



environmental  
investigation  
agency

**STICHTING ENVIRONMENTAL  
INVESTIGATION AGENCY**

**POLICY PLAN 2021 -2023**

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## ***Introduction***

The Environmental Investigation Agency UK (EIA) was created in London, the United Kingdom in 1984 and since its formation has pioneered the use of investigations and research to curb environmental crime and abuse of the natural world. Currently Environmental Investigation UK is a registered charity in England and Wales with Charity Number 1182208.

Stichting Environmental Investigation Agency (Stichting EIA) was incorporated in The Netherlands on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, with commercial register number 57039925 and RSIN 852413774, but has remained largely dormant since. In 2019 the Board of Trustees of EIA UK decided, as a consequence of the UK leaving the European Union, to develop Stichting EIA to become functioning office focusing on EU and Dutch environmental policy issues. This is in conformity with the Objective of the foundation which is: "the *preservation of wildlife and the habitat of wildlife, including combating global climate change and fighting deforestation*".

EIA subsequently sought support and advice from The Hague Business Agency, and a fact-finding trip was arranged in June 2019 to understand legal and financial processes to create a working office in The Hague and to visit potential office sites. As a result of the trip EIA retained the legal and financial services company BRIDDGE. The company has both examined and amended Stichting's EIA's Articles of Association to ensure compliance with the requirements for obtaining public benefit organisation status in The Netherlands. This three-year policy plan has been drawn up to support Stichting EIA's application to The Netherlands Tax and Customs Administration for ANBI status.

A major strategic objective of the organisation during the next three years is to build an effective European policy office based in The Hague to advance EIA's campaign goals set out below.

## ***Activities of the Foundation***

### *Mission*

EIA's mission is to protect the natural world by:

- Exposing environmental destruction and loss of biodiversity through uncompromising and innovative investigations
- Using this evidence and research to uncover environmental crimes and abuses and those responsible
- Campaigning for protection of the environment through better enforcement of environmental law, progressive policy-making and changes in consumer behaviour
- Developing effective partnerships and sharing skills and expertise

The organisation uses its findings in hard-hitting reports to campaign for new legislation, improved governance and more effective enforcement. EIA's field experience is used to provide guidance and intelligence to enforcement agencies, and it forms partnerships with local groups and activists and support their work through hands-on training.

### *Activities*

Activities to support attainment of the mission come under four broad programmes of work:

#### Climate Programme:

EIA's climate work aims to tackle the pressing threat of climate change by eliminating powerful greenhouse gases used widely in the cooling sector, improving energy efficiency of replacement technologies and investigating the illicit trade in refrigerant greenhouse gases.

#### Forests Programme

EIA's forests work aims to reduce global deforestation by advocating improved governance and trade laws, revealing the negative impacts of cash crops such as palm oil and exposing key criminal players in the transnational illegal trade in stolen timber.

#### Ocean Programme

EIA's ocean work aims to improve the status of marine wildlife and ecosystems by reducing threats posed by marine plastic pollution, bycatch and commercial exploitation of whales, dolphins and porpoises.

## Wildlife Programme

EIA's wildlife work aims to reduce wildlife crime around the world. The Tiger Campaign works for the recovery of wild tiger populations by advocating the dismantling of transnational criminal networks involved in illegal trade, pressing for better legislation and the protection of their habitat and exposing the role of tiger farming in both illegal and legal trade. The Elephant Campaign works to safeguard a future for elephants by pressing for the closure of key domestic and international ivory markets, advocating improved enforcement techniques and exposing transnational organised criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking. The Pangolin Campaign will enhance enforcement against the criminal syndicates that are trafficking pangolins primarily from Africa by providing actionable information to enforcement authorities and ensuring key countries also have the capacity and skills to properly implement the protection measures for pangolins.

