

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



IAI/CoP/25/4
Minutes of CoP-XXV
June 13th-14th, 2017
Bogotá, Colombia



**Minutes of the Twenty-fifth IAI Conference of the Parties (CoP)
Bogotá, Colombia, 13-14 June 2017**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda	3
1. Opening Session	5
2. Election of Bureau	6
3. Approval of the Agenda	6
4. Approval of the minutes of the Special CoP and the 24 th CoP	6
5. Election of the Credentials Committee	6
6. Presentations by observers	6
7. Report of the Credentials Committee	7
8. Report of the Executive Council	7
8.1. Issues brought forward from the 42 nd EC meeting for approval or action by the CoP	7
8.2. Issues brought forward from the 43 rd EC meeting for approval or action by the CoP	8
8.3. EC-SAC-PAC Science-Policy Workshop	9
9. Progress report of the IAI Directorate	9
9.1. Science programs	9
9.2. Capacity building	11
9.3. Science-policy office	13
9.4. Global outreach	13
9.5. Communications and outreach	14
9.6. Finance and administration	15
10. Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)	18
11. Report of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)	18
12. Open data and access	19
13. Inter-American Forum of Funding Agencies	20
14. 25 th IAI anniversary publication	21
15. Report of the Committee for the analysis of Member Country participation	21
16. Report of the Committee for the Implementation of the Tripartite Structure of the IAI	23
17. Report of the Committee for recommendation of SAC and SPAC candidates	23
18. Election of SAC members	24
19. Election of SPAC members	24
20. Approval of the Decisions and Actions list of day 1	24
21. Donor's session	24
22. Tribute to the outgoing Executive Director	24
23. Future meetings	25
24. Adjournment	25
Annex I – Decisions and actions	26
Annex II – Resolutions	30
Annex III – Letter from the outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Holm Tiessen, to the CoP	32
ACRONYMS	36

Note: This report is not strictly a chronological record. For coherence, increased clarity and readability discussions of each agenda item have been grouped.

**25th IAI Conference of the Parties (CoP)
Bogotá, Colombia, 13-14 June 2017**

Agenda

Tuesday – 13 June 2017	Day 1
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Morning session (08:30 – 12:30)

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

Welcome by Colombia

Election of the CoP Bureau

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the 24th Conference of the Parties

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Conference of the Parties, 9 March, Panama

Introductions by the Parties and Observers

Election of members for the Credentials Committee

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

Celebration of 25 years of IAI - setting the priorities for the next decade and spotlight on IAI achievements:

- Overview of 1st Annual IAI Science-Policy co-design workshop
- Introduction of the new Executive Director and his vision for IAI
- Open science opportunities and potential IAI leadership in the Americas

Report from the Executive Council:

EC Chair

- EC activities, actions, and decisions
- Issues brought forward from the 43rd EC meeting

12:45 Lunch

Afternoon session (14:00 – 18:00)

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair

Report of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

SPAC

Recommendation by the EC to the CoP on the SAC election

Recommendation by the EC to the CoP on the SPAC election

Report from the Directorate:

- Science
- Capacity Building
- Science-Policy Office
- United Nations Conventions
- Communications and outreach

15:50 – 16:00 Coffee Break

Report and analysis on member country participation in the IAI

ad hoc committee

Update on the implementation of the IAI Tripartite Governance

Ad hoc Committee Chair

20:00 Welcome Reception

Wednesday – 14 June 2017	Day 2
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Morning session (09:00 – 13:00)

Launch of *Vulnerability Advances of the 3rd National Communication of Climate Change to the Convention on Climate Change of the United Nations*
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

13:00 Lunch

Afternoon Session (14:00 – 18:00)

Approval of the List of decisions and actions of day 1

Approval of items forwarded from the EC-43

Core budget for fiscal year 2016-2017

Approval of the Core Budget and Country Contribution for FY 2017-2018

Review of CoP items for action by EC-44

Donor's session

Country contributions to

- Program and project activities
- Core budget
- International collaboration

Report from the IAI Executive Director Selection Committee

ad hoc Committee Chair

Election of SAC members

Election of SPAC members

Tribute to the Outgoing Executive Director

EC Chair

Future meeting dates and location

Approval of the List of decisions and actions of day 2

Adjourn

Participants:**CoP Country Representatives**

- Argentina: Jessica Diaz
- Brazil: Jean Ometto
- Canada: Doris Fortin
- Chile: Gladys Santis
- Colombia: Omar Franco Torres
- Costa Rica: Roberto Villalobos
- Dominican Rep. Erick Bernard
- Mexico: Ciro Pérez Silva
- Panama: Felix Wing, Milagro Mainieri
- Paraguay: Fernando Mendez Gaona
- Uruguay: Martín Lorieto Giucci
- United States of America: Maria Uhle, Paul Filmer

SAC

Edwin Castellanos

SPAC

Brigitte Baptiste

IAI Associates

Susana Adamo (CIESIN)
Reynaldo Victoria (FAPESP)

Observers

Erica Key (Belmont Forum)
Ubaldo Elizondo (CAF)
Rodney Martinez (CIIFEN)
Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard (Future Earth)
Manuel Limonta (ICSU-ROLAC)

IAI Directorate Staff

- Marcos Regis da Silva (Executive Director)
- Marcella Ohira (Deputy Executive Director & Director for Capacity Building)
- Elma Montaña (Director for Science Programs)
- Rafael Atmetlla (Director for Finance and Administration)
- Ana Murgida (Director of the Science-Policy Liaison Office)
- Jorge Grandi (Science-Policy Counselor)
- Ione Anderson (Manager for Science Programs – UN Liaison)
- Soledad Noya (Executive Assistant)
- Elvira Gentile (Temporary Assistant)
- Paula Richter (Communications Officer)

1. Opening Session

The Colombian Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Hon. Luis Gilberto Murillo, welcomed country representatives, SAC and SPAC members as well as representatives from IAI associate and observer institutions, and wished fruitful meeting outcomes to Member Countries. He stressed the need for science to continue providing information for decision making in global change related issues. This CoP marks the 25th anniversary of the IAI.

Former Minister of the Environment of Peru, Hon. Manuel Pulgar Vidal, who had been host to IAI CoP 23 in 2015 visited the sessions and wished continued cooperation and success during the meetings.

2. Election of Bureau

The CoP elected the following members as the bureau for its twenty fifth session: Omar Franco from Colombia as the Chair, Jean Ometto from Brazil as the First Vice-Chair, and Martín Lorigio Giucci from Uruguay as the Second Vice-Chair.

XXV/1 – Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

3. Approval of the Agenda

The CoP approved the agenda of its twenty-fifth session.

XXV/2 – Agenda of the CoP

4. Approval of the minutes of the Special CoP and the 24th CoP

The CoP approved the minutes of its twenty-fourth session.

XXV/3 – Minutes of the 24th CoP

The CoP approved the minutes of the Special Conference of the Parties in Panama.

XXV/4 – Minutes of the Special CoP for the election of the Executive Director

5. Election of the Credentials Committee

The CoP elected the members of the Credentials Committee: Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay and Soledad Noya from the IAI Directorate. The committee in its composition is appointed for two years and the members are requested to serve in the period between sessions.

XXV/5 – Election of members for the Credentials Committee

6. Presentations by observers

Future Earth: Future Earth is an international program on sustainability science which aims at building scientific knowledge and partnerships with decision makers and other stakeholders. The program has transdisciplinary approach for all activities in order to strengthen the interphase between science and policy. Although different in nature, Future Earth and the IAI have similar visions and objectives and there are many opportunities to strengthen partnership in science, capacity building and the science-policy interphase in the future.

ICSU-ROLAC: The regional office of ICSU is now based in San Salvador. ICSU ROLAC is interested in renewing and strengthening the links with the IAI. Activities are planned for interaction mainly in Central America, which will benefit the region.

CIESIN: The Center for International Earth Science Information Network is a Center of Columbia's University Earth Center that is Associate of the IAI since at least 2002. CIESIN

works at the intersection of natural, social and information sciences through on-line tools, databases, training and interdisciplinary research on those themes and the interactions among them. The specific mission is to provide access to and enhance the use of information worldwide, advancing understanding of human interactions in the environment and serving the needs of science and public and private decision-making. One of the major programs of CIESIN is the Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC).

Belmont Forum: Belmont Forum (BF) is a global funding partnership with over twenty-five core member organizations representing over fifty countries on six continents. BF partners with more than seventy-five organizations to institute multinational calls for proposals. Its mission is to advance adaptation, mitigation, and understanding of global changes. BF is part of the governing council for Future Earth.

Characteristics of BF projects are co-development and co-implementation, and encouragement of the use and reuse of the information generated by these projects in order to advance sustainability. BF has supported over 450 scientists and stakeholders in more than 35 countries. The Belmont Forum has developed Collaborative Research Actions (CRAs) to address the Belmont Challenge priorities; lever Belmont Forum members existing investments, and bring together new partnerships. One of the aims is connect researchers and implementers for knowledge sharing and evolving best practices by building a global transdisciplinary culture.

