

INTERNATIONAL ARID LANDS CONSORTIUM



Member Institutions

The University of Arizona
Desert Research Institute - Nevada
Higher Council for Science & Technology - Jordan
The University of Illinois
Jewish National Fund
Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation - Egypt
New Mexico State University
South Dakota State University
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

I A L C

OVERVIEW

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1955 E 6th St
Tucson AZ 85719-5224 USA



TEL: 520-621-3024
FAX: 520-621-3816



EMAIL: ialc@ag.arizona.edu
WEBSITE: <http://ialcworld.org>

IALC OVERVIEW

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IALC OVERVIEW

I. INTRODUCTION

A. VISION

The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) strives to be the acknowledged leading international organization supporting ecological sustainability of arid and semiarid lands.

B. MISSION

The IALC works to achieve research and development, educational and training initiatives, demonstration projects, workshops, and other technology-transfer activities applied to the development, management, restoration, and reclamation of arid and semiarid lands in the U.S., the Middle East, and elsewhere in the world. All activities are supported by the IALC's Member Institutions through their ongoing applied research aimed at sustaining arid and semiarid land ecological systems, implicitly including humankind.

C. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The World Bank estimates that the earth's population will increase in the next 20 years to around 7.5 billion people. With approximately 40 percent of the world's land in arid and semiarid zones, there is a heightened need to transform this terrain for agriculture and habitation, and at the same time, reduce the negative impact of increased human activity and desertification.

Most of the nations located in arid and semiarid zones are already suffering from desertification, loss of agricultural productivity, over-harvesting of trees for fuel, and human and animal pressures. This worsening condition creates a growing need to respond to these global concerns.

The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC), formed in 1989 as an independent, nonprofit organization, seeks to address these problems. The promotion of cooperative arid and semiarid lands research and the dissemination of the knowledge necessary to apply that research in the United States and abroad is the IALC's ultimate goal.

In recognition of the importance of the IALC's activities, the organization was authorized by Congress and that authorization is contained in 7 USC § 3291 (a)(8).

D. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In pursuit of its vision, the IALC adheres to these guiding principles:

- Use an ecological approach to multiple-use management and sustainable use of arid and semiarid lands;
- Use the best scientific knowledge in developing and recommending appropriate technologies for the management of arid and semiarid lands;
- Strive for quality and excellence in everything done and be sensitive to the effects of our recommendations on resources, people, and nations;
- Form collaborative partnerships to achieve shared goals of the IALC Member Institutions;
- Recognize that some conflict exists in humankind and strive to deal with it in a professional manner; and
- Maintain the highest professional and ethical standards.

E. MEMBERS

The nine IALC Member Institutions include: The University of Arizona, The Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science and Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The IALC works very closely with the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, as well as with other public and private organizations.

II. CAPABILITIES

The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) was established in 1990 as a means to enhance cooperation between the Jewish National Fund (JNF), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and selected universities in the U.S. and in Israel for the purpose of promoting research and training applied to the development, management, restoration, and reclamation of arid and semiarid lands in North America, the Middle East, and elsewhere in the world.

The IALC has a great deal of credibility based on its experience throughout the world. Its global integration of supported applications is strengthened by successful collaboration between highly respected scientists and professionals at its Member Institutions.

Credibility: The IALC is recognized as a global leader studying and providing solutions for the management of arid lands resources, developing sustainable management for ecosystems, and working across political and ideological constraints.

Collaboration: The IALC has a global network of scientists and scholars at the cutting-edge of their respective disciplines in arid lands science, technology, and education.

Global Integration: Consortium scientists at six major research institutions in the U.S., institutes, research centers and agencies in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority, plus associates in other countries, have access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities that can be linked to identify problems, develop strategies and obtain solutions, and collectively apply results for maximum benefit in the shortest practicable time.

Supported Applications: The IALC has supported applied and advanced research projects as well as demonstration projects in arid land development, reclamation and use, water resources, water quality, ecosystems, hydrology, environmental engineering, and many other areas. The IALC's education and training activities include: courses, scholarships, seminars, workshops, outreach, forums, and similar activities. See Appendix 1 for a list of the research and demonstration projects funded to date. Also see Appendix 2 for a list of the funded IALC special initiatives.

Experience: The IALC is very knowledgeable and experienced in linking appropriate government, institutional and non-government organizations, and private sector resources in participating countries to focus collectively on developing solutions to arid lands resource problems.

The ***IALC institutional capabilities*** fall into five major categories.

