

environmental investigation agency

# Investigator

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Extinction clock stands  
at one minute to midnight  
for the vaquita

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OBE in New Year Honours  
for EIA co-founder  
Jennifer Lonsdale

## A message from our Executive Director, Mary Rice

EIA started 2016 with ambitious plans and a daunting workload.

With a CITES Standing Committee meeting in early January, we had to hit the ground running after the Christmas break. All of our campaign teams had their work cut out in the lead up to, and during, the one-week meeting but at the top of our to-do list was highlighting the plight of the vaquita (this issue's cover story). By presenting a new report to the Parties at a side event, we were able to focus attention on a species facing imminent extinction.

The year ahead is full of equally challenging or contentious issues. The first Conference of the Parties to CITES to be held in almost four years is scheduled for September. It is well overdue and has an overwhelming agenda; headline species continue to be the focus - rhinos and elephants - at the expense of other more critically endangered species, tigers being a case in point. The less charismatic species also get short shrift, but EIA will be doing its best to draw attention to pangolins, helmeted hornbills and threatened timber species.

Teams are already out in the field, conducting outreach, scoping and gathering visual and statistical evidence to feed into films, reports, briefings and intelligence dossiers that will provide decision-makers and enforcement personnel with the first-hand information they need to inform the actions required to tackle illegal wildlife trade.

But it's not all about CITES. Outside this arena, there is a swathe of work under way to provide resources and reference materials that we can share with a whole range of audiences; see the story about our maps of illegal wildlife seizures on pages six and seven for example. Also, due to popular demand and with support from the enforcement community, we are producing an ambitious update to our ivory enforcement film, which will be available in a range of languages for the use of enforcement agencies worldwide.

We continue to push the UK Government to meet its manifesto pledge to close ivory markets in the UK and we continue to look for innovative ways to tackle global illegal trade and environmental crime and abuse.

I hope you will agree that we are doing justice to your support - support which is fundamental to our achievements and effectiveness, and for which we are immensely grateful.

Mary Rice  
Executive Director



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### Changes to your e-Investigator!

We've endeavoured to make the e-Investigator more user friendly for you to interact with and we hope you like the new updates. Links to reports and web stories are highlighted in blue and you can also click on the various report covers to access the full report.

# Criminal fish bladder trade is driving two marine species to extinction



**AHEAD of a key international wildlife meeting in January, EIA's Oceans Campaign released the new report [Dual Extinction](#) to highlight the pressing threats to two endangered marine species.**

The report for the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Switzerland called for an urgent crackdown on the illegal trade in endangered totoaba fish swim bladders which is driving the critically endangered vaquita porpoise to extinction as a result of bycatch.

Dubbed 'aquatic cocaine' and 'golden coin' due to the high prices it commands, the dried swim bladder, or maw, of the totoaba is prized in Hong Kong and southern China for its supposed but unproven medicinal benefits.

The totoaba is endemic to the Upper Gulf of California, Mexico - also home to the world's last surviving vaquita, a protected porpoise species numbering fewer than 100 individuals, which are being snared and killed in the illegal gill nets used to catch totoaba.

*Dual Extinction* included new findings from research and undercover investigations conducted in the main markets for totoaba maw - Hong Kong and Guangdong Province in mainland China.

In Guangzhou, EIA found totoaba maw openly on sale in six of the 12 shops previously surveyed in May 2015. Generally, traders were aware that

totoaba sales are illegal, knew the fish are only found in Mexico and claimed to know about smuggling the contraband between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Hong Kong traders were more guarded, with only two shops displaying totoaba maw, but prices were higher than on the mainland.

EIA has also identified numerous online platforms for trade in fish maw, with significant interest in totoaba maw among consumers.

The report called on Parties to CITES to adopt and swiftly implement measures to effectively combat the totoaba trade, including an immediate increase in intelligence-led enforcement efforts in the main markets for totoaba fish maw as well as wider information-sharing, cooperation and awareness-raising.

Clare Perry, Oceans Campaign Team Leader, said: "The vaquita's extinction clock stands at one minute to midnight and the species is being pushed into oblivion by the demand of a relatively small number of Chinese consumers of totoaba maw. Less than 100 vaquita are left - and the clock is still ticking."

