



IMPACT REPORT & ACCOUNTS

PROTECTING PEOPLE
AND PLANET



2024

The Environmental Justice Foundation charitable trust (EJF) exists to protect the natural world and defend our shared human right to a secure environment.

With global reach, EJF has headquarters in the UK and a unitary structure including country programmes in Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. This report reflects our local and global campaigns to protect our ocean, wetlands, forests and climate for biodiversity and for people.

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ABOUT EJF

OUR MISSION

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) exists to protect our global climate, ocean, forests, wetlands, wildlife and defend the fundamental human right to a secure natural environment, recognising that all other rights are contingent on this.

EJF is a bold, informed risk-taker with a dedicated global team working in some of the toughest and most remote countries to bring attention to environmental crimes and human rights abuses that are often overlooked.

We work internationally to inform policy and drive systemic, durable reforms to protect our environment and defend human rights. We investigate and expose abuses and support environmental defenders, Indigenous peoples, communities and independent journalists on the frontlines of environmental injustice.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a world where natural habitats and environments can sustain and be sustained by the communities that depend upon them for their basic needs and livelihoods. Our campaigns aim to secure peaceful, equitable and sustainable futures.

OUR WORK

INVESTIGATIONS AND FILMMAKING

Our investigations and films expose threats to our natural world and grassroots communities.

GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS

Our strategic advocacy brings together cutting-edge research, film and investigations that leverage changes to the architecture of environmental protection and governance.

GRASSROOTS EMPOWERMENT

We deliver vital support, training and equipment to environmental defenders, Indigenous peoples and investigative journalists in the Global South, helping amplify their voices to secure change.

PROTECTING
PEOPLE AND PLANET
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OUR PROGRAMMES

PROTECTING THE OCEAN

- Securing stronger ocean governance for sustainable fisheries
- Building collaboration for effective marine conservation
- Protecting the deep ocean from mining
- Preventing marine plastic pollution

PRESERVING WETLANDS AND FORESTS

- Protecting critical biomes for nature, people and climate

SECURING CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Conserving nature's carbon stores in our ocean, wetlands and forests
- Amplifying the voices of climate refugees

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

- Enabling grassroots environmental activism and conservation leadership to thrive
- Building opportunities for investigative environmental journalism

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

A YEAR OF BOLD ACTION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

For over 20 years, EIJ has defended the fundamental right to a safe, sustainable environment. We combine grassroots partnerships, bold investigations, and policy advocacy to drive lasting systemic change—always working with and for communities on the frontlines of environmental injustice.

THIS YEAR, I'M PROUD TO SHARE JUST SOME OF THE BOLD STEPS WE'VE TAKEN TOGETHER:

Uncovered abuses at sea, exposing illegal fishing and violent human rights abuses by China's distant-water fleet.

Secured policy wins with the UK and South Korea backing new global standards for fisheries governance.

Amplified community power and trained activists from small-scale fishers in West Africa to grassroots defenders in Brazil's Pantanal wetlands.

Shared frontline climate stories, bringing voices from the frontlines of forced migration in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp to world leaders.

Equipped communities with tools and training for sustainable small-scale fisheries, protecting food security while building livelihoods and resilience.

Trained local journalists in five countries to expose environmental crimes and hold power to account.

Campaigned to stop deep-sea mining plans in Norway, helping protect critical biodiversity.

Held climate finance to account, triggering real shifts in investment practices in East Asia.

Defended hard-won reforms in Thailand's fisheries sector.

Drove action for a strong global treaty on plastic pollution and strengthened grassroots action against ocean plastic.

Exposed ocean exploitation fueling forced labour and migration— films and reports set to be released in 2025.

This work reflects the passion and dedication of our global team. But the threats to our natural world and communities on the front lines are growing. Our mission has never been more urgent—and our resolve has never been stronger.

To our funders, Patrons, supporters, and partners: thank you. Your trust and support make all of our work possible.

Steve Trent
Founder and CEO

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

EIJ is profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of our private and statutory funders, as well as the generous individuals and businesses who stand with us. Your commitment fuels our mission for a just and sustainable world—where people and nature not only coexist but thrive together. Your belief in our work makes lasting change possible.

THIS YEAR, WE WERE HONOURED TO BE SUPPORTED BY:

- Arcadia Fund
- Bloomberg Ocean Fund
- Dropbox Foundation
- Dunn Family Charitable Fund
- Fisheries Governance Project
- Global Fishing Watch
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Humanity United
- Meridian Institute
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- Norwegian Retailers Environment Fund
- Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (European Commission)
- Oak Foundation
- Oceankind
- Oceans 5
- Patagonia
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- Tara Climate Ltd
- The Rufford Foundation
- The Waterloo Foundation
- US State Department
- Walton Family Foundation

2024 IMPACT

14

CAMPAIGN REPORTS

11,500+

REPORT VIEWINGS ONLINE
IN OVER 130 COUNTRIES

8

MAJOR INVESTIGATIVE
FILMS PRODUCED

10

POLICY BRIEFINGS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2,045

MEDIA MENTIONS

01. SOMALIA

4 articles on illegal fishing and coastal protection published by trained journalists

02. THAILAND, INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES

520+ interviews with migrant fishers

03. THAILAND

59 tonnes of discarded fishing gear retrieved from the sea | \$19,900 generated for communities

04. INDONESIA

10 investigative journalists trained and 8 articles published | 9.2 tonnes of discarded fishing gear retrieved from the sea | \$4,500 generated for communities

05. SENEGAL & CAMEROON

17 illegal fishing vessel alerts

06. LIBERIA

91 fishermen trained in our DASE app to document illegal fishing | 70 fishermen trained to conduct at-sea rescues, and 23 lives saved | 960 women benefited from Village Savings and Loans Associations | \$115,000 saved by VSLAs

07. BRAZIL

50+ Indigenous firefighters trained to use drones | 597,000 hectares of native grasslands, flooded savannas and forests protected

08. GHANA

467 fishing community voices drive improvements to fisheries bill

09. TAIWAN

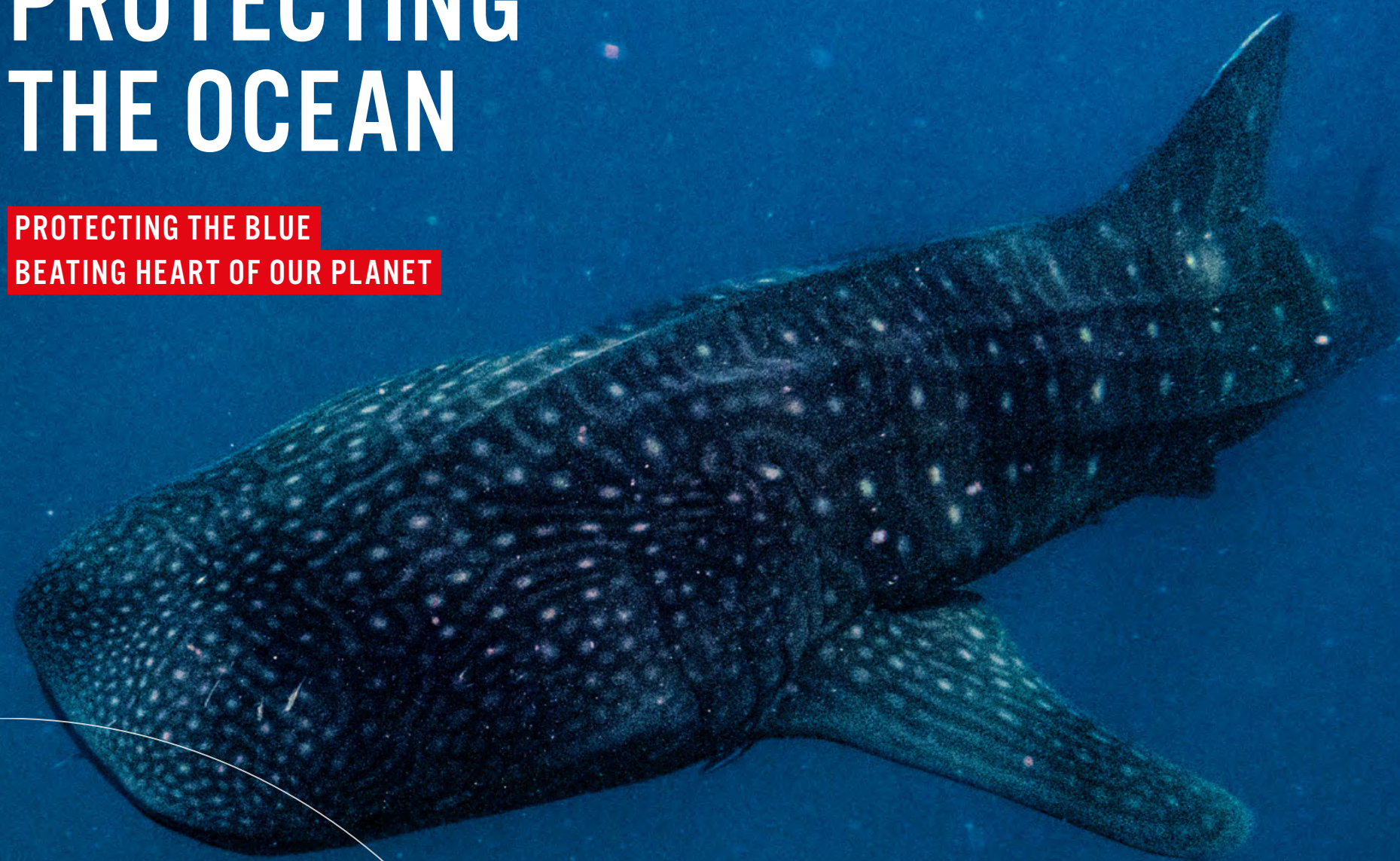
3 illegal fishing vessel alerts submitted to Taiwan Fisheries Agency



OUR WORK

PROTECTING THE OCEAN

PROTECTING THE BLUE
BEATING HEART OF OUR PLANET



The ocean is our planet's life force—covering over 70% of the Earth's surface, producing more oxygen than all the world's forests combined, and harbouring a vast web of life with more than 240,000 known species.

It feeds billions, supports the livelihoods of countless coastal communities, and absorbs much of the carbon pollution driving our climate crisis. In every way, the ocean is central to our survival—and yet it remains under relentless attack.

illegal fishing and overfishing, destructive industrial practices, plastic, noise and chemical pollution, and climate change are pushing marine ecosystems to the brink. In 2023, EJP launched our *Manifesto for Our Ocean*, laying out a bold, actionable roadmap to reverse this damage and protect the seas for future generations. Our commitment is clear: the ocean is an irreplaceable, living system we must defend.

