

WWF : World Wildlife Fund

Topic: Tackling and preventing
forest deforestation

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WWF



Letter to Delegates:

Dear delegates, we are glad to welcome you to SPISMUN 2025. We are Edith Marín Gómez, your moderator, and Rebeca Guillén Morales, your director. It's an honor for us to be your chair and accompany you in this Model of the United Nations in the committee of WWF (World Wildlife Fund).

Through this MUN you'll have the chance to demonstrate your abilities in debate, problem-solving, and working in teams while finding solutions to worldwide issues. In this committee, we are going to primarily focus on the issues affecting wildlife globally. We can relate to the nervousness that involves being part of MUN especially if it might be your first one. Believe us, when we tell you that this experience is going to be beneficial in many ways in your future. Remember that the only thing stopping you is yourself.

We are expecting to see you debate and see your innovative, well-thought solutions and the plan to execute them in the resolution paper for the issues that are going to be faced in this simulation. Our job as chairs is to make sure that you have a wonderful experience and make it enjoyable for each one of you. In case of having any doubts please reach out to us. We are really glad to help you.

Sincerely your Chair
Edith Marín and Rebeca Guillén



History of the Committee:

The WWF (World Wildlife Fund) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1961, which focuses on environmental conservation. It started with a group of passionate and committed individuals who sought to secure the funding necessary to protect places and species that were threatened by human development. H.R.H. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1961 became president of the British National Appeal, the first national organization in the World Wildlife Fund family.

Also, Businessman Victor Stolan pointed out the urgent need for an international organization to raise funds for conservation. The idea was then shared with Max Nicholson, Director General of the British government agency Nature Conservancy, who enthusiastically took up the challenge.

The WWF is the largest conservation organization in the world with more than one hundred or millions of members around the world, is present in more than 100 countries, and carries out around 1300 projects for the protection of the environment.

Its mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which human beings live in harmony with nature. This mission will be guaranteed by promoting the reduction of pollution and excessive consumption. Likewise with the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.



History of the Topic:

Deforestation is an ancient harmful practice that has existed since 10,000 BCE being used to create space for crops to create food at that time. When humans started settling in specific places leaving their nomadic life behind to become sedentary, around 12,000 years ago, deforestation wasn't as huge as it is nowadays, mostly being used to make up more space for the civilizations that existed back then. As the civilizations grew the exploitation of forests and deforestation itself increased significantly and simultaneously the population's quality of life started decreasing.

Deforestation started growing exponentially in the late 18th century due to the Industrial Revolution that spread around the world, especially in Europe. With that came the population growth which led to the exploitation of the forests that weren't cut down yet. At the same time the circular saw was invented, this tool made it easy to just cut down wood which only stimulated the removal of different forests. In Europe this had a significant impact only in Russia there was a loss of about 16,556,060 acres between the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

In actuality, we talk about how modern deforestation agriculture keeps affecting forests globally. The most affected areas are trees in the tropics and rainforests. Since the 1950s the world has lost around half the rainforests. Due to the population growth and the seeking of space, deforestation keeps increasing.



Introduction of the Topic:

The definition of deforestation is “the purposeful clearing of forestland” in the words of National Geographic but this concept goes far beyond that. Deforestation has a lot of different causes the most common of them being agriculture as 80% of deforestation results from the expense of cattle ranching and cutting down trees for materials.

The issue with deforestation is how excessively it happens. As it might seem like a simple issue it affects thousands of lives. Trees are directly connected to the climate, atmosphere, and the water cycle causing a chain reaction that causes climate change, global warming, floods, and droughts.

Trees help to transform carbon dioxide into oxygen which is helpful for the Earth as carbon dioxide plays a key role in the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is the effect that causes the accumulation of different gasses which are called greenhouse gasses. These gasses retain the heat of the earth which causes global warming.

This isn't the only repercussion of deforestation as the loss of habitat is affecting animal's life significantly. By this point, around 70% of animals and plants live in forests that are in danger. The rainforests are the home of thousands of species both known and unknown. This leads animals to displacement and loss of their lives for not finding a place that covers their necessities.

