



American Model United Nations
General Assembly Third Committee

GA Third/II/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Third Committee

The General Assembly Third Committee,

1 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolutions 69/314 of 30 July 2015, 70/301 of 9 September 2016, 71/326 of
2 11 September 2017 and 73/343 of 16 September 2019 on combating the illicit trafficking of wildlife,

3 *Alarmed* by the high number of threatened and endangered species throughout the world,

4 *Concerned* by the drastic decrease in natural habitats and government-protected lands,

5 *Supporting* United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 to protect water and land ecosystems,

6 *Acknowledging* the World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Risks Report, which ranks biodiversity loss and
7 ecosystem collapse amongst the top five threats to humanity in the next decade,

8 *Recognizing* the harm caused to the ocean and wildlife by companies spilling sewage, industrial waste and
9 oil byproducts into the ocean,

10 *Appreciating* the vast diversity of flora and fauna visible throughout the world,

11 *Recalling* Article 57 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which provides a guide for the
12 return of illegally obtained assets,

13 *Reaffirming* Article 18 of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, which
14 allows countries to provide mutual legal assistance for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting organized criminal
15 activity,

16 1. *Emphasizes* that the protection of biodiversity and animal life on Earth represents a key aspect of
17 environmental conservation as wildlife protections are as environmentally important as traditional strategies that
18 mitigate climate change to preserve the environment;

19 2. *Encourages* Member States to increase both domestic and international efforts to prevent criminal defor-
20 estation and other acts of habitat destruction;

21 3. *Reminds* Member States of the economic and ecological success of programs such as the Congo Basin
22 Forest Partnership and the Congo Basin Blue Fund, including:

23 (a) Supporting the increase in resources dedicated to these types of programs;

24 (b) Using resources from such programs to strengthen regional efforts to protect major forest habitats
25 such as the Congo Basin and the Amazon;

26 (c) Endorsing more Member States adopting similar programs to protect their ecology and biodi-
27 versity;

28 4. *Invites* collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund to increase distribution of resources available within
29 their Oceans Futures initiative, including, but not limited to, predictive analytics and strategic planning of approaches
30 to unsustainable marine resource extraction;

31 5. *Advocates for* Member States to continue anti-poaching strategies that target both the supply and demand
32 of the poaching industry by:

33 (a) Encouraging the creation of wildlife parks that enclose landscapes where exotic game roam;

34 (b) Reiterating that people who have economically relied upon the poaching industry can be reha-
35 bilitated towards protecting animal life, as seen in the example of Namibian conservancies;

36 (c) Recommending the strengthening of domestic customs policies in coordination with the World
37 Customs Organization (WCO) to decrease rates of illegal poaching across international borders as most poached
38 goods are sold outside their country of origin;

39 6. *Suggests* the expansion of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Wild for Life campaign
40 to include best species conservation management practices to decrease crimes against the environment;

41 7. *Encourages* Member States to invest monetary assets recovered from environmental crime into preventing
42 further destruction of the environment.

Passed, Yes: 59 / No: 0 / Abstain: 7