



2019

IMPACT REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY

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This report focuses on the activities of EIA's Washington, D.C. office during 2019.

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OUR MISSION

The Environmental Investigation Agency works to achieve tangible changes in the global economy that make local and sustainable management of the world's natural resources possible. Working in Washington, D.C. since 1989, we identify and implement solutions to the world's most pressing environmental problems. Our campaigns to protect endangered wildlife, forests, and the global climate operate at the intersection between increasing global demand and trade and the accelerating loss of natural resources and species. EIA takes advantage of its independence and mobility to produce game-changing primary evidence and analysis of these problems — and to build lasting alliances, institutions, and policies to solve them.

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.

30 YEARS OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH INTELLIGENCE

A MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2019 marked our thirtieth year of profound global impact, and what a year it was! From *Yahoo! Japan* banning the sale of ivory — culminating from a decade of unrelenting EIA pressure — and thereby eliminating a market that drove the slaughter of African elephants for years; to the launch of our Climate-Friendly Supermarkets website, a platform galvanizing the supermarket industry to stop using and leaking super-pollutant HFCs; to the ripple effects and immediate reform provoked by our explosive reports on timber trafficking and corruption in Africa; we had a year of milestones and momentum in environmental impact.

Historically, EIA has sought to constrain our growth in order to focus intensively on planning and conducting investigations that expose threats to some of the world's most endangered animal species, sustain major efforts to combat the climate crises, and contain and disrupt illegal logging and the international trade in products from stolen and destroyed forests. In 2019, we shifted gears and decided to grow EIA, precisely in order to expand our highly successful efforts to protect *more* of the world's endangered species, to significantly *increase* our scope and safeguard more of the world's precious forests from illegal logging and timber trafficking, and to ramp up our prescient and tactical efforts to protect the global climate from ever-increasing instability.

In 2019, EIA again demonstrated the many successes of our powerful investigations and campaigns to protect our beautiful world and to work effectively with global decisionmakers, leaders, and civil society in order to continue to challenge and disrupt major threats to our natural world and its rich biodiversity.

In EIA's 30th year, we have been planning and executing the expansion of our work. We hope you will continue to be a part of EIA by supporting our campaigns and our highly dedicated staff seeking greater protections around the world. We invite you to have a look at our achievements and to contact us if you can help us build and execute our critical campaigns.

We ended the year with an even greater sense of urgency and renewed energy to continue, with your support, on our critical mission for the next thirty years to come.

Allan Thornton
President

Alexander von Bismarck
Executive Director

30 YEARS OF IMPACT

EIA was founded just over thirty years ago by Allan Thornton, who assembled a small group of passionate individuals determined to protect the environment using a revolutionary idea: conduct undercover investigations to expose criminals and the illegal destruction of endangered wildlife, forests and the climate. Our groundbreaking reports and documentaries have inspired leaders, lawmakers, and ordinary people to call for and enact policies to protect our natural world. EIA investigations make the avoidance of truth, however convenient, impossible.

EIA has expanded into an international organization with campaigns on six continents, and countless success stories proving that our methodology works. But at our core we are the same organization we were thirty years ago: determined, passionate, and relentless. Our teams set wildly ambitious goals to undertake campaigns that larger groups have told us are impossible to achieve, like banning ivory trade worldwide, banning imports of illegal timber into the U.S., or securing a global agreement to phase out HFCs, a potent climate-destroying gas.

Here are some of our most impactful success stories from the last three decades. With your continued support, we will diligently strive to protect our environment for the next thirty years.

EIA's groundbreaking investigations into the illegal ivory trade flowing from Africa to supply markets in Asia provides key evidence that helps secure an international ban on elephant ivory trade

1989

1992

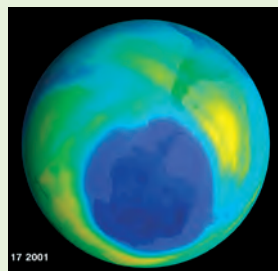
EIA's evidence and influence help prompt the U.S. Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, ending the mass importation of birds taken from the wild to serve as household pets in the United States



EIA expands its scope with two additional investigative campaign areas: CFCs (ozone-depleting substances) and illegal logging

1995-96

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



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

2004

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 to end the sale of whale and dolphin products, eliminating \$60 million of products from the Japanese market

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

2007

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



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



2009-11

EIA's report, *Liquidating the Forests*, reveals that 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, resulting in Lumber Liquidators pleading guilty to smuggling illegal wood into the U.S. and being sentenced to over \$13 million in fines, five years' probation under the DOJ, and a requirement to implement a Lacey Act Compliance Plan



