



**ZAMUN 2020**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

---

***STUDY GUIDE***

---

**Lucia Jandzíková, Sara Mráziková**

# CONTENTS

1. LETTER FROM CHAIRS .....	3
2. INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC .....	4
3. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS.....	5
4. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC .....	8
5. DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC .....	10
6. ISSUES TO BE SOLVED .....	13
7. CONCLUSION .....	14
8. USEFUL LINKS.....	15
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	16

# 1. LETTER FROM CHAIRS

Esteemed delegates,

It is a great honor for us to welcome you to the ZAMUN 2020 United Nations Economic and Social Council committee. My name is Lucia and together with my underchair Sara we will try to do our best in making this MUN conference and experience unforgettable for all of you.

As members of ECOSOC, you'll have to discuss international economic and social issues. This year our committee will try to tackle an urgent global matter and that is to be the illegal wildlife trade. It is an interesting, modern and complex topic. And we believe that this study guide will serve as an introduction and help you in your further research which we highly recommend you to do in order to be able write a position paper and of course without any problems debate on this topic.

We are sure this upcoming conference will be a great opportunity for all of us to learn plenty of new information about world's biggest issue and what is even more important, we get a chance to make some new friendships and extraordinary memories.

If you are new to all of this, don't be scared even though it is absolutely natural to feel a bit stressed, especially talking in front of so many new faces and what is more in a foreign language. Just start talking and debating. We can assure you it is not a rocket science and we all have been there once.

Our wish is to make you feel as comfortably as possible and together achieve a resolution which could be considered a beneficial one. We are looking forward to spending those few days with you guys and hearing your great speeches. Bring your positive energy and even better mood!

See you all in April!

Best,

Your chairs

Lucia and Sara.

## 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Tackling the illegal wildlife trade remains an urgent global issue. It contributes to dramatic declines in the populations of many protected species, found across all continents, from elephants, rhinos, grey parrots, as well as increasing the number of endangered species. Over the past 40 years alone, 52% of the world's wildlife has been wiped out of the existence. This pressure applied on the wildlife has an impact on other spheres of life as well, meaning change of land-use, pollution and changing environmental conditions.

The illegal wildlife trade is often highly organized, sophisticated criminal activity that is affecting the world's industry. It fuels corruption which creates insecurity and undermines the rule of law, impeding the opportunities for economic growth.

