

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH**



EC-XXVI & CoP-XV
June 17-20, 2008
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Report of the SAC-XXVII - Toronto

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**27th Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Toronto, Canada
7-8 May 2008**

Draft meeting summary for to be approved at the 28th meeting of the SAC

Attendees

SAC members: Mike Brklacich (Chair), Rana Fine, Silvia Garzoli, Maria Carmen Lemos, Luiz Mata, Harold Mooney, Juan Valdés, Telma Castro, Ramón Pichs Madruga, Luigi Bosca

Observers: Paul Filmer (US-NSF)

IAI Directorate: Holm Tiessen (Director), Gerhard Breulmann (Scientific Officer), Ione Anderson (Program Manager)

Regrets

Carolina Vera (SAC)

1. Welcome by the SAC Chair

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming participants to the 27th session of the SAC and to Toronto.

2. Adoption of Agenda for 27th SAC meeting

The draft agenda for the 27th meeting was adopted.

3. Completion and Approval of Minutes from 26th SAC meeting

The Chair noted that the draft meeting summary was incomplete and requested assistance of the committee to review the draft minutes and to fill-in missing items. The approved minutes are contained in Annex I.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair outlined the major tasks for this meeting of the SAC, including:

- SAC renewal
- Confirmation of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the SAC Chair and Vice-Chair
- Appointment of the next SAC Chair and Vice-Chair
- Preparation for the EC COP meetings, 17-20 June 2008, Buenos Aires, ARG
- Clarification of SAC committees and responsibilities

5. IAI Directorate Update (Holm & Gerhard: including IAI Data Policy)

The Directorate updated the group on recent Directorate activities including:

- CRN I concluded and closed
- SCOPE 68 book has been translated into Spanish (book is with publishers)
- CRN II-SGP-HD PI meeting and Data and Information Management Training Institute were held in Panama in Feb 2008 and established foundation for greater collaboration and integration amongst IAI funded projects
- IDRC project on Landuse Change, biofuels and Rural Development commenced on 1st March 2008. Duration 30 months. A kick-off meeting involving all collaborators and stakeholders was held in Buenos Aires, 19-21 March 2008
- Planning is well under way for the IAI-NCAR Colloquium on 'Seasonality and water resources in the Western Hemisphere' to be held in Mendoza, Argentina during the first two weeks of October 2008
- IAI to participate at upcoming UNFCCC SBSTA-28 where it will hold a joint side-event with APN. IAI will also participate in an informal session with ESSP, START and APN.

6. Update from Paul Filmer

Updates regarding US Climate Change Programs:

- NSF budget to IAI is stable, there has been a small increase for IAI Science
- New NSF Assistant Director for Geosciences is Tim Killeen. He will take office effective 1 July 2008

Updates from the EC Bureau perspective:

- The EC Bureau is willing to receive advice from the SAC regarding COP nominations to the SAC.

7. CRN II – SGP-HD PI Meeting Update – Panama, February 2008

- The meeting brought all the PIs from these two programs together for the first time with the overall purpose of fostering integration amongst the projects. The focus of the meeting was on integration and communication across disciplines and projects and therefore did not use the conventional approach of status reports on individual projects but rather focused on identifying and creating synergies.

8. CRN II Science – Policy Proposal (Maria Carmen Lemos – cont. from SAC 26)/

- This proposal is considered as an extension to the existing CRN II & SPG-HD projects and its intention is to track and evaluate the policy relevance of selected projects.
- A maximum of 4 projects at 50K per project will be funded with the intention to complete the work by the end of current CRNII – SGP-HD project cycle
- MCL will draft a call for proposals by mid-June 2008.
- The call for proposals will be targeted but open (ie. all CRN II and SGP-HD projects will be eligible to apply).

- Funding of this science-policy project will not impinge upon the funds available for CRN II annual meetings and synthesis.

9. SAC Committees (Follow-up from SAC 25 & 26)

- The structure, purpose and leadership of SAC committees was discussed and revised (see below):

SAC Committees (name of respective Chair person in bold)

1. Science policy interface / knowledge transfer (Term: 2 yrs, Members: **Maria**, Hal, Juan)
 2. CRN II, SGP-HD – SAC relationships, integrating science (Term: +3yrs, Members: **Carolina**, Rana, Ramon, Telma)
 3. SAC governance and mandate (Term: 1yr, Members: **Luis**, Mike, Ramon, Silvia)
- Each committee is to establish their goals and tasks to be forwarded to the in-coming SAC Chair.

