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Environmental Crime (with a Focus on Illegal Poaching and Trade with Endangered Species)**Sponsors:** People's Republic of China, Republic of South Africa**Signatories:** Canada, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Indonesia, United States of America, Commonwealth of Australia, United Mexican States*The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,*

Recalling the General Assembly Resolutions 69/314 of 30 July 2015, 70/301 of 9 September 2016 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and Economic and Social Council Resolution 2013/40 of 25 July 2013 on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora,

Recalling the work of the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre to include the protection of biodiversity in decision-making and policy-making,

Recognizing the already existing treaties regarding poaching and trade of endangered species, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS),

Recalling the success of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC),

Taking into account the CITES Strategic Vision for 2008-2020 defined in resolution Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17) and the three broad goals of compliance, funding, and sustainability,

Respecting national sovereignty and understanding that individual parties can choose to implement their own regulations regarding law enforcement,

Recalling the contents of the General Assembly's Resolution 68/193 of 18 December 2013 that emphasises that coordinated action is critical to eliminate corruption and disrupt the illicit networks that drove and enabled trafficking in wildlife,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption in tackling the matter illegal poaching,

Taking into account that regional bodies, such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Organization of American States (OAS), can provide a useful framework for the consideration and adoption of complementary legal frameworks in regards to illegal wildlife trade,

Recalling Articles 16, 17, 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity with regards to transfer of technology in order to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation,

Recognizing the importance of efficient border control and the role of technology and training in achieving improvements in this field,

Noting with satisfaction the United Nations Convention Against Corruption as the first global legally-binding instrument against corruption as it provides for a range of preventive anti-corruption measures, as well as relevant issues, such as but not limited to asset recovery, technical assistance, and information exchange in the fields of illegal wildlife trafficking,

Further considering the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as the international standard for combating money laundering in regards to illegal wildlife trafficking,

Recalling the General Assembly Resolution 46/152 particularly on the point of clearing-house development in relation to crime prevention and criminal justice issues,

I. Combating the Intrinsic Causes for Poaching

- 1. Encourages** United Nations member states to increase their support for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in an effort to implement Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 'No Poverty', considering that poverty is a root cause for people engaging in poaching, in addition to SDG 15 that promotes sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems;
- 2. Notes** the importance of providing financial and technical assistance, as well as staff and training to less economically developed countries in order for them to ensure capacity-building, coherent monitoring of efforts and law enforcement regarding environmental crime - such technical assistance should take into account the level of technological assistance and economic development of the beneficiary countries and includes the following:
 - a. providing assistance in revising administrative practices and procedures of the respective law enforcement authorities,
 - b. assisting in building up necessary capacity of officers, including the training of human resources on information and communication technology capacities, such as providing appropriate equipment and technology as well as the required infrastructure;

II. Education and Awareness

- 3. Calls upon** national governments to implement education programs on inter alia wildlife, environmental crime, protection of endangered species and the products created from endangered species through:

- a. incorporating an environmental education curriculum in schools and universities to raise awareness on the issue and encourage actions by students,
 - b. establishing awareness campaigns in communities by inter alia hosting events, panels and expert talks, with the help of public-private partnerships,
 - c. creating social media campaigns to raise awareness among broader society;
- 4. Notes** that ecotourism can be a sustainable generator of revenue for countries and should therefore:
- a. incorporate the protection and conservation of environment and biodiversity,
 - b. raise awareness to issues such as illegal wildlife poaching, environmental crime, protection of endangered species and the products created from the poaching endangered species, as well as sustainable practices,
 - c. ensure that at least 80% of revenues generated remain will be contributed to the designated cause,
 - d. minimize the ecological footprint of tourism in the respective destination,
 - e. secure the adherence to human and labour rights as indicated by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Organization (ILO),
 - f. should incorporate local communities and other stakeholders affected by ecotourism in a given destination with their consent;
- 5. Requests** member states to use the Social and Behavioural Change Communications (SBCC) framework through firstly understanding the behaviour of consumers, suppliers and local communities from a personal, interpersonal and community level and afterwards design and implement reinforcing activities and interventions such as, but not limited to:
- a. promoting advocacy through mobilizing resources and securing political will and commitment,
 - b. encouraging social mobilization through raising awareness among relevant stakeholders and empowering people and groups to take actions accordingly;
- 6. Calls upon** member states of the United Nations to support the Crime, Conservation and Communities Database created by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) by sharing successful local and national initiatives and adapting existing ones to the local and national circumstances;
- 7. Requests** member states to offer some formal education and professional training opportunities in accordance with SDG 4 'Quality Education', which engage with the issue areas of animal protection, sustainability, border control, customs and law enforcement, in order to enable citizens to pursue professional careers and reduce the likelihood of falling in the hands of criminal networks and engage in poaching activities;

