

**UC Davis Model United Nations Conference 2013**

**Committee – African Union (AU)**



Dear Delegates,

My name is Bhumika Kukreja and I am a first year at UC Davis, majoring in Microbiology and International Relations. I have been participating in Model United Nations for the past four years, having attended various large conferences, such as BMUN. I am very excited to be chairing the African Union committee as the region itself is a focus for me in my path towards attaining my International Relations degree. I, along with the rest of the dais, have compiled a topic guide for you in order to highlight the issues being covered in this debate. We hope that you will all come prepared and ready to tackle the problems presented to you in efforts to reach comprehensive, targeted, and substantive solutions.

We will be discussing two topics in this committee:

1. Combatting Poaching in Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Ensuring Stability in South Sudan

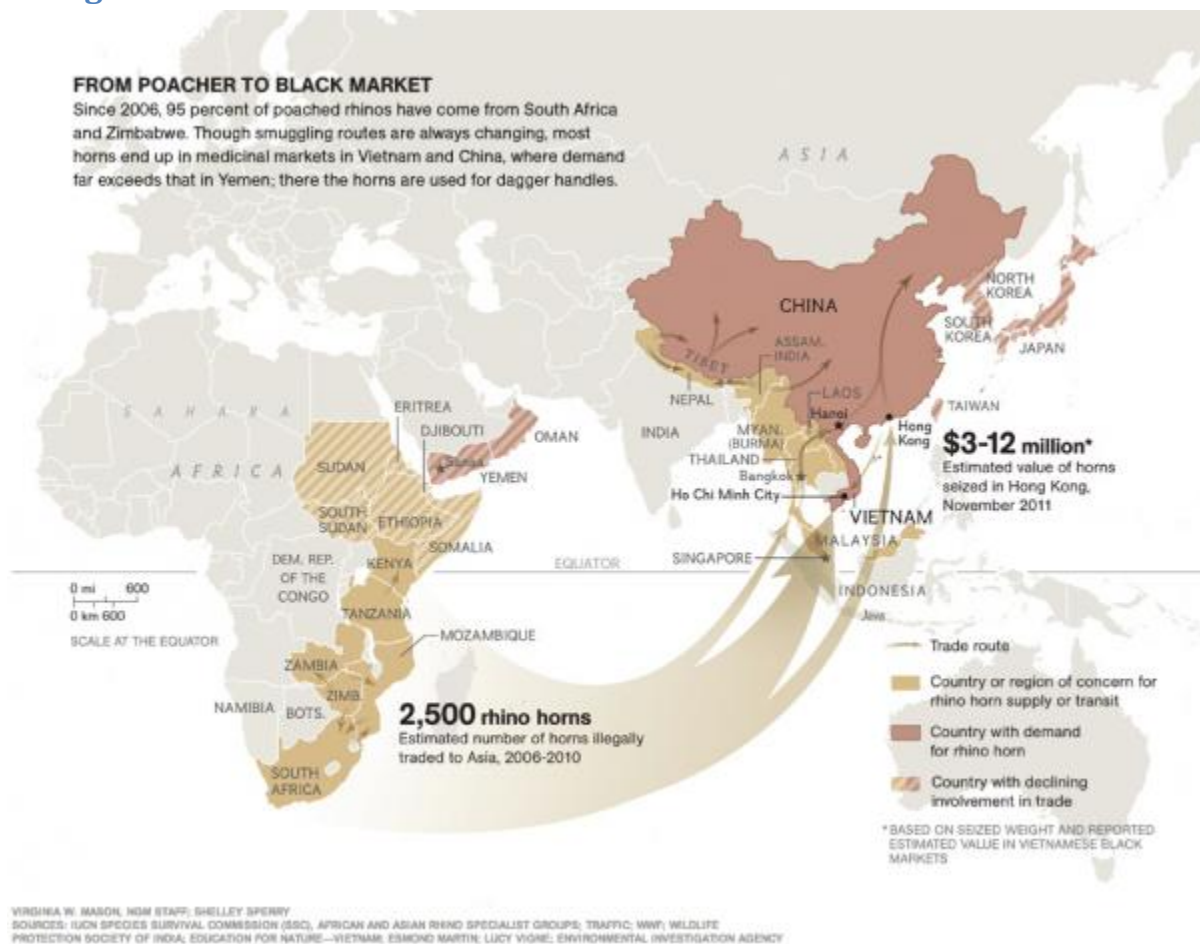
I look forward to meeting you all very soon and wish you all the best of luck.