- A. Water Resource Development, Conservation, and Management
- B. Land Use
- C. Soil Resource Conservation and Management
- D. Ecosystem Processes
- E. Inventory Technology

Major capabilities are listed alphabetically for informational purposes under Appendix 3. The diverse capabilities of each institution are potentially available to meet the needs of the IALC.

III. IALC INSTITUTIONS

The IALC has two main types of membership: full member (dues paying) referred to as a Member Institution, and the second type referred to as an affiliate member. Member Institutions in the IALC bring distinct approaches toward addressing issues in arid and semiarid lands. They provide expertise in many fields such as: soil conservation, water harvesting, conservation and reuse, agriculture, natural resource management assessment, plant genetics, remote sensing and geographical information systems, rain-fed (dryland) crop production, pest management, range and pasture seeding, and reforestation.

The University of Arizona conducts scholarly activities at both national and international levels with the collaboration of researchers and faculty university-wide. Areas of special expertise include: farming systems research-extension, flood forecasting, groundwater hydrology, soil conservation, irrigation systems, arid lands agriculture, and environmental and climatic change through time.

The ***Desert Research Institute*** (DRI) is the environmental research division of the Nevada System of Higher Education, conducting some 150 projects annually across the U.S. and many foreign countries. DRI's staff of nearly 400 conducts studies related to air quality, atmospheric physics, water quality, archaeology, geomorphology, climate change, and ecosystem responses to natural and human-caused environmental influences.

Jordan's **Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST)** represented by the Jordan Badia Research and Development Centre (BRDC), was created to build a national scientific and technological base in support of national developmental priorities, making science and technology (S&T) a major element of all growth plans. The HCST forms a base for the direction of S&T research and development. As a policymaking organization with a mandate to identify sectorial priorities from an overall perspective, the HCST coordinates strategies and the funding of scientific and technological research and development and related services. Additionally, the HCST represents and coordinates the Kingdom's interests before Arab, regional, and international organizations.

The University of Illinois is involved in major research projects and institution building in countries throughout the world. Examples of collaboration include: agricultural entomology, agriculture, forestry, biology and use of non-leguminous trees, germplasm exploration, and natural resources management assessment.

The **Jewish National Fund (JNF)** is involved in converting former unproductive lands to thriving communities. Thirty percent of Israel's population lives on arid and semiarid lands that JNF has prepared. Achievements include: planting of more than 200 million trees, reclamation of 875,000 acres for farming, housing and industry, preparation of land for 1,100 rural villages, building of more than 4,000 miles of rural roads, and creation of 450 regional parks, including picnic and recreation areas throughout Israel. One agency priority is the development of the Negev Desert's vast and desolate reaches. Land reclamation has made possible the agricultural research and progress that are taking place in this arid region. Research includes development in drip irrigation and brackish water farming. Such advances contain important universal implications, because Negev communities continue to grow and prosper under the same environmental conditions found in many other areas of the world.

Egypt's **Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR)** has strengthened IALC's capability to provide effective leadership for solving arid and semiarid land management problems. The MALR supports new lands development, establishment of wind breaks, afforestation to improve local habitats, and operates training facilities for national and international audiences in the areas of management. MALR has agreed to collaborate with the IALC on projects in such areas as remote sensing, water harvesting, brackish/effluent waters, afforestation, water and soil conservation, dryland agroforestry, and ecological processes in artificial savannahs.

New Mexico State University Center for International Programs has coordinated international research activities for more than 30 years, including cooperative scientific exchange with Israel. Some of the selected areas of expertise are: heat- and drought-tolerant plants, plant genetics, plant improvement and protection, water management, and soil, plant, and animal interaction.

South Dakota State University places a major emphasis on international development. In recent years, expertise in arid and semiarid agriculture at South Dakota State University has included aspects of remote sensing, crop development, landscape ecology, recreational uses of forest areas, tree species selection, pest management, and rangeland, cropland, and water research.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville is affiliated with 54 Latin American and U.S. institutions through the Consejo Universitario Interamericano para el Desarrollo Económico y Social, a consortium that promotes collaborative research and social, economic, and curriculum development. The University's arid lands research strengths include: alternative uses for desert plants, citrus research, economic development, range and pasture seeding, and watershed management.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

A. MEMBERS

The IALC Member Institutions include: The University of Arizona, The Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science and Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The IALC works very closely with the USDA Forest Service, the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as with other public and private organizations.

B. GOVERNANCE

1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Overall Direction

The Board membership consists of two representatives from each of the 9 Member Institutions. University representatives are appointed by the president of the university. Non-university representatives are appointed by their organizations. Industry sponsors may be represented on the Board, not to exceed one-quarter (25%) of the total membership.

