

IAI activities plan July 2016 – June 2017

Institutional:

The office in Argentina has now been partly staffed, is collaborating with the Montevideo office and the SPAC, and has engaged in a science impact assessment with the help of a large number of fellowships. Several clauses of the tripartite and host country agreements still remain to be implemented, and the host country agreement with Argentina still awaits revisions based on comments on the existing text by the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

The new agreement with Brazil remains under review, and it has not yet been possible to fully close the administrative office in Brazil. This requires intervention by the Ministry of Foreign Relations and guidance from the IAI Executive Council.

To make the IAI science production more visible, the web site is under continuous review and redesign, and a number of short documentaries are being prepared. Since the acquisition of a new server and the arrival of the last server from Brazil, IAI communications, IT telephony and the autonomous customized video conferencing system are being migrated to the premises.

Research:

All CRN3 projects continue to be monitored and the directorate continues to work with teams to improve interdisciplinarity and policy outreach. An investigator and capacity building event in December of 2015 has resulted in a number of recommendations for targeted meetings (the young scientist initiative below was one of them) that will be implemented. The small grants call on "the role of ecosystem services in adaptation" will be made in August of 2016. It will increase the need for joint framing of projects between human and natural sciences. Analysis of CRN3 has shown that this will require capacity building before adequate proposals can be expected from the research teams. The directorate will conduct the capacity building as part of the proposal development process in a unique effort to improve the region's capacity for interdisciplinary Global Change science. This will be accompanied by the regular full peer review process to select successful proposals. An extension of CRN 3 has been obtained and the two programs will be closely coordinated during 2016-18.

The Buenos Aires office is taking the lead in developing an IAI student and young scientists organization with the help of CRN participants. The first meeting of young scientists is planned for August 2016 to explore how network participants can develop and self-govern such an association that would provide the core of a long-term sustainable alumni network.

Capacity Building:

Based on the association agreement with FAPESP, the IAI and CENA will conduct a university level School of Advanced Science on nitrogen cycling, environmental

sustainability and climate change in August 2016 in São Paulo. Directorate staff will participate in lectures on-site.

Following the experience of the past years, all new professional seminars have three parts: two presentational events and a period of proposal development and seed grant implementation between them. This requires more input from the Directorate but has been highly successful. In the process of planning and implementation for 2016/17 are:

IAI Professional Development Seminar on Managing ecosystem services from Tropical Forests (July 2016 Costa Rica, and April 2017 Chile)

and

IAI Professional Development Seminar on Interdisciplinary Approaches to integrating Policy and Science for Sustainability (November 2016 Dominican Republic, and May 2017 Canada)

A proposal has been submitted to the MacArthur Foundation on further capacity building and applied research on climate change and biodiversity use and conservation in the tropical Andes. If funded, this will be implemented late in 2016

The Science-Policy office in collaboration with the SPAC is planning a capacity building event on science communication to decision makers. This will be coordinated with other activities for mutual learning events for scientists and decision makers planned with member countries.

Science-Policy

The science impact assessment will continue with the analysis of coproduction in scientific publications, network analyses of the research projects and of the IAI amongst other scientific and science-policy institutions, web-based surveys conducted with researchers and individual interviews aimed at scientists and stakeholders that are conducted and evaluated under scientific guidance of the Science-Policy Director.

The online course (MOOC) on global environmental change will be launched at the UNFCCC COP-22 (7-18 Nov 2016). A further side-event with IAI Member Countries on science-policy interactions is being developed for the Morocco COP. The activities conducted in the context of the UNFCCC, will be further developed for the Congreso Internacional de Cambio Climático of the Universidad de la Plata in 2017. This is coordinated with the Organismo Provincial para el Desarrollo Sostenible of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, with participation of Uruguay.

IAI will submit latest research findings responding to convention priorities to the SBSTA-46 (8-18 May 2017), as it has done regularly since 2006.

A Science Forum is being organized by IAI, Mexico, CBD and partners for the UN CBD COP-13 (4 - 17 December 2016)

The signature of MoU between IAI and IPBES is planned for September 2016 with IAI planning for participation at IPBES-5 (6-12 March 2017)

Further to discussions on the sustainable development goals (UN-SDGs) with ICSU-Paris, IAI is part of an ICSU side-event on the sustainable development indicators, which will prepare for joint participation at the first High-Level Political Forum (11-20 July 2016) since adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This meeting will share national experiences such as the institutional changes needed to implement the 2030 agenda and SDGs, and include a review of progress in 22 countries. The Forum will adopt a Ministerial Declaration that IAI will be able to use for its adaptation research and to involve Parties to combine science and country experiences.

Initial contacts have been made with the organizers of the II international seminar of social sciences and disaster risk in Latin America Latina (Río de Janeiro, Brazil in 2017). Agreements are being developed on disasters and hydroclimatic risk in the La Plata basin.