[Read all about it](#)

Click on the cover image to access an online copy of the full report.



## EU Circular Economy needs strengthening to curb marine plastic pollution threat

**THE European Union's long-awaited Circular Economy package was released in Brussels in December, setting out measures to increase resource efficiency and sustainability in Europe.**

EIA welcomed the package, which contains measures that can significantly impact the amount of marine plastic pollution in European waters. The proposals also included a legally binding recycling rate of 65 per cent across the EU by 2030 and a maximum limit to the amount of household waste that can be landfilled.

Clare Perry said: "Although a more ambitious package than its predecessor was repeatedly promised by the European Commission, the new proposal's legally binding targets on recycling of household and package waste have been weakened. Moreover, a marine litter target of 30 per cent is hardly aspirational.

"Despite this, the package forms a framework for more coordinated and effective European Union action on marine litter and EIA will be campaigning for the European Parliament to strengthen these measures."

## Relaxation of legal timber scheme weakens forest reform

**EXEMPTING 15 product groups from Indonesia's timber legality verification system threatened to block them from EU market access, to delay or sabotage a long-negotiated EU-Indonesia timber trade agreement and undermine Indonesia's forest industry reputation, EIA and Indonesia's Independent Forest Monitoring Network warned in November.**

## Documentary *Ulin* wins award at festival

THE new short film *Ulin* by EIA filmmaker Leo Plunkett was named one of the winners of an environmental short film festival in March.

The film took second place in the 'Shorts: Films Under 40 Minutes' category of the Rainforest Partnership's Films for the Forest festival in Austin, Texas.

*Ulin* is about a beautiful hotspot of biodiversity in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan, to date protected by a Dayak community and a forest investigator probing the criminal enterprises that threaten it with destruction.

The film was first screened at the Paris climate conference in December last year and has subsequently been shortlisted in several other international film festivals.

Taking first place in the same category at Films for the Forest was *Hope*, about Indonesia's Dayak Iban and made by former EIA filmmaker Paul Redman.

## Call for UK Government to ban ivory trade - as promised

**EIA and 25 other organisations from the UK and around the world started the New Year with a collective call on UK Prime Minister David Cameron to honour his party's manifesto pledge to ban ivory trade in the UK.**

The promise was made in the Conservative Party's election manifesto in 2010 and reiterated in its 2015 manifesto.

The world continues to look to the UK Government to fulfil its commitment to end all ivory trade, particularly as actions are increasingly being taken around the world to close domestic ivory markets - including by China and the United States.



Tiger skin rug for sale with permit at Xiaofeng taxidermy, China

## China's new wildlife law is deviating from stated goal of 'Ecological Civilisation'

**EIA has voiced its concerns that proposed changes to China's Wildlife Protection Law are taking it further away from the goal of promoting an "ecological civilisation" and ever-closer to the captive breeding for commercial use of parts and derivatives of endangered species.**

A number of Chinese laws relating to ecosystems and the environment came under the scrutiny of the National People's Congress in late 2015 to ensure they are compatible with the concept of "ecological civilisation".

Proposed revisions to the Wildlife Protection Law were circulated for public comment at the end of December but were met with a furious backlash from Chinese academics, lawyers, biologists and NGOs concerned they will take the legislation in the wrong direction.

EIA Trade & Policy Analyst Vicky Lee said it was extremely disappointed to see the proposed revisions, specifically in terms of tiger conservation, and cautioned that China was missing a major opportunity to follow best practice and demonstrate real leadership.

If adopted, the proposed revisions would instead further entrench policies of

captive breeding for commercial use of parts and derivatives of captive tigers and other endangered species.

The changes would also decrease the level of oversight at the central level of Government, passing on responsibility for managing breeding and trade to Provinces that have already shown a willingness to contravene an existing State Council Order.

China's State Forest Administration recently admitted to CITES that it does not have the capacity to monitor tigers in captivity and cannot confirm the number of permits issued for trade in the skins of captive-bred tigers, increasing the risk of trade and demand for tiger parts and products spiraling out of control.

