

GALMUN 2017



ENIRONMENT

Research Report

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Background:

"**Animal poaching**" is when an **animal** is killed illegally. It usually occurs when an **animal** has something that is considered valuable such as fur or ivory etc.

Human populations have grown and as a result, the demand for wildlife products in some countries, such as leather goods, seafood, medical ingredients and others, has grown also. For many, wildlife is seen as valuable for trade, with little regard for the legality of their actions.

Because of the high profits made from the sale of rare species, many people become involved in illegal wildlife trading, therefore, vulnerable wild animals are in danger of extinction and nature cannot keep up with the rate of human consumption. Another important problem is that the illegal wildlife trade significantly impacts legally operating businesses and tourism around the world because it generates billions of dollars annually, and eliminating it might harm the economic system.

Of course not all wildlife trade is illegal. There are a lot of wild species which are sold legally as food, pets, medicine, etc. But wildlife trade becomes a problem when demand increases unsustainably and directly threatens the survival of the species.

Our complex web of life on earth depends on the careful use of wildlife species and their habitats, without inconsiderate overexploitation. Poaching causes animals that are endangered to become extinct, thus creating a disruption in the food chain. Eventually, it will result in new adaptations of animals, and/or species beyond human control and prejudices the balance of nature.

Questions to consider:

- What are the reasons for poaching? How can we use this information to protect endangered species? Where is poaching prevalent?
- How can we prevent the poaching of endangered animals?
- What is the role of rebel militias and criminal organizations in the wildlife trade market? How can they be prevented?
- How can we save animals already on the verge of extinction due to poaching?
- How can we solve the problem of wildlife trade without having an effect on the economy?

Useful links:

<http://unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation>

<http://www.eolss.net/sample-chapters/c12/e1-67-05-01.pdf>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2032.html>

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/illegal-wildlife-trade>

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160310-the-difficult-truth-about-poaching>

<http://www.poachingfacts.com/>