
2020 IMPACT REPORT
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TAXI

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OUR MISSION

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH INTELLIGENCE AND ADVOCACY

For thirty-plus years, the Environmental Investigation Agency has conducted undercover investigations, produced groundbreaking reports, and devised and pushed for solutions to the world's most pressing environmental problems. Since 1989, we have worked to provoke change in the global economy so sustainable management of the world's natural resources may be realized.

Our campaigns to protect forests, wildlife, and the climate persevere in the face of increasing global demand and trade and the hastening loss of natural resources and species. Our independent and nimble approach produces factual and actionable intelligence; we provide strategic solutions that yield lasting and far-reaching impacts.

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.

This report focuses on the activities of EIA's Washington, D.C. office during 2020.

A LETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For the Environmental Investigation Agency, as for the rest of the world, 2020 was a year like no other - one that brought unprecedented challenges and grave uncertainties. The coronavirus pandemic and its myriad ripple effects on the environment and humanity is a reminder of our interconnectedness with each other and with nature. More than ever, we saw how not only government policies but the daily actions of people are catalysts of far-reaching consequences for our planet.

Throughout this year, we at EIA remained undeterred and unwavering in our efforts to protect the natural world. To do our part in flattening the curve, we moved daily operations out of our Washington, D.C. office to remote working, but our work never paused. Instead, we quickly adapted to remote work and continued investigating, gathering data, conducting research, producing comprehensive reports, pushing for policy reforms that champion sustainable governance of natural resources, and above all, engaging and empowering citizenry in a holistic approach to achieve environmental and social justice.

In 2020, our wildlife campaign undertook critical investigations to expose corruption and crime by tracking illegal rhino horn from Africa to Asia, and continuing our relentless pressure on Japan to ban its domestic ivory trade. In November, in alliance with local Indigenous and community groups - who for nearly two decades persistently opposed the contested Pebble Mine in Alaska - EIA released *The Pebble Tapes*. This brought renewed attention to the potentially catastrophic mine, compelled immediate and increased opposition to its construction, and ultimately resulted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' denial of Pebble's permit.

EIA also supported and elevated the voices of Indigenous communities in Latin America. Our forest campaign coordinated with partners on the ground to publish 15 short stories featuring testimonies of environmental defenders across Latin America. These stories highlighted their struggles to protect their territories amid COVID-19, and recognized defenders who exposed the trafficking of forest species and protected wildlife threatened by illegal trade.

Our climate campaign pushed hard for U.S. supermarkets to stop using HFCs as refrigerants; we launched a Climate-Friendly Supermarkets Scorecard, assessing U.S. supermarkets on their actions to reduce their use and emissions of HFCs. In December, we celebrated the passage of bipartisan HFC legislation in the U.S. Stimulus Package, an act representing the most significant climate action in over a decade.

With 2020 behind us, the challenges have not abated and neither have our efforts; this year, EIA will build on our momentum and continue to expose and disrupt the practices, crime, and corruption that increasingly threaten our beautiful but vulnerable planet. We value and appreciate your support and trust in our commitment to attack these challenges head-on.



Allan Thornton, President



Alexander von Bismarck, Executive Director



WILDLIFE

EIA'S WILDLIFE CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON STOPPING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF AND TRADE IN THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES INCLUDING ELEPHANTS, RHINOS, WHALES, DOLPHINS, AND PORPOISES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO APPLYING RELENTLESS PRESSURE TO END POACHING AND TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS.

African Elephant populations continue to decline due to poaching, with tens of thousands of elephants being killed every year for their ivory. Our investigations and research expose illegal ivory trade where it occurs and produce evidence used to pressure consumer nations to pass stronger regulations, shut down remaining domestic markets, and enforce existing laws outlawing ivory trade. Rhinos face a similar poaching epidemic. Fueled by demand for their horns for bogus medicinal purposes and to be carved into ornamental trinkets, more than 9,400 rhinos have been killed in Africa over the past decade.

EIA SHINES NATIONAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT ON PEBBLE MINE



New York Times: An Alaska Mine Project Might Be Bigger Than Acknowledged. By: Henry Fountain. 21 September 2020.

The Washington Post: Alaska mining executive resigns a day after being caught on tape boasting of his ties to GOP politicians. By: Juliet Eilperin. 23 September 2020.

