



6 April, 2013

To: Carlos Ereño, Executive Council Chair, Interamerican Institute for
Global Change Research
Holm Tiessen, Director, IAI

From: Frank Muller-Karger, Chair, IAI Science Advisory Committee (SAC)
and IAI SAC members

Subject: Urgent vacancies in SAC membership

Dear Drs. Ereño and Tiessen:

Please communicate the following to the IAI Executive Council and Conference of the Parties.

The IAI has now selected the international, interdisciplinary teams that will conduct the science programs of the IAI under the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) framework for the next five years. These CRN programs will address the science needs of the continent in both the natural and human sciences. The IAI now requires a highly qualified and experienced SAC to help guide these programs on behalf of the CoP.

In June 2013, four (4) SAC members will have terms expire. Since the SAC was short two members in 2012-2013, a total of six (6) vacancies will now open in the SAC in June 2013. Three additional members of the SAC (including the present Chair) will rotate off in 2014. This could amount to an almost a complete substitution of the SAC membership over the next 14 months.

The SAC requests that at the CoP June 2013 meeting in Montevideo, the CoP nominate, select, and appoint highly qualified scientists to strengthen the SAC. The SAC has been short of its full membership over the past few years. The SAC further requests that the CoP discuss and implement ways in which continuity and experience may be maintained in the SAC.

Members of the SAC should have the science credentials to provide the IAI with credibility and influence with the CRN3 teams. SAC members should have clout as scientists with the stakeholders in the Americas that look at the IAI for solutions based on the new knowledge and technology. The SAC requests that the CoP balance and augment the expertise of the IAI SAC in the natural and social sciences and public health.

The present SAC, with 8 members, is 2 members short. The following list provides the expertise and associations with IAI partner organizations represented by current SAC members (expiring terms in bold):

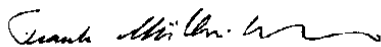
Frank Muller-Karger, Oceanography (Chair, 2008-2011, 2011-2014)
Claudia E. Natenzon, Environmental Policy - Social Geography (2010-2013, **first term expiring; available for re-appointment**)
Jose Marengo, Climatology, INPE (2011-2014)
Ramón Pichs Madruga, Economy and the Environment (2007-2010, 2010-2013 / term expiring)
Walter Baethgen, Agriculture, IRI (2008-2011, 2011-2014)
Carolina Vera, Climatology, WCRP (2007-2010, 2010-2013/ term expiring)
Hal Mooney, Biodiversity, CBD (2007-2010, 2010-2013/ term expiring)
Rodolfo Dirzo, Terrestrial Biology, Ecology (2011-2014).

The SAC recommends that nominees and appointments follow high standards of science excellence and profiles. Specifically, new appointments should have:

- High academic and research excellence. Scientific excellence is usually assessed through well-tested ways such as peer-reviewed publications in prestigious scientific magazines, sponsored research, service to the profession and society, number of citations, awards and recognitions.
- An established, extensive research and publication record.
- A Doctorate or equivalent experience.
- Extensive experience directing and managing international scientific projects relevant to the strategic areas of the IAI
- Understand the social, economic, and ecological realities of the Americas
- Understand the science policies and priorities of different countries
- Understand the role of and relationships between policy-maker, resource managers, social scientists, and natural scientists
- Understand positive and negative feedbacks between different systems and the process of decision-making, how decisions affect sustainability of ecosystems that include people, and sustainable development.
- Be multidisciplinary, open, collegial, and demonstrate a willingness to work with other disciplines.

The SAC also welcomes under-represented groups to be nominated.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration of this urgent matter.



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