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URGENT NEWS FLASH: NEW THREAT TO RHINOS

As EIA supporters may know, our work in Far Eastern countries that consume rhino products has dramatically reduced demand, especially for rhino horn used in traditional Chinese medicine. With fewer than 11,500 still alive, rhinos are still on the critical list of endangered species. But South Africa has this year tabled proposals to restart the trade in rhino horn. If the re-opening of trade goes ahead, South Africa could kick-start demand for rhino products when the consuming countries are doing everything they can to stop the trade once and for all. 'A small amount of legal trade would provide the cover for a much bigger illegal trade', says EIA's Head of Campaigns Steve Trent. 'We'd almost certainly see rhinos poached, not just in South Africa, but all over Africa and beyond. With populations at their current levels, there is a real possibility that renewed trade could bring rhinos to the brink of extinction again'.



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STOP PRESS: INSTABILITY FOR THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT

As we go to press, the momentum of the tiger campaign has been temporarily challenged, due to political changes in India. The Prime Minister's United Front Government has lost support of the Congress Party. Whatever happens, EIA will continue to pressurise the Indian government until tigers are safe.

EIA NEWS Written by Craig Bennett, Dave Currey, Gavin Hayman, Jennifer Lonsdale, Mary Rice, Steve Trent, Suzie Watts and Juliette Williams.

Edited by David Brown, Jo Hastie and Steve Trent.

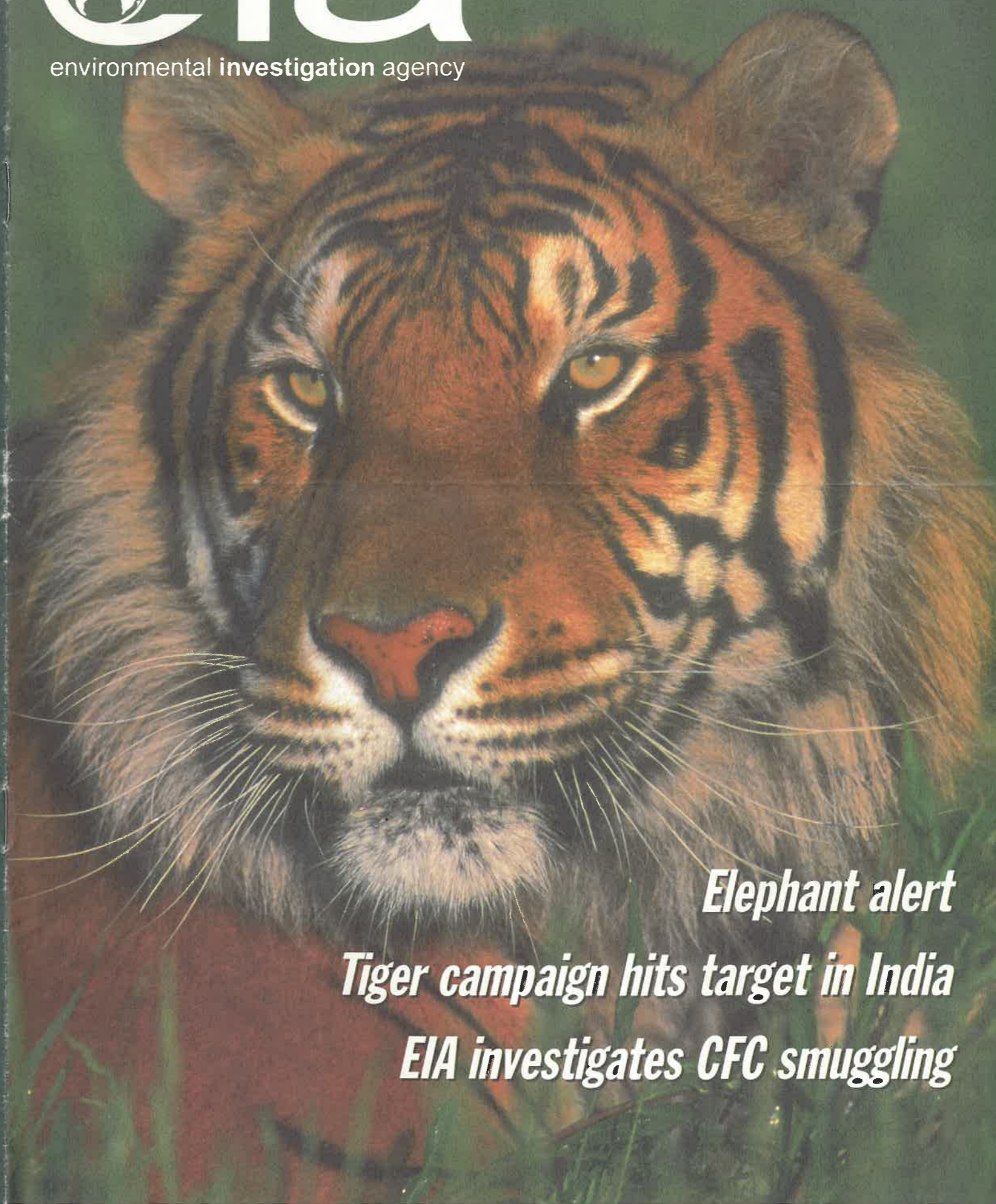
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NEWS UPDATE SUMMER 1997



