



**Collaborative Research Network
(CRN3) Researchers Meeting
Cancun, Mexico
29 November to 1 December 2017**

**REPORT OF THE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK (CRN3)
RESEARCHERS MEETING**

A. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017) 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.

2. The Conference of the Parties also adopted 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.

3. In support of the above Decisions, and also to enhance the effectiveness of the CRN3 processes, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) in collaboration with Mexico and IAI CRN3 Principal Investigators organized a meeting to discuss the outcomes of the CRN3 projects. The focus of meeting discussions included: (a) disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific contributions, (b) science-policy outcomes and opportunities, (c) open data, and (d) communication of research results.

4. The meeting was held in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November to 1 December 2017.

5. The IAI Directorate is grateful to Mexico for its assistance in the organization of the Meeting and to the National Science Foundation of the United States of America for the financial support through the CRN3 program which made this meeting possible.

B. Attendance

6. Representatives of the CRN3 projects, Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) and observers participated in the meeting:

- (a) *CRN3 investigators*
- (b) *SAC members*
- (c) *SPAC members*
- (d) *Observers*

7. The full list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. The meeting was opened at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 November 2017 by the Executive Director, Marcos Regis da Silva. He welcomed participants and pointed out that, as a governmental organization, the IAI needs to enhance the translation of science into actionable outputs. Such translation should be improved given the excellence of science in the programs.

9. He concluded by thanking participants for their contributions.

10. Participants were invited to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

11. The Agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

ITEM 3. COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES

12. Ms Ione Anderson, International Partnerships and UN Liaison and Fundraising Officer; introduced 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). Dr. Lynn and Dr. Spaul spoke via video on 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 organization including input of 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.

ITEM 4. SCIENCE AND SCIENCE ↔ POLICY

13. This session was devoted to the presentation of project scientific results and interactions with decision makers from different sectors, at the local and national levels. Projects were grouped thematically into discussions groups with a Principal Investigator moderating discussions. Project titles and other related information are available at http://www.iai.int/?page_id=905&lang=en

14. The first group was thematically organized under the projects related to water, water management and drought. These projects included CRN3056, Dr Christopher Scott, Dr Francisco Meza and Dr Robert Varady; CRN3106, Dr Gabriela Cruz; CRN 3107, Dr Anna Mueller; CRN 3101, Dr Andrea Guerlak and Dr Marcelo Saguier. Dr Kathy Halvorsen acted as moderator.

15. The second group was composed of participants involved with projects on eco-climate: CRN 3038, Dr Mariana Zilio; CRN3005, Dr Maria Cristina Forti, Dr Gervasio Piñeiro; CRN3095, Dr Hugo Berbery and Dr Julian Baez Benitez. Dr Andrea Guerlak was the moderator of the session.

16. The third group was comprised of projects related to oceans and health included CRN3070, Dr Alberto Piola; CRN3094, Dr Milton Kampel; CRN3136, Dr Alisson Barbieri and Dr William Pan; CRN 3176, Dr Daniel Bausch. Dr Gabriela Cruz moderated the session.

17. The fourth group was comprised of participants involved in the study of land issues: CRN3095, Dr Jose Paruelo; CRN3106, Dr Kathy Halvorsen and Dr Erin Pischke; and CRN3025, Dr Arturo Sanchez Azofeifa. The session was moderated by Dr Christopher Scott.

18. Discussions under each group focused on the generation of scientific results and on the use of this data and information by policy makers at the sub-national, national, regional and international levels. Specific factors guiding the science to policy and policy to science processes included:

- The interdisciplinarity of the scientific contributions assisted in facilitating greater integration with the social sciences;

- Networking was identified as key in achieving international transdisciplinary collaborative user-oriented research. It was also stated that the effectiveness of these networks benefit from the inclusion of a diversified body of scientists, including graduate students, young researchers, and senior scientists often acting as mentors.

- Access to project generated data was identified as a key component of the benefits arising from the projects. Some felt that making such data and information publicly available may constitute one of the most important contributions made by the CRN3;

- The science to policy and policy to science processes were characterized as complex and iterative, demanding a great deal of flexibility from actors involved. Co-production of knowledge was described as requiring special efforts.

- Challenges of implementing interdisciplinary and interdisciplinarity science were also discussed: time, financial and human resources; lessons learned from failures and mistakes; changes in academic culture may be needed.

