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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH**
Twenty-sixth meeting
Antigua, Guatemala, 20-21 June 2018
Agenda item 14

**Report of the IAI Directorate
Science**

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. The preamble of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* states:

CONCERNED that our scientific knowledge of the earth system and our common understanding of the environmental, economic and social effects on development caused by these changes is incomplete.

*CONCERNED that research on global issues requires cooperation among research institutes, among states and among the different parts of the Inter-American region, and with regional and international global change research programs*¹

3. Article II, *Objectives*, of the *Agreement* states:

a) Promote regional cooperation for interdisciplinary research on aspects of global change related to the sciences of the earth, ocean, atmosphere, and the

¹ *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, IAI/LD-1/1992, p. 2.
http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/agreement_establishing_the_IAI_en.pdf

environment and to social sciences, with particular attention to impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, socio-economic impacts, and technologies and economic aspects associated with the mitigation of and adaptation to global change;

b) Conduct or select for sponsorship scientific programs and projects on the basis of their regional relevance and scientific merit as determined by scientific review;

c) Pursue on a regional scale that research which cannot be pursued by any individual State or institution and dedicate itself to scientific issues of regional importance.²

4. The *IAI Strategic Plan*³ sets core values as follows:

The IAI pursues the principles of scientific excellence, international and interdisciplinary cooperation, and full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global environmental change.

5. The *IAI Strategic Plan* also presents the mission of the IAI as follows:

The mission of IAI is to develop the capacity of understanding the integrated impact of past, present and future global change on regional and continental environments in the Americas and to promote collaborative, well-informed actions at all levels.

6. The recommendations in the *Science and research program chapter of the report of the external review committee assessment of the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research*⁴ state:

Recommendation 1: Continue to maintain and even enhance the standard of scientific excellence that the IAI has demonstrated thus far.

Recommendation 2: Continue to strengthen the regional relevance of the IAI research portfolio by focusing on the topics of risk, vulnerability, and adaptation related to global change.

Recommendation 3: Continue to develop new mechanisms to foster collaborations among scientists of the region, such as initiating “across-project” synthesis activities involving both scientists and stakeholders.

Recommendation 5: Encourage new projects that study the feedbacks between humans and global and regional environmental changes. These new projects require the participation of a range of disciplinary expertise beyond the natural sciences.

² Ibid., p. 2

³ IAI Strategic Plan <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/IAIStrategicPlan.pdf>

⁴ American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chapter 3: *Science and Research Program: Detailed Findings and Recommendations. Report of the External Review Committee Assessment of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*. Washington, D.C. International Office, 2007, p. 23-28. http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/aaas_IAIreport_0607.pdf

7. The Conference of the Parties, at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017) (CoP-25), adopted Decision XXV/25, *Enhancing activity of IAI Member Country Representatives* which states:

The CoP encourages proactive participation by country representatives in IAI meetings, reporting on IAI research project results in their countries, and working for the timely payment of country contributions.

8. CoP-25 also adopted Decision XXV/28, *Augmenting science communication capacities of IAI research projects*, which states:

The CoP directed the Directorate to find ways to enhance the capacity of IAI research projects to communicate their results to stakeholders.

9. Other relevant Decisions adopted by CoP-25 include Decision XXV/23, *IAI long-term communication strategy and plan* which states:

The CoP directed the Directorate to draft a long-term communication strategy and plan. The document will be presented at the next CoP.

and Decision XXV/6: *Open data policy and principles* which states:

The CoP directed the IAI Directorate to define and establish open data policy and principles taking into account the data policy document approved at IAI CoP 2. The document will be presented at the next CoP.

10. This document summarizes activities undertaken during the intersessional period in support of these recommendations and Decisions.