Bhumika Kukreja

Head Chair, AU

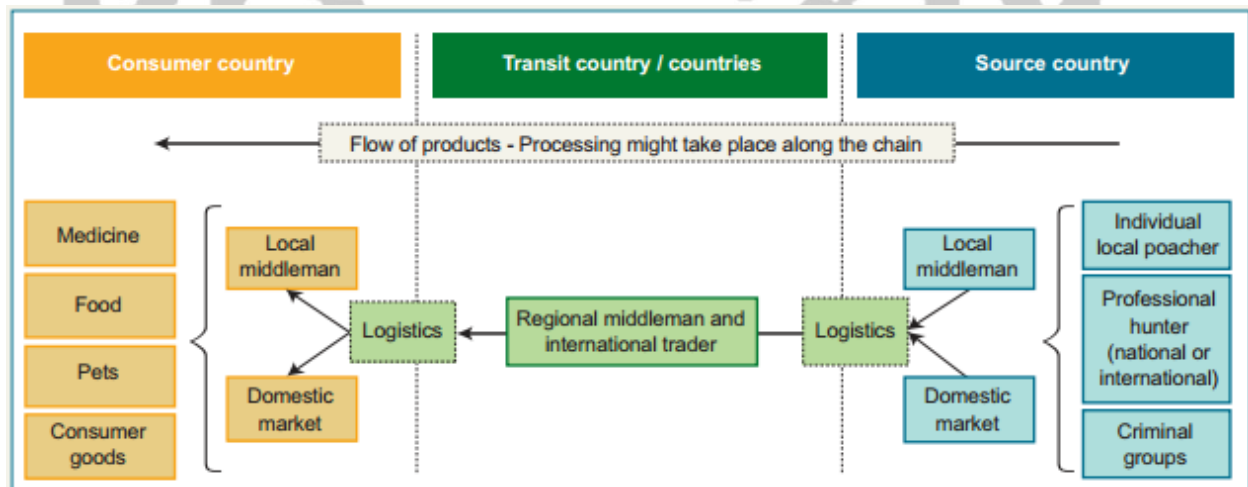
# Combatting Poaching in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Background



- Poaching is the illegal hunting, killing, capturing, or taking of wildlife in direct violation of either local or international laws pertaining to wildlife conservation acts. This is a problem that runs rampant in Sub-Saharan Africa due to the presence of various endangered animals in the region.
- Animals such as tigers, elephants, and rhinos are just some of the many endangered animals being driven to extinction due to the effects of poaching. Due to poaching, 2/3 of African forest elephants have been eliminated over the course of a single decade.

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES] is a front runner in opening the paths of communication between nations in the interest of ensuring the survival of endangered species. Since the black market trade of items such as elephant tusks and rhino horns often cross borders, international cooperation is a necessity in order to prevent extinction of endangered species.
- Poaching is directly related to a simple supply/demand system, same as any other marketable goods. The chain between demand for parts such as fur, tusks, and horns can be linked to a direct rise in poaching. The demand is usually in the form of medicinal ingredients or consumer goods. The social status afforded by the possession of such items also plays a role in demand.



- Poaching thrives in areas of high corruption, low government enforcement, and few economic opportunities.
- Poaching has various implications on international and national security – reflecting a country's ability to monitor illegal imports past its borders.

- Poaching has been linked to increased implications on and threats to global health, as various human diseases have origins in wildlife diseases.