19. Participants acknowledged the role of IAI funding in helping to leverage additional and alternate funds and to enhance regional and international research and networks.

20. Dr Regis da Silva mentioned the importance of diversifying funding sources for the sustainability of the Science Program of the IAI. He added that the IAI is discussing with relevant funding agencies and mechanisms the possibility of establishing a Belmont-like forum of funding agencies in the Americas.

21. In this regard, he informed participants that the IAI Directorate would host the Belmont Forum Secretariat in Montevideo, which may improve contacts with different funding agencies.

ITEM 5. COMMUNICATION TO MEMBER COUNTRIES

22. Ms Ione Anderson presented a template for participants to prepare a brief summary of research results for decision makers and other stakeholders.

23. This information will be further revised and edited and used to better inform Member Countries on IAI sponsored research and also used for fund-raising and general public awareness.

ITEM 6. OPEN DATA

24. The Executive Director gave a presentation on Open Data and explained that this activity is mandated by Decision XXV/6: *Open data policy and principles*. He also summarized the obligations under the CRN3 projects related to open data and the obligations under different international and regional agreements related to open access to information and environmental justice.

25. He continued by presenting the generous offer by the Government of Uruguay through its Uruguayan Agency for e-Government and Information Society (AGESIC) to provide the IAI with access to its open data catalog. In this manner, the IAI would be able to develop an IAI administered open data system to register data and information

generated by the CRN3 and other past and future projects. He concluded that the IAI Directorate has dedicated a staff member to coordinate this initiative and to participate in regional activities related to access to information and open data.

26. Participants acknowledged the need for open data and stated that they would contribute project data once the IAI open data platform was functional. Discussions also centered on the benefits of establishing a metadata registry to facilitate a distributed architecture for access to said data and information. During discussions related to the technical and financial needs of the IAI Open Data Platform, Dr Arturo Sanchez, PI of CRN3035, suggested co-funding of a researcher with expertise on open data systems by the Center for Earth Observation Science (CEOS), the University of Alberta, the NSF and the IAI. His suggestion was agreed to by the IAI Directorate and the NSF.

ITEM 7. SYNTHESIS AND COLLABORATION AMONG PROJECTS

27. Following project presentations and discussions, Dr Edwin Castellanos, Chair, SAC, raised several questions related to the enhancement of collaboration between and among projects. Questions included: What problems are being addressed and what would be the benefits of the project? What are the outcomes? What opportunities are being seized? What assets are being invested in the research and are being suggested over the long-term? Who are the participants? Who will lead?

28. On conclusion of his introduction to this agenda item, participants were invited to join discussion groups to summarize findings among project and to identify possible areas of collaboration.

29. Following discussions, the moderators of each group were invited to present their findings.

30. Prior to the presentations by the groups, Dr Perillo invited other researchers to join CRN3038 SAFER in the drafting of a special journal issue on water, with 10 to 15 papers. It was also suggested to draft short commentary papers presenting the aims of the projects, their case studies, and also offering syntheses of possible solutions to and actions on specific challenges (droughts, water, policy responses, etc.)

31. The group focusing on marine projects, CRN3095 Antares and CRN3070 VOCES, suggested sharing of data and development of capacity building activities on biogeochemical, satellite image modeling and data analysis. The group also raised the possibility of organizing a workshop on social-ecological systems. It was also suggested for the projects to review issues related to local, regional and international ocean governance, artisanal fisheries and marine protected areas, and to produce a policy brief in this regard.

32. The group focusing on land use changes, agriculture, climate and water proposed a possible integration of project results, where appropriate, with issues related to conflict-resolution. The group held that this approach would suitably identify the processes on science to policy that may need improvement.

33. The last group presented the results of their discussions on the integration of health issues with those on the environment. They suggested the drafting of a position paper on the role of transdisciplinary science in better understanding the interactions between environment and health.

ITEM 8. CRN3 SPECIAL ISSUE IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL

34. Dr Montaña presented a draft plan for a special issue of a peer-reviewed policy/development journal, which would compile position papers based on the CRN3

projects. Participants suggested several revisions to the proposal and reached consensus on moving the initiative forward. Paper selection will be based on a competitive call. The timeline for publication is expected to be between 12 to 18 months.