environmental investigation agency



Elephant alert
Tiger campaign hits target in India
EIA investigates CFC smuggling

Tiger campaign hits target in India

The Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda has been 'rattled' by the enormous pressure EIA has created with its new Indian tiger campaign. Sustained campaign pressure has bolstered action taken by Indian organisations and experts to raise wildlife conservation higher up the political agenda, and already some of EIA's recommendations have been accepted. The campaign rolls on in an effort to turn new promises into effective action.

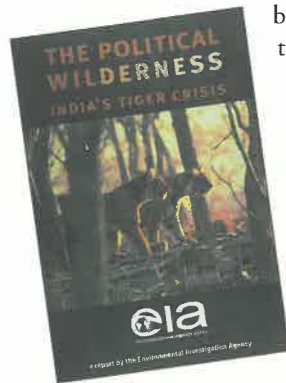
EIA's new campaign report *The Political Wilderness — India's Tiger Crisis* reveals that in India at least one tiger is poached every day, and that industry is routinely given permission to operate within protected areas in violation of Indian law. One tiger bone dealer has over forty cases pending against him, yet he still walks free.

Amid massive public concern and press interest in the UK, India and around the world, EIA recently launched its campaign simultaneously in London and New Delhi. By focusing attention on the Indian Prime Minister's Office and its failure to support tiger conservation, the campaign aims to renew the Indian government's political will to save India's tigers, other wildlife and forests. India's highest wildlife advisory body — the Indian Board for Wildlife, chaired by the Prime

Minister, had not even met for nine years.

The launch was covered all over the world with television stories on the BBC, CNN, Sky TV, Star TV (Asia), Zee TV (India), and many others. Veteran investigator and EIA Chairman Allan Thornton led the launch in London, and EIA Director Dave Currey took the campaign to New Delhi, Bombay, Pune, Bangalore, and Calcutta on a two week series of campaign launches.

A hard hitting cinema and TV advertisement was donated by leading advertising agency Bartle Bogle Hegarty (BBH). Summing up the campaign in 60 seconds, it is a vital tool for our work. It has been shown in many cinemas throughout the UK, on a cable TV station in Asia, in various news items, and was featured in the BBC's *Tiger Crisis Update* broadcast on BBC TV in January. Additionally, a press advertisement also donated by BBH has been given free space in many national newspapers.