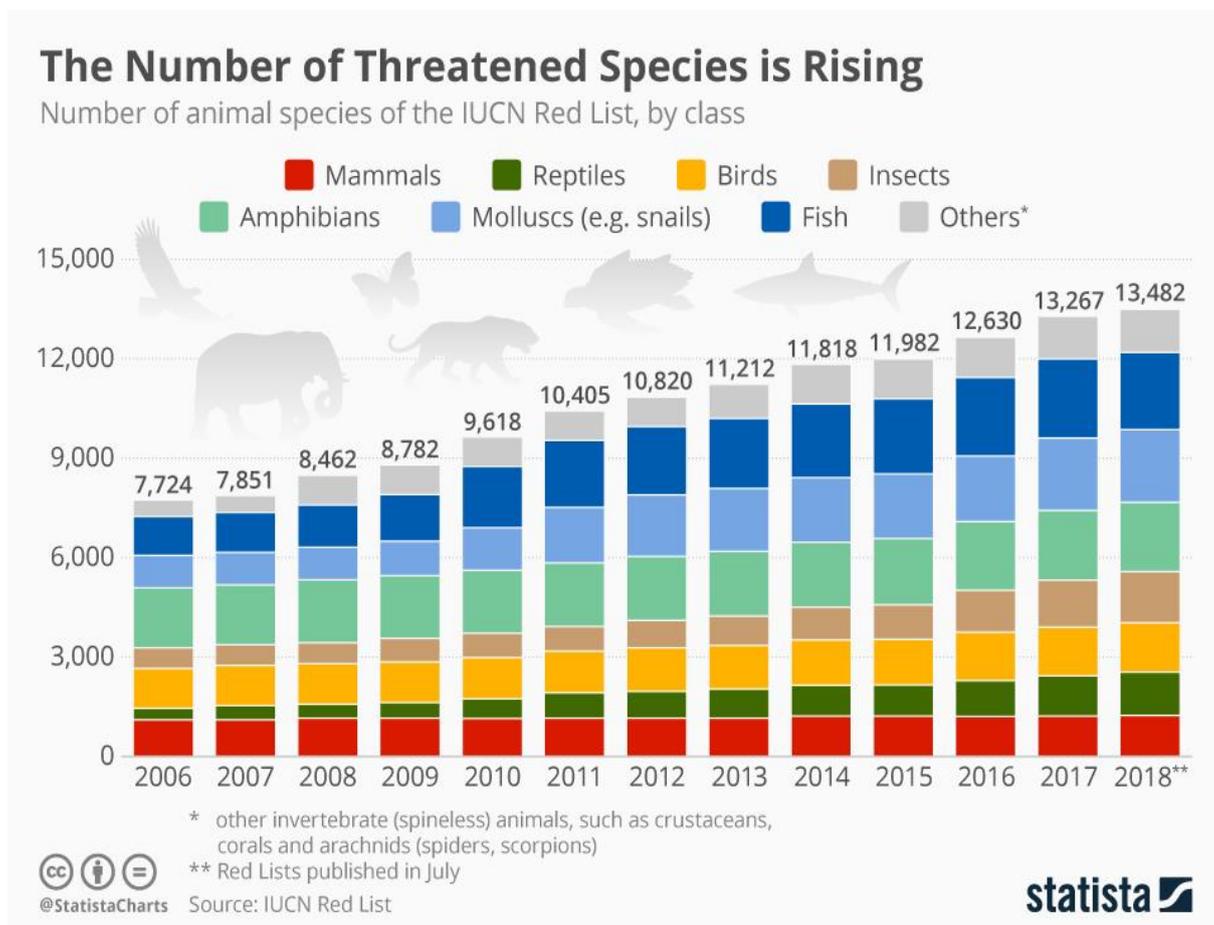
It is well known that a healthy ecosystem is inevitable for the survival of humanity and we as humans are the single most influential species in our ability to at least try to alter our natural environment. That's why the main goal of our committee will be trying to achieve a resolution which all of us could consider a beneficial one in the question of tackling the issue of wildlife trade. Last but not least I hope we will experience a joyful time together while debating world's biggest issues.

### 3. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

- **FLORA** – all the plants from of a particular place or from a particular time in history
  
- **FAUNA** – all the animals that live wild in a particular area
  
- **WILDLIFE TRADE** – any sale or exchange of wild animal and plant resources by people. This can involve live animals and plants or a diverse range of products needed or prized by humans – including skins, medicinal ingredients, tourist curious, timber, fish and other food products.



- **ENDANGERED SPECIES** - a species which has been categorized as very likely to become extinct in the near future. Such as **Amur Leopard**, **Black Rhino**, **Bornean Orangutan**, **Sunda Tiger**... (all of them critically endangered)



- **ECOSYSTEM** – all the living things in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment.
- **POACHING** – the illegal practice of trespassing on another's property to hunt or steal game without the landowner's permission.