III. First-stage Protection and Detection

- 8. Suggests** that the protection of conservation areas and national parks should be upheld through a Joint Operation Centre in every area and park, coordinating anti-poaching operations, armed rangers to actively protect the territory against unauthorized entry and unarmed intelligence gatherers regarding security and animal well-being, which are to include community-members;

9. **Further suggests** to improve existing Anti-Poaching Systems (APS) by building on current technological progress in two main areas:
 - a. animal identification through the comprehensive use of injectable microchips with animal population in conservation areas and national parks to facilitate monitoring,
 - b. detection of illegal activity within conservancy areas creating a data network similar to the Domain Awareness System used by the New York Police Department, allowing surveillance through real-time data for predictive analysis to allow for mid- to long-term planning, as well as deterring of poaching;
10. **Recommends** to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to establish a global scientific competition for students, graduates and PhD students to develop cost-efficient aerial detection instruments, related software and handheld devices for conservancy rangers to ensure early response to unlawful entering and activity within the conservancy premises:
 - a. With a jury consisting of scholars and industry experts,
 - b. With the possibility for participants to be eligible for scholarships based inter alia on the innovativeness of their projects and the degree of possible implementation, possibly funded through the special purpose budget of UNODC,
 - c. With Ujung Kulon national park in the Republic of Indonesia serving as a test site for the winning prototype, with future editions to also address other detection mechanisms;
11. **Urges** member states to join the international efforts to dry out the financial sources of international terrorism originating from organized poaching and wildlife trafficking by terrorist groups and their supporters by specifically passing domestic legislation in line with recent resolution S/RES/2462.

IV. Trade and Border Control

12. **Establishes** a working group concerned with the setup and conduct on an enhancement program for international cooperation in the field of detection technology, called “sister states”, that pairs states willing to provide technological assistance for detection of illicitly trafficked wildlife products with states in search for assistance on such issues;
13. **Proposes** research initiatives to, if necessary, analyze the harmonization of national legislation in the fields of trade and border control at a regional level to constitute an opportunity towards the reduction of the legislative differences between states from which traffickers benefit in their trade;
14. **Recognizes** the importance of strengthening cooperation between agencies, populations in border areas, nomadic communities and local authorities to facilitate efficient border management by:
 - a. nationally enabling talks and summits with the topic of border safety, border controls, and the trade of endangered species,
 - b. revising national legislation taking into consideration the expertise of stakeholders;
15. **Realizes** the importance of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in developing and maintaining standards for customs procedures by:
 - a. sharing information and providing technical and capacity building assistance with the aim to ensure trade of only legitimate goods,
 - b. serving as the first line of defence against the cross-border movement of prohibited trafficking of endangered species;

- 16. Recognizes** the importance of combating illicit wildlife trades on virtual spaces by:
- a. encouraging the cooperation of wildlife enforcement agencies of the respective member states with CITES Management Authorities to fight cases related to illegal online wildlife trade and recommending joint efforts among government agencies, e-commerce websites and civil society,
 - b. further encouraging member states to consider banning online wildlife trade specifically animal which are regulated under Appendix I and II of the CITES;

