

# IMPACT REPORT

—  
2019







**Celebrating**  
our Commitment of  
Giving Voice to and  
**Empowering Rural**  
Communities towards  
**DEVELOPMENT**



[ejfoundation.org](http://ejfoundation.org)

1 Amwell Street,  
London, EC1R 1UL

Registered charity  
no. 1088128

# CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ABOUT EJF                              | 1  |
| OUR IMPACT                             | 2  |
| HIGHLIGHTS                             | 3  |
| LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR     | 6  |
| PROTECTING OCEANS, WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE | 8  |
| GHANA                                  | 9  |
| WEST AFRICA                            | 12 |
| ASIA                                   | 13 |
| SOUTH KOREA                            | 18 |
| JAPAN                                  | 19 |
| PROMOTING EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP          | 20 |
| WORKING WITH INDUSTRY                  | 21 |
| SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES                 | 23 |
| CLIMATE AND FORESTS                    | 26 |
| FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND FUNDERS      | 27 |



# ABOUT EJF

**The Environmental Justice Foundation Charitable Trust is a UK registered charity that believes we all share a basic human right to a secure natural environment.**

Headquartered in the UK, by the close of 2019, EJF's investigative, research, film and campaign teams and community activists were based in nine countries across three continents: UK, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

Our work to secure environmental justice aims to protect our global climate, oceans, forests and wildlife and defend basic human rights.

## OUR MISSION | TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND PLANET



### Our Vision

**EJF's vision is for a world where natural habitats can sustain and be sustained by the communities directly dependent upon them.**

Our work gives voice to the concerns of some of the most vulnerable people on the planet, whose lives are inextricably linked to the protection of the natural environment, and who are increasingly affected by the devastating impacts of climate change. We believe that addressing key issues of environmental justice will be central to delivering long-term, durable solutions to many of the environmental challenges the world faces and that environmental protection is more than an issue of 'quality of life', all too often it is about life and death.

---

### Our Values

#### HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

We believe environmental security is a human right and that the health, security and protection of our natural world is essential to all human-kind.

#### EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

We believe in focusing on impact; our work is appropriate, cost-effective and efficient in delivering outcomes.

#### INNOVATION

We are dedicated to exploring innovative, inspirational and creative solutions to our goals, including building collaborations and partnerships with those who share our vision.

#### INDEPENDENCE

We are committed to independence and freedom from any political or religious affiliations, or any support that could compromise our aims, objectives or integrity.

#### RESPONSIVENESS

We are streamlined and focused enabling us to respond quickly to needs and opportunities.

#### TRANSPARENCY

We believe in transparency and accountability in our working practices to ensure that we maintain an effective impact.

#### EQUITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION & INCLUSIVENESS

We believe in equity and justice and a need to respect, protect and engage disempowered and marginalised communities most at risk from environmental degradation. We value and respect diverse cultures and beliefs and are committed to non-discrimination.

#### NON-VIOLENCE

We will always adhere to the principles of non-violence.



# OUR IMPACT

**Our ground-breaking investigative films and reports have prompted public, industry and government awareness and leveraged actions including new laws, policies and the means to implement them. Our work has led to more transparent, sustainable and equitable production and global supply chains and improved local, national and international governance of natural resources.**

EJF uses investigations to link local environmental concerns to international action. EJF adds value by forging innovative pathways to resolve some of the most critical environmental challenges our planet faces today. We're dynamic, efficient, dedicated and effective at making issues heard and problems resolved.

---

## 2019 Review

**In 2019, EJF's investigations and campaigns focused on:**

- **Defending** marine environments, wildlife and human rights from illegal and unsustainable fishing, marine pollution, and the degradation and loss of coastal habitats including mangroves and seagrasses.
- **Supporting** community action to protect marine biodiversity, sharks and turtles – and the ecosystems they depend upon.
- **Securing** legal protection for climate refugees and creating greater awareness of the impact of global heating and deforestation on human rights and biodiversity.
- **Reducing** the impact of global supply chains and consumption patterns on the environment and increasing the protection of our natural world by creating stronger governance and transparency.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## How We Work

### Leading field-based investigations to gather compelling evidence and expose environmental injustice.

- Building grassroots capacity and support for environmental defenders, helping them to use film and develop innovative ways to deliver positive change.
- Creating high-impact campaigns bringing our compelling evidence to the attention of influential decision-makers in public and private sectors.
- Building partnerships from the grassroots to global, and leveraging durable, systemic change to the way in which the natural environment is viewed and conserved.



EJF's evidence reaches the highest levels of national governments, international bodies such as the EU Parliament and Commission, and leading industry players in the EU, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and USA.



EJF provides training on our DASE smartphone app to over 700 fishers across 48 communities in Ghana's Central Region. DASE is a bespoke app that enables rapid, accurate geotagged reporting of illegal fishing. By early 2020, 51 vessel notifications are created.



EJF publishes 'alerts' on vessels suspected of illegal fishing linked to China, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Ghana, Guinea, Korea and Taiwan; dossiers on fishing fleets in Vietnam and Thailand.

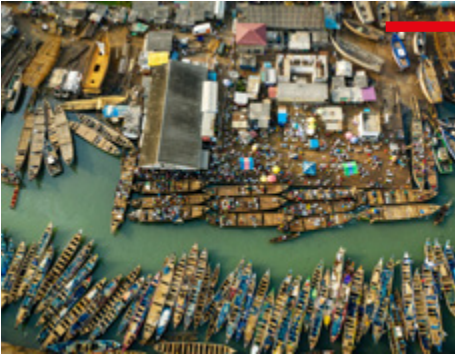


EJF campaigns feature in national print, online and global news and broadcast platforms, including: The Guardian, New York Times, Reuters, Bangkok Post, Jakarta Globe, Voice of America, Taipei Times and France24.



