



2015

ANNUAL REPORT



ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW • INSTITUTE®

Making law work for people,
places, and the planet.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR

For nearly five decades, the Environmental Law Institute has pursued our vision of “a healthy environment, prosperous economies, and vibrant communities founded on the rule of law” by conducting timely research, building partnerships, and providing critical training and education. Today, with the planet facing prodigious challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and pollution, the need for effective governance to advance environmental progress is more pressing than ever.

In all that we do, ELI’s dedicated professional staff take up the summons to think and act both locally and globally. At the local level, we are providing a much-needed resource for Gulf of Mexico citizens who are seeking information on how restoration after the 2010 oil-well blowout can best benefit their communities. Our work is also enabling states to take a tougher stand on protecting air and water quality in schools and daycare centers to ensure safer environments for children. At the global level, ELI experts are actively working to address the world’s most pressing challenges, including curbing the relentless pressures on oceans, forests, and other natural resources. For example, we helped catalyze effective enforcement systems for Marine Protected Areas in the Caribbean. We have now worked in more than 100 countries, carefully analyzing existing legal conditions and recommending solutions that enhance both ecosystems and livelihoods.

Back home, we were proud to have named Henry L. Diamond, a giant among those who have shaped our system of modern environmental and natural resources laws, as the recipient of our 2015 Environmental Achievement Award. It was a privilege to have honored Henry in October just months before he passed away.

Looking forward, ELI is growing its relationship with China. For the first time, among its other corporate members, ELI added a Chinese company, demonstrating the value of our rule-of-law work across the globe. In addition, we initiated a cooperative program with the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE), an affiliate of China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection. Through the PRCEE program’s platform, ELI will help bolster good governance in the world’s most populous nation. Policy guidance, implementation infrastructure, enforcement capacity, and best practices in permitting and environmental impact assessments are some key areas in which our Chinese partners are soliciting ELI’s support to achieve more effective environmental regulation.

Late in 2015, ELI was named the new Secretariat of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, a partnership of more than 4,000 practitioners from 150 countries who recognize the key role that compliance and enforcement play in environmental protection. This position cements ELI’s presence as a world leader focused on building effective environmental governance and the rule of law.

As the U.S. and other nations continue the journey towards sustainable development, we at ELI look forward to helping realize a promising future that we all can share.



Scott Fulton
Scott Fulton
President



Martha L. Rees
Martha Rees
Chair of the Board

ELI SUCCESSES BY THE NUMBERS

140

In 2015, we produced more than **140** educational events, research seminars, and webinars for environmental professionals, governments, and nonprofit organizations both online and in person.

52,000

Since 1991, ELI has trained more than **50,000** lawyers and managers and **2,000** judges from 25 countries.

196

Over its 26-year history, ELI has awarded to **196** wetlands champions its National Wetlands Awards for exceptional and innovative contributions to wetlands protection, restoration, and education. The 2015 National Wetlands Awards recognized Thomas R. Biebighauser, Wetland Restoration and Training LLC; Dr. Jacqueline Comito, Water Rocks! and Iowa Learning Farms; David L. Davis, Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality; Dr. Stuart E.G. Findlay, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; Mary and Jon “Jay” Hardwick, Hardwick Planting; and Barbara “Maka’ala” A. Ka’aumoana, Hanalei Watershed Hui.

27

As part of our global work, ELI advanced environmental law in 2015 in **27 countries**.

12

In addition to working at the national level in the US, ELI advanced environmental law in 2015 in **12 states**.

680

On October 20, 2015, over **680** people gathered for ELI’s annual Award Dinner honoring Henry L. Diamond, Founder and Senior Counsel, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., for his lifetime of achievements in the practice of environmental law and land and water conservation. With his recent passing, the nation has lost a champion in the field of environmental law.