Support and monitoring of ongoing programs

CRN3

11. The third Collaborative Research Network Program (CRN3) reached the no-cost extension final year, with the termination date of 28 February 2019. CRN3 has the participation of 15 of the IAI's 19 Parties with 17 Principal Investigators (PIs) and 95 co-investigators in 90 institutions throughout the Americas. Three CRN3 projects are already completed, and the other 14 are in their final year, with the expected date of completion of research activities in November 2018. In addition to IAI funds, CRN3 projects have leveraged an additional US\$ 11.38 million during the last year reported.

12. CRN3 comprises two sets of projects:

- a) Ten major networks which are funded with USD 700,000 to USD 1,000,000 that resulted from two initial CRN3 calls. They cover a broad range of climate-related atmospheric, terrestrial and marine global change issues in the Americas. These networks are the CRN3 ecosystem services projects, 2012-2018 which are described in Table I below:

TABLE I			
CRN3	Title	Countries	Budget USD
3005	“Nitrogen Cycling in Latin America: Drivers, Impacts and vulnerabilities”. PI: Jean Pierre Ometto , Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais, INPE jean.ometto@inpe.br	Brazil , Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, USA, Venezuela	996,100
3025	“Tropi-Dry II: Enhancing knowledge exchange for conservation and management of tropical dry forests in the Americas”. PI: Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa , University of Alberta. arturo.sanchez@ualberta.ca	Canada , Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico	882,500
3035	“Towards usable climate science – Informing sustainable decisions and provision of climate services to the agriculture and water sectors of southeastern South America”. PI: Cecilia Hidalgo , Universidad de Buenos Aires. cecil.hidalgo@gmail.com	Argentina , Brazil, Paraguay, USA	765,499
3036	“LUCIA: Land use, climate and infections in Western Amazonia”. Alisson Barbieri , UFMG/CEDEPLAR. barbieri@cedeplar.ufmg.br	Brazil , Ecuador, Peru, USA	906,500
3038	“SAFER: Sensing the America’s Freshwater Ecosystem Risk from climate change”. PI: Gerardo M E Perillo , Instituto Argentino de Oceanografía (CONICET-UNS). gmeperillo@criba.edu.ar	Argentina , Canada, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay, USA	902,100
3056	“Innovative Science and Influential Policy Dialogues for Water Security in the Arid Americas”. PI: Christopher Scott , U. of Arizona cascott@email.arizona.edu	Chile , Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, USA	800,000
3070	“VOCES: Variability of Ocean Ecosystems around South America”. PI: Alberto Piola , Servicio de Hidrografía Naval. apiola@hidro.gov.ar	Argentina , Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, USA	869,362
3076	“RAICES: Effects of Anthropogenic Habitat Perturbation on Rodent Population Dynamics and Risk of Rodent-Borne Diseases”. PI: Daniel Bausch (PI), Tulane University. dbausch@tulane.edu	USA , Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay	884,870
3094	“Assessment of marine ecosystem services at the Latin-American Antares time-series network”. PI: Milton Kampel , Instituto Nacional de pesquisas Espaciais (INPE). milton@dsr.inpe.br	Brazil , Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, USA, Venezuela	699,979
3095	“BEST-P: Bridging Ecosystem Services and Territorial Planning”. PI: José M. Paruelo . LART-IFEVA. Facultad de Agronomía and CONICET, B. Aires, Argentina. paruelo@agro.uba.ar	Argentina , Chile, Mexico, Uruguay	698,995

- b) The amount of funding equal to that received by one CRN3 project was used to fund seven smaller projects that are providing practical guidance to other CRN3 projects, to IAI’s capacity building activities and to institutions of science to foster science integration (2014-2018):

