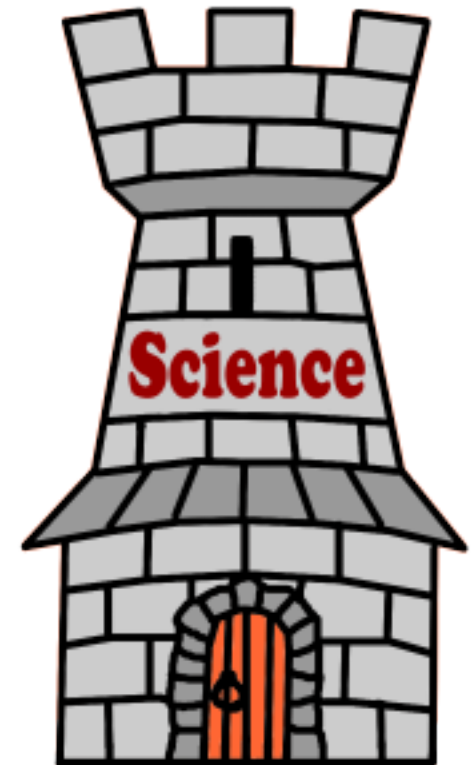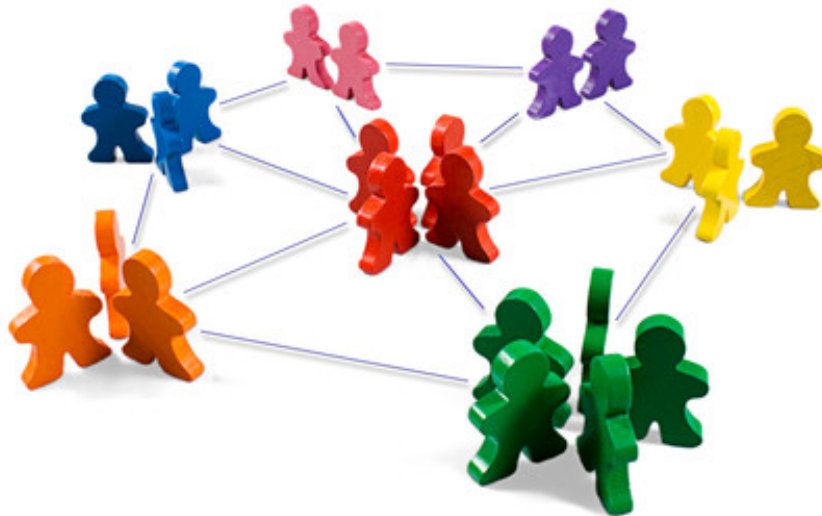# Questions for IAI Science Programs:

1. The IAI and other agencies are hard-pressing scientists to pursue interdiscipline and science-policy objectives. Are we asking too much from our researchers? Or is it that we should incorporate a greater number of researchers with interdisciplinary or social sciences profiles for teaming up? If so, how to do it? Should we expect that nonscientific actors are somehow incorporated in the proposals so that the usability of results is somewhat assured?

Are we asking too much from our researchers?
- No, ... - As researchers we are always encouraged to do our best
-but we are trained to become "the experts" in one area

- **Or is it that we should incorporate a greater number of researchers with interdisciplinary or social sciences profiles for teaming up?**
- **Integrate how? artificially? without knowing each other?**
- **Number it is not important, integration matters**

- **How do we do it?**
- **Researchers should have a common understanding of what is "interdisciplinary" and their mutual expectations.**
- **Just putting people together from different disciplines will not work (even people from the same discipline and different areas of expertise may not work well together), it is about having the willingness and open mind to work on an interdisciplinary team.**

- **Should we expect that nonscientific actors are somehow incorporated in the proposals so that the usability of results is somewhat assured?**
We did not discuss this one completely but touched on this while discussing question 2.

- Questions for the IAI Capacity Building Program:

1. Ideas for innovative design of capacity building activities (seminars, etc) that would foster the following objectives: network development, multinational collaboration, transdisciplinary research, science-policy-decision making interactions. How would you design an innovative seminar? What activities would you include? Please suggest new ideas.

a) Do the call based on one or more complex socio-ecological problem (e.g., Atitlán) and ask potential participants to send their profile where they describe how they can contribute or approach a particular problem. At least a few actors related to the problem should be also participants in the workshop. Researchers can write a mini proposal on how to approach that particular problem to help IAI in the selection process.

b) Human laboratory-real exchange: Bring people to a particular place and ask them to observe and work from there (put scientists and stakeholders to think together to solve a problem).

- content for workshops: case oriented activities, administrative and grant management experiences, experiences of interdisciplinary work team, how to collaborate in the distance.

- Language could be a barrier in groups, do it in spanish (including the proposal) because the problem and actor are generally from a spanish speaking country.

- The full potential of the human capital of all the participants was not fully exploited: ask for list of skills of each one (not only the content of future projects),

- networking and team building: it is important to develop activities that help people to know each other better in informal settings before creating the teams (for example, having the field trip earlier may help). Ask people to present or introduce themselves first and perhaps tell something more personal;

- networking: skype conferences with the participants before the capacity building workshop; interdisciplinary team management (rol playing of actors, but also different types of people in an interdisciplinary team)

- allow a more cooperative and interactive environment to work.