ITEM 9. SURVEY ON SCIENCE-POLICY EXPERIENCES

35. Dr Montaña presented the preliminary results of the survey sent to participants on science-policy processes found in the CRN3 projects. The survey was aimed at producing an overview of CRN3 science policy processes, identification of stakeholders involved with the projects and the project results and their impacts. The survey also aimed at identifying the possible contribution of the projects to the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals.

ITEM 10. APPRECIATION OF CRN3 OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

The IAI Science Director, Dr Elma Montaña, provided an overview of the CRN3 program and described the evolution of the projects. She also acknowledged the valuable input and advice provided by SAC and SPAC members during the meeting and informed participants that these two committees will be much more involved in the review of new proposals and in the implementation of new scientific projects.

36. Participants recommended the promotion and expansion of the IAI network of young scientists and students.

ITEM 11. DOCUMENTS OF THE MEETING

37. Meeting documents are available on the IAI website at <http://www.iai.int/?p=28685&lang=en>.

ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

38. The Executive Director declared the meeting closed at 04:00 p.m. on Friday, 1 December 2017.

ANNEX I List of participants

CRN3 Project		Name	From	Institution	E-mail	
Ocean	3094	ANTARES	Milton Kampel	Sao Paulo, Brazil	INPE	milton@dsr.inpe.br
			Vivian Lutz	Mar del Plata, Argentina	CONICET	vlutz@inidep.edu.ar
			Paulo Sinisgalli	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Universidade de São Paulo	psinisgalli@usp.br
	3070	VOCES	Alberto Piola	Buenos Aires, Argentina	CONICET-SHN, Argentina	apiola@hidro.gov.ar
			Omar Defeo	Montevideo, Uruguay	Dir. Nac. de Recursos Acuáticos	odefeo@dinara.gub.uy
			Daniela Alemany	Mar del Plata, Argentina	CONICET-UNMdP	dalemany@yahoo.com
				CONICET-UNMdP	pmartinetto@gmail.com	
Health	3036	LUCIA	Alisson Barbieri	Minas Gerais, Brazil	U. Federal de Minas Gerais	barbieri@cedeplar.ufmg.br
			William Pan	North Carolina, US	Duke University	william.pan@duke.edu
	3076	RAICES	Daniel Bausch	London, UK	UK Public Health Rapid Support Team	Daniel.Bausch@phe.gov.uk
			Claudia Guezala	Lima, Peru	Naval Medical Research Unit -6	maria.c.guezala.fn@mail.mil
Eco-climate	3005	Nnet	M. Cristina Forti	São Jose dos Campos, Br	INPE	crisforti@inpe.br / crisforti@gmail.com
			Gervasio Piñeiro	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Universidad de Buenos Aires	pineiro@agro.uba.ar
	3025	Tropy-Dry	Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa	Alberta, Canada	University of Alberta	gasanche@ualberta.ca
			Mário Marcos do Espírito	Minas Gerais, Brazil	U. Estadual de Montes Claros	mario.marcos@unimontes.br
	3035	Usable climate	Julian Baez	Asunción, Paraguay	Dir. de Meteorología e Hidrología	julian_baez@uc.edu.py

		science	Hugo Berbery	Maryland, US	University of Maryland	berbery@umd.edu
Land - water	3038	SAFER	Gerardo Perillo	Bahía Blanca, Argentina	IADO CONICET - UNS	gmeperillo@criba.edu.ar
			Cintia Picolo	Bahía Blanca, Argentina	IADO CONICET - UNS	mcpiccol@gmail.com
			Mariana Zilio	Bahía Blanca, Argentina	CONICET - UNS	zilio.mariana@gmail.com
	3056	Aquascapes	Christopher Scott	Tucson, US	University of Arizona	cascott@email.arizona.edu
			Francisco Meza	Santiago, Chile	Universidad Católica de Chile	fmeza@uc.cl
			Robert Varady	Tucson, US	University of Arizona	rvarady@email.arizona.edu
	3095	BEST-P	José Paruelo	Buenos Aires, Argentina	IFEVA CONICET -UBA	paruelo@agro.uba.ar
			Maria Isabel Ramírez	Morelia Michoacán, Mx	CIGA, UNAM	isabelrr@ciga.unam.mx
	3101	Rio Uruguay	Marcelo Saguier	Buenos Aires, Argentina	FLACSO Argentina	msaguier@flacso.org.ar
			Andrea Gerlak	Tucson, US	University of Arizona	agerlak@u.arizona.edu
	3105	Bioenergy	Kathy Halvorsen	Michigan, US	Michigan Technological University	kehalvor@mtu.edu
			Erin Pischke	Michigan, US	Michigan Technological University	epischke@mtu.edu
	3106	Drought	Gabriela Cruz	Punta del Este, Uruguay	Universidad de la República	gcruzbrasesco@gmail.com
3107	Agriculture	Anna Mueller	San Jose, Costa Rica	CGIAR	anna.muller@cgiar.org	
3108	Hydrological risk	Luis Bojorquez Tapia	México DF, Mexico	UNAM	bojorquez@ecologia.unam.mx	

