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MEXICO

2006-2007



INFORME BIENNIAL BIENNIAL REPORT

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USA



## The Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)

AIDA is an international non-governmental environmental law organization that has worked since 1998 to empower people across the Americas to protect their environment through the development, implementation, and enforcement of national and international laws. We accomplish this by providing communities and non-governmental organizations with legal and technical assistance that incorporates applicable elements of international law. We also collaborate with both national and international teams of legal experts to establish precedents that will have regional and long-term impacts.

### Our most significant achievements in 2006 - 2007

- As a result of AIDA's efforts, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) asked the Peruvian government to take precautionary measures to protect inhabitants of La Oroya, Peru, who suffer severe health impacts from contamination by a multi-metal smelter. The Commission recommended that the government provide specialized medical attention to the group we represented in the case, which included many children. By taking this action, the IACHR set an important precedent and publicly recognized that contamination in the city threatens not only the health, but the lives of local peoples.
- We published the "Guide to Environmental Defense: Building a Strategy for the Litigation of Cases before the Inter-American System for Human Rights." The guide promotes understanding of this regional system to protect human rights and encourages strategic litigation before the system to halt human rights abuses caused by environmental degradation.
- We protected coastal ecosystems and vulnerable marine species in Costa Rica by halting a risky tuna aquaculture project in a legal victory with JPN and CEDARENA. The court ruling set a precedent that will help prevent damages from other aquaculture projects; a critical advance given that Costa Rica still lacks appropriate aquaculture regulations, like most countries in the hemisphere.
- We provided significant legal support in cases related to the construction of mega dams in Mexico (La Parota), Panama (Changuinola), Belize (Chalillo), and Ecuador (Baba). In each country, dam construction and operation threatens to seriously damage the environment and violate human rights. We contributed to the legal cases by sharing information needed to develop strategic legal elements, evaluating legal actions, submitting *amicus curiae* briefs, and participating in public events. We also developed legal arguments linking international environmental law with human rights, which were later used by participating organizations in other countries to strengthen domestic legal actions. In this manner, we extended our support to more communities and ecosystems at risk.
- We safeguarded one of the leatherback sea turtles' last remaining nesting sites in the Pacific Ocean by winning a lawsuit with CEDARENA before the Constitutional Chamber of the Costa Rican Supreme Court. The ruling required the State to fulfill its obligation to protect the Leatherback National Marine Park, and expropriate private lands within the park slated

for tourism development. This decision followed an earlier victory in which the Chamber suspended the granting of construction permits within the park.

## **AIDA Finances**

AIDA operates on an annual budget of US \$420,000, more than 80% of which is directly allocated to project and case development. We employ professionals in eight countries in the hemisphere, including two full-time lawyers, and twelve part-time lawyers and scientists.

AIDA is funded entirely by donations from individuals, participating organizations, and foundations committed to our work. We also receive significant in-kind donations from lawyers and other volunteers. If you would like to make a financial contribution to support AIDA, you may do so online [by clicking on “Donate”](http://www.aida-americas.org) on our website: <http://www.aida-americas.org>, or by sending a check to: AIDA c/o Earthjustice, 426 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612, USA.

If you have questions about how to best to make a donation, please call (510) 457-4010.

## **Many thanks!**

It is only with the support of many dedicated volunteers, partners, and supporters that we were able to reach our goals these past two years. For all their help, we extend a special thank you to this outstanding team of professionals and students: Carlos Abanto, Harvetta Asamoah, Rolando Castro, Ivana Croxatto, Christian Curtis, Jesse Finfrock, Rafael González, Sarah Hale, Shiloh Hernández, Jennifer Holzer, James Lyall, Horacio Mancilla, Koshland Mayer Blackwell, Diana Moore, Gianluca Nardella, Donna O’Kelly, Elías Peña, Timothy Rause, Juan Picolotti, Romina Picolotti, Emily Pierson, Elizabeth Quispe, Víctor Rodríguez, David Takacs, José Thompson, Francisco Villagrán, James Word, and Translations for Progress.

