

**PESCA Program Update**  
**A Report to the IAI Executive Council**

At the writing of this report the PESCA selection process has not been completed. Final selection of projects awaits the results of the PESCA review panel and the input of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the IAI. The PESCA review panel will be meeting November 15 and 16, 1999 and the SAC will be meeting November 18 and 19, 1999. This report will describe PESCA activities up to November 8, 1999.

In late July, 1999 the PESCA call was made. The call was publicized through the IAI Listserver (which has almost 2000 subscribers), the IAI Newsletter, and through the country representatives of the IAI Council of the Parties. The deadline for proposals was September 15, 1999. A total of 22 proposals were received. Two of these were disqualified for failing to link with existing IAI programs. The 20 proposals considered under this program are listed in Table 1. Total requested funding for this \$300,000 program is around \$516,000.

**Table 1. Projects submitted under the PESCA Program.**

#	Linked Project #	Title	PI	Co-PI	Requested Budget	New Country
01	CRN - 048	Prediction of climate variability and its impact on cholera Epidemiology in Peru	Confalonieri, U.	Lanata, C	\$30,000	Peru
02	CRN - 048	Climate variability, landscape ecology of Anopheles vectors, and risk of malaria transmission in Cuba	Confalonieri, U.	Ponce, R.	\$17,500	Cuba
03	ISP III - 018	Grupos funcionales de microartrópodos de suelo, como herramientas sensibles a cambios en la vegetación y en el ecosistema.	Diaz, S.	Convarrubias, R	\$29,966	Chile
04	ISP III-030	Climate atlas for the Caribbean and Central America Region	Diaz, H.	Chen, A	27,500	Jamaica
05	CRN-073	Analysing and understanding climate variability in the Caribbean Islands	Magaña, V.	Chen, A	\$24,000	Jamaica
06	ISP III-041	Predicting ENSO effects on sugar cane yields using a weather-generator and mechanistic crop modeling	Utset, A.	Cisneros, P. Amarakoon, A.	\$24,600	Ecuador Jamaica
07	CRN-055	Atmospheric transient phenomena in subtropical South America: Long term impacts and interannual variability	Nuñez, M.	Garreaud, R	\$26,950	Chile
08	ISP III-076	Reacciones heterogeneas sobre superficies de ácido sulfúrico	Canziani, P.	Prendez, M	\$30,000	Chile
09	CRN-047	Analisis de la incidencia del fenomeno ENOS en las subcuencas mayores de la cuenca del Rio Amazonas	McClain, M.	Targino, A.	\$29,590	Uruguay
10	ISP III-077	Impact of forestry on Uruguayan grasslands: changes in landuse patterns and ecosystem functioning	Paruelo, J.	Eguren, G.	\$25,900	Uruguay

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11	ISP III-011	Dowscaling activities and their applications of studies of climate variability and change in South America	Nobre, C.	Bravo de Guenni, L.	\$15,000	Venezuela
12	CRN-0 31	An inventory of disasters in Chile, ENSO and non-ENSO related: A La Red-Chile Project	Franco, E.	León, A.	\$30,000	Chile
13	CRN-0 40	Efectos de los cambios globales sobre la diversidad de la vegetación en ecosistemas insulares y continentales	Silva, J.	Herrera Peraza, R.	\$28,000	Cuba
14	CRN 038	On oceanic teleconnections between the equatorial and mid latitude pacific ocean	Cornejo, P.	Ribbe, J.	\$30,000	Chile
15	CRN03 8	When oceans conspire: Examining the effect of concurrent SST anomalies in the tropical Atlantic and Pacific on Caribbean rainfall	Cornejo, P.	Taylor, M.	\$28,600	Jamaica
16	CRN03 8	Diagnostics, modelation and assessment of climatic variability effects in several infectious disease in Cuba	Cornejo, P.	Ortiz Bulto, P..	\$15,000	Cuba
17	ISP III-076	Characterization of stratospheric and upper tropospheric aerosols over Central and South America	Canziani, P.	Juan Carlos Antuña	\$29,923	Cuba
18	CRN 03	Estudios dendroncronologicos de eventos El Niño y otras variaciones climáticas	Luckman, B.	Rodríguez, R..	\$26,600	Peru
19	CRN 047	Mercury in Andean Amazon river catchments – MAARC Project	McClain, M.	Betancourt, O Lucotte, M..	\$30,140	Ecuador / Canada
20	CRN 073	Aplicación de modelos numéricos de alta resolución en la simulación de la circulación atmosférica a escala local y regional en areas del Caribe	Magaña, V.	Mitrani Arenal, I.	\$16,500	Cuba
					<b>\$515,769</b>	

### ***Mail Review***

Each of the 20 proposals was then sent out to 4 – 5 volunteer mail reviewers. Each reviewer received, in addition to one or more PESCA proposals, a copy of the call for proposals, review criteria, a conflict of interest statement and form to sign. In all a total of 50 outside reviewers were involved in this process. As of November 8, 1999, evaluations have been received from 30 of these reviewers. A summary of mail reviewers by country is given below in Table 2.

Table 2. Number of mail reviewers listed by country.

Brazil	9
Canada	3
Chile	5
Colombia	2
Cuba	1
Ecuador	1
Mexico	5
Uruguay	3
United States	17
Venezuela	1
Other	3

### **Panel and SAC review**

On November 15 and 16, 1999 a review panel will meet in Tucson Arizona, USA to evaluate the PESCA proposals. The panel is made up of the 7 individuals listed in Table 3. Each proposal has been assigned a primary reviewer and 2 –3 secondary reviewers. Reviewers will describe and discuss each proposal in front of the panel and a consensus score will be assigned each proposal based upon the opinion of the panel. Panelists will use input from mail reviewers to reach a consensus evaluation of each proposal. The primary reviewer will be responsible for summarizing the panel comments to be returned to the PI of each proposal.

The PANEL evaluations will then be forwarded to the SAC, which will be meeting in Tucson in November 18 and 19, 1999. The SAC will use these recommendations to make a final recommendation to the IAI Directorate as to which projects will be funded. These recommendations will then be forwarded to the Executive Council for their approval.

Table 3. PESCA panel members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Expertise</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Country</b>
Robert Stewart	Forest Ecology	Canadian Forest Service	Canada
Patricio Aceituno	Climatology	Universidad de Chile	Chile
Claudio Batista	Biodiversity	Int. Nac. Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE)	Brazil
Alejandro Castellanos	Terrestrial Ecology	Universidad de Sonora .	Mexico
Carlos Fernandez	Hydrology	UNESCO	Uruguay
Todd Mitchell	Climatology	University of Washington	USA
Tereza Cavazos	Climatology	University of Arizona	Mexico