



ONLY **50%** OF THE ORIGINAL FOREST REMAINS IN MYANMAR AND LESS THAN **10%** OF THE LAND IS PROTECTED

ONLY ABOUT **4,000** TIGERS REMAIN IN THE WILD



100,000 PANGOLINS TAKEN FROM THE WILD EVERY YEAR

MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION IS HARMING MORE THAN **800** SPECIES



MORE THAN **110,000** AFRICAN ELEPHANTS HAVE BEEN LOST SINCE 2006




eia environmental investigation agency

WHAT YOU HELPED US ACHIEVE **2020**



Your loyal support means we can continue our vital campaigns against wildlife and environmental crime for however long it takes. **Together we need to achieve so much more to protect the planet and its biodiversity for future generations...**



Mary Rice
Executive Director

Will 2020 be remembered for anything other than the coronavirus pandemic?

We certainly hope so – alongside the chaos, misery and tragedy experienced by billions, it should also be remembered as a year in which so many struggled through the crisis to keep the world functioning as close to normal as possible.

The impact of COVID-19 on EIA has been significant, curtailing our ability to work in other countries, but our amazing staff have rallied to ensure our vital work continues.

As the pandemic has increasingly been tracked back to a virus making the jump from wildlife to humans, we've sought to contribute valuable information to the global public debate.

And with many wildlife criminals also having to work from home, our investigators have adapted accordingly to infiltrate and monitor their activities online.

Finally, our deep gratitude goes out to all supporters and donors who have helped see us through these unique and challenging times.



times we were mentioned in the media, spreading our message around the world



people reached by our Facebook post reporting the Chinese Government's endorsement of injections containing bear bile to treat coronavirus

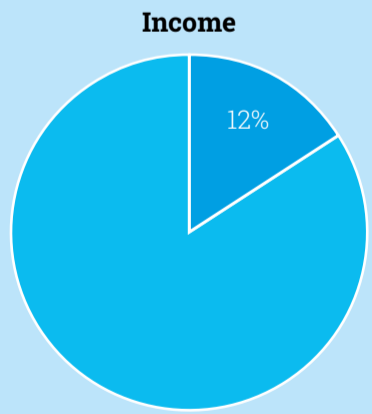


reports and briefings produced, sharing our campaigning and investigative work

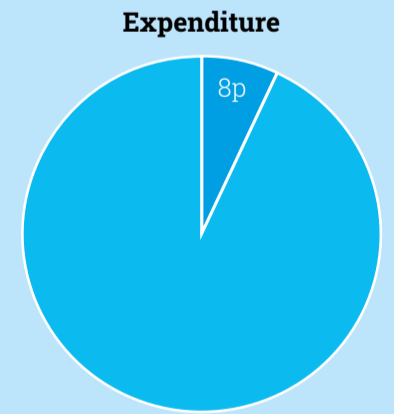
HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY

Your support helps us investigate and campaign against environmental crime and abuse. Our focus is the protection of wildlife, forests, ocean and climate. We turn the evidence we gather in the field into hard-hitting reports that are shared with enforcement authorities and campaign for new legislation, improved governance and effective enforcement.

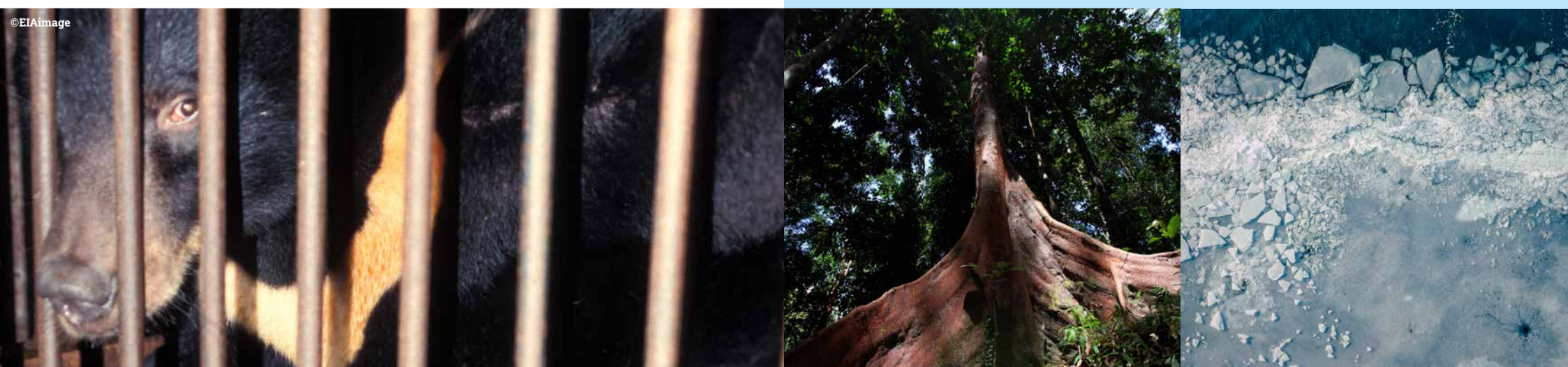
We are a small organisation making a big difference. We give great value for money by focusing our resources on the vital work which has made us one of the most effective conservation organisations in the world.