Los Angeles Times: Executive leaves Pebble Mine project amid recorded comment fallout. By: Associated Press. 23 September 2020.

Politico: Pebble CEO resigns after secret recordings. By: Alex GUILLÉN. 24 September 2020.

Wall Street Journal: Pebble Mine Proposal in Alaska Rejected Over Environmental Concerns. By: Timothy Puko. 25 November 2020.

CNN Politics: Army Corps denies permit for controversial mine that threatened salmon habitat in Alaska. By: Bill Weir. 25 November 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE:
EIA continued to urge the government of Tokyo to proceed with its ivory trade assessment process and take steps to close its ivory market to protect elephants.

SEPTEMBER:
EIA released *The Pebble Tapes* – recorded conversations between EIA investigators and executives of Pebble Limited Partnership and Northern Dynasty Minerals (Pebble), the companies behind the contested Pebble Mine project in Alaska. The recordings revealed Pebble's plans to build a large and long-lived mine - contradictory to information submitted in their permit or to the public - at the headwaters of Bristol Bay in western Alaska.

In recognition of World Rhino Day, we published a blog citing the importance of maintaining an international rhino horn trade ban in order to preserve remaining rhino populations that are on the brink of extinction. We called for range-state and consumer countries to share enforcement techniques, strengthen legislative protections, and reduce the demand for rhino horn globally.

OCTOBER:
We hosted a livestream premiere of the EIA documentary film "White Whale, Gold Mine," highlighting how beluga whales and other wildlife are threatened by the Pebble Mine Project.

NOVEMBER:
After nearly two decades of opposition by Indigenous and community groups in Alaska, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied the permit for the contested Pebble Mine. The decision came in the wake of a significant increase in public opposition and political will following EIA's release of The Pebble Tapes.

DECEMBER:
EIA released a joint report with the Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund, *Willing to Sell: Snapshot Investigations of Ivory Hanko Retailers in Japan*, detailing results from two investigations that examined retailers' willingness to sell ivory hanko while knowing a customer planned to export it, which is illegal.



CLIMATE

OUR CLIMATE CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON THE PHASING DOWN OF HYDROFLUOROCARBONS (HFCS), SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS COMMONLY USED IN REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING. IF LEFT UNCHECKED, THESE SUPER POLLUTANTS COULD OFFSET MOST, IF NOT ALL, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION ACTIONS PLEDGED BY COUNTRIES UNDER THE 2015 PARIS AGREEMENT.

With the U.S.'s re-entry into the Paris Agreement, we are doubling down on our climate work; valuable time was lost and we must show the rest of the world that we as an organization and country are committed to the most important battle for our planet's survival.

EIA'S CLIMATE CAMPAIGN CALLS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION!

2020 was a banner year for EIA's Climate Campaign, significantly expanding supporter engagement through unique initiatives and online tools that cultivated the power of the masses to advocate for change. Concerned citizens have begun to investigate their supermarkets, looking for HFCs and submitting their stores to our map. Many also signed our petition asking for an HFC-free store near them. After sounding the alarm of inaction with our supermarket scorecard, we launched a direct campaign aimed at the lowest scorer, Trader Joe's, requesting they address the environmental impact of their operations. We worked with grassroots organizations to put HFCs on the map both literally and figuratively, growing awareness and instigating action. Climate action is the sum of our individual and collective efforts and we have been campaigning at all levels to mobilize to reduce emissions this critical climate decade.

Add your store!

Join the Trader Joe's Campaign

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY:
EIA attended a House Committee on Energy and Commerce meeting regarding the **American Innovation and Manufacturing Act**, or the AIM Act. We voiced support for the bipartisan bill, which phases down HFCs in the U.S. on a timeline consistent with the Kigali Amendment.

FEBRUARY:
EIA **submitted comments to EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act** on the draft risk assessment on carbon tetrachloride (CTC) and methylene chloride, widely used feedstock chemicals. The substances pose an ozone depletion risk, which the EPA had not yet taken into consideration.

MAY:
Following months of advocacy and pressure, China **proposed a new national plan** to tackle potent greenhouse gases used in cooling. The plan amended its existing regulations dealing with Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) to cover HFCs..