Opportunities for partnership are in the fields of ocean sustainability, disaster risk reduction and resilience, science for the sustainable development goals, Arctic, biodiversity and ecosystem services and food security and safety. Calls for discussion at the next plenary are climate, environment and health as well as Africa regional priorities.

Activities to engage more members include the Americas Information Days that will be held in São Paulo in November 2017. The IAI is invited to showcase potential partners for attending to these meetings. A Transdisciplinary Science Annual meeting is planned for April 2018 in Cape Town.

The primary opportunities of the Information Days are related with the ability to work with diverse organizations towards common goals. It is a priority to Belmont Forum to connect with the university system and the NGO system in the Americas. The Info Days is going to be a launching point for such linkages. Belmont seeks feedback to identify the best ways to engage and enable national or state organizations to be able to support their own people to participate in an activity. Belmont Forum is leveraging existing activities, and hopes to have participants from the Americas to connect with others using small amounts of funds.

7. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee informed that twelve delegations had submitted the official credentials to participate in the CoP: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panamá, Paraguay, United States and Uruguay. Required number of accredited Parties to constitute quorum is eight.

XXV/7 – Quorum

8. Report of the Executive Council

8.1. Issues brought forward from the 42nd EC meeting for approval or action by the CoP
Based on the recommendations from the 24th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Santiago, Chile the Executive Council (EC), during its 42nd Meeting took the following actions:

1. The EC directed the SAC, SPAC and the Directorate to identify the types of dissemination products that can be developed in terms of budget, efforts, and time (Anniversary book, white book including a 1.5 degree chapter, a chapter on Central America).
2. The EC, in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the IAI, agreed to begin to focus on developing a strategic set of research priorities for the IAI. The first step in this process was to organize a workshop with EC members and interested CoP members along with the SAC and SPAC to explore these priorities. This workshop was held prior to CoP 25 (see section 8.3 in this report).
3. The EC was requested to define the process of hiring the new Executive Director. A full description of the process and results can be found in the minutes of the Special CoP of 2017.

8.2. Issues brought forward from the 43rd EC meeting for approval or action by the CoP
EC-43 decisions and actions to be forwarded to the CoP were XLIII 3-13.

- ***XLIII/3 – Committee to recommend candidates to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC)***

The EC decided that the members of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of members to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) would be Brazil, Paraguay, and USA. The report will be presented at the CoP.

- ***XLIII/4 – Committee to recommend candidates to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)***

The EC decided that the members of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of members to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) would be Chile, Colombia, and the USA. The report will be presented at the CoP.

- ***XLIII/5 – Member Country data-sheets***

The EC directed the Directorate to post individual member country data-sheets on the IAI website informing on the benefits the country receives from the IAI and the contributions from the country to the Institute.

- ***XLIII/6 – Open data policy and principles***

The EC will recommend the CoP to define and establish an open data policy and principles.

- ***XLIII/7 – Access to official IAI documents***

The EC will recommend the CoP that EC, CoP, SAC and SPAC documents be publicly accessible on the IAI website.

- ***XLIII/8 – Recommendations from the EC-SAC-SPAC Science-Policy Workshop***
(see section 8.3 in this report)

- ***XLIII/9 – Participation in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days***

The EC decided to recommend CoP representatives to contact funding agencies within their countries to participate in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in the first week of November 2017.

- ***XLIII/10 – Core Budget Request and Country Contributions for FY 2017-2018***

The EC accepted the Core Budget request for 2017-2018 and to maintain without changes the level of Country Contributions for 2017-2018. The decision will be forwarded to the CoP for approval.

- ***XLIII/11 – Acceptance of financial statement as of 28 February 2017***

The EC accepted the financial statement as of 28 February 2017.

- ***XLIII/12 – Acceptance of auditors’ reports of financial statements ending 30 June 2015 and 2016***

The EC accepted the Auditors’ reports of the financial statements as of 30 June 2015 and 2016.

- ***XLIII/13 – Membership of the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC)***

The Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC) is open for new members. This Committee has only one member.

The CoP directed the Directorate to remind Member Countries on the need for more members on the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC).

XXV/20 – Membership of the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC)

8.3. EC-SAC-PAC Science-Policy Workshop

The IAI should capitalize on the excellent science it has supported in its first 25 years, and start using the data and results to make them more relevant to policy makers. Discussions during the workshop focused on how to set the next Collaborative Network Program to achieve policy relevance. One of the ways identified was engaging CoP members much more actively and embarking in a true co-design in which SAC, SPAC and CoP members are able to work together to identify priorities that are relevant to all IAI members, and that are cross-cutting to benefit all actors involved. Projects will continue to be multinational, and to involve social sciences. Stakeholders need to be engaged in the design phase of the projects, which is a true co-design. The idea is also to have all project investigators being part of the program, rather than individual projects to identify areas of synergy between the projects. In the proposals, research teams will have to clearly state what they plan to deliver to decision makers.

Recommendations from the EC-SAC-SPAC Science-Policy Workshop: science and capacity building programs of the IAI

- The Directorate will draft a long- term communication strategy and plan.
- The Directorate will draft a long- term funding strategy for the IAI.
- Organize similar workshops at future EC-CoPs.
- Encourage proactive participation by country representatives in the IAI and to identify country priorities. Focal points to report on IAI research project results in their countries.
- The Directorate will prepare an outreach brochure that will be updated on a yearly basis.
- Importance of payment of country contributions. Request to country representatives to work on this.
- See how projects can enhance their capacity to communicate their results to stakeholders (perhaps have a specialist within the project, build strategic alliances)

The EC Chair thanked all workshop participants for their input and discussions, which set the basis for a plan for the next 25 years of the IAI.

9. Progress report of the IAI Directorate

9.1. Science programs

The CRN 3 is ongoing with 10 projects (each funded at US\$ 700k-1M; with a duration of 5 years plus a 2-year no cost extension). The program also includes 7 smaller projects with a funding of US\$ 98-200k and 3-year duration, which analyze the process of science-policy

linkages. The entire program involves 131 investigators from 71 institutions in 14 IAI Member Countries. Students trained in the framework of the projects were 239 students in research, 73 of them with IAI scholarships. 371 students participated in courses promoted by the projects.

Seven supplementary CONICET – IAI (2013-2018) grants are awarded to seven Argentine CONICET's teams working on CNR3s at a level of US\$ 5,000 to 10,000 / year. The first disbursement was two years ago, and the process has started for the next one.

CRN3 projects are in their fourth year of development. The CRN 3 was an ambitious inter- and transdisciplinary call that attracted promising proposals. However, some initial difficulties to fulfill the expectations required major intervention from the Directorate for redefining project work-plans and aims. Researchers devoted “additional” efforts to achieve and maintain excellence in science. As a result, the IAI has improved scientific capacities in place, major achievements in interdisciplinary research, and good experiences in transdiscipline. Today science integration is a trademark of the IAI.

The project on climate services is deeply interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, as it includes researchers, officials from five meteorological services, and the private sector (associations of agricultural producers). This co-designed project provides data and information to the public using user-friendly interphases. Project activities include modeling of different variables at different time and spatial scales and yield forecast systems.

Another example is the project on ocean ecosystems. The CRN3 grant is the third IAI long-term grant this team has been awarded. The research of this team has evolved from pure physical oceanography to interdiscipline. Data generated by the project systematically feed important data repositories, something that few projects in the IAI do. The outreach and science for action of this project are well-developed aspects. Project investigators presented at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.

Today, the IAI faces new challenges and opportunities. Governance is fragmented, new partnerships need to be established, and non-scientific funding sources identified. The new Small Grants Program (SGP) and future IAI science programs will take the needs and priorities of Member Countries into consideration. Under this new scenario, enhanced transdisciplinarity will be required, with researchers and scientific knowledge immerse in a complex game of agendas and powers. The relevance of the science will be defined at various overlapping scales, and there will be no straightforward solutions, but a game of balances (e.g., excellence & relevance).

Leading such an ambitious program will require establishing partnerships. New projects will have to re-use data, and synthesize the knowledge generated to build a community of projects. Collaboration and input will be necessary from the CoP, SPAC, and SAC. Revitalized roles for the CoP will be related with determining the relevance of research to national priorities and with helping disseminate IAI science among different communities and sectors within the countries.

The SPAC will be needed to identify opportunities for successful research uptake; identify significant stakeholders: users, donors, partners; facilitate partnerships with non-scientific actors; advise on channels and mechanisms for interaction; and assess the relevance and potential impact of the projects (proposal selection and monitoring).

