Looking Back – and Ahead

2014 was a momentous year for us at AIDA. Celebrating 15 years since our founding provided opportunities to recognize and reflect on what we have achieved in defense of the environment and communities in the Americas.

It also inspired us to discuss and plan for our future by asking: “What impact do we want AIDA to have in the next 15 years, and beyond?”

Our conversations confirmed our unique value: AIDA’s attorneys - who are both from and in Latin America - provide international and regional legal expertise tailored to help communities and organizations solve environmental problems. And, we affirmed our vision: to guarantee the protection of ecosystems and the human right to a healthy environment for the sustainable development of Latin America.

In this report, we provide a graphic snapshot of the often complicated processes we use to secure critical legal protections. We highlight an achievement from each program area that demonstrates the impact of our work. We present our finances, representing our commitment to investing strategically. Finally, we recognize the institutions and individuals who are dedicated to supporting AIDA’s mission.

Thank you to the AIDA team, and to our Board, partners and donors for collaborating with and encouraging us to do this important work.

With great appreciation,

Anna Cederstav & Astrid Puentes Riaño, Co-Executive Directors

Collaborating for Regional Impact

AIDA embodies a hemispheric commitment to justice for people, biodiversity and special places. Team members in eight nations along with the Board of Directors and Participating Organizations represent a cross-section of engaged professionals advocating for environmental protection throughout the Americas. We are collectively invested in protecting natural resources and those who care for them.

No doubt the challenges facing the environment of the Americas are both plentiful and daunting: climate change, resource extraction, polluted air and water, unsustainable development, and human rights violations that arise from environmental exploitation.

AIDA provides much-needed expertise in international law and strategy, fostering collaboration to stop the worst abuses and to find practical, sustainable solutions.

I am proud to be a part of AIDA and the important role it plays in securing a healthy future for the Americas.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for joining AIDA as an advocate of justice for the environment.

Most sincerely,

Manolo Morales, President, Board of Directors
How AIDA works

With partners throughout the Americas

Use the law to protect the environment

Methods

Hold governments accountable through high-profile legal actions
Advocacy through intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions

Bring arguments from international law to domestic court cases and policy debate
Move latest developments in international law down to the level of trial courts and environmental agencies

Outcomes

Justice for the environment
Laying the groundwork to protect our right to a healthy environment for sustainable development in the region

Problems

Unsustainable development
Detrimental public policies

Outcomes

Justice for the environment
Laying the groundwork to protect our right to a healthy environment for sustainable development in the region

Problems

Unsustainable development
Detrimental public policies
Ensuring that international finance supports sustainable energy solutions

In the past year, AIDA has contributed to the design of a framework for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a primary source of funding to tackle climate change in developing countries. The GCF functions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to channel public and private support. The GCF will become operational in 2015, with an expected initial $10-15 billion to invest in projects and programs.

AIDA has worked to make GCF policy more representative and inclusive of Latin American interests. Gaining the confidence of government representatives, we have successfully and strategically promoted the requests of regional civil society groups and communities for increased transparency and public participation. Likewise, we have also disseminated information about the GCF through webinars, reports, and updates. AIDA’s engagement has improved communication and information exchange between Latin American decision-makers and civil society during this critical phase of development.
Building capacity to protect the environment

AIDA has a staunch commitment to building institutional capacity and expanding public participation. By sharing expertise and resources, we increase the collective ability of civil society groups and communities to protect natural treasures and human health.

For example, since its founding by AIDA and partners in 2010, the Environmental Justice Network in Colombia has played an important role in increasing legal expertise. Today, more than 300 Colombian environmental advocates participate. This year, the Network hosted eight training and capacity-building forums. Topics included climate change, genetically modified organisms, Chinese investment, dams and human rights, and strategic litigation. The Network also invested in social media to provide members and other environmental defenders with relevant information. The Network’s Twitter account is one of the most popular sources of environmental news in Colombia, providing a vibrant forum for environmental law and advocacy on critical issues such as fracking.

AIDA’s legal research and expertise is often referenced and utilized by governments as well. For example, our report, “Large dams in the Americas: Is the cure worse than the disease?” provided the basis for the Colombian Constitutional Court’s recent decision on the Quimbo dam. The Court significantly referenced AIDA’s report, noting the impacts that dams have on human rights and the environment, and applicable international law. The Court asserted the human right to dignity and to work, stating that the Colombian government had failed to adequately consult and consider all affected people and communities.
Program Area

Freshwater Protection

Drought in the Amazon Basin, Alter do Chão, Brazil, 2010
Photography: Thiago Sanna Freire Silva
Pressuring the government to protect clean water for communities

Through several years of advocacy, AIDA has helped to halt large-scale mining in Colombia’s Santurbán páramo, a high-altitude wetland. Páramo ecosystems provide fresh water for millions of people, habitat for endemic and threatened species, and climate change mitigation through the capture of atmospheric carbon. A relatively small portion of Colombia’s páramos are effectively protected, leaving the rest open to destruction by mining and petroleum corporations vying for the country’s extensive natural resources.

