

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH**



EC-XIX & CoP-XI
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Paula Richter

20th Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

1-2 April, 2004, Ottawa, Canada

Participants:

SAC Members: Walter Fernandez (Chair), Michael Brklacich, Rene Capote, Alejandro Castellanos, Silvia Garzoli, Lynne Hale, Luiz F. Legey. Absent: Julia Paegle, Maria A. Silva Dias, Gary Yohe.

Observers: Antonio Mc Dowell (IAI EC Chair), Paul Filmer (NSF)

IAI Directorate: Gerhard Breulmann (Scientific Officer), Eduardo Banus (CRN Program Manager), Paula Richter (Assistant). The IAI Director was not able to attend the meeting.

1. Opening by SAC Chair

The SAC Chair, Walter Fernandez, welcomed all participants and thanked Mike Brklacich and Maureen Woodrow for their help in organizing the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes from 19th SAC meeting, Santo Domingo

After some minor corrections made before the meeting, the SAC approved the report of its XIX meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The SAC approved the agenda, adding bullet 6: Main resolutions of concern to SAC (from the last EC meeting – meeting EC Chair-SAC Chair)

4. Update on SGP I and SGP II

The Scientific Officer informed that 11 out of 16 the SGPI project reports had been received, the remaining five are on no-cost extensions mainly due to administrative delays in the transfer of the initial payment. One of the PIs is not responding to enquiries and if no response is received in early April 2004 the Scientific Officer suggests applying the IAI Suspension and Termination Procedures for Projects. The SAC discussed the issue and confirmed that this is the correct procedure in such case.

SGP II: The 22 proposals recommended for funding by the SAC were approved by the EC. All PIs were informed about the results of the evaluation on 16 December 2003. Most projects will commence in March or April 2004 due to the year-end vacation and some delays due to administrative arrangements. As of 1 April 2004 ten projects have received the initial payment (80%). Others are in the process of preparing documentation.

5. Update on CRN I

- Update on the projects under CRN I

As requested at the last SAC meeting, the CRN Program Manager Eduardo Banus (EB) prepared a report on the program, including:

- Number of students supported by CRN projects. EB informed these students received financial support from the IAI (through the CRN) but also national agencies. EB will need to follow-up with the PIs to obtain info on how many students were actually supported financially by IAI, but also how many students participated in the science without receiving financial support.
- Publications listed by the PIs will only be considered by the IAI if its support is acknowledged. This policy is now strictly applied and followed by the PIs.

- External funds: The statistics show that the projects have support not only from national or regional organizations, but some of them received funds through agencies outside the region (UK, Germany, EU).
 - The CRN awards provided a very good basis for most PIs to leverage funds from other institutions
 - The capacity building component of the CRNs is very strong; new people get involved continuously and expand the networks; CRNs build lasting collaborations, e.g. students who start working in the networks continue publishing with the PIs/Co-PIs.
- Final meeting CRN I, Report to NSF, Synthesis CRN I

The final report should be a synthesis of the program as a whole. The SAC analyzed different possibilities:

- The SO could prepare a synthesis of CRN I with the help of the SAC members.
- The Synthesis could be in form of an edited book. Each PI could be the author of one chapter. The book should be published by the IAI and not a publishing company. Division into chapters could follow the Themes of the IAI Science Agenda (although the themes are not balanced in the CRN program)
- Funds from the terminated CRN project could be relocated to prepare the synthesis.
- The SO will prepare a list of alternatives for the publication.
- CRN Synthesis meeting would be useful to show the achievements of the program and attract new sponsors.
- Silvia Garzoli suggested that IAI could try to have special sessions at meetings such as the IGU with invited talks by the PIs making a presentation on their projects and one PI summarizing the program.
- The SO had been in contact with John Stewart about the possibility of synthesizing CRN using the SCOPE mechanism. John Stewart presented a written outline of a potential schedule which was distributed to the SAC members for their consideration.
- Policy relevant outcomes should be highlighted in Final Project Reports
- Each country should be informed about the contribution of any (CRN) project to that country's Science Agenda (this does require that IAI be informed about each country's agenda).

- Revised IAI Reporting Format, Questionnaire to CRN PI's/Co-PI's

The SO presented a draft format for Final Technical Project Reports to be followed by the PIs.

- Policy relevance: As requested in the original CRN call for proposals, the PIs need to report on policy relevance – this is considered in the Draft Format presented.
- A section 'Lessons learned' should be included where the PIs can express their opinion on how to improve the process. This could be number 14 in the guide for technical report.

Closed session: SAC members and the observers held a closed session

6. Main EC resolutions of concern to SAC

Joint EC/SAC meeting: The SAC Chair informed about his meeting with the EC Chair. A letter will be sent to the country representatives requesting information about their priorities in Global Change. Should there be no reply, the leaders of the research organizations will be invited to provide this information.

- IAI Program Manager Position (for all IAI programs): The opening of the position announcement has to be approved by the CoP.

