

2023 IMPACT REPORT

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OUR MISSION

Protecting the Environment with Intelligence

EIA's mission is to develop and implement systemic solutions to the biggest global challenges of our time. For over thirty years, EIA has utilized innovative techniques – including digital analysis of data, investigations, and cutting-edge communications – to create positive, lasting change. We promote Indigenous and local communities' ability to expose environmental crime, protect their land, and increase protection for climate and biodiversity.

Our campaigns to protect forests, wildlife, the ocean, 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 US, EIA's Washington, D.C. office, during 2023.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT

From Local to Global

Our campaigners are based all over the world, pulling together diverse sources of intelligence in an attempt to see the big picture, to identify solutions and to find the levers to implement them. And yet…the beginning of each campaign, as well as the ultimate proof of its success, is rooted entirely in the local impacts of environmental crime and injustice.

Despite newly available technologies and big data, crimes against the environment and local people go under the radar in remote regions around the world everyday. In the world's largest and wildest forests, including the Amazon or the Congo Basin, illegal logging and mining is rampant to feed ever-growing demand for resources around the world. Indigenous and other local communities attempt to stand up to this destruction and put themselves and their communities at risk of retaliation. Our Forest team stands in solidarity with these defenders and is racing to bring the additional tools and global levers needed to defend their homes and futures safely.

Indigenous concern over global resource demand also drives our wildlife campaigns forward. Alaskan communities' concern over large-scale ecosystem impacts of mining meshes with the struggle for survival of the Cook Inlet beluga whale population. Raising local voices in concert with leveraging global concern for the biodiversity crisis and the world's most iconic remaining species can bring the new energy needed to solve old intractable battles. EIA's Wildlife team has found new success in working with local partners to shut down Japan's ivory trade for good. The increasing concern for the species' survival in the wild, including among the Japanese public, has driven increasingly effective advocacy against the powerful industry interests behind the trade.

EIA has proven again and again that a relatively small but fiercely independent NGO can instigate powerful grassroots efforts and movements by strategically deploying irrefutable evidence. We believe that the main reason for this is that our independence and the accompanying fearlessness allow us to connect and engage with the uniquely wide diversity of local people and stakeholders necessary to first identify, and then attack, the systemic causes of the injustices they face.

An interesting example comes from the Climate team which has developed a Climate-Friendly Supermarket Map made up of reports submitted by Citizen Investigators around the world. These volunteers are mobilizing within their communities to highlight the dangers that hydrofluorocarbons - used for cooling and heating everything from the neighborhood supermarket to the local ice rink - pose to our atmosphere. Our own investigative unit augments this grassroots activity by bringing sophisticated measuring equipment and unique cameras to document and visualize a variety of secret emissions that pose dangers to both the health of our climate and the local community.

EIA's commitment to listening to the concerns of specific communities and working alongside them is what gives us the confidence and the energy to successfully fight for the global and systemic solutions that you will see highlighted in this report. In an increasingly complex world, shaped by centuries of unjust and unsustainable systems, it takes courage to speak out plainly and directly against the roots of these challenges, however entrenched they may be. That courage is easier to find when you're working together. We invite you to take a look at what we accomplished together with our generous donors and courageous partners over the past year, and hope you will join us in the years to come.



