



Impact Report 2016



## WE INVESTIGATE AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME AND ABUSE.

Our undercover investigations expose transnational wildlife crime, with a focus on elephants 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 improving energy efficiency in the cooling sector.

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**"It is you who  
are the invisible  
presence at our  
side"**

## THANK YOU

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to EIA's *Impact Report 2016*.

We have a proud history of driving real, significant change across our four key programmes of work – Climate, Forests, Ocean and Wildlife.

Here you can see for yourself the enormous difference a small, manoeuvrable organisation can make through its signature investigations, reports, briefings, research, training workshops and campaigning.

But none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the generosity of our funders, supporters, non-governmental partners, photographers and fellow campaigners – it is you who are the invisible presence at our side, whether in the field or at international conferences, and on



behalf of all of us, I'd like to extend our gratitude for your generosity and sustained belief in EIA.

Quite simply, without your support we couldn't achieve a fraction of what needs to be done to make a difference in the numerous environmental challenges the world is facing today.

Glancing at the headlines some days, it's all too easy, if understandable, to react with despair at the damage being routinely inflicted on this planet and the countless creatures with which we share it – but I hope that the important success stories you will find on the following pages will reassure you that change is not only possible but already happening.

**Kit Stoner**  
Chair of EIA Trust

## OUR FINANCES (EIA TRUST AND EIA UK)

	EIA Trust 2016	EIA UK 2016	Combined 2016	Combined 2015*
<b>Income</b>				
Donations and Legacies	212,437	14,757	<b>227,194</b>	574,599
Trading Activities	77,627	10,085	<b>87,712</b>	8,686
Investment Income	63	-	<b>63</b>	58
Project Grants	495,227	2,033,841	<b>2,529,068</b>	2,430,982
Membership	-	157,832	<b>157,832</b>	171,356
Other income	-	971	<b>971</b>	1,474
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>785,354</b>	<b>2,217,486</b>	<b>3,002,840</b>	3,187,155
EIA Trust funding EIA UK Activities (763,104)		763,104	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>22,250</b>	<b>2,980,590</b>	<b>3,002,840</b>	<b>3,187,155</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Fundraising	7,227	202,335	<b>209,562</b>	143,625
Campaign expenditure				
- Illegal Wildlife Trade	-	119,318	<b>119,318</b>	86,810
- Elephant campaign	-	346,617	<b>346,617</b>	82,970
- Tiger campaign	-	236,267	<b>236,267</b>	167,496
- Climate campaign	-	587,079	<b>587,079</b>	440,058
- Forest campaign	-	1,259,083	<b>1,259,083</b>	1,367,379
- Ocean campaign	-	174,703	<b>174,703</b>	74,393
- Organisational Development	-	103,147	<b>103,147</b>	146,991
Governance	8,267	-	<b>8,267</b>	2,269
Other	1,879	-	<b>1,879</b>	1,303
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>17,373</b>	<b>3,028,549</b>	<b>3,045,922</b>	<b>2,513,294</b>
<b>Net Income (Expenditure) for the year</b>	<b>4,877</b>	<b>(47,959)</b>	<b>(43,082)</b>	<b>673,861</b>

Figures are a view of the separate accounts of EIA UK (not for profit company 7752350) and EIA Trust (registered charity 1145359, and Ltd company 7844550). The figures are derived from the most recent (2016) audited accounts of both organisations.

For a full understanding of the financial affairs of EIA UK and EIA Trust please see the financial statements and reports of both organisations on our website, or directly at the Charity Commission and Companies House. Alternatively, we can post you copies on request.

The 2015 figures have been restated for comparative purposes.

## Where do you get your income from?

# 16%

of all our income was donated by kind individuals like you. Project grants make up the majority of our other income

## How much do you spend on fundraising?

# 7p

of each pound spent was used for fundraising. And for each pound we spent on fundraising we raised £14

## What are your governance costs?

# 0.3p

of each pound spent was on governance – ensuring EIA is run properly

## How much do you spend on support staff costs?

# 9p

of each pound spent was on staff costs such as management and finance to ensure projects are effective and that we take good care of your donations. We previously reported that in 2015 this cost was 9p/£1. However, it should have been 10p/£1. The calculation failed to include contract staff

## How much is spent directly on projects?

# 93p

of each pound spent was for projects tackling wildlife crime and protecting the environment

## OUR PROMISE TO YOU

We recognise the responsibilities we have towards wildlife and the environment, our donors and supporters, staff and the public. We ensure that we are accountable in all aspects of our work and in how we use the funds that are so generously donated for the work we undertake.