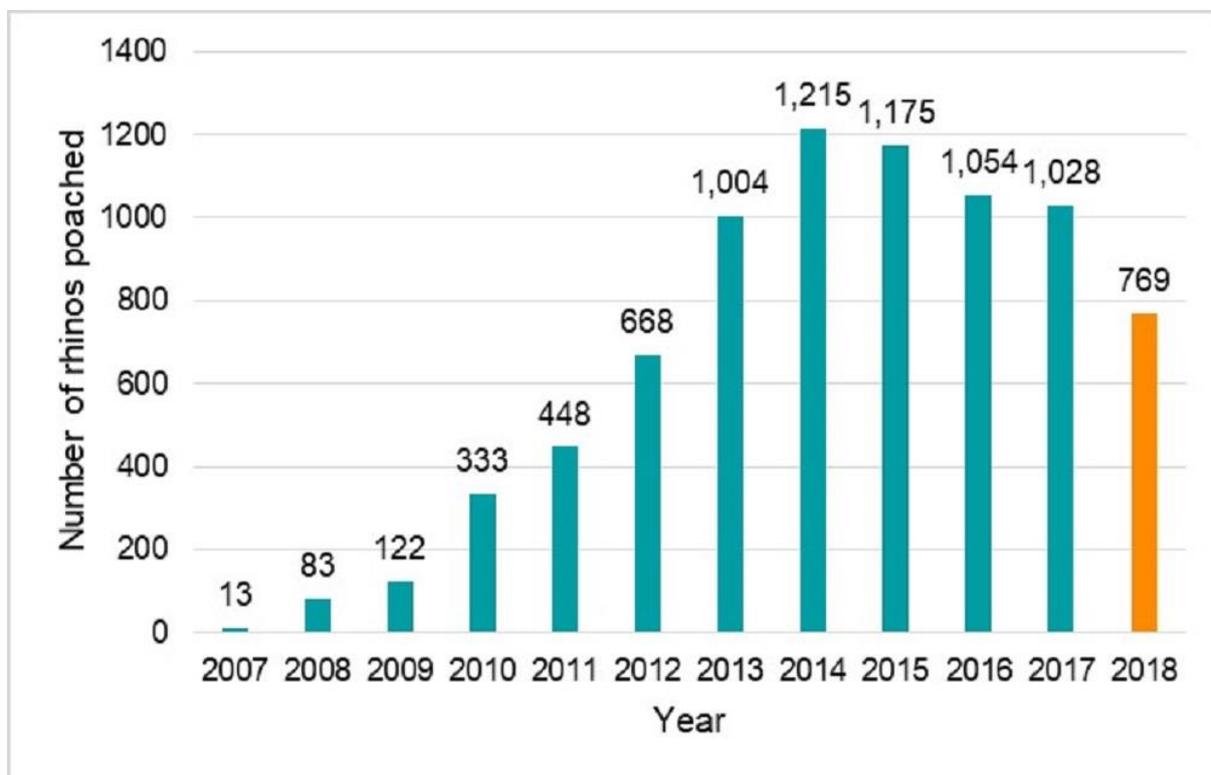
- **WILDLIFE TRADE HOSPOTS** – certain places where wildlife trade is particularly threatening.
  
- **BIODIVERSITY** – the number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world generally, or the problem of protecting this.
  
- **CORRUPTION** – dishonest or illegal behavior involving a person in a position of power, for example, accepting money for doing something illegal or immoral.

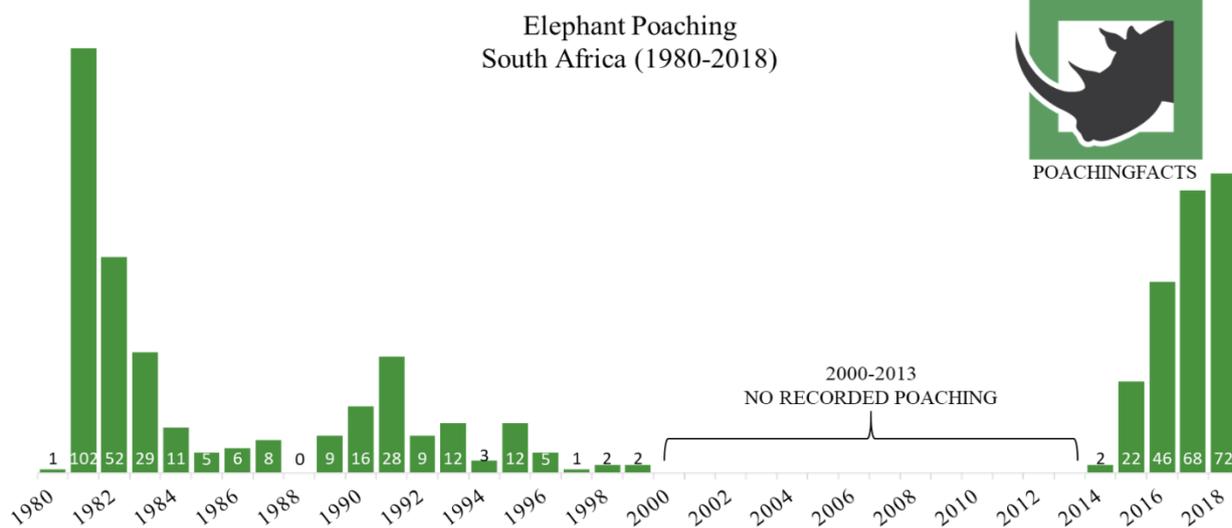
## 4. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