CRN3	Title	Countries	Budget USD
3097	"Intensive training program in management of social-ecological systems to support decision making". PI: Patricia Balvanera , UNAM. pbalvanera@cieco.unam.mx (Completed)	Mexico	98,490
3101	"Advancing good practices in building interdisciplinarity: Moving towards user-oriented science". PI: Marcelo Saguier , FLACSO, Arg./Andrea Gerlak, University of Arizona. msaguier@flacso.org.ar	Argentina, USA	125,000
3102	"Interdisciplinary science and development integration for adaptation to water scarcity in the Comahue region, Argentina". PI: Ana Maria Murgida , Univ. de Buenos Aires. animurgida@gmail.com (Completed)	Argentina	132,250
3105	"Interdisciplinary science team skill building through the study of socioecological impacts from bioenergy development across the Americas". PI: Kathleen Halvorsen , Michigan Technological University. kehalvor@mtu.edu (Completed)	USA	199,986
3106	"Transferring climate knowledge in the science-policy interface for adaptation to drought in Uruguay". PI: Gabriela Cruz , Univ. de la República. gacruz@fagro.edu.uy	Uruguay	162,000
3107	"Interdisciplinary research to improve information provision for decision making". PI: Anna Mueller , Biodiversity International. anna.muller@cgiar.org	Costa Rica	180,000
3108	"Coping with hydrological risk in megacities: collaborative planning framework for the Mexico City Metropolitan Area". PI: Luis Bojórquez Tapia , UNAM. bojorquez@ecologia.unam.mx	Mexico	180,000

13. Several efforts were made by the IAI Directorate to support CRN3 researchers in the implementation of the last phase of these projects, particularly through the provision of guidance, when requested and needed. The Directorate assisted researchers in ensuring that their work plans, specific activities and use of funds achieved solution-oriented results within the context of the IAI's high standard of scientific excellence.
14. The above exercise was a labor-intensive activity achieved through almost daily communication with PIs, researchers and students. It provided the means to more deeply understand the project's technical and financial reports. It also offered the means to participate in scientific or science-policy activities organized by the projects, visits of researchers to the IAI Directorate, and joint work at the CRN3 researcher's meeting.
15. In support of Decisions XXV/28, XXV/23 and XXV/6, and also to enhance the effectiveness of the CRN3, the IAI Directorate organized the Collaborative Research Network (CRN3) researchers meeting, Cancun, Mexico, 29 November to 1 December 2017⁵, where 46 CRN3 researchers, SAC and SPAC members, EC members, Party representatives and observers discussed topics related to: (a) disciplinary and interdisciplinary CRN3 scientific contributions (b) transdisciplinarity and science-policy processes and opportunities, (c) open data, and (d) communication of research results.
16. Participants to the meeting worked in interdisciplinary teams to identify opportunities for synthesis (papers, data integration, shared activities, etc.) across projects. One of

⁵ Report of the meeting available at: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/info12-cop26-e.pdf>

the outcomes of the meeting was the recommendation to publish position papers in a peer-reviewed journal in a special issue in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the IAI⁶. This publication will celebrate the IAI through its achievements in science, particularly the results of the CRN program⁷. Participants held that this issue would enable discussion on emerging global change topics and provide a bridge to more informed policy discussions and solutions.

17. Additionally, and based on a science-policy survey conducted by the IAI Directorate on CRN3 projects, an overview of CRN3 science policy processes indicated more than forty different experiences at various levels (i.e., international, national, local). Further analysis and systematization of project results will be carried out as part of the CRN3 synthesis and dissemination activities.
18. With regard to issues related to communication, the meeting counted with the participation of those responsible for communications in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. They related their experiences and knowledge on the communication of science to CRN3 researchers. In addition, the IAI Directorate and participants drafted project info-sheets to communicate project results to Parties, stakeholders and potential donors, and others with an interest in science and policy.
19. Open data was also discussed at the meeting, particularly the IAI Directorate's efforts to design and make public an open data platform⁸.
20. CRN3 accomplishments, products, and impacts between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018 were reported to the donor, the United States National Science Foundation, on 21 February 2018. The report was approved.
21. The results obtained by the CRN3 projects during this period confirm the trend towards the increased use of interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity approaches to scientific research and the growing use of the IAI's expertise in the provision of scientific information to enhance policy making and reach better informed decisions.
22. During 2018, the IAI Directorate will continue to support and monitor CRN3 projects in accordance to their objectives and the specific work plans as submitted by each project as part of their 2017 annual reports. During this last phase of the CRN3 program, attention will be given to the closure of the projects and to the generation of scientific and policy-oriented products to ensure that the expected project objectives have been achieved and delivered. Additionally, the IAI Directorate, in consultation with SAC and SPAC members, will work on science and science-policy synthesis products, including the proposed journal special issue and a catalog of science-policy experiences.