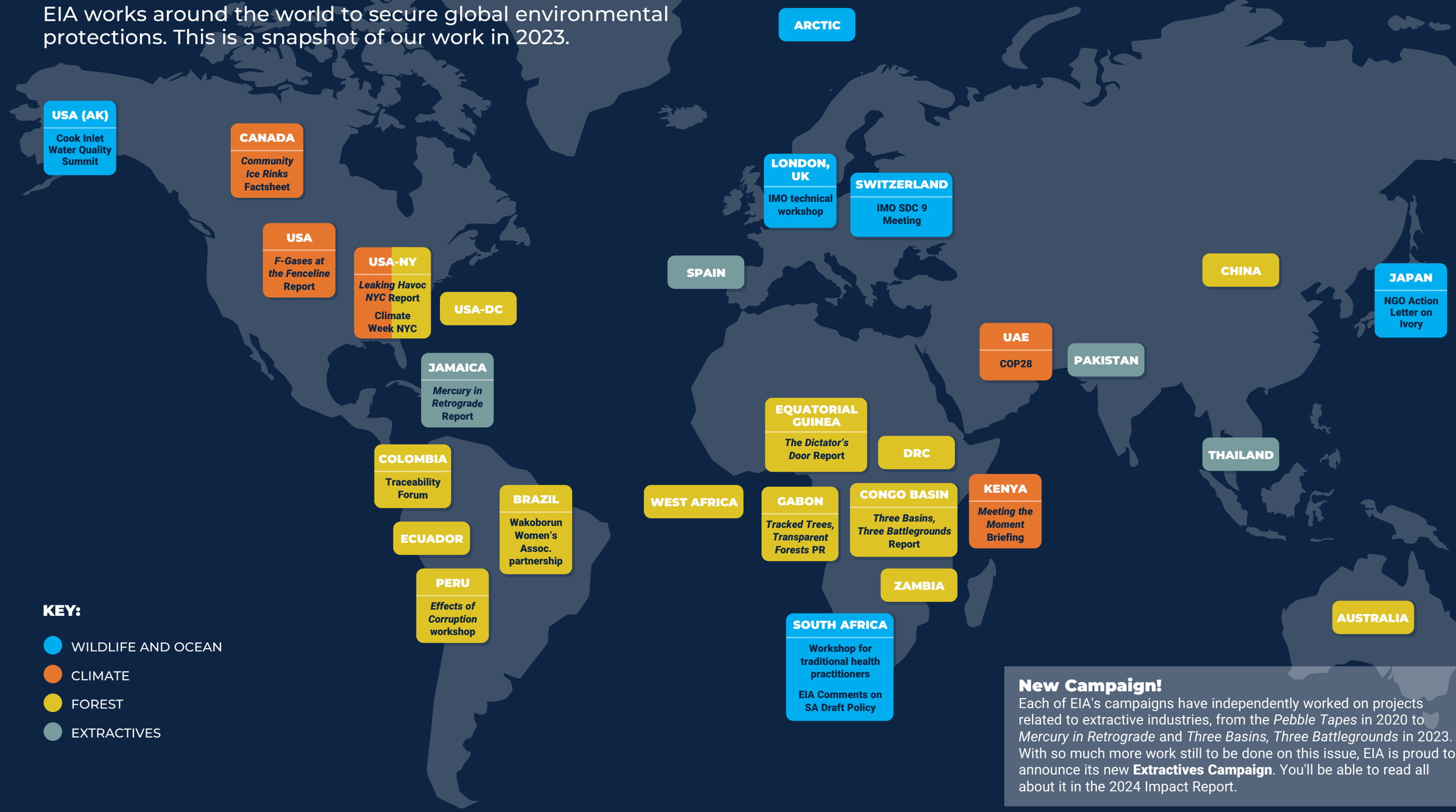
Alexander von Bismarck, Executive Director



Allan Thornton, President

2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

EIA works around the world to secure global environmental protections. This is a snapshot of our work in 2023.



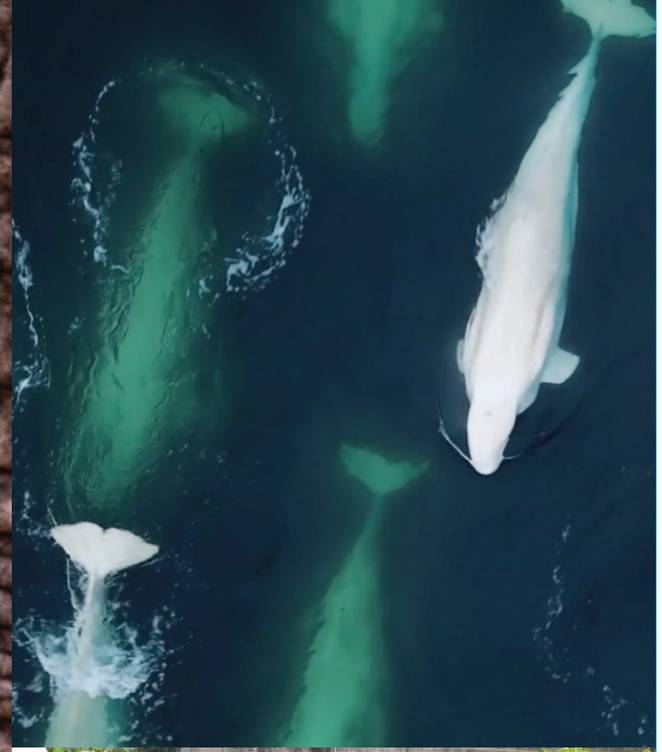
KEY:

- WILDLIFE AND OCEAN
- CLIMATE
- FOREST
- EXTRACTIVES

New Campaign!