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

2014

2013-16

All 197 Parties to the Montreal Protocol formally adopt an amendment to the Protocol, mandating controls on HFC consumption and production. The amendment is expected to avoid more than 70 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050

EIA releases *Japan's Illegal Ivory Trade and Fraudulent Registration of Ivory Tusks*, exposing Japan's deceptive tusk registration system and demonstrating how this is undermining international action to protect Africa's disappearing elephants under pressure from intense ivory poaching

2015

2016

In the wake of scientists revealing alarmingly high and unexplained emissions of the banned substance CFC-11 into the earth's atmosphere, EIA investigates and finds evidence pointing to China. EIA reveals its findings in an explosive report *Blowing It*, prompting China to launch an immediate enforcement effort



EIA finds clear evidence of illegal logging in Romania's second-largest national park, linked to Austrian timber giant Holzindustrie Schweighofer. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) strips Schweighofer of its FSC certification in early 2017 following a detailed internal investigation

2017

2018



2019

WE INVITE YOU TO LOOK AT SOME OF EIA'S CAMPAIGN SUCCESSSES FOR 2019 IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES

WILDLIFE

From the African savannah to the coastal waters of Alaska, EIA's Wildlife Campaign focuses on protecting elephants, rhinos, and cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises) from human-induced threats. For over thirty years, EIA has played a pivotal role in protecting wildlife all over the world; our impact has been global, lasting, and profound.

African elephants continue to diminish in numbers due to poaching — tens of thousands of elephants are killed for their ivory every year. EIA's investigations have focused on Japan, which has the world's largest legal domestic ivory market. As a result of EIA's work, all of Japan's largest online shops have ceased selling ivory and *Yahoo! Japan* announced they would ban all ivory trade on their online shopping and auction sites. Amid the growing international pressure, we are calling on Japan to ban domestic ivory trade before the Tokyo Olympics, now scheduled for July 2021.

Rhinos also face a poaching epidemic, as more than 9,300 rhinos have been poached in the last decade, mostly in South Africa. The horn is smuggled to China and Vietnam, where it is valued as a status symbol and as an unsubstantiated cure for hangovers and other ailments. EIA supported Kenya and others at CITES in calling for domestic bans on trade in illegal rhino horns, thus increasing the international pressure on Vietnam and China to crack down on their domestic rhino horn markets.

EIA leads international efforts to protect the world's whales, dolphins, and porpoises from human-induced threats. Our work has a special focus on beluga whales, unique creatures that exist almost exclusively in Arctic waters. Man-made climate change is causing the Arctic to warm at twice the global rate and by 2050 the Arctic may be ice-free in the summer. As a result, oil, mining, and shipping industry activity and interest in the region are on the rise. EIA works with partners to initiate new precautionary protections to protect belugas and other Arctic marine life from shipping-related impacts, including underwater noise pollution and spills of heavy fuel oil.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY EIA supports the Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act of 2019, a bill to provide new tools to combat wildlife trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, while also enhancing existing wildlife protections and conservation programs.

FEBRUARY EIA's film *Canary in the Coal Mine: Cook Inlet Beluga Whales* – highlighting the plight of Cook Inlet's critically endangered beluga whales – premieres at the Alaska Forum on the Environment.

MARCH EIA calls on Japan to ban its domestic ivory trade due to widespread illegal ivory trade within Japan and the continuing illegal exports of ivory from Japan to China and other nations.

MAY Our Japan ivory campaign helps to prompt a letter from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to the governor of Tokyo, (as both are "Twin Cities") reflecting urgent concern about illegal elephant ivory entering the U.S. from the 2020 Olympic Games.

EIA opposes Hilcorp Alaska's proposed oil and natural gas activities in Cook Inlet, Alaska, home to a critically endangered population of beluga whale, which could suffer devastating consequences from the plan.

JULY EIA and fourteen international and Japanese environmental conservation NGOs appeal to Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike to ban the sale of ivory in the Tokyo prefecture before the Olympics.

AUGUST EIA attends the 18th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP18) and publishes *Stop the Slaughter*, showing the positive impact that closures of domestic rhino horn markets have had on wild rhino populations. During the conference, CITES unanimously agrees to a decision proposed by Kenya directing Parties to close domestic markets if they have illegal rhino horn trade or contribute to poaching. And, CITES Parties affirm the domestic ban of domestic ivory markets linked to illegal trade or ivory poaching. Two proposals to reopen international ivory trade are defeated.

