

1. A one paragraph summary of how the project has progressed utilising the TFN grant.

EJF have made significant progress on our 'Save the Sea' project since receiving funding from The Funding Network in June last year. EJF pitched for funding towards the production of a short film on the issues surrounding illegal pirate fishing in Sierra Leone. With support for EJF's work in Sierra Leone from the President's Office, our work provided key information to the Sierra Leone Navy resulting in the arrest of a large illegal trawler caught in the act of stealing fish. This, along with personal stories from the local community, was filmed and a documentary film has been produced for the purpose of drawing attention, concern and action on the problem.

2. What the grant was being raised for?

The grant was being raised to support EJF's work tackling "pirate" fishing, specifically in Sierra Leone West Africa.

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported, "pirate" fishing is considered by leading experts and many governments to be one of the most serious global threats to marine environments. It also threatens poor coastal communities in many developing countries with increasing loss of livelihoods and imperils basic food security as the fish they depend on for food, income and employment are taken by pirate fishing vessels. In many cases these vessels have been documented engaging in violent conflict with local fishers. While pirate fishing has been documented in most seas and oceans, sub-Saharan Africa and Asian countries are particularly badly affected.

As the world's largest market for seafood, consumer demand in the EU can be directly linked to IUU and unsustainable fishing in Africa - driven in part by a lack of awareness of the issue in Europe. The EU accounts for one third of the global trade in fish and 19% (800,000 tonnes) of fish consumed in the EU are imported from Africa. Illegally caught fish enter the EU via complicated laundering operations that take advantage of legal loopholes and poor monitoring to access the lucrative European market. While this makes the identification of illegal fish difficult, expert opinion is united in believing there is no doubt that EU demand for cheap and exotic seafood is driving IUU fishing internationally. Across Africa, losses to IUU fishing are estimated to amount to around US\$1 billion a year, roughly equivalent to a quarter of Africa's total annual fisheries exports - a potential source of development income these impoverished States can ill-afford to lose.

Africa supports some of the world's most productive marine ecosystems, yet many countries lack the resources to properly police their territorial waters. Foreign illegal vessels target high-value species, and often use destructive fishing gear. Crucially, pirate fishing undermines legitimate fishing operations and both national and international efforts to ensure sustainable fisheries and better management of marine resources - actions that are profoundly important at a time when the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation states that 70% of global fisheries are already fully exploited, over-exploited or in decline and when recent studies confirm that around 90% of each of the world's large ocean species, like cod, halibut and swordfish have been lost since the 1950's.

The goal of EJF's campaign is to engage European consumers and decision makers in efforts to reduce the negative impacts on wild fish stocks and poor coastal communities in the developing world that are dependent on fishing for basic food security and employment.

To do this, EU consumers, retailers and policy makers need to be able to make fully informed and positive choices on the seafood they buy and sell. For the past five years EJF has run a

highly successful campaign to raise awareness of IUU and unsustainable fishing within the EU and with support from the TFN grant planned to produce a high-impact film documenting and exposing environmental and human rights abuses of pirate fishing vessels operating off the coast of Sierra Leone – one of the poorest countries on our planet – and show how illegally-caught fish can enter the European marketplace and be sold next to sustainably-caught legal fish. This film will be presented to industry, consumers, media and policymakers – it will directly highlight both the major problems and the main solutions.

### 3. How you spent the grant?

EJF used the grant working with our grass roots partners “Conservation Society of Sierra Leone” to investigate, document and produce a high-impact short film documenting and exposing environmental and human rights abuses of pirate fishing vessels operating off the coast of Sierra Leone. Footage from this film has also contributed to a bigger documentary called “Deadly Catch” which was completed in May 2009 and has been previewed at the Guardian Hay Festival at an EJF event with speakers celebrity chef Antony Worrell Thompson, Environment Editor for the Guardian Newspaper John Vidall and Waitrose supermarket – who have an excellent fish sourcing policy. The grant was used entirely for production of the documentary as requested.

### 4. What needs to be done in the future?

In Sierra Leone, foreign trawlers fish illegally within the area restricted for local fishermen, causing overwhelming destruction to marine biodiversity as they take everything in their path. 75% of the catch is thrown back into the sea dying while local fishermen struggle to catch fish on which they and their families depend to survive.

EJF has developed an in-country programme of work in Sierra Leone. The programme will empower and enable community action (monitoring of illegal fishing activity and reporting information to the navy) to facilitate arrests and peacefully drive away the illegal trawlers that threaten their local environment and livelihoods.

“The children need to eat to grow, and they are underfed ...if the trawlers don’t go we cannot survive. We are dependent on the waters and the fish, and if they go we have nothing else.”  
Rugiatu Fullah, Women’s leader in mosque, Borhol Ngai

EJF is developing its programme of work in Sierra Leone through a “Training for Trainers” project to improve the lives of remote and poor fishing communities who are often powerless to report on and prevent the illegal fishing vessels that are endangering fish stocks and causing hunger and extreme poverty. Training for Trainers’ provides critical skills to our grassroots partner in Sierra Leone to enable community-action that will end hunger and poverty caused by illegal pirate fishing. EJF’s training program provides key media (website, photography, film) and leadership skills to enable community action (monitoring of illegal fishing activity and reporting information to the navy) to facilitate arrests and end pirate fishing.

For more information on the project and to support the Training for Trainers work please contact [Larissa.clark@ejfoundation.org](mailto:Larissa.clark@ejfoundation.org)

### 6. Did you receive any media coverage of the project? (Examples such as video clips, photos, links to features are very welcome) We would be keen to receive these to utilise in a future newsletter/on our website and at the upcoming Funding Evening on June 2nd 2009.

Major media coverage is due in the coming months when the film is released alongside a major new report later in the summer.

Until then - IMAGES ATTACHED from the filming and 5 minute taster from the documentary available here: <http://www.ejfoundationorg/page373.html>

