



MUN Background Guide

Poaching Prevention (SDG 15, 16)

Issue & Committee's Focus

What can countries do together to stop poaching and the illegal trade of wild animals?

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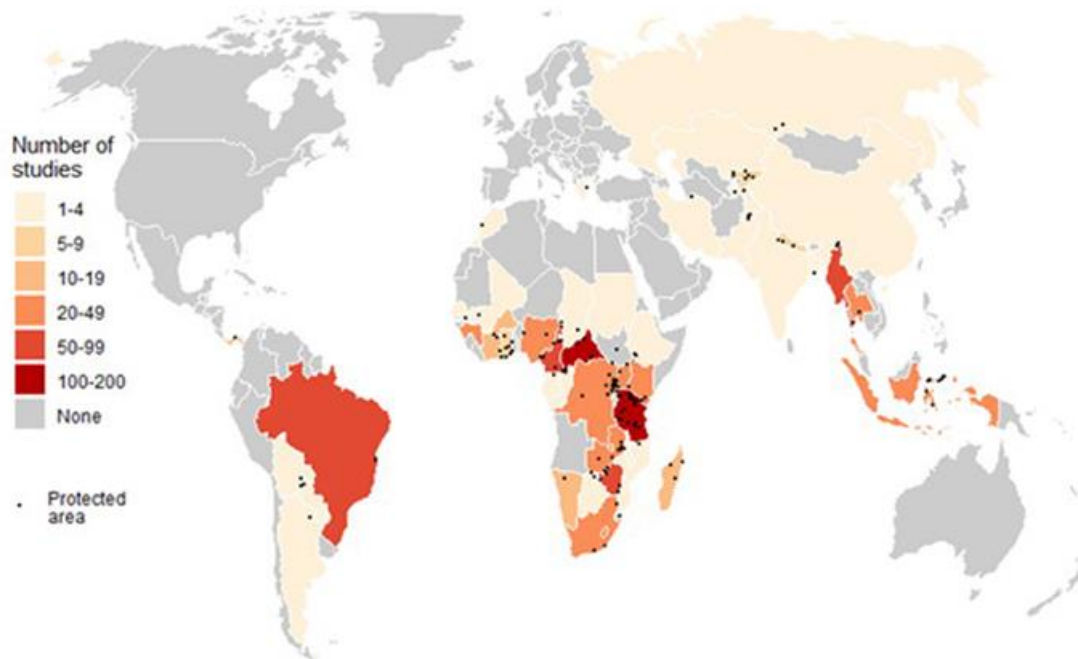


Introduction

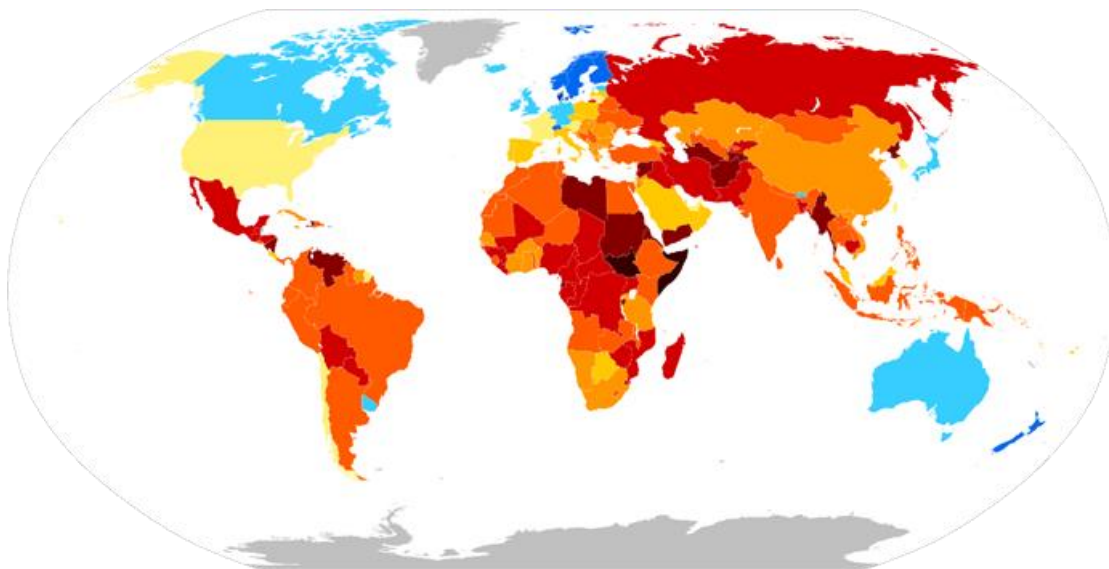
Poaching is the act of illegal hunting/capturing of wild animals, often committed with the intention to profit from animal parts (e.g., ivory, pelts, rhino horns), for luxurious pet/food, cultural demand, or poverty. Poaching threatens biodiversity by pushing endangered species toward extinction and disrupting ecosystems. The loss of key species can destabilize food chains and reduce ecosystem resilience. Poaching also harms local communities by undermining ecotourism, increasing insecurity, and fuelling organized crime.