10. SAC Renewal

- The discussions regarding SAC renewal reflected:
 - o MB and SG are concluding their second term and will depart the SAC
 - o LM and TC are concluding their first terms and have expressed interest in serving a second term.
 - o The SAC is obliged to nominate at least 6 people tied to MB, SG and LM's appointments. The COP is obliged to nominate at least 2 people associated with the current appointment held by TC.
 - o After considerable discussion, the SAC agreed to nominate 5 individuals
 - o The SAC is to forward additional recommendations to Maria Carmen Lemos by Wednesday 14 May 2008.
 - o MB is to prepare a letter summarizing the nominations from the SAC and submit it to the Directorate by 14 May 2008.

11. SAC Chair/Vice-Chair

• Terms of Reference

- MB drafted terms of reference for the two positions and distributed those to the SAC members
- After some discussion, the draft terms of reference for Chair and Vice-Chair were revised (see Annex II) and received unanimous approval from the SAC.

• Decision for in-coming SAC Chair & Vice-Chair

- SG consulted with all members of the SAC and there was a majority consensus that JV and MCL be appointed as the next Chair and vice-Chair respectively.
- SG and MB recommended that the SAC follow this advice, with JV being appointed as Chair for approximately 2 years and MCL for approximately 1 year as Vice-Chair, with both appointments effective 10 May 2008.
- There was full endorsement of this recommendation by the SAC, recognizing that JV and MCL collectively address many balances even though both are currently based at 'northern' institutions.

12. Strategic Planning

- **SAC Priorities**

- The SAC priorities have not changed since December 2007 (see Annex III, MB memo dated 9 Dec 2007).

- **SAC representation on Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)**

- SAC representation on the SPC is to include the SAC Chair plus two other members who can collectively best represent IAI Science (see Annex I, Item 8 for summary from SAC 26 meeting).
- The decision was to move forward with the current representatives with the exception of JV replacing MB effective 09 May 2008 (i.e. SAC members on the SPC to include JV, RPM, LM and SG).
- Representation is to be reviewed at the next SAC meeting.

13. SAC Preparation for June 2008 EC/CoP

- Neither the new SAC Chair (JV) nor the Vice-Chair (MCL) are available to attend the upcoming EC-CoP meeting and it was agreed that MB would represent the SAC at this meeting.
- Key messages from the SAC to be delivered to EC-CoP relate to:
 - o SAC renewal (including change in SAC Chair & Vice-Chair and new members)
 - o Science-policy proposal
 - o Strategic Planning

14. Communications (new agenda item added from discussions on 7 May 2008)

- The SAC places priority upon improving communication of key messages from IAI.
- Discussions resulted in the articulation of a list of key communication issues (see below) to be considered further at the next SAC meeting

NEW ITEMS (Priority Items in *italics*)

- *Public power point presentations (IPCC, MA style)*
- IAI Branding
- Outcomes: proof of IAI value-added

- IPCC observer status
- IAI major integrated – targeted science – policy event (CRN-HD synthesis event in 2009-10)
- Briefing notes (SCOPE-IAI-UNESCO model)
- *Project & program (individual projects & integrated projects) fact sheets (with summary page & links) (note multi-audiences)*

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISITING PRODUCTS

- IAI Infosheets outdated
- IAI Newsletter – more prompt / current
- Website: Difficult to navigate, key messages / scientific info is buried

15. SAC 28 tentative dates and location

- The Directorate will notify the SAC Chair on potential dates and venues for upcoming project meetings and the SAC will attempt to schedule its next meeting to maximize relationships with IAI projects (following the example of the 25th SAC meeting in Buenos Aires, ARG).

16. Any other business

- None

17. Reserve business

- None

18. Adjourn

- MB informed the SAC it had been a privilege to have served as SAC Chair. The meeting was adjourned.

