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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 16**

**Report of the Directorate
Global Outreach and Cooperation**

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 (IAI) states:

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.

3. The Conference of the Parties, at its 22nd meeting (Mexico City, 2014) adopted Decision XXII/4, which states:

The CoP decided to make a statement to the UNFCCC CoP-20 to be held in Peru that in addition to mitigation, global change adaptation is important to Latin America and needs to be incorporated into international decision making. Adaptation needs to be based on sound science and technology.

4. In light of the above, a number of activities and efforts were developed and implemented by the IAI Directorate to enhance partnerships with multi-lateral environmental agreements and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and are described in this document.

Introduction

5. The IAI Directorate gained increased visibility from participation during the inter-sessional period at meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
6. In 2017, the Directorate participated for the first time in the 46th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-46) held from 6 to 10 September in Montreal, Canada. In addition, the Directorate also participated in the UN Ocean Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, held in New York, United States, from 5 to 9 June 2017.
7. A brief summary of the Directorate’s activities at meetings organized during sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Conference of the Parties of the Conventions, the UN Ocean Conference and IPCC-46 will be described in the next section. The Directorate is grateful for the support received by the Parties that made organization of these events possible and acknowledges the participation of the IAI focal points from the Dominican Republic and Mexico.
8. The Directorate has submitted its application for and will soon be granted Observer Status with: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
9. The Directorate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Future Earth (September 2017) and one with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) during a special ceremony during its 6th Session, in Medellin, Colombia. At the time of writing, a Memorandum of Cooperation has been drafted with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the International Network of Climate Change Centers of Excellence and Think Tanks for Capacity Building (INCCETT 4 CB). These Memoranda of Understanding should be signed by the start of the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the IAI (CoP-26).
10. Moreover, the Directorate has developed partnerships with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Public Foundation and the Cousteau Society. A description of collaboration with these organizations can be found in the International Partnerships section of this document.

11. The following paragraphs will describe activities held during the inter-sessional period, in chronological order.

UN Ocean Conference

12. The IAI Directorate and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) organized a joint side-event on 5 June 2017 on the margins of the UN Ocean Conference on “How scientific knowledge on oceans can contribute to the implementation of national action plans on climate and human-induced changes”. Panelists included the Dominican Republic focal point to the IAI, H.E. Francisco Dominguez Brito, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, H.E. Diego Moreno, Vice-Minister from the National Secretariat of Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development of Argentina, investigators from the IAI’s collaborative research network “Variability of Ocean Ecosystems around South America (CRN3070 - VOCES)” Dr. Alberto Piola and Dr. Jose Muelbert, Dr. Rebecca Klaus, senior advisor and expert in Marine Spatial Planning and Protected Areas of the Cousteau Society and Mr. Nik Sekhran, UNDP Director for Sustainable Development of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. The panel was moderated by Ms. Jessica Faieta, UNDP Assistant Secretary-General and Director for the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.
13. The side-event focused on current scientific knowledge on oceans to identify knowledge gaps and contribute towards national action plans on climate and human induced changes in the oceans.
14. The IAI made a statement during the UN Ocean Conference Partnership Dialogue on increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology on 8 June 2017. The webcast of the side-event and the statement from the IAI is available at <http://www.iai.int/statement-iai-partnership-dialogue-6>.
15. Following the successful partnership of this event, the IAI Directorate is exploring areas for future collaboration with the Cousteau Society and other partners involved in ocean research. In this context, one of the potential areas identified is cooperation with the Cousteau Observatory for seas and coastal areas, based in Costa Rica. The Cousteau Society invited the Directorate to participate in the round table discussion on “maritime spatial planning in tropical areas” at the event “Coastal and marine observations: the challenges for sustainable development” held on 28 November 2017 in Costa Rica, jointly with the University of Costa Rica, the French Embassy and the Ministry of Environment and Energy. A representative from the IAI VOCES network, Dr. Marina Marrari, represented the Directorate at this event.