### **Past International and UN Actions**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) regulates the trade of wildlife. It is backed by the United Nations in its efforts and often is sponsored by the UN body, as well. It makes recommendations to the UN body, and vice versa is issued points of consideration and targeted topics by the UN. The United Nations, in the past, has sponsored various efforts by CITES in order to track the levels of poaching and draw reports in order to bring attention to such matters. In June 2012, CITES, using data collected from a report back by the United Nations, brought to light that elephant poaching is at an all-time high.

The World Wildlife Fund is an international governmental organization that is generally supported by the UN body. It holds a general consulting position within the UN Economic and Social Council. In the past, the World Wildlife Fund has sponsored anti-poaching brigades which have given rise to an increase in the populations of African gorillas, from 600, around 1989, to over 780 in recent years. Recently, the WWF has partnered with Google in order to make use of drones to detect and eliminate poaching acts in Africa and Asia.

Recently, the Security Council condemned various actions of the Lord's Resistance Army – a cult-like movement in some African nations. Amongst the list of condemned actions, poaching by the LRA is also to be brought under scrutiny. (S/PRST/2012/28) Such recommendations are either encouraged by CITES, or, if founded, handed over to CITES for further scrutiny.

Certain member states retain permanent missions to the United Nations with basis in conservation and the sustenance of ecosystems. These missions usually take into consideration the negative impacts of poaching on the general ecosystem and biodiversity of the region. For example, The Republic of Congo has a permanent mission with the UN to protect Biodiversity in its region. Part of this mission includes anti-poaching actions in order to protect the wildlife in the region. (Congo Biodiversity, un.int)

In August 1992, The United Nations drew up a report on its conference on environment and development, in which various anti-poaching sentiments on behalf of the UN-body were made clear. In addition, an objective was added, providing for the international protection of existing forests and their inhabitants from poaching activities. (A/CONF.151/26 Vol. II)

The United Nations General Assembly made various observations and recommendations in its fifty-fifth session on the topic of Conservation and Sustainable Development of Central African Forest Ecosystems. In it, the General Assembly encourages the implementation of measures recommended by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on a similar topic and encouraged and supported the region in its efforts to outlaw and take strides against exploitive actions such as poaching. (A/55/95)

### **Points to Consider**

- The focus of the majority of past UN actions has been based in eliminating poaching. It has been approached from ecological and environmental perspectives. However, the human element is oftentimes overlooked or neglected.

- What are the cultural and religious aspects that encourage poaching and where are they most prevalent? Supply always rises to meet the demand. In order to eliminate the methods of supply, one must target the demand.
- What are the routes of passage for black-market animal parts and what implications does this have on national security?
- Further pertaining to national security, such acts of poaching have been linked with funding for various rebel and terrorist groups.
- What is at the heart of the matter? Is there a need for increased awareness; is it a humanitarian concern; or is this simply a matter of economic need?
- What are the economic implications of poaching? What part of a nation's economy is made up of poaching? How can this be rectified?

## Ensuring Stability in South Sudan

### Background

The Republic of South Sudan is the most recent country to join the United Nations. South Sudan declared independence from Sudan on July 9, 2011, following a decade long civil war in which more than 2 million people died. South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world with over 50% of the country's 9 million people living in poverty.



*The birth of Sudan and the birth of two civil wars - Independence 1956:* The north-south split in Sudan has been evident deep in its history, even before independence. The north was and still is predominantly Muslim, while the Southern regions mostly Christian and animist. The Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, the joint British and Egyptian government, which governed Sudan from 1930 to 1953, governed northern and southern Sudan separately. However upon granting independence, this divide was not fully considered. Sudan gained independence on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1956. While independence and the creation of a new constitution through decolonization stand to offer a progressive future, some argue the 1956 constitution could have done more to help create a conflict-free future. The constitution failed to address two vital issues that have come to the core of subsequent conflicts, which followed: whether Sudan should be a secular or Islamist state, and the country's federal structure. The Arab-led Government of Sudan (GOS) defaulted on its promise to create a federal system, which led to Sudan's first civil war and when Sharia law was introduced in 1983 the state saw its second civil war.