Each of EIA's campaigns have independently worked on projects related to extractive industries, from the *Pebble Tapes* in 2020 to *Mercury in Retrograde* and *Three Basins, Three Battlegrounds* in 2023. With so much more work still to be done on this issue, EIA is proud to announce its new **Extractives Campaign**. You'll be able to read all about it in the 2024 Impact Report.







WILDLIFE AND OCEAN

EIA delivers lasting protections for some of the world's most iconic species threatened by illegal trade and habitat degradation. EIA's wildlife and ocean campaign work focuses on stopping the illegal and unsustainable killing of, and trade in, threatened elephants and rhinos; protecting the Arctic home of beluga whales, particularly Alaska's endangered Cook Inlet population; and pursuing new global policies to reduce underwater noise from commercial shipping. EIA is dedicated to protecting our world's wildlife by relying on the best available science, trade data, and intelligence from investigations to support policies and actions that protect threatened species.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

1. EIA **encouraged** Tokyo's Governor Yuriko Koike to build on her initiative to address Tokyo's trade in elephant ivory and implement more meaningful action to address it. EIA met with representatives from **the governor's office** and members of the Tokyo Assembly to urge the adoption of an ordinance to prohibit ivory trade within Tokyo. EIA's request and meeting built on consistent **appeals** over the years to urge Tokyo to take legal action to address its ivory trade **in lieu of action from the national government**.

2. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released new estimated abundance data on endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales for the first time in six years, highlighting the uncertainty of their future recovery. We released a **joint statement** raising concerns about the inconsistency in surveys and the lack of abundance data, given that the belugas are designated as a "Species in the Spotlight" by NOAA. The **continual threats** facing Cook Inlet belugas, such as pollution, reductions in prey, and harmful underwater noise, need renewed focus and action to enable recovery.

3. In early 2023, EIA participated in the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Ship Design and Construction subcommittee meeting (SDC 9) to support the goal of finalizing a revised version of existing 2014 Underwater Radiated Noise (URN) reduction guidelines. EIA and allies **advocated to impose limits** on underwater noise from ships. The revised **final URN reduction voluntary guidelines** that were completed at the SDC sub-committee meeting were formally adopted at a July 2023 committee meeting.

4. EIA attended a **technical workshop** at the IMO in London where the co-benefit relationship between increased energy efficiency and underwater radiated noise reduction from commercial ships was discussed. The workshop emphasized the need to accelerate progress toward decarbonization and quiet shipping implementation, as well as for intentional and integrated ship designs that reduce both greenhouse gases and URN.

5. EIA submitted **formal comments** to the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment (DFFE) on its policy position on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Elephant, Lion, Leopard, and Rhinoceros. EIA's comments underscored the dangers to rhinos and elephants posed by the commercial trade in their horns and ivory, and urged the DFFE not to adopt policies that promote commercial trade in the parts and derivatives of these threatened species.

6. A first of its kind, EIA co-hosted the **Cook Inlet Water Quality Summit** in Anchorage, Alaska, where topics such as water quality, biodiversity, research, regulations, and policy within Cook Inlet were explored. The summit aimed to enhance understanding of Cook Inlet's status, regulatory framework, and engagement with decision makers, while identifying collaboration opportunities and addressing data gaps to benefit both people and wildlife.

7. EIA US and EIA UK partnered with Blood Lions to conduct a **three-day workshop** for traditional health practitioners in South Africa to better understand their practices, learn about their aspirations for and challenges facing traditional medicine in South Africa, and explain what we strive to achieve as conservation NGOs to see how the conservation and traditional African medicine communities can work together to protect our shared environment.