JUNE:
We launched our **Climate-Friendly Supermarkets Scorecard** - assessing U.S. supermarkets on their actions to reduce the use and emission of HFCs. We evaluated companies in three key areas: technology adoption, refrigerant management, and policy and commitments.

JULY:
EIA participated in the California Air Resources Board (CARB) workshop on proposed regulations to reduce HFC emissions used in cooling. EIA shared an **innovative proposal** to jumpstart a refrigerant reclamation program that would recover and recycle used refrigerant.

SEPTEMBER:
EIA **called upon retail giant Walmart** to move faster on phasing down HFCs after the company announced it would transition to low-impact refrigerants for cooling by 2040, decades after its major competitors started making the switch.

EIA, the International Institute of Ammonia Refrigeration (IIAR), and over 120 other stakeholders **submitted a letter** calling on California to lower the Global Warming Potential limit for new ice rinks. The final draft of California's HFC regulation partially adopted this request.



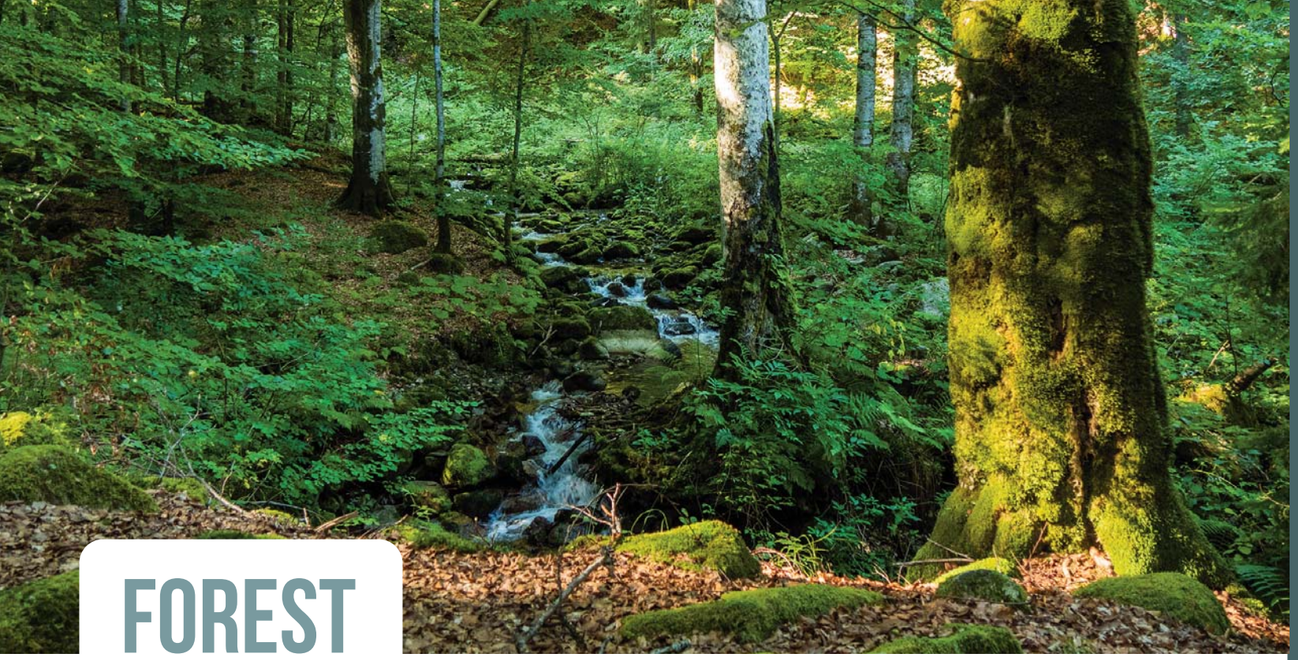




OCTOBER:
EIA began crowdsourcing for supermarket refrigerant labels in an effort to map supermarkets still using HFCs and find locations where HFC-free technology is already in use. Citizens from around the world engaged, resulting in the addition of over **200 new stores to our map**. Our platform **www.climatefriendlysupermarkets.org**, was featured on the popular podcast **How to Save a Planet**.

DECEMBER:
The California Air Resources Board **approved a groundbreaking new regulation** to reduce emissions of HFC refrigerants across many sectors using cooling equipment, including supermarkets and air conditioners. This was the culmination of years of EIA advocating for ambitious state action to tackle HFCs.

