

## Foreign Ministry of Bengkano

### Country Background:

Bengkano is a predominantly rural country with a population of 70 million people. Agriculture employs 40% of its workers. The rest of the economy is primarily based on tourism and related service industries. It is a newly emerging industrial economy. A longstanding parliamentary government rules the country, which has contributed to the relative stability of the economy. Bengkano is a signatory of CITES, a member of regional economic bilateral agreements, and a participant in an economic and political organization of ten neighboring countries.



Bengkano is particularly committed to protecting wildlife – tourism is an important part of their economy and it attracts many visitors to view native species in parks and preserves. Two species of pangolins are native to the country, but their numbers are in steady decline. Poachers are capturing pangolins and illegally shipping them out of the country. Border control agents often confiscate shipments of 30 to 70 pangolins as traders cross into Keneselles. Many of the pangolins are injured or killed during transport.

Bengkano has a preserve dedicated to rehabilitating pangolins and other animals confiscated in raids on wildlife traffickers. Once veterinarians treat pangolins for injuries sustained during transport or disease, park rangers release them in secret locations to deter poachers. Since the life of each pangolin is precious in the race to boost wild populations, park rangers outfit the released pangolins with small transmitters so that their movements can be tracked. This ensures some measure of safety from future trafficking.

Bengkano's government enforces laws that protect the pangolin. It has worked hard to reduce consumer demand within its borders through a partnership with an NGO that specializes in protecting wildlife by educating those involved in the local trade. The League of Endangered Animal Protectors (LEAP) has had a presence in the country for several years and has had fairly good success furthering understanding of the importance of wildlife and their habitats to future generations. Although long standing traditions are difficult to change and some locals continue to hunt pangolins for their own use, LEAP hopes to educate locals on the importance of pangolin protection and how to identify criminal activities.

A greater threat to Bengkano's pangolins comes from two of its neighbors. It shares a border with Keneselles and is not far from the southern border of Trangalia. Trangalia's large population has a correspondingly large appetite for pangolins. Pangolin populations in Trangalia are at alarmingly low levels, pushing up the demand for pangolin in other countries where pangolins exist. The pangolin population will not recover without immediate intervention. Consequently, Trangalians have turned to the illegal pangolin trade in Keneselles to meet market demands. This is bringing poachers and criminal networks into Bengkano.

### Opening Position:

- You want LEAP to continue their assistance and support in the country and hopefully expand to neighboring countries.
- You want CITES to work with you to encourage states to take a stronger role in the region on this matter.
- You want Keneselles to control its border through better policing and stronger penalties for wildlife trafficking.
- You want Trangalia to encourage its citizens to find alternatives to pangolin in their diet and medicine.

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### Questions to Consider:

- Does Bengkano's investment in tourism make it less likely they will engage in wildlife trafficking?
- What should Bengkano do to keep wildlife trafficking from occurring at its border?
- Are there other goals that LEAP might help Bengkano accomplish?
- How can CITES' involvement in Bengkano be leveraged with neighboring countries?
- Why might Keneselles be reluctant to control its border?
- How would you explain the reason citizens of Trangalia need to find alternatives to pangolin in their diet and medicine?