There is no sign within the proposed revisions that China is planning to reverse this threat to wild tigers, seize the moment and stand alongside India, Nepal, Bhutan and Russia to place a greater emphasis on wild tiger conservation.

EIA Tiger Campaign Team Leader Debbie Banks added: "Tiger populations are showing signs of recovery in countries that do not breed tigers for trade in their parts and derivatives. China, sadly, is falling behind."

## Braving the winds and rain to turn up the heat ahead of the landmark global climate talks in Paris!



EIA campaigners and supporters took to the streets on November 29 to join many thousands of others to help focus attention on the landmark climate talks in Paris.

The mass demonstration was one of many events taking place simultaneously around the world, from São Paulo to Berlin, as people marched to demand more governmental action on climate change on the eve of

the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change CoP21 climate negotiations.

Our thanks and admiration for all those who braved the brief flurries of rain and, later, stiff winds in London – and to all those hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens around the world who took part – to make some noise for the climate.

## Montreal Protocol HFC greenhouse gas phase-down – 2016 could be the year!

**THE Montreal Protocol is famed for its proven track record of phasing out more than 98 per cent of ozone-depleting substances, putting the ozone layer on the path to recovery.**

At the same time, it has been in the vanguard of climate protection; with ozone-depleting substances (ODS) being very potent greenhouse gases, control measures under the Montreal Protocol have averted more than 135 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions.

It is the first United Nations treaty to achieve universal participation, has a well-established institutional structure that not only provides the necessary scientific, technical and environmental advice to make decisions but also the financial mechanism to ensure that developing countries are able to implement them. No wonder it is widely hailed as the most successful multilateral environmental agreement.

Since 2009, several Parties to the Montreal Protocol have submitted proposals to amend it to phase down production and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), super greenhouse gases being used as substitutes for ODS.

Substantive discussions on the proposals have been blocked year after year by a small number of Parties unwilling to discuss a 'climate' issue under the Protocol; however, near the end of 2015 a breakthrough was finally made when in October Parties agreed that the discussions would take place. A group of countries then started its work at the Meeting of the Parties in November, which ended with the adoption of the 'Dubai Pathway on HFCs' – a roadmap that agreed Parties will work within the Protocol to seek an HFC amendment in 2016.

Regulating HFC production and consumption currently represents potentially the biggest win to be

achieved through a one-off international climate control measure. An ambitious agreement this year could avoid more than 100 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by 2050 and avoid up to 0.5°C temperature increase by 2100. This is incredibly important, given that pledges under the new Paris climate deal so far will only limit surface temperature rises to a dangerous 4°C, far from the agreed 'well below 2°C'.

EIA campaigners will be attending meetings throughout 2016 to argue for an ambitious amendment to the Protocol that sees developed countries leading the way with strong domestic action and a financial commitment to ensure developing countries are able to obtain the necessary help to quickly adopt HFC-free and energy efficient alternatives.

Now more than ever we need the Montreal Protocol to live up to its reputation as the most effective global environmental treaty – and EIA is determined that it will.

## EIA shines a spotlight on Laos' illegal ivory market



Ivory on open sale in Sang Jiang market, Laos

**FOLLOWING** detailed intelligence provided by EIA, a team from UK broadcaster ITV travelled to the Laos capital of Vientiane in early March to probe Sang Jiang market, which is dominated by Chinese businesses where illegal ivory products are openly on sale.

The ITV team was advised on the ground by EIA, whose investigators were in Vientiane at the same time.

[In the subsequent news item](#), journalist Debi Edwards reported several instances of ivory on open sale. She also noted that shop-keepers offered advice on the best ways to smuggle the ivory out of the country and into China, although one helpful vendor indicated that for larger items he would deliver them to Beijing.

"He spoke about this 'mail order' system as if we were placing a clothes order not purchasing illegal ivory," she said.

EIA will use its findings and those from the ITV feature in a report to CITES CoP17 later this year.

Laos has been sanctioned twice by CITES and implicated in several recent ivory seizures in Thailand but so far there have been no prosecutions or convictions.