EIA'S TOP FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS	THE RESULTS: ACTION FOR TIGERS
<i>The Indian Prime Minister must re-convene the Indian Board for Wildlife under his chairmanship and draw up an emergency action plan to tackle the imminent demise of the tiger and its habitat. He must also gain political support from State Chief Ministers for new leadership on this issue.</i>	The Prime Minister chaired the first meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife for nine years on 13th march 1997. He promised to hold a second meeting within one month and to meet with State Chief Ministers prior to this second meeting. The Minister of Environment and Forests has agreed to create a mobile strike force to handle poachers and militants around tiger reserves and national parks.
<i>The Planning Commission must seriously consider increasing the budget allowance for wildlife and forest protection in the ninth 5 year plan, as proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.</i>	The Minister of Environment and Forests has said he will approach the Planning Commission for special funds for the strike force. The Prime Minister has promised to take these issues to the Planning Commission, which he chairs.
<i>The recommendations of the various Indian expert committees must be prioritised and implemented. Emergency actions, with funding, must be implemented immediately.</i>	Details and emergency action plans have not yet been drawn up but it is expected that many expert members of the Board will attend the next meeting with a plan of action. A strong and unanimous voice was heard from most independent experts on the Board at the first meeting.
<i>The international community must encourage the Government of India to create renewed political will to save the tiger.</i>	UK Prime Minister John Major raised the tiger issue on his visit in January and offered £50,000 for tiger conservation. This followed letters to him by EIA and other UK NGOs. An Early Day Motion was put down in the British Parliament and many NGOs signed a letter delivered to the Indian Prime Minister by EIA in October. The international and the Indian press have played a vital role in giving massive coverage to EIA's campaign. European Parliamentarians will be addressed by EIA in Strasbourg on 10th April. EIA has called on President Clinton to raise the issue with the Indian Prime Minister on his visit to India later this year.

Action for tigers

If you haven't already done so, please write to the Indian Prime Minister and demand immediate action to protect India's remaining tigers:

Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
South Block
New Delhi 110011
India

India's tiger protection, once hailed as a blueprint for good conservation, has virtually collapsed. The reasons are complex, as are the solutions, but little can be achieved until the issue is raised higher up the political agenda. To keep the pressure on, EIA launched its Indian tiger campaign in the Netherlands in January and in the USA in February (see box). A presentation has been made to the Houses of Parliament, sign-on letters have been gathered from political leaders and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and an Early Day Motion has been put down in the House of Commons. A presentation is planned in the European Parliament.

EIA held meetings with politicians in India, including the new Minister of Environment and Forests, and NGOs. On March 13th Dave Currey and EIA's Head of Campaigns, Steve Trent, held a press conference in New Delhi as a follow up to the October launch. The event coincided with the Prime Minister re-convening the Indian Board for Wildlife — EIA's first recommendation. Once again the EIA campaign was greeted with wide press and TV coverage. The next day it was reported in the *Hindu* under the headline 'Govt. not doing enough to save the tigers: EIA':

'Even as the Indian Board for Wildlife began its meeting after a gap of nine years here this evening under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Mr H.D. Gowda, the Government found no escape from criticism by international watchdogs on environment who accuse it of having failed to turn words into action. It was under tremendous pressure that the Board members — particularly the Government representatives — assembled to take stock of the country's flora and fauna...

'With the stepping in of an international NGO — the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) — world attention had been particularly drawn to the country's Project Tiger. Since October last, the EIA has been active here pressing the Government of India for immediate action to save the tigers.'

The *Hindustan Times* wrote:

'The director of EIA, Mr Dave Currey, threatened to take India's lack of political will to save the majestic tiger to the European Parliament. US President Bill Clinton is also expected to talk to the Indian Prime Minister on the issue.'

There is no doubt that EIA's campaign has hit its target and most of EIA's recommendations have already been accepted by the Prime Minister. But the campaign will not stop until the Indian authorities translate their fine words into effective action. There are many problems and EIA keeps in close contact with many Indian experts who are part of the process as it moves forward. EIA has kick-started conservation action and will keep the pressure on.