At the core of our ocean programme are frontline investigations and powerful local partnerships. We expose illegal fishing and human rights abuses at sea—shining a light on opaque global seafood supply chains and holding powerful actors to account. Our evidence is shared with governments and regulators to catalyse long-term policy reforms and systemic change.

But we go beyond exposure. We work directly with the coastal communities most affected—those whose lives, cultures, and futures are tied to the sea. From West Africa to Southeast Asia, we support grassroots efforts to monitor and protect marine resources, amplify local voices in international policy arenas, and promote governance models led by communities themselves. These are the stewards of the sea—and we believe in their leadership.

We're also confronting emerging threats to the ocean's health. From tackling the scourge of plastic pollution to calling for a global moratorium on deep-sea mining, we're fighting to protect fragile ecosystems from irreparable harm and preserve biodiversity that sustains all life.

In 2024, our ocean programme operated across key fishing nations—Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, the Philippines, Senegal, Taiwan, Thailand, and South Korea—as well as major seafood markets including the EU, UK, US, and Japan. We're driving international accountability, pushing for traceable, legal, and sustainable seafood, and demanding stronger import controls to close the door to illegal catch.

**BECAUSE PROTECTING THE OCEAN
ISN'T A CHOICE—IT'S OUR COMMITMENT.**

OUR WORK

EXPOSING INJUSTICE AT SEA

CONFRONTING ILLEGAL FISHING
AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES



Our oceans are in crisis. Since the dawn of industrial fishing in the 1950s, we've lost 90% of the world's large ocean fish. Today, over one-third of global fish populations are overfished, threatening the food security and livelihoods of more than 3.5 billion people who depend on the sea.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is at the heart of this crisis. It accounts for nearly **one in every five fish caught**, draining the global economy by up to **US\$50 billion each year**.

But beyond the economic and ecological cost lies a human tragedy: exploitative fishing practices often go hand-in-hand with violence, forced labour, and human rights abuses.

FROM INVESTIGATIONS TO IMPACT: HOW EJF DELIVERS CHANGE

EJF exposes this hidden crisis. Our investigations go beyond uncovering wrongdoing—they are the first step in a strategy designed to drive systemic, lasting change.

In 2024, we worked across the globe to expose illegal fishing, forced labour, human rights abuses, and environmental crimes at sea. Our work connects hard evidence with targeted advocacy to catalyse reforms, hold companies and governments accountable, and empower the communities most affected.

At its core, each investigation is deeply rooted in collaboration—with local fishers, whistleblowers, grassroots partners, and affected communities—and supported by rigorous methodologies including satellite tracking, supply chain analysis, undercover interviews, and courageous interviews with crew members. Our approach allows EJF to do what few organisations can: connect human rights, environmental protection, and governance reform in one cohesive strategy.

This year, EJF's investigations shed light on crimes hidden beneath the surface of the global seafood trade. Our work helped disrupt exploitative supply chains, shape international policy, and protect people and planet alike.

ILLEGAL FISHING BY CHINESE BOATS

In 2024, EJF’s investigations revealed the systemic scale of illegal fishing and human rights abuses within the Chinese distant-water fishing (DWF) fleet—and helped drive action at the highest levels of government.

In April, we released *Tide of Injustice*, a major report and film documenting abuses by Chinese DWF vessels operating in the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO). Our investigation was grounded in interviews with 44 migrant crew members who gave firsthand accounts of the severe violations they had witnessed or experienced.

- **100%** of interviewees reported abusive working and living conditions aboard the vessels.
- **80%** said they had witnessed shark finning—the brutal practice of removing shark fins and discarding the rest of the animal at sea.
- **59%** described the intentional capture and injury of vulnerable marine megafauna, including dolphins and turtles.

The scale of the abuses we uncovered was sobering. Of the 138 Chinese DWF vessels authorised to operate in the SWIO in 2023, 95 were longliners targeting tuna and related species. Our investigation found that **47% of these longliners were linked to illegal fishing and/or human rights violations**. From 2017 to 2023, interviewees reported four crew deaths on board these vessels.

These findings point to a troubling pattern: the violations are not isolated, but appear systemic, spanning geographies, jurisdictions and operations. The evidence strongly indicates that such abuses are endemic across the Chinese DWF fleet.

WE SHARED OUR FINDINGS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS AND DECISION-MAKERS, INCLUDING:

- The Director for Ocean Policy at the White House Council on Environmental Quality,
- The US State Department’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Ocean Affairs,
- Senior officials in President Biden’s Executive Office,
- Senior EU Commission officials, and
- The Vice Minister of Fisheries in South Korea.

As a direct response to our intelligence, the **European Commission requested detailed data** to support their bilateral dialogue with China on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

IMPACT

EU Member States have begun targeting inspections of seafood imports from Chinese DWF fleets based on the intelligence we provided. Our findings informed the work of multiple U.S. government agencies tasked with combating illegal fishing and labour abuses at sea.

Tide of Injustice received major international coverage in POLITICO, The Economist, World Politics Review, and Spiegel, amplifying global awareness of the issue.

Looking ahead, EJF will expand its investigations into the Chinese fleet, including the **emerging threat posed by unregulated squid fisheries** operating across the high seas.

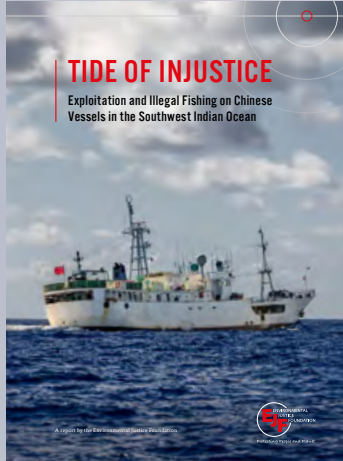
In March, EJF released an in-depth exposé, *Zhejiang Ocean Family Co Ltd and Its Fishy Business*, revealing systemic illegal fishing and human rights abuses on 12 vessels owned or chartered by Zhejiang Ocean Family (ZOF)—a company responsible for nearly 15% of China’s tuna production in 2020.

Our investigation uncovered trade links between ZOF and four major Japanese seafood companies, spotlighting how abusive practices are embedded in international seafood supply chains. Coverage of the investigation appeared in major outlets, including Financial Times, Le Marin and RFI.

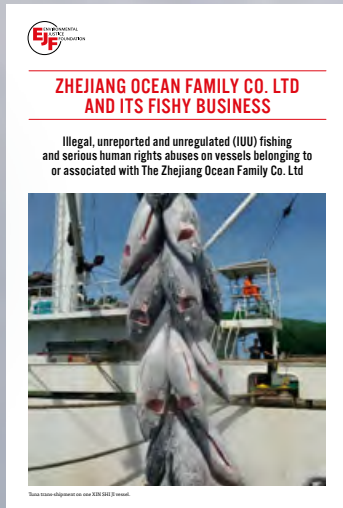
IMPACT

- The Earth Island Institute revoked ZOF’s Dolphin Safe certification.
- Several Western retailers cut ties with the company.
- A major Japanese buyer confirmed it will remove ZOF from its supply chain by April 2025.

OUR REPORT AND FILM:



OUR REPORT:



NATIONAL PROGRAMMES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Some of EJF's investigations unfold over years. In 2020, we identified vessels linked to Senegal fishing illegally in the Atlantic. Continued efforts revealed a major illicit network supplying global seafood markets.

IMPACT

- The Senegalese government imposed a US\$1.3 million fine.
- Our findings contributed to sanctions in Taiwan and prompted investigations in China.
- The investigation triggered fisheries policy reforms in The Gambia.

GHANA

EJF uncovered a plan to revive the saiko trade—where foreign trawlers target fish relied upon by artisanal fishers and resell it back to communities. Saiko is hugely destructive to the environment and coastal livelihoods and understandably it is illegal – with fines of up to \$2 million.

IMPACT

Authorities halted the trade and suspended four vessel licences.

CAMEROON

Our team published a briefing documenting illegal fishing activities and poor working conditions onboard vessels.

IMPACT

Officials issued formal warnings in response to our findings.

THE PHILIPPINES

We collected testimonies from fishers reporting forced labour, excessive hours, and the killing of protected wildlife including sharks.

OUTPUT

A short film was released in December; a comprehensive report will follow in 2025.

OUR REPORT:



OUR REPORT:



TRANSPARENCY AND TRACEABILITY: FOUNDATIONS FOR REFORM

Illegal fishing thrives in secrecy. EJF champions transparency and traceability from ocean to plate.

- We co-lead the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency and play a strategic role in the EU IUU Fishing Coalition.
- Our Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency, published in 2023, is shaping global policy agendas. The Charter presents ten principles that will transform fisheries governance.
- In May, we released *Evaluating Fisheries Transparency* in Six Southwest Indian Ocean Nations, assessing governance in Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania.

LEVERAGING MARKET INFLUENCE IN THE EU AND US

EJF uses hard evidence from investigations to influence seafood import controls and high-level diplomatic action.

EU IMPACT

For the first time, the European Commission raised the issue of human rights abuses in fisheries in high-level talks with China—directly informed by EJF's work.

US IMPACT

In September, NOAA announced port bans on vessels flagged by China and Senegal, based on EJF's findings. Our evidence also featured in the 2024 US Department of Labor list of goods produced using forced labour.

POLICY REFORM WINS

EUROPEAN UNION

The most comprehensive fisheries control reform in over a decade was adopted, strengthening port inspections, improving catch documentation and recognising forced labour as a serious offence.

IMPACT

Vessels began abandoning “flags of convenience” to retain access to EU markets.

FRANCE

EJF signed an MoU with the Ambassador for the Oceans, becoming an official partner of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice.

SPAIN

EJF is influencing a new national IUU fishing law, ensuring our priorities, including on beneficial ownership and transparency can be included.

UNITED KINGDOM

The UK government publicly endorsed the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency.

THAILAND

Facing a proposed rollback of reforms, EJF worked with national and local partners to preserve progress on fisheries law. Our work over the past seven years has established us as a credible, influential voice at private meetings with senior ministers.

IMPACT

12 out of 17 key legal articles were protected from reversal.

SOUTH KOREA

Publicly endorsed the Charter in April.

IMPACT

Revisions to distant-water fishing legislation now include all of EJF’s transparency benchmarks.

TAIWAN

EJF was invited to join a government working group to review fisheries laws.

CAMEROON

Passed a new Fisheries and Aquaculture Law aligned with our Transparency Charter; also published an updated list of authorised fishing vessels.

SENEGAL

Following a warning from the European Commission—partially based on EJF’s evidence

of illegal fishing—the Ministry of Fisheries released a long-withheld list of licensed industrial vessels and a statement on the sanctions imposed.