After nine years of pressure from EIA, we welcomed *Yahoo! Japan's* announcement that it would ban all ivory trade on its online shopping and auction sites, which generated over \$10 million in ivory sales annually.

SEPTEMBER In honor of World Rhino Day, EIA calls upon the world's governments to fully commit to eliminating all trade in rhino horn and working together to investigate and dismantle the organized criminal elements driving the slaughter of rhinos.

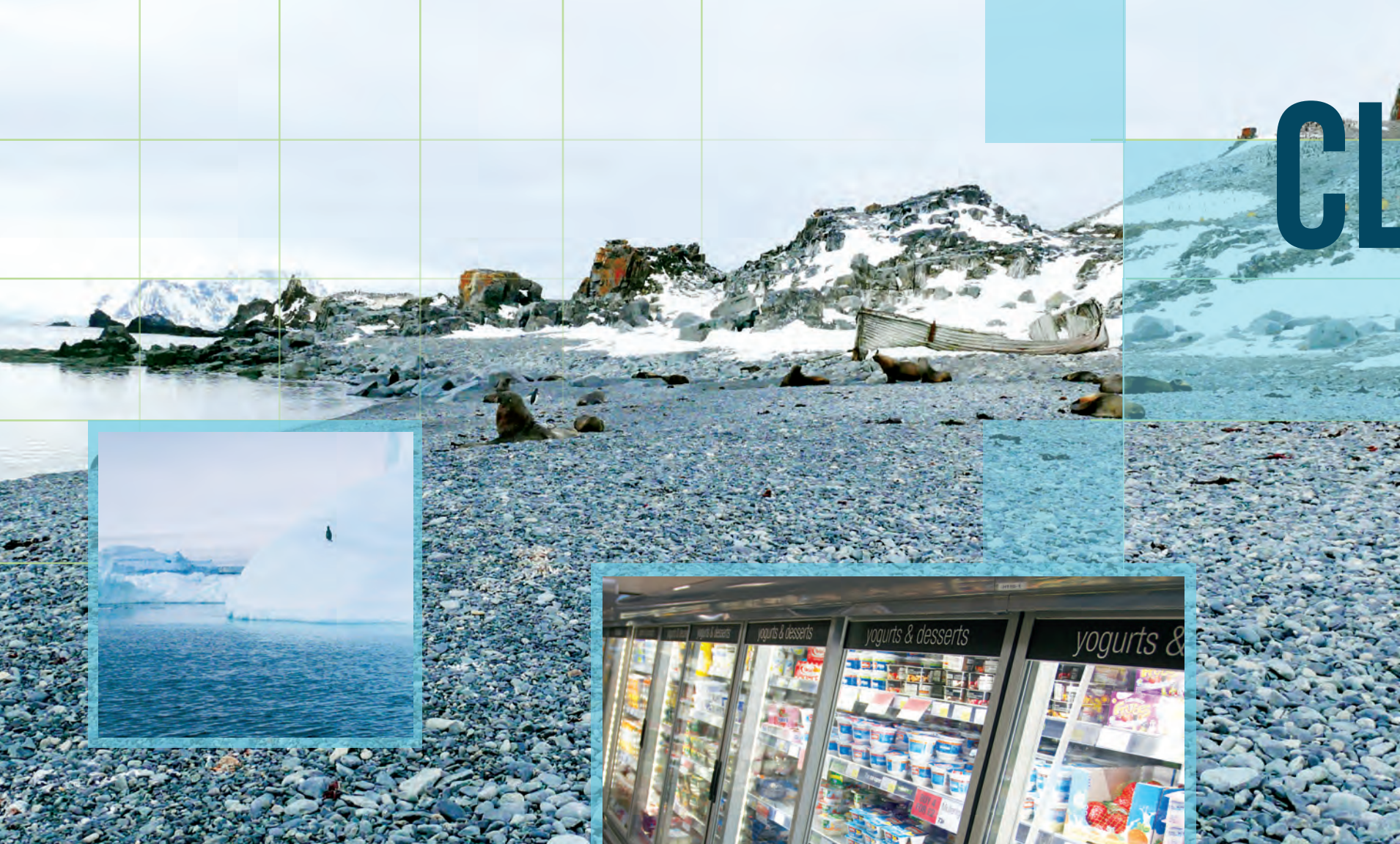
NOVEMBER *Yahoo! Japan* officially ceases all ivory sales on its shopping and auction platforms. All other major ivory sellers online such as Rakuten, AEON, Mercari, Ito Yokodo, Google Shopping Japan, and Amazon Japan have already banned ivory sales, following EIA's appeals.