But let's not forget — experts believe that at least one tiger is killed in India every day — there is no time left for delay.

EIA's New York tiger part undercover survey

In February EIA Director Dave Currey and Head of Campaigns Steve Trent worked with an experienced Chinese investigator — who must remain anonymous — in New York's Chinatown. Seventeen Chinese pharmacies were entered, products identified and questions asked. Most shops were videoed by using a hidden camera.

Over 80% of the pharmacies offered products claiming to contain tiger parts — tiger bone pills, tiger bone wine and tiger bone plasters.

At a press conference in New York, called to launch EIA's Indian tiger campaign, the survey results were revealed to the international media. Dave Currey said 'It is outrageous that tiger products banned all over the world can be so easily purchased in New York. Indian forest guards risk, and sometimes lose, their lives in an attempt to protect the few remaining tigers, and their blood as well as the tigers' is dripping down the streets of New York's Chinatown'.

The press conference coincided with the re-introduction of an amendment to the US Endangered Species Act by Senator Jeffords. If adopted, this amendment will close loopholes which currently allow such products to be sold openly in some parts of the US.



Dealing in extinction: tiger products on sale in New York

'Since October last, the EIA has been active here pressing the Government of India for immediate action to save the tigers.'

The *Hindu*, 14.3.97

EIA would like to thank all its members and supporters and especially the Barbara Delano Foundation for its generous support and backing for EIA's Indian Tiger Campaign.



Over the past year EIA's investigators have been at work and our team has been developing a carefully prepared strategy to protect the elephants.

Elephant alert

If the international ban on trade in ivory is relaxed this year, elephant poaching could surge again, says EIA elephant campaigner Susie Watts.

As long-term EIA members will know, EIA worked long and hard to achieve the ivory ban in 1989 and to keep it in place since then, in the face of increasing odds. Our undercover investigations, both before and after the ban, provided the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) with the vital information that was needed to win the ivory ban, revealing a massive international trade controlled by ivory barons and organised gangs making millions out of the slaughter of Africa's elephants. EIA was able to show that the trade was out of control and that, left unchecked, it would mean the end of Africa's once vast elephant herds.

EIA's work, along with the magnificent efforts of many conservationists around the world, heralded a new era for the African elephant. Almost immediately after the ban was agreed, good news came in from all over Africa about massive decreases in poaching levels.

At the 1992 and 1994 meetings of CITES, a handful of southern African countries tried to overturn the ban, but were so strongly opposed by

the rest of Africa that they had to withdraw their proposals. The number of pro-ban African nations increased as it became clearer how well the ban had worked.

Unfortunately, these same southern African countries have been waging a political battle ever since then, and as a result they are receiving far more attention — and donor funding for their cause — than the great majority of pro-ban states.

Now, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe — supported by Japan — have formally submitted proposals to CITES to be allowed to sell off their ivory stockpiles. They claim that this will not encourage poaching either domestically or in other countries and will help to fund long-term elephant protection.

However, it is clear to a large number of African governments and conservationists that this is absolutely untrue. Every time these countries have proposed 'downlisting' their elephants to permit trade, other countries have reported resurgences in poaching which, after the proposals had been rejected, then died down again. For this reason, the great majority of African countries which have elephants have been strongly opposed to any relaxation of the protection currently afforded to elephants by CITES.

It is this message from the often unheard majority of African nations which EIA is intending to broadcast between now and the CITES meeting in June. Working with African government officials and conservation groups from all over the African continent, we are carrying out a wide-ranging strategy to combat the highly dangerous propaganda which is coming from these three countries.

Over the past year EIA's investigators have been at work and our team has been developing a carefully prepared strategy to protect the elephants. One of the major actions we have planned in the lead up to CITES is the organisation of a pan-African conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. Speakers from across Africa will be coming to present papers on the positive effects of the ban, on the benefits of tourism for conservation of the elephant, on the effects of 'downlisting' on both the African and Asian elephant, and on the positive contribution made by elephants to their habitats.