The SAC has been the guardian of IAI's scientific excellence. The continued contribution from SAC is fundamental to the Directorate in guiding and disseminating research, and facilitating links with global environmental governance institutions. An important task will be the implementation of a peer review mechanism for the assessment of IAI science at the

stages of proposal selection and project monitoring. The linkages between the SAC and the SPAC will help achieve balance between societal relevance and impact and scientific interest, robustness, and academic freedom.

A CRN 3 researcher meeting is planned for 2017. Results will be discussed during the meeting to identify relevant disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary outcomes and experiences. Crosscutting syntheses will be promoted as well as a hands-on capacity building activity on science communication oriented to achieving specific outreach products. Researcher meetings have proven inspiring and motivating in tightening links within the IAI scientific community.

The NSF has approved the proposal submitted by the IAI for a new SGP: “The role of ecosystem services in adaptation to global change”. The theme was selected with the idea that addressing ecosystem services, adaptation -and potentially mitigation- would imply strong co-design of research between natural and human sciences. Proposals will have to clearly reflect fully implemented transdisciplinarity and co-design. The SAC and SPAC will be involved in the evaluation, implementation and monitoring of the proposals. The call will encourage leadership by mid-career PIs and social scientists. The idea is that this program will be co-funded through the Inter-American Forum of Funding Agencies.

The approach to the call for proposals will be innovative. As part of selection process, teams of pre-selected proposals will participate in a capacity building activity for scientists and policy makers, aimed at improving the quality of transdisciplinarity in the proposals, and aid team integration. Coordination functions will include synthesis, cross-fertilization, synergies, and crosscutting activities and products, integration of data, use of pre-existing data.

Future Earth: *The new SGP has strong linkages with one of the Knowledge for Action Networks on natural assets and Latin America and the IAI could take some leadership in developing areas of interaction. The open networks are also a possibility.*

CIIFEN: *The experiences of the projects on climate services and ocean ecosystems could be shared to other regions and meteorological services, because this kind of scientific expertise is needed to improve operations.*

United States of America: *The Earth Journalist Network could be approached to collaborate with communicating science to society in non-scientific language.*

Science-Policy Counselor: *5% of project budgets could be allocated exclusively to communication.*

<p>The CoP directed the Directorate to find ways to enhance the capacity of IAI research projects to communicate their results to stakeholders.</p>

<p><i>XXV/28 – Augmenting science communication capacities of IAI research projects</i></p>

9.2. Capacity building

Capacity Building has helped to expand science and science-policy capacities in the Americas. The program has been effective in engaging small countries and countries that have not been very active in IAI science programs. The capacity building program has contributed to developing programmatic, institutional and financial partnerships and increase visibility of the Institute.

IAI capacity building is carried out through three principal mechanisms: 1.Support to graduate students (science programs, CRN); 2.Technical workshops (science programs, CRN); and 3.Professional Development Seminars (PDS) + science-policy fora. These fora

are held back-to-back with the PDSs and are usually open to a wider audience. The PDSs are designed to address gaps the IAI science program, regional representation, partnerships and other needs and priorities.

In the context of the new global change science, the objective is to train future leaders in science, policy and management at the same venue, where they have the opportunity of engaging in a constructive dialogue and collaboration. The IAI is in the forefront of developing processes for team building and implementing inter- and transdisciplinary research.

The Seed Grant program associates capacity building seminars to development of transdisciplinary research in 1-2 year projects for scientists and policy makers to work together. The richness of the IAI venue is that it brings communities together that would otherwise not communicate with each other in a way that allows for developing dialogue, trust, and communication; identifying common interests and problems; integrating expertise and knowledge and join efforts to frame and carry out policy relevant research in a process of learning by doing. Innovative, low cost and with broad impact, the Seed grant program has funded 11 networks/ projects involving 68 professionals from 53 institutions (academia, government, NGOs, private sector) in 15 countries. The original IAI seed grant funding of US\$220,625, leveraged US\$124,403 in participants' institutions.

In the period 2011-2015, the Seed Grant program and the seven seminars realized were evaluated as excellent (37 informants, 25 reports and other documents), as they allowed engaging young researchers with decision makers; provided training in cutting-edge methods and concepts (particularly transdiscipline), exposed young scientists to team science process; focused on achieving both scientific and policy outcomes; strengthened proposal development skills and management capacities; provided funding to develop projects to apply knowledge and tools imparted from training.

The capacity building program for 2016-2019 is funded with a grant from NSF of US\$400 K, to carry out four training events. Given the leverage of resources already achieved, the grant will allow organizing seven events:

- 1) Professional Development Seminar on Managing ecosystem services from Tropical forests, 25-30 July 2016, Liberia, Costa Rica and 8-12 May 2017, Santiago, Chile (22 participants, 17 institutions, 9 countries, 6 projects).
- 2) School of Advanced Science on nitrogen cycling, environmental sustainability and climate change, 31 July –10 August 2016, São Pedro, SP, Brazil (funded by FAPESP with US\$150 K, more than 100 graduate students participating, CRN 3 researchers gave lectures, the IAI was the international partner)
- 3) Professional Development Seminar on Transdisciplinary approaches to integrating policy and science for sustainability, 28 Nov.–2 Dec. 2016, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic and 3-7 Oct. 2017, Calgary/Banff, Canada (more than 200 applications received from public and private sectors; important role of Dominican Republic government, Canada's Banff International Research Center (BIRS), and University of Calgary as hosts and co-funders; AAAS partner and co-funding). The seminar has 27 participants from 27 institutions in 14 countries. Four teams will submit proposals directly to funding agencies.
- 4) School of Advanced Science on Climate Change: Scientific basis, adaptation, vulnerability and mitigation, 3-15 July 2017, São Paulo, Brazil (FAPESP funding US\$150K, IAI international partner, 130 graduate students, CRN 3 experts as lecturers, increased IAI visibility, >450 applications from 59 countries).

Seminars are divided in two parts, with an intersession period of about one year during which participants, organized in groups, develop the research projects they propose during the first part. These projects have no seed funding and the outputs are papers and policy briefs.

The training activities of the IAI are now shared also via webcasts and webinars. Lectures are recorded and made available on the IAI website.

9.3. Science-policy office

The office is operating under the mandates of the IAI Tripartite Governance Agreement and the Agreement between the IAI and Argentina's MINCYT, and collaborates with the SPAC. These established mandates have been transformed into productive actions on program development, engagement and outreach activities. Results achieved so far are related to interactions with research teams, science-policy professional seminars, and analysis of the IAI programs' impacts on policy.

Science-policy links are sustained by scientific production of interdisciplinary networks aiming at and synthesized for decision-making and impacts and inter-institutional relationships of the research projects.

The program of the Science - Policy Liaison Directorate includes exploring and analyzing research networking and output; providing periodic feedback to CRN project workshops and Professional Development Seminars to grow science-policy linkages; organizing IAI regional scientific meetings for science-policy prospectives; including the Young Professional Network in outreach activities; intensifying and formalizing joint activities with academic and non-academic institutions for training, synthesis, prospective, communication and outreach.

9.4. Global outreach

The IAI has contributed to the work of the UNFCCC, CBD and SDGs. The IAI is interesting to potential partners mainly because it is an intergovernmental body, with multilateral profile and flexibility. The Institute is an Observer in the UNFCCC. Being an Observer gives the IAI an opportunity to represent member countries at the national and regional levels. Many decisions of the Convention rely on the work done by international organizations such as the IAI. It is important that IAI country delegates and national focal points of the conventions support the IAI at side events.

IAI participated in the UNFCCC SBSTA research dialogue RD8 Poster session: how combining local and scientific knowledge increases adaptive capacity to global changes for farmers in Mesoamerica (results from the research project on coffee production led by Dr. Edwin Castellanos). The IAI also featured a presentation on connecting science to people at 3 levels: high-level decision makers, mid-level technical officers in governments, local people directly impacted by multiple stressors.

In November 2016 the IAI attended the UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakesh where the IAI Massive online course (MOOC) on the impacts of climate change in Latin America was launch. Since then, the course, which was co-funded by CAF, has reached almost 7,000 participants. The MOOC was promoted by CAF, CBD and UNFCCC, CIIFEN and other organizations in social media. It is used in different institutions (high-school, national parks, government agencies), and the IAI is now analyzing ways for offering certification.

A two-day Science Forum was held at CBD COP13 in Cancun, co-organized with SEMARNAT, CONABIO, IUBS, Future Earth and the CBD Secretariat. About 300-400 participants attended the forum each day. Messages from that Forum were delivered to

COP13 plenary. Issues addressed in COP13 included mainstreaming biodiversity in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism.

The IAI in partnership with UNDP, Argentina (H.E. Diego Moreno, National Secretary of Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development), Dominican Republic (H.E. Francisco Domínguez Brito, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources) and the Cousteau Society organized a side event at The Ocean Conference, United Nations, New York, 5-9 June 2017. The IAI featured the work of the project on ocean ecosystems and delivered a statement to the plenary.