ANNEX I

26th Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
Arlington, Virginia, 29-30 November 2007

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

SAC members: Mike Brklacich (Chair), Rana Fine, Silvia Garzoli, Maria Carmen Lemos, Luiz Mata, Harold Mooney, Juan Valdés, Carolina Vera, Luigi Bosca.
Regrets: Telma Castro, Ramón Pichs Madruga

Observers: Paul Filmer (US-NSF) (30 Nov only)
Regrets: Maria Assunção Dias (Chair, IAI Executive Council)

IAI Directorate: Holm Tiessen (Director) (30 Nov only), Gerhard Breulmann (Scientific Officer).

Joint Session with EC: see EC 25 minutes

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2007

5:30pm (At AAAS Offices in DC); AAAS-IAI reception

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2007

8:30am to 10:00am (Arlington Residence Court Hotel), SAC 26: Session 1

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Adoption of Agenda for 26th SAC meeting
Approved.
3. Approval of Minutes from 25th SAC meeting
Approved with minor revisions.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair highlights that the meeting provides an opportunity to continue the activities started in SAC 25, Buenos Aires, in particular Strategic Planning, firming up SAC committee responsibilities (see Agenda Item 15) and to commence discussion on SAC renewal in mid 2008 (see Agenda Item 14).

5. Strategic Planning Update, briefing for joint session with EC

The committee charged with developing terms of reference for strategic planning submitted its report to SAC and EC/COP. The report was a compilation of suggestions from the committee members, provided a number of suggestions on how to proceed but not a definitive statement that would guide the IAI through the Strategic Planning process. Key points to be discussed in the joint SAC-EC session included:

- There is no need to alter the current IAI mission statement
- The need to develop key questions defining the IAI niche in the GEC community
- Consider the External Reviews recommendations and decide which ones should be adopted
- Mike, Ramon and Luis are charged with representing the SAC, they are to seek input from all members

- 10:05am Bus Transfer to NSF -

10:30am to 2:30pm, Joint Session with EC (At NSF, includes working lunch)

6. Strategic Planning

Reference to EC minutes, document not approved

7. Science – Society Interface (2 or 3 presentations from SCOPE 68)

This session was canceled

- 2:35pm return to Arlington Residence Court Hotel -

3:00 to 5:30pm (Arlington Residence Court Hotel), SAC 26: Session 2

8. IAI Strategic Planning Follow up

The SAC reinforced its commitment to the following operating principles:

- Continuing scientific excellence as IAI's most important asset
- Fostering integrative research agendas (e.g., biophysical – social science integration, strategic alliances, IAI regional science in a global context)
- Developing the next generation of GEC scientists
- Improving societal understanding of GEC science

The SAC acknowledged that completing the Strategic Planning exercise will require some additional resources. The SAC also emphasized an equal partnership with other IAI organs. The SAC welcomed the invitation of the Dominican Republic to host the next strategic planning meeting and to provide expert input. SAC representation on the Strategic Planning Committee to include SAC Chair plus two other SAC members who can collectively best represent IAI science.

9. Agenda for 30 Nov

An agenda item was added on the IAI Data and Information Management Policy

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2007

8:30am to 4:30pm (Arlington Residence Court Hotel), SAC 26 Session 3

10. IAI Update

Directorate report by Holm, see attached document. In addition to the items reported there was discussion on the following CRN II related items:

- the climate proposal for the La Plata region
- the carbon flux methodology proposal

11. NSF update

NSF report by Paul. The report expressed that NSF support to IAI remains secure, and is bolstered by the AAAS external review and its recommendations. It is anticipated that there will be a new Assistant Director of Geoscience in the first half of 2008, who should receive a briefing on the IAI. Paul reinforced concerns about additional layers of NSF support via ESSP requests to IAI for conference funding (referring the Holm's report)

12. IAI Data and Information policy.

The SAC received reports from Roberta Balstad and Paul Uhlir from CODATA. The discussions centered around data preservation, accessibility and management. It was also emphasized to address research objectives prior to developing data management policies, to be aware of potentially substantial transaction costs. Data is a commodity that gains value by sharing. The use of scientific data for policy makers requires analysis and interpretation, as well as tailoring outputs to meet the needs of specific audiences.

13. SAC Governance

- Revised SAC Regulations (Lou); the EC/COP is revising SAC regulations to clarify that SAC terms are for approximately 3 years and commence immediately after election at the COP
- SAC Chair/Vice-Chair Terms of Reference. MB to draft and distribute to SAC.