Our evidence results in the removal of 10 Chinese trawlers from the EU's list of Ghanaian authorised seafood exporters.





Ghana's Fisheries Minister commits to enforce rules against illegal 'saiko' fishing; Ghana's Fisheries Commission imposes a US\$1 million fine on a 'saiko' trawler.



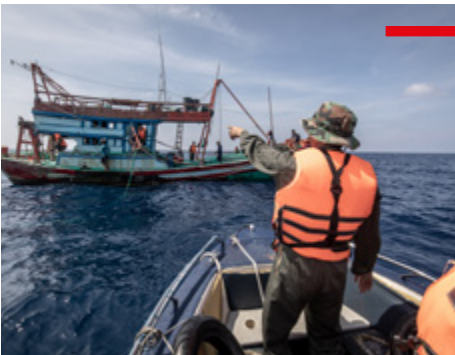
EJF Executive Director Steve Trent and Thai deputy director attend private meetings with Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and senior ministers to discuss illegal fishing.



The Thai Marine Department publishes a list of fishing vessels that have tried to avoid detection and enforcement by reflagging to other countries.



We investigate illegal fishing by Vietnam's fleet and publish 'Caught in the Net'.



EJF teams accompany the Royal Thai Police and Department of Fisheries on Poseidon as the enforcement vessel conducts at-sea patrols and arrests.



EJF works with communities and local organisations in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Brazil, documenting testimonies and witnessing first-hand the impact of global investment, demand and supply chains.



**COVER STORY: PALM OIL**

Indonesia's forests, wildlife and people are threatened by the continued expansion of oil palm plantations. More than half of the palm oil imported into the EU ends up in fuel tanks as so-called 'biodiesel'. In 2019 EJF joined forces with Transport and Environment to demand an end to palm oil biodiesel in Europe. In March, the EU proposed a phase-out of palm oil-based biofuels by 2030. Around 24 million hectares of Indonesian forests - an area almost the size of the UK - was razed between 1990 and 2015; Indonesia's oil palm plantations cover around 12 million hectares-a three-fold increase in less than two decades.





Our investigators in Indonesia gather evidence from former crew on 62 Taiwanese fishing vessels (mostly tuna long-liners) who cite the widespread and illegal catch of sharks, dolphins and turtles, and abuse of migrant workers.



EJF's executive director is invited to a private meeting with South Korea's Fisheries Minister. Recommendations for fisheries transparency are included in new legislation for the 'distant water' fishing fleet, passed in November.



EJF Taiwan's advocacy prompts the publication of the government's fishing vessel register in Chinese, and a list of Taiwanese-owned vessels operating under foreign flags.



Leading global law firm Linklaters provides pro bono support for a legal opinion on climate refugees and gaps in international law.



EJF expands its community science project to protect sharks and rays in Liberia, identifying six new sites for data collection, and training eleven staff and volunteers to use the DASE app.



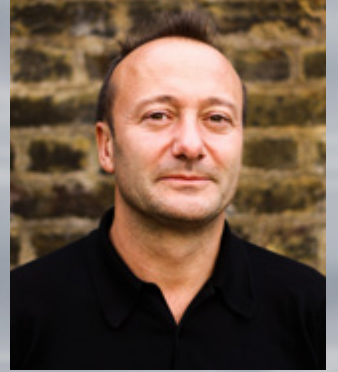
EJF works with Thai coastal communities to incentivise the collection of nylon fishing nets from the sea and reduce their impact on wildlife. Collected nets are recycled into innovative consumer products.

EJF investigators in Brazil document illegal logging and deliberate burning of the Amazon.



Tesco, M&S, Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Co-op along with 13 major UK seafood processors lend support to our Transparency Charter for Fisheries.

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As I write this, the world is responding to the Covid-19 pandemic that has travelled from a wildlife market in China to every habitable continent on our shared planet. Governments that were slow to react to the unfolding crisis are now locking down their economies and societies for the long-haul. A virus has shown us that we need fast, decisive and clear action to protect people from a 'natural' threat. The same must be true for the way in which we deal with the scale of the climate crisis and environmental breakdown. We cannot put a lockdown on runaway climate change or species extinctions. Nor can we wait.

Out of this tragic pandemic, there is an opportunity for change. We can and must rebuild our world for better: to be more resilient, fairer and greener. Determined leadership from policy makers and businesses can – and must - change behaviour and in doing so, give our natural world - and us - a fighting chance. And it is the growing public voice across each continent that gives me hope.

EJF is more determined than ever to help play a role and make a difference for environmental justice. Our work crosses between the 'great estates' of oceans, forests and climate to inspire people to act for the environment and human rights. In 2019, EJF investigators were in Brazil and Indonesia to uncover the devastating ecological impact of increasing global demand for soy, palm oil and beef; and at sea in West Africa and Asia, working with communities and with law enforcers to stop the illicit plunder of our oceans and abuse of human rights. We produced campaign films and reports covering issues from child labour in Vietnam's fisheries to reindeer herders threatened by climate change in Europe's Arctic. Our campaigners strengthened their work to secure protection for climate refugees; and with governments, EU and industry leaders to make fisheries more transparent, accountable and above all, sustainable, legal and ethical.

Underpinning our work is our long-standing commitment to communities and grassroots partners to help ensure their voices are heard. This year, our roll-out of EJF's app - 'DASE' (meaning "evidence" in the local Ghanaian Fante language), equipment and training to grassroots environmental defenders has helped gather and share vital evidence to inform and influence action and positive change. Whether it's a beach patrol to protect turtles in Ghana, a migrant worker documenting the slaughter of dolphins and sharks in Asia, or filmed testimonies from Brazilian communities affected by wildfires, EJF helps expose environmental injustices taking these issues to the centres of power globally, to build action and hope.