Future Earth

16. The IAI and Future Earth, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 7 September 2017 on the margins of IPCC-46 held in Montreal, Canada. The MoU identifies scientific research, outreach activities and open data initiatives that will benefit both organizations. In an effort to build on existing synergies and strengthen

collaboration, the Directorate assisted Future Earth in the organization of its Annual General Assembly meeting which was held at the IAI headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay from 24 to 27 April 2018. The Directorate organized a Regional Workshop with the participation of Uruguayan government representatives and scientists on 26 April 2018.

IPCC-46

17. The Directorate participated at the IPCC-46 and met with IPCC Vice-Chairs from the Americas to explore how to enhance contributions from scientists in Latin America and communicate scientific results generated by IAI project scientists under the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). The Directorate and the IPCC Vice-Chairs also agreed on short-term steps and long-term actions to ensure collaboration, such as making the IAI research data more easily available¹, enhancing regional studies in South America and Central America and the Caribbean, collaborating on science communication and training and working with Parties to recommend nominations from the region for representation in the assessments. Twenty investigators from current and past IAI networks have been nominated by the Parties and selected to participate in the IPCC AR6. The IAI Directorate was admitted as an Observer Organization at the 47th Session of the IPCC, held in Paris, France from 12 to 16 March 2018 and, in this role, will be able to nominate scientists to future assessments and meetings.

UNFCCC COP-23

18. The Directorate was invited as an official delegate to the 4th Annual Media for Social Impact Summit held at the United Nations on 14 September 2017. The Summit was an exclusive invitation-only event that brought together representatives of leading media companies with senior United Nations executives and communications specialists to highlight the role of media in promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This event was organized by the Pvblic Foundation in New York, a media organization that has been working closely with the United Nations Secretariat to, among other activities, promote awareness and action related to the implementation of the SDGs.
19. Following participation at the Media Summit, the Directorate established a partnership with the Pvblic Foundation to promote science and climate change communication with a digital social media campaign “Science for Action” held during the first week of the Twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UNFCCC held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017. The IAI-Pvblic partnership was announced on the websites of both organizations as well as on the SDG Media Zone, which is a partnership between the Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Department of Public Information.
20. The IAI and Pvblic partnership is part of the IAI Communication Strategy² to make communication of complex issues contribute towards informed national and regional

¹ See: Decision XXV/6: Open data policy and principles, document IAI/COP/26/20a

² Decision XXV/23: IAI long-term communication strategy and plan document IAI/COP/26/18a

solutions. The Directorate and the Public Foundation are currently developing joint activities.

21. The digital social media campaign “Science for Action” was held during the first five days of COP-23, from 6 to 10 November 2017. Social media engagement and impact was measured based on the use of the SDG Media Zone’s SDG Live hashtag (#SDGLive). During that time period, #SDGLive racked up 2.5 million impressions³ and reached over 780 thousand people, was used in 98 Instagram posts and 529 Twitter posts. A report of the campaign is available as an Information Document⁴.
22. Several posts were made on the social media of the IAI, and the videos of the interviews were uploaded to YouTube. Real-time traffic was generated by posts from @SDGMediaZone, @IAI_news and @ioneanderson. The IAI account @IAI_news generated 10.3K impressions and 2.6% engagement rate. The @ioneanderson account reached 20,3K impressions and 2.5% engagement rate. In November, the IAI recorded the highest number of followers on Facebook for the year. The promotional video and the short interviews conducted during COP-23 are available on the IAI website⁵.
23. Following the success of the Science Communication campaign model during the UNFCCC COP-23, the Directorate met with the Secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to discuss collaboration and joint efforts to promote science communication. As a result, the Directorate has developed closer collaboration with both assessment bodies as part of its long-term communications strategy and plan. The Head of Communications of IPBES and IPCC participated remotely in the meeting of the Collaborative Research Network program (CRN3) held in Cancun, Mexico on 29 November to 1 December 2017 to present to the IAI investigators their experience with communication of science. The IPCC progress Report on Communication and Outreach Activities to the Forty-Seventh session (IPCC-47) mentions participation at the IAI CRN3 meeting. Both IPCC and IPBES have been close partners of the IAI on Twitter.
24. The Directorate co-organized the UNFCCC COP-23 side-event “Catalysing Climate Action, Realizing the SDGs: Science, Interconnections and Implementation” with the German Committee Future Earth, DFG, the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), the German Development Institute in cooperation with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) on 6 November 2017. Mexico’s focal point to the IAI, Dr. Maria Amparo Martinez Arroyo, Director General of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), represented the IAI at this event. She highlighted the importance of linking national policy frameworks and the 2030 Agenda to scientific research. The side-event promoted a discussion among scientists and policy-makers on

