



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period October 2013 – September 2014

NOTE: TO CHECK A BOX, DOUBLE CLICK ON IT AND TICK 'CHECKED' UNDER 'DEFAULT VALUE' IN THE POP UP WINDOW

- 1. Updates on your activities.** The following table is a summary of ICRI's *Framework for Action* (FFA) and its four cornerstones. (The full text of the FFA is available in English, French, and Spanish at <http://www.icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-key-documents/framework-action-2013>).

Integrated Management	Objective	Manage coral reefs and related ecosystems using an ecosystem approach, recognizing place based activity; connectivity within and among ecological, social, economic, and institutional systems; as well as with attention to scale; resilience of ecological and social systems; and long-term provision of ecosystem services.
	General Approach	Integrated management, using a strategic, risk-based, informed approach, provides a framework for effective coral reef and related ecosystem management which supports natural resilience, ecosystem service provision, and enhances the ability to withstand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.
	Desired outcome	There is a demonstrable reduction in the threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems through management action.
Capacity Building	Objective	To build capacity in all facets of management of coral reefs and related ecosystems and support dissemination and application of best practices to achieve the widest possible engagement of all stakeholders in planning and management activities.
	General Approach	Continued collaboration, partnerships, outreach, information sharing and education to ensure the uptake of best practices and encourage behavioural change. This can only be successful if the diversity of cultures, traditions and governance among nations and regions are taken into account.
	Desired outcome	Persons who have influence in the management of coral reef and related ecosystems have the knowledge, tools and capital necessary to apply best practices, adapted to the cultural and socio-economic context.
Science & Monitoring	Objective	To support research and citizen science approaches to enable countries and communities assess and report on the status of and threats to their coral reefs and related ecosystems in a coordinated, comparable and accessible manner.
	General Approach	Research and monitoring programs are essential to ensure that management of coral reefs and related ecosystems is based on best available (scientific) information.
	Desired outcome	Knowledge of the status and trends in coral reefs and related ecosystems health is enhanced and used to inform planning and management, improving management outcomes.
Periodic Assessment (Review)	Objective	To engage in periodic review of the impact and effectiveness of all elements of management to enable evaluation and refinement of management measures in an adaptive framework.
	General Approach	Periodic assessments of management effectiveness and evaluation of projects and activities to ensure the efficacy of management tools and systems in tackling the range of pressures affecting coral reefs and related ecosystems and protecting the values associated with them.
	Desired outcome	Management processes and activities are regularly reviewed and improved using a structured approach, to enhance their ability to effectively reduce pressures and

		threats.
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Using the table on the previous page, as well as the detailed descriptors of approaches and strategies available in the full text of the FFA as a reference, please give us an update on an activity/project/program(s) which has been particularly successful in your country/organization during this reporting period.

Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	The “Guide to Legislative Approaches for Reef Conservation.”
Location	San Francisco, CA
Dates	Current
Main Organizer(s)	AIDA, the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice (Vance Center) and Mayer Brown Law Firm are working to strengthen legal protections for fragile Latin American reefs
Main Stakeholder(s)	Governments
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>Our comprehensive Guide to Regulatory Approaches for Reef Conservation has been drafted. AIDA in partnership with the Vance Center analyzed seven jurisdictions (Australia, Belize, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Tanzania, and the United States) in order to identify key regulatory practices to protect coral reefs. Based on the research, the team compiled regulatory best practices into seven categories: comprehensive regulations to protect the marine environment, prevention of impacts from land-based activities, governance for protecting coral reefs, safe navigation in reef areas, responsible tourism, prevention of fishing impacts in reef areas, and implementation, monitoring and enforcement. Each category presents the most relevant examples of regulations from the chosen jurisdictions.</p> <p>Currently, the guide is under editing process and it will be ready to publish in October. At the same time that we were developing the guide, we created a survey on key topics for understanding legal and institutional frameworks on coral protection in the Americas. Pro bono firms in the following countries: Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela, completed the survey and addressed questions from AIDA and Vance Center about the implementation and effectiveness of each legal framework. In addition, we maintain close communication with scientists of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) to better understand the threats to coral reefs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Based on this information, AIDA is prioritizing coral “hot-spots” and identifying opportunities to improve legal protection to coral reefs within the chosen countries. In the following months AIDA will create a strategy to work in the top three prioritized countries.</p> <p>As a result, our project sets on the integrated management and capacity building cornerstones.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	The “Guide to Legislative Approaches for Reef Conservation” that presents legal tools to prevent impacts from land-based activities and fishing, promote governance for protecting coral reefs, and strengthen

	implementation, enforcement and monitoring in reef areas, among others.
Lessons learned	There are not many partners that help researching and analysing in all targeted countries, which tackle the celerity of the investigation. Legislation is fragmented in most countries; as a result, we need to request comprehensive guidelines for decision-makers.
Related websites (English preferred)	www.aida-americas.org

Project 2

Cornerstone (s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Cabo Pulmo and Citizen Submission
Location	Mexico
Dates	Current project
Main Organizer(s)	AIDA and Earthjustice
Main Stakeholder (s)	NGO, authorities, and communities.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	Since 2012, we have continually reminded the Mexican authorities that both the Ramsar Secretariat and the Unesco World Heritage Committee have asked them to consider the cumulative and indirect impacts of tourism projects proposed near Cabo Pulmo reef, in Baja California Sur. Cabo Dorado is the third such project proposed. It would have required construction of a new city that would surely be fatal to the reef. At a public meeting in Los Cabos in May 2014, AIDA attorney Sandra Moguel presented arguments based on international law against the project. After this meeting, Mexico's Secretariat for Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) denied an environmental permit for the resort. Also to protect Cabo Pulmo Reef—and other critical coastal and marine ecosystems in the Sea of Cortez—we are dedicating substantial time to responses, meetings and continued information-gathering related to the Citizen Submission to the Council on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of NAFTA, filed in April 2013 (as previously described to the Foundation). The petition highlights the Mexican government's failure to effectively enforce national environmental laws with respect to proposed developments in the Sea of Cortez region. It was supported by 40 scientists and representatives of the local sustainability council, who sent letters in May to the CEC requesting that a factual record be developed. The Mexican government issued a formal answer in January 2014 arguing that the petitioners have not exhausted national legal actions and that the petition does not meet CEC guidelines. The CEC will decide by September whether to initiate a factual record- an investigation - of the violations of environmental law that were raised in the citizen petition.
Outcome (including expected outcome)	A factual record that push EIA's amendments

