Government of the Confederated Islands of Hiroot

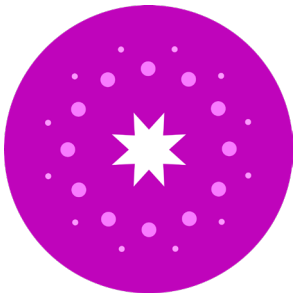
The Confederated Islands of Hiroot, often referred to as Hiroot, consists of 550 small islands extending 1,700 miles across the Elljay archipelago east of Almans. The islands are home to a diverse population of ethnolinguistic groups, though English has become the common language. The main exports of Hiroot are fish, kava, and betel nut, shipping mostly to Uzan and the United States. In return, Hiroot imports food, manufactured goods, and fuel with over 50% of its imports coming from the United States.

Hiroot gained its independence from Uzan in 1981. The country is a member of multiple UN organizations and is party to several environmental agreements. Hiroot signed a Free Association Compact with the United States in 1985 that is still in force. The United States has full authority and responsibility for the defense of Hiroot. Under the compact, Hiroots can live, work, and study in the United States with a visa. Hiroots can also volunteer to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Over the next decade, Hiroot will receive about $60 million a year in assistance from the United States.

As a Pacific Island nation, Hiroot has 1.3 million square miles of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in its control. Thus, the ocean is a huge provider of income and stability for the people, economy, and the government of Hiroot. As a result, the fishing industry is indispensable. The citizens of Hiroot use 35% of the fish caught in its EEZ as a local food supply.

Foreign commercial fishing fleets pay over $14 million annually for the right to operate in the Hiroot's territorial waters. These licensing fees account for 28% of Hiroot's revenue. Exports of marine products, mainly to Uzan, account for nearly 85% of export revenue. The government of Hiroot endeavors to be an effective guardian and manager of the marine resources in its EEZ by ensuring resources are sustainable. In addition, Hiroot plans to obtain the maximum economic benefit by processing fishing licenses to vessels wishing to fish in Hiroot's large and tuna-rich EEZ. Hiroot discourages illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and is in favor of closing unregulated high seas areas in the hopes of reducing pressure on fish stocks and increasing the demand for fishing access in its EEZ.

Since such a large portion of the country's income comes from the collection of fees for foreign fishing licenses, it is important that Hiroot be visible and effective in enforcement of its fishing laws. However,



FAST FACTS

Member of a

Free Association Compact

with the **USA**

1.3M

square miles of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

ECONOMY

Exports

Fish

Kava

Betel Nut

there are problems in providing fuel for the patrol boats that are supposed to police Hiroot's EEZ. The maritime enforcement officers often receive notice of an illegal fishing vessel, but they may not have the fuel to send the patrol boats to catch the perpetrators.

Opening Position

- Hiroot needs resources and funding to protect its EEZ and invest in sustainable fishing practices. You need to continue to collect fees from foreign commercial fishing fleets.
- You are a small country and need allies. Look to solidify the support of the United States.
- You genuinely want to enforce an oversight regime to curb illegal fishing but lack the resources to do so.
- Realistically balancing your resources and capacity to take action is paramount and will be key to your success.

Questions to Consider

- Should Hiroot continue to try to restrict fishing in the high seas pockets areas surrounding its EEZ?
- How can Hiroot better control its EEZ in order to protect the valuable tuna population?
- Should Hiroot ask more of the U.S. because of its vested interest in Hiroot's fish catch?
- Should Hiroot take measures to restrict trade with Uzan based on its knowledge of its use of illegal fishing vessels?
- What implications do the decisions made by Hiroot have in the future?
- What are possible funding sources for the solutions?

Government of Uzan

Uzan, a country of islands adding up to about the physical size of California, is located along the Pacific coast of Asia, where it is well positioned for a vibrant fishing industry. The population of 145 million is majority Uzanese. Fish are Uzan's primary natural resource, but its economy is mainly supported by the export of automobiles and electronics.

Uzanese foreign policy has aimed to promote peace and prosperity by working closely with the West and supporting the United Nations. In following this policy, Uzan has been an active member of the UN and is a member to twenty-one UN organizations in addition to many other international organizations.

