

environmental investigation agency

Investigator

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**Exposed - EIA infiltrates
the Chinese town at the
heart of the world's
illegal ivory trade**

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A ray of hope for Mexico's
desperate vaquita?

A message from our Executive Director, Mary Rice

I am writing this against the stunning backdrop of the Jackson Lake Lodge, in Wyoming.

Every two years, the great and the good of the conservation filming world convene to share skills, pitch for support and network with existing and new contacts.

The subject of this year's summit - a one-day gathering of field-based conservationists and NGOs staged ahead of the main event - was big cats. Illegal trade was part of that discussion and EIA was here to present and participate on various panels throughout the five-day meeting.

What has been striking is that while wildlife everywhere is facing a range of threats and challenges, there are so many individuals and communities involved in inspirational projects and initiatives that are successful and achieving real and meaningful impacts.

You are part of that community and EIA is one of those organisations making a difference.

You will see from the contents of this issue of *Investigator* that we continue to forge new paths and make significant headway across the range of issues on which we work. I hope you will agree with me that, while we continue to face a whole raft of different challenges, you are part of a team that identifies and implements workable solutions and, more importantly, achieves change in all its many forms.

In the grand scheme of things, EIA may be small but, as has been demonstrated repeatedly during this week in Jackson Hole, small does not mean insignificant or ineffective.

Mary Rice
Executive Director



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Vietnam caught stealing timber from neighbouring Cambodia



Camera trap image of truck at clandestine crossing in Virachey National Park, Cambodia, to Vietnam, Feb 2017

FORESTS investigators exposed massive timber theft by Vietnam from Cambodia when a new report revealed how corrupt Government officials and military personnel in both countries were pocketing millions of dollars in bribes from smugglers.

The report *Repeat Offender* documented hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of logs stolen from Cambodia's national parks and laundered into Vietnam's voracious timber economy.

It was released in May just days before Vietnam and the European Union (EU) were due to initial an agreement seeking to ensure only legal wood products are exported from Vietnam.

"This is the single largest log-smuggling operation that we have seen for years," said Jago Wadley, Senior Forests Campaigner. "Vietnam must address this weak approach in any agreement with the EU to combat illegal logging and the associated trade."

Even though Cambodia has a log export ban and shut its border with Vietnam to timber in early 2016, investigators discovered illegal logging on unprecedented scales in protected areas in Cambodia's Ratanakiri province.

Instead of turning the illegal timber back, corrupt Vietnamese state and security officials issued formal quotas to give it lawful status. The State profits too, formally taxing the looted wood.

Vietnamese timber traders were found to be paying millions of dollars in bribes to Cambodian officials to open up logging areas and smuggling routes, and also paid off senior Vietnamese officials, customs and border army personnel.

EIA has repeatedly exposed Vietnam's trade in timber stolen from neighbouring countries. Until 2015, hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of logs a year flowed into the country in open violation of Laos' log export ban until that country's new Prime Minister clamped down on the smuggling racket.

EU condemns Japan's sham whaling plan

THE EU has condemned Japan's new 'scientific' whaling programme in the North Pacific in a formal letter to the member governments of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

In the letter circulated in late July, the 25 EU member states which are party to the IWC expressed regret that Japan has decided to begin whaling in the North Pacific, contrary to recently agreed IWC rules that any new scientific whaling programmes should be fully

reviewed by the IWC and its Scientific Committee.

They also expressed "extreme concern" that an already-threatened population of minke whales would be reduced by 20 per cent in 2030 if the whaling went ahead.

Clare Perry, Head of EIA's Oceans Campaign, said: "We applaud the EU for taking this important position. This hunt, which is all too often ignored, is not just unsustainable but contravenes international law."

Denmark takes action against teak traders

AFTER receiving evidence from EIA, authorities in Denmark slapped injunctions on all domestic companies directly importing teak from Myanmar.

The decision in March followed EIA's submission of evidence that Danish timber company Keflico had violated the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR).

Peter Cooper, Forests Campaigner, said: "Denmark's leadership in EUTR enforcement underpins similar rulings already made in Sweden and leaves no doubt that anyone placing Burmese teak on the EU market under current conditions is in breach of European law.