Lessons learned	At the international level, it is difficult to wait for demonstrating remedies exhaustion at a domestic level, when the ecosystems are very fragile.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.aida-americas.org/en/project/failure-comply-environmental-legislation-threatens-gulf-california http://www.aida-americas.org/en/cabo_pulmo http://www.cec.org/Page.asp?PageID=2001&ContentID=25460&SiteNodeID=1240&BL_ExpandID=

Project 3

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Veracruz
Location	Mexico
Dates	Current project
Main Organizer(s)	AIDA and Mexican Center for Environmental Law (CEMDA)
Main Stakeholder(s)	Local communities
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	AIDA supports the scientist effort's to protect the Veracruz Reef System. The System was declared a Protected Natural Area in 1992 and registered on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance in 2004, but the Mexican government plans to alter the boundaries of the protected area to expand a port. In response, AIDA and CEMDA – with support from five organizations and scientists – filed with the Ramsar Secretariat a report on the federal government's failure to comply with that international treaty.
Outcome (Expected outcome)	Compensation measures according to the Ramsar Convention
Lessons learned	It is difficult to create effective legal strategies when communities are not well organized and not engaged.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.aida-americas.org/en/project/ensuring-protection-veracruz-reef-system

Project 4

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	National Wetlands Policy
Location	Mexico
Dates	February 2014
Main Organizer(s)	National Commission on Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)
Main Stakeholder(s)	NGO and authorities
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	In February 2014, Mexico's Natural Protected Areas Commission issued a national wetlands policy that establishes goals, actions, and priorities for the management and protection of wetlands. AIDA has been calling for such a policy since 2009. AIDA attorney participates in the National Wetlands Committee that drafted it; she created working collaborations with authorities and promoted key conservation priorities. We provided model policies from other nations, drafted text, and helped extensively edit drafts of the policy. AIDA successfully pushed for inclusion of a key principle: authorities must preserve and promote environmental progress by respecting protected-area status and by improving safeguards, rather than modifying and reducing protected areas to benefit large infrastructure projects. AIDA's work also led to inclusion of language about using best available science when evaluating impacts in wetlands, compliance with international treaty obligations, and transparency.

Outcome (Expected outcome)	National Wetlands Policy
Lessons learned	The Policy is a good starting point, however, it does not contain indicators to evaluate the policy' success
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.aida-americas.org/en/project/mexico-takes-action-protect-its-wetlands-unsustainable-development

Note: If you have more activities/projects/programs you would like to report on or share with other members, please duplicate the table above and fill it in for as many projects as you wish.

2. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.** Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI Plan of Action (<http://www.icriforum.org/icri-secretariat/current>) and objectives of the general meeting.

a. Engaging other sectors

As one of the themes in the current Plan of Action, *engaging other sectors* will be addressed in a workshop during GM29. In the workshop, we would like to focus on collaborations among different sectors that are driven by local communities living near reefs. By highlighting cases of coral reef conservation and management as well as awareness-raising activities that are carried out at the community level, we would like to explore ways of simultaneously pursuing the conservation of coral reefs and the sustainable development of the local communities.

Does your country/organization have a successful case that exemplifies the description above? If yes, please elaborate in the space below.

AIDA is not currently working on collaborations at the community level.

b. Reef zoning for multiple use

In GM30, we are planning to address the theme of *reef zoning*. Do you have zoning in place for your marine reserves? If yes, please answer the questions in the following table:

Location where a zoning plan has been implemented	
Year when the zoning plan was implemented	
Is the zoning plan accepted by the local community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did the zoning plan cause conflicts among stakeholders?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did the zoning plan resolve conflicts among stakeholders?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has there been effective enforcement for stakeholders to follow the zoning plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Overall, how would you rate the success of the zoning plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very successful <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat successful <input type="checkbox"/> Not so successful <input type="checkbox"/> Unsuccessful

In light of the questions above, please elaborate on your experience with *reef zoning* and lessons learned.

AIDA is not working currently on reef zoning issues.

Note: If there are more locations with zoning plans in your country / organization, please duplicate the table and question above and fill them in.

3. **Publications.** Please list relevant publications/reports you have released during this reporting period.

Title (incl. author and date)	Website URL if available	Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.)
Los Arrecifes de Coral en Costa Rica: Valor económico, amenazas y compromisos legales	http://www.aida-americas.org/sites/default/files/Revista%20AIDA%2000K%20creditos.pdf	Paper / electronic

internacionales que obligan a protegerlos		
La Protección de los Arrecifes de Coral en México: Rescatando la biodiversidad marina y sus beneficios para la humanidad	In print	Paper / electronic

4. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>.)

Member type (Country / Organization):	Latin America / Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Sandra Moguel
<i>Title/Organization:</i>	Attorney / Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense
<i>Email:</i>	smoguel@aida-americas.org
Focal Point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Haydee Rodriguez
<i>Title/Organization:</i>	Attorney / Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense
<i>Email:</i>	hrodriguez@aida-americas.org

Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.