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Environmental Investigation Agency: 25 Years of Protecting The Environment with Intelligence

A Message From the President and the Executive Director

Small Organization Making a Global Impact

The Environmental Investigation Agency has confronted the world's most pressing environmental problems for 25 years—from species and natural forest loss to climate change and ozone layer depletion. Our campaigns have done so from a unique and increasingly important perspective: the threat posed to our natural environment by ever-accelerating demands for natural resources from the global economy.

Consumer demand, the activities of multinational corporations, and illegal trade in environmental products are colliding to exacerbate global environmental problems that threaten the diversity of life on Earth.

Our investigations around the world equip us with unique insight into how international trade—especially illegal trade—impacts the world's declining natural resource base, threatening the future of both people and wildlife. For a quarter of a century, on six continents, we have exposed, campaigned against, and proposed solutions for illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife and natural resources as well as industrial global warming and ozone depleting gases.

At EIA, we find solutions that work. From the 1989 global elephant ivory trade ban, to the 2008 Lacey Act to stop illegal logging imports to the United States, to moving towards a climate deal at the 2014 Montreal Protocol Meeting of the Parties', EIA has led practical, effective, and landmark conservation efforts.



Precedent-Setting Development of Global Significance

Our front-line investigations in 2007 influenced the U.S. Congress to pass a national ban, making it a punishable offence to import illegally harvested timber in the United States—the first such law in the world. In the years following, the European Union and Australia passed similar legislation, as the Lacey Act's impact rippled throughout the globe. Today, countries like China and Japan are under significant pressure to respond with their own policymaking.

EIA Relies on Your Support to Continue Our Momentum

In 2015, we will continue our efforts on expanding the global reach of our proven strategy to improve forest governance, securing a historic agreement on phasing out super greenhouse gases, and triggering key policies against illegal and unsustainable trade targeting the world's most endangered wildlife.

Overview

» This report is a brief reflection on the past 25 years of EIA's work. We hope you enjoy reading about some of our most impressive accomplishments, and express our heartfelt thanks to our supporters who make our achievements possible.

It's a Fact

"EIA has brought about changes in international laws and government policies... putting a stop to the devastating effects wrought by environmental criminals."
– UN Environment Program

A Look Back At 25 Years Of Impact

For 25 years, EIA US has been at the forefront of global environmental protection, campaigning on behalf of threatened wildlife species, forests, and our global climate by exposing environmental crime and other abuse against the natural world. Our unique combination of evidence-gathering and campaigning expertise has achieved many monumental successes. We invite you to take a moment to read about some of the impact EIA has made to our global environment over the last quarter of a century.

1989

EIA's groundbreaking investigations into the illegal ivory trade flowing from Africa through the Middle East to supply markets in Asia provide key evidence that help secure an international elephant ivory trade ban







1990

EIA is the only organization to investigate Japan's mass killing of Dall's porpoise, bringing attention to a little-known wildlife atrocity

1992

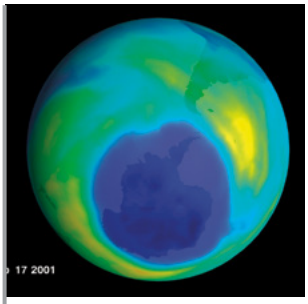
EIA's evidence and influence help prompt the U.S. Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, ending the mass importation of birds taken from the wild to serve as household pets in the United States





1993

Taiwan is certified by U.S. government as diminishing the effectiveness of CITES for its trade in rhino horn and tiger bone; trade sanctions against it enacted in 1994



1995

EIA expands beyond the Wildlife Campaign and begins to investigate the illegal trade in CFCs, ozone depleting substances



1996

EIA again expands its campaign focuses, releasing its first report on illegal logging

2003

53 mines close in India that were encroaching on and destroying tiger habitat following EIA's report



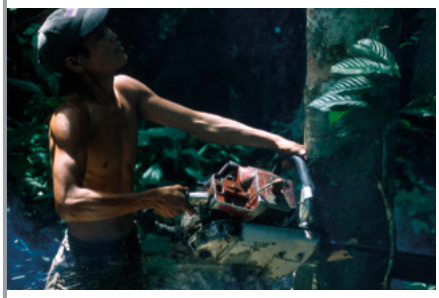
1997

EIA documents massive illegal trade in CFCs and works with Parties of the Montreal Protocol to introduce an inventory system to better track production and consumption of ozone depleting substances

2003 and 2011 photos courtesy of Creative Commons users

2005

EIA evidence prompts the largest government operation against illegal logging ever, which occurs in Papua province, Indonesia



2006

EIA releases a report calling on Japanese food markets and manufacturers to cease all whale meat sales and distribution. Since this report, EIA has persuaded 3,500 Japanese supermarkets, as well as internet retailers Amazon and Google's Japanese shopping sites to end the sale of whale and dolphin products, eliminating $60 million of products from the Japanese market



2004

The European Union bans the import of grizzly bear hunting trophies from British Columbia, Canada following EIA's campaign



2008

EIA mobilizes the Lacey Coalition; the Lacey Act, the world's first domestic ban on the import of illegally sourced timber and wood products, is passed by the U.S. Congress

2007

EIA prompts HCFC accelerated phase out, mitigating between 16 and 20 billion tons of CO2 equivalents globally

2009

EIA works with the United States delegation to first propose a North American amendment to the Montreal Protocol for a global HFC phase down

2009 - 2011

The U.S. government raids the premises of Gibson Guitars, leading to a lawsuit against the guitar maker for trafficking illegally obtained wood. Later, Gibson settles with the Federal government, acknowledging violation of the Lacey Act



2012

EIA releases *The Laundering Machine*, a report exposing blatant corruption and systematic export and import of illegal wood from Peru to the U.S.

2013

EIA releases the report, *Liquidating the Forests*, following a multi-year investigation that reveals the U.S.'s largest specialized wood flooring retailer, Lumber Liquidators, has imported illegally sourced oak from the Russian Far East. The U.S. government opens federal investigations into the company



2014

▲EIA is instrumental in promoting a new call for a nearly complete U.S. domestic ban on ivory trade in line with President Obama's Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking



▲China announces it will eliminate 280 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions of HFC-23. This monumental announcement comes in direct response to EIA's 2013 report, *The Two Billion Tonne Climate Bomb,* which exposed Chinese factories venting HFC-23 despite funding from the UN Clean Development Mechanism to capture and destroy these super GHGs



▲ EIA investigations instigate two of the largest seizures of illegal Madagascar rosewood in history. Sri Lankan custom officials seize 420 tons of rosewood with estimated value of $7.6 million USD and Kenyan officials seize 500 tons, worth $12.8 million USD

OUR MISSION

Working in Washington, D.C. since 1989 and in London since 1984, the Environmental Investigation Agency uses pioneering undercover investigations to expose environmental crimes, and campaigns for solutions to illegal wildlife trade and other threats to our global environment. Our campaigns to protect endangered wildlife, forests, and the global climate operate at the intersection between global trade and the accelerating loss of natural resources and species.

EIA is a different kind of environmental organization:

» Our methods are unique; our success rate far outweighs our size.

» We protect threatened species and the global climate with intelligence from our investigations—for the benefit of both wildlife and people.



About

» As a non-profit organization with IRS 501(c)(3) designation, EIA relies on financial support from individual donors and charitable foundations. Donations to EIA are U.S. tax deductible to the full extent of applicable law.

For more information visit: www.eia-global.org

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