## New EIA illegal wildlife trade seizure hotspots and threats to lesser-known

**THE** first batch in an ongoing series of interactive maps plotting seizures and incidents of illegal wildlife trade were unveiled by EIA in the first quarter of this year.

The initial maps focus on tigers and other Asian big cats, pangolins and helmeted hornbill birds; future maps currently in preparation will cover elephant ivory and rhino horn.

Created via CartoDB data-mapping software, these maps are intended as a regularly updated resource for use by anybody working in relevant fields of conservation as well as for general interest.

They are based on subsets of poaching and seizure incidents, compiled by EIA and derived from publicly available records, from primarily English and Chinese language sources.

### PANGOLINS

- the most widely trafficked species on the planet

**PANGOLINS**, also known as scaly ant eaters and distributed across the continents of Asia and Africa, are widely poached for their meat and scales.

Globally, there are eight species of pangolin and all are listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Appendix II species can be traded but, in the case of Asia's four pangolin species, there is currently a zero quota on exports of wild specimens for commercial purposes; the four African species have no trade restrictions.

However, all eight pangolin species are threatened with the risk of extinction and are in serious decline.

Hunting for trade is the primary threat to the survival of all pangolin species, mainly driven by the demand for the meat, which

is expensive and consumed to show status, and the scales, which are used in traditional medicine.

It was only in May 2015 that the Vietnam Government stopped pangolin scales being available under health insurance schemes. China still has an annual domestic quota of roughly 25 tonnes of pangolin scales for medicinal use.

Available seizure data suggests that the scale of illegal trade has increased since 2008 as a result of growing demand from consumer nations, with an estimated one million pangolins illegally traded within Asia in the past 10 to 15 years.

EIA supports the call for Parties to CITES to list pangolins on Appendix I, prohibiting all international trade, and urges countries legitimising the use of pangolin scales in medicine to end this practice.



© African Pangolin Working Group

African white-bellied pangolin, Democratic Republic of the Congo

# maps reveal crime endangered species

Mapping such data helps pinpoint smuggling hot spots and routes, and gives an idea of the scale and scope of the respective trade. The sad reality is that the figures likely represent only a fraction of the actual trade - seizures are generally understood to represent only up to 20 per cent of the actual trade.

[You can access and explore these maps via the Illegal Wildlife Trade page on EIA's website.](#)



## HELMETED HORNBILLS

- pushed to extinction for their 'ivory' casques

**THE helmeted hornbill is a large bird species restricted mainly to the lowland forests of Sumatra, Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia, where it plays an important ecological role as a key disperser of seeds for a number of floral species.**

But despite being listed on CITES Appendix I, the highest protection under the convention, it is now considered to be critically endangered due to habitat loss and the illegal trade in its distinctive casque, which is carved into luxury jewellery and ornamental products.

As much as 12 per cent of its known forest habitat was lost between 2000-12 and severe levels of poaching have led to the bird's rapid population decline.

EIA has witnessed the extent of this trade in past field investigations in markets, most recently in last year's *Sin City* report, where helmeted hornbill casques and products were found openly on sale in

the Kings Romans Group complex, located in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone of Laos.

Since 2012, analysis of media sources indicates that the skulls and carved bills of more than 1,000 helmeted hornbills have been seized in Indonesia and China.

The same organised criminal syndicates responsible for the international trade in other illegal wildlife, such as pangolins and tigers, are also profiting from the trade in this magnificent hornbill.

As with all analyses of illegal trade, these openly reported figures likely represent just the tip of the iceberg.

EIA calls for better protection of this species through more robust enforcement on the ground, tougher sentencing and stricter adherence to national and international laws governing the trade in this species.



Helmeted hornbill products for sale online

## Japan keeps on whaling regardless while Iceland scraps this summer's hunt

**JAPANESE whaling ships left for the hunt in December, the first in the Antarctic since the 2014 ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which found that its previous whaling programme was not for "scientific research".**

Regardless of international opinion and the ICJ ruling, Japan pushed ahead under a revised but highly criticised whaling programme, NewRepA, proposing to kill up to 333 minke whales a year until 2027.