EIA celebrated the **passage of bipartisan HFC legislation** in the U.S. Stimulus Package. The AIM Act represents the most significant climate action in over a decade.



FOREST

EIA'S FOREST 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, this campaign 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. Working with governments, we support enacting and enforcing strong laws against illegal timber products in both producer and consumer countries. EIA's undercover investigations have revealed pervasive and destructive illegal logging and timber trade in countries like Romania, Peru, Madagascar, 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.

SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Environmental defenders faced exponentially increased challenges in 2020. The dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic were exacerbated by a surge in illegal forest activity and land incursions. EIA worked with partners in Peru and Colombia to provide additional support for environmental defenders and their communities. In Peru, we assisted through advocacy and humanitarian support to include magnifying defenders' voices and responding to emergency pandemic needs. We coordinated the drafting and submission of public letters and added our voice to press coverage focusing on attacks and murders of defenders.

When conditions grew particularly dire for Peruvian defenders, we worked with allies to relocate them and bring their cases to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Indigenous leaders were among the first in Peru to suffer COVID-19 infections. This prompted us to co-organize the delivery of emergency supplies to communities in desperate need. In Colombia, we provided funding to our partner, Agenda Propia, to produce a series of stories by Latin American journalists that drew attention to the grave difficulties environmental defenders faced during the pandemic. We also funded our partner, the Interchurch Commission for Justice and Peace (CIJP), to install antennas and solar panels in remote areas to provide satellite internet to communities that would have otherwise been completely isolated by pandemic restrictions. While conditions remain extremely difficult for environmental defenders in both countries, we continue to offer our support to help these vulnerable communities who are the backbone of our work.

HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE:

EIA released ***Cashing in on Chaos***, a three-year investigation into the Senegal-Gambia-China rosewood trade. The report established links between timber trafficking controlled by Senegalese armed rebels, the decade-long smuggling of an estimated 1.6 million trees, and the illegal re-export of the disappearing rosewood trees to China.

JULY:

Following our June report, the fourth largest shipping line in the world **announced a total moratorium** on the transport of wood from The Gambia, as well as the creation of a global blacklist of shippers involved in the illegal trade of protected and endangered species. Another large shipping company soon followed suit, enacting a moratorium on timber shipments from The Gambia.

EIA **supported a lawsuit** filed by the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East (ORPIO) stating that restarting logging in forests that are home to Indigenous Peoples living in voluntary isolation would both violate Peru's constitution, and also pose certain and imminent threat to populations already grappling with little or no access to medical care in the midst of a global pandemic.

AUGUST:

In view of the deaths of hundreds of Indigenous Peoples due to COVID-19, EIA and more than a hundred Peruvian and international civil society groups issued a **public letter** to the President of Peru, asking the government to address the humanitarian emergency in Indigenous communities of the Amazon and to implement urgent and immediate measures.

EIA and the Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED) **commended** Cameroon Prime Minister's decision to suspend logging projects in the Ebo Forest, one of the last intact forests in central Africa.

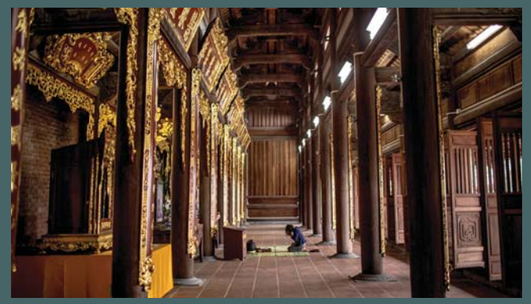
SEPTEMBER:

The **Dutch competent authority ordered** Sakol Nederland B.V. ("Sakol") to cease importing a tropical face plywood product from Jiangsu High Hope Arser Co. Ltd. ("Arser") in violation of the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR).



Image: Daniel Peres | Peña/FENAMAD





The decision set an important precedent in the effort to protect European markets from the import of illegal and high-risk tropical timber.

NOVEMBER:

The Peruvian government issued **a $35 million fine** to the Tamshi SAC cacao plantation for continuing operations without required environmental permits, and for illegally disposing of hazardous waste into the Peruvian Amazon. EIA has been highlighting the illegal and damaging activities of Tamshi SAC for years, and had signed onto a letter asking Vizcarra for his support earlier in the year.