As we look to the future, we will redouble our commitment to protect our seas and oceans, taking a leading role to end illegal and unsustainable fishing; stop the exploitation of irreplaceable deep-sea environments and ensuring global measures to protect the high-seas and coastal ecosystems for future generations. We will expand our investigations and campaigns to other issues of environmental justice and strengthen our collective impact through partnerships and collaborations that give people a voice and inspire them with hope.

If Covid-19 has taught us one thing this year, it is that we must reset our relationship with Nature, recognising that people and our shared world are one and the same. We will strengthen our role to protect people, wildlife and our share planet. Thank you for your continued support.

**Steve Trent**  
Executive Director





**EJF WORKS TO  
ENHANCE GRASSROOTS  
CAPACITY TO PROTECT  
MARINE HABITATS.**

# PROTECTING OCEANS, WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

**EJF's major focus is to protect global ocean habitats and biodiversity, alongside 'blue carbon' – the carbon stored by ocean and coastal ecosystems and marine biomass. We campaign to end illegal and unsustainable fishing and 'seafood slavery' by changing the 'architecture' of fisheries management. This means building traceability, transparency and good governance across global seafood supply chains. Our goal is for legal, sustainable and ethical fisheries.**

EJF also works to enhance grassroots capacity to protect marine habitats including mangrove forests; incentivise reduced marine plastic pollution; and create partnerships to protect species including endangered turtles and sharks that are vital to healthy and productive oceans.

EJF brings detailed new information, evidence and compelling arguments for action, often iterated in our films and produced by investigations, undertaken on land and at sea, to expose abuses. We align investigations with high-impact, high-level advocacy, engaging directly with Prime Ministers, Presidents, senior Ministers and government officials to generate urgent action for positive change.

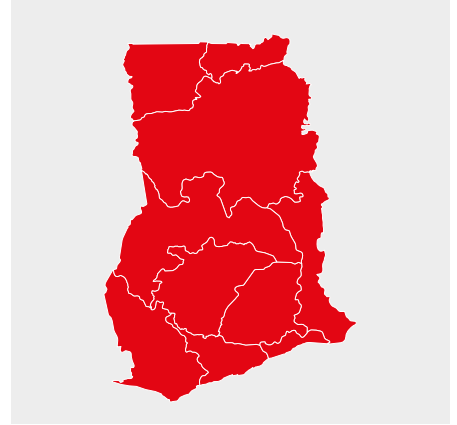
Central to the necessary reforms is the delivery of simple, "real-world" tools and mechanisms for transparency – simply knowing, monitoring and controlling who is fishing for what, where, when and how will help to ensure that illegal fishing is reduced. EJF's work is predicated on securing transparency that allows all stakeholders including governments, businesses and coastal communities to look closer and deeper into what is happening on and in our seas and oceans. It allows producers and retailers, alongside fisheries managers and enforcement agencies to leverage their limited funds and assets to apply a risk-based approach, identifying where illegal or unsustainable fishing is likely or where human trafficking and human rights abuses may be occurring.

Our Oceans campaign works in West Africa, Asia and Europe to secure transparency and support grassroots environmental and human rights defenders.





# GHANA



## **We work to expose and combat illegal ‘saiko’ fishing that involves trawlers targeting pelagic (open water) fish populations and transferring their catch to canoes destined for local markets.**

With an estimated 100,000 tonnes of fish traded through illegal saiko each year, this practice is fuelling the collapse of Ghana’s small-pelagic fishery, on which nearly 200 villages along the coast depend for their livelihood and food security. Over the past 10 - 15 years, incomes of small-scale fishers have declined by as much as 40%, and over half of Ghana’s fish requirements are now met by imports. This, in turn, has forced some small-scale fishing communities to resort to illegal and unsustainable activities including banned fishing nets, dynamite fishing and poaching wildlife.

EJF brings challenging at-sea investigations and community surveillance together to leverage actions from government and industry. In 2019, our community engagement was particularly prolific thanks to ‘DASE’ (‘evidence’ in the local dialect): a smartphone app developed by EJF to enable fishers to document and report on illegal activities encountered at sea. Reports and photos are helping to build a significant body of evidence that informs improvements to policy and enforcement.

In 2019, EJF supported over 700 fishers across 48 communities in Ghana’s Central Region, providing training on our DASE smartphone app to enable rapid, accurate geo-tagged reporting of illegal fishing.

A number of geo-tagged cameras and smartphones as well as the DASE app were provided to fishers. DASE was presented to the Ghanaian Fisheries Commission in August 2019, and widespread deployment with fishermen began in September. By early 2020, 51 notifications had been received, including three trawlers and 14 semi-industrial boats operating illegally in the inshore areas; two cases of fishing-gear destruction; one case of falsification of vessel markings; and four new industrial trawlers arriving in Ghana from China (awaiting licensing).

Following these initial successes, we will roll out the DASE smartphone app across West Africa and into Asia to support community-led fisheries monitoring and evidence-gathering.

Twenty vessel alerts - including six that were informed by grassroots monitoring - were submitted to the Ghanaian Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Division. These include the findings of our two saiko investigations and an at-sea investigation during which EJF filmed three vessels fishing illegally in the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ).

EJF’s monitoring of canoe landings at Elmina - the main saiko port in Ghana - together with at-sea investigations and analysis were presented in our report and accompanying film, *Stolen at Sea*, which highlights the disastrous impact of the illegal trade. Media coverage included the Guardian and a screening followed by panel discussions on two Ghanaian TV stations, and in fishing communities. After visiting Elmina in October, the EU Ambassador to Ghana urged the Government to combat saiko; and our evidence was presented to the Fisheries Commission, and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Fisheries. In September, we presented it to the West Africa Task Force to inform the regional work to end this form of illegal transfer of fish at sea.

EJF’s advocacy led to the Minister changing policy and announcing that rules against saiko would be enforced; the 2020 budget statement included a commitment to ban any domestic or foreign saiko vessel from operating in Ghana’s waters.

