

Proposed update of the IAI strategic plan

The Strategic Plan covers a period beginning in 2019 and running through 2044. Particular actions are identified in time frames of three to six years, in order to coincide with the tenure of the Executive Director and to ensure that actions respond to changes in the needs of the Parties. Current actions are planned for the period 2024-2030.

The IAI Strategic Plan is organized around three themes:

I. Meeting the needs of the Parties to address global environmental change issues: the IAI is an intergovernmental organization; its primary function is to serve the needs of the Parties for global change research in achieving the IAI's vision and fulfillment of the IAI Agreement.

II. Science for the sustainability of the Americas: the IAI Agreement states that it should support science that enhances the capacity of the Americas to cope and thrive under global change. Theme II focuses, although not exclusively, on the region's priority issues, identified from the regional assessment in conjunction with the science and science and policy advisory committees.

III. Sustainability of the IAI: The IAI as an organization must be relevant to the Parties and society for its continuation. Communication and external funding objectives must be innovative and robust to meet the ambitious goals and objectives of this Strategic Plan.

Each theme contains goals, objectives and actions:

- the goals are general statements expressing the desired results;
- the objectives describe how the IAI will work to achieve its goals;
- actions will enable the IAI's objectives to be achieved through the establishment of a roadmap.

Actions should be SMART and are defined as follows: S - Specific, M - Measurable, A - Agreed, R - Realistic and T - Timely.

The objectives and actions under each goal are organized by theme in the following tables:

Goals	Objectives	Actions
Theme I: Meeting the needs of the Parties to address the challenges of global environmental change		
IAI leads regional scientific cooperation on global environmental change issues of priority to the Parties	Promote transdisciplinary research on priority issues (Theme II) through seed grants and funding calls	Every two years, the Directorate will complete one seed grant or funding call cycle
	Promote transdisciplinary capacity building to address priority themes (Theme II)	The Directorate will implement two regional training activities (virtual campus courses and virtual or face-to-face workshops) accompanying the grant cycles
	Promote regional alignment of research, training, and policy action	The Directorate, together with the SAC and SPAC, will co-lead thematic steering committees to support the alignment of research, training, and policy action.

	Assess and monitor priority global environmental change issues of the Parties and the barriers and opportunities for the use of scientific information by Parties	Every three years, the Directorate, together with the SAC and SPAC, will implement a rapid assessment of regional priorities.
IAI strengthens regional networks of science, science funding, and science-policy interface related to global environmental change	Strengthen IAI networks of scientists and practitioners and communities of practice	The Directorate will create a database of experts drawing on past and present principal investigators of IAI-funded projects and members of SAC and SPAC
		Every two years, the Directorate will organize networking sessions among members of the IAI communities of practice (focal points, researchers, SAC and SPAC members, STeP fellows).
	Strengthen IAI Associate and partner networks	Each year, the Directorate will propose at least two new CoP partners and sign at least two agreements with new partners
	Strengthen networks of science funders in collaboration with the Belmont Forum and other flexible mechanisms	The Directorate will bring new funding agencies to the Belmont Forum and other flexible mechanisms to support projects formed by teams from IAI Parties
Parties increase their capacity to use scientific information to make decisions on global environmental change	Strengthen the Science Diplomacy Center to promote capacity building and exchange of best practices in the region	Each year, the Directorate will organize a regional training workshop for decision-makers on current priorities and emerging issues
	Support and expand the STeP program	Each year, the STeP program will incorporate fellows from one or two new countries or partners
		By 2025, the STeP program will launch a training program for senior mentors and seek mechanisms to engage youth (ages 15-24)
Strengthen the Virtual Campus	Each year, the Directorate will offer one multilingual course using case studies from the Americas, accessible to diverse audiences	