"With Denmark setting a clear precedent, we now expect authorities in Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and the UK to rapidly resolve the remaining 12 cases submitted by EIA."

Due to the high risk of illegality and a fundamental lack of transparency by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (a state-owned company responsible for the cutting and export of timber), it is not currently possible for any importer to successfully comply with the EUTR.

Scale of UK ivory exports revealed

IT may not be the first name to jump to mind but new EIA analysis revealed the UK to be the world's largest exporter of legal ivory.

Specifically, it was also the largest exporter of legal ivory to the illegal trade hotspots of Hong Kong and China. The findings were released ahead of World Elephant Day in August. EIA Executive Director Mary Rice said: "UK ivory exports are stimulating consumer demand globally, especially in Hong Kong and China, two of the world's largest markets for both legal and illegal ivory.

"Even as the Government of China works towards closing its domestic ivory market by the end of 2017, the UK continues to inject a large amount of ivory into China. The UK Government should stop issuing permits for all ivory exports with immediate effect."

As *Investigator* went to press, the UK Government announced a three-month public consultation on plans to ban all UK ivory sales. Find out more at banukivorysales.co.uk

UK Government confirms microbeads ban

THE UK Government announced in July that it will be banning microplastics from personal care and cosmetic products this year.

Announced after an official consultation, the move followed 18 months of campaigning by the Microbeads Coalition, which comprises EIA and three partners.

In a joint statement responding to the proposed ban, the Coalition said: "This will go a long way towards stemming the flow of damaging microplastic ingredients into our seas and oceans, and will also

help consumers who do not want to be adding to pollution when they use cosmetic and beauty products."

Nevertheless, the work does not stop now - many products remain which contain microplastic ingredients but will not be covered by the ban.

The statement added: "We welcome the Government's announcement that it will work to gather the evidence needed to decide whether the scope of the ban should be extended, and we strongly encourage industry to help with this

process and be transparent about the ingredients they are using."

Microbeads - a commercial form of microplastics - are used in hundreds of products such as facial scrubs and toothpastes but are not trapped by waste water treatment processes and so enter the oceans, leaching chemicals while finding their way into the food chain and even drinking water. The manufacture of products covered by the scope of the ban must end by January 1, 2018 and the ban on sales will come into effect from June 30.

Bank triggers investigation into its palm oil client

WHEN High Street bank HSBC launched an investigation into the subsidiary of one of its own clients in the palm oil sector, the result was thousands of hectares of rainforest in the heart of Indonesia's Papua region getting a second chance.

The move followed EIA and Greenpeace writing to four banks (HSBC, ABN Amro, ING and Rabobank), all of which had helped set up a new \$750m bond issued by Noble Group on March 9, 2017.

The letter presented the banks with evidence showing that Noble Plantations, part of Noble Group, was preparing to clear 18,000 hectares of primary forest for oil palm.

The company has been ordered by industry body, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), to stop work until the investigation is complete. If Noble does not comply, it faces sanctions from the RSPO, including possible expulsion.

This is the first time a major bank has requested an RSPO investigation into one of its clients.

Noble Plantations has been exposed numerous times in the past for clearing forests and violating the rights of local communities.



Fin whale landed at Miðsandur whaling station, Hvalfjörður, Iceland, in August 2014

Iceland's whaling kingpin stays home again

ICELAND'S whaling kingpin Kristján Loftsson announced in March the cancellation of another season hunting endangered fin whales.

The summer hunt is the second he has scrapped, claiming ongoing difficulties with Japanese customs over imports of his whale products and also the strong Icelandic krona currency.

Almost all the fin whale meat originating from Iceland's hunts is destined for Japan, despite a ban on international trade in fin whales under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Loftsson, through his whaling company Hvalur, has single-handedly kept Icelandic whaling afloat; Hvalur is understood to be running at a loss, subsidised by its holdings in other companies to which it is connected.

Clare Perry, Head of EIA's Oceans Campaign, said: "We're delighted to learn that magnificent, internationally protected fin whales will have another season free from bloody seas and explosive harpoons.

"We are, however, mindful of the fact that Loftsson has suspended hunting in the past only to resume when the economic conditions were right."

