

A CONCEPT PROPOSAL FOR AN INITIAL SCIENCE PROGRAM, ROUND III

Background

In April 1995, the CoP approved an Initial Science Program for the IAI (ISP). This ISP was designed to initiate the IAI Science Agenda in the interim period until the Conference of the Parties, the governing body of the IAI, establishes the first of approved IAI programs, a decision which could not be before late 1997 or early 1998. Most importantly, it was decided that "the ISP be composed of an integration of (i) programs and activities under the GEF project, and (ii) a selected set of high priority programs and activities that would advance through near-term investments, the goals and objectives of the IAI. In summary, the intent of the ISP was to actually begin with appropriate financial support some science programs and activities across the spectrum of IAI goals and objectives, i.e. initiate at the earliest possible time some near-terms programs and activities in research, education and training, data and information management, communications, modeling and/or other high priority areas."¹

Today, it can be perceived that there are various activities presently conducted or under implementation which are part of this ISP:

- a) the Initial Science Program Rounds I and II: 228 proposals were submitted and a total of 20-25 proposals will be finally funded;
- b) the Start-up Grants (phase I): These are planning activities set up to facilitate the development of cooperation among several institutions and scientists of 2 or more IAI countries, and to foster the development of formal proposals to the IAI for longer term programs and activities. 109 proposals were submitted of which 37 were approved and funded;
- c) the "unsolicited proposals" including workshops, seminars and short training courses: Over 12 workshops, seminars and short courses were conducted during the past year;
- d) the IAI/GEF project, under full implementation since October 1995: Through this project basic computational equipment to 14 signatory countries have been provided; also 14 up to 6 months fellowships to scientists of the IAI region to conduct graduate work on global change themes and 15 up to 2 months fellowships to train technical staff on the use of GIS are being implemented.

This wide range of programs and activities is undoubtedly promoting a strong collaboration among institutions and countries in almost every subject of the IAI Science Agenda.

In addition, the announcement of the Phase II of the Start-up Grants (IAISG-II) is tentatively scheduled for early 1997. The IAISG-II is designed to encourage and strengthen

¹ Source: "A proposal for an Initial Science Program (ISP) of the IAI." IAI:D/I.DD/April 24, 1995.