CONICET-IAI

23. Within the framework of an agreement signed between National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) of Argentina and the IAI Directorate,

⁶ See Document IAI/COP/26/18d: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/iai-cop-26-18d-e.pdf>

⁷ Call for extended abstracts in Information document IAI/COP/26/Info.13: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/info13-cop26-e.pdf>

⁸ More information on the IAI open data platform is available in document *Data and information: Decision XXV/6: Open data policy and principles*, IAI/COP/26/20a. <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/iai-cop-26-20a-e.pdf>

CONICET provides matching funds to Argentina’s CRN3 project teams for four years, starting in 2014. Seven proposals complementing ongoing CRN3 research activities were approved with implementation starting with the first CONICET installment in 2014.

24. The seven projects within this CONICET/IAI collaborative framework are:

CRN	CONICET–CRN3 Title	CRN3 IAI funds for Argentinean teams USD	CONICET Funds for CONICET-IAI projects USD
3005	“Network capacity building in the Americas: theoretical and practical applications of human impact on N cycling in Argentina”. PI: A. Austin . Instituto de Investigaciones Fisiológicas y Ecológicas vinculadas a la Agricultura (IFEVA). austin@ifeva.edu.ar	129,441	20,000
3035	“Elaboración de índices de excesos/déficits hídricos orientados a la actividad agropecuaria, basados en la humedad del suelo”. PI: C. Saulo . Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y de la Atmósfera (CIMA). saulo@cima.fcen.uba.ar	279,032	20,000
3038	“Influencias climáticas y antrópicas en los lagos de la cuenca del río Senguer: hacia soluciones consensuadas con los actores sociales y tomadores de decisión”. PI: G. Perillo . Inst. Argentino de Oceanografía (IADO). gmeperillo@criba.edu.ar	309,468	40,000
3056	“Articulación inter-redes para la producción de conocimiento estratégico. Transponiendo las fronteras del Cambio Ambiental Global desde las ciencias sociales”. PI: P. Mussetta y F. Martin . Instituto de Ciencias Humanas, Sociales y Ambientales (INCIHUSA). pcmussetta@gmail.com and fdmartingarcia@gmail.com	108,000	20,000
3070	“The relative ecosystem service of frontal areas in the South West Atlantic Large Marine Ecosystem”. PI: A. Piola . Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN) e Instituto Franco-Argentino sobre Estudios de Clima y sus Impactos (UMI IFAECI). apiola@hidro.gov.ar	312,962	40,000
3094	“Evaluación del sistema de los carbonatos en el contexto de la acidificación oceánica en la serie de tiempo EPEA (Mar Argentino)”. PI: V. Lutz . Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (IIMYC). vlutz@inidep.edu.ar	180,100	20,000
3095	“Tipos funcionales de socio-ecosistemas: una alternativa para la zonificación del territorio en procesos de planificación y ordenamiento”. PI: J.M. Paruelo . LART-IFEVA. Facultad de Agronomía and CONICET. paruelo@agro.uba.ar	475,045	40,000

25. Special note should be made that in 2018, CONICET resumed the contributions that made possible this collaborative framework, and also the restarting of research activities.