The Board is the governing body of the IALC. Authorized through its articles of incorporation and bylaws, the Board: 1) establishes research and training priorities; 2) establishes overall operational policies and decision-making processes; 3) allocates funds for research within IALC priorities; and 4) hires, reviews, and dismisses staff. Day-to-day activities are overseen by a managing director.

2. COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Guidance on Program Development and Assessment of New Opportunities

The Committee on Program Priorities (COPP) is made up of one board member from each member institution. The COPP informs and advises the board on program development and new program opportunities, recommends actions and solutions on problems facing the consortium, and recommends new priorities when needed.

3. RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Direction and Guidance for its Scientific and Technical Program of Work

The Board established a research and demonstration advisory committee (RADAC) comprised of representatives from member institution faculties, and other individuals as the Board may determine. At the Board's direction, the research and demonstration advisory committee will: (a) advise and counsel the Consortium on the scientific and conceptual aspects of its ongoing and proposed research and demonstration program; (b) evaluate the Consortium's research and demonstration activities; (c) review the Consortium's research and demonstration activities; and (d) advise the Board about individuals and organizations wishing to become Member Institutions, sponsors, or affiliates. The research and demonstration advisory committee also will furnish the Board with annual reports of all the Consortium's research and demonstration activities, including all research and demonstration activities accomplished through the use of Consortium funds.

4. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Agency and Institutional Collaboration

The IALC has memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with each of the following organizations: a) the USDA Forest Service, b) Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and c) San Diego State University Foundation. These MOUs encourage collaborative projects that benefit all parties involved.

IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

The University of Arizona is the lead institution of the International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC), a not-for-profit organization comprised of 9 Member Institutions. The IALC is now building on a decade of excellence. During its first 16 years, the IALC has successfully increased the knowledge base on the management of arid and semiarid lands through the funding of a multitude of research, demonstration and technology transfer projects. Specifically, the IALC is now focused on bringing this vast knowledge base to bear on the complex problems of arid regions during the next decade. Specific goals include:

- continued promotion of critical research, development, and demonstration projects;
- development of training programs and workshops for successful technology transfer to the practitioners and other professionals in arid land management;
- full implementation of the Peace Fellowship Program;
- continued promotion of world peace through the Middle East Peace process; and
- expansion of affiliate membership to include additional countries with significant arid lands issues.

This coming year will be IALC's fourteenth year of funding research and demonstration projects in support of arid lands issues. Since FY2006 the IALC has funded 85 research and development 30 demonstration projects, and 11 special initiatives. Special initiatives are considered workshops, conferences, symposiums, Websites, technical training, and related projects (not specified as research or demonstration). Most IALC-funded projects have involved collaborations between IALC's Member Institutions.

The IALC has achieved the unique position of a non-political entity with global influence on arid lands issues. Its expertise and credibility have given it a high profile role as a respected authority having linkages to peoples with widely differing ideologies. Recognition of IALC's standing in this regards is reflected in the following quote by Vice President Al Gore, "*The IALC has an outstanding record of research achievement and technology development and is already actively involved in the battle against desertification...[their] work can have a significant impact on lasting peace in the Middle East. Problems such as desertification, which know no borders, can foster genuine cooperative solutions.*"

The IALC also strives to make an economic impact through its multi-level collaboration on research, demonstration, and technology transfer projects that foster broad-based change in developing and managing the land and water resources in arid and semiarid regions. An example is a project initiated by an IALC researcher from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in collaboration with two Israeli researchers introduced a Mexican, freeze-hardy cactus, with sweet fruit as a potential new source of food and revenue in Israel. In Mexico the highly water-use-efficient cacti are an important and widespread source of food,

noted also for their unique health-giving properties. After two years of successful cross-breeding the Israel native cold hardy cactus with the Mexican fruit-bearing cactus, the researchers held a cactus open house in Israel. As a result, a commercial organic citrus grower incorporated cactus into his planting stock due to its water efficiency, cold hardiness, and strategic timing of maturation of the fruit crop. This type of production maximizes the possibilities for food production and revenue from arid lands. Being made up primarily of higher education and scholarly research institutions, the IALC also strives to address the need to ensure that a global supply of scientific and professional expertise will continue to be available to work on arid lands issues. In addition to training workshops for scientists and professionals, the IALC promotes scholarly training opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students. In this regard the IALC pioneered its Peace Fellowship Program in which outstanding students participate directly in arid lands research with scientists in the Middle East and the United States who are at the cutting-edge of their discipline. This program makes the IALC one of the few organizations promoting undergraduate level hands-on learning through research in the U.S. and abroad. Selected students from IALC Member Institutions spend one month or more working in the field with eminent scientists on IALC projects.

