

UNEP Topic: Wildlife Crime

Since the dawn of humanity, Wildlife has been a part of our planet. Over the course of history, however, us and animals have grown further apart. Our Biblical forebear Noah was instructed to salvage all species of animals and bring them onto his ark. However, nowadays we are finding ourselves going out of our way to kill these same animals for profit or for sport.

Now you may be thinking to yourself: “how much money is there to be had? Just find a new hobby!” Much to everyone’s surprise, Wildlife trafficking is actually in the top five most profitable crimes, ahead of other major crimes such as robbery¹!

In addition, let’s take a step back to consider other peripheral issues. Before trafficking, animals were hunted and trapped for food and other necessities. This may have made sense at one point in time, but nowadays, with alternate food sources and many other reasons against this, it may seem illogical.

Keeping all of that in mind, here are some things to consider:

- Are the laws to prevent trafficking, and hunting in certain areas for certain times of the year resulting in a better outcome in regard to animal safety? (As we all know, rules are made to be broken and in addition, when told not to push the red button, oftentimes it gets pushed)
- What would the potential impact be of tightening or loosening these laws?
- Should each country have a say in how they want to handle this topic? If yes, what are worldwide effects of this that should be discussed?
- Should either of the topics discussed be illegal at all? Or, if legal, should there be limitations?

These questions are meant to be food for thought or a good starting point in order to get the ball rolling in regard to thinking about this topic. There are many other issues you may choose to

¹ <https://wildlifetraffickingalliance.org/illegal-wildlife-trade/#:~:text=Wildlife%20trafficking%20has%20quickly%20become,arms%20trade%2C%20and%20human%20trafficking.>

consider to gain a nuanced perspective. REMEMBER that you are representing the views of YOUR country. I believe that as a delegate it is in your best interest to have a thorough knowledge of your countries policies and stances on these issues. As you begin researching your topics and writing your papers, keep in mind that everything will be checked for plagiarism on turnitin.com. If you have any comments, questions, concerns, please feel free to reach out at zach.tuch@gmail.com.

Zach Tuchman

Chair, UNEP