Our staff work hard to protect threatened species and tackle environmental abuse, and keep the organisation running effectively. We know that you are as passionate as we are about seeing real results for wildlife. So, we are committed to ensuring value for money in everything we do and this includes how we remunerate our staff.

## OUR FINANCES

The amount of our income generously donated by individuals was 16 per cent in 2016, compared to 24 per cent in 2015. The larger proportion of income from individuals in 2015 was due to an exceptionally large legacy gift.

Our fundraising costs have increased slightly, remaining at a modest ratio of our expenditure - only 7p per pound spent. The amount raised for each pound spent on fundraising did drop from £24 to £14, but again this was due to unexpectedly high legacy income in 2015.

Our support staff costs were slightly lower in 2016 at 9p per pound (10p per pound was spent in 2015).



THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE

## Climate

We scored a major victory in October 2016 with a global agreement to curb the use of super-pollutant hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) gases. The deal was struck at a Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Kigali, Rwanda, after eight years of protracted negotiations in which we played a pivotal role.

Under the Kigali Amendment countries pledged to cap and then phase down the consumption of HFCs, widely used in refrigeration and air-conditioning, starting in 2019 with different timeframes for developed and developing countries. The decision marked the first tangible international measure to curb climate change following on from the 2015 Paris climate

agreement and will avoid more than 70 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent HFC emissions by 2050, almost half a degree of warming by the end of the century.

Back in 2008, we were one of the first groups to advocate a phase-down of HFCs under the auspices of the Montreal Protocol. At that time, HFCs were included in the basket of greenhouse gases under the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, but their use and emissions were rising dramatically.

We have been engaged with the Montreal Protocol since the mid-1990s, building up a wealth of expertise and respect. The Protocol was established in 1987 to regulate

Our Climate work aims to tackle the pressing threat of climate change by eliminating powerful greenhouse gases used widely in the cooling sector, improving energy efficiency of replacement technologies and investigating the illicit trade in refrigerant greenhouse gases.

**Below:** The official adoption of the Kigali Amendment during the 28th meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol.



## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- In October the international community agreed to control powerful climate changing gases called hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), widely used in refrigeration. The deal was reached under the auspices of the Montreal Protocol, an outcome we have been campaigning for since 2008
- Our annual survey of supermarkets showed a dramatic increase in the availability and effectiveness of HFC-free technologies in the sector since 2010

chemicals responsible for depletion of the ozone layer, principally chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Our initial involvement was to expose the scale of illegal trade in CFCs, which represented 20 per cent of global CFC trade by the late 1990s, and to push for improved enforcement and licensing requirements.

It was through this engagement that we realised the dangerous unintended consequences of the CFC phase-out; replacement chemicals such as HFCs while not damaging to the ozone layer were potent greenhouse gases. So in 2008 we attended the annual meeting of the Montreal Protocol in Qatar and for the first time raised the notion of amending that treaty to achieve a global reduction of HFCs.

From that time onwards until the deal was sealed in Kigali, we worked tirelessly to convince the global community of the need for action to tackle the alarming rise in HFC emissions. To achieve our goal we deployed a range of strategies. One was to target sectors of the economy where HFC use was rife and rising, especially supermarkets. In 2008 we conducted a survey of major supermarket chains in the UK to ascertain the degree to which they were switching away from HFCs to less harmful replacements for refrigeration. The supermarkets were ranked according to their response in a report entitled *Chilling Facts*, providing an incentive for improvement. The survey was subsequently repeated annually and extended to include European supermarkets, but also influenced supermarkets around the world as the surveys over time demonstrated the strong business case for switching to climate-friendly alternatives to HFCs. We also played a pivotal role in securing a strong EU F-Gas Regulation in 2014, which set a marker by demonstrating that Europe was willing to immediately cut HFC use, and at an ambitious pace. In total we produced a remarkable 45 reports and briefings between 2008-16 to build support for action on HFCs.

Achieving the Kigali Amendment does not mark the end of the story. We will continue to be involved in the implementation of the agreement, to seek opportunities to accelerate the phase-down where possible and to remain vigilant to the emerging threat of illegal trade in HFCs.

### Plans until 2020

We will strengthen implementation of HFC and HCFC reduction measures under global and regional agreements through policy measures, corporate leadership and efforts to expose and tackle illegal trade. We will advocate the integration of energy efficiency considerations into current efforts to phase down HFCs in order to increase the climate impact of the measures taken.

### Thank you

Thank you to the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) for its long support of our Climate work.



**THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE**

# Forests

It might not have made headline news, but the shipment of timber products from Indonesia in November 2016, verified as legal under an agreement with the European Union, marked a significant milestone in our forests work which has taken over a decade of effort to achieve.

The shipments to the UK, Netherlands and Belgium were the first ever to take place under the auspices of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), a bilateral arrangement between the EU and timber producing countries designed to ensure only legal timber products are traded. It is especially gratifying that Indonesia was the first country to supply wood products to the EU

under a VPA, as it was here we began our campaign against illegal logging back in the late 1990s.

At that time Indonesia was suffering rampant forest loss with illegal logging of 80 per cent. We and our Indonesian NGO partners set out to curb forest crime in the country and to compel markets such as the EU to regulate against imports of stolen wood.

Our approach was to ensure the regular release of information, based on field investigations tracking smuggling of illicit timber from the forest to the market, and to work closely with a network of local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) spanning Indonesia. A key method

Our Forests work aims to reduce global deforestation by advocating improved governance and trade laws, revealing the negative impacts of cash crops such as palm oil to consumers and exposing key criminal players in the transnational illegal trade in stolen timber

**Below: Myanmar Timber Enterprise log depot, Sagaing Division, Myanmar**



involved organising for Indonesian activists to travel to EU countries to explain first-hand the impact of illegal logging on their communities and to call for the EU to take action.

A transparent system for ensuring legality has been created and an Indonesian NGO network has a formal mandate to monitor compliance with the system. As a result of this process, forestry and the timber sector in Indonesia have been reformed compared with the dark days of the 1990s.

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- Indonesia becomes the first country to supply legally verified timber to the EU market under a Voluntary Partnership Agreement
- We filed our first complaints under the EU Timber Regulation, targeting nine companies in five countries importing teak from Myanmar
- Illegal cross-border trade in logs between Myanmar and China falls by 97 per cent in a year following the release of our investigative report
- Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species agree to list all *Dalbergia* rosewood species on Appendix II, and strengthen the listing for Siamese rosewood

Another long-term ambition of our Forests work also came to fruition in 2016 with the submission of a series of formal complaints under the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). We pushed hard for the EU to implement controls on imports of illegally logged timber, leading to the EUTR coming into force in 2013. The regulation prohibits flows of illegal timber entering the EU market and contains a due diligence component obliging companies to mitigate risks of illegality in their supply chain.

In October 2016 we released a report entitled *Overdue Diligence*, exposing how EU companies importing teak wood from Myanmar were non-compliant with the due diligence requirements under the EUTR. The report focused on imports of valuable teak used for decking on yachts, including the biggest superyacht ever built, and led to EIA submitting legal complaints against nine companies in five EU countries.

Our work to protect Myanmar's unique forests from illegal exploitation also focuses on tackling illegal cross-border trade in logs with neighbouring China. In late 2015 we released a report entitled *Organised Chaos*, revealing how 900,000 cubic metres of illegal logs worth half-a-billion dollars were flowing across the border a year. Shortly after launching our findings in Yangon and Beijing, Chinese authorities announced the closure of the border for timber imports. This led to a drop of 97 per cent in the volume of logs crossing in 2016 compared with the previous year.

## Plans until 2020

By 2020 we seek to curb illegal logging and trade in illicit timber by closing major markets to imports of illegally sourced timber and wood products, ensuring forest governance measures are embedded in avoided deforestation policies and curbing forest conversion for plantations.

## Thank you

Thank you for the funding received from UK Aid through the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union, The Waterloo Foundation and to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) through a subgrant from Environmental Investigation Agency, Inc. (EIA-US) for their generous support of our Forests work.



Our Ocean work aims to improve the status of marine wildlife and ecosystems by reducing threats posed by marine plastic pollution, bycatch and commercial exploitation of whales, dolphins and porpoises.

## THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE

# Ocean

During 2016 we focused our efforts on preventing the critically endangered vaquita porpoise from becoming extinct.

The vaquita is the world's smallest and most endangered cetacean species, found only in the Upper Gulf of California in Mexican waters. Over recent years its population has drastically plummeted, with only about 60 individual left in early 2016.

The main threat to the vaquita is posed by illegal fishing for totoaba fish, with vaquita becoming ensnared. Totoaba fish are protected under both Mexican and international law, but illegal fishing persists to feed a lucrative black market for its dried swim bladder or maw.

In early 2016 we launched the report *Dual Extinction*, detailing findings from our first undercover investigation into illegal totoaba trade in China. Our investigators found totoaba maw openly on sale in a market in the city of Guangzhou and the increasing use of online platforms for sales.