The issues concerning wildlife began a long time ago, when animals were killed for personal use, or just because they represented a threat to a mankind. The killing of elephants, tigers, and lions, for example, on a regular basis has been a common worldwide practice after attacking humans or destroying their livestock.

These actions were not prohibited by any law and even though existed areas where it was considered as a serious crime, it was often left unnoticed by the law enforcement or government.

As the world is constantly evolving, so does the illegal wildlife trade. What was once being done for some kind of protection, has now turned into one of the most profitable illegal businesses in the world. Every year the wildlife hunt vacation is becoming more and more popular. These days poachers are no longer just locals, but the number of outsiders searching for highly endangered and valuable species such as rhinos and elephants is increasing every year.





Since at least the 1970s, the illegal wildlife trade has been considered as crime problem that cannot be longer ignored, but on the contrary needs to be addressed in the form of new policies, regulations, protected parks, enforcement, and public education. Furthermore, conservationist organizations, such as **TRAFFIC**, the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, and the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, have been the leading front in case of protecting endangered species and their habitats.

## 5. DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC

### MAIN ISSUE

Wildlife populations are in widespread decline around the world. The decline has been so dramatic that it is estimated that the biomass of humans is now an order of magnitude higher than that of all wild mammals combined.

Habitat destruction and poaching to supply the international illegal wildlife trade are two key drivers of this grave problem. The value of illegal trade has been estimated at between \$5 and \$20 billion per year, making wildlife crime one of the most lucrative business, following only narcotics, human trafficking and weapons.

The conservation of elephants and rhinos has received considerable global attention, but other mammals are under severe pressure as well, including cats (tigers, snow leopards, lions...), non-human primates (great apes, monkeys...) and pangolins, endangered, scaly-skinned mammals highly sought after for meat and scales that may be the world's most heavily trafficked mammal.

Many species of reptiles, birds, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates are also significantly impacted by poaching and illegal trade and require urgent attention.

The demand for wildlife products may be fueled by the perceived medicinal value of some products or the social status that is associated with them. Other drivers of demand include opportunistic buying driven by the desire to possess exotic pets and rare plants and animals.

### HOW IT WORKS

Wildlife trafficking trade has routes extending to every continent and key linkages in major markets such as China and USA. It happens in a similar way to illegal drugs and weapon trafficking. A major source is the Internet's deep web and dark web. It can also take place on auction sites via classified ads. Products are often available on eBay. Lastly, the air travel system, alongside land and sea carries, also enable wildlife trafficking when products are hidden in luggage and carry-ons.



## **THE WILDLIFE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

The Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) believes our wildlife is not for sale to the highest bidder. It must be protected from traffickers who turn endangered species into trinkets and jewelry.

The WJC undertakes undercover, intelligence-driven investigations, with a goal of presenting verifiable, first-hand evidence of wildlife crimes to national governments and law enforcement agencies for action. They identify high-level trafficking suspects through intelligence analysis and share intelligence with governments, to enable more effective enforcement against wildlife trafficking.