Implementation of new programs

Small Grant Program: “The role of ecosystem services in adaptation to global change for human wellbeing” (SGP-HW)

26. The Directorate made an open call for universities, professional societies, not-for-profit organizations, or governmental institutions from a minimum of 3 IAI Parties which have established research programs and are willing to implement a participatory approach with stakeholders in their application for grants up to USD 200,000 to support research, data management, travel, workshops, capacity building, communication and scholarships⁹.
27. The SGP-HW program is innovative in three aspects:
- a) Theme: The theme of adaptation in the SGP-HW responds to an integral element of efforts to implement national obligations corresponding to international environmental frameworks (i.e., SDGs, among others) and creates an opportunity to reinforce interdisciplinary (ID) research through combined, biogeochemical, climate and socioeconomic research with a view to achieve social-ecological sustainability.
 - b) Program design: Experience accumulated by the IAI suggests that transdisciplinary (TD) research is developed through team building and cross-disciplinary understanding to facilitate dialogue needed to collaboratively frame research questions with stakeholders. It also aims to produce policy-relevant or scientific knowledge that can be translated into action. In this program, ID and TD team building, networking, and co-design will be aided by an IAI-organized hands-on capacity building module in the first stages of project development. Researchers, policy-makers and stakeholders from pre-selected teams will participate in a week-long co-design workshop, and then develop full proposals, which will undergo further peer review and evaluation as part of the final selection process. Implementing this methodological approach to program and project design places IAI at the forefront of co-designed research which integrates the views and knowledge of stakeholders in transdisciplinary projects to generate data and information relevant to policy makers and other users, including leaders at the sub-national level.
 - c) Co-funding: Co-funding is an important and essential component of the SGP-HW program. It will bring additional resources to the program thereby complementing NSF contributions. More importantly, it is the first step for the Parties to take greater ownership in global change research, and in supporting efforts to enhance national institutional capacities and political will for collaborative international scientific projects.
28. SGP-HW activities are planned as follows:
- Call for pre-proposals: Made on 28 February 2018
 - Dissemination of call: 1 March to 27 May
 - Deadline submission pre-proposals: 27 May
 - Evaluation of pre-proposals (SAC, SPAC, external reviewers): 27 May to 29 June
 - SAC/SPAC face-to-face meetings for discussing pre-proposals: 17 to 20 June, back-to-back with CoP/EC meetings from 19 to 22 June

⁹ See: <http://www.iai.int/call-for-pre-proposals-co-funded-small-grants-program/>

- Announcement of 10 pre-selected pre-proposals: 2 July
- Build agenda for proposal writing workshop: 2 April to 15 May
- Committing lecturers/mentors: from 13 April to 20 June (activity already started)
- Lecturers travel arrangements: 11 June to 3 August
- Participant travel arrangements: 9 July to 3 August
- Proposal writing workshop: 6-10 August, venue TBD, depending on pre-proposals selected
- Writing of final proposals: 11 Aug. to 21 September
- Deadline submission full proposals: 21 September
- Selection of full proposals (SAC, SPAC, external reviewers): 21 Sept. to 15 October
- Announcement proposals to be funded: 15 October
- Grant agreements signing: 15 Oct to 15 November
- Sub-grant agreements signing: 5 Nov to 31 January 2019
- Initial installments transfers: starting 23 October
- Funded research work: starting 23 October

29. SGP-HW progress between 15 March 2017 and 28 February 2018 was reported to the NSF on 1 March 2018. The report was approved.

Science promotion and planning towards future programs

Fourth iteration of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN4)

30. The Directorate has started the process of formulating the fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks (CRN4). The new program will embody the mission, vision and core values of the IAI, and will deepen the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to CRN3 efforts to assist in the reaching of effective and informed decision-making.
31. In light of the knowledge gained and experience held by the IAI, especially in CRN3 and SGP-HW, CRN4 will be innovative in the scientific, institutional and funding aspects through the use of the following elements:
- a) Demand-driven scientific knowledge: Unlike previous IAI programs, CRN4 will not identify a theme to be addressed (e.g., ecosystem services, adaptation), but will be open to any scientific research question necessary to generate the knowledge required to address significant global change challenges in the context of the IAI scientific agenda. Moreover, especial attention will be paid to research relevancy to international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others. Scientific components to be developed should be identified in the context of the information, advice or services required by national policy makers in consultation with other stakeholders.
 - b) Priorities identified by the Parties. The challenges to be addressed will be Party-driven and will be achieved through a systematic process allowing the Parties to address their commitments related to global environmental frameworks, National voluntary Contributions, National Plans, among others.
 - c) Co-funding: The Parties will be invited to participate in the program by offering co-funding for the themes/challenges of particular national interest. The amounts to be allocated by each of the Parties for co-funding their national teams must be identified in advance.

