



# Martingrove Model United Nations

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## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

### **Regarding Endangered Species**

*The Environmental Council,*

*Fully alarmed* by the accelerating and unprecedented rates of extinction, with 30-50% of all species being threatened with extinction by 2050,

*Aware that* of the 8 million estimated animal and plant species, nearly 1 million are expected to go extinct within the next few decades,

*Bearing in mind* that extinction is a natural phenomenon, occurring at a “background” rate of one extinction per million species per year, yet scientists now estimate the level of extinction observed in the last 114 years to be 20 to 90 times the “background” rate,

*Noting with deep concern* that 99% of currently threatened species are at risk from human activities, primarily those causing or exacerbating habitat loss, the introduction of invasive species, and global climate change,

*Emphasizing* that freshwater ecosystems are home to more than 100 000 known species of plants and animals, and are now one of the most endangered habitats in the world as a result of human development, climate change and pollution,

*Recognizing* the unparalleled effects on endangered species by the five major causes of natural change outlined by the IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) Global Assessment Report: changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution, and invasive species,

*Noting with deep concern* that 100-300 million people worldwide are at an increased risk of floods and hurricanes as a result of coastal habitat loss,

*Further concerned* that land degradation has reduced the productivity of 23% of the global land surface, and that up to US\$577 billion in annual global crops are at risk from pollinator loss, the severity of which will only increase as human populations continue to rise,

*Emphasizing* that none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets established in 2010 have been met by the deadline of 2020, with only six partially achieved, and that current negative trends in biodiversity and ecosystems undermine progress towards 80% (35 out of 44) of the assessed targets of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Noting with approval* the completion of the IPBES Global Assessment Report in 2019, regarded as the first intergovernmental and most comprehensive report of its kind, and which aims to assess the impact of trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being, and the effectiveness of current responses,

*Recognizing* that this is a multifaceted issue, and thus only through transformative change to the global economy, land use, and the role of nonrenewable resources can a long-term, sustainable solution be established,

1. *Calls upon* member states to reaffirm their commitment to SDGs eleven through fifteen, and to continue progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets with a revised deadline of 2026;
2. *Urges* all member nations to promote organizations that help the preservation of wildlife such as the WWF, the WCS, and the IFAW and to provide 0.03% of their GDP to these charities annually;
3. *Calls upon* member states to assess and outline vulnerable habitats and create policies meant to prevent deforestation, hunting, and land development in those critical regions in order to promote the health and prosperity of the local wildlife;

4. *Encourages* the establishment of national parks as a way to enforce the conservation of critical ecosystems and prevent further human interference such as habitat destruction;
5. *Suggests* to all member states that 8-12% of their land area be formally designated as wildlife protection zones.

**Submitter:** Australia

**Seconded:** Japan

**Negated:** China