While Colombia’s Ministry of Environment has announced its intent to increase the protected area of the Santurbán páramo, it has not made its commitment formal or defined exact boundaries. To press the government to act, AIDA launched an online campaign. More than 20,000 people signed a petition within a few months, a powerful civil response in Colombia where online advocacy is recent. The campaign increased public awareness of the value of páramos and has ensured that thousands will be watching the government’s decision in this case.

AIDA’s support has been critical to the defense of the Santurbán páramo. As an international organization with a real presence on the ground, they have enabled us to use mechanisms of international law strategically, without losing sight of the local reality. We are very grateful for their contribution.

Miguel Ramos, Committee for the Defense of the Santurbán Páramo, Colombia
Program Area

Human Rights & Environment

Children from Arara Community, Brazil
Photography: Renata Pinheiro, Xingu Vivo
Advocating for communities harmed by a large dam

AIDA and partners remain focused on the increasingly critical social and environmental damages resulting from construction of the Belo Monte dam on the Xingu River in Brazil. Decades of protest and debate have not stopped its construction; this $11 billion dam will flood forests and valuable ecosystems, forever changing a large part of the Amazon rainforest. This year, indigenous and riverine peoples have been displaced, traditional farming and fishing grounds have been destroyed, and a host of social ills have seeped into these communities. Massive migration to the region has exacerbated poverty, reduced health services, introduced human trafficking, and increased prostitution, while construction is contaminating water resources.

AIDA has been a leader in pursuing legal protections and compensation on behalf of the communities affected by Belo Monte. We submitted a brief to Brazil’s Supreme Court demonstrating that congressional approval of the dam a decade ago was illegal because Amazonian communities were not consulted. Our attorneys also

widely respected for their expertise, AIDA’s attorneys have multi-cultural savvy, and the ability to navigate both national and international politics.

We are fortunate to have such an organization protecting the environment and defending affected communities.

David Hunter, Professor of Law and Director of the International Legal Studies Program, American University Washington College of Law

have appealed to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding Brazil’s use of a dictatorship-era legal mechanism, which enables chief justices to overturn lower court decisions that protect the environment and indigenous peoples on the basis of arbitrary arguments related to national economic and security interests.

In collaboration with local and international civil society partners, AIDA continues to push Brazil to recognize and mitigate the negative human and environmental costs of Belo Monte.
Coral reefs sustain fish populations throughout the Americas
Establishing legal protections for wetland ecosystems

In February 2014, Mexico’s government announced a national policy for protecting wetlands, a commitment almost four years in the making. As a member of Mexico’s National Wetlands Committee, AIDA actively participated in creating this public policy.

Wetlands include estuaries, shallow coral reefs, and mangroves, all of which are plentiful in Mexico and vital to fisheries health, climate change mitigation, and coastline protection from the impact of storms. Mexico’s new laws set actions, goals, and priorities for the management and protection of wetlands, including proactive measures to ensure wetland preservation. The policy also directs the government to preserve and promote environmental progress, a critical provision for which AIDA advocated.

Arturo Peña, Sub-director of National Cooperation and Bilateral Affairs, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), Mexico
## Financial Statements

### Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FISCAL YEAR 13</th>
<th>FISCAL YEAR 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>823,292</td>
<td>622,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>19,274</td>
<td>19,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>872</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenues</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services and Facilities&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>206,199</td>
<td>134,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>1,053,017</td>
<td>820,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>431,489</td>
<td>656,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>28,476</td>
<td>70,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>31,147</td>
<td>38,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services and Facilities&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>206,199</td>
<td>134,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>697,311</td>
<td>900,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Ordinary Revenues</strong></td>
<td>355,706</td>
<td>-80,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change In Net Assets&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td>355,706</td>
<td>-80,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes:

1) AIDA receives significant in-kind donations of professional time as well as office costs, materials, and equipment from AIDA participating organizations, particularly Earthjustice. We also have numerous professional volunteers and interns that contribute their time to AIDA. These contributions are valued at fair market value and shown in the Financial Statements as “Donated Services and Facilities.”