The 2005 Peace Deal and the following secession of South Sudan in 2011 gave solutions to these issues, which had resulted in previous civil wars. However, this did not put an end to the conflict. Since the separation of South Sudan in 2011, another group of issues has arisen, which continues to incite conflict. It is these issues our committee will look to address.

### **Timeline of the multi-faceted conflict**

1956: Sudan gained independence from the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium

1958: Military coup against civilian government led by General Abboud



1962: The first civil war began, as southern insurgents, the Anya Nya (which later became the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement, SSLM and today is known as the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, SPLM/A), fought against the GOS for greater autonomy.

1964: Islamic-led government comes into power as Abboud is overthrown in the October Revolution.

1983: President Numeiri declares the introduction of Sharia Islamic Law.

1983: The start of the second civil war. Civil war erupted when President Jaafar Nimeiri introduced Sharia Law and did not follow through on the Addis Ababa Agreements provisions for a referendum in Abyei.

1999: State of emergency declared by President Bashir.

1999: Sudan begins to export oil

2003: Rebels in western region of Darfur rise up against government, as they believe the region is being neglected by Khartoum.

2004, January: Hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to neighbouring Chad, as army moves into western region of Darfur against rebel uprisings in the region.

2004, March: UN declares systematic killings of non-Arab villagers are occurring in Darfur by Janjaweed militias.

2005: Civil war comes to an end with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace agreement.

2005, March: UNSC sanctions against those who violate ceasefire in Darfur. Early in the year UN report accuses Sudanese government and militias of systematic abuses in Darfur. Some go as far as calling it genocide<sup>1</sup>.

2006, August: Sudan rejects a UNSC resolution calling for a peacekeeping force to be deployed.

2007, April: Sudan accepts the deployment of a partial UN force to reinforce African Union peacekeepers already in Darfur.

2008, April: UN puts the death toll from the 5-year Darfur conflict at 300,000

2008, May: Tensions between Sudan and Chad rise, as a Darfur rebel group mounts raid on Omdurman. Sudan accuses Chad of involvement.

Intense fighting breaks-out between northern and southern forces in disputed oil-rich Abyei.

2008, July: The ICC calls for arrest of President Bashir for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur. Sudan rejects the indictment.

2009, December: Deal reached on a referendum to be held in the South over South Sudan's independence by 2011.

2010, March: Sudanese government and Darfur rebel movement sign peace accord, prompting President Bashir to declare the Darfur war over.

2010, April: President Bashir gains a new term in office.

2010, July: ICC releases a second-arrest warrant for President Bashir, now on charges of genocide.

2011, July: South Sudan gains full independence after successful referendum in January.

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<sup>1</sup>

2011, September: State of emergency declared in Blue Nile state. Some 100,000 flee unrest.

2011, October: Sudan and South Sudan agree to establish several committees to help resolve outstanding disputes.

2011, November: South Sudan accuses Sudan of bombing a refugee camp in Yida.

2012, January: South Sudan halts oil production, as agreements fail with Sudan over fees for the export of oil


2012 February-April - Sudan and South Sudan sign non-aggression pact at talks on outstanding secession issues, but border fighting breaks out

2012 June - Protests seen in Khartoum at austerity measures, turn into clashes with police. The government forced to cut fuel and other subsidies because of the drop in oil revenues after the independence of South Sudan.

2012 August – UN reports some 655,000 have been displaced or severely affected by fighting between the army and rebels in states bordering on South Sudan.

### **Past Actions**

The United Nations is very active in South Sudan. The UN Mission in South Sudan seeks to establish peace and security in South Sudan so that development can take place. The UN Development Programme coordinates efforts by various UN agencies, governments, and NGOs to lead development efforts in South Sudan. Various NGOs operate in South Sudan, many of which are members of the South Sudan NGO Forum. NGOs serve many roles, from building roads in Juba to increasing the number of children receiving an education from 200,000 to 2 million.