Iceland's whaling was front and centre again just weeks later when EIA and its partners in the Don't Buy from Icelandic Whalers coalition kept up the pressure at the major Boston Seafood Expo on businesses sourcing from firms connected to Loftsson's whaling.

And the pressure was back on in May when EIA and others called on European airlines which offer flights to Iceland to urge their passengers to stop buying whale products while travelling in the country.

South Africa's rhino horn trade plan a gift to criminals?

DESPITE being at the ground zero of the global rhino poaching epidemic, South Africa continued to send out conflicting and potentially lethal messages as it moved to legalise domestic trade in horn.

In February, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) published draft regulations to legitimise and regularise domestic trade in and, under certain circumstances, export of rhinoceros horn - even though there is no market demand in the country itself and any horns sold are likely to end up being illegally exported.

The move was a major shock to the international community - not least because trade can only work against the Government's stated concern for its rhino populations by confusing consumers, increasing demand and so driving poaching.

The first online auction of rhino horn went ahead in August, organised by John Hume, the world's biggest private rhino breeder. Afterwards, a statement issued on his behalf admitted there were very few bidders for the 264 horns offered for sale.

Despite the ban on international trade, it was reported that Hume's auction website was translated into Vietnamese and Chinese to attract more bidders; Vietnam and China are the main consumers of illegally trafficked rhino horn, where it is used as a hangover cure, a party drug or in traditional medicine.



© Pippa Hankinson & bloodlions.org

Tigers threatened by reckless profiteering in lion bones

EIA was appalled last year when South Africa was given permission to export up to 800 lion skeletons a year - as long as they were sourced from captive breeding facilities in the country.

Branding the move a potential disaster for Asia's wild tiger populations, EIA produced a detailed briefing, [The Lion's Share](#), outlining the scale of the threat to the 29th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Animals Committee, in Geneva, Switzerland, in July.

"Any quota for a trade in captive-bred lions is of major concern," said Debbie Banks, Head of EIA's Tigers Campaign. "Not only is it likely this decision will negatively impact wild lion populations but it will also adversely impact on other large big cat species, especially the endangered tiger."

South Africa currently has up to 200 facilities breeding lions, with as many as 8,000 captive lions dwarfing the estimated 3,490 free-roaming lions found in the country.

Tigers are also being commercially bred in South Africa. In 2015, there were a known 44 facilities with at least 280 tigers being bred for trophy hunting and trade - in direct contravention of a CITES decision.

The main destination countries for lion skeletons, bodies, claws and teeth are in Asia - Vietnam and Laos alone imported 755 bodies, 587.5kg of bones (equivalent to 65 lions), 54 claws, 3,125 skeletons, 67 skulls and 90 teeth, all for commercial purposes.

Banks added: "Exports of lion parts from South Africa undermines enforcement efforts to end illegal tiger trade since without DNA analysis it is very difficult to distinguish between tiger and lion bone, teeth and claws.

"Exports also stimulate demand for tiger parts and derivatives since large amounts of lion bone and derivatives are marketed as tiger and offered for sale in China and South-East Asia."

Tiger farming finally gets a hearing in China

THE threat to wild tigers posed by tiger farming got its first hearing at a top-level political meeting in China.

At the annual plenary session in March of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a high-level political advisory body, member and famed artist Yuan Xikun tabled a resolution on the issue expressing concern at the impacts of tiger farming.

Welcoming the move, EIA urged China's legislators and leadership to take immediate action to audit, consolidate and destroy all stocks of tiger parts and products that are no longer required for judicial purposes.

EIA's Debbie Banks said: "We're seeing some signs of penetrating the Great Wall, with the findings from our years of investigation and research being reflected in a ground-breaking proposal."

Identified, infiltrated and exposed – the town at the centre of global ivory smuggling

ALMOST three years of painstaking undercover work came together in the exposure of an obscure town in southern China as the global hub of the illegal ivory trade.

Shuidong town is home to a network of ivory trafficking syndicates whose reach extends to East and West Africa, including the elephant poaching hotspots of Tanzania and Mozambique.

One syndicate member told EIA's undercover investigators, posing as traders and potential buyers, that the town is the destination for a staggering 80 per cent of all poached ivory smuggled into China from Africa.