50,000

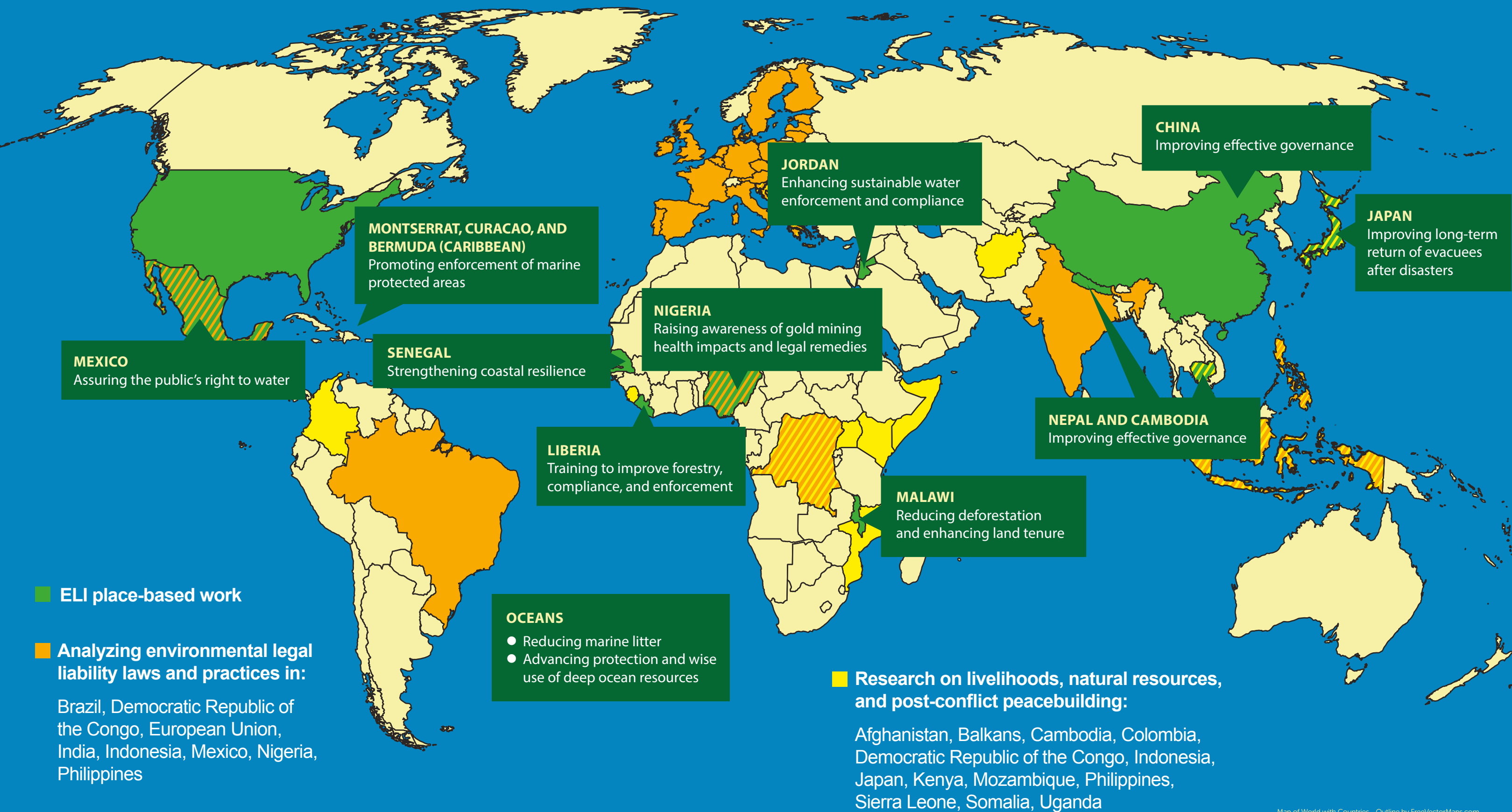
Participants at Professional Educational Events since 1998.

