

## **Annex I**

### **Background**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) recognize the importance of referencing and respecting Indigenous and local knowledge in participatory spaces such as advisory committees, consultative councils, working groups, and participatory forums and workshops. UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) initiative also emphasizes the critical role of Indigenous Knowledge in the conservation of cultural heritage, biodiversity, the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate change adaptation. In this regard, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has established a Liaison Group on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Innovations, and Practices. Additionally, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) highlights the need for a more "holistic" approach, promoting the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in its policies and activities.

### **The Role of the Committee and Its Objectives within the IAI**

This committee's mission is to provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the Scientific Agenda, the Strategic Plan, the implementation of the EDI policy, and the IAI's annual program (see annex or link). This effort aims to strengthen the work of the IAI by facilitating the equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) as well as their contributions.

Likewise, the IPAC will include experts in topics related to GEC and will work directly with the IAI's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC). Joint virtual meetings including members of these three committees will be held every two months, along with regular meetings of each committee. Members will determine the frequency and format of their meetings as the IPAC once it has been formed.

These joint meetings aim to open discussion spaces that include diverse perspectives, experiences, and knowledge systems on topics proposed both by the IAI, as they require the committee's advice, and by the committee members themselves. IPAC members may join the various IAI thematic working groups, considering their own interests and expertise.

### **Candidate Profile**

Committee members must belong to an Indigenous Peoples Nation or Community, as described by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), from a country that is a member of the IAI. They should have relevant professional and/or personal experience connected to Western or Indigenous scientific knowledge production. This includes Indigenous scientists, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, or representatives of Indigenous Peoples involved in decision-making processes related to Global Environmental Change (GEC). Such roles can be found in public administration and governance, Indigenous representation and social organizations, national and international negotiation and diplomacy forums, or in spaces focused on knowledge production related to public policy.

Candidates are not required to have a formal academic degree; equivalent experience reflecting the diversity of Indigenous knowledge and worldviews will be valued, as well as background as an Indigenous community leader. The profiles of candidates must be directly related to the topics of the IAI's scientific agenda. Their primary role will be to advise the Parties and the IAI Directorate, considering their knowledge systems and worldviews.

Candidates are encouraged to be perceived not as representatives of a country but as Indigenous experts at the intersection of Western or Indigenous science, Indigenous Knowledge, governance, and community, closely connected to the GEC approach.

Candidates should possess any (but not necessarily all) of the following qualities:

- Experience working at the intersection of different knowledge and scientific systems, society (with special attention to Indigenous Peoples), and public policies (development and management) related to GEC in the Americas.
- Understanding of the diverse priorities regarding Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Science<sup>1</sup> production and the decision-making processes needed to address GEC in the Americas.
- Knowledge of the diverse social, economic, and environmental realities in the Americas—especially those affecting and involving Indigenous Peoples and underrepresented population—regarding access to rights and representativity in these issues.
- Willingness and/or experience working in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary environments.
- Experience participating in multinational projects relevant to the IAI's strategic areas and/or in decision-making, technical or political representation spaces related to GEC, with and for Indigenous Peoples.
- Recognition to act as experts, whether:
  - a. Due to their academic career linked to their Indigenous identity and work with communities (in the case of Indigenous scientists) and/or
  - b. Due to their leadership in their community, nation, or organization. In this sense, candidates must have a GEC-related background, representing Indigenous values, rights, knowledge systems, and cosmology.

## **Committee Composition**

The IPAC will include five (5) individuals who identify as belonging to Indigenous Peoples from IAI member countries and have relevant experience in topics related to GEC. In accordance with the IAI's policy on gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion, the IAI will strive to ensure that

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<sup>1</sup> The IAI adopts the term "Indigenous Science" based on the definition provided by the Canadian Government. In that line, Indigenous science is a unique, time-honored, and systematic body of knowledge that complements and enriches Western science. It encompasses the deep understanding Indigenous Peoples have of the environment and ecosystems, rooted in survival practices developed over countless generations. This knowledge spans diverse domains, including plants, weather, animal behaviors and patterns, birds, and water, among others. Please refer to the following [website](#) for the reference.

positions on the committee are distributed equitably, encouraging participation from women and young people aged under 30.