Co-design on megacities climate adaptation

32. The IAI Directorate has started a research co-design process with practitioners and policy makers from the governments of Buenos Aires, São Paulo and Santiago de Chile; researchers working on climate change, urban climate and air quality in these three mega-cities; and organizations of these urban civil societies. A first meeting held in Santiago de Chile in April 2018¹⁰ identified shared problems in (a) decarbonization processes, (b) climate-related health issues, (c) climatic extreme events, (d) citizen and human dimension of adaptation/vulnerability, and (e) governance: sectorial coordination, citizen participation, city-global interface; and confirmed the willingness of these actors to combine their capacities and resources in a coordinated fashion to address these issues. The team plans to systematize existing information on urban climate on the three cities, and carry out the necessary scientific analyses to respond directly to the priorities of the cities' governments. In quest of support to this initiative, the IAI Directorate coordinated the submission of an expression of interest to the 2018/2019 United Nations QIAO Plan on Climate Change and Nature Conservation¹¹.

Poverty alleviation

33. The IAI, jointly with CROP (Comparative Research Programme on Poverty), an International Social Science Council-University of Bergen program¹², will host the OP3-03 session of the World Social Sciences Forum 2018 on "Poverty, water and sustainable development in global change: exploring the nexus from a sustainability science and human security perspective".¹³ This session will position the IAI within the global community currently addressing poverty reduction and alleviation processes resulting from the combination of ecological (climatic, hydrological, ecosystemic) and human (social, political, institutional, and cultural) factors. As a result of this session, IAI and CROP will publish a joint book, which will be the basis for a future joint program. CROP provides the IAI with a social sciences perspective of poverty production in the context of global change and presents opportunities for the establishment of a south-south collaboration network.

Co-funding of Scientific Programs

34. In support of Decision XXV/27: *Participation in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days*, the Belmont Forum and the IAI Directorate collaborated in the organization of a meeting with Parties, funding agencies and other potential donors to discuss the establishment of a flexible mechanism to facilitate the funding of scientific projects on global change in the Americas. This meeting was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 8 November 2017. Information on this meeting is available in document number IAI/COP/26/19a.
35. Following recommendations resulting from this meeting, the IAI Directorate included a flexible co-funding requirement for in-cash or in-kind matching funds in the SGP-

¹⁰ See Concept note and report in Information document IAI/COP/26/Info.14: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/info14-cop26-e.pdf>

¹¹ The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Beijing Qiaonyu Foundation jointly launched the United Nations QIAO Plan on Climate Change and Nature Conservation during the East-West Philanthropists Summit IV. The QIAO Plan will make available an initial amount of RMB 85 million (approximately \$13.5 million) between 2018 and 2023. More information is available at: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/2018/01/13/united-nations-launches-qiao-united-action-plan-on-climate-change-and-conservation/>

¹² <http://www.crop.org/>

¹³ Session description at: http://www.wssf2018.org/session-parallel-02-list.html#a_p3

HW call that opened on 1 March 2018. Co-funding is a major criterion for the selection of pre-proposals and proposals, with expectations for greater co-funding in upper and upper middle-income countries with greater science and technology development¹⁴.

