COMMITTEE: Environment Commission

QUESTION OF: Preventing illegal hunting and killing of endangered wildlife

MAIN SUBMITTER: Sudan

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Recognizing* wild trade as the sale and exchange of live or dead wild animals and their products,

*Affirming* the intrinsic value of biological diversity and the intangible benefit it has to human life, wellbeing and development,

*Noting with deep concern* the decline in the overall abundance of wild species, not only by population, but also by geographical spread and diversity,

*Concerned* with an increased demand in the illegal wildlife trade,

*Conscious* of the fact that this industry causes many animals to go extinct, loss of habitat and results in a decrease in biodiversity everywhere,

*Recognizing* that the trade of endangered wildlife is legal, despite hunting and killing of endangered wildlife being illegal, bearing in mind that wildlife trade is an industry kept alive by consumers,

*Noting with regret* that poaching is the source of the majority of illegally hunted and killed wildlife and that it threatens the lives of the 3200 wildlife tigers left in the world,

*Acknowledging* that many wild animals are illegally sold to circuses due to the current regulations and are treated badly, abused and not fed properly, and it allows a very profitable sales point for animal traffickers,

*Disturbed* that very often animals are killed by accident due to hunters wanting to save time (i.e. dolphins and seabirds are also caught in fishing nets, whilst the mullet fish were the intended targets),

*Taking into account* that the aftermath of poaching affects the biodiversity of the Earth, economies, and trade market and the extinction of animal species,

*Further concerned* by the fact that organized criminal networks are generating profits from illicit wildlife trade, operating with little or no fear of persecution

*Recognizing* the importance of combatting illicit wildlife trade in relation to economic and social development,

1. Calls for UN officials to check tourist spots to close down shops that sell body parts of endangered animals and make the shops pay fines;
2. Reaffirming that members of the UN must reinforce their laws about illegal hunting and poaching of endangered animals;
3. Recommends that anyone guilty of trafficking endanger animals must be punished, in ways such as, but not limited to:
   1. Rehabilitation courses,
   2. Public/community service,
   3. Public apologies, publicly acknowledging crime,
   4. In severe cases, not being permitted to make the same decision:
4. Released from job,

ii. Demoted to a lower position,

iii. Suggests implementing the death penalty on corrupt criminal, perpetrators if convicted in a country where death penalty is a legal penalty;

1. Further recommends all schools to raise awareness about poaching where it is a major problem;
2. Calls for the education of the children and adults about the impacts of illegal hunting and the ways to reduce it through the means of but not limited to
   1. Radio Broadcasts,
   2. Internet,
   3. Television, advertisements and programmes,
   4. Posters,
   5. Leaflets;
3. Strongly urges all member states to completely eradicate the phase out the hunting, legal domestic manufacture and sale of the 15 most endangered species;
4. Encourages Member States to make suitable voluntary contributions, where appropriate, to the World Wide Life (WWF), TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) that include, but are not limited to:

a). Donations, for example:

1. Money,

ii. Volunteers acting as teachers,

iii. Information to tourists about poaching and illegal animal souvenirs,

b) Educating tourists, consumers, shop-keepers, suppliers, manufacturers and so on about:

1. The consequences of illegal hunting and poaching,

ii. Environmental consequences,

iii. Purchase of wildlife-related products;

1. Further urges to collaborate with the WWF to develop a worldwide program to establish regulations, raise awareness, assist enforcement of illegal hunting laws, teach people in rural areas how to use local animals for a source of food and in other ways in a sustainable way and fund anti-poaching brigades;
2. Strongly encourages all the member states to create a strict national legislation that either bans or limits the trade of endangered species;
3. Calls upon MEDCs to guide LEDCs by supplying equipment, training and if necessary funds to enforce the banning of illegal hunting laws, such as but not limited to:
   * 1. Supplying equipment,
     2. Training,
     3. Any necessary funds;
4. Recommends member states to provide training to become stationing game wardens in large wildlife preserves or natural parks would allow them to identify and capture of illegal hunters, and prosecute them;
5. Confirms that without the appropriate documentation of wildlife animals in circuses, the same punishments will be conducted as the illegal ownership of wild life animals hoping to reduce the purchases on poached animals in circuses;
6. Hopes to stay informed and active on this matter.