



environmental investigation agency

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**Muara Tae, Indonesia:
Forest community makes a stand
against palm oil plantations**

A message from our Executive Director, Mary Rice

By the time you read this, we will already be a quarter of the way into 2012 and the Chinese Year of the Dragon. As ever, we face a number of tough challenges and hard work ahead of us. As you know, EIA has never been one to shy away from controversy nor from rolling up its sleeves and simply getting on with the job at hand, and this year will be no different.

One of the first major goals for this year is the restructuring of EIA. Many of you will have received letters explaining the changes afoot in the organisation, but to recap briefly ...

It has been a goal for some time to take a strategic look at the structure of EIA in the UK. We wanted to examine the organisation with a view to identifying changes and improvements to ensure we were fit for purpose to continue to be in the vanguard in the fight against environmental crime.

As many of you will be aware, EIA started out in the front room of one of the founding directors. Almost three decades on, with a staff of more than 25 and growing, there have been many changes, both in the nature of the issues we tackle and in the laws and structures governing the organisation we have become. With that in mind, EIA recently undertook an extensive and thorough review of its structures, processes and practice.

Extensive research was conducted to identify the best way forward for EIA. To that end, as of April 1, 2012 the current entities of EIA (Ltd and Trust) will transfer to two new entities. A new Limited by Guarantee not-for-profit company has been incorporated and registered, and a new incorporated Trust has been established. The aim of these changes is to ensure EIA has an efficient structure with good governance and best practice operations. And, moreover, that it is streamlined and current.

Change is always difficult and getting to this point has been a lengthy and challenging process, but it provides us with enormous opportunity and will give us the tools to face the increasing environmental challenges of the 21st century and provide us with a platform from which to tackle environmental crime and protect threatened species.

I hope, as longstanding and loyal supporters, you will recognise that opportunity as well and will continue to endorse EIA - the name remains the same, the values and goals remain the same; the challenges remain the same.

Mary Rice
Executive Director



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On the front line of forest protection

IT was in November last year that EIA first highlighted the plight of the Dayak people in the village of Muara Tae as they squared off against the bulldozers of invading palm oil companies.

In January, together with colleagues from Indonesian NGO Telapak, we visited the community deep in the interior of East Kalimantan, observing at first hand its fight to safeguard ancestral forests.

Muara Tae faces a two-pronged assault from palm oil companies aggressively expanding into its forests. Villagers and Telapak campaigners are currently manning a forest outpost around the clock in a last-ditch attempt to save the community and its lands from destruction.

It's both a tragedy and an irony that the indigenous Dayak Benuaq face such a struggle at all, since their sustainable use of forest resources is a perfect example of one way Indonesia could deliver on its ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

EIA Forests Team Leader Faith Doherty reported: "There are hundreds of families in Muara Tae relying on the forests for their food, water, medicine, culture and identity. Put simply, they have to keep this forest in order to survive.

"The rhetoric from President Yudhoyono on curbing emissions by reducing deforestation is strong - but on the front line, where indigenous communities are putting their lives at risk to protect forests, action is sorely missing."

The President has pledged to reduce carbon emissions across the archipelago by 26 per cent by 2020 against a business-as-usual baseline, as well as delivering substantial economic growth.

However, as a result of weak spatial planning, the forests of Muara Tae are not designated as part of the national forest area and so are open to exploitation.

Yet it is due to the traditional guardianship practiced by the Muara Tae residents, honed over generations, that the forest, still rich in biodiversity, even remains.

Muara Tae has already lost more than half of its land and forests during the past 20 years to mining companies, leaving villagers routinely making a kilometre journey for clean water now their source has dried up.

The latest land-grabs have taken place since January 2010, when the regional government official issued plantation permits to two palm oil companies, Malaysian-owned PT Munte Waniq Jaya Perkasa (PT MWJP) and PT Borneo Surya Mining Jaya, a subsidiary of Sumatran logging, mining and plantation conglomerate Surya Dumai.

While the Norwegian Government has been instrumental in financially backing efforts to reduce deforestation in Indonesia through the REDD+ initiative, it has also invested in the parent company of PT MWJP through its sovereign wealth fund.

Pak Singko, a Muara Tae community leader, said: "We are being squeezed from all sides by mining and plantation companies. This is the last remaining forest that we have and the only land we have to survive. If the forests are gone, our lives will end."

PP We are being squeezed from all sides by mining and plantation companies. This is the last remaining forest that we have and the only land we have to survive. If the forests are gone, our lives will end QQ

Pat Singko





More fin whale exports by unrepentant Iceland

DESPITE being exposed in our July report *Renegade Whaling* for its belligerent hunting of endangered fin whales, Iceland was still at it a month later.