CLIMATE

Our Climate Campaign focuses on phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – synthetic chemicals commonly used in refrigeration and air-conditioning that have substantial global warming potentials (GWPs) and are several thousands of times more damaging to the climate than CO₂.

If left unchecked, HFCs could offset most climate change mitigation actions under the 2015 Paris Agreement. With the U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, our climate work has become even more pressing as we hasten to show the rest of the world that we as an organization and a country are not abandoning the crucial battle for our planet's survival.

EIA's climate team may be best known for solving one of the biggest environmental mysteries of our time. In 2018, when scientists announced an unexpected and unexplained spike of an ozone-destroying industrial gas banned under the Montreal Protocol, our investigations almost immediately tracked the source of the illegal CFC-11 gas to the foam blowing sector in China. Our subsequent report **Blowing It** made waves across the global climate community and resulted in an immediate crackdown in China as well as actions at the global level.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY The Kigali Amendment comes into force on the first day of the year; expected to avoid 0.4°C of future global warming by the end of the century by cutting HFCs by more than 80% over the next 30 years, EIA calls for universal ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

FEBRUARY EIA's **Search, Reuse, and Destroy: How States Can Take the Lead on a 100 Billion Ton Climate Problem** shows how prevention of fluorinated refrigerant emissions from "F-gas banks" represents the single biggest strategy to reduce greenhouse gases. We urge U.S. states to act quickly and decisively to enact policies to address refrigerant emissions.

APRIL EIA unveils its **Climate Friendly Supermarkets** platform, showing consumers and the public those supermarkets leading on the issue of reducing super-pollutant HFCs, and why it makes both ecological and business sense to move to climate-friendly cooling.

MAY A Nature study scientifically confirms the origin of large-scale emissions of the banned super-pollutant CFC-11 in eastern China, primarily in the provinces of Hebei and Shandong, as earlier identified by EIA's investigation and explosive report **Blowing It**.

JUNE California approves a 2019-2020 budget providing \$1 million to create an incentive program for reducing emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases, including HFCs.

AUGUST EIA supports the "**Cool It**" campaign, taking aim at Walmart's massive refrigerant leakage problem and calling on one of the world's largest retailers to reduce its HFC emissions. Walmart responds directly to EIA's Climate Campaign, opening the pathway for dialogue.

California plans to enact regulations to drastically decrease emissions of HFCs from the cooling sector, pledging to cut HFC emissions in half by 2030.

SEPTEMBER EIA takes to the streets for the Global Climate Strike, producing an on-the-ground real-time video highlighting the damaging impact of HFCs. We also reveal our updated climate-friendly supermarket map, enabling consumers to take everyday climate action on their own.

NOVEMBER EIA attends Meeting of the Parties 31 (MoP31) of the Montreal Protocol and advocates for robust enforcement. Here, we present a modified version **Search, Reuse, and Destroy** showing how current pledges and action are insufficient to address the worsening climate crisis, and providing policy options and specific recommendations at a global level.

DECEMBER A new paper looks at the potential delay to the ozone hole recovery caused by unexpected CFC-11 emissions.

FORESTS

EIA's Forests Campaign works to expose forest crime around the world, and promote new laws and policy solutions to eliminate illegally-sourced wood products and commodities grown on deforested land. Coordinating

with government and civil society groups, EIA elevates and amplifies the voices of local and indigenous people, the true guardians of the forest, who depend on the trees and biodiversity for their homes and livelihoods. When working with governments, we support enacting and enforcing strong laws against illegal timber products and forest-risk commodities in both producer and consumer countries.

EIA's undercover investigations have revealed pervasive and destructive illegal logging and timber trade in countries like Peru, Gabon, Nigeria, Madagascar, Romania, and others. Our frontline evidence, combined with trade data analysis, has illustrated just how U.S., European, Chinese, and Japanese consumer demand drives illegal logging. Our investigations scrutinize supply chains and trace illegal practices — often back to major corporations.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH EIA releases a multi-year investigative report *Toxic Trade: Forest Crime in Gabon and the Republic of Congo and Contamination of the U.S. Market*, documenting how illegally extracted African timber emerges as “eco-friendly” marketed products in America. *Toxic Trade* has an immediate impact in the US, causing a major company to pull its products from store shelves, and in Gabon, where we see swift enforcement actions and longer-term efforts to reform the forest sector.