The exchange between American universities and researchers in the Middle East noted in the preceding statement fosters an environment in which young people can grow intellectually, gain hands-on experience, and contribute to understanding between Israeli, Arab, and U.S. participants. The IALC hopes to encourage the involvement of Peace Fellows from U.S. and the Middle East. Please see Appendix 4 for more information.

The IALC Wayne Owens Peace Fellowship Program began with one-time donation from the Time Warner Foundation and has since been continued using research and demonstration project funds provided through grants from the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). In addition, the Archer-Daniels-Midland Foundation and the USDA Forest Service have provided IALC grants to support the IALC's Peace Fellowship Program, as has a Jewish National Fund Tree of Life Awards dinner which brought in individual private sector donations.

At this time, the IALC has set a goal to expand its funding sources beyond current government support. Despite continued strong support from Congress, the IALC is aware that governmental funds are difficult to maintain over extended periods. As a result, the IALC has begun to seek sources of non-governmental funding to ensure the future of IALC's "*outstanding record of research achievement and technology development.*"

APPENDIX 1

PROJECTS FUNDED

The IALC has received USDA federal appropriations since 1993 totaling \$11.8M. The IALC has funded a total of 85 research projects, 30 demonstration projects, and 11 special initiatives from this amount. IALC special initiatives are considered workshops, conferences, symposiums, Websites, technical training, and related projects (not specified as research or demonstration).

Support for IALC-funded projects comes from the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

FY2006 - FY1993 Distribution of Peer-Reviewed Research Projects, Demonstration Projects, & and Special Initiatives

<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>	<u>FUNDS & NUMBER OF PROJECTS FUNDED</u>
FY2006	\$ 387,339 for 5 projects
FY2005	\$ 373,260 for 4 projects
FY2004	\$ 784,157 for 9 projects
FY2003	\$ 999,658 for 11 projects
FY2002	\$ 865,856 for 11 projects
FY2001	\$ 897,193 for 13 projects
FY2000	\$ 817,948 for 11 projects
FY1999	\$ 667,834 for 12 projects
FY1998	\$ 670,026 for 11 projects
FY1997	\$ 600,194 for 9 projects
FY1996	\$ 681,463 for 11 projects
FY1995	\$ 514,029 for 8 projects
FY1994	\$ 426,550 for 7 projects
FY1993	\$ 253,000 for 8 projects

APPENDIX 2

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The IALC has funded special initiatives that include the sponsoring of international workshops, symposiums, conferences, technology training, and similar activities. They are listed below.

Conference – *Afforestation and Sustainable Forests as a Means to Combat Desertification*

Held 16-19 April 2007 in Jerusalem, Israel

Badia's Center for Ecological Education

Completed during 2006 in Jordan

Enhancing the Badia Research & Development Centre Library

Completed during 2003 in Jordan

IALC Conference & Workshop – *Assessing Capabilities of Soil and Water Resources in Drylands: The Role of Information Retrieval and Dissemination Technologies*

Held 20-25 October 2002 in Tucson, Arizona

IALC Workshop – *Land Management*

Held 4-5 November 1999 in Reno, Nevada

Workshop – *Regional Water Issues*

Held 15-16 September 1999 in Amman, Jordan

Workshop – *Biodiversity in Drylands: Research, Management, and Demonstration Needs*

Held 26 June - 2 July 1999 in Beer Sheva, Israel

IALC Technical Training Course – *Mitigating Risks to Conservation and Sustainable Use of Water and Other Natural Resources*

Held 30 May - 11 June 1999 in Jordan and Israel

International Symposium & Workshop – *Combating Desertification: Connecting Science with Community Action*

Held in 12-16 May 1997 in Tucson, Arizona under the sponsorship of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management with the IALC

Training Workshop – *Arid and Semiarid Ecological Systems*

Held 15 November - 5 December 1995 in Israel

Symposium – *Sustainable Water Management in Arid and Semiarid Regions*

Held 15-19 May 1995 in Israel

Workshop – *Desertification in Developed Countries: Why Can't We Control It?*

Held 24-29 October 1994 in Tucson, Arizona under the sponsorship of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management with the IALC

Workshop, “*Arid Land Management Towards Sustainability*”

Held 19-24 June 1994 in Jerusalem & Sde Boker, Israel

APPENDIX 3

INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES

The *IALC institutional capabilities* fall into five major categories. Major capabilities are listed alphabetically for informational purposes. The diverse capabilities of each institution are potentially available to meet the needs of the IALC.

