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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 18c

**Decision XXV/28: Augmenting science communication
capacities in IAI research projects**

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

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017), adopted Decision XXV/28, *Augmenting science communication capacities in 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.

Implementation of Decision XXV/28

3. In support of Decision XXV/28, and also to enhance the effectiveness of the Third Round of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN3) projects, the IAI Directorate, in

collaboration with Mexico, organized a meeting¹ of the CRN3 Investigators to discuss the outcomes of their projects. The meeting was held from 29 November to 1 December 2017 in Cancun, Mexico. One of the primary topics discussed at the meeting included augmenting the capacity of the projects to communicate their research results to policy makers and stakeholders.

4. In this regard, presentations by video were made by Dr. Jonathan Lynn, Head of Communications and Media Relations, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and Dr Robert Spaul, Head of Communications, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Given their roles in facilitating communication of the IPCC and IPBES scientific findings and reports, they stressed the challenges faced by their organizations on translating scientific results into information for use by policy makers. They also identified areas of possible collaboration between the IAI and their organizations including input of the IAI's scientific results to the IPCC and IPBES processes, participation in relevant meetings and better alignment of IAI scientific projects with national environmental frameworks.
5. During the meeting, a plan for a special issue in a peer-reviewed policy/development journal, which would compile position papers based on the CRN3 projects was presented to participants. There was consensus by participants that the IAI Directorate should pursue this activity. Efforts to publish such a special issue are described in document *Decision XXV/29: 25th anniversary publication*, no. IAI/COP/26/18d.
6. Participants also contributed to a session devoted to the presentation of scientific results and interactions with policy makers from different sectors, including the local and national levels. Following discussions, participants were invited to draft a brief summary of their research results for use in outreach and for presentation to policy makers and stakeholders. The summaries will also be posted on the IAI website.
7. The summaries were subsequently shared with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) for review comments. At the time of writing, the IAI Directorate is working with investigators on editing the final versions of the summaries.
8. The IAI Directorate also assisted Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in their submission² to the Forty-eighth session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (UNFCCC SBSTA) which was held from 30 April to 10 May 2018, in Bonn, Germany. The final UNFCCC SBSTA recommendation³ reads, in part:

The SBSTA noted the importance of regional institutions and networks and the importance of providing and exchanging knowledge at the regional, national and

¹ See Information document: *Report of the CRN3 Researchers Meeting: Results and outcomes, 29 November to 1 December 2017, Cancun, Mexico*, no. IAI/COP/26/Info.12

² See Information document *Submission from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay on possible topics and considerations for the tenth meeting of the Research Dialogue to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 48*, no. IAI/COP/26/Info.17

³ See Information document UNFCCC SBSTA 48th session, Research and systematic observation, Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair, FCCC/SBSTA/2018/L.11, no. IAI/COP/26/Info.11.

local level. The SBSTA also noted that regional initiatives on science communication would be valuable, organized in close collaboration with regional research organizations and networks and other relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of financial resources. It urged Parties to continue to engage with the scientific community.

9. In light of the above, the IAI Directorate is holding discussions with the UNFCCC Secretariat regarding the organization of a workshop in the Americas on science communication. IAI focal points will be informed on the progress of discussions and organization of the workshop.
10. Parties are invited also to review documents *Decision XXV/23: IAI long-term communication strategy and plan*, no. IAI/COP/26/18a and *Decision XXV/29: 25th anniversary publication*, no. IAI/COP/26/18d, which touch on issues on how to augment science communication capacities in IAI research projects.

Recommendation

11. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this document.