but it is not a requirement. We strongly recommend delegates to take advantage of these questions to support and strengthen their research and to help make unique but sustainable solutions.

1. What is your country policy on the issue, and what steps has your country taken to address this issue?
2. How has your country been affected by wildlife and forestry crime (if any at all), and what steps has your country taken to combat the issue?
3. Has your country created any specialized programs, organizations, or departments to handle the issue? Any online campaigns or fundraisers?
4. What has the international community done to address wildlife and forestry crime?
5. What are some NGOs that can help deal with Wildlife and Forestry Crime? What is their goal, and how can they aid your solutions?



SOCOMUN XXXII



6. Consider the impacts of wildlife and forestry crime on land and at sea, what steps will you take to cover the vast scope of this illegal trade?
7. Perhaps delegates can potentially investigate into the root causes of the issue, what steps can you take to stop the issue at its root causes? What drives someone to turn to organized crime? Where does the money from the organized crime go towards?
8. Consider the lack of law enforcement surrounding wildlife and forestry crime that is allowing this sector of illicit trade to skyrocket. What can your country do to contribute to aiding in stopping lawlessness? What can your country do to stop these traders from getting out of jail early?
9. Consider the possibility wildlife and forestry crime and some of its causes can span from different issues that may be arguably outside of the scope of wildlife and forestry crime. Delegates should consider whether it is potentially feasible for solutions to address some of these issues that contribute to the illegal trade.
10. Consider the statistics, surveys, and trends from wildlife and forestry crime. What do these sources tell you about wildlife and forestry crime, and how can you use these sources to your advantage?
11. Consider the facts that the endangered flora and fauna are being taken out of their habitats faster than they can be replenished. What can your country do to solve it in a sustainable way?
12. What potential solutions do you have to solve the issue of wildlife and forestry crime? How will you successfully implement these solutions?

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SOCOMUN XXXII



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