### *Three-year Programme Goals (2021 – 2023)*

#### CLIMATE:

- By 2023, Parties to the Montreal Protocol adopt measures to strengthen implementation of ozone- and climate-related controls that can avoid cumulative emissions of over 22 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2050.
- By 2023, revisions to the F-Gas Regulation are adopted that will reduce cumulative HFC consumption by over one billion CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent tonnes by 2050 and tackle growing SF<sub>6</sub> emissions.
- By 2023, improved understanding and awareness of the impact of ODS and HFC climate crimes lead to strengthened action and enforcement to reduce illegal production, use and trade in ODS and HFC chemicals.
- By 2023, global industry and businesses take increased action to transition to a sustainable cooling sector
- By 2023, the EU adopts legislation to minimize methane emissions in the energy sector and reduce reliance on fossil gas

#### FORESTS

- To curb forest crime through the reduction of illegal logging and trade in illicit timber and illegal forest conversion with a priority on palm oil. Closing major markets to imports of illegally sourced timber and forest risk commodities through demand side measures by improving policies and regulatory frameworks.

## OCEAN

- Stringent policy measures regulating the production, manufacture, design, containment and consumption of plastics are adopted at a global level, including negotiation of a new global treaty on plastic pollution and measures to reduce sea-based sources of plastic pollution.
- Stringent policy measures regulating the production, manufacture, design, containment and consumption of plastics are adopted and effectively implemented at a national and regional level
- The environmental impact of the global plastic waste trade is reduced
- Plastic use in the UK food, beverage and convenience sector is reduced and key European supermarkets are taking steps to reduce their plastic footprint
- A reduction in the hunting and non-hunting threats to cetaceans and other vulnerable marine species.

## WILDLIFE

### Elephants

- Disruption of organised criminal networks pursuant to information provided to law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders for a more effective multi-sectoral response to the illegal ivory trade.
- National laws, regulations and policies are adopted / amended and implemented to close domestic legal ivory markets, in order to promote government accountability and transparency and better tackle wildlife crime and the threats posed by trade and associated corruption.
- International commercial ivory trade under CITES will continue to be prohibited. The result will be a global ivory market that is significantly reduced in scale and scope.

### Pangolins

- Demand for pangolin parts and derivatives in major consumer countries such as China and those in West, Central and East Africa is significantly reduced or eliminated
- Ability of transnational pangolin/wildlife trafficking networks to operate with impunity in West, Central and East Africa, as well as South East and East Asia is significantly curtailed
- Pangolin 'captive-breeding' is not pursued as a viable option to supply pangolin parts and derivatives in China or transit/source countries (in Africa and South East Asia)

#### Tigers

- Demand for tiger and other big cat parts and products is reduced
- The availability of tiger parts and products, including from captive sources is reduced
- Better informed criminal justice bodies (from law enforcement to prosecution and judiciary) and financial institutions have the information they need to disrupt criminal networks trafficking tiger and other Asian big cats

#### *European Policy Office*

A key part of EIA's mission to protect the natural world from environmental crime and abuse involves effective engagement with the European Union institutions and member states to formulate progressive policies. For example EIA's information and advocacy fed into the EU's Timber Regulation (EUTR) which seeks to prevent illegally logged timber entering the EU market and came into force in 2013. In addition EIA played an important role in the formulation of the EU's F-Gas regulation, a major policy initiative to curb the use of powerful greenhouse gases called hydrofluorocarbons, which came into force. In 2015.

With the UK's departure from the EU the Board of Trustees and Leadership Team at EIA UK have made the creation of a European Policy Office based in The Hague, using Stichting EIA as the vehicle, a strategic priority during the next three years. This will allow EIA to deploy its expertise and experience across a host of important legislative initiatives at the EU-level which have the potential to increase protection of the environment in Europe and beyond. These policies include; reviews of the EUTR and F-Gas Regulation, EU methane strategy, EU plastics strategy, EU Directive on protection of the environment through criminal law, and the EU policy on trade in commodities that cause deforestation.

In addition the creation of a base in The Hague will also allow EIA to increase its engagement with Dutch government ministries and law enforcement agencies involved in environmental protection. Over the last few years EIA has enjoyed effective collaboration with Dutch agencies including;

- Submission of cases on illicit imports of Burmese teak under the EUTR to the Competent Authority in The Netherlands
- Providing information to the Dutch Police's environment team on a case involving seizure of Burmese teak wood
- Meeting with the Dutch Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) to discuss the scale of the illegal trade in HFCs and to explain the methodology used by EIA in estimating the size of the black market.

