

Forum: General Assembly Second Committee

Issue: The Question of Ending Poaching and Trafficking of Protected Species of Flora and Fauna

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Introduction

Poaching and trafficking is not an issue that suddenly rose in the globe. Poaching has existed for more than centuries. For example, killing elephants in another tribe's territory in order for the tusk is considered as a type of poaching. During these times, these were not punishable as countries did not exist and there were no law enforcements that could punish them. It was only the Middle Ages, where poaching and trafficking actually became punishable. Hunting in the Middle Ages was strictly permitted only for the Nobility and Land Owners. It was prohibited for all other classes unless the hunter had direct permission from the Nobility or Land Owner.¹

Although poaching and trafficking was an issue for such a long time, it became a serious issue only nowadays. Poaching and trafficking is undoubtedly a serious issue in modern times because of the drastic population decrease in between some species. This population decrease makes the animal rare. As animals become rare, they increase in price as there is not enough supply to follow the demand, hence attracting more poachers to hunt them. This vicious cycle continues and the population keeps decreasing eventually leaving it endangered to extinction, which is why it is such a serious issue in the modern world. Although some people believe rhinos and elephants, the animals with tusks are the most poached around the world, this is not true. Small animals, such as pangolins which live in Africa and Asia, are poached the most.²

Not all trade of wildlife materials is illegal. Poaching is only used when the animal is killed illegally, and trafficking is only used when something was traded illegally. Hunting is legal around the world. Killing rabbits, and certain animals that are not endangered to extinction is legal with a reasonable price to the government or company. The problem is the hunted animals that are endangered to extinction. Although it is impossible to secure every animal from poachers as animals have their own idea and habits, poaching and trafficking could significantly decrease by the effort of humans.

¹ <https://adventure.howstuffworks.com/outdoor-activities/hunting/traditional-methods/poaching1.htm>

² <https://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/animals/what-is-the-worlds-most-poached-animal.aspx>

Definition of Key Terms

Flora and Fauna : Flora indicates all the plants in the ecosystem and Fauna indicates all the animals in the environment, including marine species such as corals, jellyfish and fish.³ So by the question, “The Question of Ending Poaching and Trafficking of Protected Species of Flora and Fauna” it means how to stop ending poaching and trafficking for all animal species and plant species including marine animals, marine plants and etc.

Poaching : Poaching in this specific issue has been defined as the illegal act of hunting or capturing wild animals.⁴ If the act of capturing or killing the animal is legal, it is called hunting. Poaching was first started by peasants for survival purposes centuries ago, but now it has changed to the killing or capturing animal for a certain body part that is worth money.

Trafficking : Trafficking in this specific issue is defined as a trade or deal that is illegal.⁵ So although an animal was caught legally after a payment of a reasonable price, if it is traded to a different country or person not abiding the laws, it could be considered trafficking. Trafficking is not only the trade of illegal things, it is also the illegal trade of legal things.

Endangered Species : All species at a high risk of extinction due to any cause such as human activity, climate change, mutation, predators, preys. All endangered species are officially protected by organizations and governments.⁶

Climate Change : A change in the earth’s climate which usually occurs after a long period of time. Climate change familiar to the current generation is due to the increase in the atmospheric temperature due to the development of human technology.⁷

Explanation of the Question

The word Flora and Fauna indicates that this issue is not only focused on animals but also plant species that need to be protected. Just because the question asks how to end poaching and trafficking of protected species, this does not mean “unprotected” species can be poached and trafficked. Poaching and trafficking is killing and trading any species illegally, and even if the species is not considered as “protected” it is still illegal to kill and trade body parts without permission.

³ <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/fauna>

⁴ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/poaching>

⁵ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/trafficking>

⁶ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/endangered-species>

⁷ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/climate-change?s=t>

For example, although a zebra is legally killable in some countries like Tanzania and Mozambique after some payment to the government, if it is traded illegally to someone or a shop, it is considered trafficking.⁸

Key Member States and NGOs Involved and Their Views

South Africa

Although poaching in South Africa existed before 2008, it was only 2008 when it was recognized as a serious issue. Before 2008, only around twenty rhinos were poached in South Africa, whereas starting in 2008 more than 100 rhinos were poached in South Africa. This is a serious problem considering that rhinos are low in number. But this poaching gradually increased and only in 2011, around 450 rhinos were poached only in South Africa.⁹

IAPF (The International Anti-Poaching Foundation)

The IAPF is a non-profit organization founded in 2009. It is one of the leading organizations in creating strategies to prevent animal poaching. The organization also encourages R&D (Research and Development) in managing wildlife effectively.¹⁰

WWF (The World Wildlife Fund)

The WWF is a fund-raised organization found in 1961 to prevent all types of animal crime. Including animal abuse, poaching and trafficking of animals. The main job of this organization is to influence government policies and regulations on this issue and also to educate people of the importance of animal and how to effectively secure them.¹¹

The WILD Foundation

The WILD Foundation, found in the early 1960s was first found to prevent the extinction of White Rhinos. The founder, Ian Player, first found this organization as he was obsessed with White Rhinos but soon this

⁸<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/7297043/which-countries-big-game-hunting-legal-dangerous-wild-animals-hunt-pay/>

⁹ <https://www.savetherhino.org/rhino-info/poaching-stats/>

¹⁰ <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/groups-working-to-protect-animals-targeted-by-poachers/>

¹¹ <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/groups-working-to-protect-animals-targeted-by-poachers/>

organization tried to prevent most mammals from getting poached. The organization also collaborates with different anti-poaching groups. IAPF listed above being one of their main collaborators in anti-poaching.¹²