Uzan has agreements that give Uzanese vessels access to fish within the waters of some of its neighboring countries. In fact, much of the Uzanese fleet's success depends upon its right to use resources outside of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Fishing access is therefore a key concern. Notably, Uzan has historically fished in this region of the Pacific because of the wealth of fish resources. Hiroot was once a part of Uzan, and gained its independence in 1981. Uzan therefore holds strong economic and political interests in the Pacific.

Fish are an important part of the Uzanese diet and are central to Uzanese cultural heritage. As a result, Uzan maintains one of the largest fishing fleets in the world and accounts for over 15% of the global catch. Although the Uzanese have 2% of the world's population, they consume 10% of the global fish catch, amounting to 139.4 pounds of fish consumed per capita per year.

In the past 20 years, Uzan has exceeded its allowable worldwide catch by approximately 170,000 tons, the equivalent of $6-8 billion. In 2009, in an effort to correct its overfishing, Uzan agreed to cut its total tuna harvest by 10%. Many scientists have testified, however, that a cut of at least 30% is necessary to curb the large loss of this kind of tuna in the Pacific.

Uzan has made a small investment in aquaculture. However, the industries involved in fishing feel threatened by further growth of aquaculture. They make it difficult for new companies to get a foothold in the aquaculture industry.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing occurs both within Uzan's EEZ and by Uzanese vessels in other nations' EEZs, though most

FAST FACTS

Contributes

15%

of global fish catch

Consumes

10%

of global fish catch

$6-8B

of overfished catch in the last 20 years

ECONOMY

Exports

Automobiles

Electronics

IUU fishing currently goes undocumented. Many NGOs and other nations have called for the government of Uzan to allow greater enforcement of their fishing practices because of the IUU fishing and overfishing committed by Uzanese vessels, including the allowance of foreign observers on enforcement operations. Recent operations in the Pacific have spotted Uzanese vessels illegally fishing in the EEZ of Hiroot. The Uzanese government has continued to be resistant to closing high seas areas because it would further decrease the supply of tuna available to its people and its economy.

Opening Position

- Maintaining your food supply is a national priority.
- You need to make sure your population continues to have access to the food it needs.
- Uzan is an affluent and responsible country. It does not lack capacity to enforce regulations and laws and does not need assistance from other countries in this regard.
- You prefer self-enforcement mechanisms over internationalizing a regulation regime.

Questions to Consider

- What partnerships has Uzan created with other nations, businesses, or NGOs to combat its fisheries issues?
- How could the government of Uzan be influenced to maintain or alter its policies on fisheries?
- How can the government of Uzan better enforce regulations of laws and agreements regarding fisheries?
- What steps has the Uzanese government taken to reduce overfishing?
- What implications do the decisions made by Hiroot have on Uzan in the future?
- What are possible funding sources for the solutions?

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency, established in 1945. Its headquarters are located in Rome, Italy and it has 142 country offices. The mandate of FAO is to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, improve the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, and better the condition of rural populations, and thus contribute toward an expanding world economy. In order to fulfill its mandate, FAO's activities are driven by the following 5 strategic objectives:

1. Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
2. Make agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable;
3. Reduce rural poverty;
4. Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems; and
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is responsible for the development of policies, strategies and guidelines. It is funded by its 197 members, including the United States. The United States has historically provided 20% of FAO's member contributions. It provides technical services to FAO members in the context of FAO's strategic framework and objectives. It is also responsible for promoting and supporting the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments and is guided by its vision and mission:

- ***Vision***: A world in which responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources makes an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security, and poverty alleviation.
- ***Mission***: To strengthen global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of members and to lead consensus building toward improved conservation and utilization of aquatic resources.

FAST FACTS

197

members,

with the **United States** being the largest monetary contributor

Established in

1945

Opening Position

- FAO wants to help stakeholders find consensus and practical solutions.
- It is a neutral forum that facilitates policy discussion among member countries. FAO is not empowered to decree a solution to this fishing issue.

- FAO could provide a platform to encourage dialogue between member states concerning standards and best practices.
- FAO can provide useful information and data to relevant parties on resource management, stock assessment, sustainability, and the consequences of overfishing.

Questions to Consider

- What progress has the FAO made on improving the situation facing the fish industry and maintaining sustainable fisheries and livelihoods?
- What global instruments and measures are in place to prevent further damage to the oceans? How effective are these measures?
- How could member states involved in this scenario utilize various FAO processes to address some of the issues in this simulation? Which existing international frameworks would be particularly relevant and how could the member states best coordinate their efforts in such forums?
- How can the FAO better assist nations with the regulation of IUU fishing?
- What are possible funding sources?

