



environmental  
investigation  
agency

**STICHTING ENVIRONMENTAL  
INVESTIGATION AGENCY**

**POLICY PLAN 2024 -2026**

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## ***Introduction***

The Environmental Investigation Agency UK (EIA) was created in London, the United Kingdom in 1984 and since its formation has pioneered the use of investigations and research to curb environmental crime and abuse of the natural world. Currently Environmental Investigation UK is a registered charity in England and Wales with Charity Number 1182208.

Stichting Environmental Investigation Agency (Stichting EIA) was incorporated in The Netherlands on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, with commercial register number 57039925 and RSIN 852413774, but has remained largely dormant since.. In 2019 the Board of Trustees of EIA UK decided, as a consequence of the UK leaving the European Union, to develop Stichting EIA to become a functioning office focusing on EU and Dutch environmental protection policy issues. This is in conformity with the Objective of the foundation which is: " *The preservation of wildlife and the habitat of wildlife, including combating global climate change and fighting deforestation*".

EIA subsequently sought support and advice from The Hague Business Agency, and a fact-finding trip was arranged in June 2019 to understand legal and financial processes to create a working office in The Hague and to visit potential office sites. As a result of the trip EIA retained a legal services company to advise Stichting EIA on legal and governance issues. The company both examined and amended Stichting's EIA's Articles of Association to ensure compliance with the requirements for obtaining public benefit organisation status in The Netherlands. Or In September 2021 EIA submitted an application to the Dutch authorities for ANBI status, which included a Policy Plan for the organisation covering the period 2021 to 2023. On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Stichting EIA was granted ANBI status. This updated policy plan covers the three-year period 2024 to 2026.

A major strategic objective of the organisation over the next three years is to build an effective European policy office based in The Hague to advance EIA's campaign goals as set out below.

## ***Activities of the Foundation***

### *Mission*

EIA's mission is to protect the natural world by:

- Exposing environmental destruction and loss of biodiversity through uncompromising and innovative investigations
- Using this evidence and research to uncover environmental crimes and abuses and those responsible
- Campaigning for protection of the environment through better enforcement of environmental law, progressive policy-making and changes in consumer behaviour
- Developing effective partnerships and sharing skills and expertise

The organisation uses its findings in hard-hitting reports to campaign for new legislation, improved governance and more effective enforcement. EIA's field experience is used to provide guidance and intelligence to enforcement agencies, and it forms partnerships with local groups and activists and support their work through hands-on training.

### *Activities*

Activities to support attainment of the mission come under four broad programmes of work:

Climate Programme:

EIA's climate work aims to tackle the pressing threat of climate change by eliminating powerful greenhouse gases used widely in the cooling sector, investigating the illicit trade in refrigerant greenhouse gases and curbing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.

Forests Programme

EIA's forests work aims to reduce global deforestation by advocating improved governance and trade laws, revealing the negative impacts of forest-risk commodities cash crops such as palm oil and exposing key criminal players in the transnational illegal trade in stolen timber.

## Ocean Programme

EIA's 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.

## Wildlife Programme

EIA's wildlife programme aims to reduce wildlife crime around the world, with a major focus on Africa and Asia. The Asian Big Cats 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 the protection of their habitat 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 ivory markets, improving enforcement and exposing transnational organised criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking. The Pangolin Campaign works to enhance enforcement against the criminal syndicates that are trafficking pangolins primarily from Africa to Asia by providing actionable information to enforcement authorities and ensuring key countries also have the capacity and skills to properly implement protection measures for pangolins.

### *Three-year Programme Objectives (2024 – 2026)*

#### CLIMATE:

- By 2026, a package of measures is enforced to strengthen the institutions of the Montreal Protocol and tackle illegal trade through improved monitoring, reporting, verification and enforcement
- By 2026, Parties to the Montreal Protocol are on track to implement and accelerate the Kigali Amendment
- By 2026, Parties adopt decisions seeking to reduce ODS and HFC emissions resulting from feedstock use and fluorochemical production.
- By 2026, build cross-cutting political will and increase the finance available to take action on HFCs and ODS by securing unprecedented Multilateral Fund replenishment for 2027-2029.
- By 2026, the European Commission adopts implementing acts and technical guidelines under the EU Methane Regulation, strengthening requirements for fossil fuel methane mitigation across the supply chain, including imports.
- By 2026 a new global governance framework for the Global Methane Pledge is established, built around a new financial instrument, and includes requirements on monitoring, reporting and mitigation.
- By 2026, an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) is convened to develop a new global agreement on fossil fuels.