EIA was able to confirm in October that a further 131 tonnes of Icelandic fin whale worth about \$1.7 million had been shipped to Japan in August and took the opportunity to renew its call for global retailer Yahoo! to immediately prohibit the sale of the endangered species via Yahoo! Japan.

The shipment brought the total of fin whale exported to Japan since Iceland resumed commercial whaling to more than 1,500 tonnes, despite the CITES Appendix 1 listing of fin whales clearly prohibiting international trade.

Following Iceland's certification under the US Pelly Amendment in August, President Barack Obama stated on September 15 that Iceland's whaling and trade in the meat threatened the conservation status of an endangered species and undermined multilateral efforts to ensure greater worldwide protection for whales. Stopping short of targeted trade sanctions, he nevertheless announced diplomatic measures aiming to push Iceland to halt the trade.

Yahoo! Japan sells numerous Icelandic fin whale products, including large (1.5kg) blocks of meat, bacon (blubber) and canned products. As of September 2011, these and many more were still available from Yahoo! Japan shopping sites; a survey by EIA found 10 different retailers offering Icelandic fin whale meat products.

"At a time when the US Government is applying international pressure to force an end to Iceland's whaling and international trade, Yahoo! Japan is effectively encouraging further hunting of the species by selling endangered fin whale meat products on its website," said EIA Senior Campaigner Clare Perry.

"It's long past due that Yahoo! put its house in order and stopped profiting from, and stimulating, this bloody and wholly unnecessary slaughter."

EIA first called on Yahoo! Japan in April 2010 to ban all sales of whale, dolphin and porpoise products on its store and auction websites after discovering that many products contained high levels of the neurotoxin mercury.



Global Ocean Race arrives in Cape Town

Global Ocean Race teams, who are participating in EIA's Eyes of the Ocean initiative, reached Cape Town in November.

Their data included sightings of birds, pilot whales and dolphins, flying fish and squid; sadly, they also reported worrying amounts of marine debris, which causes so much havoc to marine species and the ocean ecosystem.

EIA Director Jennifer Lonsdale was in Cape Town and had the opportunity to meet with students of the Izivunguvungu Sailing Club, which gives disadvantaged teenagers the chance to learn sailing and boatbuilding skills.

Talking with them about oceans and the need for conservation, Jennifer also got to give them a crash-course in filming.

Campaign spurs Amazon to shelve whale products

On February 21, we released the report *Amazon.com's Unpalatable Profits* and launched our campaign to urge the internet giant to remove all whale products from its wholly owned subsidiary Amazon Japan.

The response was spectacular, with tens of thousands of people around the world responding to our call and taking action via Twitter, Facebook, an online petition and sending protest emails to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.

By the end of the day, Amazon had quietly removed all whale products from Amazon Japan.

Shortly before Investigator went to press, we learnt Amazon had formally changed the policies on its US and Japanese sites to ensure it would no longer allow the sale of any whale, dolphin or porpoise products.

A key aspect of our campaign was the short film shot and edited by EIA Visuals Specialist Paul Redman, an attention-grabbing 50 seconds starring Press Officer Paul Newman's wife and daughter.

Launched in co-operation with Humane Society International, the report revealed that Amazon Japan, the wholly owned subsidiary of Amazon Inc, was selling hundreds of cetacean meat products

In December 2011, 147 whale products were found for sale on Amazon Japan. The listed products included fin, sei, minke and Bryde's whales, all protected by the International Whaling Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which forbids international trade. Despite this,

several companies were selling endangered fin whale imported from Iceland.

Amazon Japan was also selling pilot whale and other whale or dolphin species from the infamous Taiji drive hunts, highlighted in the Oscar-winning film *The Cove*.

"Amazon is selling threatened and endangered cetacean species that are protected by two international treaties," said EIA Senior Campaigner Clare Perry. "By allowing vendors to sell whale products on its sites, it is effectively helping to prop up an unsustainable trade that should have been consigned to the history books long ago."

EIA investigators purchased eight whale products from Amazon Japan in 2011, including canned whale meat, whale jerky, whale bacon and whale stew. Analysis revealed six of them to have mercury levels exceeding the Japanese national limit for mercury in seafood of 0.4 parts per million (ppm) and one had a staggering mercury level of 20ppm, about 50 times the safe limit.

One-third of the 147 products were not listed with a species name, contrary to the requirements of Japan's labelling laws. Since many of these products originate from Taiji, where 10 times more dolphins are killed than whales, it is likely Amazon Japan is selling dolphin products mislabelled as 'whale'.

Spurring Amazon to remove and ban all cetacean products is a fantastic victory, and one we couldn't have done without our partners and the incredible participation of supporters and consumers around the world - a huge thank-you to everybody who helped!

