

Alexander von Bismarck is Executive Director of the Environmental Investigation Agency, Inc. He has over 20 years experience working on trade and environment issues around the globe. He holds a Masters from the London School of Economics in Environment and Development and a Bachelors degree in Environment and Public Policy from Harvard University.

Alexander has experience in all of EIA's campaigns and investigations, including protecting forests from illegal logging, stopping smuggling of global warming and ozone depleting chemicals, and fighting wildlife trafficking. Earlier in his career von Bismarck conducted and published research on climate change and ecology. Before joining EIA in 1996 he led research missions for the New England Aquarium to East Africa to study the ecosystem of Lake Victoria and worked with the Harvard School of Public Health to chronicle and map health, ecological and economic impacts of climate change on the American continent.

Alexander has conducted international investigations into illegal logging and the associated trade in Honduras, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Russia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Madagascar and the United States. These investigations chronicled how wood illegally logged from the world's most valuable remaining forests ends up on retail shelves in the United States and other consuming countries. Von Bismarck testified regarding these investigations to the House Natural Resources Committee in October 2007, which was considering legislation to prohibit the import of illegally logged wood into the United States. The law, the first of its kind in the world, was passed in the United States on May 22nd, 2008, and contributed to the passage of similar laws in Europe, Australia and Japan. Evidence collected by EIA in subsequent investigations has been used in prosecutions of large corporations involved in illegal logging, including the case against Lumber Liquidators in 2012, as well as the elimination of the single biggest illegal logging route from Peru into the United States in 2016.

Alexander has also worked since 1996 to eliminate the earth's most destructive greenhouse gases, so called F-gases, by supporting the enforcement and reform of the United Nation's Montreal Protocol. EIA evidence supported U.S. authorities in successfully cracking down on the illegal trade of CFC-12 in the late 90's. In 2007 he led a successful campaign to support U.S. leadership in forming a global agreement under the United Nation's Montreal Protocol to accelerate the phase out of HCFCs and thereby cut industrial greenhouse gases by 22 billion CO₂ equivalent tons. A follow up effort to tackle their replacements, HFC's, contributed to the Kigali amendment in 2016, which is expected to prevent 70 billion CO₂ equivalent tons from reaching the atmosphere. EIA is now working to find and eliminate the remaining emissions of F-gases which has the potential to save an additional 100 billion CO₂ eq tons.