It claims the sample size has a scientific basis but is clearly seeking to maintain a commercial supply of whale meat products to domestic market.

In a move interpreted as an attempt to sidestep likely future legal challenges, Japan has told the United Nations that it excludes itself from the jurisdiction of the ICJ.

Japan's international reputation has never been more at risk, as it flouts not just International Whaling Commission process but also the ICJ and global opinion.

February held better news for whales when Icelandic media reported that multi-millionaire whaling boss Kristján Loftsson and his company Hvalur will not be hunting this summer.

Loftsson claims regulatory standards in Japan - his main market - constitute "endless obstacles" to marketing his product.

Clare Perry cautioned: "In the short-term, this is great news for over 150 endangered and supposedly protected fin whales Loftsson and his whalers would have slaughtered this year - but it's not necessarily the end of the hunt.

"Having in the past investigated and exposed Loftsson's devious tactics to maintain and promote whaling, EIA would not be surprised if this was just a cynical attempt to force Japan to lower its food safety standards, fast track the imports and make whaling more profitable."



© Antara Photo - Chanry Andrew

Labora Sitorus in court

## Corrupt cop went on the run yet again after being let out of prison to visit hospital

**NOTORIOUS** corrupt Indonesian policeman Labora Sitorus, jailed in 2014 for 15 years for large-scale timber theft, was back in the headlines in March after skipping prison for the second time.

His absence was discovered only when Sorong Police and Justice & Human Rights Ministry officials went to the former Chief Brigadier's home for an arranged transfer to a prison in Jakarta but found him gone.

A total of 683 officers from West Papua police had joined officials to pick him up on March 4 but were told he had left the evening before and nobody knew of his whereabouts. Three days later it was reported that he had surrendered to the authorities.

This was not the first time Sitorus made a mockery of Indonesia's due legal process; in March 2014, he was allowed to leave Sorong prison to seek medical attention but never returned. After being placed on a list of West Papua's most-wanted, he was found and re-arrested in February last year.

Sitorus was next allowed to leave prison in October 2015 for treatment at a local hospital after a reported stroke and heart problems. He did not return and was said to have instead been living at home, even attending family festivities as well as a wedding in December.

The transfer of Sitorus to Jakarta was arranged so he could be treated while still serving time.

EIA Forest Campaign Team Leader Faith Doherty said: "This has now become a farce of the highest magnitude. Indonesian officials and the rogue police officers who benefit from a corrupt system are making the country a laughing stock."

EIA played a key role in helping to bring Sitorus to justice in the first place when it released video footage in May 2013 of illegal loggers harvesting merbau and other species for Sitorus' timber company, PT Rotua, from forests on Batanta island.

## Leaked report shows huge scale of illegal logging in Laos

**AN unpublished, credible report on logging practices in southern Laos exposed systematic illegal felling and rampant timber smuggling into neighbouring countries when it was leaked in October.**

The report detailed how, in 2013, Laos exported 1.4 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber to Vietnam and China, more than 10 times the official harvest and giving an illegal logging rate of 100 per cent in some areas.

The June 2015 report *Assessment of Scope of Illegal Logging in Laos and Associated Trans-boundary Timber Trade*, echoes the findings of a series of field investigations undertaken in the region by EIA since 2007.

## NGOs urge action to end tiger farming and trade

**AT the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Geneva in January, EIA and 17 other organisations released a collective letter calling for urgent action to end tiger farming and trade.**

The letter argued that a zero demand approach is essential to achieve zero poaching. This means an end to tiger farming and all domestic and international trade in parts and derivatives of tigers from captive facilities.

The international community called for this in 2007 but China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam continue to keep and breed tigers for trade in their parts and products.

Many facilities keeping tigers engage in legal and illegal domestic and international trade in parts and derivatives of tigers bred in captivity, and in some cases launder illegally acquired tigers into the trade.

There are an estimated 7,000 tigers in captivity in South-East Asia and China, and no signs that so-called tiger 'farms' are being phased out.



## Shadowy traders pose threat to Indonesia's timber laws and EU trade deal

**LEGAL** loopholes in Indonesia's verification system are being cynically exploited by timber traders masquerading as small and medium enterprises (SMEs), a new investigative report found.