GHANA

EJF united local fisheries organisations to review and strengthen the draft Fisheries Act and advocated for industrial fishing operators to provide beneficial ownership transparency.

By combining rigorous investigations with persistent advocacy and community engagement, EJF transforms evidence into action. It is this full-spectrum approach—connecting local realities with global reform—that defines our impact and drives lasting change.

“

The government welcomes the broad principles set out in the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency and sees considerable merit in its objective of improving transparency and accountability in global fisheries governance.

- Daniel Zeichner | MP, Minister of State, DEFRA

“

Our voices will be heard, thanks to your efforts consulting us on the review of the Fisheries Act.

- Samuel K Agbofah | SPCC Chairman, Volta Region

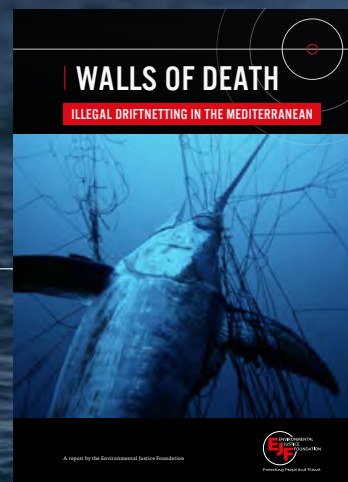
TACKLING DESTRUCTIVE DRIFTNETS AND BOTTOM TRAWLING

In November, we published *Walls of Death*, a report documenting the illegal use of banned driftnets by Moroccan vessels in the Alboran Sea.

These destructive nets indiscriminately capture marine life, including critically endangered Mediterranean swordfish, sea turtles and sharks—posing a severe threat to biodiversity.

EJF submitted recommendations to the Moroccan government, the EU, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Media coverage included Telquel and Le Desk.

OUR REPORT:



OVER THE PAST 65 YEARS, BOTTOM TRAWLERS HAVE DISCARDED MORE THAN 400 MILLION TONNES OF UNTARGETED MARINE LIFE.



IMPACT

Morocco and Spain both expressed willingness to engage with EJF to explore solutions and address the illegal use of driftnets.

Over the past 65 years, bottom trawlers have discarded more than 400 million tonnes of untargeted marine life—known as bycatch—overboard. This destructive fishing method, which drags heavy, weighted nets across the seafloor, not only devastates fragile seabed habitats and depletes fish populations, it also threatens the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities.

To safeguard biodiversity and support ocean recovery, EJF campaigns for the creation and enforcement of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), focusing particularly on banning bottom trawling. These high-biodiversity zones must be more than lines on a map—they require strong legal protections.

This year, we released *Scourge of the Seas*, a film and report exposing the ecological toll of bottom trawling in Thailand. The findings underpin our advocacy efforts urging the Royal Thai Government to phase out the practice.

In Europe, our campaign advanced through legal channels. In partnership with Défense de Milieux Aquatiques (DMA), we announced our intention to launch legal action in 2025 against the French government for its failure to ban bottom trawling in MPAs, leveraging the power of the law to protect our shared ocean.



OUR FILM AND REPORT:



ADVANCING POLICIES TO PROTECT FISHERS' RIGHTS

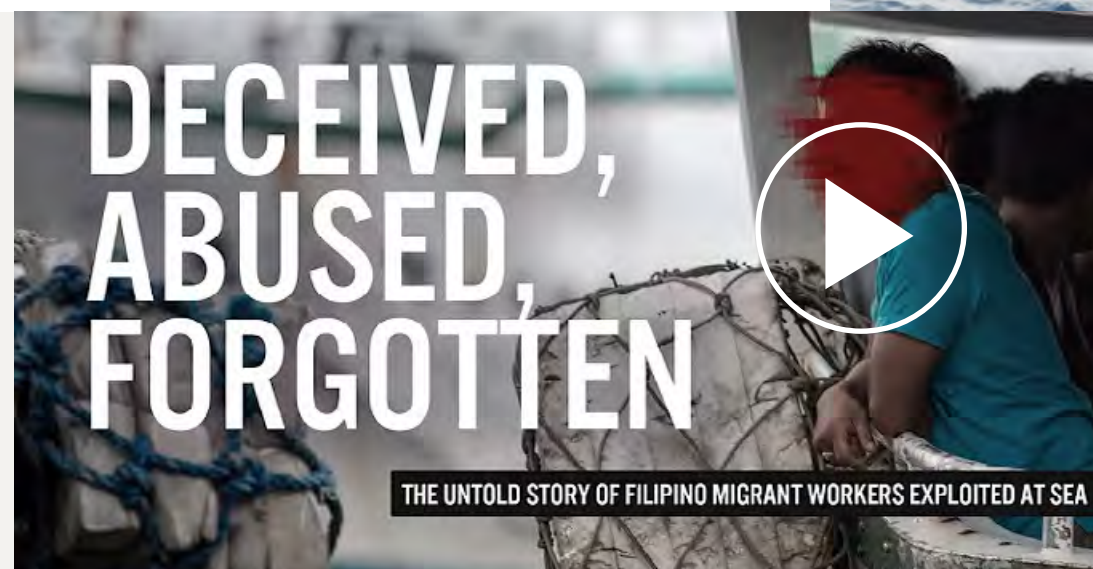
Illegal fishing is not only an environmental crime—it also enables widespread human rights abuses. This year, our global teams drove major policy reforms to secure protections for vulnerable fishers and crew.

- **Indonesia:** EJF supported the government in securing a historic Constitutional Court ruling that formally recognises migrant fishers and extends legal protections to them.
- **European Union:** A new regulation bans the import of goods made with forced labour. EJF's documentation of abuse in global fisheries was instrumental in pushing this legislation forward.
- **Taiwan:** More than 300 distant-water fishing vessels were outfitted with onboard CCTV systems as part of the Fisheries and Human Rights Action Plan.
- **South Korea:** The government introduced a plan to improve conditions for migrant crew, including a maximum voyage length of 12 months and a new grievance reporting system.

We also champion the ILO's C188, which enshrines decent working conditions for fishers. Our advocacy continues in close collaboration with partners in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

- **Taiwan:** After more than seven years of advocacy, Taiwan's Ministry of Agriculture finalised the draft of the C188 Implementation Act—marking a major step forward for fishers' rights.

OUR FILM:



HELPING COMMUNITIES PROTECT THEIR FISHERIES

In West Africa, illegal fishing robs communities of food, income, and ecological security

Across the region, an estimated 37% of all fish are caught illegally. In countries like Ghana and Liberia, millions rely on small-scale fisheries for employment, nutrition, and cultural identity.

EJF works with coastal communities to secure legal, sustainable, and inclusive fisheries governance in Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon and Senegal and across the Gulf of Guinea. We build capacity for co-management and empower local voices in marine resource governance.

Community-Led Surveillance and Participation.

Using our DASE smartphone app, small-scale fishers can gather and report evidence of illegal fishing. In 2024, we trained 91 fishers in Liberia and expanded the programme to 50 communities in Ghana, two in Cameroon, and eight new sites in Senegal.

- **Senegal:** Fishers submitted hundreds of geotagged images via DASE, resulting in multiple enforcement actions for illegal fishing.



We are grateful for the intervention of EJF, especially with the development of the DASE app... We plan to educate our fishers to ensure widespread adoption.

- Nii Odarmetey, Chief Fisherman of Tema, Ghana

In Liberia, our collaboration with national authorities also trained fishers in search and rescue operations.

- **Liberia:** 23 lives were saved this year, building community trust and engagement in our anti-illegal fishing programme.



OUR FILM AND REPORT:



EMPOWERING WOMEN AND DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS

In Liberia, women make up over half the fisheries sector, yet their voices are often marginalised.

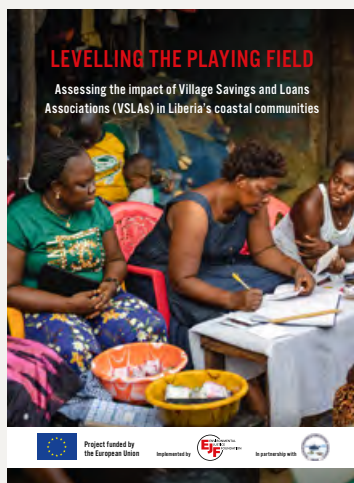
Through our work establishing local co-management associations (CMAs), that decentralise fisheries management, we promote gender-inclusive leadership and decision-making. Our report, *Unlocking Opportunities*, presents the alternative livelihoods available in Liberia, further reducing pressures on the sea.

- **Liberia:** Women's representation in CMA governance increased from 17% to at least 50% in areas where we work.

To build financial resilience, we introduced Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), helping women create new income streams and reduce reliance on fishing.