Released in July, the landmark report *The Shuidong Connection* chronicled the investigation from its earliest leads, through to the infiltration of one of the leading ivory trafficking syndicates and finally to a secretive viewing of a huge stash of poached elephant tusks.

EIA first encountered the Shuidong smugglers in September 2014 while investigating the catastrophic poaching of elephants in Tanzania. In Zanzibar, the main gateway for shipments of tusks

flowing out of Tanzania, investigators met with a sea cucumber trader from Shuidong who revealed that a community of his compatriots in Zanzibar was behind the smuggling, with a single group sending out 20 shipments to China in just one year.

They formed part of an international network of people from Shuidong supplying the booming Chinese market for sea cucumbers – but with their knowledge of working in Africa and supply routes to China, they were ideally positioned to move into the illegal ivory trade.

In April 2016, investigators were in Mozambique to check out rumours that ivory traffickers were switching their focus from Tanzania when they encountered three Chinese nationals in the port town of Pemba who were conspicuous due to their unique dialect – they were all from Shuidong.

Posing as potential ivory traders and logistics specialists, our investigators gradually gained the trust of the syndicate partners over the course of more than a year and were able to piece together a detailed picture of the enormous scale and nature of the operations.

“EIA has shared, in confidence, the detailed intelligence unearthed during the course of the Shuidong investigation with relevant Government departments and enforcement agencies and looks to them to use it. Action is needed to end this huge criminal enterprise which is devastating Africa's elephant populations.”

– Julian Newman, EIA Campaigns Director



Pictured, from top, are dried sea cucumbers and key figures in the Shuidong syndicate Xie Xing Bang, Wang Kangwen and Ou Haiqiang



“What EIA discovered in Shuidong clearly shows transnational criminal networks are operating with near-total impunity. It is vital that enforcement agencies in Africa and China put these criminals out of business immediately”

- Mary Rice, EIA Executive Director

WHEN we were winding up our investigations into the illegal ivory trade in Tanzania back in 2014, little did we know where that would take us.

The leads EAI got from the illegal traders in Zanzibar took us to Mozambique and then on to a little-known town in southern China which has been a major hub for the illegal ivory trade for the past two decades.

Documented in our recent report, *The Shuidong Connection*, our investigators engaged in strategic and targeted relationship-building with illegal traders over a period of three years. As a result, we gathered information on the modus operandi of a criminal network that had been operating with impunity for many years; it also led our investigators to a town called Shuidong and a safe house full of poached ivory.

This unprecedented level of detail about the who, how and where of this network was provided in confidential briefings to enforcement agencies throughout Africa and China.

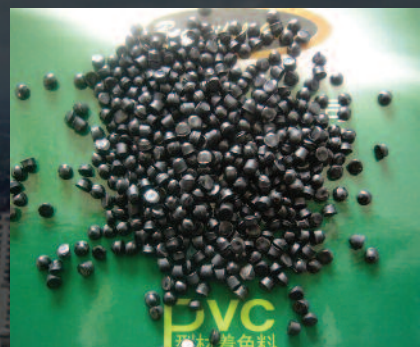
It took a while but the enforcement machine finally kicked in - we have been told that a number of arrests have been made in Shuidong and our team continues to provide information to the authorities there to help them build the case.

How a major criminal ivory syndicate works

DURING the course of investigations into the Shuidong syndicate, EIA built up a detailed picture of the way it operated.

Key features of this criminal group included:

- using trusted fixers in Africa to consolidate poached ivory in secure locations
- travelling to Africa to inspect tusks for quality and quantity prior to shipment
- bribing key customs and border enforcement personnel
- concealing tusks in innocuous-looking shipments of plastic pellets (pictured right, above)
- ‘owning the road’, the practice of using secure smuggling routes with accomplices at every stage
- obscuring the origin of shipping containers of ivory by reloading them in transit countries such as South Korea
- the ability to diversify quickly into other illegal wildlife products such as pangolin scales, totoaba fish maw and rhino horn
- re-investing profits into new ivory and other wildlife shipments.



Confronting the realities of wildlife crime at meeting



From left to right: Debbie Banks, Ritesh Sarothiya, Vincent Opyene, EIA Wildlife Campaigner Matt Lowton and Pavla Rihova

CAMPAIGNERS shone a spotlight onto corruption and wildlife crime networks at a major international meeting in Vienna.

