

Environmental Law and Wildlife Forensics

Criminal Justice · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which international agreement, signed in 1973, provides the primary legal framework for the criminal prosecution of cross-border trafficking of endangered flora and fauna?

- A) The Kyoto Protocol
- B) CITES
- C) The Montreal Protocol
- D) The Basel Convention

2. Under the U.S. Lacey Act, the first federal law protecting wildlife, what is a primary requirement for a criminal conviction regarding the interstate commerce of illegally taken plants or animals?

- A) The defendant must know the animal was endangered
- B) The defendant must be aware that the act violated an underlying law
- C) The animal must be listed as critically endangered globally
- D) The transaction must exceed \$10,000 in value

3. In wildlife forensics, which DNA analysis technique is commonly used to identify the species of origin in highly processed animal products like oils or powders?

- A) Short Tandem Repeat (STR) analysis
- B) Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) barcoding
- C) Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) mapping
- D) Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)

4. The 'IUCN Red List' is often used in criminal courts to establish the conservation status of a species. Who is responsible for compiling this list?

- A) The United Nations Environment Programme
- B) The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- C) The World Wildlife Fund
- D) The INTERPOL Environmental Crime Committee

5. Which specific criminal offense involves the illegal extraction of timber, often prosecuted under international organized crime statutes?

- A) Bio-piracy
- B) Illegal Logging
- C) Foraging encroachment
- D) Environmental vandalism

6. What is the 'Precautionary Principle' as applied in environmental criminal law?

- A) The burden of proof lies on the state to prove absolute harm
- B) Where there are threats of serious damage, lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures
- C) Criminal liability only attaches if direct mortality occurs
- D) Laws are applied retroactively to protect ecosystems

7. In the context of wildlife trade, what does the acronym 'TRAFFIC' represent as a global monitoring network?

- A) Trade Records and Forestry Information Center
- B) Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
- C) Transnational Regulatory Agency for Fauna, Flora, and Invertebrate Conservation
- D) Tactical Response Against Forest-based Illegal Commercialization

8. Which Australian legislation provides the legal basis for the prosecution of individuals who harm native species within Commonwealth areas?

- A) The Wildlife Protection Act 1975
- B) Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- C) The Native Flora Preservation Act
- D) The National Parks and Wildlife Services Ordinance

9. What is the primary forensic evidence objective when processing a crime scene involving the illegal hunting of 'CITES Appendix I' species?

- A) Determining the market value of the fur
- B) Establishing chain of custody to maintain evidentiary integrity
- C) Identifying the weapon manufacturer
- D) Mapping the migratory path of the animal

10. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, 'Biopiracy' refers to:

- A) Unauthorized commercial use of biological resources without equitable benefit sharing
- B) The physical theft of wild animals for illegal export
- C) The destruction of natural habitats for agricultural expansion
- D) The pollution of international waterways by industrial ships

11. In environmental criminal law, what does 'Strict Liability' generally imply in statutes related to pollution?

- A) Intent to pollute is a necessary element of the crime
- B) The prosecution must prove negligence for every violation
- C) The state does not need to prove intent (mens rea) to secure a conviction
- D) The defendant is automatically exempt if they hold an environmental permit

12. Which forensic methodology allows investigators to determine the geographic origin of seized ivory or timber through isotopic analysis?

- A) Carbon dating
- B) Stable Isotope Ratio Analysis
- C) Radiometric dating
- D) Electron microscopy

13. What is the definition of 'Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing' in the context of maritime criminal law?

- A) Fishing without a commercial license
- B) Fishing in violation of national laws or international conservation measures
- C) Fishing using prohibited net sizes only
- D) Fishing by recreational anglers in protected zones

14. Which international entity maintains the 'Purple Notice' specifically for providing information on methods used by criminals to hide, disguise, and dispose of stolen property, including wildlife?

- A) Europol
- B) INTERPOL
- C) The World Customs Organization
- D) The International Court of Justice

15. In wildlife crime, what is 'DNA profiling' most effectively used for in a court of law?

- A) Determining the age of a deceased animal
- B) Linking a specific seized sample to a known wild population or crime scene
- C) Predicting the future behavior of a wild animal
- D) Calculating the ecological impact of a poaching event

16. The 'Espoo Convention' focuses on which aspect of environmental law relevant to transboundary criminal assessment?

- A) Protection of migratory birds
- B) Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context
- C) Regulation of deep-sea mining
- D) Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

17. What defines 'Environmental Crime' according to the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)?

- A) Any act that violates environmental laws and causes damage to the environment
- B) Only acts involving the commercial sale of natural resources
- C) Acts committed strictly by corporate entities against nature
- D) Acts involving the destruction of property only

18. Which treaty specifically governs the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal?

- A) The Stockholm Convention
- B) The Basel Convention
- C) The Rotterdam Convention
- D) The Minamata Convention

19. In the context of 'Criminology of the Environment', what is the 'Green Criminology' perspective?

- A) A focus on the sentencing of environmental offenders
- B) The study of crimes against the environment, including non-human animals and ecosystems
- C) A policy that prioritizes tree planting over imprisonment
- D) A legal strategy to defend environmental activists

20. What is the primary function of the 'CITES Secretariat' in relation to criminal justice?

- A) To enforce arrests in member countries
- B) To facilitate the exchange of information and ensure implementation of the Convention
- C) To set global prices for wildlife products
- D) To provide legal counsel to poachers