Brazil: *The IAI could apply to be an observer at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.*

9.5. Communications and outreach

The IAI Directorate has been working on establishing a brand identity for the IAI. The IAI website is bilingual (English and Spanish) and responsive (its format is device-sensitive) with the aim of reaching the widest possible audience.

The IAI is present in different social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and YouTube. Outreach products that are being developed are an electronic newsletter, which is based on the website and the periodicity of which will be defined for the new phase the IAI is entering now. The biennial report 2014-2016 will be published at the end of the year. In addition, an informative brochure will be prepared and updated yearly. The Institute is adapting to the global trend toward visual products, such as short videos and documentary films (prepared by the Directorate and by the research projects), webinars and the MOOC.

The complexity of the IAI and its activities reflects in a fractal pattern, where the same processes are involved for communication within a small research project, institutional communication, establishment of partnerships and outreach to different fora at different scales. Therefore, the communication of the IAI requires the participation of all its actors and bodies and partners (CoP, researchers, SAC, SPAC, Directorate, internet) as it needs to occur in multiple sectors, scales, languages and modes.

A long-term communication strategy and plan for the Institute will be defined for work for the new phase of the IAI. These will be linked to the objectives, mission and plan of the Institute. The context: greater institutional and scientific complexity (more ongoing activities, initiatives, partnerships) and many other institutions, groups and stakeholders involved.

The IAI message needs to be sound, based on scientific achievements and on how these can contribute to decision-making for the wellbeing of society (keeping IAI mission in mind), in order for it to be effective and reach the target audiences. Fundamental questions that help optimizing efforts and achieving best results are What?/What for?/For whom?/How?/Where?/When?/Who? Answers to these questions vary according to the case. For communication to be effective it needs to exploit the niche of the IAI, target the right audience, tailor the message, use appropriate language and medium according to the needs, interests and culture of audiences and partners.

SAC Chair: *The issue of science communication to the users needs to be explored in depth. The IAI is a science-funding agency with a specific mandate: science has to be multinational, multidisciplinary and has to feed decision-making. In order to be useful to decision makers, science needs to be translated to appropriate language. All communication possibilities should be explored. IAI research teams might have a person in charge of the communication of science for policy-making. Boundary organizations devoted to developing the science-*

policy interface could be approached. The IAI itself is a boundary organization, and so the capacities of the directorate could be enhanced to carry out this communication task.

Panama offered their help in the drafting of a communication strategy for the IAI.

The CoP directed the Directorate to draft a long-term communication strategy and plan. The document will be presented at the next CoP.

XXV/23 – IAI long-term communication strategy and plan

The CoP directed the Directorate to prepare an outreach brochure that would be updated annually.

XXV/26 – Outreach brochure of the IAI

9.6. Finance and administration

As of 30 April 2017 the IAI had collected 102% of the approved contributions for FY 2016/2017. Very positive results of negotiations reflect in the following facts: Brazil has paid 3 of the 4 pending contributions; Peru advanced the equivalent of 4 contributions at the current level; Costa Rica paid all pending amounts and advanced the next contribution. Total collections amount to US\$1,424,975. Once the US contribution is fully disbursed, total collections will amount to US\$1,800,000. This translates in a strengthened financial position for the IAI. Still some smaller countries continue to accumulate pending contributions.

In the period between the preparation of the financial report to the CoP and the CoP, Argentina has paid one more contribution, which was applied to arrears. Dialogue is under way with Guatemala for the payment of due contributions. The Director for Finance and Administration met in New York with the Minister of the Environment of Dominican Republic who expressed their willingness in participating in IAI activities and paying contributions.

Core Budget 2016 / 2017 - Status of Country Contributions as of April 30, 2017 - Amounts in US\$

Country	Due as of 30 June 16	Contribution for FY 16-17	% (**)	Paid - in 2016/2017 to be applied to:			Due as of 30 June 17
				Arrears	Current year	Advances	
Argentina	147,957	69,000	5.01		(69,000)		147,957
Bolivia	50,000	5,000	0.07				55,000
Brazil	460,000	120,000	8.73	(459,794)			120,206
Canada	47,339	173,000	12.63		(142,518)		77,821
Chile	3,000	8,000	0.55	(3,000)	(2,000)		6,000
Colombia	9,167	13,000	0.96		(8,991)		13,176
Costa Rica	(352)	5,000	0.13		(4,955)	(5,033)	(5,341)
Cuba	60,067	5,000	-				65,067
Dominican Republic	95,000	5,000	0.18				100,000
Ecuador	10,000	5,000	0.18	(10,000)	(5,000)		-
Guatemala	95,000	5,000	0.13				100,000
Jamaica	60,000	5,000	0.18				65,000
Mexico	-	85,000	6.21		(85,000)		-
Panama	-	5,000	0.13		(4,915)	(5,000)	(4,915)
Paraguay	43,877	5,000	0.20	(9,724)			39,153
Peru	2,415	6,000	0.42	(2,415)	(6,000)	(26,286)	(26,286)

United States	156,060	831,000	60.75	(87,060)	(478,584)		421,416
Uruguay	4,700	5,000	0.27	(9,700)			-
Venezuela	90,000	45,000	3.27				135,000
FUND TOTAL	1,334,230	1,400,000	100	(581,693)	(806,963)	(36,319)	1,309,255

(**) This percentage represents the participation of each member country in the distribution of the operational costs of the Directorate according to the OAS Table of Contributions for 2001. The 26th EC requested contributions in multiples of US\$1,000 implemented in 2007.

IAI still needs a strong support from its member countries. The total amount of pending contributions is similar as in the previous year, about US\$1.31 million. With US contribution amount not yet received: US\$875k.

At the close of February 2017, the expenses were 13.1% lower than the 8-month budget, due to the effect of lower Travel, Operational Costs and the Director's Fund. Savings partially have been offset by Employee Benefits and Outreach activities. Total annual performance is expected at -3% under the full-year budget.

Cash balance at the end of April 2017 was 178% higher than the balance in March 2016. Core Budget funds are higher than the previous year due to the impact of extraordinary payments made by Brazil and other countries. Reserves at the end of April 2017 are enough to cover 7.5 months of operations or to cancel contractual obligations. With US committed funds, reserves cover 11.0 months of operations.

No pending items on internal controls have been reported from the FAC or External Auditors. The External Audit report was received in time for current year. A clean audit report was received, which means that the solution for Project Management was successful.

Budget Comparison 2017/2018 - 2016/2017 - Summary by major category (amounts in US\$)

Category	Fiscal Year 2017-2018	Fiscal Year 2016-2017	Difference
Salaries & benefits	959,202	935,382	23,820 (a)
Travel	99,280	99,280	-
Equipment	10,700	10,700	-
Operational costs	257,818	277,754	(19,936) (b)
Dissemination & outreach	39,000	39,000	-
Director's Fund	54,000	54,000	-
Total	1,420,000	1,416,116	3,884

(a) Salaries and benefits	23,820		
Salaries and benefits	23,820	Severance and relocation expenses	
(b) Operational costs	(19,936)		
Unliquidated operations fund	(19,936)	Adjustment in ULF due to severance	

The requested Budget is at same level as the previous fiscal year, according to 3-year plan presented during last CoP. The 2017-2018 budget will not require changes in the contribution amounts by the member countries and maintains the participation percentages of Country

Contributions. The proposed budget allows IAI to maintain operational expenses at a minimum despite an increase in activities.

Budget by Year 2017/2018 - 2018/2019 – 2019/2020

Category	Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018	Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019	Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020
	Amounts in US\$		
Salaries & benefits	959,202	931,424	949,916
Travel	99,280	99,280	99,280
Equipment	10,000	15,000	15,000
Operational costs	257,818	371,404	348,944
Dissemination & outreach	39,000	45,000	50,000
Director's Fund	54,000	60,000	60,000
TOTAL	1,420,000	1,522,108	1,523,140

Note: The budgets for 18/19 and 19/20 are for reference and planning purposes, and each year a three-year budget will be presented. However approval for each one is made yearly.

Brazil asked if funds were invested to obtain interests.

Finance Director: No investments can be made with Federal US funds. There is no yield in the funds the Directorate keeps. Perhaps the money from other countries could be invested. The CoP would have to approve such investments.

United States of America: The topic of possible investment of funds was discussed previously by Executive Councils and Conferences of the Parties. The delegate suggested that the documentation of those discussions be checked to see whether particular circumstances have changed.

Panama proposed establishing a Patrimonial Fund for investment with money from country contributions and other donors. This Fund would be separate from the Core Budget funds.

Brazil asked for clarification about the part time salary for one staff member in Brazil.

Finance Director: It is the assistant for Capacity Building. She used to work in the Brazilian office until the office was closed by the previous administration and now she is working from home.

The CoP approved the Core Budget Request for fiscal year 2017-2018.