In an event at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in May, EIA highlighted the first-hand experiences of those working to combat illegal wildlife trade.

Delegates to the CCPCJ (a United Nations body focused on tackling global crime) meeting heard law enforcement representatives and NGOs from Asia, Africa and Europe talk about their fight against high-level corruption and the established transnational criminal networks responsible for the poaching and trafficking of tigers, elephants, rhinos, pangolins and other wildlife.

"Hearing first-hand the experiences of those working to combat illegal wildlife trade struck a chord with the audience, hammering home the pervasiveness of the illegal wildlife trade and the risks faced every day by those charged with tackling the perpetrators of the trade," said Debbie Banks, Head of EIA's Tigers Campaign.

Speaking at EIA's side event were Ritesh Sarothiya, of the Indian Forest Service and head of the Madhya Pradesh State Special Task Force; Pavla Rihova, head of the CITES Department at Czech Republic Environmental Inspectorate; and Vincent Opyene, former Head of Prosecutions for the Uganda Wildlife Authority and founder of the Natural Resource Conservation Network.

The three shared stories of bravery, ingenuity and tenacity in overcoming challenges such as corrupt police and military, dawn raids, forensic analysis, crime scene management, intelligence-gathering, preparing cases for prosecution and international cooperation.

"While governments have acknowledged at the highest levels that transnational organised wildlife crime is serious crime, at the field level efforts are still frustrated by a lack of interagency and international cooperation to disrupt these networks," added Banks.

"We hope delegates were inspired to ensure that commitments to effective enforcement and international cooperation are kept high on the international agenda - and that words are turned into real action on the ground."



Ground pangolin

© African Pangolin Working Group

Landmark legal win boosts transparency in oil palm sector

EIA partner Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI) won a long-fought Freedom of Information request in March against the Indonesian Government to get access to the formal commercial operations maps of oil palm companies operating in Kalimantan.

Plantation maps should be publicly accessible as plantations exist on state land managed for the people by the Government but it has taken legal wrangling in Indonesia's Courts since 2015 for FWI to obtain access. Once in possession of the data, FWI plans to make it available on its website.

"This is an exceptional, albeit overdue, victory for civil society organisations fighting for the most basic transparency in the palm oil sector in Indonesia," said Faith Doherty, Head of EIA's Forests Campaign.

Illegal trade still a major risk for rosewoods

THE ongoing threat to endangered rosewood species from illegal trade was highlighted in the new briefing *Prohibited Permits*.

Siamese rosewood was given international protection in 2013. Virtually all trade has since been characterised by crime, fake and illegitimate permits, structural failures in permit verification and the killings of hundreds of illegal loggers and dozens of forest rangers.

The briefing - prepared for the 3rd Regional Dialogue on Preventing Illegal Logging and Trade in Siamese Rosewood, in Bangkok - pointed out that significant risks of ongoing illegitimate trade persists for both Siamese rosewood and Burmese rosewood.

In addition, the pressures from trade on lookalike replacement species not yet protected are rapidly increasing.

Not cool – some supermarkets in line for a nasty surprise in 2018

CLIMATE-friendly cooling technology is on the rise in Europe – but some slow-moving retailers are in for a financial shock when drastic cuts in supplies of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) kick in.

The warning came in June as EIA's Climate Campaign released *Chilling Facts VII*, the latest in a game-changing series of reports seeking to dramatically reduce the global warming footprint of supermarkets.

HFCs are a family of greenhouse gases hundreds to thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide (CO₂) and commonly used in refrigeration, air-conditioning, fire protection, aerosols and foams.

As of next year, supplies of HFCs in the European marketplace will be slashed by

about 48 per cent in real terms, a move likely to result in drastic price hikes and supply shortages; prices of some chemicals have already increased by 62 per cent in the first quarter of 2017.

In total, 22 retailers submitted 2015 data from supermarkets with operations in 37 countries for the survey. Eight were named as stand-out 'Green Cooling Leaders' – Albert Heijn, Aldi Süd, Carrefour, Kaufland, Metro Cash & Carry, Migros, Tesco and Waitrose.