Nominations must be made, supported, and endorsed by:

1. the Parties
2. IAI Associates
3. civil society organizations, international and intergovernmental organizations, and/or
4. members of IAI's SAC and SPAC.

A selection process will be conducted for the initial formation of the committee, which will include establishing an ad-hoc selection committee open to the Parties, SAC, SPAC, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, and the Directorate. The IAI aims to establish a Committee that reflects various regions from the Americas and includes diverse life and work experiences.

This initial members will serve until CoP-34 in 2026. From then on, elections will be held at the CoP's regular annual meetings through a vote by the Parties.

### **Committee Governance**

Once nominations are received, the ad-hoc committee will select the members who will make up the IPAC for its first year. Once the IPAC is formed, it will establish its own operating rules. To this end, the IPAC may use a generic set of operational rules previously used by other IAI advisory committees, adapting them as necessary. Members will have staggered terms, ensuring that the IPAC's composition is not fully renewed at once.

For the composition elected at CoP-34, in 2026, the following terms will apply:

- 1 member for a one-year term, renewable for one additional year,
- 2 members for a two-year term, renewable for two additional years,
- 2 members for a three-year term, renewable for two additional years.

In future, all new members will be elected for three-year terms, renewable for two additional years.

Additionally, a representative from the IAI Directorate will be appointed to support all IPAC activities, ensuring appropriate management and continuity in its operation.

## **Annex II**

### **Framework Agreement and Key Objectives of the IAI**

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) aims to promote scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global change. In this context, the IAI fosters regional collaboration to conduct inter- and transdisciplinary research that addresses aspects of global change related to earth, marine, atmospheric, environmental, and social sciences. This research emphasizes the effects of these changes on ecosystems and biodiversity, their socioeconomic impacts, and the technologies and economic measures that allow mitigation or adaptation to global changes. Furthermore, the Institute focuses on improving public knowledge, including the integration of Indigenous science with Western science, and providing relevant scientific data to governments for the development of effective public policies on global change.

#### **Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Policy:**

The IAI's Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Policy aims to integrate gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion issues across all transdisciplinary projects and capacity development activities. This policy seeks to ensure that these activities are consistent with the priorities of the Institute's Parties, facilitating the full and equitable participation of underrepresented groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, visible minorities or racialized groups, and members of LGBTQ+ communities. The EDI Policy aims to create an environment that promotes inclusion and equity, supporting regional efforts to develop high-quality science, including Indigenous science and knowledge, and strengthening governments' capacity to design public policies adapted to the needs of global environmental change. It also establishes a framework that upholds the IAI's principles of open science and transdisciplinary methodologies, particularly concerning the equitable participation of all people involved by the Institute's projects or activities.

#### **CoP Decisions related to the Creation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committees:**

The 31st Conference of the Parties (CoP-31) of the IAI adopted Decision XXXI/16, which instructed the Institute's Directorate to establish an Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee (IPLC).

In response to Decision XXXI/16, the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the EDI Committee, began a meticulous process to develop an effective strategy for the creation and functioning of the new IPLC Committee. This process included consultations and interviews with experts to define the best structure and direction for this new committee. These interactions identified crucial issues requiring deep reflection, such as whether Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities should be considered a single entity in their role as advisers to the IAI. Some Indigenous leaders argued that these identities should remain differentiated, highlighting differences in their knowledge systems and worldviews. However, it is essential for both local communities and Indigenous Peoples to participate as experts in these discussions, seeking common ground to enable inclusive and respectful dialogue from a diversity of perspectives.

At the 32nd CoP, in May 2024, Decision XXXII/19 was adopted, instructing the IAI Directorate to work on the creation of two advisory committees: one composed of Indigenous representatives and another of local community representatives. This process had to be based on facilitating consultations with representatives and leaders of these communities, and the Directorate had to present the results of these consultations at the following Executive Council (EC) meeting in November 2024. This was presented at the last EC meeting with the support of the parties involved.