PP Amazon says 'we're constantly looking for ways to further reduce our environmental impact' - banning these harmful products is an easy way for Amazon to show genuine commitment to this principle, while protecting its customers

Clare Perry





Partnership helps push tigers up the agenda

Pictured, from left, are EIA executive director Mary Rice, Samantha Fox, Foreign Office Minister Jeremy Browne and David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation & TigerTime fundraising director Jill Inglis © Howard Cox/TigerTime

Partnerships are key to the future of the tiger and we're excited about the new one with the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and its campaign TigerTime.

Aiming to raise awareness and support for various tiger projects, including EIA's campaign, TigerTime has been a great ally in nudging the tiger trade issue higher up the UK political agenda.

Proactive celebrity support from Samantha Fox led to a live TV commitment by UK Foreign and Commonwealth Minister Jeremy Browne to raise the tiger trade with counterparts in China. We then joined a TigerTime delegation to meet Mr Browne and later briefed him on how China could help deliver a 'zero-tolerance' policy on the trade.

We understand Mr Browne wrote to the Chinese Ambassador on the subject and we will report as soon as we hear of any feedback.

TigerTime's petition to the Prime Minister of China has now reached more than 102,000 signatures. During a high profile event at the House of Lords on March 13, celebrity supporters Joanna Lumley and Ricky Gervais praised the campaign.

The signatures will now be hand-delivered to the Chinese Ambassador in April by a Trustee of the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

First meeting of senior police and Customs on tigers

A long-standing decision of CITES to host a high-level seminar for senior police and Customs to discuss tiger crime was finally realised in February.

INTERPOL and other partners in the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) hosted the gathering as a 'command brief' for delegates from the Tiger Range Countries.

Delegates were moved by a characteristically powerful presentation from tiger expert Valmik Thapar, a reminder of what is at stake if we don't all work together; the same message was beautifully encapsulated in a short film from the Save Wild Tigers collective of EIA, Born Free, WildAid and the Clinton Partnership.

We will seize the momentum and follow up with the delegates by sending them our updated Asian big cat enforcement film.

Gearing up for CITES

At the beginning of the year, EIA and colleagues at the Species Survival Network submitted our 'asks' to the US Government as preparations get underway for CITES Standing Committee and next year's CITES Conference of the Parties.

We've also been engaging the UK and EU, and are looking to the USA and EU to help establish a set of indicators of effective enforcement for CITES Parties to use when reporting on actions to end the tiger trade. We want evidence of convictions, investigations to disrupt networks and seizure of assets to hit big time criminals where it hurts.

We're not alone. The ICWC partners agreed in principle and have tasked INTERPOL with further developing our ideas. With any luck, we will have a set of indicators that the professional enforcement community, including the CITES Chief of Enforcement Support, will endorse.

We also want CITES to call for progress on phasing out tiger farms in China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Demand reduction

In November, we participated in a demand-reduction workshop hosted by TRAFFIC in Hong Kong, an opportunity to share our first-hand insights into how the tiger and leopard trade works in China, particularly the skin trade from tigers in India and Nepal.

Participants agreed demand reduction is not just about changing the values of consumers but also about enforcement, with EIA showing how important it is to understand the perceptions and motivations of criminals engaged in the trade to shape better enforcement strategies.

Debbie's on the run for tigers

After completing the Bangkok half marathon in February, EIA tiger team leader Debbie Banks is bracing herself to run the Brighton Marathon in April to raise funds for our tiger investigations.

"Every penny makes a difference to what EIA can do to expose the truth behind those who profit from illegal trade in the skin and bones of tigers and other Asian big cats," said Debbie. "I'm going to run so we can still hear the tigers ROAR!"

To sponsor Debbie, visit www.justgiving.com/DebsRunningForTigers.

Tiger bone wine being auctioned in China

On December 2, we heard the news from the International Fund for Animal Welfare that an auction house in Beijing was planning to sell several bottles of tiger bone wine the next day.

We mobilised our networks, sending out the email addresses for the Chinese CITES Management Authority to our members and Facebook followers, and to friends at Save the Tiger (two million followers on Facebook), the Species Survival Network (over 80 organisations representing millions of people around the world) and to TigerTime, which has thousands of followers, including some very active celebrities.

The response was overwhelming; to their credit, the Chinese CITES authorities responded and the auction was cancelled. However, days later we found further auctions scheduled for December 31 to January 8. The State Forestry Administration of China received our alert and once again called for a halt to the auction. The Government issued a notification on January 9, reminding all auction houses it would be illegal to sell any products made from tiger bones, no matter how old.

The wine up for auction was made from stocks of tiger bone prior to the 1993 State Council Order prohibiting the use of tiger bone (and rhino horn), not bone from the tiger farms spread across China today. The fact so many people had held on to their bottles for so long is a worrying indication of the 'collectors' status tiger bone wine had even back in 1993. Investors have been banking on the wild tiger going extinct in order to push up the price on this exclusive product; the ultimate gift for your boss or an official if you want to get ahead.