A new LEED credit rewarding timber transparency and traceability, which EIA helped craft, is announced by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); the new credit helps increase transparency in timber supply chains and reduces the risk of illegally harvested wood entering the buildings industry supply chain.

MAY EIA launches the *Raw Intelligence* video series: minimally-edited undercover videos that demonstrate how the crimes documented in *Toxic Trade* were both pervasive and structural. EIA's video series prompts restructuring and reform in Gabon to address the issue of corruption.

JUNE EIA releases *Condenando El Bosque (Forsaken Forest)* revealing the modus operandi used by traffickers in Colombia to market timber with permits purchased on the black market, and exposing how intermediaries take advantage of legal loopholes to launder wood and escape legal responsibility.

JULY The office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announces an import ban against a Peruvian timber exporter (Inversiones WCA), which had been previously identified by EIA as deeply involved in the export of illegally logged timber to destinations around the globe, including the U.S.

As Ghana hosts delegates from throughout West Africa to discuss the rosewood crisis that devastates the region, EIA releases a shocking report which reveals that the country has a harrowing rosewood problem of its own. *BAN-BOOZLED: How Corruption and Collusion Fuel Illegal Rosewood Trade in Ghana* shows that despite a comprehensive ban, the dry forests and rural communities of Ghana are still victimized

by rosewood plundering. Our investigation documents a massive institutionalized timber trafficking scheme, and our report has an immediate impact in Ghana where, the following month, two investigations into the trade are launched.

AUGUST EIA releases *Scheduled Extinction: Our Last Chance to Protect the Threatened African Mukula Tree*, documenting the highly destructive trade in mukula wood from Central and Southern Africa. At CITES CoP18, we call for urgent international regulation and warn that without it, mukula will be driven to extinction. The species is subsequently listed on CITES Appendix II.

NOVEMBER EIA publishes *Rosewood Revealed*, a new web-based tool that allows Ghanaian citizens to know the quantity and value of illegal rosewood imported into China every month; the new platform reveals ongoing breaches of Ghanaian regulation prohibiting the harvest, transport, and export of the species.

Also in November – As new global protection measures for threatened rosewood trees go into effect, EIA releases a three-part video series showing how, if properly enforced, CITES can be a powerful tool against organized forest crime.

DECEMBER EIA releases *Mukula Cartel*, revealing how a handful of high profile figures in Zambia have orchestrated and facilitated massive trafficking operations for years that are driving mukula rosewood trees toward commercial extinction, devastating vulnerable forests, and threatening communities' livelihoods. EIA's explosive report provokes calls for immediate reform in the Zambian government.

FINANCIALS

WASHINGTON, DC

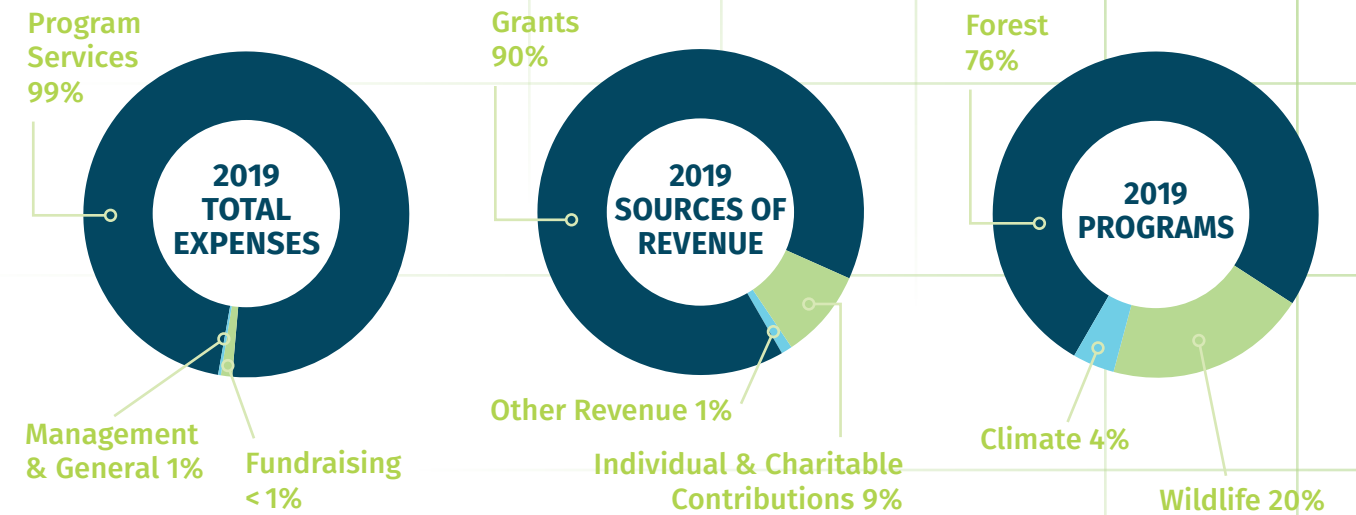
The Financial results are derived from EIA's audited financial statements, which contain an unqualified audit opinion expressed by an independent public accounting firm. A copy of our audited financial statements can be provided upon request.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2019