A. Water Resource Development, Conservation, and Management

- Agronomically Induced Groundwater Contamination of Glacial Till & Shallow Outwash Aquifers
- Flood Forecasting
- Global Environmental & Groundwater Hydrology
- Groundwater & Subsurface Recharge
- Hydrogeology Controls on Availability & Quality of Ground Water
- Hydrology of the Unsaturated Zone
- Irrigation Systems
- Municipal Waste
- Riparian Habitats
- Semiarid Irrigation
- Water Harvesting, Conservation & Reuse
- Water Quality
- Water Reclamation
- Water Reuse
- Water Supply, Quality, & Policy Issues
- Watershed Management

B. Land Use

- Afforestation
- Economic Development & Timber Production from Desert Trees
- Ecosystem Analysis & Modeling
- Environmental Mitigation
- Field Study Design & Management
- Natural Resource Management
- On-site Desertification & Resource Evaluations
- Quality Assurance
- Quaternary Chronology
- Rangeland Management
- Recreational Uses of Forest Areas
- Responses of Native & Introduced Rangeland to Grazing Treatments
- Saline Agriculture

C. Soil Resource Conservation and Management

- Bioremediation of Contaminated Land
- Soil Chemistry & Fertility
- Soil Conservation
- Soil Ecology
- Soil-Water Relationships in Semiarid Areas
- Spatial Analysis

D. Ecosystem Processes

Arid Lands Plants
Alternative Uses for Desert Plants
Applied Environmental Studies
Beneficial Effects of Savannahs & Forests on Pest Dynamics
Biology & Use of Nonleguminous, Nitrogen-Fixing Trees
Chemical & Physical Analysis
Climate Dynamics
Consumptive & Nonconsumptive Wildlife Uses
Contaminant Transport
Cultural & Paleontological Applications
Dendroecology
Environmental Quality
Geomorphology
Germplasm Exploration in the Arid & Semiarid Zones
Heat & Drought Tolerant Plants
Large-scale Dynamic Meteorology
Microbial Ecology
Nutrient Cycling
Paleoecology, Paleoclimatology, & Paleoenvironmental Research
Physical Meteorology
Plant Genetics
Plant Physiological Ecology
Quality Assurance
Quaternary Chronology
Soil, Plant, & Animal Interactions
Tree Species Selection & Adaption for Arid & Semiarid Climates
Weed & Brush Management
Wildlife & Habitat Protection

E. Inventory Technology

Air Quality Modeling & Impact Assessment
Atmospheric & Dispersion Modeling
Digital Imaging
Emission Inventory
Geographic Information Systems
International Resource Databases
Photography
Radar Techniques
Remote Sensing Interpretation
Technology-Transfer Projects Using Satellite Imagery

APPENDIX 4

IALC WAYNE OWENS PEACE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) Wayne Owens Peace Fellowship Program was created to benefit U.S. and Middle East environment and society, in keeping with the IALC's goal of supporting and researching methods of ecologically sound desert management. The program promotes opportunities for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to conduct arid lands research and contribute to the Middle East Peace Process.

All full-time undergraduate and graduate students from IALC Member Institutions are eligible to apply to the program and related grants including work-study.

Selected students from IALC Member Institutions spend one month or more working in the field with eminent scientists on projects sponsored by the Consortium. This exchange between American universities and researchers in the Middle East fosters an environment in which young people can grow intellectually and contribute to understanding among Israeli, Arab, and U.S. participants. Students are expected to conduct their research in a country other than their home country. Graduate students will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

IALC Member Institutions include:

- The University of Arizona
- Desert Research Institute – Nevada
- Higher Council for Science & Technology – Jordan
- The University of Illinois
- Jewish National Fund
- Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation – Egypt
- New Mexico State University
- South Dakota State University
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Students chosen to participate in the Peace Fellowship program have demonstrated interest in sustainable development of arid lands. The exchange is an opportunity for them to contribute to the success of projects that include: a) desertification, b) water management, and c) reforestation.

During their fellowships, the students focus on practical knowledge and application of research. Participation brings with it the possibility of published work in a scholarly journal and provides a challenging academic environment. More broadly, the students' experiences give them skills that are personally enriching and will benefit their communities. Expansion plans include awarding up to 20 fellowships per year.

Total awards are for \$5,000:

- ▶ up to \$3,500 or more for international travel, lodging, and meals
- ▶ up to \$1,500 for principal investigator research support

Applications are accepted throughout the year at the IALC headquarters in Tucson, Arizona.

Detailed information that includes frequently asked questions, Peace Fellowship student reports, the application form, and other information are located on the IALC Website at: <http://ialcworld.org>.

The IALC Wayne Owens Peace Fellowship Program is made possible in part through grants from the Archer Daniels Midland Foundation and the USDA Forest Service.