## **HOW IS IT TACKLED**

Conservation International by partnering with governments, nonprofits, businesses and civil society, they promote a comprehensive approach to addressing the threats posed by wildlife trafficking.

Seven international conservation organizations including Conservation International have come together to work with the Duke of Cambridge and the Royal Foundation through an effort called UNITED FOR WILDLIFE. The purpose of this is to promote better protection of endangered wildlife, reduce demand for illegal wildlife products, improve law enforcement, engagement of the private sector and involvement of young people in conservation.

When laws against wildlife trafficking are enforced, illegal goods are usually confiscated. In Cambodia Conservation International helped rehabilitate pangolins confiscated from illegal trade and prepare them to return to the wild. In Hong Kong, they helped to move almost 12 000 confiscated turtles to zoos in the USA and Europe.

## **SOME ADDITIONAL FACTS**

- ✓ The WWF estimates there are 5000 tigers being kept in U.S. backyards... there are only around 3000 left in the wild
  
- ✓ Despite scientific evidence refuting the efficacy of rhino horn to treat illnesses such as cancer, it still remains a popular ingredient in Traditional Medicine.
  
- ✓ Around 80% of Asia's freshwater turtle species are in danger of extinction. These turtles are used for medicine, food and pets.
  
- ✓ The Asian elephant is at dire risk of extinction. There are an estimated 32000 Asian elephants left in the wild.
  
- ✓ China is the world's largest market for ivory.

## 6. ISSUES TO BE SOLVED

This study guide, which we have prepared for you, is supposed to offer you some general information on the topic, **BUT** in order to gain as much knowledge as possible, there is still a wide research waiting for you to do. We recommend you to focus on some of the following questions/subtopics, which we believe will help you create your position papers and the final **RESOLUTION** later on.

1. How to raise awareness about the plight of the world's wildlife?
2. How to dismantle wildlife trafficking networks that drive the illegal hunting and illegal trade of endangered, threatened, or otherwise protected species?
3. Undocumented species being traded legally?
4. Stricter domestic trade regulations

Please, do not forget to send your **POSITION PAPERS** to the e-mail address – [lucia.jandzikova@gmail.com](mailto:lucia.jandzikova@gmail.com)

**The deadline is until the 6<sup>th</sup> of APRIL.**

Looking forward to reading them all!

## 7. CONCLUSION

Congratulations! You have reached the end. We certainly hope so that this study guide will be adequately informative and helpful in order to comprehend the topic we are about to discuss on this year's ZAMUN ECOSOC committee. However, there is still a plenty of research you'll have to do on your own. But don't get discouraged by it! As soon as you dive into the problem, you will want to discover new a new information.

Break a leg guys! We wish you the best of luck and will see each other in 3 months ready to enjoy our time together. See you soon!

## 8. USEFUL LINKS

<https://time.com/3921138/illegal-wildlife-trade-countries/>

<https://www.wcs.org/our-work/solutions/combating-wildlife-trafficking>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/wildlife-trafficking-149079896/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49904668>

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

### OFFICAL UN NEWS

<http://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/vietnam/2017/04/wildlife-crime/story.html>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/07/on-international-tiger-day-un-calls-for-urgent-action-against-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

### VIDEOS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9A2oVhUZNU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdXIZPqVSWQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R32Jc9fNj6Y>

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

<https://wildlifejustice.org/our-cause/?gclid=CjwKCAiAjrXxBRAPEiwAiM3DQITmo4lkTdQ-GohmmU5yXuzq0A-V1UZipJiX8-UgvEmsjdSO3Eq5PhoClTQQAvD BwE>

<https://www.conservation.org/priorities/wildlife-trade-and-trafficking>

<https://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/shocking-facts-about-how-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-drives-species-extinction/>

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304998952> The Illegal Wildlife Trade

<https://www.savetherhino.org/rhino-info/poaching-stats/>

<https://www.traffic.org/about-us/illegal-wildlife-trade/>

[https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-42129-2\\_1](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-42129-2_1)