[Loopholes in Legality](#) - by Forest Watch Indonesia in conjunction with EIA and the Independent Forestry Monitoring Network (Jaringan Pemantau Independen Kehutanan, or JPIK) - warned in March that these significantly weakened Indonesia's flagship timber legality scheme.

The Minister of Trade Decree (No.89/2015) at the heart of the problem exempts 15 product types from the need to certify timber sources and factory practices under Indonesia's mandatory Timber Legality Verification System, the SVLK (Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu).

The decree allows companies to freely export exempted products by removing the provision to self-report on legal compliance, which has significantly weakened the SVLK's role in ensuring legality of traded timber products.

Investigators found serious irregularities, including opaque companies exporting shipments worth millions of dollars using Export Declarations technically reserved for SMEs, companies wrongly registered as forestry industries acting as brokers for products made elsewhere, companies selling Export Declarations to other companies that do not qualify for them and are not SVLK certified, and companies not properly registering with relevant Government agencies.

## PM urged to put tiger trade on the agenda

**FOLLOWING** a similar earlier call to US President Barack Obama, EIA and 18 other organisations urged UK Prime Minister David Cameron to raise the issue of tiger trade with China's President Xi Jinping during his visit in October.

In addition, supporters were asked to Tweet a tiger graphic to the PM.

## Exposé of dodgy audits inspires RSP0 resolve to overhaul "sustainable palm oil" safeguards

**ROUNDTABLE** on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSP0) members voted to improve assessments by third-party auditors after a new EIA report made a major impact at their annual meeting in November.

[Who Watches the Watchmen?](#) by EIA and Malaysian NGO Grassroots exposed serious flaws in the industry body's certification of 'sustainable' palm oil.

Palm oil is a vegetable oil found in thousands of products ranging from cosmetics to processed foodstuffs such as chocolates, cereals, soups, dairy products and crisps.

The RSP0 relies entirely on auditors to monitor the operations of palm oil growers and ensure they are not destroying primary forests and habitats or evicting communities.

However, research by EIA and Grassroots showed that these auditing firms are in many cases failing to identify and mitigate unsustainable practices by oil palm firms.

Not only were they conducting alarmingly substandard assessments but the evidence indicated that in some instances auditors were colluding with plantation companies to disguise violations of the RSP0 Standard.

The critical problems identified included fraudulent reports, greenwashing violations of indigenous rights, failure to identify the risk of trafficked labourers being used in plantations, substandard

assessments that did not identify the habitat of critically endangered species and clear conflicts of interest between palm oil producers and the companies they hire to audit their operations.

As RSP0 members met in Kuala Lumpur for their 12th Annual General Assembly, *Who Watches the Watchmen?* strongly urged them to restore credibility by supporting a resolution seeking quality audits and improved scrutiny; as a result, 'Resolution 6h' was swiftly adopted by 209 votes to 158.

EIA Forest Campaigner and report author Tomasz Johnson said: "The RSP0 stands or falls on the credibility of its auditing process but in far too many instances auditors are greenwashing unsustainable practices and even environmental crimes.

"It is reassuring that most RSP0 members have accepted the evidence presented in our report and have voted for this resolution. But the extent to which this resolves the problems we have identified will only be clear when the recommendations are implemented. The damage done by the absence of oversight in this system is extensive and serious."

Read all about it

Click on the cover image to access an online copy of the full report.



Oil palm plantation on deforested land, Papua, Indonesia

## MEET THE TEAM



**NAME:** Jill Thomson

**AGE:** 26

**HOME TOWN:** Edinburgh

**EDUCATION:**

I have an undergraduate degree in Politics from the University of Glasgow, and a Masters in Global Environment and Climate Change Law from the University of Edinburgh.

**CAMPAIGN SPECIALISM:**

Climate Campaigner – I contribute to a number of aspects of the Climate Campaign, including helping to track illegal trade of ozone-depleting CFCs and HCFCs, report writing, desk and field-based research, and staying on top of the latest technological developments for natural refrigerants.

