

**KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL PROPOSAL**

Proposal #: **45**

Assignment: **D**

Country: **Portugal**

School: Olmsted Academy North City: **Louisville**

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Title: An act to create a wildlife refuge for the Iberian Lynx to prevent its extinction and study the broader effects of biodiversity loss.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Justification Clause: Biodiversity is the variation of life on the planet. It is important to maintain healthy ecosystems because without biological diversity the Earth cannot function properly. Over the past 100 years, biodiversity across the globe has drastically decreased due to human factors, like road building and dam developments.

Section I: Portugal currently has one of the highest rates of biodiversity in Europe. However, one of its most important species, the Iberian Lynx, is nearing extinction.

Section II: The Iberian Lynx is considered a keystone species in Portugal. A keystone species is a species of plant or animal that has a major impact on its ecosystem and is considered essential to maintaining optimum ecosystem function or structure. It is the most endangered big cat species in the world, designated a pre-extinction species. Over the last 100 years, the number of Iberian Lynx has decreased from over 100,000 to less than 200, despite restrictions on hunting the animal.

Section III: The United Nations Environmental Programme will fund construction and maintenance for a wildlife refuge for the Iberian Lynx. They will hire animal experts and scientists to nourish and help increase the Iberian Lynx population. This will help prevent the extinction of the Iberian Lynx.

Section IV: The wildlife refuge will help maintain the entire ecosystem of the Iberian Peninsula by protecting the population of Iberian Lynx. Moreover, it will inspire other countries to look more closely at their endangered animals and help protect their own biodiversity.