



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research

Ottawa, Canada, April 2, 2004.

Mr. Antônio Mac Dowell,
Chair, IAI Executive Council

Dear Mr. Chairman,

During the 20th meeting of the SAC held in Ottawa on April 1 and 2, we received briefings on the IAI Directorate's financial situation. The SAC Chair reported on the November Executive Committee meeting in Costa Rica, and the SAC member of the *ad hoc* Committee on Relations with Member States reported on the February discussions that were held in São José dos Campos, Brazil.

Recognizing our responsibility to advise the Conference of the Parties on the IAI's Scientific Programs, we urge you to consider the following.

IAI's science programs are making important and unique contributions to advancing our understanding of global change within the Americas and of creating the capacity and networks to further this understanding and application to the urgent problems facing the region's countries. In addition, the strength of IAI's peer review and proposal selection system is unique within the region.

The SAC was unanimous in its opinion that the current financial state of affairs and the uncertainty it creates is placing the IAI's scientific achievements in jeopardy, and that action must be taken now if we are to sustain progress and achievement. Among the IAI's various programs, the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) program provides the best example of both the importance of IAI's scientific activities and the concern we have for its future. The SAC was pleased that the second round of the CRN Program was approved by the Ninth Meeting of the IAI Conference of the Parties at its 2003 meeting in Boulder. However, the SAC was deeply concerned about the delay in launching the approved second round. Further delays in this and other programs will undermine the credibility and momentum IAI has built over the last decade.

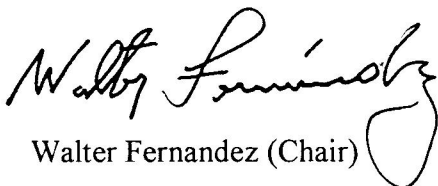
We therefore strongly urge the Executive Council Bureau to instruct the IAI Director to:

1. Take the necessary steps to ensure the continuity of the Institute's scientific programs;
2. Develop a short term action plan immediately, to be presented to the Conference of the Parties at their next meeting in June;
3. Fully implement the Action Plan during the second half of 2004.

As a Committee and as individuals we stand ready to continue to work with the Director and the member countries to ensure the continuity of excellence in the IAI science program.

Respectfully submitted,

IAI – Scientific Advisory Committee.

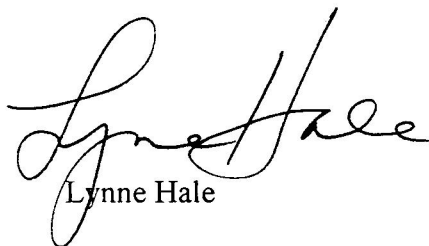

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