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is known for their effort in saving mammals in Africa, especially endangered elephants. The organization's goal is to conserve, educate and research on this issue to create a better society/environment for the future generation. The effort of this organization was shown in progress, as they helped governments and organizations keep control of more than 200 million acres of land not only in Africa but the world.¹³

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1700	Poaching and Trafficking becomes an issue as peasants start killing animal due to poverty.
1880	Peasants are allowed to hunt small animals at a limited amount. For their survival.
1900	Law is created in the United States of America on poaching. The law prohibits the trade of animal parts from one state to another for profit.
2006	Hundred-Twenty elephants are found dead, and the world starts realizing the seriousness of this issue.
2012	After finding out the Vietnamese poachers, South Africa bans Vietnamese.
2013	2000 Pangolins are found dead in a fishing vessel in China.
2015	Poaching of Rhinos strike the highest in South Africa and Africa.

As explained in the introduction, animal poaching and trafficking was an issue that existed since the 1700s. Peasants had to poach to survive. Time passes, and the modern laws are created in 1900 in United States. As they make it illegal to sell a poached animal to another state for profit.¹⁴

¹² <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/groups-working-to-protect-animals-targeted-by-poachers/>

¹³ <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/groups-working-to-protect-animals-targeted-by-poachers/>

¹⁴ <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/cgsf13gateway/timeline/>

Poaching in the 20th century or before is not something that should be debated or brought out during this debate. Peasants were allowed in the past to kill small animals to survive, but this was an issue from long time ago where it was different from modern times. Democracy has become more common in the world, and wealth has been generally distributed more equally within citizens. So the house has to focus on events happening in modern times and how to prevent ongoing and future problems that might happen because of poaching and trafficking. Moreover, although poaching and trafficking has struck the highest in 2015, the result might change depending on the results of the previous years that are not officially announced yet. This timeline is only here for the delegates to read and understand the context of this issue and the history of poaching and trafficking.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Tackling the Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife 30, July 2015 **(A/RES/69/314)**¹⁵
- World Wildlife Day 20, December 2013 **(A/RES/68/205)**¹⁶
- Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking 26, September 2014 **(A/RES/69/430)**¹⁷

Although trafficking and poaching has existed for centuries, it has only become a serious issue in the past decade. UN did not debate a lot of resolutions regarding to this specific topic. These resolutions above are the only resolutions the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has debated that connects to the topic of preventing poaching and trafficking in the flora and fauna.

Although UN does not debate a lot of resolutions on this specific topic, this does not mean UN has not done anything to prevent this issue. As stated in one of the resolutions above, UN has declared March the 3rd the World Wildlife Day.¹⁸ This day is to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. Furthermore, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have focused on solving the problem of wildlife poaching and trafficking.¹⁹

Possible Solutions

¹⁵ <https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/7002-un-adopts-new-resolution-on-tackling-illicit-trafficking-in-wildlife>

¹⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/resolutions.shtml>

¹⁷ <http://ask.un.org/faq/88717>

¹⁸ <http://www.wildlifeday.org/>

¹⁹ <http://ask.un.org/faq/88717>

All the solutions of this issue connect to simply preventing poacher and traffickers from being able to damage or kill the animal. Most of the solutions have already been done and is in current development, but further developing these solutions will help prevent poaching and trafficking in the world.

Enhance the Security for the Endangered Animals.

The best way to effectively prevent poaching and trafficking is to increase the basic level of security among this issue. Although it has already improved a lot during the history of trafficking and poaching, there are still some ways in enhancing the general security. For example, increasing the number of security guards within a gaming park can lead to a faster reaction in a poaching situation. Furthermore, strengthening the security check in an entry can help stop the poachers from coming in the gaming park. There are infinite more ways to enhance the security.

Track the animals

Track the animals that are most vulnerable to poaching. It would be impossible to do this to every animal in the gaming park and the world. But if this is done to a random amount of them, prior for species which are more endangered to extinction, the poachers have to be more careful when poaching animals as they do not know if this specific animal have trackers or not.

There are way more animals in a specific gaming resort or park than the number of poachers. So by sacrificing some animals, resource, and giving attention to the animals, this can eliminate some of the poachers if the poacher gets unlucky. This will eventually lead to the decrease in the number of poachers and make the other poachers leave or quit their job due to the high risk and scarness that they might end up like the other poachers who poached around this area

Increase sanctions on poachers and traffickers

Although this might look ineffective as sanctions do not matter if the criminals are not caught and that criminals only realize the sanctions only after they are caught. But as time passes, this will become way more effective than the other solutions as no criminals would want a high risk low return.

Robbery is a common crime that happens everyday and everywhere. This is because robbery is simple and usually gives low return, which means that although they might get caught, they might not go to prison. But if the sanctions of robbery increases to a minimum of an year in prison, robbery would drastically decrease as nobody wants a high risk but low return. So if sanctions are increased to the poachers, traffickers, and even for the people who buy the item, this issue will be partly resolved.

It would be the most efficient to increase the sanctions for the buyers of the illegally traded item. These buyers are usually people who want tusks, leathers and animal parts only to prove wealth to society, so if they realize that their wealth and honor will be gone as they buy such illegal animals parts, there is no reason why they should buy these things. If there is no one buying it, no one will sell it, and this will lead

to no one poaching the animal as the demand of these body parts drop. So according to the law of supply and demand, increasing sanctions on the demanders of body parts should be done first. Although it is debatable on how much the sanctions should be increased, this is ultimately one of the most efficient solutions.

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