XXV/15 – Core Budget Request for FY 2017-2018

The CoP approved the unchanged level of country contributions for fiscal year 2017-2018.

XXV/16 – Country contributions for FY 2017-2018

The CoP accepted the Financial Statements as of 28 February 2017.

XXV/17 – Acceptance of Financial Statements as of 28 February 2017

The CoP accepted the auditors' reports of the Financial Statements as of 30 June 2015 and 2016.

XXV/18 – Acceptance of auditors' reports of financial statements ending 30 June 2015 and 2016

10. Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

The SAC Chair reminded Member Country Delegates that the main mandate of the Scientific Advisory Committee was to provide advice to the CoP regarding the Science Agenda of the IAI, long-term plans, and the annual program. The SAC also works closely with the Directorate to fulfill the tasks charged by the CoP. In order to perform this task more effectively, open communication is needed between the SAC and the CoP. The Science-Policy workshop was a good opportunity for such direct communication.

The SAC was involved in the process of selection of the IAI Director and supports the leadership of Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva, the new Executive Director. The SAC considers the new Director is the ideal person to lead the IAI in the new phase of the IAI that is being developed through the dialogue among IAI bodies.

The SAC and SPAC request the setup of more formal mechanisms for interaction with each other and with country delegations. One way would be to create a small committee composed by the Director, the chairs of SAC and SPAC and two members of the committees. The other possibility is to have a mandated cross-participation in the meetings of the two groups, i.e., have the Chair and some members of the SPAC participating in SAC meetings and vice-versa.

Enhanced interaction between SAC-SPAC and the CoP might be achieved if the EC-CoP schedule provided time during the week for all the meetings to have place, maximizing efforts and allowing for this interaction to occur every year. Specifically, the request is that the Executive Council begins on a Tuesday. This would allow SAC and SPAC to have their own meetings on Monday and Tuesday. Tuesday would be a day for possible interactions between the advisory bodies and country delegations if needed. The CoP would start on Wednesday, and SAC and SPAC members would be able to attend the sessions.

Scientific seminars could be held either before or after the CoP, to promote interactions between IAI scientists and the CoP.

SAC and SPAC members participate on a voluntary basis and resignations may occur occasionally because of time constrains. Unplanned vacancies during the year mean that the committees have to function with less members until the next election at the CoP. During the Science-Policy Workshop the possibilities were considered of electing alternate members that would be called to serve when a vacancy opens, or of appointing members via email in CoP intersession periods.

Some SAC members have participated in activities in support of the outreach and the training activities of the IAI. In 2016, the SAC Chair participated in a meeting of the UNFCCC SBSTA with the UN Liaison Officer and presented a poster there. Dr. Rodolfo Dirzo participated in CBD COP13 on behalf of the IAI. The SAC Chair also participated in the IAI Professional Development Seminar on Transdisciplinary Science in Costa Rica, and will participate in the second part in October 2017.

11. Report of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

The SPAC was established to provide advice on how to help decision-makers make better decisions on global change related issues. Since the last CoP, the committee met twice. One meeting was in New York in May 2016 and the second was some days prior to CoP 25. The Chair of the SPAC participated in the Inter-Institutional Workshop on Climate Change: Science-policy interactions to respond to the challenges of climate change, Mar del Plata,

Argentina, 5-7 December 2016, which mostly focused on climate change related issues in the southern cone. A very promising dialogue is under way with Future Earth.

Being aware of the needs and priorities in their countries, country representatives can help frame the science questions. The connection between policy and science starts at the design stage of the research, and CoP members would be consequently involved in the process. To achieve this, the SPAC recommends that joint SAC-SPAC-CoP meetings be held on a regular basis in the future.

The work of the SPAC is based on three pillars: visibility, policy relevance and funding and is aimed at delivering products to member countries and assess their relevance. The recommendation is to take advantage of the 25 years of science and generate a communication strategy, and new knowledge products such as discussion papers. The SPAC suggested that in the future CoP agendas should include science/policy items, to be able to identify country needs for the science and the science-policy agenda.

SAC members should become ambassadors to connect with science bodies in each member country so that those internal bodies in turn connect and advice CoP members. The participation of the IAI in the Conventions might be strategically strengthened through sub-regional approaches. Actions recommended to engage with private sector in strategic areas are targeted reports and mapping of opportunities.

As to financing, the recommendations are to have a Belmont-like funding structure to support transdisciplinary science projects. The IAI Directorate should continue the outreach to international funding organizations and mechanisms and identify co-funding opportunities (international banks or countries outside the Americas).

To accomplish the actions mentioned above, the SPAC considers that capacities in the IAI Directorate need to be increased with an outreach and fund-raising position. Diverse models of staffing this position should be explored.

12. Open data and access

The Executive Director requested assistance for the drafting of an Open Data Policy for the IAI, based on previous discussions at the EC-43 and the IAI Science-Policy Workshop, and expressed the possibility of having data publication as a requirement in future IAI science program calls.

CIESIN offered their help and informed that two peer-reviewed publications are devoted specifically to publishing information on databases and metadata, which may be attractive for researchers given that such publications would add to their CVs. Future Earth is also open to collaborate with the IAI.

The United States informed that the Belmont Forum e-Infrastructures and Data Management team has developed a basic Data Management Plan template to foster long-term management and organization of project-generated data, which can be used by the IAI. The ICSU-CODATA group is also working on data management policies and they are willing to focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. The contact with the person in charge was offered.

Belmont Forum informed that a publishers meeting in the week after the CoP was set to tackle the issue of advancing openness, which turned out to be more challenging than it seemed in the expressions of interest by partners and countries. They are currently gathering

basic information on open data policies, evaluation from different institutions and countries, to know the real situation.

ICSU pointed there was an important niche for synergies on open data with ICSU, the IAI and other organizations.

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.

XXV/6 – Open data policy and principles

The CoP decided that EC, CoP, SAC and SPAC documents be available without password on the IAI website.

XXV/22 – Access to official IAI documents

13. Inter-American Forum of Funding Agencies

The EC Chair noted that few responses had been received so far to the invitations sent out to national, regional and local funding agencies in the Americas to establish the Inter-American Forum of Funding Agencies, a regional partnership to fund IAI projects. The Belmont Forum Information Days may provide a good opportunity to move the initiative further.

Director for Science Programs: *Eleven countries have circulated the invitation among their organizations. Efforts will be renewed to turn expressions of interest into concrete participation.*

Colombia: *Given the changing international situation, the IAI should try to identify other funding sources. Fundraising should be another indicator of management for the Directorate.*

United States: *In addition to the core budget funds, funding of IAI science programs also comes from the US. The delegate encouraged member countries and the Directorate to look for innovative ways to raise the money to work together.*

Executive Director: *There is a global trend of governments retreating from funding international agencies, which are requested to seek alternate sources of funding.*

The importance of having the IAI and funding agencies from IAI member countries participating in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days was highlighted several times during the sessions.

The CoP directed the Directorate to draft a long-term funding strategy for the IAI. The strategy will be presented at the next CoP.

XXV/24 – IAI long-term funding strategy

The CoP directed the Executive Director to present a report on fundraising activities and results.

XXV/31 – Reporting to CoP on fundraising activities by the Executive Director

The CoP decided that country delegates contact funding agencies within their countries to participate in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days in São Paulo, Brazil, in the first week of November 2017.

XXV/27 – Participation in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days

14. 25th IAI anniversary publication

The SAC Chair reported that the Committee had started to discuss the content and format for the publication. The SAC suggests having a special issue in a scientific journal with knowledge generated by the CRN3 program, as well as a publication for the general public. The latter would be in the form of a booklet of about 40 pages with short storytelling articles by different people who have been involved with the IAI during the past 25 years (researchers, country representatives, participants in training activities, among others). It would show the history and the evolution of the Institute. The notes would be one or two pages long, in a more informal language. However, funding has not been allocated for this publication. This will also require the work of an editor. This activity will be further planned with the Director and the Directorate staff.

Mexico: To reduce costs, the publication could be done online in the first place. An editor could be hired to translate science information for the general public.

At the request of the SAC Chair, the CoP directed the Directorate to prepare a proposal for the content of the 25th anniversary publication and editorial responsibilities.

XXV/29 – 25th Anniversary publication

15. Report of the Committee for the analysis of Member Country participation

The Committee was established at CoP 23 to address the low participation of some countries in IAI activities and the non-submission of contributions. Members of the Committee are Argentina, Paraguay, and Chile. Canada stepped down at CoP 24.

Based on the report of the Committee (in the minutes of CoP 24) the CoP 24 made the following decisions:

- The CoP decided to draft letters to non-active member countries, inviting them to reengage in the IAI. The letters would be delivered in person by the Directorate, if possible. The CoP suggested that the help of neighboring countries would be welcomed. (D&A 12, day 2, CoP 24)
- The CoP decided that small countries having arrears in contributions could cancel their debts by organizing events or other activities that would be attributable to the IAI core budget. (D&A 14, day 2, CoP 24)

During 2016-2017, informal conversations were held between the IAI Directorate and Member Countries with arrears. As a result, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Brazil (partially) paid their dues in contributions.