Aspects for Consideration

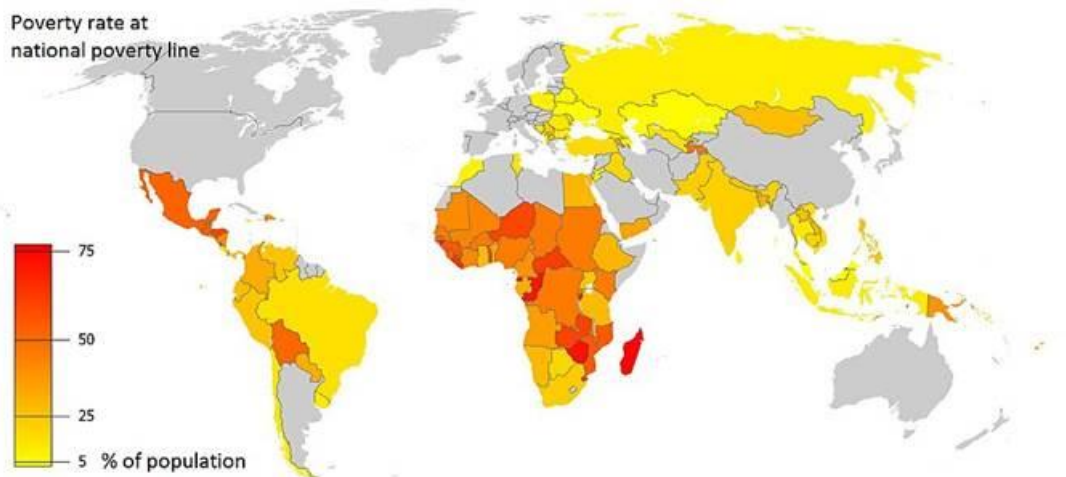
To combat poaching, the mere effort of eliminating the production end of illegal animal products is not enough, for every type of trafficking at its core is driven by the consumers' needs and thus profit. So, in order to long-lastingly uproot poaching, the international law enforcement effort is to tackle the entire value chain¹, from illegal hunters and international smuggling to the consumer-end black market harbouring illegal sale of poaching products, and the buyers who's conscious about the nature of their purchase.



Map on the illegal hunting of mammals (figure 1)



Corruption Perceptions Index 2024 (figure 2)



2008-2012 poverty rate world map (figure 3)

In certain cases, is not fuelled by high profit, but deemed as a mean of survival for people suffering from poverty. By observing the above map, a correlation between poverty and poaching could be seen. This adds another layer of complexity to the topic, where the act of poaching blurred the moral boundary between a crime and a means of survival. Also, a rampant poaching market is frequently accompanied or fuelled by corruption. When certain governmental officials benefit from this illegal market, it becomes significantly difficult for international interventions to be effective.

When delegates are drafting the position paper and preparing for debates during the conference, it is recommended that a coherent standing point be established with supporting evidence. The following questions could provide a starting point:

- In the shoes of my assigned country, what actions are expected to be taken?
- What has my assigned country done in the past to address this issue?
- Do my proposed actions contradict my country's culture and current policies?



- Why should my proposed actions be favoured by other delegates? How will it appeal to them? Does it benefit their interests?

When delegates are conducting research on the assigned countries, it is critical that the proposed solutions are aligned with the country's political stands, cultural background, and economic situations. (e.g. A relatively poor country should not propose to be the benefactor of an proposed anti-poaching fund, a country with long and existing tradition of using animal product in traditional medicine is unlikely (yet still possible) to propose a drastic total ban on all endangered species' product) The statements made in the position paper and during the conference should not be contradictory with the current policy of the country assigned.

Past Resolutions

UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) CCPCJ Resolution 31/1 (2022)

- a. Adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) — the main UN policymaking entity on crime prevention.
- b. Focuses on strengthening the international legal framework for cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife.
- c. Recalls multiple UNGA decisions on wildlife trafficking and emphasizes cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime networks.

1. UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions on Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking
2. A/RES/79/313 – Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife (2025)
- 3.



- a. The latest UNGA resolution upgrading and integrating global action against wildlife trafficking within broader environmental crime frameworks.
- b. Recalls earlier resolutions (including 76/185, those on wildlife trafficking, and related CCPCJ actions) and calls for enhanced international cooperation and strengthened legal frameworks.

Key Terms

Poaching

The illegal hunting, killing, capturing, or harvesting of wild animals or plants in violation of national or international laws.

Wildlife Products

Items derived from wild animals or plants, including ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, tiger bones, exotic pets, and traditional medicine ingredients.

Sustainable Use

The regulated use of wildlife resources at levels that do not threaten species survival.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

An international agreement regulating global trade in endangered and threatened species to ensure their survival.

Wildlife Trafficking

The illegal trade, smuggling, or sale of protected wildlife species and their derivatives across local, national, or international borders.



IUCN Red List

A global inventory assessing the conservation status of species and their risk of extinction.

Transnational Organized Crime

Criminal activity is conducted across borders, often involving networks engaged in wildlife trafficking alongside arms, drugs, and human trafficking.

Supply Chain (Wildlife Trafficking)

The route from poaching sites through intermediaries to final markets often involves corruption and forged documentation.

Demand Reduction

Policies and campaigns aimed at decreasing consumer demand for illegal wildlife products.

Habitat Conservation

The protection and management of ecosystems to ensure the long-term survival of wildlife species.

Community-Based Conservation

Approaches that involve local communities in wildlife protection while providing economic and social incentives.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Civil society groups that support conservation, research, advocacy, and enforcement against wildlife crime.

References and Citations

Figure 1:

Global extent and drivers of mammal population decline in protected areas under illegal hunting pressure - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate.



Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Spatial-distribution-of-research-on-illegal-hunting-of-mammals-in-155-PAs-from-48_fig1_343801427 [accessed 16 Dec 2025]

Figure 2: By Cnscrptr and ConnerMiner - Template:
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BlankMap-World.svg>Data: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024> , CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=159426744>

Figure 3:
"File:2008 - 2012 Poverty rate world map, national poverty line.jpg."
Wikimedia Commons. 13 Apr 2023, 16:38 UTC.
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:2008 - 2012 Poverty rate world map, national poverty line.jpg&oldid=749918799](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:2008_-_2012_Poverty_rate_world_map,_national_poverty_line.jpg&oldid=749918799)> 16 Dec 2025, 10:14.