

U.S. Department of State (DOS)

Department Background:

The State Department leads the United States in its relationships with foreign governments, international organizations, and the people of other countries. It aims to provide a free, prosperous, and secure world.



The U.S. State Department (DOS) has four main policy goals:

- Protect the United States and Americans;
- Advance democracy, human rights, and other global interests;
- Promote international understanding of American values and policies; and
- Support U.S. diplomats, government officials, and all other personnel at home and abroad who make these goals a reality.

The U.S. is a global leader of wildlife protection. It also functions as an economic aid donor, spending more on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) than any other nation in the world. In 2014, DOS allocated roughly \$820 million in foreign assistance to environmental programs.

The U.S. is party to a number of environmental treaties, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations, among others. The U.S. is also member to many Regional Environmental Organizations (REOs), such as the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC).

The U.S. recognizes that wildlife conservation and biodiversity are national and global assets and that the sustainability of these resources is both a national and an international concern. Through national programs and initiatives, the U.S. has worked to promote science-based conservation, hoping to secure sustainability of resources in order to conserve this natural wealth for future generations. The pangolin is one of many species of mammals that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lists as endangered throughout the world. With the aid of FWS, countless NGOs, and a public interested in protecting the environment, the U.S. is partnering with the international community to find long term solutions for threatened wildlife and their habitats.

Additionally, transnational wildlife trafficking is a security issue for DOS. Heavily armed poachers illegally cross borders and disrupt the social fabric of communities.

Opening Position:

- You can rely on the vibrant civil society in the U.S. to support efforts to find an environmentally friendly resolution to the issue.
- You will want LEAP to play a strong role in the discussions on the issue.
- You sympathize with the position of Bengkano and generally support its efforts.
- You want to build a relationship with Keneselles to help ensure stability in the region.
- It will be a challenge to persuade Trangalia that CITES should play a stronger monitoring and enforcement role.
- You will want to promote improved regional cooperation.

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Questions to Consider:

- How important is protecting wildlife to the U.S. government?
- What are U.S. priorities in dealing with issues of sustainability and conservation?
- What implications do the decisions made by DOS have in the future?
- Can DOS advise stakeholders on alternative means for national income than the illegal pangolin trade?
- What programs might DOS support to help decrease the demand for pangolin, enforcement of current protections, and anti-poaching efforts?