Clare Perry, Head of EIA's Climate Campaign, said: "European retailers stand out as global leaders in the adoption of HFC-free commercial refrigeration but, despite well-established and efficient HFC-free alternatives, the uptake across Europe is far short of the pace needed to meet the EU's fast-acting HFC phase-down.

"In addition, there's the very real concern that HFC shortages will not only result in soaring refrigerant bills but that ongoing heavy demand from retailers may actually drive illegal trade in HFCs, something we witnessed when hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) were banned."



Read all about it

Click on the cover image to access an online copy of the full report.

Updated map underlines role of two countries driving hornbills to extinction

THE distinctive helmeted hornbill bird is critically endangered and a [newly updated map of seizures](#) underlines the roles of China and Indonesia as the world's most important countries involved in the illegal trade.

Based on data from EIA and TRAFFIC, the map was unveiled in May with a call to the two countries to step up meaningful enforcement.

Helmeted hornbills are large rainforest birds found in South-East Asia. Hornbills have a solid casque, a helmet-like structure on the bill made of solid keratin that is highly prized as an ivory alternative to be carved into luxury decorations and jewellery.

Analysis shows at least 2,878 helmeted hornbill casques, skulls and products were seized in at least 59 known confiscations from 2010-17.

The data points to high poaching levels in Indonesian Borneo, while Shenzhen and Hong Kong emerge as the most important ports connecting hornbill part shipments from Indonesia to mainland China. Vigilance at these bottleneck exit and entry points is crucial to intercept illegal shipments.

Matthew Lowton, EIA Wildlife Campaigner, said: "We call on the Government of China to conduct targeted intelligence-led investigations of carving operations within renowned areas historically associated with the ivory and rosewood carving industry."



A ray of hope for Mexico's desperate vaquita?

FEWER than 20 vaquita porpoises are thought to remain in existence but a strengthened ban on gillnets in the upper Gulf of California may give them a chance.

An agreement between Mexico, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation and Carlos Slim Foundation, announced in June, commits Mexico, with the support of the foundations, to "convert the temporary ban on gillnets to a permanent ban covering all gillnet fisheries throughout the range of the vaquita in the upper Gulf of California."

A total and permanent ban on gillnet fishing throughout the vaquita's range represents its only hope of survival.

This was followed in September by the presidents of Mexico and China, Enrique Peña Nieto and Xi Jinping, reiterating their commitment and support to international efforts to save the critically endangered vaquita.

The presidential meeting in Mexico came after the first Mexico-China-US meeting on combating the illegal trade in totoaba in August which agreed to create a task force to strengthen cooperation and the coordination of efforts to stop the illegal trafficking of totoaba fish maws.

The vaquita has been driven to the precipice of extinction as a result of bycatch in nets set to capture totoaba, a critically endangered fish whose swim bladder is highly prized in China for its purported medicinal value.

Clare Perry, Head of EIA's Oceans Campaign, said: "The gillnet ban represents a crucial step if the vaquita is to have any chance at all. Yet previous measures have been undermined by exempting gillnets set for corvina, another fish species found in the same area - to effectively eliminate bycatch of the vaquita, the ban must include gillnets set for corvina."

Increased whaling numbers contrary to scientific and international decisions

NORWAY'S whaling came under fire in April as the latest hunting season got under way.

EIA and other organisations strongly condemned the hunt, which could result in the slaughter of up to 999 minke whales; 90 per cent of the minke hunted are females and almost all of them are pregnant, effectively nearly doubling the actual death toll and seriously impacting future generations.

The increased, self-allocated quota comes despite falling domestic demand for whale meat and escalating international exports in contravention of global bans on both commercial whaling and international trade in whale products.

Jennifer Lonsdale, EIA co-founder and Director, said: "Norway is a modern nation but its whaling practices are cruel, irresponsible, unnecessary and frozen in time. Norway's reputation is consistently stained by the blood of the sentient and intelligent whales that it kills."

Myanmar gives commitment to legal timber system

MYANMAR'S Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) reaffirmed in March its commitment to reforming the country's timber production and exports.

As part of its work to ensure illegal timber does not enter trade streams, EIA's Forests Campaign has raised several major instances in which exports of teak from Myanmar were effectively violating the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR).

Recent decisions in Sweden and Denmark have set a clear precedent that anyone placing Burmese teak on the EU market risks being found in breach of the EUTR.