Global Oceans Fund (GOF)

The Global Oceans Fund (GOF), an international, respected Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) founded in 1973, works in 100 countries as a conservation organization. It receives funding from the private sector, governments, and individual donations. It aims to protect the world's oceans (including fish, shellfish, and plant-life), reduce pollution, and advance sustainable and efficient environmental practices across the globe. This organization's goal is to change global markets and make producers, buyers and sellers more respectful of our natural resources.

The GOF collaborates with corporations, humanitarian groups, and government agencies to achieve their goals. The GOF also collaborates with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) domestically and abroad, working in both public and private sectors.

The GOF has already accomplished a great deal for the fishing industry. In working to improve global practices, the GOF has worked towards eliminating the problems of bycatch through innovative solutions and has worked with global retailers to affect market-driven practices. These solutions include facilitating improvements to fishing gear, providing information to seafood consumers, and forming partnerships with major corporations to purchase their seafood from sustainable sources. The GOF also works to expand and create protected marine areas by collaborating with nations and experts to effectively zone protected areas.

FAST FACTS

Goal to change global markets and make producers, buyers, and sellers **more respectful of our natural resources**

Established in

1973

Opening Position

- The GOF has a global reach; you are respected internationally.
- The GOF focuses on market mechanisms for solutions and relies on past successes in other areas as a model in this case.
- The GOF will be critical of Uzan's apparent unwillingness to police illegal fishing.
- Innovative technology can play a constructive role in any solution.
- You believe that illegal fishing is irresponsible fishing as it is more inefficient due to higher bycatch yields. Allowing illegal fishing threatens legitimate and legal fishing.
- The GOF can rely on effective emotional arguments and sympathy generated by public campaigns with foreign publics.
- You would like to see the FAO play a stronger role than in the past.

Questions to Consider

- How does the GOF work with nations on addressing these issues facing the oceans?
- How do NGOs such as the GOF value the education of consumers?
- How can the GOF work specifically with the United States, Hiroot, and/or Uzan in protecting marine ecosystems?

U.S. Department of State

The U.S. Department of State leads the United States in its relationships with foreign governments, international organizations, and the people of other countries. It aims to promote the security, prosperity, and interests of the American people around the world. It does so by creating American jobs through support for open markets for U.S. companies; issuing passports and providing emergency assistance to U.S. citizens abroad; negotiating treaties and equipping countries to respond to their own security challenges; helping countries with health, food, and humanitarian crises; promoting stability, peace, and human rights; and increasing understanding of American society and values.

Particular to this issue, the State Department promotes the management, conservation, and restoration of stocks of living marine resources in order to maintain healthy and productive marine environments and ecosystems and promote economic benefits and food security through sustainable fisheries.

The United States has one of the largest economies in the world today. It also functions as an economic aid donor, spending roughly $30 billion on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), the most of any nation in the world. Additionally, while fishing and aquaculture makes up less than .2% of its gross domestic product, the United States imports more fish and seafood than any other country in the world. It is estimated that 90% of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported. Other important imports include electronics, automobiles, and oil.

The United States is party to a number of fisheries agreements, such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the FAO Compliance Agreement, and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. It is also a party to other environmental agreements such as the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, among others. It has signed, but not ratified, several other treaties including UNCLOS and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The United States is also member to many Regional Fishery Organizations (RFOs) such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization.

FAST FACTS

90%

of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported

Member of the

UN Fish Stocks Agreement

FAO Compliance Agreement

FAO Port State Measures Agreement

Opening Position

- The United States can rely on its vibrant civil society to be supportive of efforts to find a resolution to the issue that balances economic development and long-term sustainability.
- The United States will want the FAO to play a stronger role in discussions on the issue.

- The United States sympathizes with the position of Hiroot and generally supports its efforts.

Questions to Consider

- What are U.S. priorities in dealing with issues of sustainability and conservation?
- What does the United States think should be done in the future?
- How could the relationship between the United States and Hiroot and/or Uzan be affected if a dispute arose between Hiroot and Uzan?
- What implications do the decisions made by the U.S. Department of State have in the future?
- What are possible funding sources for the solutions?