8. EIA attended the **77th CITES Standing Committee** meeting to advocate for improved enforcement and protections for rhinos, elephants, and other species. Among other issues, the campaign advocated for a proposal by African elephant range states to ensure **Japan** is included in an analysis of ivory seizures linked to countries with legal domestic markets. EIA also participated in an **international expert workshop** to help develop new CITES guidance materials that will help countries determine whether international trade may negatively impact species' survival.



Our campaigns seek to:

- Restore healthy populations of elephants and rhinos across their natural ranges.
- Cease the poaching of threatened species and the illegal trade in their parts.
- Protect marine mammals from underwater noise pollution from commercial shipping.
- Ensure the recovery of critically endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales and reverse the destruction and degradation of their habitat.





CLIMATE

Preventing runaway climate change and warming of more than 1.5°C requires accelerating emission reductions of potent short-lived climate pollutants, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and other fluorinated chemicals. EIA's Climate Campaign seeks to eliminate emissions of HFCs and other potent greenhouse gases (GHGs) used primarily in cooling and heating.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

1. EIA launched ***F-Gases at the Fenceline: Exposing the Fluorochemical Production Sector's Undisclosed Emissions***. The report shows a suite of climate-damaging and ozone-depleting gases being emitted from two major fluorochemical companies in the U.S. EIA investigators used a cutting-edge infrared detection device at the fencelines of two U.S. production facilities operated by Honeywell and Chemours. This revealed the emissions of various fluorinated gases (F-gases), some of which were not disclosed in mandatory company reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency, including different types of HFCs, chlorofluorocarbons, and hydrofluoroolefins. The report was featured in **The Washington Post**.

2. ***Beyond Words: A Framework for Responsible Private Sector Action on Sustainable Cooling*** evaluates past private sector commitments and outlines a framework for developing new commitments that are transparent, measurable, and appropriately ambitious to drive down emissions in this pivotal decade for climate action.

3. EIA **released a briefing** outlining crucial recommendations for the 35th Meeting of the Parties (MOP35) in Nairobi, where decisions held the power to shape the Montreal Protocol's legacy in achieving vital emission reductions during this pivotal decade for climate action. The briefing emphasized the urgency of maximizing emission reductions before 2030 and called on donor countries to significantly increase financial support for the Multilateral Fund.

4. EIA presented a **side event** at the MOP35 with Aerospace Corporation, Dr. Masoud Ghandehari from New York University, and Luke Western from the University of Bristol on advanced monitoring and detection for rapid identification and mitigation of unexplained or illegal sources of emissions.

5. EIA partnered with the grassroots group 350NYC to publish the results of an investigation into the New York City supermarket chain, Gristedes. ***Leaking Havoc in New York City*** uncovered significant emissions of climate-damaging refrigerants in Gristedes stores, and raised red flags regarding the company's refrigerant management practices. In 2024, **Gristedes** admitted to and accepted responsibility for violations that resulted in the substantial release of GHGs into the atmosphere. Legal action taken by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York against Gristedes Supermarkets for significant violations of refrigerant management mandates a US$400,000 civil penalty and extensive repairs, costing millions of dollars, to curb future emissions of harmful refrigerants.

6. EIA published a **fact sheet** that warns ice rinks in North America about using synthetic coolants, such as Opteon, which are often misleadingly marketed as environmentally friendly. The fact sheet informs communities that these synthetic coolants, known as HFCs, are super pollutants and have a high global warming potential. The fact sheet, which has been distributed to hundreds of local municipalities across Canada, provides information on the climate, economic, and practical reasons to use natural coolants in local ice rinks.

7. EIA's **climate-friendly supermarket map** was updated to include 170 new locations submitted by citizen investigators. This map is an interactive tool that shows which stores have adopted HFC-free technology and which stores may still be leaking havoc on our climate with super-polluting refrigerants.

8. During Climate Week NYC at the Concordia Summit, EIA's Avipsa Mahapatra spoke with Trane Technologies' CEO, stressing the importance of ambitious, measurable, and transparent corporate climate action. EIA later shared its perspective on credible corporate climate action on the **Healthy Spaces podcast**.