The Committee recommends: No action for the moment with Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Venezuela; invite Ecuador, Guatemala, and Bolivia to participate in the CoP. Countries with arrears can present a plan for payment or organize events (including CoPs) or other activities attributable to the IAI core budget.

The information about the benefits that countries receive from the IAI should be available online, for easy access by country representatives and other authorities.

The analysis of the Committee coincides with the plan of the Executive Director to reach out to non-member countries, mainly in the Caribbean and Central America, and expand IAI membership, besides revitalizing participation of IAI members.

Country delegates, the SAC Chair and observer institutions agreed that the visibility of the IAI and its science is a joint responsibility of the Directorate and country representatives. The active participation of national representatives in disseminating IAI activities within the countries is fundamental and needs to be addressed. The issue was discussed of how to move the CoP from a purely operational discussion body to a mechanism where countries are able to take the information that is available from the science projects to the ministries to assist decision-making. Options were suggested such as presentations on priority themes within the countries with the participation of national scientists, decision-makers and other stakeholders, and science events at IAI CoP and EC meetings.

Executive Director: *Contacts have been established with Cuba, and hopefully the country will resume participation in the IAI.*

Panama: *The Chancellery of Panama will assume the pro tempore chairmanship in the Central American Integration System in the second semester of 2017. The Ministry of the Environment will chair the Central American Commission for Environment and Development as of July 2017. These two bodies could be contacted for collaboration in establishing contacts with Central American and Caribbean countries and introducing the IAI at the next Council of Ministers.*

SAC Chair: *This year Guatemala has designated the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, and SENACyT as representative institutions before the IAI. The country is willing to participate in IAI activities and meetings. Conversations are in place within the country to host IAI EC-CoP meetings in the near future.*

Science-Policy Counselor: *Some member countries, such as Uruguay, have established National Global Change Committees, composed by different relevant ministries, which enables wider participation and contacts with the IAI and increased visibility of the Institute within the countries.*

Colombia: *At each CoP country representatives could report on their activities to increase the visibility of the IAI in their countries.*

As stated in the section 9.6 in this report, the Dominican Republic has expressed interest in paying due contributions and reengaging in the IAI.

The CoP directed the Directorate to post individual Member Country data-sheets on the IAI website informing on the benefits the country receives from the IAI and the contributions from the country to the Institute.

XXV/21 – Member Country data-sheets

The CoP encourages proactive participation by country representatives in IAI meetings, reporting on IAI research project results in their countries, and working for the timely payment of country contributions.

XXV/25 – Enhancing activity of IAI Member Country Representatives

16. Report of the Committee for the Implementation of the Tripartite Structure of the IAI

The Committee has been cooperating with the Directorate in the establishment of the office in Buenos Aires and Brazil. Details of the host country agreement with Argentina are being discussed. Options are still being explored for the office in Brazil. The Executive Director and the Brazilian delegate had a meeting with the Ministry of Science. The Executive Director will continue negotiations with both countries.

The CoP renewed the term of the Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI for one year. The committee will maintain its terms of reference and membership: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador (Vice-Chair), Uruguay, and United States of America (Chair). The Committee shall be open to all the Parties.

XXV/30 – Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI

17. Report of the Committee for recommendation of SAC and SPAC candidates

Members of the Committees established at EC-43 were Brazil, Paraguay, and the United States of America for SAC candidates and Chile, Colombia and the United States of America for SPAC candidates.

The Committee to recommend candidates to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) made the following recommendation to fill the vacant positions: Drs. Carlos Joly and Teresa Cavazos (from nominations by the Parties); and Drs. Michelle Grunauer and Antonio Magalhaes (from nominations by the SAC).

XXV/8 – Recommendation of candidates to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Committee to recommend candidates to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) made the following recommendation to fill the vacant positions: Dr. Walter Baethgen (from nominations by the SPAC), Dr. Brigitte Baptiste (from nominations by the IAI Directorate) and Dr. Evelia Rivera (from nominations by the Parties).

XXV/9 – Recommendation of candidates to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

Regarding vacancies that may become available on SAC, Rule 73 of the Standing rules of the IAI Conference of the Parties states: "Should a position on the Scientific Advisory Committee become vacant prior to the scheduled end of term, the Conference of the Parties may fill this vacancy via electronic communications, taking into account nominations made earlier by the Parties and/or the SAC." Since the CoP only exists while in session, the Chair of the Rules Committee recommended that the CoP charge the Executive Council with sending out the electronic communication to all CoP Parties, not only the EC. For vacancies occurring between sessions, the candidates who had been nominated for the previous CoP may be considered for the electronic election.

Canada requested a standardized package for candidate CVs to facilitate comparison of candidates' expertise.

The CoP will request the Executive Council to draft a template for the presentation of background information for SAC and SPAC candidates.

XXV/14 – Template for presentation of background information for election of SAC and SPAC members

18. Election of SAC members

The CoP elected by consensus the following members to the SAC: Drs. Carlos Joly and Teresa Cavazos (from nominations by the Parties); and Drs. Michelle Grunauer and Antonio Magalhaes (from nominations by the SAC).

XXV/11 – Election of members to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

19. Election of SPAC members

The CoP elected by consensus the following members to the SPAC: Dr. Walter Baethgen (from nominations by the SPAC), Dr. Brigitte Baptiste (from nominations by the IAI Directorate) and Dr. Evelia Rivera (from nominations by the Parties).

XXV/12 – Election of members to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

The CoP decided to accept the nomination of Dr. Maria Netto Schneider to cover the vacancy arising from the resignation of Dr. Luis Basterra, both from Parties nominations, and elected her by consensus.

XXV/13 – Resignation of member and covering of the vacancy on the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

20. Approval of the Decisions and Actions list of day 1

The CoP approved the list of decisions and actions of day 1.

XXV/10 – Approval of list of decisions and actions of day 1

21. Donor's session

Chile has established a Latin American Network for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories for cross-checking of inventories and exchange of information and expertise. The delegate invited countries to join the network.

Disaster risk management and desertification are important topics for Chile. The country would acknowledge any contacts the IAI could establish with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Executive Director requested Member Countries to consider the possibility of investing in a secondment to collaborate in the areas of natural science, high level IT, or fundraising in the Directorate.

Brazil proposed to further develop connections with RedeClima.

22. Tribute to the outgoing Executive Director

The delegate of the United States read a letter from Dr. Holm Tiessen to the CoP. The letter summarized the activities, achievements and evolution of the IAI in the twelve years of leadership by Dr. Tiessen (Annex III).

The IAI benefitted from Dr. Tiessen's leadership and willingness to move activities forward even under adverse circumstances. He was the PI of a CRN I project on the biogeochemical

cycles of land use change in the semi-arid Americas with collaborators from Brazil, Mexico, and Canada.

The IAI can now build on the excellent global change science developed in the past twenty-five years, twelve of which have been under the leadership of Dr. Tiessen and develop equally excellent policy linkages.

23. Future meetings

No offers were tendered at this point. However, Guatemala and Brazil are analyzing the possibility of hosting the SAC-SPAC EC-CoP meetings next year or in 2019. Brazil is also exploring the possibility of hosting the meetings.

The CoP directed the Directorate to ensure that SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings overlap to favor interaction.

XXV/19 – Joint SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings

24. Adjournment

The Conference was adjourned on the afternoon of June 14. Participants thanked the hosts for their hospitality.

Annex I – Decisions and actions



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

IAI/CoP/25/3

Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the IAI Bogotá, Colombia, 13-14 June 2017

Decisions and actions

Day 1

XXV/1 – Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

The CoP elected the following members as the bureau for its twenty fifth session: Omar Franco from Colombia as the Chair, Jean Ometto from Brazil as the First Vice-Chair, and Martín Lorieo Giucci from Uruguay as the Second Vice-Chair.

XXV/2 – Agenda of the CoP

The CoP approved the agenda of its twenty-fifth session.

XXV/3 – Minutes of the 24th CoP

The CoP approved the minutes of its twenty-fourth session.

XXV/4 – Minutes of the Special CoP for the election of the Executive Director

The CoP approved the minutes of the Special Conference of the Parties in Panama.

XXV/5 – Election of members for the Credentials Committee

The CoP elected the members of the Credentials Committee: Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay and Soledad Noya from the IAI Directorate. The committee in its composition is appointed for two years and the members are requested to serve in the period between sessions.

XXV/6 – Open data policy and principles

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.

XXV/7 – Quorum

The Credentials Committee informed that twelve delegations had submitted the official credentials to participate in the CoP: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panamá, Paraguay, United States and Uruguay. Required number of accredited Parties to constitute quorum is eight.

