

FORUM: Legal Committee

QUESTION OF: Justice for Animals: Creating a Protocol for Protecting the Wildlife in Rainforests.

MAIN SUBMITTER: Argentina

United Nations Legal Committee (UNLC),

Alarmed by the rate of which animal and plant species are becoming extinct globally,

Bringing attention to the pressing issue of habitat destruction, poaching, and trafficking,

Alarmed by the corruption of various governments around the globe,

Noting that the illegal smuggling of wildlife produces approximately \$20 billion every year, making it one of the most prominent forms of trafficking in the world only after that of drugs, money, and humans, thus promoting extremism and provoking the destabilization of many States worldwide,

Deeply concerned by the insufficient or nonexistent prosecution given in order to prevent further habitat destruction, poaching or trafficking,

Declaring that deforestation is a major reason for the extinction and endangerment of animals as it destroys the environments they live in and their food,

Recognizing that various nations with a declining rainforest area have estimated that currently, illegal logging activities are between at least 50 to 85 percent,

Emphasizing that every year at least 13 million hectares of forests worldwide are destroyed as a consequence of deforestation, thus leaving substantial damage on the earth's ecosystems and wildlife that are thriving in these affected areas,

Alarmed by the growth of deforestation in numerous rainforests across the globe such as the Amazon, Congolese, Valdivian, and Gran Chaco rainforests,

Approving that the majority of the deforestation is caused by palm oil production, cattle, mining, and logging,

Emphasizing the fact that developing or less developed countries are more vulnerable to deforestation as they depend more on natural resources such as timber,

Further noting that deforestation is also a factor that affects climate change and therefore also endangers the life of the people worldwide,

Approving the definition of ecotourism from The International Ecotourism Society as “Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.”,

Recognizing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 that strives to increase the global forest area by 3%,

Having considered the enormity of the task at hand our nation believes it is essential that member states consider the points of this resolution and join this resolution,

1. Requests the Member States to take action against the illegal trade of wildlife by adapting the national legislation so that such crimes are the basis for action to be taken, such as the seizure, confiscation, and disposal of related assets;
2. Further requests for the Member States to counter and outlaw any form of corruption that promote the illegal trafficking of wildlife or forms of illegal deforestation to ensure that the ecosystem in that area is better protected;
3. Recommends supporting local companies that operate in ways that minimize damage to the environment;
4. Calls for protected areas to be developed in order to produce income for local communities resulting in an increase in economic benefits for a larger percentage of the population, in ways such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Establishing entrance fees compensated by the locals,
 - b. Hiring locals as personnel,
 - c. Selling locally crafted goods,
 - d. Implementing ecosystem services;
5. Calls upon the Member States to implement ecotourism as a measure to sustain their economies, while still minimizing the environmental impact of parks and maximizing their benefits for local communities;
6. Recommends that all ecotourists visiting the forest will be supervised with rangers and workers, to avoid the possibility of the tourists committing animal and plant trafficking, harming the environment around them with littering and other activities;
7. Emphasizes the need for an increase in surveillance in protected areas, in order to patrol the park, and keep vigil for activities that are damaging to the ecosystem and criminal misconduct;
8. Further requests the creation of an entry permit that will be given to people wanting to visit a protected area, like scientists, ecotourists, and official workers/rangers of the forests, and depending on the category, they will have different requirements for the permission:

- a. If ecotourists, by booking a visit to the park, they will get a permit automatically,
 - b. If scientists, provide the park the reasons for their research or visit to the park and show the university or the sponsor of the mission,
 - c. Official workers of the park, when starting work there, will get a badge with access to areas that are necessary, and in case the worker wants to leave the job, the person will have to return the badge;
9. Urges for widespread advertising campaigns to raise awareness on the topic as well as educate the population about the importance of the environment and how citizens can help assist on the protection of rainforests;
10. Further recommends incorporating the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)'s standards which could help promote a better animal welfare system in the nation those being, but not limited to:
 - a. Improve animals' health and living conditions worldwide,
 - b. Counter and regulate diseases in animals;
11. Recommends the implementation of a global economic intervention to subsidize environmentally sustainable crops and produce which require long-term multi-year establishment, to motivate farmers, who would have otherwise deployed slash and burn tactics, to settle and maintain the quality of their land;
12. Considers giving fines starting at five euros, and rising depending on the severity of the case, to citizens seen harming the environment and/or animals, such as littering, dumping waste into bodies of water, treating animals with disrespect, and so on;
13. Draws attention to the many environmental organizations and NGOs that exist, and how these could help countries plan and work through their goals on maintaining biodiversity as well as forestry, such as the World Wide Fund (WWF);
14. Requests the implementation of a United Nations Forest and Biodiversity body that would:
 - a. Monitor all forests and animals that live within these forests, creating a detailed account of both the percentage of land that is a forest as well as making a detailed account of the animals which include those that are endangered, endemic and any other species that live in that area,
 - b. Assure that member states gradually slow down deforestation and apply afforestation or reforestation techniques to build up new forests,
 - c. Set a goal for all nations to increase their forest land at least three percent for the year 2025;
15. Trusts that all member states can agree on this and will work together to ensure a continued protection of our earth's ecosystem that we heavily rely upon.