



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

15 May 2018

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-sixth meeting
Antigua, Guatemala, 20-21 June 2018
Agenda item 8**

Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

Background

The Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, Article VII, the Scientific Advisory Committee, paragraph 2, mandates that the SAC:

...shall be the principal advisory organ of the Institute.

2. In this regard, Article VII, paragraph 4(a) directs the SAC, among other actions, to:

Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, long-range plans and annual program of the Institute.

Membership

3. The current membership of the SAC includes: Dr. Edwin Castellanos, Dr. Elena Abraham, Dr. Susana Beatriz Adamo, Dr. Tereza Cavazos, Dr. Alicia Fernandez Cirelli, Dr. Michelle Grunauer, Dr. Carlos Alfredo Joly, Dr. Antonio Magalhaes, Dr. Joshua Tewksbury and Dr. Reynaldo Victoria. In June 2018, two (2) SAC members nominated by the Parties, Dr. Alicia Fernández and Dr. Edwin Castellanos, will conclude their first term and are eligible for re-election if nominated by a Party.

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4. Dr. Edwin Castellanos was nominated by Guatemala on 22 May 2018, and Dr. Alicia Fernandez Cirelli by Argentina on 15 May 2018.

Activities

5. Five monthly teleconferences were held during the intersessional period: 26 September, 11 December 2017, 6 February, 6 March and 17 April 2018. The main task before the SAC was assisting the IAI Directorate in the launch of the Small Grants Call on Ecosystem Services and Adaptation for Human Well-Being (SGP-HW)¹ and its evaluation protocol. The Call was announced on 1 March 2018 with input received from the SAC and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC).
6. During these meetings, the SAC also discussed different options to improve communication and information exchange with the SPAC and how to best maximize the time of both Committees.
7. SAC Members Dr. Edwin Castellanos, Dr. Elena Abraham, Dr. Josh Tewksbury and Dr. Tereza Cavazos participated in meetings organized by the IAI Directorate and CRN project Investigators. Dr. Elena Abraham participated in the project meeting "*Towards usable climate science: informing decisions and provision of climate services to the agriculture and water sectors of southeastern South America*", organized by the CRN3035 network. Dr. Edwin Castellanos and Dr. Tereza Cavazos participated in the CRN3 meeting in Cancun, Mexico². Dr. Edwin Castellanos also participated as a lecturer at the Professional Development Seminar (PDS) on *Transdisciplinary Approaches to Integrating Policy and Science for Sustainability* which held from 3 to 7 October 2017 in Calgary and Banff, Canada. In addition, Dr. Edwin Castellanos participated in the bilateral meetings held by the IAI Directorate and Guatemala government officials on 9 April 2018, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, to discuss organization of the IAI 26th meeting of the Conference to the Parties (CoP-26) and the 45th and 46th meetings of the Executive Council. Dr. Josh Tewksbury participated in IAI-Future Earth workshop *Local Action for global challenges: clean energy and sustainable agriculture* organized by the IAI Directorate and held on 26 April 2018, during the General Council meeting of Future Earth in Montevideo, Uruguay.
8. The SAC will meet in Antigua, Guatemala on 17 June 2018 and together with the SPAC on 18 June 2018, prior to CoP-26 and EC-45 and EC-46 meetings to evaluate the SGP-HW pre-proposals and to discuss new areas of possible research on global change, particularly in light of the upcoming proposals on CRN4. Discussions will also center on the enhancement of activities in the Central America and Caribbean region, the role of researchers in the policy-making process, the role of the SPAC and enhancement of coordination and collaboration, among other matters.

Recommendation

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

¹ IAI/COP/26/Info.6: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/info6-cop26-e.pdf>

² IAI/COP/26/Info.12: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/info12-cop26-e.pdf>