



National Environmental Concerns

Task: Poaching Wild Animals

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 8.

You are going to hear a talk about **poaching wild animals**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Did you ever take the time to consider where some of the clothing that you own came from? Nobody likes to think they own something from an animal that has been hunted by a poacher, but that doesn't mean that it didn't happen. This is why many animal activists fight daily to bring awareness of animal rights and the devastating things that humans do to them.

So to continue, illegal poaching has a huge impact on decreasing the animals species. We can see this is elephants that **had been** hunted for tusks and rhinos for their horns. Furthermore, sometimes there are cultural influences that also encourage this slaughter of animals. Some local remedies are often made of animal parts that are thought to help improve somebody physically, **although** it is often just superstitious belief. Another problem that is caused by poaching is the selling of animals abroad and how risky are the conditions in their transportation. Animals are often sent in boxes, suitcases and sacks. Many die during their transport from their local environment to a new one and if they do survive, they typically suffer in their new environment that's not natural to them. In addition to this, **many individuals that work in law enforcement stated that** poaching usually encourages other crimes, such as corruption and money laundering. Also, those poached animals that have been transported can very well spread disease. For instance, ebola and SARS.

In spite of the numerous problems that poaching has, there are some ways to solve this as well. One way recommended is that when you buy accessories and clothes, to ask where it came from. So, know the source if you don't want to be part of the reason why poaching is happening. Furthermore, if you suspect illegal activity in anything being sold, you should turn it in so that the authorities can do something in respect to this. Something else that can be done is creating a petition with the local government to stop poaching. By making society more active against poachers, then there's more possibility of bringing the government's attention to the petition. One thing that the government can do is give out punishments to poachers. These punishments could be in the form of time in prison or hefty fines. However, many of the anti-poaching societies **have been seeing** that many of the local poachers are just trying to find a source of income being that they come from low income areas. So, another idea is to create alternative and more sustainable ways for poachers to make a living. **If the government and society had known that all this would make a difference, they would have been** more persistent in the fight against poaching.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the problems and solutions of poaching.

Now tell me about the problems and solutions of poaching. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge impact on decreasing animals species: elephants and rhinos • Cultural influences: local remedies • Transport animals in risky conditions • Poaching with other crimes: corruptions and money laundering • poached animals spread disease: Ebola and SARS
Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask before you buy / Know the source • Report illegal activity • Petition the local government to stop poaching • Give punishment: by prison or hefty fees • create alternative and more sustainable ways for poachers to make a living

Marks: +_ / +10

Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **Past Perfect**
- **Present Perfect Continuous**
- **Reported Speech**
- **Third Conditional**
- **Connectors**
 - **So to continue**
 - **Although**
 - **In spite / despite**