12% of all our income was donated by kind people like you. Project grants make up the majority of our other income.



8p of each pound spent was used for fundraising and governance. 92p of each pound spent was for projects tackling wildlife crime and protecting the environment.





Protecting marine life

Towards a global ban on plastic

• This year saw work begin in earnest in pursuit of a global convention to tackle plastic pollution; in June we launched a briefing, translated into all UN languages, to help with our advocacy towards a global treaty and we have enjoyed considerable success in encouraging various countries to come aboard, especially among the Pacific islands. In November, the UK Government came out in support of a global convention, joining the two-thirds of other countries which already back this initiative.

• In October, a UK-wide ban on plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers came into effect and, after years of campaigning by EIA and an alliance of organisations, it is now illegal for businesses to display or sell these single-use plastic items.

Combating illegal whaling and fishing gear pollution

• In April, we released the briefing Nothing Fishy About It, an analysis of fishing gear-related measures at the International Maritime Organization which set us on a path to accelerating action to address plastic pollution from fishing vessels.

• In September, we submitted statements at the virtual meeting of the Conservation Committee of the International Whaling Convention (IWC), alongside over 150 representatives of IWC Contracting Governments and Registered Observers from around the world. In addition to regulating the whaling industry, the IWC is addressing non-hunting threats to cetaceans. This includes inter alia bycatch, chemical and plastic pollution, entanglement, ship strikes and climate change.

Influencing the cooling industry to mitigate climate change

• This year, our Climate team worked to spread awareness of climate change tipping points – the warming thresholds which, once crossed, can create irreversible and potentially catastrophic changes to vital ecosystems – making the case for swift action to be rid of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are widely used climate-harming refrigerant gases and phasing them out fast would bring quick benefits to the climate.

• To spread wider awareness of the ongoing damage done by HFCs, in June we produced an HFC of our own – the animated short film *Heading For Catastrophe?*

• New research we commissioned and released in August made plain the huge climate win of moving to propane-based domestic air-conditioning. Simply switching over from climate-harming refrigerant gases to propane could prevent harmful emissions equal to 1,400 coal-fired power stations running for a year.

Fighting global deforestation

Investigating the illegal timber trade

• In June, we released *The Croatian Connection*, exposing how high-risk timber from Myanmar was being snuck into Europe via the back door of Croatia, avoiding scrutiny through the EU Timber Regulation.

• Our work in looking at the convergence between wildlife and timber trafficking revealed that maritime transport and air freight are the major facilitators of illegal trade from Africa to Asia. This grew out of our 'nexus' work looking at the crossover points of different types of environmental crime. As a result, we have begun to engage with the maritime sector to tackle the problem.

Strengthening laws and governance

• With our Indonesian partner Kaoem Telapak, we mobilised an international effort from April to stop a new Indonesian Government trade regulation from taking effect which would have deregulated and undermined a system in place supporting the supply of legal wood products to the EU.

• For at least a decade, we have been investigating and monitoring how Vietnam's timber sector has been importing illegally sourced wood for its lucrative market, which is then sent around the world as finished products. Vietnam is now negotiating an agreement with the EU that will support legal timber from Vietnam into Europe's market.

• In recognition of the alarming rates of deforestation and the impact on our climate, we are working with both the UK government and the EU to formulate new laws to help combat global deforestation.

Combating wildlife crime and closing domestic markets

• Since March, our Wildlife campaigners have uncovered instances of ingredients from endangered bears and pangolins being used in traditional 'medicines' – and touted by the Chinese Government as suitable treatments for the coronavirus. Additionally, we found an illegal trader in Vietnam offering tiger bone 'glue' paste as a way of generally staying healthy during the pandemic.

• The March report *On the Butcher's Block – The Mekong Tiger Trade Trail* exposed ongoing criminal trade in tigers and their body parts and products in China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

• In April's report *A Bitter Pill to Swallow*, we named 24 Chinese pharmaceutical companies listing leopard bones as an ingredient in their traditional medicines.

• Our first major report in the global pangolin trade was released in October; *Smoke and Mirrors* exposed China as the primary destination for the vast quantities of pangolin scales trafficked internationally every year from across Asia and Africa.

• "Follow the money" is a common enough dictum for those pursuing criminals, so why isn't it often employed in combatting wildlife crime? Our July report *Money Trails* looked at the current state of play and argued for using financial investigations and anti-money laundering laws as standard when investigating wildlife crime

• After years of campaigning by an alliance of organisations led by us and an 11th hour drama in the UK's Supreme Court following challenges from some antiques dealers, the landmark UK Ivory Act passed its final legal challenge in August!

• As 2020 drew to a close, December's *Out of Africa* became our final report of the year, revealing how West and Central Africa have emerged as major sourcing and export hubs for the illegal trafficking of elephant ivory and pangolin scales to Asia.

Thanks to your support, we will continue to investigate and campaign against environmental crime and abuse in 2021.

eia-international.org

Environmental Investigation Agency UK
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