Our undercover investigators returned to southern China to further infiltrate the criminal groups trafficking totoaba maw, uncovering the role of Jinping Market in the coastal town of Shantou as the main hub for the trade, as well as sales via auction houses. The information was shared with enforcement agencies and we published a report entitled *Collateral Damage*.

**Below: The vaquita is the world's smallest and most endangered cetacean species**



©Todd Pusser

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- Released two ground-breaking investigative reports into the illegal trade in totoaba fish, which threatens the survival of the critically endangered vaquita porpoise.
- Used the findings in the reports to secure commitments by both the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the International Whaling Commission to protect the vaquita from illegal gillnet fishing.
- As part of an NGO coalition persuaded the UK Government to ban the use of microbeads in personal care products.
- Prevented progress of Japan's small-type coastal whaling strategy and worked with conservation NGOs and governments to create a new bycatch initiative within the IWC

In September we took our findings to the conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to press for action by the three main countries implicated in the totoaba trade: Mexico, where the illegal fishing occurs; the US, which is the most prominent transit route for smuggled totoaba maws; and China, the main market. The new information helped persuade the conference to agree a decision pledging action to curb poaching and trafficking of totoaba. The

following month we helped secure a further Resolution by the International Whaling Commission, which included a call for a complete and permanent ban on gillnets in the Upper Gulf of California.

Time is perilously short for these commitments to be actioned. There are encouraging signs that our information has caught the attention of government enforcement agencies, especially in China where multi-agency training workshops have taken place. But urgent actions are needed by Mexico to do its utmost to stop gillnet fishing and give the vaquita a chance of survival.

In 2016 we also embarked on a major undertaking to protect the world's cetaceans and other marine wildlife from the dire impacts of plastic pollution. We worked as part of an NGO coalition to persuade the UK Government to ban the use of microbeads, tiny pieces of plastic used in personal care products and other consumer goods. We have also been working at the EU level to ensure an ambitious target for reducing marine litter, including plastics, is included in forthcoming legislation on the circular economy.

## Plans until 2020

We will reduce the threats posed to marine ecosystems and wildlife by marine plastic pollution through strengthening support for ambitious new legislation on plastics, supported by corporate measures to reduce packaging. We will protect the moratorium on commercial whaling by building support for the South Atlantic sanctuary and exposing commercial whaling as unnecessary, unsustainable and illegal at the 67th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission. We will reduce the threat of bycatch by improved regional and UK measures and through efforts to expose and tackle the illegal gillnet fishing and trade of totoaba, which is driving the vaquita to extinction.

## Thank you

Thank you to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service, Network for Social Change Charitable Trust, Japan Animal Welfare Society and OceanCare for their generous support of our Ocean work.



## THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE

# Wildlife

### IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- Following years of pressure and our investigations, the Chinese Government announced plans to close its ivory market.
- Countries that trade in tiger, leopard and snow leopards, including in 'farmed' tigers, will now face intense scrutiny and tougher calls to take time-bound action.
- EIA's independent analysis of government commitments to combatting illegal wildlife trade is welcomed as it exposes empty promises and sets the bar for future assessments.



### Elephants

Activities in the field in 2016 were dominated by two year-long investigations; one focused on a Vietnamese-led ivory trafficking syndicate, the other on a Chinese-led syndicate. The criminal networks we profiled were vast and beyond anything we had encountered before. The end of 2016 saw us complete one set of these investigations and submit confidential enforcement dossiers to the Chinese authorities.

Filming for our online training tool to help combat the illegal ivory trade was completed. This included capturing enforcement best practices around the world.

Our Wildlife work aims to reduce wildlife crime around the world. The Tiger Campaign works for the recovery of wild tiger populations by advocating the dismantling of transnational criminal networks involved in illegal trade, pressing for better legislation and exposing the role of tiger farming in both illegal and legal trade. The Elephant Campaign works to safeguard a future for elephants by pressing for the closure of key domestic and international ivory markets, advocating improved enforcement techniques and exposing transnational organised criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking.

The final version exceeds three hours of footage, carefully constructed using animations, interactive menus, fact sheets and check lists to assist learning. A multi-language version will be disseminated in 2017.

The 17th CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) was hugely successful for the Elephant Campaign. Our investigations into China's ivory trade and years of pressure paid dividends. As well as its 2016 policy announcement, China became a vocal ally in the closure of other domestic ivory markets, heaping pressure on the EU to do so. In the run up to CITES CoP17, we worked closely with the Government of Botswana to increase the protection of elephants. We applaud its announcement to relinquish their Appendix II status for their own elephant populations. This is a significant change in policy of the world's largest elephant range state.