## ***Financing of the Foundation***

As Stichting EIA has remained inactive since its formation there are no financial accounts available. Over the duration of this policy plan the Directors aim to gradually build a working office in The Hague including the hiring of local staff.

EIA UK's latest audited accounts show income of £3.7 million in 2019. Around 80 per cent of this income came in the form of grants from trusts, foundations and statutory donors (including the governments of the UK, US and Norway). The remainder came from public donations. A similar model will be applied to secure funding for the operations of Stichting EIA. EIA UK seeks to minimise overhead costs and maximise funding for its campaigning activities. In 2019 82 per cent of funds received were spent on campaigning activities, with just eight per cent used for administration, governance and fundraising. A similar breakdown is envisaged for Stichting EIA.

The initial three-year funding plan is as follows:

- 2021: Target income €50,000

During year one of the policy plan seed funding will be provided by EIA UK to cover expenses such as office costs, legal support, audit costs and travel. Funds for Stichting EIA will also be built into funding applications by EIA UK. This process is already underway, with office costs for Stichting EIA included in a successful funding application to a US foundation to strengthen the European Union's policies to reduce methane emissions which account for 25 per cent of climate change impacts.

- 2022: Target income €250,000

With ANBI status hopefully secured Stichting EIA will raise funds from proposals to trusts and foundations in The Netherlands and through European Union grants.

- 2023: Target income of €500,000

EIA will continue applying to foundations and statutory funders and will employ a dedicated Fundraising Manager for Stichting EIA.



### ***Governance of the Foundation***

Stichting EIA currently has four Directors, two of which are employed by EIA UK (Julian Newman and Mary Rice) and two by EIA's US office (Allan Thornton and Alexander von Bismarck). The individuals do not, and will not, receive any remuneration for their role as Directors of Stichting EIA, except for legitimate expenses. Between them the four Directors collectively have 105 years of experience in environmental campaigning and organisational management at EIA UK and EIA US.

In mid-2021 Stichting EIA's articles of association were amended to ensure all Directors have equal voting rights ensuring compliance with the requirements to achieve ANBI status. In addition the amendment ensures that the Directors cannot treat the Stichting's assets as personal assets as at least two directors are required to represent the Stichting).

Through regular meetings the Directors will ensure that the Stichting practices transparent and effective governance, such as verifying ensuring that at least 90% of activities conducted by Stichting EIA are in the public interest, specifically protection of nature and the environment, and no profits will be generated, and that all activities carried out are in line with the foundation's objective.

In addition the Directors will ensure the Policy Plan is openly available on the organisation's website, and that at the end of each financial year (which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December) a financial statement is produced showing income and expenditure is produced, with the annual accounts signed off by the Directors. This document will also be publicly available on the organisation's website.

Full particulars of the Directors can be found in the General Information section below.

## ***General Information***

Registered name: Stichting Environmental Investigation Agency

Organisation type: Foundation

Established: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013

KVK number: 57039925

RINS tax number: 852413774

Bank account: The Co-operative Bank, Islington Branch

1 Islington High Street, London N1 9TR.

Account number 68321022, sort code 08-90-33

Address:

Fluwelen Burgwal 58

2511CJ s-Gravenhage

Telephone: +31 70 217 1080

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

Email contact: [info@eia-international.org](mailto:info@eia-international.org)

Directors' Details:

Name; Alexander James von Bismarck

Date and place of birth: December 12, 1971 in Munich, Germany

Title: Board Member

Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)

Name; Julian Richard Newman

Date and place of birth: August 17, 1966 in Coventry, UK

Title: Board Member:

Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)

Name; Mary Rice

Date and place of birth: August 24, 1958 in Belfast, UK

Title: Board Member

Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)

Name; Allan Charles Thornton

Date and place of birth: November 17, 1949 in Windsor, Canada

Title: Board Member:

Authorisation; Jointly authorized with other directors (see articles of association)

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