

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



EC-XXVII - CoP-XVI – EC-XXVIII

May 18-21, 2009

Bogotá, Colombia

Annual Program (July 2009-June 2010)

11_CoP16/DWD/English/07.May.2009

Activities planned for 2009/10

Science program and synthesis:

The Collaborative Research Networks and Small Grants for Human Dimensions have developed into a transdisciplinary cohesive effort with close co-operations throughout the networks, integrating social dimensions into the natural sciences. In addition to regular interactions with the networks, the Directorate will further expand links to the development program funded by IDRC in the La Plata Basin and beyond. This is year three of the CRN II program, and the cross-program synthesis effort will begin with a workshop for all PIs from the CRNs and human dimensions projects in June. Deliverables by the Directorate during the following months will be a strategy for program synthesis and first titles and outlines for synthesis papers, books and policy briefs. An example, published last year is the volume on environmental knowledge and land use decisions, available on the IAI web page. The synthesis effort will be accompanied by training events on specific topics such as model integration to accomplish data management across disciplines and environments.

The IDRC funded project on “Land use change, biofuels and rural development in the Rio de La Plata basin” will continue to be directed and administered by the Directorate.

The assessment on Climate Change and Andean Biodiversity project funded by the MacArthur Foundation will have its principal science assessment workshop organized with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment in May. This will be followed by major editorial activities and publications, as well as the principal outcome reports to the funding agency. A Regional workshop for institutional and government consultation will be held in June to synthesize institutional and governance issues surrounding research and adaptation. This program is supervised by the Assistant Director for Capacity Building and the Director.

A Science-Policy Forum on Ecosystems Services and Climate Change Adaptation in the Andes will be held in July in Ecuador in collaboration with CIIFEN, PUCE, SENACYT, IUCN-SUR, Ecuador’s Ministry of the Environment. A Training Institute on Cities’ Responses to Climate Change will be held in 2010 in Chile. Both events will be organized and coordinated by the Directorate.

The IAI has prepared a submission to the UNFCCC SBSTA in June in Bonn, and will be present at the event. It is hoped that Parties will engage in the event and develop a science and policy activity on adaptation and mitigation concerning biofuels and land quality.

Two proposals have been prepared by the Directorate, one on “Climate change and land use effects on biodiversity gradients and ecosystem function in the Northern Andes: implications for management and conservation strategies” to the MacArthur Foundation, and one on health and climate change adaptation to the Inter-American Development Bank. Although the IDB proposal has been accepted, IAI eligibility is being questioned. Both proposals, if funded, will require substantial Directorate coordination and administration work in 09/10.

The IAI strategic plan will require further activities by the Directorate on 09/10. The Director has worked with a former Interim Director John Stewart to provide input to the strategic document. This and material from the strategy committee will have to be brought together for the final document.

The Directorate is in the process of recruiting a new Science Assistant Director. Until the new person has taken up the post, and the replacement for the Director's Assistant has familiarized herself with operations, workloads will be substantially greater on remaining staff.