



environmental
investigation
agency



The Environmental Investigation Agency Manifesto for the UK General Election 2024

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) is a UK charity established in 1984. We investigate and campaign against environmental crime and abuse.

Our undercover investigations expose transnational wildlife crime, with a focus on elephants, pangolins and tigers, and forest crimes such as illegal logging and deforestation for cash crops like palm oil. We work to safeguard global marine ecosystems by addressing the threats posed by plastic pollution, bycatch and commercial exploitation of whales, dolphins and porpoises. Finally, we reduce the impact of climate change by campaigning to eliminate powerful refrigerant greenhouse gases, exposing related illicit trade and curbing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.

EIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, and while we have a proud record of achievement the scale of the environmental crisis demands significant action and leadership by the next UK government.

We do not have another 40 years to reverse the ongoing destruction of our natural world.

The urgency for taking action cannot be overstated. We are facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Fuelled by climate change the world's oceans have broken temperature records every single day over the past year. For the 11th month in a row, April 2024 was the warmest on record in terms of global air temperatures.

Analysis of more than 147,500 species found that in excess of 41,000 are threatened with extinction. Between 1990 and 2020, around 420 million hectares of forest have been lost and a further 10 million hectares is being lost each year.

Over 12 million tonnes of plastic is dumped into the ocean every year..

The situation within the United Kingdom serves to demonstrate the urgency with which we must act.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The Climate Change Committee has highlighted significant concern for the UK's progress on climate action and climate adaptation



BIODIVERSITY LOSS: The UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries and in the bottom 10 per cent globally for biodiversity



POLLUTION: In Europe, the UK has one of the highest rates of soil contamination and the lowest levels of bathing water quality and one of the highest rates of waste trafficking



Below are our key policy recommendations which if acted upon will ensure that the next government of the United Kingdom implements progressive policies and takes strong actions to show leadership, both at home and internationally to safeguard the future of our planet.

- **Reinstate the commitment** of allocating 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income to international development
- **Ensure the monitoring, identification and response to environmental and human rights abuse is at the heart** of the UK's trade deals and international development policies
- **Environmental crime must become a priority** and focus of relevant, mandated agencies and government departments responsible for other forms of serious and organised crime.
- **Put Nature2030 at the heart of policy at home (including retaining nutrient neutrality rules) and globally** by delivering the UN Convention on Biological Diversity 30 x 30 targets (effective protection and management of 30 per cent of the world's terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas by the year 2030)
- **Cancel all new oil and gas licences** and join international calls for a managed phase-out of fossil fuels
- **Recommit to the obligations of the 2015 Paris Agreement** by substantially strengthening measures to rapidly reduce emissions and achieve net zero emissions in the early 2040s. Establish new policies to align with this pathway, including ambitious methane and nitrous oxide reduction targets
- **Advocate for an adjustment of the Kigali Amendment of 2016** to accelerate the global phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (short-lived climate super-pollutants) under the Montreal Protocol. This should be supported by an ambitious domestic F-gas Regulation review, which at least matches EU ambition.
- **Ensure that the UK F-gas Regulation is strengthened** in line with the ambition demonstrated by the recently revised EU F-Gas Regulation.
- **Halt the significant, ongoing decline in biodiversity in the UK** by urgently developing robust, time-bound, costed and quantifiable domestic targets and measures to implement its global commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- **Ensure that halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation** are at the forefront of efforts to meet Paris Agreement targets, as set out by the CoP26 Glasgow Declaration, and strengthen international partnerships to do so
- **Fully implement the 2021 Environment Act** to ensure businesses are using legally sourced forest-risk commodities. Extend the scope of this regulation to include forest-risk commodities considered 'legal' under local laws, human rights abuses and environmental harms beyond deforestation and other sectors, notably finance and mining
- **Commit to negotiating and adopting an ambitious global plastics treaty** that includes measures on plastic production reduction and a safe circular economy
- **Ban the export of all its plastic waste from the UK**, given the environmental and human health harm it causes in countries where it is dumped
- **Adopt a mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility scheme** for non-packaging agricultural plastics to ensure that this plastic waste stream is managed more effectively
- **The UK is the second highest consumer of plastic per capita in the world and must adopt an ambitious reduction target for plastic packaging**, in addition to the reuse and refill targets contained in the Environment Act
- **Maintain robust commitment to international cetacean issues**, including financial contributions to, and high-level policy engagement with, the International Whaling Commission, focused on maintaining the ban on commercial whaling, prevention of small cetacean hunts and preventing bycatch
- **Ensure that the UK Government's Public Procurement policy is in line with legal and sustainable purchase** of commodities currently outlined within the UK due diligence legislation to combat deforestation



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