2) Because of substantial donated services, AIDA is able to use more than 85% of funds raised for programmatic efforts.

3) Because AIDA receives multi-year grants, a negative change in net assets in part results from use of restricted funds received in prior years.

## Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July 31, 2013</th>
<th>July 31, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and investments</td>
<td>720,976</td>
<td>777,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>384,194</td>
<td>282,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>3,602</td>
<td>10,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,108,772</td>
<td>1,070,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>48,140</td>
<td>89,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit cards payable</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Liabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>48,303</td>
<td>90,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>564,883</td>
<td>545,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>495,586</td>
<td>434,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,060,469</td>
<td>980,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,108,772</td>
<td>1,070,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How AIDA Spends Donations

- **86% Program Services**
- **9% Fundraising**
- **5% Administration**

---

<sup>1</sup> AIDA receives significant in-kind donations of professional time as well as office costs, materials, and equipment from AIDA participating organizations, particularly Earthjustice. We also have numerous professional volunteers and interns that contribute their time to AIDA. These contributions are valued at fair market value and shown in the Financial Statements as “Donated Services and Facilities.”

<sup>2</sup> Because of substantial donated services, AIDA is able to use more than 85% of funds raised for programmatic efforts.

<sup>3</sup> Because AIDA receives multi-year grants, a negative change in net assets in part results from use of restricted funds received in prior years.
AIDA Fiscal Year 2014 Donors

Thank you to all who donated to our work in Fiscal Year 2014! Your support enables us to provide our services free-of-charge to the communities and clients we serve.

**Institutional**
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- Anonymous (2)
- Conservation International
- CS Fund/ Warsh-Mott Legacy
- Earthjustice
- Holzer Family Foundation
- International Community Foundation
- International Commission of Jurists
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Swift Foundation
- Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
- Wallace Global Fund
- Zennström Philanthropies

**Individual**
- Adenike Adeyeye
- Anonymous (3)
- Naysa Ahuja
- Pauline Alioua
- Diego Álvarez
- Eduardo Amaro
- Vivi Andrijani
- Alberto Anton
- Evelyn J Arevalo
- Kevin and Dena Arnold
- Jennifer Astone
- Noni Austin & Tim Wilson
- Anand Bedhac
- Alexis Brayton
- Melanie Burtall
- Jacqueline Burns
- Marcela Cabrera Luna
- Maria Claudia Camacho
- Gustavo Canales
- John Capogna
- Clarissa Castillo
- Rolando Castro
- Carl & Britt Cederstav
- Robin Chan
- Leslie Choong
- Lara Cushing
- Orion Cruz
- Roxanne Diaz
- Scott Dietrich & Emily Capello
- Brian Dill
- Arly Downey
- Nick Dubroff
- Robert Duffni
- Natalia Estrada
- Erica Eltsion
- Robert Ether & Lisa Chase
- Anna Fagergren
- Marco Falcioni & Miwa Miya Noriko
- Mark Ferrari
- Dalila Flores
- Lance Fordham
- Peter Galvin & Cynthia Elkins
- Dylan Gaffey
- Diana Gamza
- Kayla Gomes
- Michelle Gomes
- María de Lourdes Gómez
- Roxanna Guide
- Sailsh Gurmani & Tiffany Elson
- David Henkin
- Sandra Hidenrick
- David Hunter & Margaret B. Bowman
- Zachary Hurwitz
- Erik Jensen
- Phaedra Jones
- Liz Judge
- Alex Kael
- John Kalenstein
- Maneka Kaur
- Laurel Kellner
- Karen Killeney
- Andrzej Kozlowski
- Joe Lamb & Anna Goldstein
- Jennie Lane
- Jeff LaPenna
- Michael Latronica
- Tom Le Blanc
- Lyubomir Lefterov
- Afsaneh Loftizadeh
- Richard Lord
- Christine Ma & Jeremy Reiter
- Jeanette MacMillan
- Gladys Martinez & Gustavo Solis Hidalgo
- Julia McCarthy
- David McClure
- Nancy McGirr
- Nicolás Medina
- Kata Miletich
- Glen Miller & Mary Miller
- Camilo Mondragón
- Lisa Montano
- Manolo Morales
- Aditi Mukherji & Rye Murphy
- Mike Murphy
- Uriel Nara
- Nick Nasravidez
- Aída Navarro
- Adele Negro
- Lisa Nessan & Chad Augur
- Eric Nielson
- Jean Norris
- Sebastian Orn
- Trent Orr & Brian Mikulak
- Alexandra Orsola
- Florencia Ortuzar & Paul Bay-Schmith
- Scott Pasternak
- Marcus Pearson
- Ronald & Karen Perkins
- Neil Popovic
- Stephen Powell
- Andy Pyle
- Heather & Todd Raker
- Lonna Richmond
- Alison & William Roberts
- David Robinson
- Anthony Rollins-Mullens
- Rosario Roman
- Abby Robinson
- Ashley Rule
- Zara Rutherford
- Robert Ryan
- Melissa Saavedra
- Rashmi Sahai & Taea Sheller
- Adam Safir & Anna Cederstav
- Mateo Sluder
- Brian Smith
- Pedro Solano
- Bill Tucano Stark
- Henry Steinberg
- Paul Stontenburgh
- Walker Staunayask
- David Takacs
- Mari Tanaka
- Lauri Tanner
- Madeline Tasquin
- Jessica Torres
- Gabriel Uribe & Astrid Puentes
- Trip Van Noppen & Rivka Gordon
- Abhishek Veldurthy
- Ray Wan
- Martin Wagner & Martha Belcher
- Kara Weisman
- Andy Whalen
- Anayana White & Jonah Hopton
- Ananda Wiegano
- Kim Winters & Tony Hidenrick
- Adam Zuckerman
- Carol Zúñiga & Benjamin Loney
- Dance for the Amazon
- In-Kind Support
- Guayaki Organic Yerba Mate
- Gundlach Bundschu Winery
- La Furia Chalaca
- Leafcutter Designs
- Makú
- Sonoma Chocolatiers
- The San Francisco Capoeira Center
AIDA works in close collaboration with numerous partners throughout the hemisphere, including national environmental law organizations that nominate candidates for our Board of Directors and contribute ideas for program work. These Participating Organizations include:

Argentina – CEDHA, Center for Human Rights and the Environment
Canada – Ecojustice
Chile – FIMA, Environmental Defenders Association
Costa Rica – CEDARENA, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center
Costa Rica – JPN, Justice for Nature
Ecuador – ECOLEX, Organization for Environmental Law and Management
México – CEMDA, Mexican Environmental Law Center
Panamá – CIAM, Environmental Advocacy Center
Perú – SPDA, Peruvian Society for Environmental Law
United States – Earthjustice

**AIDA has a professional, well-prepared and highly efficient team of lawyers, which provides effective results. The Böll Foundation benefits from collaborating with AIDA.**

Dolores Rojas Rubio, Program Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Mexico
**Board of Directors**
President: Manolo Morales, *Executive Director, ECOLEX*
Vice-President: Rolando Castro, *Executive Director, CEDARENA*
Secretary: Margot Venton, *Staff Lawyer, Ecojustice*
Chief Financial Officer: Martin Wagner, *International Program Director, Earthjustice*
Gustavo Alanís, *President, CEMDA*
Ana Valéria Araújo, *Executive Director, Brazil Human Rights Fund*
Santiago Cantón, *Director, RFK Partners for Human Rights, Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights*
Fernando Dougnac, *President, FIMA*
Rafael González, *President, JPN*
Jerónimo Rodríguez, *Sub-Director, Scientific Services and Special Projects, Alexander Von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute*
Pedro Solano, *Executive Director, SPDA*

**AIDA Team**
*Co-Executive Directors*
Anna Cederstav
Astrid Puentes Riaño

*Attorneys*
Ana María Mondragón Duque
Andrea Rodríguez Osuna
Ariel Pérez Castellón
Carlos Lozano Acosta
Florence Ortúzar Greene
Haydée Rodríguez Romero
Héctor Herrera Santoyo
Gladys Martínez de Lemos
María José Veramendi Villa
Sandra Moguel Archila

*Communications, Fundraising and Administration*
Anna Laurie Miller
Aída Navarro Barnetche
Dena Debry
Ivette Sánchez
Kim Winters
Laura Yaniz Estrada Vivas
Tania Noguera Chacón
Tania Paz Mena
Víctor Quintanilla Sangüeza
Wayne Salazar
www.aida-americas.org

Primary offices:
50 California St., Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94111 USA

Atlixco 138, Col. Condesa
Mexico City, C.P. 06140 Mexico
T/F (52-55) 521-20141

General Email: aida@aida-americas.org

/AIDAorg

@AIDAorg

Cover: Blue and Yellow Macaw (Arara) in Pantanal, Brazil / Photography: Filipefrazao / All portrait photography by Wayne Salazar / Graphic design: Amaranta Delgado