ELI AS ALWAYS, LOOKING AHEAD

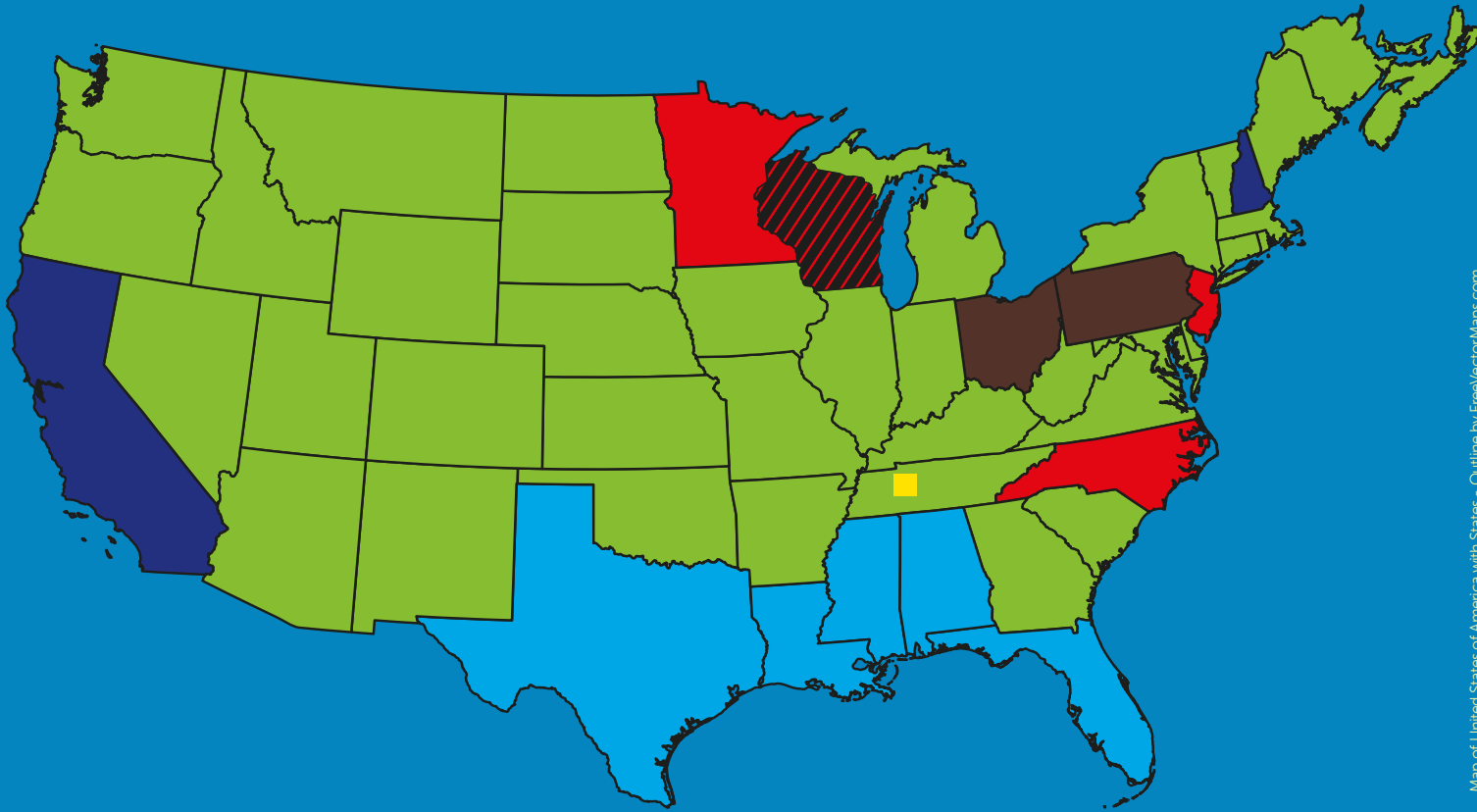
This was ELI—your ELI—in 2015. The year ahead promises to be even more vibrant, as we complete our new strategic plan and further strengthen our leadership role in addressing cutting-edge environmental law and policy issues. We continue to drive progress in a world that needs more than ever effective governance and rule of law as a foundation for environmental and economic well-being.