It has subsequently emerged that the December auctions were not isolated incidents. Our online research discovered that more than 1,000 bottles of tiger bone wine have been advertised for sale through 23 auctions, dating back to 2009. It's not possible to confirm that all the wine advertised was successfully auctioned but it's clear there's widespread demand for the product.

EIA has submitted its findings to the Chinese CITES MA again, and to the domestic wing of the State Forestry Administration, the Wildlife Conservation Division. We've asked them to launch an inquiry to determine whether all of the tiger bone wine advertised for auction was ultimately sold, and whether the SFA and forest police will be taking punitive action against companies found to have sold tiger bone wine.

We have also asked them to confirm if there have been any recent inspections of the tiger bone wine stocks sealed in 1993, to determine whether or not there has been any leakage onto the market. Finally, we urged the SFA to consolidate and destroy the stockpiles of tiger parts and derivatives, in keeping with requests under CITES and to send out a clear message to all consumers.

It's critical that China takes a zero-tolerance line on tiger trade.



Tiger bone wine allegedly produced with permission from the local State Forestry Administration, uncovered for sale at Qinhuangdao Safari Park by EIA investigators

PP The fact so many people had held on to their bottles for so long is a worrying indication of the 'collectors' status tiger bone wine QQ



A decade of forest reform, with fresh challenges ahead

Corruption remains the core issue behind illegal logging and trade in stolen timber and EIA's relentless exposure of dishonesty, fraud, bribery and sleaze in governments and businesses over the years has been a major factor in driving reform.

Head of Forest Campaign Faith Doherty went to Beijing in early November to attend the Asia Pacific Forestry Week meeting, an event marking 10 years since the landmark Bali Declaration which saw governments from the Asia Pacific region and beyond commit to tackle illegal logging.

To mark the occasion, EIA released a new briefing, *The Bali Declaration Ten Years On*, which recognised the progress made by the major timber consuming markets of the European Union and US in agreeing new regulations to prohibit imports of illegal logged timber.

It also describes how key producer countries such as Indonesia have curbed illegal logging and cautioned that more action is needed in the region's main wood-processing countries of China and Vietnam, which have yet to take decisive measures to halt imports of illicit timber.

Reflecting on a decade of major change, Faith said: "I remember before the Bali conference how even speaking the words 'illegal logging' to governments was just not acceptable. You just couldn't bring it up. Eyes would glaze over, seats would shift and the subject smoothly changed

"Looking over our shoulders as we left meetings was a common practice; we never knew who would react. To this day, those behind illegal practice, the big guys, the untouchables, have learned to be a bit more sophisticated as to how they go about profiting from stealing natural resources from the people. But they still do exist. It takes courage to bring them to justice and when it does happen, which it does, it's a real sign that a government wants reform."

Another important change during the period has been how the consumer countries which have benefited for years from stolen timber have begun to take responsibility, such as the new EU legislation coming in effect next year to prohibit the sale of illegally sourced timber and wood products within its markets. This is good news, but it has to be enforced, and enforced well; as we have done in Asia, EIA will be keeping a close eye on the European trade and for the first time will be able to follow the supply chain from the harvest to the sale in Europe.

The role of civil society and recognition that it brings solutions to the table has improved since Bali, but only in some countries and unfortunately not throughout the entire forestry sector.

Things have improved since Bali and, although there's still a long road ahead, at least we can come to the table and speak openly about illegal practices - 10 years ago, that was a very dangerous thing to do.

PP Before the Bali conference even speaking the words 'illegal logging' to governments was just not acceptable. You just couldn't bring it up QQ

Faith Doherty



Faith Doherty investigating illegal logging in Indonesia in 2002



Exposing rosewood robbery in Thailand

WHILE in Bangkok for the annual INTERPOL meeting on environmental crime in February, EIA campaigners hosted a panel discussion at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand to focus attention on the hot issue of rosewood.

Rosewood is a luxury hardwood, prized for its colour and durability, and used for furniture, decorative pieces and veneer. The Thai media is currently awash with news stories about illegal logging and seizures of smuggled rosewood headed for export.

The main forests where rosewood trees are found are in the north-east of Thailand and although the country has a national logging ban, rosewood is nevertheless under heavy pressure from logging gangs.

The rosewood story demonstrates anew that illegal logging isn't 'just' a matter of trees being cut down - the trade has violence and corruption running right through it and is conducted by well-organised, well-protected gangs stealing the timber for the international market. In 2011, a reported 14 Cambodian loggers were shot dead.

With rosewood becoming increasingly rare, the price is driven up and so trafficking even small amounts becomes lucrative. Once it crosses the border, the price increases tenfold.