V. Law Enforcement

- 17. Strongly urges** member states to criminalize the possession of illegally obtained wildlife products;
- 18. Encourages** member states to establish governmental organisations that specifically focus on the prevention and persecution of wildlife crime and trafficking, which are to cooperate internationally regarding training, technology and know-how;
- 19. Further encourages** member states to increase sentence severity in case of non-compliance, such as, but not limited to:
- a. fines,
 - b. seizures of equipment used to poach and/or traffic,
 - c. further restricting possibility to poach and/or traffic by:
 - i. not granting visas for the purpose of hunting in foreign countries to individuals that have previously been persecuted for poaching and/or illegal wildlife trafficking,
 - ii. having companies that have previously been persecuted for illegal wildlife trafficking to give a report of all imports and exports to the aforementioned governmental organisations,
 - d. having to provide information regarding the consequences of their actions to themselves, society and the environment to
 - i. the general public,
 - ii. target group of customers;
- 20. Expresses its hope** to also ensure that punishments are of the same degree in each United Nations member state, while referring the issue to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
- 21. Calls upon** member states to cooperate with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime in order to discover and eliminate ground structures of international criminal networks;

VI. International Cooperation

- 22. Invites** Member states to promote, plan and orient national activities, foreign relations and cooperation with national neighbours with respect to the use and exchange of technology, legal instruments, intelligence sharing and the role of civil society;
- 23. Encourages** member states to conduct North-South Cooperation in the fields of transfer of technology (ToT) particularly on technologies on optical recognition and development on biological and chemical identifications;
- 24. Designates** a forensic database to provide law enforcement with intelligence and evidence to support the implementation and enforcement of the CITES, through:

- a. providing guidelines on the use of forensic science in criminal investigations, for example the Guidelines on Methods and Procedures for Ivory Sampling and Laboratory Analysis (Ivory Guidelines) have been developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),
 - b. forming a website that gives information about new forensic methods developed for the fight against poaching, on how to determine the age, and origin of the wildlife samples,
 - c. Strengthening the Barcode for Wildlife program as an innovative research project seeking to promote the use of DNA evidence and to develop forensic capacity in selected countries by creating a public DNA barcode reference,
 - d. suggesting the use of optical recognition technology to detect concealment, mis-declarations and permit frauds;
- 25. Encourages** states who have not ratified the CITES to be part of, or if they are reluctant to be part of, encourage the states to issue policies on wildlife crime in line with the general provisions of the CITES;
- 26. Suggests** to revise current categorizations of endangered species according to regional differences and take the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) into account;
- 27. Further encourages** regional organizations such as, but not limited to the EU, ASEAN, AU, and OAS to develop additional provisions to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in accordance to regional conditions;
- 28. Recommends** the establishment of Global-Twix (Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange) Initiatives to facilitate information exchange and international cooperation between law enforcement agencies across the globe;
- 29. Suggests** the member states to recognize the body or agency which fields the matter efficiently, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to be represented as observers and informants at meetings of conferences concerning wildlife crime by:
- a. further recommending member states to work hand in hand with NGOs and CSOs to educate and disseminate information and knowledge with regards to action combating wildlife trafficking and illegal poaching,
 - b. requesting that NGOs have to submit to strict regulations and controls in order to prevent misuse of power by measures such as but not limited to:
 - i. strict limits on measures NGOs are allowed to use,
 - ii. investigate any accusations of misuse of power;
- 30. Further requests** the Member States to take part in and acknowledge the Species Survival Network (SSN), an international coalition of organizations committed to the promotion, enhancement and strict enforcement of the CITES;

VII. Funding

- 31. Calls upon** the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to allocate a share or increase the allocated share of their budget to combat poaching and environmental crime;
- 32. Invites** the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as international, regional and national organizations and foundations to fund and engage in projects regarding the protection of endangered species and combating trade of wildlife;

- 33. Encourages** regional banks and finance institutes to engage in micro-financing for projects regarding protection of animals and wildlife, preventing environmental crime, sustainability, prevent poaching;
- 34. Suggests** member states of the United Nations, companies, foundations, organizations and civil society to support organizations and foundations related to protection of endangered species and wildlife, such as, but not limited to:
- a. the Wildlife Conservation Society,
 - b. the Wildlife Alliance,
 - c. the International Fund for Animal Welfare,
 - d. the African Wildlife Foundation,
 - e. the Animal Welfare Institute,
 - f. the Defenders of Wildlife,
 - g. the International Rhino Fund,
 - h. the Jane Goodall Institute,
 - i. The Save our Species project by the International Union for the conservation of nature,
 - j. the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Programme (FWCP);
- 35. Requests** member states to submit annual reports regarding their progress towards this resolution and the allocation of funding received to implement this resolution;
- 36. Invites** Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.