We will be inviting participants from Africa, Europe and north America, as well as all the Ambassadors to South Africa and inter-governmental agencies to hear these presentations. EIA will distribute the proceedings of the conference worldwide to ensure that the voice for the elephants is heard.

In these and many other ways, we are ensuring that the voices of the multitude of pro-ban Africans are not drowned out by the handful of anti-ban countries in southern Africa.

Dead or alive?

It is from the tourism industry that elephants earn serious money for African governments, not from

the ivory trade. The Tanzanian High Commissioner to London said in a speech recently (at an event organised by EIA) that his government had estimated that a single live elephant in Tanzania earns — in just three months — the equivalent of the ivory from thirty dead elephants. In Zimbabwe, the ivory stockpile, which has taken seven years to amass, is said to be worth just \$5 million (US). Meanwhile, the country earns \$200 million every year from tourism.

Because of this, EIA is working closely with the tourism industry worldwide. So far, one hundred and eighty companies from all over the world have signed a 'tour operators' declaration' in support of the ban on elephant products, and this will be presented to CITES in June. The tourism industry, more than most, knows only too well the huge loss of revenue which will occur if the poaching starts again.

Alongside this, we are increasing the pace of our advocacy and campaign work; producing carefully researched briefings; carrying out investigations; working with the international media; lobbying governments and influential agencies and working closely with other groups worldwide.

As our supporters would expect of us, we remain firmly committed to upholding the ban and, along with our colleagues and friends from Africa, we will continue to fight to protect the elephants.



Grass roots action for African elephants

EIA's work with elephants in war-torn Mozambique is going from strength to strength, says EIA's Mary Rice, recently back from the Maputo Elephant Reserve.

EIA's continued support for the Maputo Elephant Reserve is giving fresh hope to elephant conservation efforts across Mozambique. For almost two decades civil war turned the country's wildlife parks into battlegrounds, as heavily armed poaching gangs decimated the local elephant population. When the EIA project in Maputo began in early 1995, the reserve was little more than a shell with no staff and a few frightened elephants.

EIA representative Craig Gibson is now based on the reserve full-time, and I met him on a recent visit. 'We saw a herd of thirty just the other day', he told me. 'That's a sizeable breeding herd, so things are definitely looking up for Maputo's elephants'. It's a fantastic transformation from just a few years ago when it looked as though Mozambique's elephants were doomed. Chief warden Paulo Tomas explained to me how elephants which had scattered during the war are moving back onto the reserve. There are now over a hundred elephants in the area.

Craig Gibson has overseen EIA funds being put to excellent use, providing basic equipment and training for anti-poaching guards. Forty-six people are working on the reserve and there are five operational anti-poaching posts. The work is getting results: in December last year, the guards apprehended three poachers who were subsequently jailed. A school has been set up in one of the former office buildings at the main camp and a clinic (staffed by a Medecins Sans Frontiers trained auxiliary) is sited alongside the school.

To see what our supporters have helped us achieve is an inspiration. EIA will continue to fund the development of the reserve to make sure the elephants have a safe and secure home — and future.



Never again: elephant slaughter in the 1980s.



A success story: since 1989 a new generation of young elephants has flourished.

Action for elephants

Please write to the Dept. of the Environment's Global Wildlife Division and ask them to ensure that Britain advocates a full Appendix 1 listing for all populations of African elephants at the CITES meeting in June 1997.

Rob Hepworth,
Global Wildlife
Division,
Tollgate House,
Houlton Street,
Bristol BS2 9DJ.

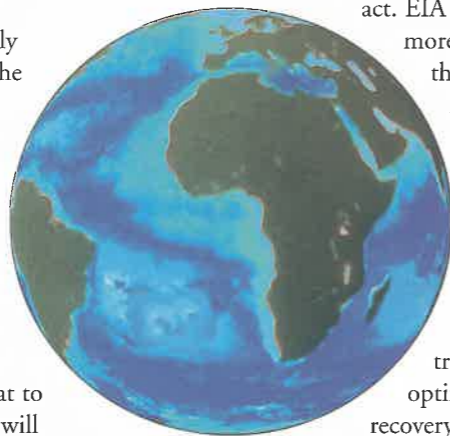
To see what our supporters have helped us to achieve is an inspiration.