INTERNATIONAL WORK IN 2015



WORK IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2015



Map of United States of America with States - Outline by FreeVectorMaps.com

ELI national work

- ✓ Protecting water supplies and clean water
- ✓ Promoting climate change resilience and mitigation
- ✓ Protecting wetlands protection, wildlife, and biodiversity
- ✓ Catalyzing clean energy
- ✓ Effectively managing natural resources
- ✓ Improving indoor air quality in schools and daycare
- ✓ Enhancing state and local authority for marine protected areas

Supporting public engagement in Gulf restoration

Evaluating shale gas development impacts

Promoting food waste reduction in Nashville (NRDC Project)

Improving offshore aquaculture regulations

Strengthening the role of native tribes' marine mammal management

Helping communities restore, manage, and connect floodplain buyout properties

Webinars on climate change impacts

STRENGTHENING STATE, CITY, AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

ELI often responds to requests from Congress, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and state and city agencies to assist in enhancing intergovernmental partnerships and developing and promoting best practices and policies. That work complements our analyses, training, and day-to-day consulting to help states and cities achieve the most effective results in areas that include biodiversity, brownfields, water and wetlands, and indoor environments.

As part of our state governance program, in 2015, ELI produced a groundbreaking analysis, *Reducing Environmental Exposures in Child Care Facilities: A Review of State Policy*, to support efforts to promote children's health while advancing quality child care. ELI also updated and expanded its database of Indoor Air Quality Laws and other policy briefs and compilations, resources used widely by policymakers, agency officials, nongovernmental organizations, professional associations, and the media to understand state policies on radon, mold, and other indoor air quality issues. Along with several other nongovernmental and federal agency partners, ELI helped shape a new national radon-reduction strategy announced in November. Beyond air quality, ELI published *Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities: A Review of State Policy* in 2015 and continued our work with federal and state officials on the demanding task of setting total maximum daily load limits for pollutants from diffuse sources.

ELI is the local coordinator for a Natural Resources Defense Council project in Nashville, TN, that is piloting how cities can catalyze their agencies,

nonprofits, and businesses to create policies and practices that reduce, recover, and recycle the staggering amount of food waste that stresses our landfill and waste disposal systems, generates avoidable greenhouse gases, and represents lost opportunities to feed hungry people.

ELI's continuing work on shale gas helped municipal officials in Pennsylvania and Ohio understand the economic benefits and burdens of this type of development; we provided guidance to local officials on model approaches to local ordinances to address the land use impacts when resource development is underway and when it ends.

ELI provided vitally relevant insights into recurring problems from extreme weather events that are increasingly attributed to climate change. We developed a local government action guide and conducted national outreach to help communities restore, manage, and connect floodplain buyout properties to increase habitat connectivity and enhance livability for all residents. In states across the nation, we created maps of all buyout properties that were overlaid with wetland and wildlife habitat and habitat protection and restoration priorities, and in-depth case studies of the potential biodiversity, flood mitigation, and community benefits.

Last year, our Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, and Flood Hazards in the Rock River Basin Webinar Series was attended by government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and consultants representing Wisconsin and other states. Topics included:

- Wisconsin Flood Inundation Mapping and Tulsa's Floodplain Management Program
- Why Wetland Restorations Fail and Model Wetland Ordinance and Stormwater Management

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SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE, PLACES, AND LIVELIHOODS ABROAD

As governments and citizens around the world confront the complex challenges of realizing the vision of sustainable development, ELI continues leading the way. In Africa, China, Asia, South and Central America, Europe, and the United States, across the globe ELI works with on-the-ground partners to understand pathways towards economic growth that protect environmental values and find durable solutions, many of them model practices applicable in many places.

In all of its international engagements, ELI brings a deep base knowledge of environmental law developed through our long history with research and practice. Since 1991, ELI has trained more than 50,000 lawyers and managers and 2,000 judges from 25 countries. All around the world, ELI Judicial Education graduates are solving environmental problems.

No wonder that a delegation from China’s Ningbo Municipal Bureau of National Land and Resources turned to ELI when they visited the United States last year to get the best education about Brownfields policies. In Nepal and Cambodia, ELI staff presented to judges effective legal approaches to reduce air pollution in South Asian cities and to assess damage to the environment. In Monrovia, Liberia, the Forestry Development Authority and Ministry of Justice sought ELI guidance on forestry compliance and enforcement to protect land where a logging explosion threatens dense forests rich with threatened and endangered species. ELI experts have worked in Liberia since 2004, helping to design the country’s National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, which is becoming a model for natural resources management throughout Africa.