Soil erosion and floods are also consequences of deforestation. Trees do a great part of helping the soil retain water when they are cut down; these nutrients stop working and the land can't adapt without them.



Key Players:

USA:

The USA-WWF is one of the largest and most influential chapters.

The organization leads efforts to protect endangered species, combat climate change, and promote sustainable development.

Areas of focus include forest conservation in the Arctic, Pacific Northwest, and the United States, as well as international work on climate change and biodiversity.

Canada:

WWF-Canada focuses on the protection of critical habitats and species such as polar bears, caribous, and whales.

Key areas: protecting boreal forests, ocean protection, and combating climate change.

Brazil:

Is home to the Amazon rainforest, one of the most important ecosystems on Earth. WWF Brazil works to protect biodiversity, protect forests, and prevent deforestation.

Key areas: forest protection, sustainable development, and indigenous rights.

China:

WWF in China is committed to protecting the environment through cooperation with the Chinese government and private sector, focusing on sustainable development and reducing carbon emissions.

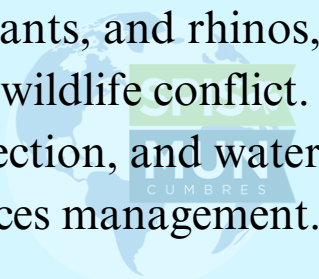
Key areas: protecting endangered species (such as giant pandas), addressing climate change, and promoting green economic policies.

India:

Is rich in biodiversity and is a major focus of WWF's work in Asia.

The organization works to protect tigers, elephants, and rhinos, and address issues such as human-wildlife conflict.

Key areas: species conservation, forest protection, and water resources management.



UN Actions:

The UN has also taken action against deforestation in previous years. To start, one of the first actions the UN took was the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which was established in the year of 1992 and has helped to reduce deforestation and forest degradation by using the REDD+ mechanism. REDD+ is made to give financial incentives to countries that are still developing as a way to reduce gas emissions caused by deforestation.

UNEP is also a big part of the actions that have been taken having various projects such as UNEP'S Global Forest Goals, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), etc.

UNFF is a body for different countries to discuss forest-related issues to promote management and dialogue and it adopted the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests in 2007 for countries to start adapting measures to reduce deforestation.

Global Forest Watch is a real-time platform to track deforestation globally using satellites to monitor changes in the forests. CBD has a program related to forests that helps to encourage people to know about forests and raise awareness.

This and more actions have been taken until now.



Current Status:

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) works to stop deforestation and protect forests around the world. They work with governments, businesses, and local communities to develop forest protection solutions.

WWF supports laws banning harmful activities, such as agricultural clearing, and helps companies ensure their products do not contribute to deforestation.

A key part of WWF's work is protecting the rights of indigenous peoples who have cared for forests for generations. They also called on countries to make stronger commitments to halt deforestation, such as setting a target to halt forest loss by 2030. WWF is also involved in global efforts such as the Amazon Reserve Initiative, which aims to protect large swaths of the rainforest.

WWF developed the Forest Trails Program to demonstrate how we can protect forests through changes in land use and resources. They want governments to stop funding projects that destroy forests and to enact trade rules that prevent products linked to deforestation from entering the market. WWF believes that if everyone works together, we can protect the forests and wildlife whose future depends on them.



Guiding Questions:

1. How has deforestation affected your country?
2. How does deforestation affect the global economy?
3. What actions has your country taken?
4. How does your country contribute or confront the issue?
5. How is deforestation contributing to climate change?



Quorum:

1. Argentina
2. Brazil
3. Bolivia
4. China
5. Canada
6. Colombia
7. Democratic Republic of the Congo
(DRC)
8. Ecuador
9. India
10. Indonesia
11. Kenya
12. México
13. Mongolia
14. Nigeria
15. Perú
16. Paraguay
17. Russia
18. South Africa
19. United Kingdom
20. Venezuela



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