

**Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Committee: UNEP**

**Topic: Protection of Species from Extinction**

Tens of thousands of species are threatened with extinction due to the unsustainable practices and belief systems surrounding them. Despite ongoing debate and the creation of legislation, the issue is far from solved. Concerns regarding economic loss, infringement of culture and traditions, and the great demand from developed nations have arisen surrounding this issue. Many nations simply lack the knowledge of sustainable practices while others let economic gain take precedence over nature. The United Kingdom recognizes that in order to successfully protect flora and fauna from extinction, their habitats must be protected, legislation must be properly enforced and revised, and economic incentives must outweigh the benefits of poaching and trafficking.

Unfortunately, as the world industrializes and moves towards the future, nature lags behind. As developing nations move in and out of the third stage of the demographic transition model, populations boom creating a demand for more infrastructure. The implementation of this infrastructure takes away from natural habitats and pollutes the homes of species around the globe. In developed nations, unsustainable agricultural and industrial practices are a root cause of habitat loss related to pollution. Although the aforementioned improves human quality of life in the short-term, ignorance of protecting flora and fauna from extinction will cause detrimental long-term consequences. With the extinction of species, potential cures for cancers and AIDS are lost with every death. In 1973, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This act has been extremely effective in protecting species from extinction and has recovered many severely endangered species back to thriving status. Due to the act's aging, many of its parts need to be revisited to be successful in modern-day issues. The act fails to address protecting these endangered species from the rampant effects of climate change. As well as having successfully removed 28 previously endangered species from the list, thousands more have been stagnant for more than a decade. Developed nations who benefit the most from urbanization and the use of unsustainable practices inherently oppose the effects of protecting species from extinction. These nations view acts such as ESA as economically restrictive as corporations and cities are unable to expand without infiltrating protected lands.

Many obstacles face the UN in finding a comprehensive approach that addresses not only the need for the protection of flora and fauna but the consequences that proceed them. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposes the PROTECT plan which encompasses addressing pollution, reducing demand, occupational studies, tourism focus, education in developing nations, CITES enforcement and revision, and trading regulations. The UK urges focus on reducing demand for these endangered animals at the source, being the developed countries themselves. These demands are often made due to a lack of education on the adverse consequences of consumerism. Through occupational study coalition programs, passionate minds from developing countries who seek opportunities in developed nations can earn degrees from high tier universities. They can do so by educating students in developed nations on the effects of climate change and extinction that they face in their homeland. Similarly, students from developed nations who understand the misconceptions behind novelty medicines that run rampant in regions such as Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa can receive credits towards their degree by educating communities in these regions on sustainable alternative medicines. Through these coalitions and other mediums, eco-tourism can be promoted to states whose economy depends on illicit practices. By promoting the use of eco-tourism as a more profitable way to make use of wildlife and the monitoring of goods to prevent money lost through illicit outflows, the economies of developing nations can flourish. Illicit outflows from the trafficking of flora and fauna can be recovered by stricter enforcement of the CITES protocol which prevents nations from threatening the survival of wildlife.