In adopting [resolution 1996 \(2011\)](#)  on 8 July 2011, the Security Council determined that the situation faced by South Sudan continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region. The Security Council established the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) for an initial period of one year, starting from 9 July 2011. UNMISS' objective is to consolidate peace and security, and help establish conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically and establish good relations with its neighbors. UNMISS will consist of up to 7,000 military personnel, including military liaison officers and staff officers, up to 900 civilian police personnel, including as appropriate formed units, and an appropriate civilian component, including technical human rights investigation expertise. The Council decided to review in three and six months whether the conditions on the ground could allow a reduction of military personnel to a level of 6,000.

"These reoccurring spates of violence are extremely serious and can jeopardize everything that has been achieved so far for peace and reconciliation in Jonglei," the head of the UN Mission, as of February 22, 2013, in South Sudan (UNMISS) Hilde Johnson said in a statement adding that she was "very worried" about the cycle of violence.

### **The Future**

While the crisis prompted by South Sudan's halt to oil production was resolved in August 2012 with extensive help from outside agents (US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton helped broker negotiations between the two countries, which South Sudan agreeing to increase their fees to Sudan), the underlying tensions are by no means dissipated.

There are already questions about the details of the deal struck between Sudan and South Sudan, with conflicting reports on how much money is exchanging hands. As oil production has only just resumed, there are still vast sections of the Sudanese and South Sudanese populations who have to live with no money and subsidies and facing a shortage of food and water. Take into account the Sudanese army (some of whom still haven't been paid due to the drop in resources from the lack of oil revenue) who are patrolling the border regions and armed, and we can see that the region still possesses the potential to deteriorate.

Further to this, reports from the WFP and the UNHCR among others, shows that the humanitarian crisis that was exacerbated by the oil crisis is still a harsh reality. Refugee camps lack basic resources and infrastructure, and the Arab League has the resources and the local knowledge needed to provide some constructive help in this area.

However, given that many Arab countries are currently facing crises of their own, it is important to note that they too face restrictions.

The heightened tensions between South Sudan and neighboring countries harboring its refugees, such as Chad, must also be taken into account, as any conflicts within the region would adversely impact many of the states in the Arab League. Building a framework where these tensions can be acknowledged and addressed is of paramount importance.

Adding to these inter-national problems, the League must also consider that Khartoum and other parts of the Sudan are facing increasing pressure from their own populace, with rising levels of civil unrest that have been made worse by the Sudanese government cutting subsidies and public funding in the wake of lack of oil revenue from pipeline rent that was provided by South Sudan. The country's morale was further diminished by

South Sudan's capture of one of their remaining oil fields. Considered with the widely held public perception that Sudanese government officials are seeking to siphon off any available funds from the public purse to their own ends, the League must consider that the state of Sudan is in crisis internally too. Several articles mention that Sudan is looking for international aid in order to make up the gap in their finances; however they have proven unwilling to hand over autonomy of these operations to the UN or independent observers. All of these factors mean that both Sudan and South Sudan face an uncertain and volatile future.

### Points to Consider

- What is your country's historical relationship with South Sudan and its neighboring states?
- What direct and indirect effects does continued violence in South Sudan have on your country?
- Has your country experienced civil and international violence like that occurring in Sudan? If so, what is its current status? If the conflict ended, what brought it to a close?
- What role has your country played in previous UN resolution and programs in South Sudan? Does it have peacekeeping troops there?
- What are the precedents and principles established by the Security Council for addressing the situation in South Sudan?
- What can the African Union do to ensure a peaceful solution to the South Sudan's current civil unrest?
- What is your country's position on the International Criminal Court and on the "responsibility to protect" civilians from war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity?
- Given the ongoing violence and instability in the region, delegates must think of short term as well as long term solutions.