We are also deeply grateful to the following organizations and foundations for their invaluable support: the Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation; the C.S. Fund; Earthjustice; the Global Opportunities Fund; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; the Marisla Foundation; and the Oak Foundation. Additionally, we would like to thank our many anonymous and private donors for their trust and financial support, which enables us to continue our work.

## **AIDA Board of Directors**

*Gustavo Alanís, México*  
*Secretary, AIDA*  
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Lawyer, Ecojustice, Canada

*Martin Wagner, USA*  
*Treasurer, AIDA*  
Managing Director,  
Internacional Program,  
Earthjustice

## **AIDA's Professional Team and Advisors, 2006 - 2007**

- Anna Cederstav, Program Director
- Astrid Puentes Riaño, Legal Director
- Eliana Ames, Peru (Lawyer, La Oroya)
- Lourdes Bascary, Argentina (Lawyer, La Oroya)
- Rolando Castro, Costa Rica (Lawyer, Marine Biodiversity Protection)
- Carlos Chirinos, Peru (Lawyer, La Oroya)
- Isabel Fernández, Mexico (Lawyer, Marine Biodiversity Protection)
- María Giménez, Mexico (Lawyer, Marine Biodiversity Protection)
- Karina Livschitz, Peru (Lawyer, La Oroya)
- Betsy Marsh, United States (Program and Communications Advisor)
- Gladys Martínez, Costa Rica (Lawyer, Marine Biodiversity Protection)
- Candace Neufeld, United States (Communications Advisor)
- John Nova, Colombia (Lawyer, Columbian Biodiversity Protection)
- Mónica Ribadeneira, Ecuador (Lawyer, Marine Biodiversity Protection)
- Silvana Rivadeneira, Ecuador (Lawyer, Ecuadorean Biodiversity Protection)
- Shane Romig, Argentina (Communications Advisor)

## **AIDA's Participating Organizations:**

*Argentina* – CEDHA (Center for Human Rights and Environment, *Centro de Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente*)

*Canada* – Ecojustice

*Chile* – FIMA, (*Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente*)

*Costa Rica* – CEDARENA (Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center, *Centro de Derecho Ambiental y de los Recursos Naturales*)

*Costa Rica* – JPN (Justice for Nature, *Justicia para la Naturaleza*)

*Ecuador* – ECOLEX (Organization for Environmental Law and Management, *Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental*)

*United States* – Earthjustice

*Mexico* – CEMDA (Mexican Environmental Law Center. *Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental*)

*Peru* – SPDA (Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, *Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental*)

**Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)  
Statement of Financial Position<sup>1</sup>  
As of July 31, 2006**

MANDEL & KING, CPA'S

**Asociacion Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente  
Statement of Financial Position  
as of July 31, 2006**

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	256,891
Grants receivable	\$	35,000
Prepaid expenses		13,043
Total current assets		304,934

**PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT**

Office equipment (net)		2,892
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>307,826</b>
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**LIABILITIES**

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>
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**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted		220,965
Temporarily restricted		86,861

<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>307,826</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>307,826</b>
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See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.

<sup>1</sup> Accrual basis financial statements, audited by Mandel & King C.P.A.s.

MANDEL &amp; KING, CPA'S

**Asociacion Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente**  
**Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets**  
**For the Year Ended July 31, 2006**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>			
Grants & contributions	\$ 223	\$ 140,590	\$ 140,813
Service fees	\$ 4,670		\$ 4,670
Interest income	7,460		7,460
Donated services and facilities	165,626		165,626
	<hr/>		
Total revenues, gains and other support	177,979	140,590	318,569
<b>EXPENSES AND LOSSES</b>			
Program expenses	300,096		300,096
Administration expenses	30,875		30,875
Fundraising expenses	18,895		18,895
	<hr/>		
Total expenses and losses	349,866	-	349,866
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Net operating income	(171,887)	140,590	(31,297)
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS</b>			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	184,482	(184,482)	-
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<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	12,595	(43,892)	(31,297)
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<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	208,370	130,753	339,123
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<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 220,965</b>	<b>\$ 86,861</b>	<b>\$ 307,826</b>

See independent auditor's report and notes to the financial statements.