EIA and **CED** released the results of a three-year investigation, ***Tainted Timber, Tarnished Temples***, exposing how several Vietnamese companies operating in Cameroon are at the heart of a booming illegal timber trade. The report exposed illegal harvest, laundering schemes, misdeclaration, and widespread violations of Cameroonian export and labor laws.

FINANCIALS

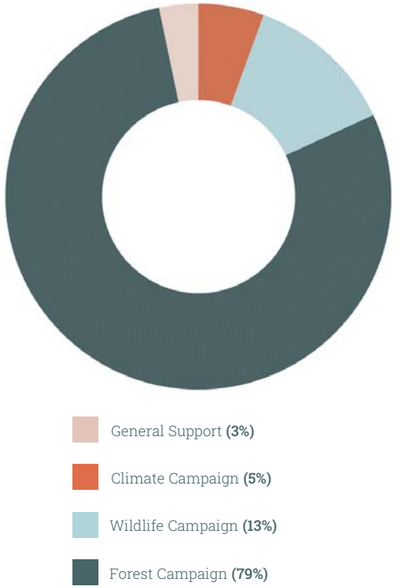
Statement of Financial Position - December 31, 2020

ASSETS	2020
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$3,623,084
Investments	$518,996
Grants & Other Receivables	$248,927
Prepaid Expenses	$75,017
Right of Use Asset & Other Assets	$1,783,946
Net Fixed Assets	$266,731
Total Assets	**$6,516,701**

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	$328,869
Grants Payable	$292,174
Lease Liability	$2,202,202
Total Liabilities	**$2,823,245**

NET ASSETS	
With Donor Restrictions	$2,116,085
Without Donor Restrictions	$1,577,371
Total Net Assets	**$3,693,456**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**$6,516,701**





Statement of Activities and Change in Assets - December 31, 2020

REVENUE	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL 2020
Contributions & Grants	$1,141,545	$6,581,072	$7,722,617
Investment Income, Net	$46,786	$3,321	$50,107
In-kind Contributions	$2,785		$2,785
Release from Donor Restrictions	$6,071,615	(6,071,615)	
Total Revenue	**$7,262,731**	**$512,778**	**$7,775,509**

EXPENSES			
Program Services			
Climate Campaign	$338,691		$338,691
Wildlife Campaign	$1,027,425		$1,027,425
Forest Campaign	$5,560,851		$5,560,851
Total Program Services	**$6,926,967**		**$6,926,967**
Management & General	$164,863		$164,863
Fundraising	$38,350		$38,350
Total Expenses	**$7,130,180**		**$7,130,180**

NET ASSETS			
Change in Net Assets	$132,551	$512,778	$645,329
Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	$1,444,820	$1,603,307	$3,048,127
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	**$1,577,371**	**$2,116,085**	**$3,693,456**

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

EIA SPENDS A MINIMUM OF OUR RESOURCES ON DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING, 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. During 2020 EIA also received the support of a number of generous individuals, charitable foundations, and non-profit institutions that wish to remain anonymous.



"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)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

President: Allan Thornton
Executive Director: Alexander von Bismarck
Director of Finance and Administration: Ghaya Hassairi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allan Thornton
Environmental Investigation Agency, President (Founder)

John Fitzgerald, 2011
Society for Conservation Biology, Former Policy Director
Defenders of Wildlife, Former General Counsel

Michael Brintnall, 2013
American Political Science Association (APSA),
Former Executive Director

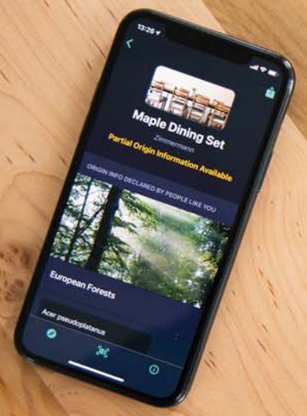
Brian B. Cox, 2016
MFX Solutions, President and CEO

Janine Ferretti, 2016
Inter-American Development Bank, Chief, Environmental Safeguards Unit

Kristin Rechberger, 2018
Dynamic Planet, CEO

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Charles Delmar Foundation
ClimateWorks Foundation
The Cox Family Fund
Good Energies Foundation
M. Piuze Foundation
Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)
The Overbrook Foundation
Sea Life Defenders
Shared Earth Foundation
The Tilia Fund
Weeden Foundation
The Whitehead Foundation



THE ORIGIN PROJECT

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE THE WOOD IN YOUR DINING ROOM TABLE WAS GROWN, OR WHOSE HANDS MADE THE CHAIR YOU ARE SITTING ON? THE ORIGIN PROJECT WANTS TO HELP YOU ASK THESE QUESTIONS AND COMPANIES PROVIDE THE ANSWERS.