The demand for rosewood is being driven by China and previous EIA investigations in that country confirmed the astonishing price put on this wood, with a rosewood bed retailing at a cool one million dollars. One Chinese trader complained "the species

is finished" and there was "only about five years left in the trade". Other commentators see the end coming far sooner.

Our *Rosewood Robbery* briefing showed the Thai Government could take immediate steps to confront the rosewood crisis by listing it on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Most of the countries in the Mekong region where the precious types of rosewood are found already have logging and trade controls on the most endangered species, yet these national regulations clearly are not working. A CITES listing would compel countries in the region and the main market of China to seize illegal rosewood consignments.

EIA is closely engaging with the Thai Government, and both the police (Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Division) and the Department of National Parks joined our panel.

During the discussion, the Thai representatives outlined a proposed increase in penalties, port surveillance and reforestation projects. They expressed their willingness to list on CITES and explained they had been reaching out to other range states - but they shopped short of announcing any decision at this stage.

The successful CITES listing of ramin which Indonesia achieved in 2004, shows the process really can work and we will continue to engage to achieve the same results.

Illegal logging isn't 'just' a matter of trees being cut down - the trade has violence and corruption running right through it and is conducted by well-organised, well-protected gangs stealing the timber for the international market





Eliminate one of the 'big six' greenhouse gases!

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EIA's Global Environment Campaign team set out its stall in November by calling on the European Union to phase out fluorinated greenhouse gases – commonly referred to as F-gases – by 2020.

Our new position paper *End in Sight: Phasing Out Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases* showed that with simple revisions to the EU's F-Gas Regulation, currently under review, Europe could easily and cheaply eliminate the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a family of potent greenhouse gases hundreds to thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

HFCs are chemicals used largely in refrigeration and air conditioning. They currently comprise approximately two per cent of European greenhouse gas emissions but their use is rising rapidly. By 2020, HFCs could make up to 19 per cent of global emissions.

The European Commission held a public consultation on revisions to the F-Gas Regulation, which currently relies on expensive yet ineffective containment measures to prevent the gases leaking into the atmosphere, and EIA lost no time highlighting the reforms we want to see.

"The current F-Gas Regulation, which allows companies to use these gases when cost-effective and energy-efficient alternatives are available, is simply not working," said campaigner Alasdair Cameron. "Since adoption in 2006, emissions of these gases have actually risen by 20 per cent, which means a new approach is needed. It is time to phase out these chemicals for good."

A phase-out of F-gases in the EU, based on prohibitions on use and placement in products, would save at least 60 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent per year (about 10 per cent of the UK's annual greenhouse gas emissions) by 2030.

The main points of our position paper were:

- calling for an EU-wide phase-out of HFCs by 2020, through a combination of use bans and restrictions on new equipment;
- pointing out that the F-Gas Regulation has failed to reduce HFC emissions, which have risen by 20 per cent since it was introduced in 2006;
- containment and recovery are expensive, costing about €40 per tonne CO₂-equivalent;
- climate-friendly, commercially and technologically viable alternatives to HFCs are available in all major sectors;
- the EU could lead the way in phasing out F-gases worldwide, setting an example and providing model legislation easily adapted/adopted by others.



“This is a golden opportunity to eliminate HFCs, one of the world's big six greenhouse gases – failing to press ahead with a phase-out would be a major mistake”

Alasdair Cameron

One of the world's worst industries is at it yet again

After oil and gas, a strong contender for the title of 'most environmentally destructive industry' has to be 'Big Fluorine', a collection of chemical companies making billions from the likes of ozone destruction, climate change, toxic waste and dodgy carbon credits.

Big Fluorine refers to the manufacturers of a large range of chemicals containing chlorine and fluorine, chemicals so useful they permeate almost every aspect of our lives.

Perhaps the most destructive are the fluorinated gases, or F-gases. These include the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) used in fridges and aerosols which have created huge holes in the ozone layer. F-gases shot to fame as one of the first global environmental emergencies, leading to worldwide campaigns to phase them out.

Their use has declined dramatically, but the damage to the ozone layer will take decades to repair, and may even continue to grow for some years to come. These chemicals also have devastating impact on the climate, accounting for about 16 per cent of all climate change to date.

Now that the ozone-destroying chemicals are being phased out, new families of chemicals called hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are being brought in, again as coolants in refrigeration and air-conditioning. They may not harm the ozone layer but they're still super greenhouse gases, many thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Even the manufacture of HFCs and F-gases causes problems; toxic waste is produced and harmful greenhouse gases are routinely released as by-products. Companies in India and China have earned hundreds of millions of euros by capturing and destroying these gases to sell as 'carbon offsets'. In fact, they made so much money from this that they were deliberately producing more by-product chemicals just to earn credits.