- By 2026, the outcome of key UN events includes language on the need to stop the expansion of fossil fuels and phase out fossil fuels.
- By 2025, the benefits of a fossil fuel phase-out are clearly communicated to decision makers, industry and the general public

## FORESTS

- By 2026 Increased knowledge of the trade in illicit timber from producer countries to international markets and publish movement and analysis of the trade to inform businesses, the financial sector, and international decision makers.
- Law enforcement collaboration and co-ordination leads to a reduction in the illicit trade in timber.
- By 2026 EIA and partner findings from field and desk-based investigations in target countries assist law enforcement agencies to identify and seize illegal timber consignments
- Support producer countries to strengthen and reform their national sustainable forestry systems
- Support and strengthen due diligence processes to identify companies implicated in human rights abuses and assess their involvement in unethical practices. This includes evaluating supply chains, business relationships, and subsidiaries
- Support the meaningful inclusion of forest dependent peoples and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the reform of policies and regulatory frameworks
- New initiated policy measures regulating the production and consumption of Forest Risk commodities are robust, adopted and effectively implemented at an International, and National level
- Increase knowledge through the monitoring and documentation of illegal forest clearance of commodities with links to the EU supply chain

## OCEAN

- By 2026, stringent policy measures regulating the production, manufacture, design, containment and consumption of plastics are adopted at a global level, including negotiation and adoption of a new global treaty on plastic pollution.
- By 2026, stringent policy measures regulating the production, manufacture, design, containment and consumption of plastics are adopted and effectively implemented at a national and regional level
- By 2026, the environmental impact of the global plastic waste trade is reduced
- By 2026, plastic use in the food, beverage and convenience sector in Europe is reduced
- By 2026 there is a sustained reduction in the hunting and non-hunting threats to cetaceans
- By 2026 EIA has built a clear understanding of the global fish maw trade, including its direct and indirect impacts on vulnerable marine species and ecosystems

## WILDLIFE

### Elephants

- Disruption of transnational ivory trafficking syndicates
- Maintenance of domestic and international ivory trade bans.
- Remaining countries of concern commit to closure of domestic ivory markets.
- Increased awareness of governments, decision-makers and the public of the scale of illegal trade in non-ivory elephant parts and derivatives.
- Increased awareness and accountability amongst key stakeholders and sectors of their role in the destruction of critical elephant habitat.

### Pangolins

- By 2026, end the use of pangolins in legally produced medicine and to close domestic markets in line with the CITES 2022 resolution
- By 2026, use EIA's improved understanding of pangolin trafficking trends in 'hotspot' countries along the trade chain to put pressure for action against the illegal trade
- By 2026 the ability of transnational pangolin trafficking networks to operate with impunity in West, Central and East Africa, as well as South East and East Asia is significantly curtailed

### Asian Big cats

- Disruption of Trans-Himalayan (India-Nepal-China) tiger trafficking networks.
- Disrupting of South-East Asia and China trafficking networks.
- Legislation clearly prohibits hunting and all commercial trade in Asian Big Cats, provides sufficient protection for habitat and appropriate enforcement powers to address poaching and trade.

### *European Policy Office*

A key part of EIA's mission to protect the natural world from environmental crime and abuse involves effective engagement with the European Union institutions and member states to formulate progressive policies. For example EIA's information and advocacy fed into the EU's new Deforestation Regulation which seeks to ensure that imports of forest risk commodities such as palm oil are not linked to deforestation.

In addition EIA played an important role in the formulation of the EU's F-Gas regulation, a major policy initiative to curb the use of powerful greenhouse gases called hydrofluorocarbons, which came into force. In 2015.

With the UK's departure from the EU the Board of Trustees and Leadership Team at EIA UK have made the creation of a European Policy Office based in The Hague, using

Stichting EIA as the vehicle, a strategic priority during the next three years. This will allow EIA to deploy its expertise and experience across a host of important legislative initiatives at the EU-level which have the potential to increase protection of the environment in Europe and beyond.

In addition the creation of a base in The Hague will also allow EIA to increase its engagement with Dutch government agencies involved in environmental protection as well as relevant international organisations based in the city. For example EIA has commenced collaboration with the International Criminal Court and Europol on environmental crime issues.

