

Dear colleagues,

Ten teams have been pre-selected to participate in the workshop on transdisciplinary research and co-design that is part of the SGP-HW selection process. Each team submitted proposals of scientific excellence with transdisciplinary potential. Given that SGP-HW will only provide limited grants for 2 years of research, one of the main criteria in deciding funding will be the potential of teams to complete a transdisciplinary research program that has measurable policy or conservation outcomes.

### Purpose of Workshop

The IAI believes that transdisciplinarity and co-design can contribute to more action-oriented research that can help societal actors better understand, manage, and adapt to global changes. The main purpose of the workshop is to support teams in having a shared understanding of transdisciplinary principles, to advance skill development in transdisciplinary research, and to reinforce the transdisciplinary components of the final SGP-HW research designs. Participation in the proposal writing workshop is mandatory to be eligible to submit a full proposal, as outlined in the Call for Proposals.

There are several other purposes for the workshop:

### Building a collaborative network

The workshop will be the first opportunity for collaboration among project teams that is expected to continue throughout the SGP-HW program, particularly on the challenges of and measuring impacts of transdisciplinary approaches.

Teams can share information and experiences without undermining team competition. The good practices and ideas exhibited by some teams cannot simply be "copied" by other teams, given that the specific topics, locations, and stakeholders of each project and each experience will be unique. Opportunities and challenges to overcoming barriers in transdisciplinary research can be in common, however, and there is opportunity to learn from each other. This program design reaffirms the IAI's interest in enhancing research capacity building through collaborative work.

### Building international capacity in transdisciplinarity/co-design

The IAI plans to make information on the design of this workshop available to other institutions developing similar research initiatives. The IAI Directorate welcomes researchers and stakeholders interested in collaborating on creating a product that may be of benefit and use to other institutions or programs.

### Evaluating project teams

Additionally, members of the panel that will review SGP-HW full proposals, including the US National Science Foundation, the IAI Directorate, IAI Scientific Advisory Committee, and IAI Science-Policy Advisory Committee will be assessing each team's potential to successfully carry out co-produced transdisciplinary research.

### Workshop format and agenda

The review of the pre-proposals indicated that teams have different scientific and non-scientific profiles of expertise. An in-person workshop, as originally scheduled and limited to three members of each team, including scientists and stakeholders, would be too exclusive. For co-design to be effective, a larger network of diverse researchers and stakeholders should be involved. A workshop involving a combination of in-person and online participation allows for wider participation, while replicating the hands-on capacity building process in a context more similar to the real work environment in which the SGP-HW projects will be carried out.

The IAI is able to support local trips of scientists or stakeholders to meet face-to-face, especially in cases where stakeholders are not used to working remotely through electronic means. The Directorate will also be sensitive to the situation of stakeholders in remote study areas whose participation may be possible only by the researchers visiting the site. These cases will be discussed individually with each PI. Team members will meet their peers and partners from other countries in virtual meetings. The meeting software proposed for the workshop will allow the organization of breakout virtual rooms with dedicated phone lines for each project team. Necessary instruction or demonstrations of the software will be provided in advance of the workshop.

### Draft workshop agenda

Due to the differences in the five time zones of workshop participants, we will hold the plenary sessions during the following times:

Pacific Time Zone: 7:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Mountain Time Zone: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Central Time Zone: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Eastern Time Zone 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
GMT -3 Montevideo, Uruguay 11 am – 4:00 pm

Plenary sessions will include key-note speakers, questions and answers, and plenary discussions in 9 main topics:

- (1) Transdisciplinarity, co-design, co-production as a new model of scientific research,
- (2) Team/network building;
- (3) Defining scope & purpose, including links with international environmental governance frameworks;
- (4) Refining goals and objectives;
- (5) Workplan development, including the creation of results chains;
- (6) Monitoring and evaluation plan;
- (7) Communication plan;
- (8) Data management plan;
- (9) Budgeting, administration and reporting.

Team scientists and stakeholders will have the afternoon/non-plenary hours to revisit their pre-proposals in the light of the morning activities and discussions. Teams will report back on their discussions and on the decisions made on the research design each following morning, before starting the topics of that day.

### Required participation

We expect the participation of representatives of the scientific and policy and decision making components of each team in each country. **The participation of stakeholders is especially required on Monday and Tuesday.** On Wednesday and Thursday, scientists and stakeholders can rotate in their participation, but they are expected to work in coordination. It is also expected that the main actors and partners of the project will be involved in the pre-proposal review discussions and activities taking place in the afternoons, as part of each network's internal work. This combined physical and online way of working attempts to contextualize this hands-on exercise in an environment that replicates the way in which grantees will develop transdisciplinary research work on a daily basis.

### Languages supported

Spanish and English languages will be the working languages of the workshop. The workshop will be conducted by two facilitators of the IAI Directorate, both bilingual, and one native in Spanish and the other native in English. Key-note speeches will be short, and offered in both languages if possible. If this is not the case, an abstract of the talk will be provided in the other language. A simultaneous translation of the basic concepts will be available through chat to facilitate questions and answers and exchanges between network participants.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions or concerns. We are looking forward to working with all of you towards a 21st century model of sustainability science.