

IPNLF sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)

9th February 2022

Global environments have become increasingly exploited and degraded as a result of human activity which negatively impacts communities around the world, but particularly in low-income countries. In response to globalisation, and the interconnected nature of our environment, the founding environmental law groups of AIDA realised that international collaboration would be more effective in tackling environmental threats. AIDA uses the law and science to protect the environment and communities suffering from environmental harm, primarily in Latin America. The group provides free legal expertise and scientific support that bridges the gaps between communities, local movements, national organisations, governments, and international authorities.

AIDA's Marine Team has been actively working to protect marine resources and biodiversity, focusing on creating awareness on the need to revamp the way fisheries subsidies are granted and pinpointed specific changes needed in their policies. In that context, it has become necessary to advocate these goals before international bodies such as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) who have a critical role in international fisheries management.

The primary aim of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to provide a general framework for facilitating cooperation between AIDA and IPNLF in areas of common interest and recognize as the main goal of their joint work, the benefit for the general community, contributing with the development of sustainable fishing. The two organisations will develop activities to improve regulation, policies and standards that currently promote or facilitate overfishing and undermine the overall capacity of sustainable forms of local fishing, such as subsidies and drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs).



**INTERAMERICAN
ASSOCIATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENSE**



**INTERNATIONAL
POLE AND LINE
FOUNDATION**

In signing the MoU the two organisations agree to:

- Collaboratively decide on projects to undertake together.
- Undertake projects together which meet the needs, missions and vision of both organisations.
- To distribute any work from these projects and, in doing so, recognise the collaboration of both parties.
- Intellectual property of all material created in collaborative projects will belong to both parties.

Key Ocean Achievements of AIDA

- *Protected endangered green sea turtles by reforming and enforcing Costa Rican law.*
 - *Conserved a recovering coral reef by preventing damaging tourism development in Mexico.*
 - *Supporting Latin American countries in redesigning their fisheries subsidy programs.*
 - *Designing fisheries management measures that contribute to sustainable fisheries, promote the conservation of marine ecosystems and resources, and support the livelihoods of coastal communities in several countries in the region.*
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ABOUT - AIDA

AIDA are a group of environmental lawyers working on international, national and regional levels, protecting people's rights to a healthy environment. From their initial 5 founding organisations, AIDA now have partners and offices all the way from Chile to the United States. Today, AIDA bridges the gaps between communities, local movements, national organisations, governments, and international authorities.