Concrete enforcement actions have been taken: the enforcement agency instigated cases against vessels engaged in saiko and dumping fish at sea: over 80 cases dating from 2018 were taken to the out-of-court settlement committee in December. In November, a patrol by the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) resulted in the arrest of two trawlers catching under-sized fish. Additional saiko cases are currently being processed and will be heard by the Committee in 2020.

In October, the Fisheries Commission imposed the first ever US\$1 million fine on a trawler for illegally targeting juvenile small pelagic fish for saiko. EJF issued a press release and called on the Government to ensure the fine is paid and publicised to serve as a deterrent to others.

Following the October 2018 release of our report *China's hidden fleet in West Africa* which exposes the extent of Chinese ownership of trawlers operating under the Ghanaian flag - we commissioned a legal team to examine the Fisheries Act provisions that prohibit foreign beneficial ownership, as well as investment laws that are potentially flouted by foreign fishing companies. The lawyers delivered their findings in November, which EJF summarised in a briefing and presented to agencies including the Ghana Revenue Authority and Ghana Investment Promotion Centre.

In 2019, our evidence resulted in ten Chinese trawlers being deleted from the EU's list of Ghanaian authorised seafood exporters.

In April, EJF met with the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), which is pushing for broader acceptance of 'IMO numbers' on fishing vessels and a region-wide vessel license list. Together with Ghanaian NGOs, we are discussing how Ghanaian reforms could be replicated by the FCWC Regional Strategy to Combat Illegal Trans-shipment at Sea, and by publishing a regional license list.



**In 2019, EJF supported over 700 fishers across 48 communities in Ghana's Central Region.**





“a stronger voice  
in decision making  
for fisheries.”



# WEST AFRICA



## INVESTIGATIONS AND OUTREACH

**Building the capacity and opportunities for evidence-gathering has been a key focus of our work in Sierra Leone, with camera and drone training provided to our long-term community advocate in Bonthe, Sherbro Island (in January 2020). Between November 2019 and March 2020, information from Bonthe resulted in 5 ‘Vessel Alerts’.**

An EJF alert on the unlicensed trawler, Hong Chang 2, that was fishing illegally in Sierra Leonean waters (November) resulted in an investigation and a fine of \$500,000.

The vessel Mahawa - photographed in Sierra Leone in late 2018 - prompted investigation by Guinea and was found to be operating illegally under both Guinea and Sierra Leone flags. In 2019, Sierra Leone de-registered the vessel, whilst Guinean authorities sanctioned (April) and later de-registered the vessel.

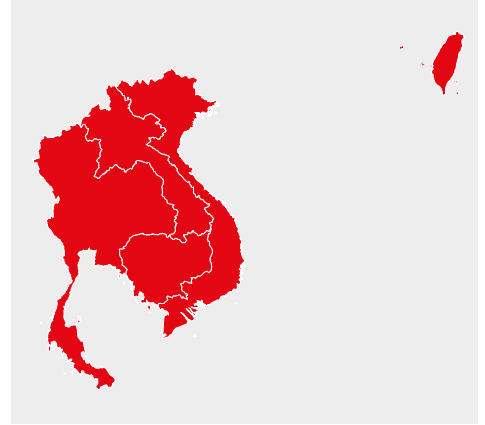
Using satellite vessel monitoring, we were able to produce four vessel alerts relating to Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia; all alerts have prompted follow-up investigations by the Sierra Leonean authorities.

In December, EJF learned that the EU Delegation in Liberia had approved a grant for our work to build local capacity for fishers to document illegal fishing and have a stronger voice in decision making for fisheries. Our new four-year project will expand the community engagement to additional fishing areas to give wider coverage and help create a strong network to share learning and impact.





# ASIA



## THAILAND

**EJF has worked in Thailand since 2012 when our first investigations exposed widespread illegal practices and brutal treatment of migrants working in the fishing industry. EJF was instrumental in securing action under the EU's 'IUU Regulation' and leveraged support from the Royal Thai Government (RTG) to end 'seafood slavery' and conserve fish populations.**

EJF was invited to become an advisor to the RTG and has provided influential technical guidance and support, alongside training and participation in enforcement operations.

EJF has a unique role: we have participated in at-sea patrols on Poseidon (the Thai Government's patrol vessel) and in port inspections, whilst also undertaking our own independent monitoring of enforcement measures.

**EJF's work over the past seven years has led to an entirely new legal framework to govern fisheries and a radically improved management and enforcement regime to protect Thailand's marine resources.**

In June and October 2019, Steve Trent, EJF's ED, and our Thailand representative were invited to private meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, Ministers and high-ranking personnel from the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture. This was the fifth such meeting between Steve Trent and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and leadership and his most recent trip to Bangkok (October) was an important opportunity to call for further critical reforms to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated human rights abuses, including measures for transparency and the eradication of flags of convenience.

Our access is unique and enables us to present expert analysis and recommendations to the very highest levels of government. In-depth technical meetings with senior staff at the Department of Fisheries focus on the delivery of measures such as the publication of Thailand's vessel license list; a watchlist of known or suspected IUU vessels; and fishing vessels that have re-flagged from Thailand to other flag States (with lower enforcement of fisheries violations). In late 2019, we shared *Thailand's road to reform*, a briefing detailing the benefits of fisheries reforms that are backed by testimony from artisanal fishers.

The Thai Marine Department published a list of Thai fishing vessels that had reflagged to other countries over the previous four years: a major step forward to building transparency in the sector.

EJF researchers accompanied the Royal Thai Police and Department of Fisheries (DoF) on the enforcement vessel Poseidon as it conducted at-sea patrols that arrested eight Vietnamese fishing vessels and their 48 crew members.