Taking on the complex predicament facing a West African nation’s small-scale gold miners who have few livelihood options, in 2015, ELI published a powerful study for Nigeria’s Ministries

for Environment and for Mining, civil society, and community members—*Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining [ASGM] in Nigeria: Recommendations to Address Mercury and Lead Exposure*—that concluded: “Any meaningful approach must address the economic motivations underpinning ASGM activities and present a viable alternative to mercury use.” Closer to home, in a study of eight

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Caribbean nations’ Marine Protected Area (MPA) laws, *Legal Frameworks for MPA Enforcement in the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities*, ELI compared enforcement authorities in the region and highlighted model approaches that governments could use to help drive enforcement reform in what have been described as the national parks of the sea.



Participants in a training course on compliance and enforcement in Liberia’s forestry sector examine a log landing at a forestry concession.

INFORMING THE DEBATE AT HOME

For almost five decades, ELI has illuminated the path to effective environmental protection laws and policies. ELI informs the intellectual debate. In 2015, we produced more than 90 public seminars, briefings, and other educational events with an estimated 5,000 attendees. We draw on our wealth of experience in shaping effective environmental laws and policies as we explore the cutting-edge environmental needs of an increasingly complex, interconnected world. In 2015, forward-thinking ELI educational events included the following topics:

- Building 21st Century Environmental Law
- Big Data—Enabling Big Protection for the Environment
- Is Private Governance Changing the Practice of Corporate Environmental Law?
- Animal Law and Environmental Law: Exploring the Connections and Synergies

- The eighth Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review, a partnership between ELI and Vanderbilt Law School and a student-led event on Capitol Hill that brings together academics, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss the year’s most innovative environmental law and policy proposals from the academic literature.

These and many other ELI efforts to define and disseminate improvements in environmental policy, whether in the realms of ideas, technology, or shifting societal expectations, have established ELI as the go-to organization to help make law work for people, places, and the planet.

ELI’s intellectual reach is expanded through such periodicals as the *Environmental Law Reporter* and *The Environmental Forum* where ELI presents key legal and policy developments and provides venues for clarity and progress on the environmental issues that impact ecosystems and people’s lives.

Patrick Traylor (Partner, Hogan Lovells) engages participants with the latest on Clean Air Act developments at the 2015 Eastern Boot Camp on Environmental Law®.



HEALING AFTER THE DEEPWATER HORIZON DISASTER IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

The 2010 blowout that spilled an estimated 3.2 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico set off a complex set of interrelated processes designed to heal, restore, and recover the region’s losses. For almost six years, ELI has been involved, helping Gulf residents understand and participate in the often complicated processes set in motion by the spill: the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, implementation of the RESTORE Act, and administration of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

Our goal is to support meaningful public engagement in the Gulf restoration processes so that we can see Gulf communities and ecosystems recover and thrive in the wake of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster.

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Besides continuing to develop informational materials and host training workshops for a wide variety of stakeholders, in 2015, ELI created a Restoration Projects Map to enable easy identification of where the proliferating *Deepwater Horizon* restoration and recovery projects are taking place. Also supporting community informational needs, ELI created a Public Participation Bulletin Board to help track public engagement opportunities.

Through our Ocean Talk blog and other materials, ELI is keeping Gulf stakeholders informed with up-to-date information.



