

Foreign Ministry of Grusa



Grusa is a small rural country with a relatively small population. Grusa, Yeeland and America are **economically interdependent**. Grusa buys farming equipment from Yeeland and sells wheat to Yeeland and America. It is a member of the United Nations and gives approximately \$10 million to the UN each year. Grusa is a member of the Water Convention.

Grusa co-manages the Lake Eco Wetlands Preserve with Yeeland. The lake is a **natural habitat** for an **endangered species** called the Lauret crane. About 30% of Grusans work at the Lake Eco Wetlands Preserve or in the nearby hotels, shops, and restaurants that cater to “crane tourists.” 60% of Grusa’s national income comes from crane tourism. The Lauret crane is Grusa’s national bird.

Grusa is very concerned that Yeeland’s **hydroelectric power** plant and dam will permanently damage the fragile ecosystem the Lake Eco Wetlands Preserve, irrevocably reduce the already endangered Lauret crane population, and create significant freshwater shortages for Grusan farmers who depend on the Lesser Sox rivers. The government of Grusa claims Yeeland is ignoring its obligations as a signatory to the **Water Convention** to “do no harm.” The Grusan public was outraged when Yeeland’s president said the Great Sox River belonged to Yeeland. While the Great Sox River is indisputably within Yeeland’s territory, it is inextricably linked to Lake Eco and the Lesser Sox rivers.

The survival of the Lauret crane in its natural habitat is also a very emotional issue in Grusa, where the bird symbolizes the country’s strength and independence. Having the cranes live only in zoos would be an insult to national pride. Grusan citizens and SOAR have staged several large joint protests in front of the Yeeland Embassy in Grusa and in Yeeland’s capital city. These protests have received a great deal of negative international media attention and embarrassed the Yeeland government. The Government of Grusa expects that if a compromise cannot be reached today, protests will continue.

Opening Position: Grusa strongly opposes Yeeland’s plan to build a dam and hydroelectric power plant using water from the Great Sox River. Yeeland’s plan is bad for the economies of both countries. Crane tourism will go down and Grusa will have less wheat to sell Yeeland. The Water Convention Bureau should insist that Yeeland abide by the “do no harm” provision in the Water Convention. Grusa supports proposal #_____ for the following reasons:

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