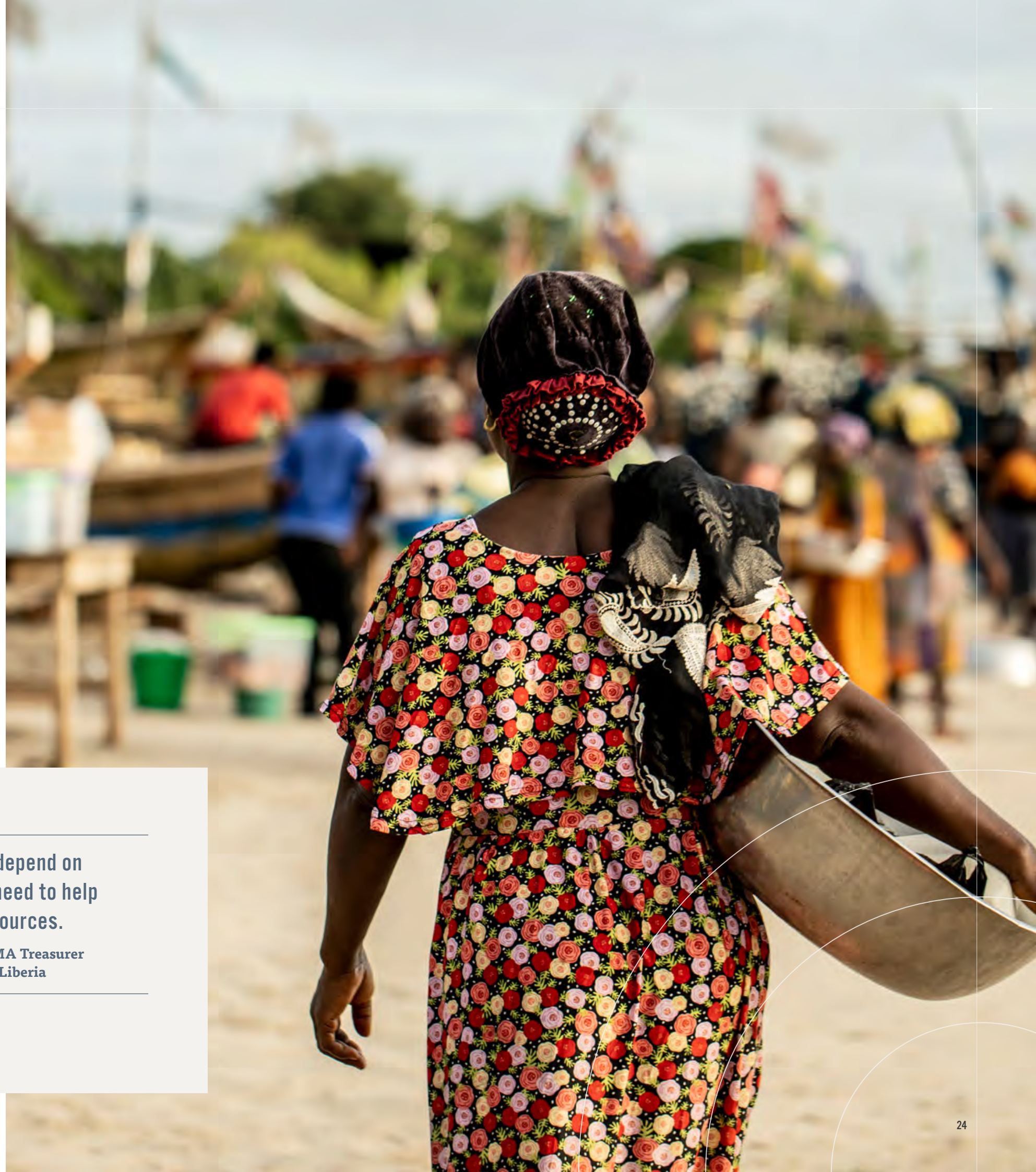
- **Liberia:** Since 2021, EJP trained 960 women in VSLA practices. In 2024 alone, they saved over \$115,000.
- **Ghana:** Over 900 women are now part of 30+ VSLAs, gaining access to financial tools to support their businesses and families.

OUR REPORTS:



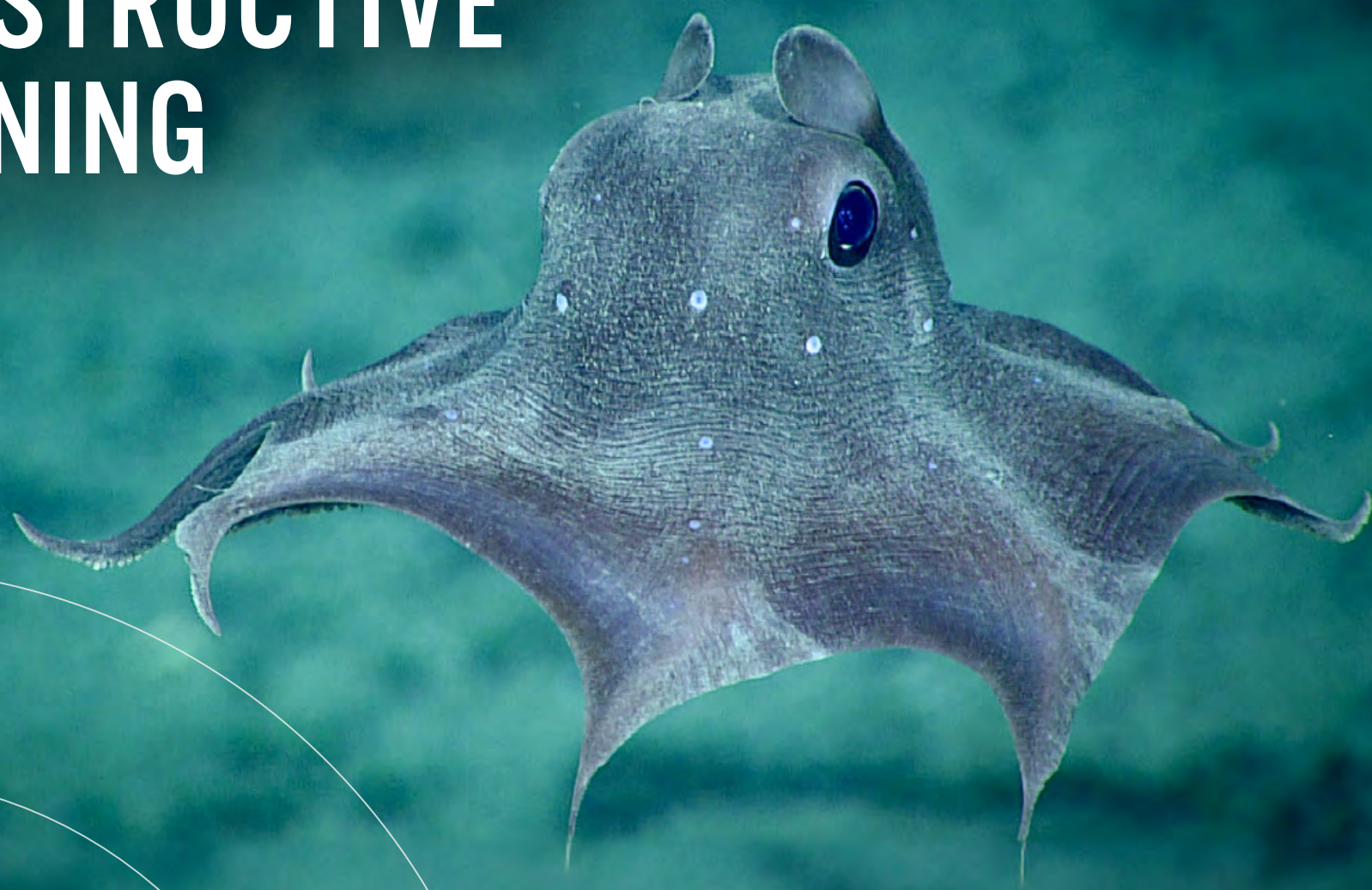
We women too depend on
the sea, so we need to help
manage the resources.

- Gballeh Dueh | CMA Treasurer
& VSLA Co-Chair, Liberia



OUR WORK

PROTECTING THE DEEP SEA FROM DESTRUCTIVE MINING



©NOAA

The high seas - the ocean beyond national boundaries - cover two-thirds of our planet's surface and produce half of the Earth's oxygen; the ocean floor is home to around 98% of all marine organisms. Within this, the 'deep sea' below around 200m is a vast, fragile ecosystem—largely unexplored, yet known to be essential to climate regulation and biodiversity.

Deep-sea mining (DSM) poses a significant threat to these fragile and vital ecosystems. Private companies eager to exploit 'critical minerals' such as cobalt, copper and manganese, are lobbying for rapid approval of mining, often falsely framing it as essential to the 'green transition' and national security. The rush to mine the seabed poses a significant risk to the marine environment and to our global climate.

EJF is part of the global movement uniting science, civil society, business, investors and policymakers that is calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining. Through compelling films and reports, we expose the risks that DSM could cause to marine ecosystems, climate stability, and coastal communities. We present this to decision-makers in government, international forums such as the International Seabed Authority, and industry to build support for the moratorium.



Indigenous peoples and communities closer to the ocean will be the ones to be more impacted and first impacted.

- Astrid Puentes Riaño | UN Special Rapporteur in an interview with EJF

- **Norway:** In a major win, EJF worked with local NGOs to prevent the launch of commercial DSM in Norwegian waters.

OUR REPORT

We released '*Critical minerals and the green transition: do we need to mine the deep seas?*' – a global reference that dismantles the false narrative that DSM is essential for clean energy.

The report was featured in BBC, The Times, and The Guardian.



OUR WORK

FIGHTING MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

PROTECTING
PEOPLE AND PLANET
ejfoundation.org

Plastic pollution contaminates our oceans, food, and bodies, while contributing billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases to the climate crisis.

Each year over 10 million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean. 'Ghost' fishing gear—abandoned nylon nets and lines—poses a deadly threat to marine life. Led by EJF Asia, our marine plastics programme targets every stage of the plastic lifecycle.

Net Free Seas (NFS)

This project engages fishers in Thailand and Indonesia to collect, clean, and recycle abandoned nylon fishing nets, and creating income for their communities.

- **Thailand:** 59 tonnes collected, generating over \$19,900 in income.
- **Indonesia:** 9.2 tonnes recycled, supporting communities with \$4,500 in income.

Bottle Free Seas (BFS)

To tackle single-use plastic bottles, we've installed water refill stations across Bangkok. Over 90% of surveyed citizens support the initiative.

- **Impact:** Each refill station reduces an estimated 100,000 plastic bottles monthly. A new goal of 2,000+ stations is set for 2025.

We showcased these projects at the fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) on plastic pollution, collaborating with Indigenous groups and civil society to push for strong global commitments. Our Thai team published a policy brief, *Room for Reduction*, and our work has been featured in Reuters, NPR, Dialogue Earth, and the Bangkok Post.

OUR REPORT:



Bottle Free Seas:
"Refill" to reduce single-use plastic bottles in Thailand



OUR WORK

PROTECTING AND RESTORING WETLANDS

Wetlands and forests are among the Earth's most vital and biodiverse ecosystems.

Forests host approximately 80% of terrestrial wildlife, while wetlands support 40% of all plant and animal species. Their value extends far beyond biodiversity: billions of people depend on these landscapes for food, water, shelter, medicine, and livelihoods. At EJF, we view environmental security as a fundamental human right. Wetlands and forests are essential to upholding this right, particularly for the communities most vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation.

Crucially, wetlands also play a leading role in climate regulation. Despite covering only a small fraction of the Earth's surface, they store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined. Yet, they are vanishing three times faster. In just 45 years, we've lost 35% of global wetlands. Climate change and environmental destruction are accelerating their decline—and the consequences are global.

To address this crisis, we launched a new body of work this year with the release of *Nature's Unsung Heroes: Why Wetlands Matter*, a film and [report](#) exploring the role of wetlands in safeguarding biodiversity, stabilising our climate, and supporting human wellbeing. This marks the beginning of a growing portfolio dedicated to these disappearing biomes.

OUR FILM AND REPORT:



DEFENDING THE PANTANAL

Our wetland conservation efforts currently focus on the Pantanal—the world’s largest tropical wetland, spanning 17 million hectares across Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay.

This rich mosaic of flooded grasslands and forests is home to thousands of species, including endangered wildlife like the giant otter, lowland tapir, maned wolf, and the world's highest density of jaguars.

The Pantanal supports flood control, freshwater provision, and carbon storage. Its survival is not only a regional issue—it is a matter of global importance.