	Establish partnerships with intergovernmental scientific panels to strengthen Parties' access to scientific information	By 2025, the Directorate will create a repository of assessments produced by intergovernmental science-policy platforms to facilitate access by Parties
	Implement the Open Data policy	By 2024, the Directorate will generate a database of publications and reports classified by subject matter that is easily accessible to the Parties
		By 2026, the Directorate will generate an infrastructure to make data generated by past and future IAI-funded projects available and accessible
IAI elevates the science of the Americas to the global level	Promote and fund the participation of scientists, decision-makers, and civil society from IAI Parties in science and policy forums	Each year, an IAI delegation of SAC and SPAC members and STeP fellows will attend two global meetings on environmental change to strengthen engagement in multilateral conventions
		Each year, the Directorate will lead at least three high-level science and policy sessions and side events
		The Directorate will strengthen IAI's linkages with intergovernmental science-policy platforms (IPCC, IPBES) to increase participation of scientists from IAI Parties in assessments
Theme II: Science for Sustainability in the Americas		
The IAI leads the promotion of transdisciplinary scientific production under a nexus approach on priority global environmental change issues in the Americas, and their synthesis, exchange and use to support decision making by Parties	Promote transdisciplinary research on the climate-environment-health nexus	By 2024, the IAI will fund five Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions projects on climate, environment and health, which will present their results to the CoP36 in 2028
		By 2024, the 12 seed grant projects on climate, environment and health will be completed, which will present their results to CoP33 in 2025.
	Promote transdisciplinary research on biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a focus on tropical and subtropical	By 2024, the IAI together with the Belmont Forum will launch the call for proposals on Amazonia and tropical forests, and in 2025

	forests threatened by deforestation	will fund the selected projects. By 2029, participating projects with IAI Party members will present their results at CoP37.
	Promote transdisciplinary research on climate change adaptation and mitigation, with emphasis on ocean, coasts and islands	By 2025, the IAI, together with the Belmont Forum, will launch the call on ocean, coasts, and islands, and in 2026 will fund selected projects. By 2030, participating projects with IAI Party members will present their results at CoP38.
	Promote transdisciplinary research on the water-food-energy nexus, especially in arid and mountain areas	The IAI will support the Regional Hydroclimate Initiative for the Andes (ANDEX) community of practice and other networks and partners, such as the Mountain Research Initiative, by participating in working tables and regular meetings
	Promote interdisciplinary research on the nexus between inequity, mobility, and environmental change	By 2025, the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions projects on migration and mobility will present their results to CoP33
Theme III: Sustainability of the IAI		
The IAI implements a robust communication strategy to increase visibility and impact	Improve two-way communication with Parties' focal points	A new IAI website will be online and widely accessible by the end of 2024
		The Directorate will communicate at each CoP the annual performance assessment based on the measurement and monitoring of the indicators of the Strategic Plan actions
		In each IAI member state, the Directorate will promote linkages with focal points in multiple government agencies and scientific institutions
	Increase IAI visibility in society	IAI staff and partners will receive training in media outreach
		The Directorate will expand the IAI's presence on social media platforms
		The Directorate will expand the IAI's presence in multilateral forums
		Each year, the IAI will offer a course on science communication on the virtual campus

The IAI promotes a culture of equity, diversity and inclusion	Execute and monitor the implementation plan of the equity, diversity and inclusion policy	Each year, the IAI will offer a course on equity, diversity, and inclusion in global environmental change science on the virtual campus
		By 2025, the Directorate will establish an advisory committee of Indigenous People and Local Communities
The IAI establishes a sound financial outlook	Ensure stable long-term funding	The Directorate will explore mechanisms to increase voluntary contributions from the Parties to the core budget
		The Directorate, together with the Parties, will identify opportunities to co-finance the program budget
		The Directorate will establish relationships with development banks, philanthropy, and other donors to finance and implement projects oriented to address the priorities of the region (Theme II)
The IAI increases its presence in the region	Increase IAI member States	The IAI will develop relationships with potential new Parties in the Americas by hiring a government relations officer
	Strengthen IAI presence in Central America and the Caribbean	By 2025, the Directorate will establish the new IAI headquarters in Central America and the Caribbean
	Strengthen linkages with regional bodies	The Directorate will explore linkages with regional bodies with limited IAI membership (SICA, SARICOM).