**WHAT FIRST INTERESTED YOU IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?:**

I grew up around nature; as a family we always kept loads of pets and during the school holidays my mum always took me and my sister camping on the West Coast of Scotland, which is really wild. I think growing up that way gave me a hunger to learn more about what the threats to our environment are and the political processes that surround these issues.

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT EIA?:**

Probably in my first few weeks at EIA, as I joined the team in 2013 when we were in the latter stages of securing the F-Gas Regulation and I realised straight away what a fast-paced, hard-hitting campaign it was – I think I was in Brussels on my third day! Securing that deal was a huge win for EIA and for the climate in general. Often, when you work on an issue as huge as climate, creating any sort of meaningful change can seem a bit of an uphill battle but our work on HFCs is a little different. It's this hugely important yet arguably relatively niche issue, with a lot of solutions to hand. We have a great environmental success story in the Montreal Protocol, which has phased out 98 per cent of the chemicals it intended to, and yet out of this accomplishment we've created another huge problem in HFCs. Now that we're on the cusp of reaching a global deal to phase these down, I'm sure 2016 will be just as exciting!

# Pioneering activist and EIA co-founder is awarded an OBE

**ONE of the three founders of EIA was awarded an OBE in the New Year 2016 Honours List to recognise more than three decades of campaigning.**

Jennifer Lonsdale, who created EIA in 1984 with fellow activists Allan Thornton and Dave Currey, said: "I'm enormously proud of what EIA has achieved over 31 years, from small beginnings where three people wanted to make a difference by working together to where it is today.

"I'm overwhelmed by the dedication, talent and loyalty of the people who work for EIA and always inspired by young people who make career choices to use their talents and education by working for EIA and other environmental organisations so that they can tackle threats to the global environment and ensure a future for generations to come."

Born and raised in Uganda until she was 11, Jennifer's family moved to Kent in 1963. In 1977 she began volunteering for Greenpeace San Francisco before being formally taken on in 1980.

In the early 1980s she returned to England and began working independently on conservation projects with Allan Thornton, one of the founders of Greenpeace UK who had left his post as Executive Director. These included organising and joining a voyage aboard the North Sea trawler

Balaenoptera to document the Norwegian minke whale hunt, obtaining the first-ever documentation of the hunting.

A year later, she travelled to the Faroe Islands with Dave Currey, photographer on the Norway trip, to investigate the Faroese pilot whale hunt. Upon their return, she, Allan and Dave decided to found EIA.

Since then, EIA has grown and expanded dramatically, building on its covert evidence-gathering investigations to include work protecting the world's endangered forests, tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, oceans and cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and climate change.

Jennifer still serves as a Director of EIA and has continued to work on what has now become its Oceans Campaign.



## Have you signed our petition for a UK microbeads ban?

**IN February, EIA joined with Greenpeace UK, Fauna & Flora International and the Marine Conservation Society to launch a petition calling on Prime Minister David Cameron to ban plastic microbeads from personal care and cosmetics products in the UK.**

[If you have yet to sign it, you can do so at https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/ban-microbeads-and-please-encourage-family-and-friends-to-sign-too.](https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/ban-microbeads-and-please-encourage-family-and-friends-to-sign-too)

Microbeads are tiny plastic particles less than 5mm in diameter, wisely used in personal care products such as exfoliating scrubs, toothpastes and other cosmetics and as abrasives in domestic cleaning products.

An estimated 15-51 trillion microplastic particles are already in the world's oceans and each application of a microbead scrub adds up to 94,500 more.

Marine plastic pollution is now recognised as a major threat to marine biodiversity, with the occurrence of microplastics well documented throughout the marine environment.

EIA Oceans Campaigner Sarah Baulch said: "Microbeads are a totally unnecessary source of microplastic pollution that result in up to 80 tonnes of microplastic waste entering the sea every year from the UK alone."

# Members' ZONE

## EIA's promise to you!

OUR supporters are a vital part of our work and without your generosity we simply couldn't operate as successfully as we do, which is why we want to make an important promise about how and when we contact you.