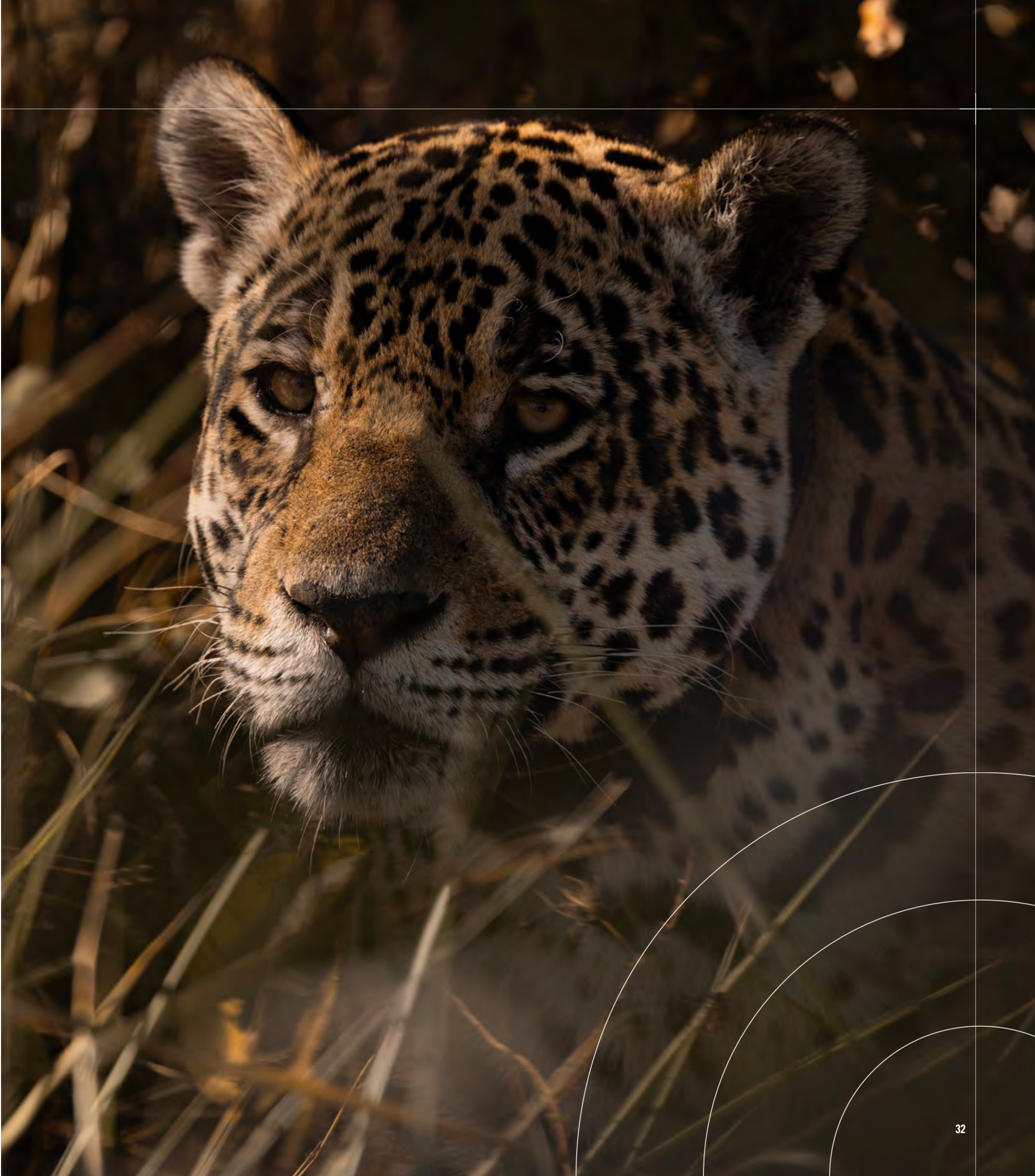
But this ecosystem is under acute threat. Drought and wildfires, exacerbated by the climate crisis and agribusiness—particularly cattle ranching, which dominates 80% of private land—have left the Pantanal largely unprotected. We are supporting Indigenous peoples and local communities with the tools and training to protect their territories and ecosystems.

In 2023, we released *The Impact of EU Supply Chains on Deforestation and Biodiversity in Brazil's Pantanal*, exposing the link between EU beef imports and environmental destruction. This year, we took our findings directly to decision-makers with a high-profile photo exhibition outside the European Parliament. The event drew widespread media coverage and political attention, including from Brazilian national TV.

Our upcoming film Pantanal, to be released in 2025, will shine a spotlight on these threats and the defenders on the frontlines.

IMPACT

Our work in the Pantanal was featured in 343 media stories this year, including The New York Times, El País, DW, and Campo Grande News.





OUR WORK

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS PROGRAMME

EJF IS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

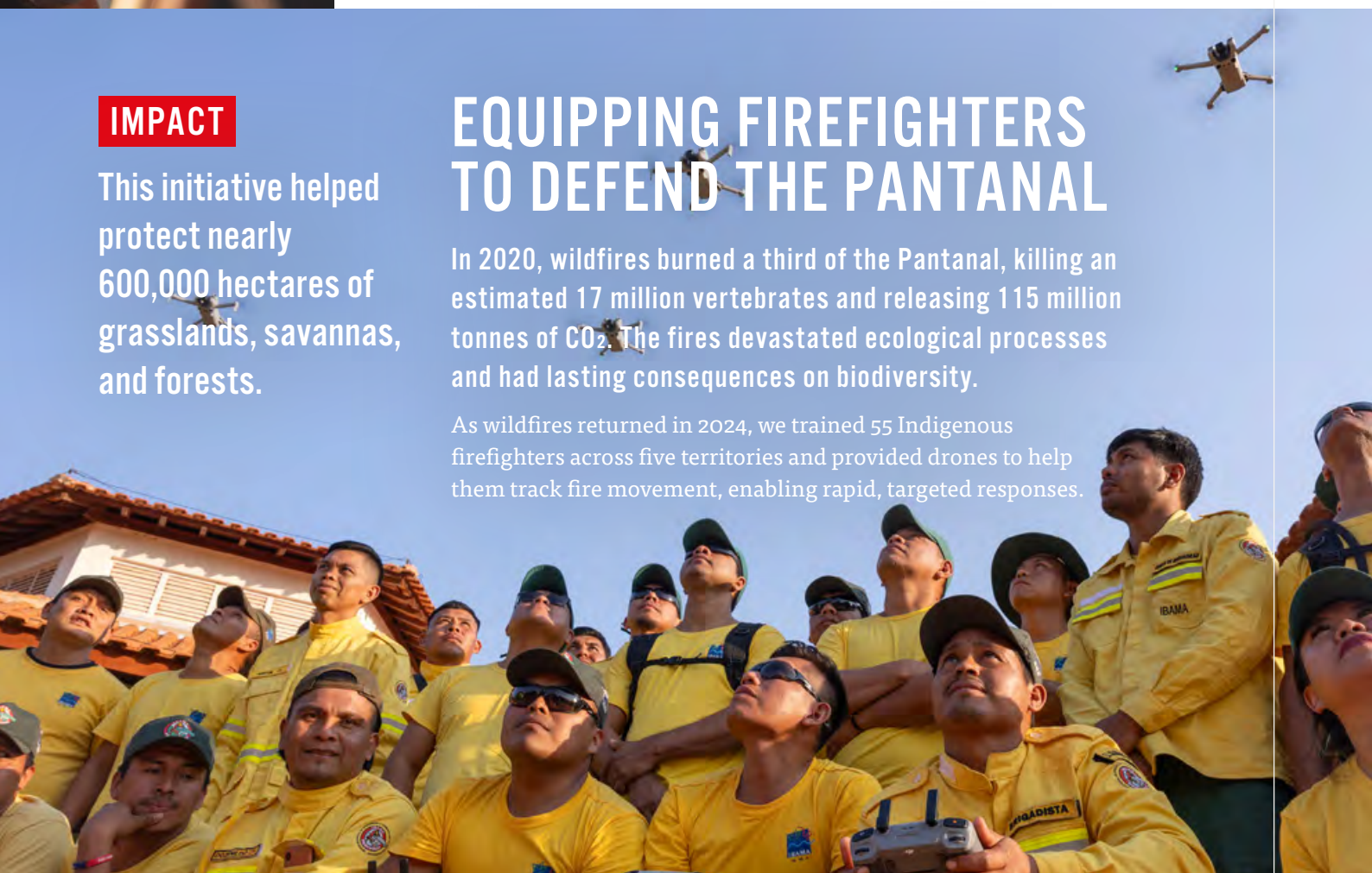
Our Environmental Defenders programme has expanded significantly, and in 2024, it spanned Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Senegal, Somalia, and Thailand.

TRAINING INDIGENOUS YOUTH

As part of our commitment to building long-term, local capacity, we launched environmental filmmaking and surveillance training for Indigenous youth activists across the Pantanal.

Using drones, micro-cameras, and aerial photography, they documented illegal fires, land clearances, and attacks on their territories. They also received mentorship from one of Brazil's leading environmental journalists.

In 2024, we trained 14 youth activists from 9 territories, supporting them to gather evidence, inspire local advocacy, and reclaim the narrative of their homelands.



IMPACT

This initiative helped protect nearly 600,000 hectares of grasslands, savannas, and forests.

EQUIPPING FIREFIGHTERS TO DEFEND THE PANTANAL

In 2020, wildfires burned a third of the Pantanal, killing an estimated 17 million vertebrates and releasing 115 million tonnes of CO₂. The fires devastated ecological processes and had lasting consequences on biodiversity.

As wildfires returned in 2024, we trained 55 Indigenous firefighters across five territories and provided drones to help them track fire movement, enabling rapid, targeted responses.

THE OKAVANGO DELTA: AFRICA'S WETLAND TREASURE

The Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the world's most ecologically significant wetlands. It supports the planet's largest elephant population and is a refuge for countless endangered species. It also sustains local livelihoods and sequesters significant amounts of carbon, helping mitigate global climate change.

Yet, the Delta faces mounting threats—from climate change and drought to fossil fuel exploration, poaching, and land development in Namibia and Botswana.

Through our Environmental Defenders programme, we trained grassroots conservationists in the Okavango Delta in filmmaking and advocacy, empowering them to oppose oil and gas exploration and reach out to local communities, inspiring them with the beauty of this modern-day Eden. In 2025, we will release a dedicated advocacy report spotlighting these threats.



“

The training was so vital to us because it brought awareness on the bad effects [of proposed oil and gas drilling] on our fellow trainees from Namibia. There is now a personal link between our three countries working together for solutions on how to fight this drilling and the effects on our Okavango.”

