

Foreign Ministry of Keneselles

Country Background:

The country of Keneselles has a population of 74 million people living within 234,000 square miles. Much of the land is rural and agriculture is the largest employer, but fishing and forestry are also important industries. Keneselles is slowly switching to a democratic form of government after many years of rule by a dictator. It is beginning to decentralize control and encourage private industry. The economy has benefited from high-profile foreign investment in hydropower dams along the Shonyo River that provide power to neighboring countries, including Trangalia. Although there are slow improvements for the citizens and a slight increase in the potential for private enterprise, 20% of all homes still lack electricity.



Many citizens consider the decentralization of control in the country to be a positive step as do most of their neighbors, but this has made the government weaker as various parties struggle to establish power. Some individuals are taking advantage of the government's inattention to conservation in Keneselles, and citizens are illegally trading in pangolin. Although the government of Keneselles is a signatory of the CITES agreement, it is finding it difficult to implement the treaty. Keneselles is situated south of the country of Trangalia and shares a border with Bengkano to the northeast.

Little economic opportunity for small business owners encourages entry into the illicit wildlife trade. Communities often turn to poaching to meet basic subsistence needs, to improve their economic standing, to practice cultural practices and traditions, or to retaliate for perceived injustices from the past. The native pangolins of Keneselles have never been a major part of the nation's food culture or traditional medicine, but they are used by some groups. Unless better economic opportunities are created for Keneselles citizens, it will be difficult to stop their involvement with illegal trade.

Local laws make trade in pangolin illegal and Keneselles has an active wildlife conservation group. Killing, possessing, selling, illegally transporting and exporting protected wildlife is punishable with imprisonment for up to eight years and/or a fine of up to \$9,000. However, officials generally turn a blind eye to any evidence of wildlife trafficking. LEAP has been encouraging the government of Keneselles to close down illegal wildlife markets and reduce consumer demand for pangolins and other endangered wildlife. The lack of enforcement of these laws encourages poachers to use Keneselles as a trading hub for pangolins captured in Bengkano and sold into Trangalia. There are some positive signs that circumstances may be beginning to change - 10 poachers were recently caught with 90 pangolins and six bags of pangolin scales. They have been jailed and await trial.

Opening Position:

- You blame Trangalia for the increased demand for pangolins.
- You are open to the possibility of working with NGOs such as LEAP.
- You recognize that your citizens are turning to the illegal trade in wildlife because they have little economic opportunity.

Questions to Consider:

- What steps should Keneselles take towards enforcing laws against the sale of pangolin across their borders?
- How might CITES assist local communities in Keneselles to strengthen their economic opportunities?
- Why is greater stability in the region important for Keneselles?

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- In what specific ways can an organization like LEAP assist Keneselles in the protection of endangered wildlife?
- Is there any way to leverage assistance or a better relationship with neighboring Bengkano?