- The EC Chair was informed on the open SAC positions. A letter will be sent to the EC/CoP, with the recommended areas of expertise needed (see bullet 9)

7. SAC actions to help re-commit & re-engage the IAI member countries

- Highlight awards received by IAI scientists (e.g. Paul Crutzen Award in Young Scientists conference). Michael Brklacich suggested that letters be sent to the country representatives informing them on such facts.
- The SAC continued the discussion started in Santo Domingo about a presentation of the IAI scientific contributions to member countries and the connection between the IAI Science Agenda and the countries scientific needs. The data presented by the CRN Program Manager provide valuable additional information for such presentation. The work on such presentation should start as soon as the country priorities have been specified.

8. CRN II & SGP III

A Draft Call for Proposals will be prepared by the SO with input from Alejandro Castellanos and Mike Brklacich. The call should encourage applied science proposals.

- Schedule

The SO presented a table with the schedule for the application and evaluation process of future SGP and CRN. The table will need to be adjusted at the time of approval to launch CRNII.

- Evaluation process & evaluation criteria for CRN II
- Letter of Intent (LoI)

This stage can only discriminate non-relevant proposals and it is therefore questionable whether such stage would be 'productive' or should rather be dropped. The LoI's would be evaluated against the following four criteria:

- Relevance to IAI Science Agenda
- Relevance to participating countries
- Identification of research gap the proposal would fill
- Capacity building potential

- Mail review system

The SO expressed his concern that the group of Mail reviewers currently in the IAI Database is not large enough to handle a major program. The IAI needs a far broader base of reviewers. The SAC members will approach their own contacts for support in reviews. Other programs (ESSP, etc.) should also be contacted (this has already been practiced by the SO during the SGP II review).

- Mid-term Evaluation of CRN II; Institutional Audits

The scientific mid-term evaluation of CRN II needs to be thoroughly planned and should be carried out by two or three reviewers per project.

Institutional Audits: Institutional audits are not under the responsibility of the SAC and the committee therefore does not make a recommendation concerning such audits.

9. SAC Issues

- Profiles of SAC member positions to be (re-)elected at CoP, July 2004.

The SAC recommends the following areas of expertise for candidates to be nominated:

- Expertise Area
- A Oceanic and atmospheric variability - physical and chemical processes
- B Coastal and estuarine processes, coastal vulnerability, fisheries (food security)
- C Variability of cultivated systems (crop systems), Food Systems, Food Security
- D Climate Change and atmospheric physics or physical meteorology
- E Forestry and applied ecology, LUCC, Carbon
- F Economics, urban issues, human health

The SAC confirmed that the current SAC is well balanced and the profile of the SAC members to be (re-) elected is very appropriate. The SAC Chair will forward the above expertise areas to the IAI Director in order to be forwarded asap to the EC/CoP.

Due to the fact that a large number of SAC positions are open including the SAC Chair and to guarantee the stability and continuity of the Committee, Alejandro Castellanos is elected as Co-Chair and in this capacity is supposed to participate at the upcoming EC/CoP meeting in Buenos Aires, 28 June – 2 July 2004. Alejandro accepted the election with great pleasure.

- Mandate of the IAI SAC

The mandates of all IAI committees including the SAC are outlined in the Agreement establishing the IAI. In order to clarify the SAC mandate, the mandate of the Directorate and the Director in terms of IAI science, the according chapters of the agreement were presented to the committee. The SO will send copies of the Agreement to the SAC members.

- Meeting EC/CoP – SAC (June, Buenos Aires)

The SAC recommends that the SAC Chair and Co-chair attend the EC/CoP meeting in Buenos Aires.

- 21st Meeting of the SAC in conjunction with Regional Conference on Global Change – The South American Case, USP, Sao Paulo, Brazil 10-13 November 2004 (SAC 8./9. Nov. 2004)

As the Regional Conference has been postponed, until 2005, the SAC has to identify a new venue for its 21st meeting to be held in early November 2004. Suggested countries are Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

Rene Capote and Lynne Hale repeat their invitations to host a future meeting in Havana, Cuba and at the TNC facilities in Washington, US respectively. Silvia Garzoli offered to host a meeting in Miami in May 2005.

- Potential IAI Partners

Silvia Garzoli introduced several US organizations/programs, e.g. Ocean US, NOAA, (ARGO, AOML) with the potential for partnerships with the IAI specifically for observation and monitoring systems. Such partnership could be of great value for both sides, with the financial support coming

from the US institution using the IAI's network. Regional Institutions could greatly benefit from such a partnership.

10. Any other business

The SAC recommends that a Calendar of Events (relevant workshops/ conferences) be included in the IAI web site.

To increase IAI visibility, the SAC recommends that the EC/CoP representative of the country where a SAC meeting be invited as observer to attend the meeting and that half day be dedicated to discussions with him/her, government representatives and the local scientific community.

The SAC requested that hard copies of the Annual Report be sent to all SAC members.

Paul Filmer suggested to make available in public domain on the IAI website all non-confidential IAI meeting reports (EC, CoP, SAC)

The SAC Chair closed the meeting with thanks to Michael Brklacich, Maureen Woodrow and Isabel Cristina Vega for their work in the organization of the meeting and taking care of all the details. He then thanked the outgoing SAC members Lynne Hale, Julia Paegle and Gary Yohe for their contributions. He also thanked the EC Chair, Antonio Mc Dowell, and Paul Filmer (from NSF) for attending the meeting.

The meeting is adjourned.