Over the last few years EIA has enjoyed effective collaboration with Dutch agencies including;

- Submission of cases on illicit imports of Burmese teak under the EUTR to the Competent Authority in The Netherlands
- Providing information to the Dutch Police's environment team on a case involving seizure of Burmese teak wood
- Engagement with the Dutch Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) on the illegal trade in HFCs and illicit trade in plastics waste.

### ***Financing of the Foundation***

As Stichting EIA has been largely dormant since its creation there are no financial accounts available. Over the duration of this policy plan the Directors aim to gradually build a working office in The Hague including the hiring of local staff. EIA currently has three staff employed by EIA UK based in The Netherlands and desk space has been hired for them in The Hague Humanity Hub. These employees are helping to raise the profile of EIA in The Netherlands. In addition EIA is working with a specialised fundraising agency based in Amsterdam to advise on funding opportunities for Stichting EIA. . . . .

EIA UK's latest audited accounts show total income of £5.3million in 2022. Around 90 per cent of this income came in the form of grants from trusts, foundations and statutory donors (including the governments of the UK, US and Norway). The remainder came from public donations. A similar model will be applied to secure funding for the operations of Stichting EIA.

The three-year funding plan to operationalise Stichting EIA bis as follows:

- 2024: Target income €20,000

During year one of this policy plan seed funding will be provided by EIA UK to cover expenses such as office costs, legal support, audit costs and travel. Funds for Stichting EIA will also be built into funding applications by EIA UK.



- 2025: Target income €200,000

Through the support of a specialist fundraiser Stichting EIA will raise funds from proposals to trusts and foundations in The Netherlands and through European Union grants. Funding allocations by EIA UK will also include funds for Stichting EIA as appropriate. .

- 2026: Target income of €500,000

EIA will continue applying to foundations and statutory funders and will employ a dedicated Fundraising Manager for Stichting EIA.

### ***Governance of the Foundation***

Stichting EIA currently has four Directors, two of which are employed by EIA UK (Julian Newman and Mary Rice) and two by EIA's US office (Allan Thornton and Alexander von Bismarck). The individuals do not, and will not, receive any remuneration for their role as Directors of Stichting EIA, except for legitimate expenses. Between them the four Directors collectively have 110 years of experience in environmental campaigning and organisational management at EIA UK and EIA US.

In mid-2021 Stichting EIA's articles of association were amended to ensure all Directors have equal voting rights ensuring compliance with the requirements to achieve ANBI status. In addition the amendment ensures that the Directors cannot treat the Stichting's assets as personal assets as at least two directors are required to represent the Stichting. .

Through regular meetings the Directors will ensure that the Stichting practices transparent and effective governance, such as verifying ensuring that at least 90% of activities conducted by Stichting EIA are in the public interest, specifically protection of nature and the environment, and no profits will be generated, and that all activities carried out are in line with the foundation's objective.

In addition the Directors will ensure the Policy Plan is openly available on the organisation's website, and that at the end of each financial year (which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December) a financial statement is produced showing income and expenditure is produced, with the annual accounts signed off by the Directors. This document will also be publicly available on the organisation's website.

Full particulars of the Directors can be found in the General Information section below.

## ***General Information***

Registered name: Stichting Environmental Investigation Agency  
Organisation type: Foundation  
Established: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013  
KVK number: 57039925  
RINS tax number: 852413774  
Netherlands Bank Account:  
ABM-AMRO  
PBNL Verenigingen en Stichtingen  
Postbus 283, 1000 EA Amsterdam  
Account number: 12.62.44.561

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2511CJ s-Gravenhage  
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Website: [www.eia-international.org](http://www.eia-international.org)  
Email contact: [info@eia-international.org](mailto:info@eia-international.org)

### Directors' Details:

Name; Alexander James von Bismarck  
Date and place of birth: December 12, 1971 in Munich, Germany  
Title: Board Member  
Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)

Name; Julian Richard Newman  
Date and place of birth: August 17, 1966 in Coventry, UK  
Title: Board Member:  
Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)

Name; Mary Rice  
Date and place of birth: August 24, 1958 in Belfast, UK  
Title: Board Member  
Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)

Name; Allan Charles Thornton  
Date and place of birth: November 17, 1949 in Windsor, Canada  
Title: Board Member:  
Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)