- Mbava Mbengera | Botswana

OUR WORK

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

WE TRAIN AND MENTOR INVESTIGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS, HELPING THEM EXPOSE ECOLOGICAL CRIMES AND ELEVATE THE VOICES OF FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES.

“

The training was a game changer for me. It ignited in me a deep love for ocean issues and IUU fishing reporting. The fight against IUU fishing in Cameroon cannot be won without journalists.

- Jaby Chale | Journalist, Cameroon, in Al Jazeera

Highlights from 2024:

- **Somalia:** EJF partnered with Astaan Media to run two workshops. Journalists conducted 13 interviews with trawler security guards and published four stories on illegal fishing.
- **Indonesia:** Our collaboration with Project Multatuli and journalist Abdus Somad led to 7 field investigations and 8 published articles, including a film exposing corruption at the ministerial level.
- **Liberia:** We trained 25 journalists from four coastal counties. Two talk shows have since featured EJF, and two journalists received grants for fisheries investigations.



JOURNALIST TRAINING IS HELPING SHINE A LIGHT ON ILLEGAL FISHING IN REMOTE REGIONS OF SOMALIA

OUR WORK

SECURING CLIMATE JUSTICE

The climate crisis is the critical issue of our time. It is a threat multiplier—amplifying conflict, inequality, and displacement. Vulnerable communities in the Global South are disproportionately affected, yet remain underrepresented in climate policymaking.

EJF works to centre their voices, especially those of climate refugees who lack formal recognition or protection under international law. We campaign for rapid decarbonisation, just transitions, and systemic climate justice.

DOCUMENTING CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT

In our report *Dadaab's Silent Crisis* and film *Radio Dadaab*, we profiled Somali climate refugees in Kenya's Dadaab camp—now home to over 300,000 people, many born there and effectively stateless. Their numbers continue to increase with the influx of people displaced by prolonged drought.

Working with Gargaar Humanitarian Radio journalists, we documented stories from the camp, including reporter Fardowsa Sirat Gele's work engaging residents on climate and human rights.



Dadaab symbolizes the intersection of displacement and the climate crisis... If we fail to address the climate emergency, rising temperatures and extreme weather will continue to displace countless communities...The injustice is stark. We owe it to the most vulnerable and to future generations to confront this crisis with bold action and compassion.

- Fardowsa Sirat Gele | Radio Gargaar, Dadaab

OUR FILM:

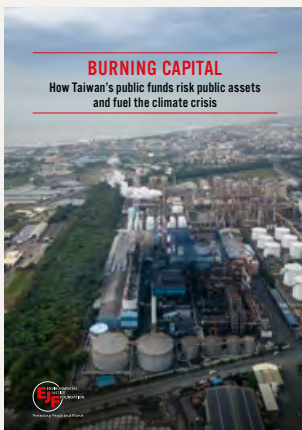


In August, we published *Burning Capital*, our first climate finance report, revealing that Taiwan's public funds were fuelling high-emission industries.

IMPACT Several funds—including Taiwan's largest, the Postal Savings Fund—committed to divesting from fossil fuels by 2040.

Our upcoming investigation targets Drax power station, which receives public subsidies despite producing more emissions than coal. In Byline Times, our CEO Steve Trent called attention to this flawed policy, which wastes taxpayer money and accelerates the climate crisis. A report on Drax featuring the concerns of the communities across the world that are affected by its demand for wood will be published in 2025.

OUR REPORTS:



LOOKING AHEAD

OUR STRATEGY FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

EJF REMAINS STEADFAST IN ITS MISSION TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL WORLD AND DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS, ADVOCATING FOR THE DURABLE, JUST, AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WE KNOW IS POSSIBLE.

In 2025, we will launch a new five-year strategy to deepen our impact, strengthen frontline advocacy, and expand our global reach.

WE WILL:

01.

Intensify campaigns to protect ocean habitats, end illegal fishing, and enforce traceability in seafood supply chains.

04.

Expand our oceans work to investigate high seas squid fleets and continue to expose harmful industrial practices like deep-sea mining and plastic pollution.

02.

Grow the Environmental Defenders programme, training young advocates and fire-fighting teams in Brazil, coastal communities and journalists. We will launch a new programme partnering, training and supporting ocean defenders in the Global South.

05.

Broaden our climate and wetlands portfolio, including new reports on biomass energy and carbon capture schemes that risk increasing carbon emissions.

An upcoming investigation into Drax power station shows the economic and environmental flaws of providing public subsidies to energy production from burning trees.

03.

Secure meaningful legal and policy reforms through investigations, storytelling, and local partnerships.

OUR FILMS AND REPORTS

FILMS

FIND OUT MORE

EJFOUNDATION.ORG

CAMPAIGN REPORTS



OUR STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE



EJF is an international non-profit organisation headed by EJF Charitable Trust, which was established under a Deed of Trust in June 2000 and became a registered charity in August 2001.

EJF was founded by Steve Trent (CEO) and Juliette Williams (Director), who are today supported by a Senior Management Team (SMT) representing local managers and a COO with deep-held experience in Europe, West Africa, Asia and Brazil. A UK Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for EJF's good governance, including financial controls, safeguarding and risk management and ensuring it fulfils the mission. The trustees serving during the FY2024 are listed on the inner cover.

As an international organisation with a unitary structure, EJF's UK headquarters generates over 95% of the global income, agrees and oversees national and programmatic budgets and enables forensic monitoring and reporting of EJF's global spending. The income and expenditures reported here reflect almost the entirety of our international operations and demonstrate EJF's exemplary impact and delivery of exceptional value for money.

By the close of 2024, EJF's global staff numbered 113 people; 30 were employed directly by the charity in the UK, representing 26% of the global team. Overseas, we have teams in Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. Our work is global, with field investigations, local partnerships and collaborative advocacy underway in many more countries. We are proud of our exceptional, dedicated global team of researchers, investigators, filmmakers, communications experts and campaigners who contribute to our vision of environmental justice.

The trustees are responsible for the charity's governance, ensuring robust processes and procedures are in place to address multiple fiduciary issues. The trustees can nominate, appoint and re-elect board members. All trustees are unpaid, and none have a beneficial interest in the charity. The Board holds regular (at least twice yearly) in-person or hybrid meetings and addresses ad hoc governance issues as they arise. EJF's structure involves the Board delegating all strategic decision-making, income generation and operational matters to the CEO, supported by the SMT. The CEO is responsible for reporting to the trustees on all operational and strategic issues, particularly regarding emerging risks, mitigations and new or updated policies. As the organisation has grown, the SMT has grown to reflect the diverse issues and geographies and optimise the expertise needed to deliver the most effective management and operational impact.

SECURING PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees and senior leadership ensure adherence to Charity Commission guidance concerning public benefit.

This trustees report details EJF's beneficial impact on environmental protection and associated human rights and livelihoods. These are detailed throughout the report and arise from our thorough research and field investigations, filmmaking, strategic advocacy, and our programmes with grassroots communities, conservationists, and others who share our vision. Our films, reports, briefings and other communications reach strategic audiences, creating and sustaining change. EJF's programme to deliver training, equipment and support to environmental defenders and journalists contributes to a stronger civil society that can better protect the natural world and hold 'truth to power'. The public benefits are not unreasonably restricted in any way, nor is there any harm arising from the aims and activities.

MANAGING OUR RISK

EJF uses proactive, actionable, integrated and wide-ranging risk management in all aspects of our work in the UK and internationally.

The SMT leads with direct, informed oversight of risks and the Risk Register plots potential risks against their probability, priority and impact, identifying internal controls and other mitigation measures and responsibilities. Risk management is a standing item in SMT meetings; the SMT and trustees undertake additional, ad hoc discussions when new or strengthened risks are identified, for example, to mitigate cyber-attack risks. Our approach ensures appropriate systems and procedures are in place to reduce core internal risks and the highest levels of integrity, transparency and efficiency in reducing or eradicating risks.

RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES
FINANCE • Unforeseen falls in income due to changes in funder circumstances or priorities • Reserves fall below the agreed levels • Fraudulent activity • Ability to track and report on funds, grants and spends against budgets is not able to keep track of increasing complexity between funding lines and programmes	• We plan for income over three-year timeframes, tracking budgets accordingly and ensuring there is an agreed plan where income is known to decline or cease at grant end. • Unrestricted reserves are scrutinised in monthly management meetings to maintain agreed levels. • We have sound financial controls and policy in place, including multiple approvals of expenditures and tight controls on foreign transactions and reporting. Income and budgets are carefully monitored and controlled by EJF HQ. • EJF has a zero-tolerance approach to fraud, conveying this expectation to all offices and partners. • A new finance system, scheduled for implementation in early 2025, will further strengthen controls over expenditure approvals and enable real-time grant monitoring and budget tracking.

RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES
STAFF SAFETY AND SECURITY • 'risk-taking' in investigations and field programmes is essential but challenging	• EJF exceeds its duty of care to staff by providing training including, as appropriate, at-sea and first-response medical training. Personal safety equipment is provided to staff and shared as appropriate with beneficiaries. • Detailed risk assessments– including expert local guidance–are required before any overseas trip or field travel is approved. • Security, risk assessment and medivac service is provided through Global Guardian, and expert advice and support is provided as needed. • Comprehensive health and travel insurance and bespoke in-country support are reviewed to ensure exemplary options are always provided.
LEGAL ACTION	• Films, reports and materials are fact-checked by a designated team member, peer reviewed and, where appropriate, reviewed by lawyers. • A fund is in place for legal reviews. • Staff will be further trained to understand the risks of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP cases).
CYBER-ATTACKS AND DATA LOSS	• All staff are provided with the cyber security policy, appropriate paid-for security software and routine back-ups to cloud platforms and/or off-site hardware for assets. • In 2024, we underwent a cybersecurity review by a specialist company that attempted to 'hack' our accounts and searched for sensitive material on the 'dark web'. Their recommendations are being implemented bin early 2025.
SAFEGUARDING (EJF OR PARTNER ORGANISATION)	• EJF has a zero tolerance policy for any safeguarding violations by or to EJF staff or partners, or the beneficiaries and communities we work within. The policy is regularly reviewed and updated, most recently following an independent review of its implementation in our offices with the largest field operations. • Guidance within the SMT ensures that all staff and partners understand that safeguarding is fundamental throughout every aspect of EJF's work at every level, without exception. • A whistle-blowing policy is in place, and appropriate dedicated contacts are provided for whistle-blower's anonymity.
DEPARTURE OF KEY STAFF THREATENS PROGRAMME DELIVERY	• New recruitment and induction protocols continue to be improved alongside a strengthened work culture for staff. • Staff benefits, training and incentives. • Succession planning and internal training and promotion is underway to reduce risk from staff departures.