EJF observed three inspections of refrigerated ships suspected of illegally transferring cargoes and crew; and was invited by the DoF to investigate Wisdom Sea, arrested by Thai officials in September.

In June 2019, we published *Blood and Water: Human rights abuse in the global seafood industry*, a report detailing slavery, debt bondage, squalor, physical and sexual assault, and even murder aboard fishing vessels. It draws extensively on investigations in Thailand and evidence from 12 other countries.

Our high-level work is strengthened by our grassroots engagement. In June, we convened a strategy meeting with ten environmental, fisher and labour organisations bringing together discussions on the Thai fishing industry. In April, in cooperation with Thai Sea Watch Association and Federation of Fisherfolk Associations (key artisanal fisher organisations in Prachuab Khiri Khan province), we piloted our Fisheries Information Network (FIN).



The aim was to both test the responses from fishers and assess how participants can be well-protected, especially when at sea. We also worked with Sea Watch Association to conduct surveys with small-scale fishers across 11 coastal provinces and conducted visits to 12 communities around the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.

We collected testimonies on how fisheries reforms have improved livelihoods and underpinned Thailand's Road to Reform to ensure that progress is entrenched and irreversible. The report was shared with the Thai Government and international agencies such as the EU Delegation and US Embassy in Bangkok. EJF continues to work with local CSOs and the Migrant Working Group to screen and identify victims of human trafficking, forced labour or labour violations, and on the implementation of labour laws relevant to fisheries. With Freedom Fund and local groups, EJF gave a seminar on improving the Government's 'PIPO' mechanism to monitor fishing vessels arriving or leaving ports (a key means to identify illegal or abusive activities).

## VIETNAM

EJF has collected extensive, detailed evidence of illegal fishing in Vietnam's fishing sector. Undertaking a field investigation in May, 45 crew were interviewed and over 230 surveys from Vietnamese fishermen detained in Thailand were collated. In November, we published a report and film, *Caught in the Net: Illegal fishing and child labour in Vietnam's fishing fleet*. This details evidence of Vietnam's decimation of fish populations that has resulted in the illegal expansion of the fleet across Southeast Asia, and with it, abuse of workers on board vessels.

EJF researchers accompanied the Royal Thai Police and Department of Fisheries on the enforcement vessel Poseidon as it conducted at-sea patrols that arrested eight Vietnamese fishing vessels and their 48 crew members.





## TAIWAN

**EJF tracked the Taiwanese Government's response to the EU's 'yellow card' (2015) because of failures to control illegal fishing; we have been active in the country and investigated violations in the fishing fleet for the past three years. In 2018, investigations into the Taiwanese fleet exposed the illegal killing of dolphins, sharks and turtles, and the violent abuse meted out to Indonesian migrant workers. In 2018, our evidence of the tuna longline fishing boat, Fuh Sheng 11, prompted the Taiwanese fisheries agency to impose its first-ever sanction for human rights abuse on a fishing vessel.**

The Taiwanese Government has committed to improving transparency in the fleet; EJF will provide technical and policy recommendations to support this goal.

EJF's investigators travelled to Indonesia to interview fishermen who had worked on Taiwanese high seas tuna fishing vessels; their evidence of IUU fishing and human rights abuses prompted the Taiwanese Government to investigate. In June, the European Commission lifted the 'yellow card' and committed to an IUU Working Group with the Taiwanese Government: the first meeting will take place in January 2020 and we will submit our recommendations for greater transparency.

**By early 2020, EJF had compiled evidence on 62 Taiwanese IUU vessels, sharing with the Government alongside the EU, US government agencies and industry partners.**

Migrant workers from 31 vessels (50%) reported illegal shark finning; crew from 14 vessels reported that their vessels intentionally killed or possessed protected marine mammals, including seven vessels (11%) that had killed false killer whales and eight vessels (14%) that deliberately captured dolphins. These animals were butchered to be used as bait to catch sharks, which are illegally 'fined' at sea and their bodies discarded.

Crew members also complained of slave-like conditions at sea: forced to work excessively long hours (up to 20 hours per day with little rest); physical and verbal abuse including being hit or kicked by the captain; one Indonesian worker was locked in the fish freezer and electrocuted.

Our dossier of evidence was presented to industry and policymakers including Ministers with cross-cutting remits (transparency and human trafficking), and the influential Deputy Minister of the Council of Agriculture. We have provided policy analysis to the EU Delegation and prompted exchanges between Taiwanese and European industry.

Taiwan has shown progress in adopting some of the measures in our Transparency Charter, and pressure from EJF and an NGO coalition resulted in the Executive Yuan (Government cabinet) committing that domestic laws will be aligned with ILO Convention C188 (Work in Fishing Convention), one of the measures advocated by EJF.

Taiwan has now published a Chinese-version of its vessel registry as well as a list of Taiwanese-owned vessels that operate under a foreign flag. Although not included in the Distant Water Fisheries Act, the Fisheries Agency committed that vessels will be required to have IMO numbers. The Minister tasked with Government-wide transparency will review the potential to publish vessel monitoring data and beneficial ownership of fishing vessels, which will be a significant step towards transparency.



**INVESTIGATIONS FOUND TAIWANESE BOATS  
DELIBERATELY KILLING DOLPHINS TO USE AS SHARK BAIT**



EJF's work over the past seven years has led to an entirely new legal framework to govern fisheries





In December, EJF Korea's lead campaigner was appointed as a policy advisor to the Ministry.





# SOUTH KOREA



**EJF has been active in South Korea since 2013 when the EU gave the country a ‘yellow card’ for its failures to curb illegal fishing by its distant water fishing fleet. EJF’s evidence had supported the EU’s decision: from 2010 to early 2014, our community patrols and investigations unveiled a large number of Korean-flagged vessels operating illegally in West Africa, particularly in Sierra Leone.**

EJF became a formal fisheries advisor to the Government in 2014 and a number of important changes have been made to the way the Korean fleet is monitored and managed. Our work is helping to build stronger transparency in seafood supply chains and expose illegal activities by Korean vessels.