³ Impression measures the total number of viewers of a conversation and engagement measures how viewers or followers are engaged with the material.

⁴ IAI/COP/26/Info.4 UNFCCC COP-23 Social Media Report

⁵ <http://www.iai.int/?p=28393> and <http://www.iai.int/?p=28395>

the importance of research agendas in considering interconnections towards science-informed implementation of national and international policies.

25. The Directorate held bilateral meetings with Parties and organizations during the High-Level Segment of COP-23, from 13 to 16 November 2017. The Executive Director met with chief negotiator and Presidential advisor to Suriname, Ambassador Winston Guno Lackin, to discuss accession of Suriname to the IAI, which is currently under consideration by that nation.
26. The Directorate also met with the IPCC Task Force Bureau Co-Chair Dr. Eduardo Calvo Buendia from Peru and the Peruvian Minister of Environment H. E. Ms Elsa Galarza to discuss collaborations and support from Peru.
27. The Directorate also held meetings with the Director of the UNOSSC Mr. Jorge Chediek, Mr. Xiaohua Zhang and Ms. Ajita Singh to discuss collaboration and to announce officially the IAI-UNOSSC partnership. This partnership will promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation to advance climate change research issues, such as climate resilient megacities, particularly in the Americas. The first joint project was announced following a joint meeting on climate resilient governance in megacities in the South that was held on 2-3 April 2018, in Santiago, Chile.
28. The Directorate also participated in an event organized by the Secretariat to the International Network of Climate Change Centers of Excellence and Think Tanks for Capacity Building (INCCETT 4 CB) that concluded with an MoU to be signed among the Parties to the agreement, which include: The Centre de Compétences Changement Climatique (4C Maroc), the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3), the Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI), the Brazilian Research Network on Climate Change (Rede Clima), the Center for Climate and Resilience Research of Chile (CR)², the International Research Institute for Climate and Society of Columbia University (IRI), the German Development Institute (DIE), the National Climate Change Strategy Research and International Cooperation Center of China (NCSC), the Consortium of Finnish Universities (T3- Tampere), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS).

CBD SBSTTA-21

29. The IAI and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) released the publication “The Lima Declaration on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Contributions from Science to Policy for Sustainable Development⁶” as part of the CBD Technical Series. The scientific publication, co-edited by the IAI, offers data and recommendations for policy implementation on the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. It includes contributions from investigators from three IAI networks and was distributed to delegates attending the Twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

⁶ See <http://www.iai.int/?p=29247&lang=en>

Technological Advice (SBSTTA-21) held in Montreal, Canada from 11 to 14 December 2017. The publication is reflective of the productive partnership between the Directorate and the CBD.

Recommendation:

1. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider ways to further engage support from its Party delegates in the work and activities of the IAI at meetings of the United Nations conventions and HLPF. Such support may be in the form of submissions and statements delivered to those Bodies, aimed at highlighting the role and contributions of the IAI to those multilateral environmental agreements, and the organization of joint side-events and exhibitions.
2. The Conference of the Parties is invited to support the role of the IAI in climate change communication to strengthen the science to policy interface and translation of scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national and international policies.
3. Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

Annex

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Global Outreach and Cooperation

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVI/xx. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue to work with strategic partners, identify opportunities to facilitate the science to policy interface, including through science communication initiatives, and to facilitate dissemination of the scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national and international policies.