Members' ZONE

EIA's Faith takes to the water

WE'D like to extend huge congratulations to EIA Forests Campaign legend Faith Doherty for braving freezing temperatures to complete London's Serpentine Swim on September 16.

The long months and chill mornings of training paid off as she swam the mile to raise more than £1,200 in sponsorship for EIA.

Afterwards, Faith said: "Thank-you everyone who supported EIA and myself for this challenge - it was an amazing time with so many people who just love to swim. All your donations and personal messages got me across the finish line, they really did!"

Everyone here at EIA thanks you for all your dedication and hard work, Faith!

If, like Faith, you want to raise funds for EIA, please check out the Get Involved section of our website (www.eia-international.org). Alternatively, you can get in touch at fundraising@eia-international.org or call us on 020 7354 7960.



Thank-you for standing up for tigers!

YOUR voice was heard this September when we submitted the petition for Prime Minister Modi of India to act on and urge Chinese President Xi Jinping to put an end to all tiger farms.

You may have been shocked to learn that right now more than 7,000 tigers are being bred in awful conditions in facilities throughout Asia - approaching twice the number of tigers left in the wild.

We cannot thank you enough for your wonderful support to help put an end to tiger farming. You are making a difference to the future of these beautiful animals.



You never stop surprising us!

WE'VE had an amazing response to our recent Elephants appeal. In fact, you kindly responded with twice as many gifts as usual. So, we've heard how much you want us to protect elephants in the wild and we will continue to do our best.

We're putting your money to work in the field right now. And we expect to be able to expose another ivory trafficking syndicate in the next few months. Keep an eye out for updates.

Thank-you so much for all your support - you're amazing!



SUPPORTER PROFILE

Sophie Persey



I FELT very privileged and proud to run the London Marathon for the EIA this year.



I love running and have run a few marathons before, but nothing compares to the atmosphere created by the iconic route and amazing crowds of the London Marathon. The support from EIA was absolutely brilliant, from staff members attending one of my fundraising events to tell guests about the charity to Lynne from the Fundraising team meeting me (on her day off!) with an EIA bag full of goodies when I crossed the finish line.

My first encounter with the EIA was back in 2009, when I joined the team as an intern after finishing my masters in conservation. During those few months, I got the opportunity to see for myself what a lean, mean fighting machine this organisation is!

I was inspired by the passion, determination and knowledge of the teams, who are working on really important issues.

Throughout my career in conservation, I have continued to see the huge contribution that EIA makes in tackling issues that are really close to my heart, such as illegal deforestation in Indonesia. This is why I was so proud to have the opportunity to run the London Marathon for EIA.



Get involved!

- **MARCH 4, 2018 - Bath Half Marathon.** EIA will again have places available for the 13.1-mile route along the river Avon and through the beautiful town of Bath.
- **APRIL 15, 2018 - Brighton Marathon.** We have only three places available for the 26.2-mile course around the picturesque seaside town. Call today to avoid disappointment.
- **SEPTEMBER 2018 - Swim Serpentine.** Take to the water in the beautiful Serpentine in London's Hyde Park to tackle this unique one-mile swim for EIA.
- **SEPTEMBER 2018 - London to Brighton Cycle.** Take on this iconic 54-mile route starting in Clapham Common, travelling through idyllic lanes as you ride through picturesque countryside and finally finishing on bustling Brighton seafront. Secure your spot by the end of January 2018!
- **OCTOBER 2018 - Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon.** We'll have a limited number of places available for this iconic 13.1-mile race which winds through stunning London scenery, starting and finishing in Hyde Park. Get in touch today and reserve your place to avoid disappointment!

Running not your thing? Fancy yourself as a bit of a daredevil? How about a challenge abroad?

If you've always wanted to dive head first out of a plane or trek the Great Wall of China, then get in touch with our Fundraising team today to plan your experience of a lifetime.

We've got opportunities to suit everyone and we'd love to hear from you!

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Over the past 30 years, EIA has saved the lives of hundreds of endangered species and their habitats through pioneering investigations into environmental crime.

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For more information or just a chat about our work, call us on +44 (0) 20 7354 7960 or email legacy@eia-international.org

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