**FORUM:** Environment Commission

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing measures to protect endangered species

**SUBMITTED BY:** Ethiopia

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Recognising* that the umbrella term “endangered species” includes both flora and fauna,

*Acknowledging* that 15% of the land surface is now protected for the purpose of protecting wildlife, whilst the same occurs for only 4% of the oceans,

*Understanding* that the threatening of species is due to numerous factors, including but not limited to deforestation, overfishing, global warming, and other mainly anthropological causes,

*Concerned* by the fact that species extinction happens nearly 1000 times faster because of human causes,

*Alarmed* that some scientists predict that humans are laying the foundations for the sixth mass extinction by 2050,

1. Calls for increased protection and maintenance of existing protected natural habitats where flora and fauna reside:
   1. in all areas such as but not limited to:
      1. urbanised and densely populated areas in the form of parks and communal gardens, these may be maintained by voluntary gardeners
      2. wildlife reserves
      3. aquatic reserves including sea spaces as well as lakes and streams where experts such as researchers and scientists in the said field are given responsibility to maintain these areas, allowing for specific attention to water acidity
   2. through the use of:
      1. certified and monitored wildlife rangers to maintain these spaces
      2. the creation of greater separation between the proposed spaces and their borders using fencing and gates
      3. increased security with reference to wildlife reserves in particular;
2. Requests the creation of more and/or larger wildlife reserves and natural habitats in areas known to have high biodiversity and to be of ecological importance, where these spaces will be protected and maintained by national governments and international funding, in areas such as but not limited to:
   1. vast planes and stretches of land frequently utilised by local wildlife
   2. the sea, for example the Gulf of California, where these spaces will be protected internationally by organisations, such as the UN, or by national governments who wish to accept these responsibilities;
3. Further requests habitat destruction of species to be more closely regulated by national governments, whilst also urging national governments to place stricter laws on the use of land and sea to identify whether habitats or ecosystems are destroyed, for the purpose of protecting the natural habitats of species, and to further urge countries to:
   1. ensure that land is not made infertile by using sustainable methods of deforestation so that it may always be returned to its natural state if this is ever required (IRAN)
   2. create bureaus as part of their administrations to oversee all potential projects that companies may want and which would impact species or parts of the wild countryside;
4. Further calls for stricter regulations regarding waste, waste materials and hazardous materials, such as plastics, in protected natural areas as well as outside of these regions, so as to limit any harmful substances entering ecosystems whilst also preventing the extinction of flora and fauna through the use of:
   1. recycling bins to be placed in public spaces and in national parks to encourage recycling and prevent inorganic materials affecting species in negative ways
   2. placing fines on rubbish which is (un)intentionally left behind in animal habitats
   3. encouraging the use of biodegradable materials through:
      1. subsidisation by the government, making these products cheaper and more accessible to the general market
      2. running campaigns to encourage the use of biodegradable materials, for example by using social media, whilst also discouraging the use of non-biodegradable materials during the proposed campaigns;
5. Expresses its hope for increased law enforcement and harsher laws against illegal and unauthorised animal poaching on a global scale, coming to fruition by means such as:
   1. coherent local, national and global agreements on laws surrounding illegal animal poaching, including severity of punishment, focusing particularly on critically endangered animals and other species
   2. courses for wildlife rangers and conservationists on the effects of their actions and of corruption and that poaching of animals only provides short-term monetary profits
   3. penalties for wildlife rangers who accept bribes or do not step in when witnessing illegal poaching;
6. Encourages the environmental-conscious education of all people globally, allowing them to identify problems that our societies face with the extinction of species through means such as but not limited to:
   1. having bi-annual general meetings in communities about the causes and effects of the presence and potential extinction of various species
   2. teaching people at work and school how to conserve and take care of the environment to protect flora and fauna, through:
      1. making this obligatory in all academic institutions and encouraging this in industrial areas and all other work areas
      2. ensuring that the provision costs of these programs remain low by encouraging volunteers and experts to lead these classes
      3. highlighting the importance of the preservation of species in ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity;
7. Suggests that media campaigns are run by NGOs and governments regarding the issue of the protection of (endangered) species through the use of:
   1. verified statistics, information and diagrams in media campaigns
   2. various types of media so as to reach a large audience, such as but not limited to:
      1. social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
      2. local, regional, national and international newspapers and magazines
      3. documentaries and series to be aired on television and the Internet
   3. influencers stating their dedication and care for the discussed issue at hand and who will voluntarily participate;
8. Supports the continued research on the endangerment of species by specialised scientists working alongside NGOs, which:
   1. ensures that the research conducted is used to inform others through environmentally-conscious education as mentioned in clause 6
   2. approves further research into new methods of protecting species and their habitats through:
      1. fieldwork conducted by regional researchers and experts
      2. the collaboration between national governments and local NGOs who focus on protecting species;
9. Asks for countries that use animal products such as rhinoceros horn and tiger bone as traditional and actually ineffective medicinal products to diminish or remove their demand by:
   1. educating and convincing the public that they have no medicinal value through:
      1. explaining the aforementioned to school students by including this in school curriculums or by bringing in experts to discuss the issue
      2. posting educational banners and advertisements in public spaces to explain their lack of medicinal value making it illegal for pharmacies to sell medicine containing illegal animal products;
10. Further asks for countries to make any ivory-based endangered species based products such as ivory but also skins completely illegal by:
    1. having the national police regularly check in on shops selling souvenirs, jewell ery and similar items to confiscate any ivory objects these shops are selling, whenever possible
    2. placing heavy fines on having purchased, sold or produced these ivory products on people who have engaged in these illegal actions
    3. making tourists more aware of policies on souvenirs and illegal animal products which they purchase;
11. Further suggests that all shark and whale species are made illegal to hunt and that the hauls of fishing boats are checked upon their return to the harbour, confiscating any sharks or whales, or shark/whale pieces, on boats and further making it illegal to consume and sell any shark parts. Further measures should be implemented to reduce sharks and whales being victims at by-catch such as but not limited to:
    1. Monitoring of nets
    2. Boats being obliged to report by-catch to authorities including details such as but not limited to:
       1. weight of by-catch
       2. Injuries of by-catch
       3. numbers of species and category on the IUCN Red list
    3. significant punishment if standards on nets and fishing techniques are not met
12. Decides to stay actively seized in the matter and encourages continual and open communication between all member states to work towards a collaborative approach to solving current and future problems.