In April 2019, we released a DNA study that showed high levels of mislabelling of seafood sold in restaurants, markets and shops: over one-third of samples tested were mislabelled (as different species). The findings featured in Korean and other media including The Guardian. EJF recommendations are informing discussions at Ministerial level, and within the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF).

**The Government’s failure to sanction two vessels for fishing illegally in the Antarctic (2017) resulted in EJF’s critique featuring in high-profile media and prompted the MOF to host several meetings with us. In April, we recommended a series of amendments to the Ministerial Ordinance, most of which were accepted and implemented by August.**

In October, the Minister for Fisheries invited EJF’s Executive Director to a meeting in which we raised three priorities: the adoption of key transparency measures in the revisions to the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act (IMO numbers, publication of license lists and publication of vessel sanctions); start work to ratify ILO Convention C188 (Work in Fishing); and the need to establish a cross-government taskforce to deal with the complicated cases of Korean-owned but foreign-flagged vessels that are operating illegally in West Africa and Somalia.

EJF and our local partners (KFEM, CIES, WWF Korea) participated in a working group - including government, industry and NGOs – considering the revision of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act (DWFDA) and the means to categorize serious IUU fishing infringements and sanctions. In September, the United States announced that it was placing Korea on a preliminary list of IUU fishing nations and recommended the prompt revision of the DWFDA. EJF submitted a briefing to the EU ahead of the IUU Working Group bilateral meeting, and press releases highlighted these important legal reforms.

EJF also worked with WWF Korea and the Korean Maritime Institute to host the Conference for Sustainable Fisheries Management in Seoul in November, in which we raised awareness of the need to improve fisheries transparency and traceability. EJF and NGO partners hosted events advocating for the adoption of the ILO Convention C188 and raised the issue directly with the Minister. In November, the Plan on Distant Water Fisheries Safety and Welfare was published, including preparation for the adoption of ILO Convention C188 to address labour conditions in fisheries.

In November, the amended DWFDA was given parliamentary approval and will be effective from November 2020. The Act includes EJF’s priority recommendations including the publication of license lists and vessel sanctions.

In December, following a meeting with the new Fisheries Minister and our positive contribution to the DWFDA revision, EJF Korea’s lead campaigner was appointed as a policy advisor to the Ministry. EJF also submitted a proposal for a regular, formal policy dialogue between high-level MOF officials and NGOs: 11 national and international environmental NGOs are now included in the public-private ocean environment policy committee which EJF will coordinate.



# JAPAN



## As a major market, Japan's policies to combat IUU fishing could have a crucial effect on fishing nations such as Taiwan and South Korea.

In May, EJF and our European IUU Coalition partners co-hosted an event with the Japanese NGO Seafood Legacy at the influential international gathering, 'Seafood Expo Global'. The event in Brussels gave a platform for officials from the EU, Japan and Thailand as well as industry representatives to discuss IUU fishing. The leading European seafood industry group – Europêche – gave positive feedback on the EU's 'catch certificate scheme' which inspired support amongst Japanese industry representatives.

A similar event was held with the Japanese seafood industry during the Seaweb meeting in Bangkok; and together with Seafood Legacy we hosted a panel event and screened a new film on abuses in Japanese seafood supply chains at the Tokyo Sustainable Seafood Summit (the largest event of its kind in Asia). EJF met with the Japanese Government to highlight findings from our Indonesian field investigations and connections to Japanese seafood supply chains: we analysed the movements of vessels linked to IUU fishing and identified 22 trans-shipments at sea (involving seven Taiwanese vessels and 11 Japan-bound refrigerated cargo vessels). The Japanese Government has invited us to share our evidence with them and agreed to raise concerns with the Taiwanese Government.



EJF PRESENTS OUR TRANSPARENCY CHARTER AT THE SEAFOOD EXPO GLOBAL IN MAY.



# PROMOTING EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP

**The EU's Regulation on IUU fishing has led to 'yellow card' warnings and 'red card' trade bans being given to nations that fail to curb illegal fishing. EJF and our partners in the European NGO coalition (EJF, Oceana, Pew Charitable Trusts, The Nature Conservancy and WWF) are working to maintain EU leadership in improving global fisheries governance and combating IUU fishing across the globe.**

EJF regularly provides evidence, information and analysis to the EU Commission's DG Mare - IUU Fishing Unit. This includes alerts on specific vessels operating in or flagged by countries of interest and dossiers to inform the EU's bilateral IUU working groups. In 2019, we issued alerts relating to Sierra Leone, Somalia, Ghana, Guinea, Korea and Taiwan (including a number of vessels flagged to other states such as Panama but owned by Taiwanese companies). We have also provided dossiers on Vietnam and Thailand and special briefings to inform bilateral discussions with post-carded countries (Ghana, Taiwan and South Korea). Ahead of the EU's IUU Working Group with China (June 2019), EJF provided a dossier of all our 'vessel alerts' relevant to the Chinese-owned fleet operating in West Africa. The IUU Unit reported that Chinese authorities were receptive to engaging individual cases; China is also considering the adoption of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, which would be a major advance for our ambitions.

EJF and our coalition partners are calling for the EU - with one of the largest distant water fishing fleets in the world - to push for more consistency across the regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and the adoption of transparency measures by Contracting Parties. In 2019, nine proposals designed to tackle IUU fishing were adopted across the NGO coalition's 4 target RFMOs.

EJF is also working with the EU IUU coalition to promote the alignment of the 'catch documentation schemes' between the EU, Japan and USA, which will help create a 'level-playing field' for seafood production and trade. Several events have been organised (Brussels, Tokyo) and the coalition will launch a report at the European Parliament in January 2020. In late 2019, EJF and its partner NGOs secured further funding for a coalition to work with EU institutions to improve control measures for European fishing vessels, including through the introduction of cameras to monitor and verify what they catch.