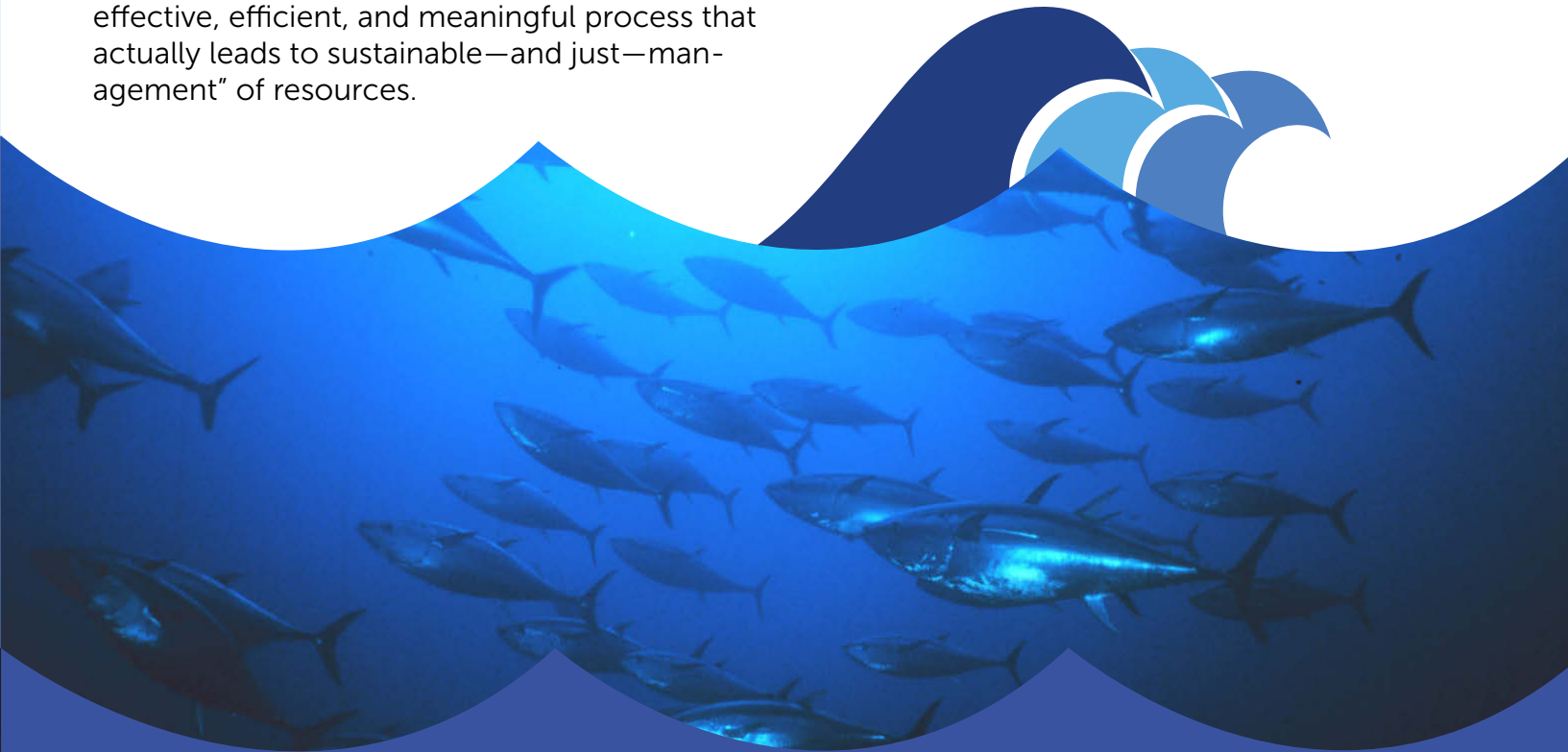
Our Restoration Projects Map indicates where approved *Deepwater Horizon* restoration and recovery projects are taking place.

DEFENDING OCEAN RESOURCES

Alert to the untested legal and policy issues that will certainly arise as aquaculture increases in response to growing world demand for seafood, ELI, in a March 2015 report, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulation of Offshore Aquaculture*, clearly defined the United States’ current fish-farm regulatory framework. Based on gaps revealed in the report, ELI went further, exploring the Army Corps’ Nationwide Permit 48 as “a model for future offshore shellfish aquaculture general permits,” thereby getting ahead of the curve as U.S. producers expand fish-farming operations in states such as California, Hawaii, and New Hampshire.

