

**IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
Report to the Conference of the Parties
SAC Chair: Edwin J. Castellanos
June, 2017**

SAC members (2016-2017): Edwin Castellanos (chair), Alicia Fernández, Elena María Abraham, Jose Marengo, Rodolfo Dirzo, Reynaldo Victoria, Susana Adamo, Carlos Joly, Joshua Tewksbury and Trevor Platt.

Activities to report:

1. Election of Edwin Castellanos as new chair. Many thanks to Frank Muller-Karger for his work as chair of the SAC.
2. Discussions and plans on anniversary publication
3. Participation Research Dialogue in SBSTA Bonn, May 2016
4. Participation in Cancun COP 13 in December 2016 Rodolfo Dirzo.
5. Participation in Professional Development Seminar in Dominican Republic, December 2016
6. Discussion and participation in selection of new director for IAI
7. Help with transition with new director
8. Trevor Platt resignation. Search for new members
9. Interaction with SPAC.
10. Meeting with CoP to define areas of collaborative work

1. In the next SAC conference meeting after the 2016 CoP in Bonn, on July 5th, 2016 the SAC membership elected Edwin Castellanos as the new chair for the group, following the decision of the CoP that Frank Muller-Karger could not be re-elected as chair as he had completed his term.
2. One of the main points of discussion during the monthly meetings in 2016 was the book suggested by the CoP to be published in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the IAI. The discussion centered around the cost of such publication and the fact that there is no specific funding designated to this end. The idea is to have a smaller publication, around 40 pages long focused on the impact of the IAI on the different countries and groups of stakeholders. The publication will be directed to the general public and there will be a second publication directed to a scientific audience in the form of a special issue in the journal Environmental Management. Holm Tiessen has already made some contacts to advance these two initiatives.

The booklet will have short articles about one or two-page each written by different persons linked to the IAI in different ways. A suggested list of short articles was compiled after several discussions with the group:

1. Cross-cutting editorial with highlights of the volume. Author: SAC Chair.
2. Success story on outreach, focus on impact.
3. Success story on decision support, focus on impact.
4. Success story on personal career development.
5. Success story on how IAI changed how teams think about and do science.
6. Experience on how interdisciplinarity was introduced in research scheme.
7. Story on institutional development and networking.
8. Story on development of crosscutting issues in GC
9. Story and view by SAC members. Challenges for the future (2, 1 page each)

10. Story and view by SPAC members. Challenges for the future (2, 1 page each)
11. Formal contribution from SAC on social/human dimensions of GC research.
12. Formal contribution from SPAC on social/human dimensions of GC research.
13. Contribution from EC member
14. Contribution from COP member
15. Contribution from stakeholders: politician and/or legislator.
16. Contribution from stakeholders: civil society.
17. Science-policy networking impact analysis. Author Murgida's team.
18. Article on center of excellence. Author member of Aquasec.
19. Article of young scientist network.
20. Concluding article: the way to the future. Author: EC chair.

This booklet would require the work of a hired editor who would be someone with journalist experience to ensure that the different chapters follow a logic sequence for the reader and present an engaging language for the general public.

The special volume in the journal will have scientific, peer-reviewed articles on interdisciplinarity, science-policy integration, co-design etc. The volume should also contain independent articles by international think tanks to broaden the intellectual basis and academic discussion. This would require an editorial coordination by the IAI to work with the Journal editor. It is important to follow up on the discussions that Holm Tiessen had advanced with the journal.

Nothing else was advance with these two publications because of the situation with the change in director. So, both initiatives need to be followed up by the new director.

3. The chair of the SAC accompanied IAI's Program Director Lone Anderson to the eight meeting of the SBSTA Research Dialogue, held on the 19th of May 2016 in Bonn, Germany, as part of the mid-year conferences of the UN Convention on Climate Change. Edwin Castellanos presented a poster on Combining local and scientific knowledge to increase adaptive capacity to global changes among farmers. Both Edwin and Lone later participated in a roundtable discussion on connecting science to people.
4. The chair of the SAC participated in a Professional Development Seminar organized by IAI through Marcella Ohira. The topic of the seminar was Transdisciplinary Approaches to Integrating Policy and Science for Sustainability and was held in Dominican Republic from November 28th to December 2nd. A mix of young and experienced researchers and practitioners from the Americas participated and will attend a second part of the training to be held in October 2017 in Canada. The participants were organized in groups and they are developing transdisciplinary proposals to be presented to different potential donors, including IAI.
5. The SAC actively participated in the selection of the new director for IAI. The participation was coordinated by the chair who participated in the selection committee and who carried the voice of the other SAC members. The SAC provided input on the different candidates at the various selection stages, including the group of three finalists.
6. The chair of the SAC already held a conference meeting with the new director to discuss general issues where SAC can support his work. The SAC believes that it can have an important role in this transition process, and offers all its help and knowledge of the IAI to the new director to follow up with previous initiatives and to develop new proposals. The

role of the SAC will be crucial in developing a successful call for the new small grants program.

7. One of the members of the SAC presented his resignation to the group at the end of 2016. Trevor Platt, an oceanographer from Canada, communicated in an e-mail to the chair that due to his many commitments, he felt that he could not dedicate much time to the work of the SAC and he would rather present his resignation. The SAC has then worked with nine members only during 2017.

Three other members also complete their term during 2017. José Marengo, a climatologist from Perú residing in Brazil and Rodolfo Dirzo, an ecologist from Mexico residing in the USA, complete their second term and therefore cannot be re-elected. Carlos Joly, an ecologist from Brazil completes his first term and can be re-elected to a second term.

The SAC communicated to the CoP this situation in due time, so that four new members can be appointed to the group during the meeting in Colombia. Our suggestion is to consider two aspects: first, to broaden the scope of the science represented in the membership of the SAC, particularly in terms of expanding the representation from the social sciences. Second, to broaden the geographical representation in the countries where SAC members work. Areas underrepresented include Central America and the Caribbean; broader representation from North American and northern South America would also be desirable.

8. The chair of the SAC has participated in some conference meetings of the SPAC. However, the SAC feels that a more structured interaction between the SAC and the SPAC, in addition to the yearly meeting, would enhance the potential support that both groups can provide to the IAI, both through the directorate and to the CoP
9. The SAC welcomes the opportunity to increase our interaction with the CoP. The organization of the SAC meeting back-to-back with the CoP meeting is an important initiative to this end. Moreover, the joint workshop during the first day of the CoP meeting will be an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas about how to improve the work of the IAI and how to maximize the advise that the SAC can provide to the CoP the main purpose of the work of the SAC. We are ready to engage in this dialogue with the CoP and look forward to working together to continue improving the excellent work that IAI is doing in the Americas.