The European Commission praised EJF's initiative to secure greater fisheries transparency: DG Mare invited EJF to present our vision, including actions to end the use of flags of convenience by fishing vessels and our plans for a report on the practice due for publication in mid-2020.



# WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

**EJF supports greater transparency within industry supply chains. In March, Tesco, M&S, Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Co-op along with 13 major seafood processors gave support to our Transparency Charter.**

We are working to secure stronger action in the major fishing nations supplying these companies: an industry-signed letter called on the Royal Thai Government to maintain fisheries reforms opposed by some within the fishing industry. In Korea, New England Seafood and Tesco participated in meetings with Ministry officials and fishing companies to highlight European industry calls for greater transparency. This was followed by the Korean Government adopting measures advocated by EJF and European industry.

We are also working with WWF, Pew and leading retailers and processors to provide practical implementation guidance for our Code of Practice, which gives detailed recommendations to help industry avoid seafood linked to illegal or unethical practices. The Seafood Ethics Alliance - comprising the UK's leading retailers, processors and brands - has agreed to support this process; companies that have signed the Transparency Charter have committed to use the Code in their supply chains.

Elsewhere, EJF: launched the German version of the Advisory Note together with the industry association Hamburger Waren-Verein and WWF; presented to an industry event in Milan organized by WWF Italia; and worked with Dutch partners to develop a version of our seafood risk mitigation tool for the Netherlands.



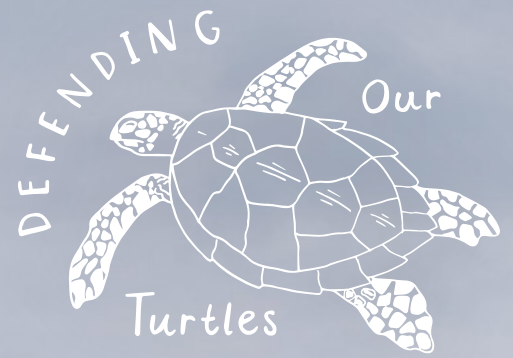




In southern Thailand, EJF undertook three pilot trials to collect discarded nylon fishing nets from the sea.



# SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES



## 'NET FREE SEAS' IN THAILAND

**'Ghost gears' are fishing gears that are lost or discarded at sea. They are hugely harmful debris which continue to entangle, injure and kill marine wildlife including whales, dolphins, seals and turtles.**

In southern Thailand, EJF undertook three pilot trials to collect discarded nylon fishing nets from the sea. The collected nets are made into pellets from which innovators are devising prototypes including surfboard fins and automotive parts.

Working with the Thai Department of Fisheries (DoF) we designed a survey to estimate the volume of discarded crab nets in 70 fishing communities across three coastal provinces. Together with the DoF, we visited eight communities and met with recycling companies, nylon manufacturers, and companies producing consumer goods, who will help us to refine the project's supply chain. The EJF team showcased the project at a panel event during the Seaweb meeting and at UNEP's SEA of Solutions Conference held in Bangkok in November. The pilot project is showing initial success and we have the DoF's support to help scale and replicate the work in 2020.





## SHARKS, RAYS AND TURTLES - WEST AFRICA

**For the past seven years EJF's community science project has worked with fishers to gather data and photos of sharks and rays traded in landing sites in Liberia.**

This has provided unique information on the threats to shark and ray species in Liberian waters: the project - which works in three of the nine coastal counties of Liberia - has now recorded 19 species, all of which are found on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and include the critically endangered Great Hammerhead Shark. Community scientists are trained to take measurements and identify the sex of the landed shark or ray as well as gathering data on the numbers landed. This is, for the first time, building a comprehensive database to inform the management and conservation of sharks and rays. Six new landing sites were identified where data collection will be developed in 2020, and eleven EJF staff and volunteers were trained to use the DASE app for data collection.

West Africa's rich marine waters provide home and breeding grounds to five (of the world's seven) species of turtle: green, hawksbill, loggerhead, leatherback and olive ridley. All are endangered or critically endangered. In Liberia, five volunteer teams are trained and equipped to patrol the beaches protecting nests and the females that are vulnerable to capture as they come ashore to lay their eggs. In 2018, 48 turtles were known to have been killed; by 2019 this figure had dropped to 11. Whilst the number of nests that were damaged remained tragically high, the proportion of nests destroyed fell significantly, whilst the number of turtles seen doubled. In Ghana, our 'turtle defenders' use radio to raise local awareness, and our seven volunteer beach patrollers are members of a popular local football team, providing a unique opportunity to engage the community and facilitate turtle releases.



In Liberia, five volunteer teams are trained and equipped to patrol the beaches protecting the turtles' nests.







Saving Our



FORESTS



# CLIMATE AND FORESTS

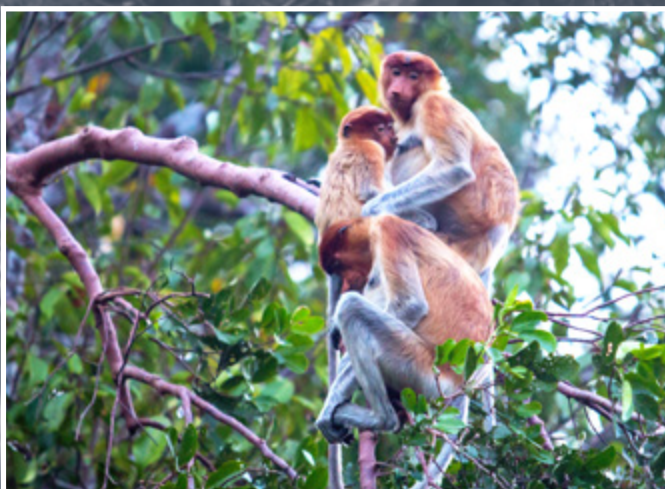
**Climate change is the most profound global threat to environmental security and human rights. With carbon emissions failing to slow, EJF is redoubling its commitment to support all efforts that can bring positive impact in mitigating climate change.**

For the past decade EJF has been the lead NGO campaigning for the rights of climate refugees. Our reports and films have highlighted the impact of climate change on human rights and called for climate justice to protect those who have contributed least to climate change, but who suffer its first and worst impacts. In 2019, we were given pro bono support from leading global law firm Linklaters, that resulted in a legal opinion on climate refugees. We will use the expert opinion to engage and inform decision makers on the need for a new legal framework to protect climate refugees.