ASSETS	2019
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$2,737,433
Investments	\$474,893
Grants & Other Receivables	\$209,738
Prepaid Expenses	\$125,524
Right of Use Asset & Other Assets	\$1,905,183
Net Fixed Assets	\$279,144
Total Assets	\$5,731,915
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$224,439
Grants Payable	\$189,873
Lease Liability	\$2,269,476
Total Liabilities	\$2,683,788
NET ASSETS	
With Donor Restrictions	\$1,603,307
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,444,820
Total Net Assets	\$3,048,127
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$5,731,915



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGE IN ASSETS

December 31, 2019

REVENUE	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	2019 TOTAL
Contributions & Grants	\$696,819	\$4,467,951	\$5,164,770
Investment Income, Net	\$37,571	\$9,820	\$47,391
In-Kind Contributions	\$4,993		\$4,993
Release from Donor Restrictions	\$5,575,290	-\$5,575,290	
Total Revenue	\$6,314,673	-\$1,097,519	\$5,217,154
EXPENSES			
Program Services			
Global Climate Campaign	\$341,241		\$341,241
Wildlife Campaign	\$947,396		\$947,396
Forest Campaign	\$4,664,388		\$4,664,388
Total Program Services	\$5,953,025		\$5,953,025
Management & General	\$72,062		\$72,062
Fundraising	\$14,140		\$14,140
Total Expenses	\$6,039,227		\$6,039,227
NET ASSETS			
Change in Net Assets	\$275,446	-\$1,097,519	-\$822,073
Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	\$1,169,374	\$2,700,826	\$3,870,200
Net Assets at End of Year	\$1,444,820	\$1,603,307	\$3,048,127

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

EIA spends a minimum of our resources on development and funding, and relies largely on word of mouth and our reputation to inspire potential funders.

We let our actions speak for themselves so that donors rightly feel like they've discovered something radical and unique.

EIA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. Our small but dedicated staff works tirelessly to protect our natural world and its inhabitants.

All photos are property of EIA unless otherwise noted.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

PRESIDENT

Allan Thornton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alexander von Bismarck

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR

Ghaya Hassairi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allan Thornton

Environmental Investigation
Agency, *President (Founder)*

John Fitzgerald, 2011

Society for Conservation
Biology, *Former Policy Director*

Michael Brintnall, 2013

American Political Science
Association (APSA), *Former
Executive Director*

Brian B. Cox, 2016

MFX Solutions, *President
and CEO*

Janine Ferretti, 2016

Inter-American Development
Bank, *Chief, Environmental
Safeguards Unit*

Kristin Rechberger, 2018

DYNAMIC PLANET, *CEO*

“EIA works diligently and tirelessly to protect the most vulnerable environmental hotspots on our planet. They do this through supporting and listening to communities on the front lines, having a deep knowledge of international policy, and unique partnerships that help to magnify their effectiveness.”

— Lauren Sullivan, Reverb, Founder and Co-Executive Director



“EIA’s investigations into forest crime throughout the world expose corruption and provide unique evidence that cannot be ignored. EIA’s resulting information and collaboration with partners are key to holding governments and those responsible for the crimes to account, helping to protect the world’s forests and communities who depend on them.”

— Melissa Blue Sky, Senior Attorney, People Land & Resources Program, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS:

Bloomberg Philanthropies
ClimateWorks Foundation
The Cox Family Fund
Good Energies Foundation
M. Piuze Foundation
Norway’s International
Climate and Forest Initiative
(NICFI)
The Overbrook Foundation
Shared Earth Foundation
The Tilia Fund
Weeden Foundation
The Whitehead Foundation

During 2019 EIA also received the support of a number of generous individuals, charitable foundations, and non-profit institutions that wish to remain anonymous.



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