14. February 2008, CRN II/SGP-HD PI meeting (21-23 Feb. 08) and IAI Data & Information Management Training Institute (25-29 Feb. 08), Panama City; Environment Canada/Smithsonian conference on climate change and biodiversity (25-29 Feb. 08), Panama City.

This item was addressed under the IAI Directorate Report (Item 10)

15. CRN II Science - policy proposal.

MCL provided a summary report for this proposal which received general support from the SAC, but there were questions on implementation, procedures to solicit and evaluate proposals, eventual synthesis and potential concerns that might be raised by CRN II PIs.

16. SAC Renewal

- a. Outgoing members in mid-2008 and discussion of profiles for new members is summarized below.

IAI Science Theme	Hal	Maria	Juan	<i>Silvia</i>	Carolina	Rana	<i>Luis</i>	Ramon	<i>Telma</i>	<i>Mike</i>
1. Climate				X	X	X				
2. Ecosystems BD, LU, WR	X		X				X			
3. Ocean, Atmos				X		X			X	
4. HD & Policy	X	X					X	X		X
<i>Members completing 2nd term in mid-2008</i>				<i>Members completing 1st term in mid-2008</i>						

Science Gaps to be considered in next round of SAC renewal:

- Physical oceanographer (oceans role in climate)
- Land use & cover change
- Anthropogenic emissions (aerosols), (CoP)
- Vulnerability & Adaptation

Additional notes about expertise of existing SAC members:

- Hal, Ramon - environmental policy, international conventions
- Maria - Policy science, adaptation
- Luis – Environmental policy, adaptation, sustainability
- Mike – Human security and vulnerability

17. New member & new SAC Chair nomination process

Silvia and Mike, both nominated by the SAC are completing their second terms. Luis Mata, also nominated by the SAC is completing his first term. Silvia will request nominations for these positions and the SAC will need to confirm six recommendations at its next meeting. Telma Castro, nominated by the Parties, is completing her first term. MB is to follow-up on her interest in serving a second term. Silvia and Mike to collect information from the SAC regarding the next Chair and Vice-Chair and bring forward a recommendation.

18. SAC Committees

- Development of workplans (follow-up from SAC 25).
- The SAC decided to merge committees 2 and 3 and noted the need to establish one leader for each committee to push things along. Please refer to information below for revised committees and members with the committee leader in bold.

Committee 1: Science policy interface: knowledge transfer (term 1 year, members: **Maria Carmen Lemos**, Hal Mooney and Juan Valdés).

Committee 2: CRN II, SGP-HD – SAC relationships, integrating science (term 3 years, members: **Carolina Vera**, Rana Fine, Ramon Pichs and Telma Castro).

Committee 3: SAC governance and mandate (term 1 year, members: Silvia Garzoli, **Luis J.Mata**, Mike Brklacich, Ramon Pichs Madruga).

19. SAC 27: Tentative Dates & Location. First half of May 2008, Caribbean location
20. Any other business - none
21. Reserve Business (closed session for SAC members only, no report).

Adjourn

ANNEX II

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SAC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR*:

SAC Chair:

1. The SAC Chair must have an active global environmental change (GEC) research program, be well-respected within the GEC community, have an appreciation of all areas within IAIs science agenda, and be able to work effectively with the Directorate and EC/COP.
2. The SAC Chair oversees the SACs activities and is the primary contact point between the SAC and other IAI organs.
3. The Chair is responsible for calling SAC meetings. There will be at least one SAC meeting per year, depending on SAC workload.
4. The Chair will represent the SAC at EC/COP and EC meetings, and where appropriate, at other IAI and non-IAI functions.
5. Consistent with the Standing Rules of Procedure, the SAC Chair will be appointed for 2 years with the potential for one renewal.

SAC Vice- Chair (VC):

1. The VCs scientific background should complement (but not overlap with) the expertise of the SAC Chair.
2. The Chair and VC should collectively provide the appropriate balance required to steer the SAC.
3. The VC will assist the Chair on an on-going basis and will be the key liaison with SAC members in between SAC meetings.
4. The VC will work with the Chair to establish the agenda for SAC meetings and, in conjunction with the IAI Scientific Officer, oversee preparation of materials for SAC meetings.
5. The VC will represent the SAC when the Chair is not able to participate in IAI-related meetings.
6. Should the SAC Chair not be able to complete their term, then the VC will automatically become the SAC Chair until the SAC can meet and select a new Chair.

