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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Twenty-ninth meeting  
Videoconference  
22-23 June 2021  
Information document 3**

**Publications, data and information  
Predatory journals and conferences**

1. This information document has been prepared the IAI Directorate

Background

2. Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vi of the IAI Strategic plan states:

*Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments for the development of public policy relevant to global change.*

Predatory journals and conferences

3. The IAI Directorate is a member of the initiative “Harnessing the world’s academies to combat predatory academic journals and conferences” organized by the Interacademy Partnership.
4. This two-year initiative is defining predatory academic journals and conferences; identifying and measuring their extent and impact and identifying possible root causes. It will provide targeted recommendations for more coordinated and collaborative solutions.
5. Information on this initiative is found in the Annex to this information document.

## Recommendation

6. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this information document.,



## NEW STUDY!

# COMBATting PREDATORY ACADEMIC JOURNALS AND CONFERENCES



## Why is the study important?

This two-year study will define predatory academic journals and conferences; gauge their extent and impact; identify the drivers or root causes; and provide practicable recommendations for more concerted and coordinated action.



Study methodology includes consultation with key stakeholders and a unique global survey of researchers in all geographies, disciplines and career stages.

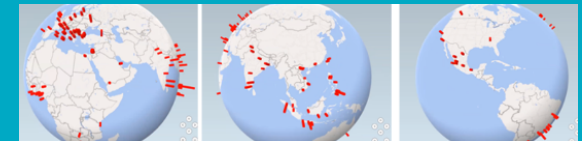


The study is timely, given that (post) pandemic working practices may further exacerbate predatory practices in academia.

**The consequences of failing to address predatory practices are profound and damaging.** They include the fuelling of misinformation in public policy; widening the gap between high and low income countries; and infiltrating new knowledge to such an extent that they erode public trust in the whole research enterprise.

## What have we learned to-date?

Predatory journals and conferences are on the rise and are becoming increasingly sophisticated. They are permeating the research community all over the world, in all disciplines and at every career stage.



**Source:** Bucci, E. (2021); Results on geographic distribution of predatory journals from a preliminary analysis.

Returning over 1800 respondents, a global survey of researchers indicates that 11% have already published in a predatory journal and 4% have participated in a predatory conference; a further 8% and 6%, respectively, do not know if they have. Over 80% of respondents perceive that these practices are already a serious problem or on the rise in their country.

Lack of awareness and understanding of these practices appear to be the primary explanation but other reasons include the need to advance their career, the speed and cost of these services, and encouragement by their peers.

**Drivers for predatory practices are systemic and require concerted action from all key stakeholders - including researchers, universities, academies, research funders, publishers, libraries and indexing services.**



## Who are we?

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) is the global network of over 140 national and regional merit-based academies of science, engineering and medicine, together with its four regional networks in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. IAP membership includes the Global Young Academy (GYA), as a conduit for excellent Early Career Researchers and National Young Academies all over the world.

## What next?

We are developing a set of practicable recommendations targeted at, and in consultation with, all key stakeholders who can effect change.



We are working with others to raise awareness of, and further develop, self-help tools, training materials and guidance.

We will publish a full report in late 2021.



## How can you find out more?

An **international working group** is leading the study on predatory journals and conferences, and you can follow the study at **[Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences](#)** ([interacademies.org](http://interacademies.org))



This work is generously sponsored by