9. EIA hosted three cooling-related **side events** at the COP28 in Dubai and was invited to join five other discussion panels on topics ranging from accelerating the HFC phasedown to decarbonizing industry and the Global Cooling Pledge. **The Global Cooling Pledge** recognizes that action on sustainable cooling can avoid 78 billion tonnes of CO_2e by 2050. Sixty-three countries have joined the pledge, which commits to reducing cooling-related emissions across all sectors by at least 68% from 2022 levels by 2050. EIA also conducted an **onsite investigation** into the refrigerants used at COP28, documenting the widespread use of HFC and hydrochlorofluorocarbon refrigerants in air-conditioning units around the venue.

To maximize the immediate climate benefits that can be achieved by eliminating super-pollutant HFCs, we seek to:

- Ensure robust implementation and enforcement of the Kigali Amendment to avoid up to 0.4°C by the end of this century.
- Accelerate the HFC phase-down schedule under the Montreal Protocol and maximize energy efficiency co-benefits.
- Prevent lifecycle emissions of all existing HFCs and other fluorinated refrigerants, mitigating up to an additional 100Gt CO_2e in direct emissions by 2100.
- Unlock U.S. leadership through innovative policy solutions and comprehensive implementation of the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act.







FOREST

Forests are being lost at an alarming rate around the globe, much of it due to illegal logging and forest conversion for agricultural commodities, often fueled by international demand and global markets. EIA conducts groundbreaking investigations to document and expose forest crimes and works in alliance with local partners to support environmental defenders and to strengthen the rights of forest communities. We focus on evidence-based campaigns to achieve policy and regulatory reforms that transform entire sectors, and work to increase transparency in global supply chains through the deployment of innovative technology.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

1. In October, Gabon signed an official decree mandating **transfer of its entire forest sector to a new system of forest governance**: The National Traceability System of Wood of Gabon, which digitizes the sector, addresses corruption, and aligns with global due diligence standards. The initiative, led by the government of Gabon with support from EIA, our partner Code4Nature, and in collaboration with the Gabonese civil society, sets a new global standard that allows consumers to trace timber products back to their point of origin in the forest along a digital, verifiable supply chain.This was featured in **Bloomberg**.

2. EIA testified at a Senate Finance Committee **hearing** focused on cattle supply chains from Brazil and associated deforestation. Both EIA and the **U.S. Cattlemen's Association** noted how the Brazilian beef supply chain is riddled with human rights and environmental violations, and expressed support for the FOREST Act as a means to protect the U.S. from destructive beef imports. EIA's **investigative report** showing illegal deforestation in the supply chains of major meat and leather companies in Brazil – including the world's largest, JBS – was included in the Congressional record of the hearing, and prompted Senator Wyden to **write to Lear Corporation**, the world's largest producer of leather seats, requesting information about the company's supply chains and its contribution to deforestation and forced labor.

3. EIA's report ***The Dictator's Door*** exposed Home Depot and Jeld-Wen for failure to adhere to their own corporate policies and likely violations of the U.S. Lacey Act, with an estimated 1.2 million doors sold to American consumers between 2017 and 2022 at high risk of containing illegal Okoume wood, obtained through corrupt practices in Equatorial Guinea. EIA highlighted in **The Hill** that Home Depot is violating its wood purchasing policy by selling non-FSC certified wood from the Congo Basin. The report was featured in **Bloomberg**.

4. We contributed to and presented at the "Effects of Corruption on Human Rights and Forest Management" **workshop** in Peru. Representatives of civil society and Indigenous peoples from different Amazon regions received training on environmental governance and anti-corruption tools to combat deforestation during this three-day workshop organized by our partner, **Proética**.

5. During Climate Week NYC, EIA and NRDC co-hosted an **event** on investment risks tied to timber and other wood products linked to illegal and destructive forestry operations. Panelists testified on widespread illegal logging, deforestation, and human rights violations in the Congo Basin, Ecuador, and Canada, and discussed new regulatory approaches like the EU Deforestation Regulation and New York State's proposed Tropical Deforestation-Free Procurement Act. Moving towards transparent and traceable supply chains was highlighted among the concrete steps investors can take to mitigate risks.

6. EIA supported the Munduruku Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon in defending their lands from invaders through a partnership with the Wakoborun Women's Association. The Munduruku are on the frontlines of defending the Amazon rainforest from destruction by illegal miners, loggers and land grabbers, but leaders and communities standing up against invasions face threats and violence. Our support to the Munduruku in 2023 included critical equipment and training to strengthen their communications infrastructure and use of state-of-the-art technologies for territorial monitoring and improved security.