**Adopted by the SAC on 7 May 2008*

ANNEX III

Date: 9 December 2007

From: M, Brklacich, Chair, IAI SAC

To: H. Tiessen, Chair, Strategy Planning (SP) Term of Reference (ToR) Committee

RE: SAC INPUT TO ToR TO GUIDE IAI SP PROCESS

CC: IAI SAC, SP ToR Committee, EC Chairs

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CURRENT SP ToR COMMITTEE

1. Global Environmental Change (GEC) science in the Americas is a complex and dynamic process and therefore the SP process needs to:
 - a. engage a wide range of stakeholders including the producers and consumers of GEC science, and
 - b. be led by a collaborative effort from CoP/EC, Directorate & SAC.
2. The SAC has reviewed IAIs Mission Statement¹ and recommends that it not be revised at this time.
3. IAIs primary asset is the promotion of the highest caliber GEC science and the SP must maintain science excellence as the premier operating principle. The application of excellent GEC science to problems and priorities which are of regional and policy relevance within the Americas is indispensable
4. The Strategic Planning process must consider the recommendations offered by the AAAS external review and establish priority recommendations which sustain science excellence as well as provide additional support for policy relevant science.
5. The SP should support IAIs key operating principles as follows:
 - a. **Integrating research agendas**, including:
 - i. Fostering the integration biophysical and social sciences within IAI funded-projects.
 - ii. Creating strategic alliances between IAIs regional GEC projects and other global GEC activities (e.g. ESSP, IPCC, CBD, etc).
 - iii. Promoting alliances amongst regional GEC science programs and projects.
 - b. **Developing the next generation of GEC scientists**, including:

¹ IAIs Mission Statement is “To develop the capacity of understanding the integrated impact of present and future global change of regional and continental environments in the Americas and to promote collaborative research and informed action at all levels”

- i. Continuing support of graduate students, professionals and early career GEC scientists.
 - ii. Developing mechanisms to track the development of young scientists and thereby more firmly establish the value-added of IAI investments.
 - iii. Supporting other non-IAI initiatives which provide GEC information for pre-post secondary education and community-based learning.
 - iv. Continuing support for training and education activities (e.g. workshops and short courses) and the subsequent promotion of scientific research for participants in these activities.
- c. **Promoting societal understanding of GEC and GEC science**, including:
- i. Improving GEC awareness within governments and civil society.
 - ii. Embedding GEC science within broader development issues including economic development, poverty alleviation and equity.
 - iii. Improving the understanding of resilience and adaptation of socio-environmental systems to GEC.
 - iv. Improving participation of IAI member states in IAI functions and engaging states in the Americas that are not currently part of IAI.
- d. **Facilitating research diversity**, including:
- i. Bolstering support for communities which are currently under-represented within IAIs science portfolio.
 - ii. Developing a more equitable balance amongst the 3 components presented in IAIs mission statement (i.e.: integrated impacts, collaborative research and informed action).
 - iii. Developing a short to medium term funding plan to support research programs, Institute functions & the nurturing of emerging research.
 - iv. Developing a revamped science plan that expands the current science themes so as to improve IAIs capacity to address emerging cross-cutting themes such as (but not limited to) ecosystems services and risk-vulnerability-adaptation.

PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE NEXT STEPS (FROM THE BEGINNING OF 2008 THROUGH TO MID-2009)

The ToR Committee will deliver its final report prior to the end of 2007 and it will be disbanded. It is critical that the current momentum be maintained with a draft SP being prepared for mid-2008 with the final document completed no later than mid-2009.

The SAC urges that a new Committee be struck and charged with overseeing the development of the SP over the next 18 months. The SP Committee will need fair representation from all IAI organs, including 3 SAC members (the Chair plus representatives from the social and biophysical sciences). SAC renewal continues and the SAC representatives through to mid-2008 (approx) will include Brklacich, Garzoli and Mata. It is crucial the process over the next 18 months is open and that draft reports be vetted by the SAC and the EC.