CFCs: Cold Gold

Strange as it may seem, chemicals found in old fridges are at the centre of a huge illegal trade which threatens the recovery of the ozone layer. For the first time, EIA is investigating the illegal trade in CFCs.

The second most lucrative illegally traded commodity in Miami; the object of international political concern; a global business worth hundreds of millions of pounds: the illegal trade in CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) — chemicals used in refrigeration systems — matches the illegal trade in drugs, weapons and wildlife crime for law enforcement authorities around the world. This trade poses a huge threat to the recovery of the ozone layer and will cause thousands of cases of skin cancer in children well into the next century. It damages the most basic organisms upon which our environment depends.

In a ground-breaking new campaign, EIA investigators are uncovering evidence of CFC smuggling and the huge black market for this 'Cold Gold'. Under an international agreement called the Montreal Protocol, most countries have phased out



the manufacture of CFCs. But demand remains high and there is a huge market for smuggled material, coming mainly from Russia, China, India and Mexico. Complacent European Union officials could find only one case of illegal trade and have gone to sleep, saying that there is not enough evidence to act. EIA investigators have found many more, and have presented evidence to the European authorities — and lobbied at the annual meeting of parties to the Montreal Protocol — for a massive clamp-down on smuggling.

EIA campaigner Gavin Hayman says: 'many people assume that the ozone hole is recovering now, but the illegal trade is huge and invalidates optimistic predictions of ozone recovery. That means more damage to the environment and more people dying of skin cancer. The scientists say it. Business people say it. But no-one does anything about it. With the help of our supporters, we're determined to get to the bottom of this trade and expose the people who are making a profit out of destroying the environment and giving skin cancer to children. We've got to shake the politicians out of their complacency.'

Action on CFCs

Send a fax to:

Mr M Enthoven
European Commission
Environment Directorate
00 32 2 299 0307

and:

Carlos Munoz Betemps
European Commission
Customs Directorate
00 32 2 295 6501

Ask them to ban the use of CFCs and crack down on the illegal trade and smuggling of CFCs now.

Whales & Dolphins

Action for whales

Write to the Faroese Prime Minister and demand that the bloody pilot whale hunts be stopped:

Lagmand Edmund Joensen
Føfoya Landsstyri
Tinganes
PO Box 64
110 Torshavn
Faroe Islands

Write to the Prime Minister of Norway, and demand an end to their whaling:

Mr T Jagland
Prime Minister's Office
PO Box 8011 DEP
0030 Oslo
Norway

Write to the Japanese Prime Minister and demand an end to their whaling:

Ryutaro Hashimoto
Prime Minister's Office
1-6-1 Nagata - Cho
Chiyoda - Ku
Tokyo 100

Whaling Waves

EIA is leading calls for the protection of all whales and dolphins. Head of Campaigns, Steve Trent reports.

Whales and dolphins need greater protection than ever, not only from the hunters, but also from growing environmental threats: pollution, industrial fisheries and the potentially devastating effects of ozone depletion and global warming.

Our aim is simple — to ensure the safety and survival of all the world's remaining whales, dolphins



and porpoises. We are demanding that the moratorium on commercial whaling remains in place for at least the next 50 years and that studies of threats to the ocean environment are undertaken immediately.

We're getting results. Two members of our campaign team are now working with a new International Whaling Commission (IWC) scientific group to help identify problems in whales and dolphins' environments and to propose solutions.

In January, EIA submitted important evidence to a new Australian Government Task Force examining ways to achieve a permanent ban on commercial whaling. In March, EIA representative Mary Rice attended a meeting in Japan at which the Japanese Government continued trying to coerce the IWC into allowing coastal whaling. EIA's detailed investigative report on the issue was used by representatives to argue against the proposals, and — happily — the Japanese made little progress.