In 2019, our work expanded to new areas where our investigations, campaigns and advocacy can lend real value. Following an investigative trip to Indonesia in 2018, EJF produced a film calling on the EU to curb the transport sector's demands for palm oil. EJF is calling for an end to deforestation for palm oil. We are working with a number of environmental NGOs demanding change and closely monitoring policy making in Europe, as parliamentarians realise that there is nothing 'green' about palm oil biodiesel. EU biofuels policy is beginning to take account of the emissions caused by the deforestation and drainage of carbon-rich ecosystems. The revised Renewable Energy Directive – which was put to the European Parliament by the Commission in March 2019 – expelled palm oil from the EU's renewable energy targets (a final phase-out by 2030). Developing our work to protect Indonesia's forests, EJF undertook scoping research in West Papua, where the Governor has pledged to protect 70% of the forests. Our research and plans to push for longer-term moratoria on oil palm plantations has been largely restricted in scope due to the unrest in West Papua over the second half of the year; and we will hope to develop activities in 2020.

**In August, the Brazilian forest fires prompted EJF to undertake an investigation into some of the key factors – including soy and beef – prompting the deliberate burning and the impacts on biodiversity and indigenous communities. Similarly, research began into biofuels and biomass, with a focus on the impact of energy production from wood that is contributing to – rather than reducing – carbon emissions.**

We also focused attention on research and development for our campaign to value and protect 'blue carbon' – the carbon captured by the world's oceans and coastal ecosystems. Our aim is to conserve mangrove forests from unsustainable development, including for export-driven shrimp production; and for greater recognition for the positive impact of 'marine biomass' in mitigating climate change. A report on climate change and its impacts on coral reefs will also be published in January 2020.



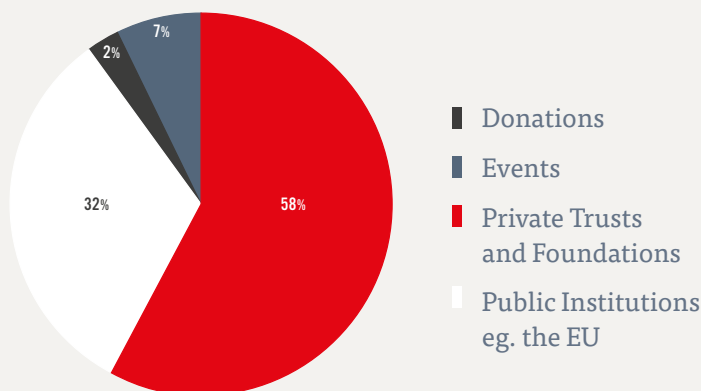


# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The vast majority of EJF's income arises from grants given by private trusts and foundations and public bodies, including the EU Commission's funding streams. Public support comes from donations, events (such as £150,000 from Durham University) and partnerships (hotels and restaurants supporting our World Oceans Day celebrations), alongside the sale of our campaign T-shirts and other merchandise, and sale of film and photos to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

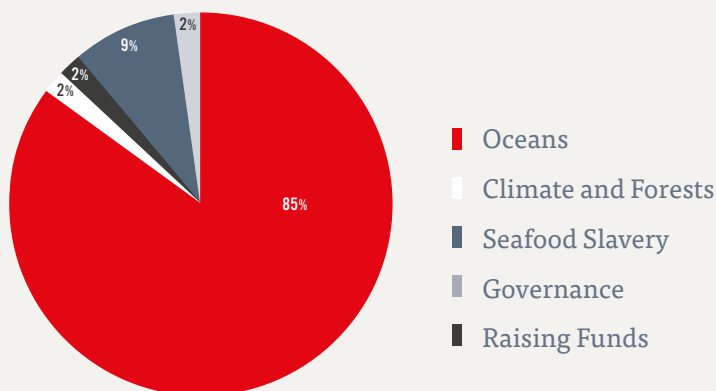
## Income

£2,613,414 | (2018 - £2,070,348)



## Expenditure

£2,347,242 | (2018 - £1,796,921)



# FUNDERS

EJF is grateful to a number of private and public grant-makers whose funding supports our campaigns and programmes. **In 2019, these include:**

ADESIUM FOUNDATION

ARCADIA

EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (EUROPEAID)

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT (BMZ)

HUMANITY UNITED

LEVINE FAMILY FOUNDATION

OAK FOUNDATION

OCEANS 5

THE NORTHWICK TRUST

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION

THE WATERLOO FOUNDATION

WWF (FISH FORWARD 2)

We would like to extend an especial thanks to the wonderful student team with **Durham University's Charity Fashion Show**, which raised an astonishing **£150,000** donation in March; and to **Crane Kalman Gallery (London)** and artist **Jethro Buck** for the sale of a beautiful artwork, with all proceeds donated to EJF.





**PROTECTING  
PEOPLE AND  
PLANET**





Protecting People and Planet



**[ejfoundation.org](http://ejfoundation.org)**

With our thanks to Jenny Patterson for  
her generous support designing this report.

[jennyevadesign.com](http://jennyevadesign.com)