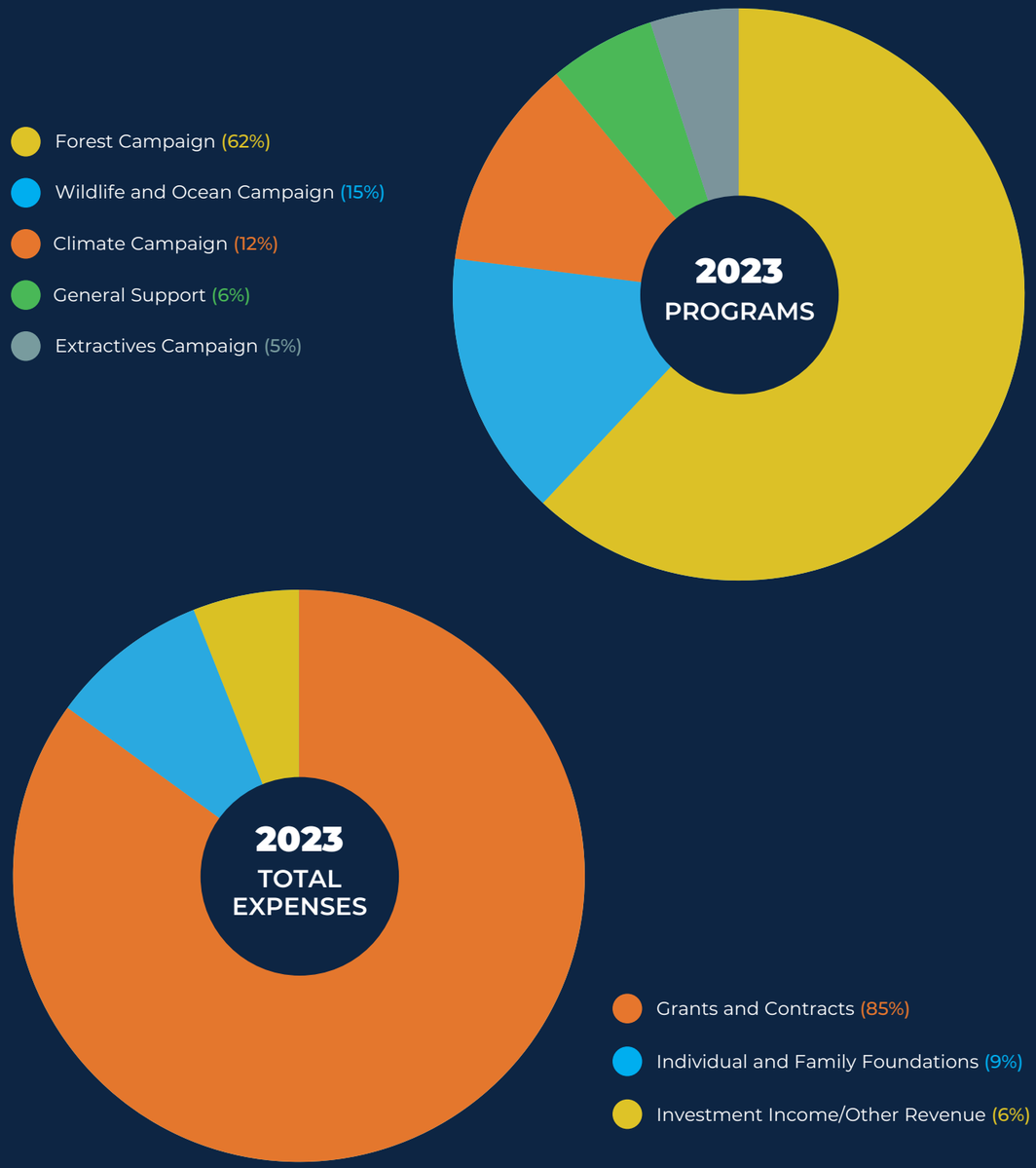
7. Following our groundbreaking investigation and report, ***Tainted Beef***, and the introduction of a draft law for traceability in Colombia, EIA and its partner Dejusticia organized a bi-national Forum on traceability in cattle supply chains in Bogota. EIA presented alongside experts from Colombia and Brazil about advances and challenges in establishing credible traceability systems to eliminate illegal cattle from supply chains. The event raised considerable interest among stakeholders and was well attended, including by government representatives, lawmakers, and staff from international embassies.