Meanwhile, Japan and Norway have submitted proposals to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to allow resumed international trade in whale meat. EIA will be attending CITES in June and working with many other conservationists to ensure that these proposals are rejected.

Bear essentials

Craig Bennett, endangered species campaigner, reports on recent developments to increase protection for the world's bears.

Bears are firmly on the agenda for June's meeting of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), as populations worldwide continue to fall.

The governments of Finland, Bulgaria and Jordan have proposed that all European and Asian populations of brown bear be placed on the Convention's 'Appendix I' critical list. This would ban the growing international trade in their body parts and make it much easier for enforcement officers to crack down on smuggling. In addition, there is a good chance that China may propose a complete moratorium on international trade in all bear parts, irrespective of the species.

Unfortunately, the ever present pro-trade lobby will be seeking to legitimise and expand the destructive trade in bear parts. The pro-trade lobby even includes some who consider China's notorious bear 'farms' — in which bears are kept in tiny cages and 'milked' of their bile — to be a 'conservation solution'. The reality could not be more different: by stoking up demand for bear products, bear 'farms'



© Bambi/EIA

lead to more and more poaching.

EIA will be working hard at the CITES meeting, and in the preceding weeks, to ensure the adoption of measures to increase bear protection. The demand for bear body parts grows year on year — there is no time to waste. The international community has to act now if the world's bears are not to be condemned to the same last-minute rescue attempts currently facing rhinos and tigers.

Action for bears

Write to the Dutch Presidency of the European Union and ask them to take every measure possible to ensure the conservation of all European bears.

Mr van Genne
Chief of International
Department of Nature
Conservation
PO Box 20401
Ministry of Agriculture
Nature Management &
Fisheries
2500 Ek Den Haag
The Netherlands

Forests

Deforestation diplomacy

Five years on from Rio, Earth Summit II is fast approaching for the EIA forests campaign.

Following our exposé of the massive destruction of the world's forests by unregulated trans-national companies, EIA's forests campaign is leading efforts to win a new global forest convention. A convention could regulate the multi-billion dollar timber industry for the first time and help prevent the destruction of the world's remaining natural forests. Time is of the essence: new UN figures show that the Earth lost an area of forests equivalent to twice the size of Italy between 1990 and 1995.

In the run-up to Earth Summit II in June, EIA has intensified its activities, most recently at the UN in New York where the forests campaign was instrumental in persuading the EU to support plans for an assessment of illegal trade.

The EIA draft forest convention, a blueprint for future legislation produced in cooperation with leading environmental lawyers, was unveiled in February. 'EIA has taken a leading role in campaigning for greater protection of forests' says EIA campaigner Juliette Williams. 'Our draft forest convention presents the first opportunity for many decision makers to get a realistic idea of what good

legislation would look like. It doesn't grab the headlines, but concrete proposals are more likely to get results than just complaining about the status quo'.

Unfortunately the 'status quo' includes the US government, which now argues that a forests convention is 'premature', a surprising turnaround from the 1992 Earth Summit where Al Gore was in favour of the idea. The whole issue of what do about global deforestation will be up for grabs at Earth Summit II — an historic opportunity for world leaders to commit themselves to conserving the planet's forests. 'The alternative to a legally binding convention to regulate rapacious multinational corporations is unthinkable. For EIA, business as usual is no longer acceptable,' says Williams.



© Garth Lenz

Action for forests

Write to President Bill Clinton, asking him to support a Forests Convention at Earth Summit II, and remind him of vice-president Al Gore's earlier support for such an agreement.

For those who have access to the internet; e-mail Vice President Gore, politely requesting that he lends his support to the GFC.

You can do this by visiting his web-site at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/GORE.html>

and following the instructions for 'Sending the Vice President e-mail'