36. After 25 years of IAI projects being developed primarily with NSF funds, this co-funding scheme will: (a) start the diversification of the IAI's science funding; (b) bring additional resources to the SGP-HW program —funding, knowledge, and expertise; (c) help the IAI to focus its funding in supporting the incremental cost of projects, with emphasis in backing IAI Parties that are in more need of support to develop their science and technology capacities; (d) allow to test the willingness to co-fund across Parties, as part of the process of formally adopting co-funding mechanisms in future calls; and (e) provide time for funding agencies to adjust their national mechanisms for the provision of matching funds for inter-American global change research initiatives.
37. The flexibility of a scheme that accepts in-kind contributions and does not require a minimum co-financing ratio is appropriate as it: (f) is a first step in a gradual process towards the systematization of co-financing of IAI's scientific programs; (g) encourages the participation of teams from all Parties, thus preserving maximum networking potential; (h) allows quick implementation so that SGP research can start in November 2018, ensuring continuity of IAI scientific programs after the closure of CRN3 projects in November and the end of CRN3 program in February 2018.
38. This SGP-HW co-funding scheme puts the major burden of bringing matching funds to the projects on researchers. They will most likely attempt to comply with the co-funding requirement by including in their proposals various funding sources to which they may have access at the time of the call. Future IAI science programs should be supported by institutional responses to IAI's co-funding requirements; i.e., Parties' harmonizing their funding processes to complement IAI calls.

Recommendation:

39. The Conference of the Parties is invited to instruct and support the IAI Directorate in the development of the synthesis and dissemination activities and products of the last phase of the CRN3 program, including the compilation of position papers in a special issue of a peer-review journal and a catalog of science-policy experiences, among others, as appropriate.
40. The Conference of the Parties is invited to instruct the IAI Directorate to continue working jointly with the CONICET of Argentina in the CONICET-IAI research program.
41. The Conference of the Parties is invited to encourage Parties to collaborate with the IAI Directorate in gathering information on the Parties' national priorities on science and science-policy, especially in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others, necessary to implement the IAI scientific agenda, including the development of new science and science-policy programs, and a fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, in particular.

¹⁴ See: SGP-HW Call for Pre-proposals, p. 5, in IAI/COP/26/Info.6

42. The Conference of the Parties is invited to instruct the Directorate to work on the establishment of a flexible mechanism that allows Parties and multiple donors to collaborate in the co-funding of global change scientific programs for the Americas.
43. The Conference of the Parties is invited to encourage Parties to harmonize their science and technology funding schemes to match IAI calls, in particular with the upcoming call for the fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, CRN4.
44. The Conference of the Parties is invited to instruct and support the IA Directorate, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) in the design and implementation of a fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks (CRN4) that will strengthen the leadership position of the IAI in developing transdisciplinary science of societal relevance in the Americas, and that is innovative in the scientific, institutional and funding aspects.
45. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Science

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/xx. The IAI Directorate is directed to develop the synthesis and dissemination activities and products of the last phase of the CRN3 program, including a special issue in a peer-review journal and a catalog of science-policy experiences.

XXVI/xx. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue working jointly with the CONICET of Argentina in the CONICET-IAI research program.

XXVI/xx. The IAI Directorate is directed to gather information on the Parties' national priorities on science and science-policy, especially in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others, necessary to implement the IAI scientific agenda, including the development of new science and science-policy programs, and a fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, in particular.

XXVI/xx. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue working in collaboration with the SAC/SPAC on the promotion of science by developing alliances, generating synergies with partners and seeking funds to develop scientific programs aimed at completing the scientific knowledge needed to respond to the challenges of global change, in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others.

Directed to the Parties

XXVI/xx. The Parties are invited to collaborate with the IAI Directorate in gathering information on the Parties' national priorities on science and science-policy, especially in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others, necessary to implement the IAI scientific agenda, including the development of new science and science-policy programs, and a fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, in particular.

XXVI/xx. The Parties are invited to work with the Directorate in an effort to harmonize their science and technology funding schemes to match IAI calls, in particular with the upcoming call for the fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, CRN4.