ORIGIN MATTERS

THE ORIGIN PROJECT

ORIGINPROJECT.ORG

WHY ORIGIN MATTERS

Learning a product's journey from start to finish can give you a better understanding of the product's true cost – not just the money you paid.

What are the costs to the environment? The climate? The laborers? The producing country? Your health? What is this product made of? Where do these materials come from?
Was the timber harvested sustainably?

Excessive logging of natural forests can lead to habitat loss for other species, reductions in biodiversity and can impact local and indigenous communities that live in these forests.

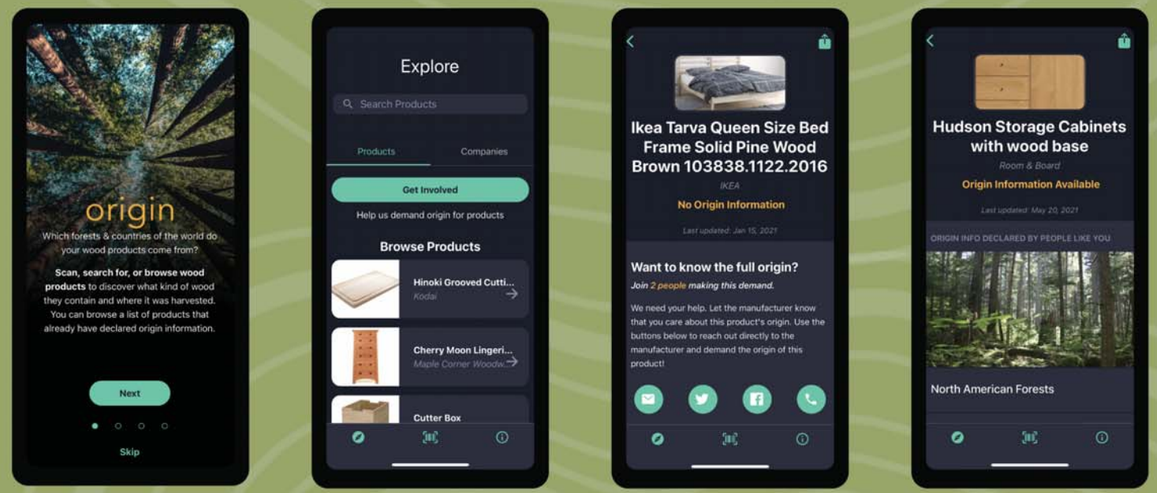
Some supply chains are susceptible to forced labor, child labor, or poor working conditions. And some production processes are energy intensive or produce large amounts of pollution.

Knowing the origin won't alleviate all of these concerns. Companies may still intentionally or accidentally conceal a product's backstory. And consumers may not have many options to choose from.

But by seeking origin, you can let companies know that you as a consumer care, and that this information - or lack thereof - may impact your purchasing decisions.

WITH THE ORIGIN APP, TOGETHER WE CAN WORK TO CREATE A REALITY OF CONSUMER TRANSPARENCY.

Because every wood product's journey begins in the forest, through the Origin App you can push companies to provide the wood species and country of harvest that comprises the wood products you buy. This is merely the beginning of the origin story that companies should continue to tell, and demanding origin through the Origin App is just the start.



TAKE ACTION

The Origin App was created for you and other users to join a collective movement to demand origin information. As this is a new campaign, most products in the app do not yet have a declared origin. But as more users demand origin information, we will build pressure on companies to reveal this information.

STEP 1
Download the app
apple.co/31bjFpS

STEP 2
Find wood products you're interested in knowing more about on a trip to the store or online shopping.

STEP 3
Scan the barcode or search for the product in the Origin App.

STEP 4
If you can't find the product in the App, add it to the database.

STEP 5
If there is no information available, demand the origin! Click "I want to know the Origin" or use the social media links.

ORIGINPROJECT.ORG

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