8. EIA released the ***Three Basins, Three Battlegrounds*** report on the Amazon, Congo, and Borneo-Mekong-South Asia Basins ahead of the 2023 summit of the **Three Basins**. Amid rising demand for commodities, extractive industries threaten these regions, with 20% of intact forest landscapes designated as extractive concessions. EIA joined over 70 other Indigenous and local communities and environmental and human rights organizations in signing **a joint statement** to draw attention to increasing threats to forests and community rights and well-being.

We aim to secure a future in which forests around the world are governed more equitably, transparently, and responsibly. To realize this future, we:

- Instigate reform and law enforcement in forest countries to establish forest governance based on the rights and self-determination of Indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Transform global trade and consumption patterns to eliminate deforestation and human rights violations from international supply chains.
- Increase accountability and deter environmental crimes through transparency and traceability in commodity supply chains and transparent trade data.

2023 AUDITED FINANCIALS



Statement of Activities and Change in Assets - December 31, 2023

REVENUE	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL 2023
Contributions & Grants	$1,445,823	$5,667,560	$7,113,383
Net Investment return	$122,998	$69,387	$192,385
In-kind Contributions			$0
Release from donor restrictions	$6,580,105	(6,580,105)	
Total Revenue	**$8,148,926**	**-$843,158**	**$7,305,768**
EXPENSES			
Program Services			
Climate Campaign	$977,906		$977,906
Wildlife and Ocean Campaign	$1,167,637		$1,167,637
Extractives Campaign	$389,264		$389,264
Forest Campaign	$4,913,337		$4,913,337
Total Program Services	**$7,448,144**		**$7,448,144**
Management & General	$405,265		$405,265
Fundraising	$94,475		$94,475
Total Expenses	**$7,947,884**		**$7,947,884**
NET ASSETS			
Change in Net Assets	$201,042	-$843,158	-$642,116
Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	$1,168,800	$2,792,881	$3,961,681
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	**$1,369,842**	**$1,949,723**	**$3,319,565**

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.

In late 2023, we launched our new Extractives Campaign, focusing on the environmental and human rights abuses associated with extractive industries. We look forward to sharing the progress and success stories from this emerging campaign with you in our 2024 Impact Report.



During 2023 EIA also received the support of a number of generous individuals, charitable foundations, and non-profit institutions, some of whom wish to remain anonymous. We extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters, without whom this work would not have been possible.

EIA is an independent nonprofit organization and the funders listed here do not necessarily share the positions expressed in this publication.

> "EIA was the inspiration for our refrigerant transition project. Youthpower is focused on actions young people can take, and the EIA website provided us with directions for a very specific action - auditing grocery stores by checking their refrigerant labels. After we found out about the climate impact of super-polluting HFCs, and that they were in the grocery stores near us, we wanted to change that.
>
> - Youthpower Climate Action"

> "We were incredibly excited to be invited for a "sniffing" expedition with EIA! All of our members relished the opportunity to learn about the machine that detects refrigerant leaks, and it was a cool opportunity to corroborate the data we had already collected about the kinds of gasses Bay Area grocery stores were using. It was also validating to spend some time with people who were as excited about the climate-cooling potential of natural refrigerants as we are!!
>
> - Youthpower Climate Action"

Chief Administrative Personnel

Allan Thornton
President

Alexander von Bismarck
Executive Director

Ghaya Hassairi
Chief Operations and Finance Officer, COO/CFO

Board of Directors

Allan Thornton
Environmental Investigation Agency, President (Founder)

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

Brian B. Cox
MFX Solutions, President and CEO

Janine Ferretti
World Bank Group, Vice President, Compliance Advisor Ombudsman

Kristin Rechberger
Dynamic Planet, CEO

Anita Plummer, Ph.D
Howard University, Associate Professor

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The Nature Conservancy
New Venture Fund
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
The Overbrook Foundation
Roaring Brook Family Foundation
Shared Earth Foundation
The Tilia Fund
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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.



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