BUILDING A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE GLOBAL TEAM

At the close of 2024, EJF employed 30 staff on the UK payroll and a further 83 in our country offices; 53 staff are female and 60 are male.

Our mission is to protect the natural world and associated human rights. Underrepresented and marginalised people and communities are fundamental to our approach to environmental protection: we engage with and empower local communities and build their participation to protect the natural environment and sustain their grassroots livelihoods. Our working culture, internally and externally, embraces diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

We recognise the value of an inclusive approach and the contributions that many varied experiences and perspectives bring to our local, national and global teams and network. Our DEI culture strives to ensure that all team members' contributions are recognised and valued, their talents and aspirations are nurtured, and they are supported to achieve their potential. We strive to recruit from underrepresented groups and communities, diverse races, ethnicities, religions, abilities and education, genders, and sexual orientations.

We are proud that all our overseas staff members are drawn from the local workforce and our programme delivery is strengthened by this deep local expertise, insight and experience. We support and develop regional and national talent, aiming to enhance national capacity and enable grassroots activism to thrive in the long-term. Our SMT includes representation from four continents.

We recruit staff, without prejudice or discrimination, applying equitable and inclusive terms and build equity, offering career progression, training and personal development opportunities. We aim to excel as an engaged, open and supportive employer. We want to provide fairly paid, long-term positions that nurture an inspired, motivated professional team working to secure environmental justice. We aim to employ the most able and committed staff, working hard to enable their success and deliver the greatest possible long-term positive impact.

BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY INTO ALL THAT WE DO

Our campaign activities leave a footprint in the form of energy and resource demands arising from unavoidable travel, energy usage, equipment provision and printing, amongst others.

Our [Sustainability Policy](#) provides comprehensive, detailed guidance to recognise and reduce our carbon footprint and show leadership across our work culture, travel, offices and finance and investments.

In 2025, we will launch a process to ensure our carbon offset is invested in proven, locally-led projects that are recommended to EJF, rather than through a commercial third-party, and deliver true value-added for grassroots communities, nature-based solutions and renewable energy.

INCOME FOR IMPACT – FUNDRAISING POLICY

Most of EJF's income comes from private philanthropy (77%) and government grant-making (20%). The remainder comes from donations, sales and special events and investment income (3%).

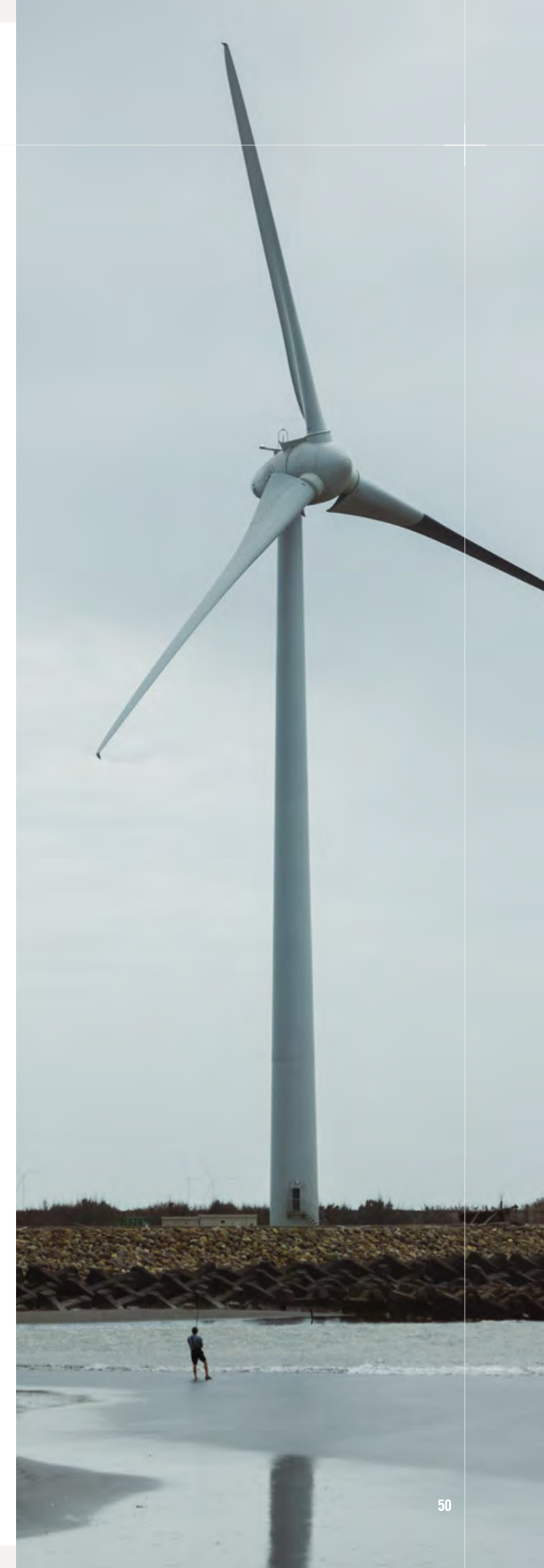
Our fundraising is led by the leadership and Senior Management Team. We have built trusted relationships with multiple long-term donors, and our work and impact on the natural world speak for themselves. EJF never employs professional fundraisers, external fundraising agencies, or contractors, nor do we have direct marketing appeals (advertising, mail, or in person) or undertake public fundraising such as street collections. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and follow the code of Fundraising Practice.

Our growth strategy aims to double our income in the next 5-year period, to diversify our funding sources and increase the proportion of unrestricted and multi-year funding to plan long-term while also being able to respond to emerging opportunities. We conduct due diligence and never accept funding that could compromise our independence or integrity. We will protect EJF's reputation, encourage transparency and enhance public trust and confidence in our work, impact and value for money.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS – GRANT MAKING POLICY

On occasion, EJF awards grants to strategic and implementing partner organisations.

We act as the fiscal sponsor for both government and philanthropic-funded civil society coalitions in the EU, Ghana, Korea and the UK. We are also increasingly making small grants to small organisations on the front line of efforts to combat environmental injustice in the Global South. All grants require due diligence checks, a written sub-grant agreement and regular reporting from the recipient.





TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024. The accounts have been prepared following the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity trust deed dated 29 June 2000 and all applicable laws and regulations.

INCOME

£6,987,520

EXPENDITURE

£5,945,840

YEAR END BALANCE

Total Available funds: £6,371,233

RESERVES

The trustees together with the CEO and Director closely monitor and assess expenditures to establish an appropriate amount for the reserve to ensure EJF's ongoing financial and operational security particularly in line with the charity's growing programme commitments. The reserve for 2025 will stand at £3 million representing approximately six months of core operational costs.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group and the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and, hence, taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

This report was agreed upon and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 30 June 2025.

S McIvor, **Chair**

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EJF CHARITABLE TRUST

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of the Environmental Justice Foundation (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

IN OUR OPINION, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 52, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR’S RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to comply with the Charity SORP was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to comply with the Charity SORP, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity’s susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.

- Our approach was to check that all income was properly identified and accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to the charity’s funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity’s trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Our audit work has been undertaken, so that we might state to the charity’s trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity’s trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Knox Cropper LLP

12 August 2025

Knox Cropper LLP,
Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London. EC3A 2AD



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	NOTES	RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:					
Grants and donations	2	5,195,462	1,722,019	6,917,481	5,519,713
Other trading activities		-	1,351	1,351	3,994
Investments	3	-	63,902	63,902	38,544
Other income		-	4,786	4,786	40,337
TOTAL		5,195,462	1,792,058	6,987,520	5,602,588
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	-	66,491	66,491	47,280
Charitable activities	5	4,252,828	1,626,521	5,879,349	5,853,353
TOTAL		4,252,828	1,693,012	5,945,840	5,900,633
Net gains/(losses) on investments					-
Operational foreign currency gains/(losses)	1.7	-	87,123	87,123	(172,451)
Net income/(expenditure)		942,634	186,169	1,128,803	(470,496)
Transfers between funds	13	(35,063)	35,063	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		907,571	221,232	1,128,803	(470,496)
Balances brought forward at 1 January		2,230,000	3,012,430	5,242,430	5,712,926
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		3,137,571	3,233,662	6,371,233	5,242,430

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Social Investment	10	58,099	58,099
Tangible Assets	9	75,100	79,264
		133,199	137,363
Current Assets			
Stock		6,198	6,331
Debtors	11	695,278	965,919
Cash at bank and in hand		5,753,055	4,352,264
		6,454,531	5,324,514
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(216,497)	(219,447)
Net Current Assets		6,238,034	5,105,067
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		6,371,233	5,242,430
FUNDS			
Restricted Income Funds	13	3,137,571	2,230,000
Unrestricted Income Fund	14	3,233,662	3,012,430
Total Funds		6,371,233	5,242,430

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 30 June 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


S McIvor
Chair

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Dividends and interest from investments

Purchase of property, plant and equipment

Proceeds from sale of assets

Purchase of investments

Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities

Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period

Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period

Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period

RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period

Depreciation charges

Other (Gains)/losses

Dividends and interest from investments

(Increase)/decrease in debtors

Increase/(decrease) in creditors

(Increase)/decrease in stock

Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities

2024	2023
£	£
1,391,628	(973,965)
63,902	38,544
(54,739)	(57,153)
-	7,954
-	(215)
9,163	(10,870)
1,400,791	(984,835)
4,352,264	5,337,099
5,753,055	4,352,264

2024	2023
£	£
1,041,680	(298,045)
58,903	86,396
87,123	(172,451)
(63,902)	(38,544)
270,641	(724,798)
(2,950)	172,054
133	1,423
1,391,628	(973,965)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty are detailed in the accounting policy where applicable.

1.2 INCOMING RESOURCES

The incoming resources of the charity have been recognised once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is unable to recover VAT on its expenditure and any VAT arising is included as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Support Costs have been allocated on the basis of direct costs.

1.4 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments, including its debtors and creditors. These are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently valued at their settlement value. Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and call deposits and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

1.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment – 33.33% straight line
- Motor vehicle – 20% straight line
- Computers and Cameras – 33.33% straight line

1.6 SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

Social investments, whose purpose is wholly or partly to further the Charity’s aims, are measured at fair value, if this can be measured reliably, or, if not possible then, at cost less impairment.

1.7 FOREIGN CURRENCY

Foreign currency transactions are translated at the rates ruling when they occurred. Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated at the rates ruling at the balance sheet dates. Any differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.

We do not trade in foreign currency and manage the transfer of funds between currencies to ensure minimum exposure and exchange variances.

2. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Grants
Donations

2024	2023
£	£
6,732,092	5,341,204
185,389	178,509
6,917,481	5,519,713

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

Dividend income
Interest Receivable

2024	2023
£	£
2,410	2,318
61,492	36,226
63,902	38,544

4. RAISING FUNDS

Direct Costs
Support

2024	2023
£	£
63,670	44,215
2,821	3,065
66,491	47,280

1.8 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted general funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the charity. The charity may designate its unrestricted funds for a particular purpose and these funds are also unrestricted and may be undesignated at any time.

Restricted funds are to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by the donor. Transfers to the restricted funds are EJJ contributions to the activities.

1.9 TAXATION

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

5. PROJECT COSTS

OCEANS CAMPAIGN

Direct Project Costs
Support Costs

CLIMATE

Direct Project Costs
Support Costs

HUMAN TRAFFICKING
(2024 onwards included in Oceans)

Direct Project Costs
Support Costs

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS
(formerly Activist Training)

Direct Project Costs
Support Costs

WETLANDS AND FORESTS

Direct Project Costs
Support Costs

PLASTIC

Direct Project Costs
Support Costs

RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL	TOTAL
2024	2024	2024	2023
£	£	£	£
3,635,446	1,114,789	4,750,234	4,796,201
160,862	49,328	210,190	332,465
3,796,308	1,164,116	4,960,424	5,128,666
73,041	163,514	236,555	204,174
3,232	7,235	10,467	14,153
76,273	170,749	247,022	218,327
-	-	-	69,776
-	-	-	4,837
-	-	-	74,613
228,801	83,730	312,532	243,891
10,124	3,705	13,829	16,906
238,926	87,435	326,361	260,797
-	116,680	116,680	96,095
-	5,163	5,163	6,661
-	121,843	121,843	102,756
135,333	-	135,333	-
5,988	-	5,988	-
141,321	-	141,321	-

5. PROJECT COSTS (CONTINUED)

	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL	TOTAL
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
FASHION (formerly cotton)				
Direct Project Costs	-	23,895	23,895	15,370
Support Costs	-	1,057	1,057	1,066
	-	24,953	24,953	16,436
GOVERNANCE COSTS				
Audit fee	-	8,040	8,040	7,800
Direct Project Costs	-	11,132	11,132	10,212
Salaries	-	35,820	35,820	30,390
Support Costs	-	2,433	2,433	3,355
	-	57,425	57,425	51,758
	4,252,828	1,626,521	5,879,349	5,853,353

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries, NI and Pension Costs	119,569	128,836
Programme	7,336	9,296
Premises costs	38,467	62,454
Legal and Audit Fees	3,649	21,644
Bank Charges	7,687	10,484
Depreciation	55,892	77,217
Overheads	19,024	45,627
Travel	323	26,950
	251,945	382,508
ALLOCATED TO:		
Fundraising	2,821	3,065
Restricted Project Costs	180,207	238,617
Unrestricted Project Costs	68,917	140,826
	251,945	382,508

Support costs have been allocated on the basis of direct costs.



7. TRUSTEES

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any expenses or remuneration from the charitable trust during the year.

8. EMPLOYEES

Number of Employees

There was an average number of 29 (2023: 30) employees working in the UK. Additionally, 84 (2023: 81) members of staff in Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Philippines, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan and Thailand are paid locally.

	2024	2023
	£	£
EMPLOYMENT COSTS		
Wages and Salaries	2,403,637	2,171,437
Social Security Costs	355,967	299,358
Other Pension Costs	117,486	98,257
Other benefits	44,554	37,512
Overseas contractors	760,124	787,563
	3,681,768	3,394,127

The number of employees whose employee benefits exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024	2023
	£	£
£60,001 - £70,000	1	3
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,000 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	2	1
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1

Senior Leadership comprises the CEO, Director and Chief Operating Officer. The total employee benefits paid to key management personnel during the year amounted to £326,310 (2023: £325,574).

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	COMPUTERS AND CAMERAS	MOTOR VEHICLE	FIXTURES AND FITTINGS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 st January	359,176	47,560	57,729	464,465	415,266
Additions	19,676	35,063	-	54,739	57,153
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(7,954)
At 31 st December	378,852	82,623	57,729	519,204	464,465
Depreciation					
At 1 st January	291,656	47,560	45,985	385,201	298,805
Charge for the year	51,793	2,338	4,772	58,903	86,396
At 31 st December	343,449	49,898	50,757	444,104	385,201
Net Book Value					
At 31 st December 2024	35,403	32,725	6,972	75,100	
At 31 st December 2023	67,520	-	11,744		79,264

10. SOCIAL INVESTMENT

In 2016 EJF Trust purchased 5,000 £1 shares in a new Welsh Wind Co-op with an additional investment of £5,000 made in 2018. In 2020 an additional 48,000 £1 shares were purchased in EGNI solar energy. During 2023 the Trust purchased minimal shares in energy companies to give it access to shareholders meeting in order to further its charitable activities.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cost at 1 January 2024	58,099	57,884
Additions	-	215
Disposals	-	-
Gains/(losses)	-	-
Total investments at 31 December 2024	58,099	58,099
Investment cost at 31 December 2024	58,099	58,099

11. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Partners advances	363,529	-
EJF Ltd (see Note 15)	26,600	26,600
Accrued income	106,433	720,873
Prepayments	124,902	171,116
Other debtors	73,814	47,330
	695,278	965,919

EJF Charitable Trust is the grant administrator for The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (O5 Projects), Multiplier and Walton Family Foundation grants which involve a number of charities working in partnership. EJF CT advances grant funding to each partner according to an agreed schedule.

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	117,752	58,230
Partners advances	-	99,512
Other creditors	98,745	61,705
	216,497	219,447

13. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	BALANCE 1 ST JANUARY 2024	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	TRANSFERS	BALANCE 31 ST DECEMBER 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Oceans Project	2,114,999	4,801,565	(3,796,308)	(35,063)	3,085,193
Climate Project	38,948	59,520	(76,273)	-	22,195
Woodland	9,751	-	-	-	9,751
Plastic	66,302	96,723	(141,321)	-	21,704
Environmental Defenders (Activist training)	-	237,654	(238,926)	-	-1,271
	2,230,000	5,195,462	(4,252,828)	35,063	3,137,571

The transfer represents the net book value of a motor vehicle purchased during the year for the Norad project and capitalised onto the Balance Sheet.

The Oceans programme works in the EU, Africa and Asia to secure legal, sustainable and equitable fisheries. Reserves support investigations and grassroots partnerships, and national and international advocacy that builds transparency into fisheries and protect marine biodiversity.

The Human Trafficking project is part of the Oceans programme - investigations and advocacy to end modern-day slavery in the seafood sector.

The Climate Programme works to secure protection for climate refugees, conserve Nature's carbon stores and end fossil fuels.

Woodland - funding was secured to purchase and maintain a Welsh woodland as our 'carbon offset'.

The Environmental Defenders programme provides equipment, training and support to grassroots environmental activists and investigative environmental journalists in the Global South.

The Plastics programme works to collect and recycle discarded fishing gears, to reduce the use of single-use plastics and to support an ambitious global plastics treaty.

RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS – COMPARATIVE 2023

	BALANCE 1 ST JANUARY 2023	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	TRANSFERS	BALANCE 31 ST DECEMBER 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Oceans Project	2,456,754	3,311,213	(3,586,666)	-	2,181,301
Human Trafficking Project	74,613	-	(74,613)	-	-
Climate Project	9,450	40,412	(10,914)	-	38,948
Woodland	9,751	-	-	-	9,751
Environmental Defenders (Activist training)	8,754	-	(8,754)	-	-
	2,559,322	3,351,625	3,680,947	-	2,230,000

14. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUND

	BALANCE 1 ST JANUARY 2024	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	TRANSFERS	BALANCE 31 ST DECEMBER 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	2,808,990	1,879,181	(1,693,012)	(77,937)	2,917,222
Designated funds					
Carbon Offset	203,440	-	-	113,000	316,440
	3,012,430	1,879,181	(1,693,012)	35,063	3,233,662

15. SPLIT OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	133,199	-	133,199
Net Current Assets	3,100,463	3,137,571	6,238,034
	3,233,662	3,137,571	6,371,233

SPLIT OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS – COMPARATIVE 2023

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	137,363	-	137,363
Net Current Assets	2,875,067	2,230,000	5,105,067
	3,012,430	2,230,000	5,242,430

16. RELATED PARTIES

S. Trent, Executive Director, and J. Williams, operations director of the Trust, are also directors of Environmental Justice Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee (EJF Ltd) which is a not-for-profit sister organisation operating from the same premises and sharing certain facilities and resources.

During 2018 an advance of £26,600 was made to EJF Ltd to enable the company to purchase a piece of woodland. The woodland will be transferred to EJF CT in 2025.

17. ACCOUNTING FOR BRANCHES

EJFct is an international organisation headquartered in London, operating under the rules established for charities in England and Wales. We have representation in 15 other countries. National teams working across multiple projects undertake a range of tasks, from community outreach, research and communications to high-level engagement with governments. Where necessary, we have established legal entities or registrations to facilitate administrative functions such as payroll and income generation (see below). These entities and arrangements are overseen, accountable to and controlled by EJFct within the organisation's unitary structure and are accounted for in these financial statements as branches. Separate legal entities set up and treated as branches in these financial statements are:

Environmental Justice Foundation Charitable Trust

Deutschland gemeinnützige GmbH
c/o Spielfeld, Skalitzer Str. 85/86 10997 Berlin
HRB 2500430

Environmental Justice Foundation

Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000, Bruxelles
Reg no: 0746.464.686

18. OPERATING LEASES COMMITMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	LAND AND BUILDING		OTHER	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Falling due within one year	113,041	135,040	-	-
Falling due between one and five years	191,748	211,883	-	-
Falling due later than five years	-	-	-	-
	304,789	346,923	-	-

19. COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS REQUIRED BY FRS 102

	RESTRICTED FUNDS	UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Grants and donations	3,312,787	2,206,926	5,519,713
Charitable activities	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	3,994	3,994
Investments	-	38,544	38,544
Other income	38,838	1,499	40,337
Total	3,351,625	2,250,963	5,602,588
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	-	47,280	47,280
Charitable activities	3,680,947	2,172,406	5,853,353
Total	3,680,947	2,219,686	5,900,633
Other gains/(losses)	-	(172,451)	(172,451)
Net income/(expenditure)	(329,322)	(141,174)	(470,496)
Transfers between funds	-		
Net movement in funds	(329,322)	(141,174)	(470,496)
Balance brought forward	2,559,322	3,153,604	5,712,926
Balance carried forward	2,230,000	3,012,430	5,242,430



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