



The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) is an intergovernmental organization serving 19 member states of the Americas. The IAI was founded 30 years ago by the signing of the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research with the mission to "pursue the principles of scientific excellence and integrity, international cooperation, science outreach, and capacity building, and the full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global change to reach the vision of a sustainable Americas."



HOW WE WORK

- Support of transdisciplinary multinational scientific research projects
- Training and capacity-building at the science-policy interface
- Communication, outreach, and dissemination of relevant information
- Building of communities of practice and partnerships across the science-policy spectrum

By focusing on transdisciplinary research, the IAI convenes and supports research teams of biophysical scientists, social scientists, decision-makers, the private sector, and civil society to co-create solutions to the most pressing global change issues.

The IAI works with government officials to ensure that research is aligned with national and regional interests and that outcomes are used to support evidence-based decision-making.

- For example, projects from IAI's small grants program have addressed climate change adaptation actions for artisanal fisheries, early detection platforms coupled with education for wildfires in the Amazon, anticipatory governance for water crises, and local and indigenous knowledge systems in the governance of ecosystem services.

In addition to the Agreement, the work of the IAI is guided by a scientific agenda, strategic plan, and a recently adopted policy on gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The IAI operates via a conference of the parties, where government representatives (focal points) meet annually to discuss the work of the IAI and adopt decisions. The Directorate is charged with implementing the annual program approved by governments. An executive council and scientific advisory committees guide the work of the Directorate.

Spotlight on IAI Programs



The nexus of health, climate & environment

The IAI has partnered with regional and global partners to align funding, research, and training actions at the nexus of health, climate, and the environment in the Americas. Through an intensive 6-month training process, it has formed transdisciplinary research teams that are developing proposals for research applied to address the most pressing issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The IAI will provide seed grant funding for these projects. Among the topics of focus are: the development of a South American data portal in the climate, environment, and health nexus; energy-efficient cooling of buildings to reduce heat exposure of the population; sustainable food production by women and healthy nutrition; and multidimensional vulnerability to dengue in the context of climate change.

Amazonia & Tropical Forests

The IAI and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) are developing a global funding call entitled “The Amazon and tropical forests: its global implications and needed urgent actions.” This will be issued as a call for grants (a collaborative research action, CRA) under the Belmont Forum mechanism.

The IAI hosts the Belmont Forum, a global consortium of science funding agencies that issue coordinated research funding calls on transdisciplinary science and global environmental change. Scoping workshops with diverse actors will be ongoing in 2023 to identify the focus of the funding call, which we anticipate to present at the Belmont Forum Plenary in October 2023, followed by a launch of the call in 2024.

The IAI's Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) fellowship program

Is an innovative capacity-building program for early career researchers hosted by government and private sector institutions. Fellows earn practical experience navigating the science-policy interface and providing technical, scientific support to decision-makers in their home countries.



Since starting in 2020, 47 fellows from 11 countries have joined this unique inter-American science policy network and community. The IAI provides professional development in leadership, science diplomacy, and communication connecting expertise and skills from both the Global North and Global South to address transboundary issues of global environmental change (GEC). This program is part of the IAI's newly established Science Diplomacy Center.