XXV/8 – Recommendation of candidates to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Committee to recommend candidates to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) made the following recommendation to fill the vacant positions: Drs. Carlos Joly and Teresa Cavazos (from nominations by the Parties); and Drs. Michelle Grunauer and Antonio Magalhaes (from nominations by the SAC).

XXV/9 – Recommendation of candidates to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

The Committee to recommend candidates to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) made the following recommendation to fill the vacant positions: Dr. Walter Baethgen (from nominations by the SPAC), Dr. Brigitte Baptiste (from nominations by the IAI Directorate) and Dr. Evelia Rivera (from nominations by the Parties).



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

**Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the IAI
Bogotá, Colombia, 13-14 June 2017**

Decisions and actions

Day 2

XXV/10 – Approval of list of decisions and actions of day 1

The CoP approved the list of decisions and actions of day 1.

XXV/11 – Election of members to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

The CoP elected by consensus the following members to the SAC: Drs. Carlos Joly and Teresa Cavazos (from nominations by the Parties); and Drs. Michelle Grunauer and Antonio Magalhaes (from nominations by the SAC).

XXV/12 – Election of members to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

The CoP elected by consensus the following members to the SPAC: Dr. Walter Baethgen (from nominations by the SPAC), Dr. Brigitte Baptiste (from nominations by the IAI Directorate) and Dr. Evelia Rivera (from nominations by the Parties).

XXV/13 – Resignation of member and covering of the vacancy on the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

The CoP decided to accept the nomination of Dr. Maria Netto Schneider to cover the vacancy arising from the resignation of Dr. Luis Basterra, both from Parties nominations, and elected her by consensus.

XXV/14 – Template for presentation of background information for election of SAC and SPAC members

The CoP will request the Executive Council to draft a template for the presentation of background information for SAC and SPAC candidates.

XXV/15 – Core Budget Request for FY 2017-2018

The CoP approved the Core Budget Request for fiscal year 2017-2018.

XXV/16 – Country contributions for FY 2017-2018

The CoP approved the unchanged level of country contributions for fiscal year 2017-2018.

XXV/17 – Acceptance of Financial Statements as of 28 February 2017

The CoP accepted the Financial Statements as of 28 February 2017.

XXV/18 – Acceptance of auditors' reports of financial statements ending 30 June 2015 and 2016

The CoP accepted the auditors' reports of the Financial Statements as of 30 June 2015 and 2016.

XXV/19 – Joint SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings

The CoP directed the Directorate to ensure that SAC, SPAC and EC-CoP meetings overlap to favor interaction.

XXV/20 – Membership of the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC)

The CoP directed the Directorate to remind Member Countries on the need for more members on the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC).

XXV/21 – Member Country data-sheets

The CoP directed the Directorate to post individual Member Country data-sheets on the IAI website informing on the benefits the country receives from the IAI and the contributions from the country to the Institute.

XXV/22 – Access to official IAI documents

The CoP decided that EC, CoP, SAC and SPAC documents be available without password on the IAI website.

XXV/23 – IAI long-term communication strategy and plan

The CoP directed the Directorate to draft a long-term communication strategy and plan. The document will be presented at the next CoP.

XXV/24 – IAI long-term funding strategy

The CoP directed the Directorate to draft a long-term funding strategy for the IAI. The strategy will be presented at the next CoP.

XXV/25 – Enhancing activity of IAI Member Country Representatives

The CoP encourages proactive participation by country representatives in IAI meetings, reporting on IAI research project results in their countries, and working for the timely payment of country contributions.

XXV/26 – Outreach brochure of the IAI

The CoP directed the Directorate to prepare an outreach brochure that would be updated annually.

XXV/27 – Participation in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days

The CoP decided that country delegates contact funding agencies within their countries to participate in the Belmont Forum Americas Information Days in São Paulo, Brazil, in the first week of November 2017.

XXV/28 – Augmenting science communication capacities of IAI research projects

The CoP directed the Directorate to find ways to enhance the capacity of IAI research projects to communicate their results to stakeholders.

XXV/29 – 25th Anniversary publication

At the request of the SAC Chair, the CoP directed the Directorate to prepare a proposal for the content of the 25th anniversary publication and editorial responsibilities.

XXV/30 – Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI

The CoP renewed the term of the Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI for one year. The committee will maintain its terms of reference and membership: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador (Vice-Chair), Uruguay, and United States of America (Chair). The Committee shall be open to all the Parties.

XXV/31 – Reporting to CoP on fundraising activities by the Executive Director

The CoP directed the Executive Director to present a report on fundraising activities and results.

Annex II – Resolutions



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

TWENTY-FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CoP) OF THE IAI Bogotá, Colombia, 13-14 June 2017

The IAI Conference of the Parties, at its twenty-fifth session held on 13-14 June 2017, in Bogotá, Colombia, adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1

The Conference of the Parties approved the Core Budget Request for FY 2017-2018.

RESOLUTION 2

The Conference of the Parties approved to maintain the level of country contributions for FY 2017-2018 with no modifications.

Chair of the Executive Council

1st Vice-chair of the Executive Council

2nd Vice-chair of the Executive Council



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

**TWENTY-FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CoP) OF THE IAI
13-14 June 2017 – Bogotá, Colombia**

The IAI Conference of the Parties, at its twenty-fifth session held on 13-14 June 2017, in Bogotá, Colombia, adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 3

The Conference of the Parties elected by consensus the following members to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC): Drs. Carlos Joly and Teresa Cavazos (from nominations by the Parties); and Drs. Michelle Grunauer and Antonio Magalhaes (from nominations by the SAC).

RESOLUTION 4

The Conference of the Parties elected by consensus the following members to the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC): Dr. Walter Baethgen (from nominations by the SPAC), Dr. Brigitte Baptiste (from nominations by the IAI Directorate), and Drs. Evelia Rivera and Maria Netto Schneider (from nominations by the Parties).

Chair of the Executive Council

1st Vice-chair of the Executive Council

2nd Vice-chair of the Executive Council

Page 2/2

Annex III – Letter from the outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Holm Tiessen, to the CoP

Due to unforeseen difficulties I will not be able to join this year's meetings, but would like to convey a parting message of thank you to the teams that have allowed me to contribute to 12 years during which Global Change science became more integrated, more purposeful, and more important: to the country representations, the staff, and the volunteers of the advisory committees. The paths taken and accomplishments of these years are testimony not only to IAI leadership but also to the contributions of many teams and individuals.

The Basis:

12 years ago, in 2005, I joined an IAI that had just failed an audit with a list of management deficiencies that ran to 19 pages, had its funding frozen, and was hoping to implement a new collaborative research network that had been placed on hold. Since then, the leadership for and of the IAI has produced a very different Institute:

Within a year the IAI passed a clean audit, and new financial and administrative management eliminated the management list within 3 years. This created an IAI which measured up to the standards of funding agencies and established the confidence and trust needed to manage programs and international funds. Much of this work was done with collaboration and close scrutiny by the frequent visitors from NSF, the IAI's main funder. Consolidation of workgroups and closer collaboration among all staff helped link administrative efficiencies with important tasks of capacity building and research.

Shaping Science Excellence:

The primary condition for the IAI's existence is excellence in science.

At the same time as it was putting its management in order, the Institute therefore launched a new collaborative research program, and in 2006 began an analysis and synthesis of the science and decision making of its previous programs. This analysis was critical for guiding the next steps in shaping IAI science: the SAC had recommended "that the directorate work with investigators to improve approved projects", something that funding agencies rarely do. The synthesis resulted in a book "Communicating Global Change Science to Society", by Island Press, which was co-edited by the executive director, the SAC chair, the science officer and one of the CRN principal investigators. This was a clear sign of the developing collaborative spirit in the IAI. As a next step to forge collaborations, in 2007, I requested to hold the first ever joint meeting between the SAC and the CoP.

The IAI leadership and SAC learned from these dialogues and analyses, and together began to actively steer the integration of natural and human sciences. A new small grant program succeeded in linking interests and establishing collaborations between natural and human disciplines. In conjunction with the natural science dominated CRNs, it demonstrated that neither natural nor human dimensions research alone is sufficient to develop adaptive capacities of societies under global change.

The impact of this "networking the research networks" and developing interdisciplinarity was tremendous: CRN2 and human dimensions grants involved 122 institutions and 223 investigators in 18 IAI member countries. Close to 2,000 students participated in training events and workshops promoted by projects, and 786 received scholarships from these grants. Investigators produced 489 peer-reviewed journal articles and 127 books or book chapters. Three projects reported their research outcomes to the UNFCCC, and one to the CBD. With an original award from NSF of US\$ 11 million, projects leveraged US\$ 37 million, attesting to the importance and recognition of the program. The transdisciplinary potential of these programs was acknowledged by Canada's IDRC which provided US\$ 400,000 for social and economic research to extend IAI projects on landuse change and hydrology in the La Plata Basin. This project assessed the climatic risks associated with rural development

and landuse change, across disciplines and jurisdictions and in contrast to the usual grant making was conducted by the executive director as principal investigator.