### Tigers and Other Asian Big Cats

Four years of research, investigations, analysis and intense negotiations came to fruition in 2016. Our findings regarding trade in wild and 'farmed' tigers in China and Laos set the scene for deliberations at several CITES meetings, culminating in the adoption of critical decisions.

As a member of the CITES Asian Big Cat Working Group, we were able to challenge the tiger 'farming' and trade lobby head on. We shared irrefutable evidence and policy recommendations with NGO and

government allies, united NGOs with common messaging, and brought our NGO partners to key events so that decision-makers could hear from civil society in tiger range countries.

Our efforts leading up to and during CITES CoP17 elevated the profile of the threats facing not just tigers but other Asian big cats that are poached for the same end consumers. After years of being obscured by the crisis facing Africa's elephants and rhinos, Asia's big cats finally secured much-needed attention at CITES. As a result, between now and CoP18 in 2019, a series of special CITES Missions to problem countries will lead to time-bound, country-specific recommendations for action. This includes Laos, where the Government's declaration of intent to phase out tiger 'farms' has been slow to translate into action.

### Other Illegal Wildlife Trade

Governments of countries central to illegal trade in Asian big cats, elephants, pangolins, rhinos and helmeted hornbills had nowhere to hide when our report, *Time for Action*, was released at the Hanoi Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference. Many of the governments featured welcomed the honesty and integrity of our analysis and have urged us to prepare a similar assessment ahead of the London Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in 2018.

### Plans until 2020

Our Tiger and Elephant campaigns will continue with investigations and research into trade. Appropriate reports will be shared with law enforcement to assist in the disruption of the criminal networks involved, and with decision-makers to strengthen policy and demand reduction.

### Thank you

Thank you to Adessium Foundation, the Anthony Rae Foundation, CITES Secretariat, the UK Government through the IWT Challenge Fund, Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund, The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Oak Foundation, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, USFWS/African Elephant Conservation Fund, The Rufford Foundation, Wildlife Protection Society of India (UK), EJF Philanthropies, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, The Ecology Trust, Stephen Stone, Tiger Awareness, Save Wild Tigers, WildAid and Gary Hodges for their generous support of our Wildlife work.



A future where humanity respects, protects and celebrates the natural world for the benefit of all.

EIA vision

## LOOKING AHEAD

At EIA we're determined to tackle environmental crimes and abuses and 2016 has been no exception. Against a backdrop of extraordinary political upheaval and uncertainty, we've had a number of successes and made significant impacts. These include the Kigali amendment's international agreement to curb the use of super pollutant gases, the inaugural shipment of legal timber from Indonesia to the EU under the auspices of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement, achieving a ban on microbeads in the UK, raising the international profile of tiger farming and finally welcoming China's plans to close its domestic ivory markets in 2017. None of these successes would have been achieved without many years of determination and tenacity from our team, a persistence that has become one of the trademarks of the organisation.

But even as we celebrate our many successes in delivering positive



change and tackling criminality, we cannot take our eye off the challenges ahead. With unpredictable global dynamics and the spectre of Brexit dominating the international agenda, our mix of investigation, political negotiation and exposé is needed more than ever. We still have a lot to do but we know that while none of our successes are achieved overnight, we stand ready to engage for as long as it takes to protect and implement existing measures to secure our fragile environment, close illegal markets in timber and climate-damaging chemicals and shut down markets in other wildlife products both at home and abroad.

Thank you again, for your belief in our work and for all your support; these are your successes as much as they are ours.

**Mary Rice**

Executive Director of EIA UK

## INSTITUTIONAL DONORS AND TRUSTS

Adessium Foundation  
Anthony Rae Foundation  
A. S. Butler Charitable Trust  
The Cork of Ashbourne Trust  
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**And thank you to everyone who has supported our work, we hugely appreciate it.**



This is a joint impact report for:

Environmental Investigation Agency (UK) Ltd, a not-for-profit which carries out the work set out in agreed annual strategies and employs all staff. Governance of the company is overseen by a board of directors. Operationally, the company is managed by a senior management team.

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Registered in England and Wales



62-63 Upper Street,  
London N1 0NY UK  
T: +44 (0) 20 7354 7960  
E: [ukinfo@eia-international.org](mailto:ukinfo@eia-international.org)  
[eia-international.org](http://eia-international.org)