In the face of growing calls to phase out or ban HFCs, Big Fluorine, spearheaded by American and European chemicals conglomerates, is doing what it always does - fighting via industry lobby groups for its right to keep using environmentally destructive chemicals while appearing to support environmental solutions.

Big Fluorine did it before with CFCs, for years denying they had anything to do with the hole in the ozone layer, even dismissing the very idea as "pure science fiction". The result was a needless 15-year wait from the discovery of the ozone effect to the beginning of the CFC phase-out - and billions more dollars for the industry which cashes in at both ends since it also makes each new generation of gases every time there is a phase-out.

Now, in the 21st century, the chemical industry is at it again, doing all it can to stall efforts to tackle its impact on climate change. Its tactics may be subtler and the language more subdued but the goal remains unchanged - to make money by downplaying environmental destruction.

Big Fluorine is doing what it always does - fighting via industry lobby groups for its right to keep using environmentally destructive chemicals



Atofina chemical plant in Spain, which produced CFCs for export to developing countries

Global Environment Campaign update

India, China and Brazil block phase-out of super-greenhouse gas

In November, EIA attended the Montreal Protocol meeting in Indonesia where, despite a call from 108 countries for a phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), political manoeuvring in advance of the global climate negotiations prevented any action being taken towards deciding how the potent class of greenhouse gases (GHG) could be eliminated.

India, China and Brazil thwarted the will of the majority of the 124 countries gathered in Bali, claiming that action could only occur under the auspices of the following week's climate talks in Durban - talks which once again produced neither agreement nor any action to address HFCs.

HFCs are powerful global warming agents used in refrigeration. Although most nations have acknowledged the growing danger HFCs pose to climate change, and the responsibility the Montreal Protocol bears for their increased use as replacements for ozone-destroying substance (ODS), opposition by a handful of nations is preventing action by the treaty to phase-out HFCs as it has successfully done with other ODS.

HFCs are the fastest growing source of GHG emissions and could account for almost 20 per cent of global GHG emissions by 2050 under a business-as-usual scenario. Currently, low global warming potential alternatives are available for most HFC applications, and EIA is working hard at every level to build international support to ensure these dangerous chemicals are phased out.

EU gets tough(ish) on e-waste

In January, the European Parliament voted to increase the amount of electronic waste that must be collected and recycled within the EU.

At present, countries are obliged to collect and recycle a mere 4kg of electronic waste per person. However, under the new rules, by 2016 most will have to collect 45 tonnes of e-waste for every 100 tonnes of e-goods put on sale three years previously. By 2019, this must rise to a rate of 65 per cent.

Responding to the news, EIA Campaigner Alasdair Cameron said: "While it is good news that the EU is seeking to set more ambitious targets for recycling, the real question is how these regulations will be enforced. We know there is a huge problem with illegal e-waste exports, and simply increasing targets may not overcome this.

"We need better enforcement and tighter controls on who handles this hazardous waste to ensure it is being recycled and disposed of properly."

The need for stronger enforcement was highlighted in late January when 113 containers of illegal waste, including e-waste, were seized in Indonesia after being shipped from the UK.

Meet the Investigator

Name: Natasha Hurley

Age: 31

Hometown: London

Education: French Baccalaureate, undergraduate degree in German, followed by a BA in European Politics and a Master's in EU Policy

Campaign specialism: I've been working on EIA's Global Environment Campaign for just under a year now. My primary focus is the ongoing battle EIA is waging to eradicate the ozone-depleting substances and super greenhouse gases used in refrigeration and air conditioning, namely HCFCs and HFCs. I also work on illegal trade issues and track developments on the international carbon market. Like all the campaigning positions here, it's a job requiring a fair amount of international travel, which sounds glamorous enough - although in practice it involves a lot of



sitting around in air-conditioned conference centres; highly ironic, given the focus of my work!

What first interested you in environmental issues?: I spent a large part of my childhood growing up in the countryside. I think anyone who has lived 'close to nature' can't help but be interested in environmental issues and I was acutely aware of the terrible things human beings were inflicting on the planet from a very

early age. More recently, the implosion of the global financial system brought it home to me that short-termism and putting huge profits ahead of other considerations are simply not sustainable - I see a lot of parallels between what caused the financial collapse and prevailing attitudes with regard to climate change and environmental degradation.

What is your most memorable experience at EIA?: There have been quite a few already! I think it's got to be my trip to Mongolia to attend a UNEP seminar on illegal trade, barely a month after arriving at EIA. It was the first time I'd travelled so far east and it was a real cultural eye-opener. Looking ahead, I'm hoping that this year's 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol will bring about a long-sought-after agreement on phasing out HFCs ... You've got to think big in this job!

Tactic that failed elephants can only fail rhinos too

FOR anybody who has looked on appalled at the unmitigated failure of a 'legal' trade in ivory to reduce elephant poaching, the prospect of permitting a similar trade in rhino horn can only inspire a horrified sense of déjà vu.