In Alaska, ELI offered 26 ideas for improving the troubled consultation process between the federal and Native Alaskan tribal governments relating to protection of marine resources. ELI’s April 2015 report, *Strengthening Government-to-Government Consultation Related to Marine Subsistence Resources in Alaska: An Exploration of Key Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities*, will help ensure that “consultation is an effective, efficient, and meaningful process that actually leads to sustainable—and just—management” of resources.

Also in 2015, ELI launched the exploration of a promising geospatial tool for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) marine management and other marine planning processes designed to assess environmental impacts of proposed projects. Detailing the concept in our report focusing on federal agency requirements, *Geospatial NEPA for Ocean and Coastal Environments Approaches, Policies, and Possibilities*, ELI concluded that recent advances in data-gathering and display technologies have opened a world of possibilities for aggregating NEPA documents and geospatial data into a map-based data system. Such a modern environmental planning and review system could replace segmented environmental assessments conducted in isolation with integrated, coordinated assessments that decrease the resources required and increase review effectiveness. This new approach could more fully capture potential impacts and opportunities for solutions.



Credit: Danilo Cedrone/UNFAO
Group of tuna in the eastern chamber of the trap at Favignana. Depth 22 meters.

BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL PLATFORMS FOR DURABLE PEACE

In 1998, partnering with the Smithsonian Institution, ELI held the First International Conference on Environmental Consequences of War. That was the start of our program to foster an environmental policy field that now engages a community of practice involving 2,600 people in 90 different countries. The focus is on helping conflict-affected countries allocate natural resources and associated profits in an equitable and transparent way to help prevent, resolve, and recover from conflict. ELI's research has found that control of a state's natural resources (and the revenue they generate) play a pivotal role in the buildup and perpetuation of conflict and prospects for recovery.

Also, ELI and its partners, the United Nations Environment Programme, the University of Tokyo, and McGill University today host the world's leading resource on this critical subject: the *Environmental Peacebuilding Global Knowledge Platform* (www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org). Launched in 2014, the Platform now offers more than 2,000 reports, movies, and other library items accessed by people from 185 countries and is updated every two weeks. Books, articles, and teaching curricula come from over 100 countries and elucidate the linkages between conflict and natural resources that have been characterized as "deep, complex, and often surprising."

In 2015, ELI published *Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, volume five in a series that is making a vital contribution to the global understanding of environmental peacebuilding issues at a time when conflict has displaced millions of people and a clear pathway to sustainable post-conflict governance is essential.

ELI further illuminated avenues and threats to peace in its annual Miriam-Hamilton Keare Policy Forum, "On the Road to Paris—Dangerous Intersection: Climate Change and National Security." This timely review helped raise key issues in the buildup to the Paris Climate Change Conference.

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Small-scale Nigerian miners visited during ELI peacebuilding tour.

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We are grateful to the following individuals for including ELI in their estate plans.

Leslie Carothers	Stephen Dujack	Ridgway M. Hall, Jr.	Craig Mathews
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The Environmental Law Institute is grateful for the generous support it received from the Star Sponsors of the Award Dinner, which was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, and which honored Henry L. Diamond. We would like to thank our Star Sponsors and the members of the Corporate, Professional, and Associates Programs who supported the work of the Institute through their participation.

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Ramboll Environ
Saul Ewing LLP
Verrill Dana LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Public Interest Members

Center for Food Safety
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Everglades Law Center, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council
Southern Environmental Law Center

Public Interest Friends

Alliance for Peacebuilding
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Atlantic Coast Conservancy
Anacostia Riverkeeper
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Clean Air Task Force
The Conservation Fund
Eastern Environmental Law Center
Environmental Integrity Project
Galveston Bay Foundation
The Ocean Foundation
Oceana, Inc.
The Piedmont Environmental Council
South Carolina Environmental Law Project

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statements of Financial Position