SAC	Edwin Castellanos	Guatemala, Guatemala	U. del Valle de Guatemala	ecastell@uvg.edu.gt
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SPAC	Evelia Rivera	Campeche, Mexico	EPOMEX-U. A. Campeche	eveliarivera@gmail.com
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CoP/E.C.	Maria Uhle	Washington D.C. Metro Area	National Science Foundation	muhle@nsf.gov

ICSU (Observer)	Claudia Marroquín	El Salvador	ICSU-ROLAC	claudiamarroquin103@gmail.com
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ANNEX II Meeting agenda

	DAY 1. Wednesday, November 29th	DAY 2. Thursday, November 30th	DAY 3. Friday December 1st
8:00 am - 9:45am	<p>Opening Plenary. M. Regis da Silva, Maria Uhle Planning for the Future Marcos Regis da Silva presentation. Q&A (9-9:15am) IV. Communication - “Communicating Science to non-specialists” (9:15-9:30) Jonathan Lynn, IPCC Head of Communications & Media Relations - “Communicating IPBES Assessments” (9:30-9:45) Rob Spaul, IPBES Head of Communications</p>	<p>I. Science and Science↔Policy (cont.) Plenary: 3 project’s presentations followed by Q&A and 1 hour of discussion with SAC/SPAC intervention</p>	<p>I. Science and Science↔Policy (cont.) Plenary: - Synthesis of group work and wrap-up on scientific findings - Road of the publication of CRN3 results in a special issue of a peer reviewed journal.</p> <p>I. Science and Science-Policy (cont.) Plenary: Synthesis on science-policy experiences, achievements and opportunities</p>
9:45-10:00 am	----- Coffee break (*) -----	----- Coffee break (*) -----	----- Coffee break (*) -----
10:00 am-12:00 pm	<p>I. Science and Science↔Policy Plenary: 4 project’s presentations, followed by Q&A and 1 hour of discussion with SAC/SPAC intervention</p>	<p>I. Science and Science↔Policy (cont.) Group work: Synthesis of major scientific findings. Synthesis & collaboration among projects. SAC/SPAC leading roles</p>	<p>I. Science and Science-Policy (cont.) Plenary: Wrap-up on science-policy experiences, achievements and opportunities</p>
12:00 pm	----- Lunch -----	----- Lunch -----	----- Lunch -----
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	<p>I. Science and Science↔Policy (cont.) Plenary: 4 project’s presentations followed by Q&A and 1 hour of discussion with SAC/SPAC intervention</p>	<p>Communication to country members Plenary. SAC/SPAC leading roles and support - Researchers comment on their experiences in communicating research findings to various audiences - Outline of communication materials on the results of the projects for country members</p>	<p>Communication to country members Plenary or had-hoc groups, as needed. SAC/SPAC leading roles and support Work on communication materials on the results of the projects to country members</p>
3:00-3:15 pm	----- Coffee break (*) -----	----- Coffee break (*) -----	----- Coffee break (*) -----
3:15 pm-5:00 pm	<p>I. Science and Science↔Policy (cont.) Plenary: 4 project’s presentations followed by Q&A and 1 hour of discussion with SAC/SPAC intervention</p>	<p>Open Data Plenary - Open Data system for IAI based on scientific data generated from projects - Policy issues related to development of Open Data systems - Cultural and institutional challenges</p>	<p>IV. Planning for the Future Contributions of IAI science to global, international and regional decision and policy-making and to the SDGs. IAI in support national policy frameworks within a regional context.</p>