For the record, the ban on the international trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) provided a vital respite from widespread poaching of both species during the 1980s and '90s, and populations started to recover.

However, poaching has begun to steadily escalate once more, perhaps inevitably resulting in 2011 being declared the worst year for elephants since the ivory trade was outlawed in 1989. EIA investigations clearly show that a major factor behind this disastrous rise has been the demand stimulated by the CITES-sanctioned one-off sales of stockpiled ivory, confusing consumers and offering perfect cover for laundering poached ivory.

While the international ban on trade in rhinos remains firm, there has been an uncontrollable wave of poaching; South Africa has been particularly hard hit, losing more than 440 rhino in 2011 and currently seeing one killed every day.

Behind this rhino massacre is the belief in the Far East that rhino horn is a medicinal panacea, a lethal and destructive fallacy driven by growing wealthy classes in China and Vietnam.

Astoundingly, the argument is being made in some quarters that 'zero trade' has clearly failed and all that can help the rhino now is the resumption of a legal trade in its horn.

A legal trade could only ever work with stringent controls in place. China claimed it could implement "rigorous" regulations and controls against illegal ivory but has spectacularly failed to do so. The legalised trade has only made matters worse; the demand in China remains high and growing. The price for 'legal' market is so high that illegal traders can undercut the prices and still make a hefty profit.

Rhinos have already teetered on the brink of extinction once in the past 30 years but the current crisis has an added dimension not seen before - the involvement of organised criminal syndicates in countries which are neither range states nor major consumer markets.

The only way to protect elephant and rhino populations from poaching is to dampen down demand for horn and ivory, and to stop fuelling it by allowing legal sales. Such sales send a clear message to consumers that it is acceptable to buy such products and creates a convenient cover for illegal trade.

EIA's recent ivory investigations in China expose the myth that legal sales will somehow curb illicit trade. What is really needed is investment in the kind of enforcement required to end illegal trade - intelligence-led, with an inter-agency approach to tackling organised, international criminal syndicates.

Opening up trade hasn't worked for elephants, and it won't work for rhinos either.

☞☞ **The only way to protect elephant and rhino populations from poaching is to dampen down demand for horn and ivory, and to stop fuelling it by allowing legal sales** ☞☞



Members' ZONE

Raffle winners

Congratulations to Mrs Coleman, Mr Aldridge and Ms Keith who were the three winners of our winter raffle!

Feeling lucky? Why not have a go at our summer raffle, with more fantastic prizes up for grabs? Don't forget to sell them to your friends and family!

Marathon man Mark's in the running!

WHEN the starting pistol signals the start of the 2012 London Marathon on April 22, keep your eyes peeled for EIA's distinctive logo.

It'll be emblazoned across the chest of runner Mark Fletcher, who generously stepped up for us after we were awarded a place in the event but found some difficulty in filling it.

After several years as a journalist on a local newspaper, Mark is now the Marketing & PR Manager for Harlow Playhouse theatre in Essex.

"I took up running a few years ago, in part as a hobby and also as a way of relieving the stress of a busy day," he said. "However, as time went by I gradually took running more seriously and began to

enter fun runs and races.

"Although I vowed never to do a full marathon, I eventually relented and gave the 2011 Dublin Marathon a shot. It was a great experience, but the hardest thing I've ever done ... I vowed never to do another.

"But the London Marathon has a special place in the hearts of many distance runners and the opportunity to do the 2012 race, especially in aid of the Environmental Investigation Agency, was too good to miss."

You can help support Mark's sterling efforts on our behalf by sponsoring him at www.justgiving.com/Mark-Fletcher2012.



Mark Fletcher



David Lane

I want to ride my bicycle!

ON October 1, supporter David Lane pedalled his way into our gratitude when he tackled a 54-mile charity bike ride from London's Clapham Common to Brighton Pier.

This is a popular route with charity riders, but David's undertaking was especially challenging because he'd undergone knee surgery just 10 weeks earlier and had only been able to squeeze in a few days of training.

Breakfasting on bananas for energy, he and a group of friends set off from Clapham Common at 7.30am. Stopping off

at Fanny's farm for cakes, he continued onwards and upwards - quite literally, as he faced the first of the three major hills along the route.

A brief pit-stop at a pub atop Turners Hill prepared him for the final major obstacle of Ditchling Beacon, often referred to as the 'green monster'. David reported it to be "an absolute beast" which so punished his recovering knee that he was forced to finish the final climb on foot.

Luckily, it was all downhill from there and the group reached the finish in a little over four hours.

"I knew the Beacon was going to be tough, but the stories just don't convey how steep and seemingly unending it is," he said. "I look forward to conquering it sometime in the future!"

Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to David, whose efforts raised £400 for EIA.



This is a QR code, the new generation of barcodes. If you own a Smartphone, use your barcode scanner or Google goggles, scan this code and join EIA in our virtual realm...

Up into the snows of Kilimanjaro

FIGHTING off the biting cold and thin air, supporter **Iain Tenquist** reached the peak of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro in late October.

His heroic efforts to scale the highest peak in Africa have raised about £2,000 for EIA in sponsorship, for which we're very grateful.

"It was very, very tough," he reported afterwards, "and I struggled with altitude sickness and lost 10lbs over the trip!"



Members' Z*EIA*ONE

Supporter profile - John Booth

Last summer, I had the opportunity to catch up on some reading due to being off work with a badly broken arm. I have always admired how EIA provides such great in-depth material on the issues and with its new website, I found it even easier to access.

I was shocked to read about the massive increase in ivory poaching and Iceland's attempt to jump-start commercial whaling. The more I read, the more I felt I should be doing something to tell others.

I ran an EIA local support group in the 1990s but had to stop due to work and family commitments. I have kept in touch with my friends at EIA over the years, supporting fundraising events when time allowed.

My son Jack told me he was keen to help, and he would tell all his 600 Facebook friends, whom he said "never seem to talk about such issues".

We will start by just talking to all our family, work colleagues and friends about EIA, and push the idea of becoming a supporter and helping in local fundraising events. We will then try to enlist support from others in our local community, such as the



university, and see how it goes from there.

With the help of modern tech, we like to see it more as networking. You don't need to hire halls to have meetings with people coming from all over Essex like in the old days; most of the planning can be done online.

We hope to make things informative and fun, with quiz nights and film shows; a couple of local bands have volunteered their time and talent for a gig or two; some members have ideas on an ethical fashion show; and we will also be combining a nature trek with a sponsored walk.

EIA has always taken great pride in its small but dedicated band of supporters; it truly appreciates how important we all are. Keeping EIA on the front line over the next few years is vital, so we hope to get as many new supporters as we can to join.

Empty printer cartridge and mobile phone appeal

You can make a positive impact and raise money for EIA by using the Freepost envelope enclosed in this issue of Investigator for your used empty inkjet cartridges/mobile phones.

For every cartridge sent, EIA will receive a generous donation from EAH Recycling (up to £1) and on average each workable phone is worth £6 - not only will you be helping to protect the environment, you'll also be helping us to investigate and expose environmental crime.

To donate your mobile, remove the SIM card first - and please don't include mobile chargers. The envelope will hold up to three handsets; please make sure it's secure before posting.

Why not ask your friends and family to donate too?

PLEASE NOTE WE CANNOT RECYCLE EPSON, LASER OR TONER CARTRIDGES.

To date, nearly £2,500 has been raised for EIA from this appeal, so a huge thank-you to all supporters who have taken part - and keep up the good work by sending your mobile phones and empty cartridges.

For additional envelopes, please call EAH Recycling on (01473) 658161.

**E A H
RECYCLING**

Nat Geo films set to screen and screen again!

A YEAR in the making, three new films following EIA investigators working undercover to expose environmental crime have now had their premiere screenings around the world on National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo Wild.

It took a lot of planning with London production company Red Earth Studio to execute the documentaries, which revealed the role of Vietnamese military in smuggling timber, Iceland's hunting of endangered fin whales and China's profiteering on ivory.

The glowing feedback indicates the hard work was certainly worthwhile; here are just a few of the comments we've received:

"If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the Environmental Investigation Agency's Hunt for the Whalers is worth millions"

Joel Reynolds, Natural Resources Defense Council

"Good job, guys ... your investigation in Japan so brave"

Darmawati Thalha

"This was a very disturbing exposé of the Icelandic whaling industry and the drive of one man, Kristján Loftsson, to open up and expand a market in Japan for the endangered fin whale"

Paul Welch

The films are due to go into general rotation on Nat Geo's channels in the future, helping to spread awareness of the issues concerned and the valuable work of EIA.

Watch out for them - and don't forget you can let us and other supporters know what you think on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/#!/environmentalinvestigationagency.



© Michael Vickers



© EIA



© James Gritz

Do you want to help ensure a future where humanity can still marvel at elephants, tigers and whales?

Conservation of the natural world is the most precious gift anyone can leave to future generations.

By remembering EIA in your Will you can support our unique campaigns to save threatened wildlife and precious habitats.

For over 25 years EIA has been protecting the environment with intelligence - using pioneering investigative methods to defend the environment and protect it for the future. With your support we can continue our vital work.



" Working undercover to expose international crime, EIA brought about changes in international laws and government policies, thus saving the lives of millions of endangered animals and putting a stop to the devastating effects wrought by environmental criminals."

United Nations Environment Programme



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