Years Ended December 31,	2015	2014
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,310,462	\$861,694
Accounts receivable		
Grants and contracts	638,840	504,822
Royalties	-	524
Other	17,425	208,911
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(2,729)	(2,729)
Net accounts receivable	653,536	711,528
Contributions and foundation grants receivable	295,789	540,399
Investments	3,735,295	4,257,820
Prepaid expenses and inventory	135,571	178,510
Total current assets	6,130,653	6,549,951
Contributions and foundation grants receivable, noncurrent	377,800	-
Property and equipment, at cost		
Furniture, equipment and software	346,278	384,525
Leasehold improvements	748,408	32,331
Total	1,094,686	416,856
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(297,197)	(293,603)
Property and equipment, net	797,489	123,253
Other assets		
Security deposit	64,115	89,932
Total assets	\$7,370,057	\$6,763,136
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$355,386	\$314,750
Accrued payroll and vacation	252,700	345,393
Deferred revenue	433,084	444,268
Deferred rent	82,340	2,245
Total current liabilities	\$1,123,510	\$1,106,656
Deferred rent, noncurrent	1,020,152	-
Total liabilities	2,143,662	1,106,656
Net assets		
Unrestricted	3,787,211	4,503,030
Temporarily restricted	1,439,184	1,153,450
Total net assets	5,226,395	5,656,480
Total liabilities and net assets	\$7,370,057	\$6,763,136

Additional financial information can be obtained from www.eli.org.

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended December 31, 2015					Year Ended December 31, 2014				
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted Board Designated	Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Unrestricted Board Designated	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Operating revenues									
Federal awards and contracts	\$922,880	-	\$922,880	-	\$922,880	\$986,577	-	-	\$986,577
Contributions and grants	865,640	-	865,640	1,537,934	2,403,574	649,819	-	1,371,185	2,021,004
Publication sales and subscriptions	477,276	-	477,276	-	477,276	489,569	-	-	489,569
Membership revenue	759,205	-	759,205	-	759,205	788,916	-	-	788,916
Award dinner	398,625	-	398,625	-	398,625	459,935	-	-	459,935
Interests and dividends, net	88,339	-	88,339	-	88,339	121,238	-	-	121,238
Other Revenue	255,823	-	255,823	-	255,823	231,497	-	-	231,497
Net assets released from restriction - satisfaction of grant requirements	1,252,200	-	1,252,200	(1,252,200)	-	1,508,865	-	(1,508,865)	-
Total operating revenues	5,019,988	-	5,019,988	285,734	5,305,722	5,236,416	-	(137,680)	5,098,736
Operating expenses									
Program services									
Research, policy and training	2,616,201	-	2,616,201	-	2,616,201	2,732,775	100,000	-	2,832,775
Publications and educational material	623,563	-	623,563	-	623,563	630,245	-	-	630,245
Membership and outreach	839,030	-	839,030	-	839,030	786,334	100,000	-	886,334
Total program services	4,078,794	-	4,078,794	-	4,078,794	4,149,354	200,000	-	4,349,354
Supporting services									
Fundraising	747,963	-	747,963	-	747,963	782,945	-	-	782,945
Management and general	582,151	115,553	697,704	-	697,704	675,896	-	-	675,896
Total supporting services	1,330,114	115,553	1,445,667	-	1,445,667	1,458,841	-	-	1,458,841
Total operating expenses	5,408,908	115,553	5,524,461	-	5,524,461	5,608,195	200,000	-	5,808,195
Net operating income (loss)	(388,920)	(115,553)	(504,473)	285,734	(218,739)	(371,779)	(200,000)	(137,680)	(709,459)
Net realized and unrealized loss	(211,346)	-	(211,346)	-	(211,346)	80,603	-	-	80,603
Changes in net assets	(600,266)	(115,553)	(715,819)	285,734	(430,085)	(291,176)	(200,000)	(137,680)	(628,856)
Transfer between unrestricted accounts	(115,553)	115,553	-	-	-	(200,000)	200,000	-	-
Net assets, beginning of year	4,503,030	-	4,503,030	1,153,450	5,656,480	4,994,206	-	1,291,130	6,285,336
Net assets, end of year	\$3,787,211	-	\$3,787,211	\$1,439,184	\$5,226,395	\$4,503,030	-	\$1,153,450	\$5,656,480

Additional financial information can be obtained from www.eli.org.



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1730 M Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. 202.939.3800
Fax. 202.939.3868
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