### **Scientific Agenda and Areas of Interest for the IAI**

IAI Parties face significant challenges arising from GEC that call for integrating diverse perspectives to identify viable solutions. There is a critical link between gender, social equity, and climate change. The IAI's scientific agenda demands the participation of diverse rights holders and stakeholders through transdisciplinary science at all stages of knowledge production, from research funding, design, and implementation to the dissemination of results.

The primary objective of the IAI is to promote research that transcends national programs by conducting comparative studies and other approaches on critical GEC issues relevant to the region as a whole. The concept of GEC encompasses the interactions between biological, chemical, physical, and social processes that influence changes in how the Earth system works, including the specific ways these interactions are affected by human activities and, in turn, impact them.

The IAI supports knowledge production that strengthens the capacity of Indigenous Peoples in the Americas to face GEC with prosperity, contributing positively to regional sustainability in strategic areas such as poverty and inequality reduction, improved food, water, and energy security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, enhanced human health and well-being, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, and the promotion of clean air, water, and land. The research supported by the IAI must align with these strategic areas.

## **Annex III**

### **CV Template: Life Trajectory for Candidates**

#### ***Candidate Profile***

This form is for candidates applying to the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC). Candidates must belong to an Indigenous Peoples Nation or Indigenous community from an IAI member country and demonstrate a professional and personal trajectory directly linked to either:

1. The western or Indigenous scientific production of knowledge (as Indigenous scientists), or
2. Community representation in decision-making spaces related to Global Environmental Change (GEC).

Relevant roles include leadership in public administration, Indigenous representation and organization spaces, national and/or international negotiation and diplomacy forums, or knowledge production spaces tied to policy development.

While formal academic degrees are not required, equivalent experience reflecting the diversity of Indigenous knowledge systems and worldviews will be highly valued. Experience and leadership within community contexts are central to this profile. Candidates must align with IAI's scientific agenda topics and will primarily advise both the member countries and the IAI Directorate by contributing their knowledge systems and worldviews.

In line with the IAI's policy on gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion, the IAI will work to ensure that committee positions are allocated equitably, fostering participation from women and individuals under 30 years old.

**Candidate Information**

Full Name:

Contact email:

Current position and institutional affiliation:

Country and Territory of Residence:

Indigenous Nation/Community/Comarca:

Gender: female/male/prefer not to say

Are you aged under 30 years old? Yes/no

**Connection to your Indigenous Nation/Community**

1. Please describe your connection to your Indigenous community or nation. *This could include details about whether you reside within the community/nation, your involvement in its governance or leadership, and whether you hold leadership roles or contribute to decision-making spaces within the community.*
2. Please describe your experience representing your Indigenous community in external or national forums or organizations. Include your main roles and duties (with dates). *This may include governance, negotiations, advocacy, or decision-making spaces related to environmental care, global environmental change, and/or sustainable natural resource management.*

Forum/Organization name	Forum/Organization place	Years of participation	Main role and duties	Field of the duties

**Academic training (if applicable)**

3. If you have formal academic training, please complete the following table.

Institution name	Institution place	Years attended	Degree Program	Field of study

4. If you conduct scholarly work (e.g., research, higher education) please describe your area of work and indicate whether these activities relate to Global Environmental Change and Indigenous Peoples (e.g., Indigenous Science, working with Indigenous communities, addressing issues relevant to Indigenous territories, or Indigenous knowledge systems).
5. Are you a holder of Indigenous knowledge transmitted through generations and/or are you recognized within your Indigenous nation/community as a “knowledge keeper”? *If yes, please provide details.*

6. From your perspective, what unique contributions can you bring to the IAI's Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC)?

**Notes**

- Candidates who do not possess formal academic qualifications are encouraged to elaborate on their lived experiences, knowledge systems, and leadership roles within their communities.
- The IAI adopts the term “Indigenous Science” based on the definition provided by the Canadian Government. In that line, Indigenous science is a unique, time-honored, and systematic body of knowledge that complements and enriches Western science. It encompasses the deep understanding Indigenous Peoples have of the environment and ecosystems, rooted in survival practices developed over countless generations. This knowledge spans diverse domains, including plants, weather, animal behaviors and patterns, birds, and water, among others. Please refer to the following [website](#) for the reference.