By 2010, the SAC had its own first social and medical specialists on the team. Together with the directorate it continued for drive for transdisciplinary science: the CRN3 program's 17 projects were designed specifically to promote joint proposals between natural and human sciences, and to develop best practices for the construction of interdisciplinary and intersectoral teams. Following project selection, the implementation still required persistent dedication by SAC volunteers and the directorate to work with investigators to reinforce the social dimensions and improve interdisciplinary integration.

Building Capacity:

These years were characterized by mutual learning between the Institute and its scientists. Consequently, the IAI capacity building program was reshaped to converge more and more with IAI research efforts:

The 2005 training institutes on vulnerability under climate variability and on climate and health were conducted by contracted coordinators. The focus of subsequent training institutes was to promote collaboration, integration, and explore synergies, with the multidisciplinary projects of IAI research programs. The 2006 training institute on climate, land use and modeling, for instance, was held for and with IAI researchers and resulted in immediate advances in linking land and atmosphere models. Several training institutes, such as one with Mexico's National Institute of Public Health on climate change and health in 2008, directly grew out of a CRN. Attended by 18 professionals from 6 countries, that training event greatly broadened the outreach of the research.

Beginning in 2005, small seed grants were given to teams of trainees in order to add an experiential dimension to the training. By 2007, 44 scientists from 19 countries were involved in these grants. These seed grants have been very cost-effective, and have shown that the training events can greatly improve proposal writing and grant making. As a result, future research programs will incorporate training events as part of the proposal and project preparations so that interdisciplinarity, team-building and policy relevance can be improved.

Being heard:

Global change science, supported by research and capacity building, responds to real needs of the continent to adapt and mitigate. Synthesizing, shaping and communicating results, obtaining feedback from stakeholders and decision-makers, and redesigning the process of complex, integrated social-environmental sciences is therefore an essential task of the IAI.

The training institutes of 2005 were co-organized with many partners: Canada's IDRC, WMO, IHDP, START, IRI, UNISDR, GWSP, the Presidency of Paraguay, Environment Canada, Health Canada, Johns Hopkins University, NOAA, PAHO and the Ministry of Health of Jamaica. Subsequent books were co-published with IICA on Food Systems and Globalization, and with UNEP on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change. Such collaborations not only enriched content but amplified outreach.

With its host INPE, the IAI initiated an internship program on climate science in 2006, which for 7 years supported guest researchers and forged enduring collaborations. Also in 2006, the IAI - NCAR post-doctoral program in atmospheric and related sciences was started. One of its participants became Vice-Minister of the Environment of Ecuador in 2011, just one example of the IAI presence in the continent's decision making.

Funded in 2008 by the MacArthur Foundation, an assessment on the capacity of Tropical Andean institutions to generate and integrate knowledge, followed by research on climate and biodiversity was concluded in 2011 with 7 national meetings in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, 4 regional workshops and 1 science-policy forum. Over 400

professionals, from 183 institutions and 12 countries participated. The synthesis resulted in a first of its kind 350 page science e-book documenting the state-of-the-knowledge on biodiversity and climate change in the Tropical Andes.

The increased visibility of IAI initiatives resulted in renewed interest in the Institute by several member countries. With such re-engagement, in 2011, there were no member countries deemed to be "inactive" under the rules of the CoP.

In 2006, the IAI obtained observer status at the UNFCCC, participated in a side event at the UNCBD in Curitiba and began its continuing active presence at the UNFCCC SBSTA in Bonn. In subsequent years, the IAI provided opportunities for its scientists to present research to the conventions on topics that responded to convention priorities: effects of land cover change on radiative energy balances that critically change regional climate; carbon sinks and sources in the oceans; biodiversity and carbon cycling in dry forests – all topics identified through a constant dialogue between the IAI and the conventions.

When IPBES was founded, the IAI was present with staff, principal investigators and SAC members contributing to the development of transdisciplinary themes: the value of biodiversity for different social actors; viable models for partnerships that promote capacity building and the science-policy interface.

As a result of these activities, the IAI was heard at the Conventions: The Institute played a critical role in the “Lima 2014 Declaration on Biodiversity and Climate Change”. The IAI CoP on behalf of its member countries drafted a call for UNFCCC to pay greater attention to issues of adaptation in Latin America, a principle that has now been mainstreamed in the Convention.

Evolving context:

Global change science in 2005 was very different from today. Neither Future Earth nor the Belmont Forum existed. Since then, the IAI has played an important role in shaping Global Change initiatives: the executive director contributed to IGFA, Belmont's precursor, since 2004; the IAI worked with IHDP on Food Systems and Globalization in 2005, it contributed to the 2006 ESSP Open Science Meeting, and was part of the first Future Earth bids in 2013. Since 2013, the executive director has promoted an equitable, open structure for Future Earth's regional presence, which has now been mapped out but still needs to be filled with content and actions. Together with CONICET (Argentina) FAPESP (São Paulo) and CONACYT (Mexico), the IAI initiated a process towards an Inter-American Forum of Funding agencies, modeled on the Belmont Forum, that is yet to be concluded. The Inter-American Forum would serve an additional purpose: since small countries do not have the research capacity to tackle all of the complexity of Global Change, they could share research tasks and collaborate in the generation of knowledge. The Forum could facilitate this by providing co-funding opportunities, act as a consortium in linking with the Belmont Forum, and provide national and regional priorities to the interactions with Future Earth. More work remains to be done.

Several Global institutions now define their mandates not by science needs but by societal challenges. Following the opportunity created by the 2012 tripartite agreement, a new science-policy liaison office and a science-policy advisory committee, SPAC, permit the IAI explore such challenges, evaluate the IAI impact on the institutions and decision making of the continent, and assess the process of developing greater transdisciplinarity to address the challenges the Continent faces. Both the science-policy office and the SPAC are critical drivers of this process. These are opportunities for enhanced sciencepolicy dialogues and apprenticeship. I hope that analysis and foresight will soon also be enhanced by renewed collaborations in Brazil.

The last 12 years have been years of evolution and co-evolution, of leadership and cooperation, of team building, and of engaging the most important component of the IAI - its researchers, scientists and students - to embrace a new integrated science and new responsibilities. I thank the IAI team, the member countries, the many volunteers, and the scientists for their constructive spirit, innovative work, intellectual leadership and foresight that have made the IAI one of the leading institutions on Global Change, and I wish the Institute and its new executive director success in building on its achievements, evolving further and adapting to ever more urgent challenges.

Holm Tiessen
June 8, 2017

ACRONYMS

AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science / Asociación Americana para el Avance de la Ciencia
CAF	Latin American Development Bank / Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina
CBD /CDB	Convention on Biological Diversity / Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica
CIESIN	Center for International Earth Science Information Network / Centro para la Red Internacional de Información en Ciencias de la Tierra
CIIFEN	Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno de El Niño / International Research Center on El Niño
CODATA	Committee on Data for Science and Technology / Comité de Información para Ciencia y Tecnología
CONABIO	National Committee for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Mexico) / Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (México)
CONICET	National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Argentina)/ Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas (Argentina)
CoP	Conference of the Parties / Conferencia de las Partes
CRN	Collaborative Research Network Program / Programa de Redes de Investigación Cooperativa
EC / CE	Executive Council / Consejo Ejecutivo
FAPESP	Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (Brasil) / Foundation for Research Support of the State of São Paulo
ICSU	International Council for Science / Consejo Internacional para la Ciencia
ICSU ROLAC	ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean / Oficina Regional de ICSU para América Latina y el Caribe
IOM /OIM	International Organization for Migration / Organización Internacional para las Migraciones
IUBS	International Union of Biological Sciences / Unión Internacional de Ciencias Biológicas
MINCyT	Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (Argentina) / Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva (Argentina)
NSF	National Science Foundation (USA) /Fundación Nacional de Ciencias (EEUU)
OAS / OEA	Organization of American States / Organización de los Estados Americanos
PDS	Professional Development Seminar /Seminario de Desarrollo Profesional
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee / Comité Asesor Científico
SBSTA / OSACT	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice / Órgano de Asesoramiento Científico y Tecnológico
SDGs / ODS	Sustainable Development Goals / Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible
SEMARNAT	Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico) /Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (México)
SENACyT	National Secretariat for Science and Technology (Guatemala) / Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (Guatemala)
SPAC	Science-Policy Liaison Advisory Committee / Comité Asesor en Ciencia y Políticas
SGP	IAI Small Grant Program / Programa de Pequeños Subsidios (IAI)
UNFCCC / CMNUCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change / Convenio Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático
UN /ONU	United Nations / Organización de las Naciones Unidas