Along with your copy of *Investigator*, you'll find a brief questionnaire that will let you choose how you hear from us in the future; because we want your preferences to be as flexible as possible, we'll send you a new questionnaire every year, so you can update us if you change your mind. Of course, if you don't return future questionnaires, we'll simply keep your preferences as they stand.

In the meantime, from all of us at EIA, thank-you for your kind support!

## Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture

WE'D like to extend our sincere thanks to Professor Alice Roberts and everybody behind the scenes who made the 14th Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture at London's Royal Geographical Society such a success.

In her talk [Survivors of the Ice Age](#) - equal parts enlightening, engaging and entertaining - Prof Roberts discussed how humans emerged during the Pleistocene and, against the odds, evolved into the planet's dominant species.

The lecture is held annually in honour of beloved cult author, Adams, who was a dedicated spokesman for conservation until his death in 2001 at the age of 49. The proceeds of the event are shared between the two charities closest to his heart - Save the Rhino International, of which he was a founder patron, and EIA.

We hope you can join us for next year's lecture!



## SUPPORTER PROFILE

### Justin Gosling



POUNING the streets of Bangkok, sweat pouring down my face, I wonder why the hell I'm doing this. I didn't have to run one marathon for EIA let alone two. My knees are killing me and I seem to have developed a constant limp from one ailment or another. Training since December has been tough.

As a freelancer helping countries fight wildlife crime, I travel extensively for work and while it's great to escape the English winter, running for hours in +30°C is exhausting. I'm soaked within minutes and literally at risk of hyperthermia.

This isn't the first time I've supported EIA and, despite the thousands of worthy charities out there, I feel naturally inclined to do so again. EIA shares many of my own values. It's an organisation with integrity, using its resources to be as effective as possible - so I know that whatever I raise won't be spent on fat cat salaries or business class flights. With EIA, you get a lot of bang for your buck.

I'm trying to raise £2,016 for EIA by running two marathons in April. I could have gotten away with running one (and often wish I was), but since EIA selected me to take its prized place in the famous London Marathon, I foolishly decided to double the challenge by running not just London but also the Brighton Marathon one week earlier.

It'll be worth the pain. I can't wait to cross the finish line in front of Buckingham Palace on April 24, knowing I've run a total of 52 miles to help save elephants, tigers, rhinos, pangolins, whales and dolphins and the habitats in which they live. I'll keep that thought in mind with every painful step!

Even the smallest donation helps make a difference and it just takes a few minutes to donate online at [virginmoneygiving.com/justingosling](http://virginmoneygiving.com/justingosling)

Thank-you!

#### UPDATE:

Due to a knee injury, Justin was unable to take part in the London Marathon for EIA. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Justin for all his hard work and training for both the Brighton and London Marathons. Thank you and we wish you a speedy recovery!

# Get involved!

- **SEPTEMBER 11, 2016** – London to Brighton Cycle. Take on this iconic 54-mile route starting in Clapham Common and travelling through idyllic country lanes to finish on the colourful and bustling Brighton seafront.
- **OCTOBER 9, 2016** – Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon. EIA has two places available for the 13.1 mile race, which winds through stunning London scenery, starting and finishing in Hyde Park.
- **APRIL 2017** – Brighton Marathon. EIA will again have places available for this 26.2 mile course around the picturesque seaside town.

[If you don't fancy taking on any of these runs, we've got great tips and ideas on organising your own fundraising event and we'd love to hear from you!](#)

Get in touch via [fundraising@eia-international.org](mailto:fundraising@eia-international.org) or call us on 020 7354 7960.



Fakenham 50



EIA Climate Campaigner Jill Thomson



Sarah & Sophie



Family. Friends. The natural world. We know that loved ones come first but if you would like to help us ensure a future where our grandchildren will experience the wonders of the natural world, please consider leaving a gift in your will to the Environmental Investigation Agency. Over the past 30 years, EIA has saved the lives of hundreds of endangered species and their habitats through pioneering investigations into environmental crime.

For more information or just a chat about our work, call us on +44 (0) 20 7354 7960 or email [legacy@eia-international.org](mailto:legacy@eia-international.org)

[www.eia-international.org/giftinyourwill](http://www.eia-international.org/giftinyourwill)



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