

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



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## Activities for 2006/07

As the IAI enters a new program phase, integration between different program components, training, science projects and outreach, is being strengthened, synergies developed and strategic goals developed for the program. The past years have established a program of scientific excellence. This now needs to integrate demands for relevance to policy and adaptation to global change, and address the strategic position of the IAI as a regional intergovernmental organization for the diverse regions of the Americas. This places new demands on the Directorate. Administrative streamlining is needed for more efficient function. Greater interaction with science and training partners and grant recipients, and the development of cooperation between different projects to consolidate a “network of networks” for science and capacity building is taking place. Increased involvement of member countries will need to be science-driven, i.e. based on the exploration of common interests between countries and the IAI.

Network cooperations have been initiated for CRN II. All projects have begun to interact with others, some now share resources, sites and methodologies. An important activity during the coming months will be to shape these alliances, and to develop a more balanced science program with them. Several of the projects now are exploring options for the development of a stronger social science component. Concept notes and proposals will be prepared over the next months.

Based on the above initiatives, the IAI will continue to fulfill its mandate in 2006/07 by implementing the six major strategies proposed by the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee and endorsed by the EC at its 16th meeting in Panama, December 2002:

- 1) consolidation and expansion of the cooperative research networks by encouraging institutional integration, increasing funding through external sources or in-kind support and by fostering links and interactions with other regional and international projects;
- 2) regular calls for proposals and the refinement of the science agenda giving priority to projects integrating global change research with sustainable development;
- 3) targeting of scientifically weak member countries for sustained and focused capacity-building;
- 4) facilitation of studies synthesizing and evaluating the state of knowledge on issues vital to the region as a whole and to under-studied sub-regions;

5) improvement of the IAI's capacity to disseminate research results through publications and other media, ensuring their availability to the public and integration into regional decision processes;

6) expansion of IAI activities to include brokerage of expertise, information and contacts in the region, and by implementing improved administrative procedures in regional agencies and organizations with the aim to build regional administrative capacity.

In detail, the Directorate's activities will be:

### **Administrative:**

In order to implement the science, training, institutional capacity building, network and outreach activities effectively across the many member nations and legislations, the administrative processes within the Directorate will be optimized. This will assure internal controls, simple transparent procedures and the clear separation of functions related to different funding mechanisms and responsibilities. Implementation of improved administrative processes and procedures is underway. The Employee Handbook, the Project Management Manual and a related and consistent Grant Agreement have developed and are being implemented in the new cooperative research network program. These tools are cornerstones for the management of future IAI research activities. Contracts for other projects and programs are being modelled on these patterns. A Procurement Manual, designed to promote a common understanding of procurement objectives, to ensure uniform interpretation of contractual requirements and IAI policies, to provide a basis for establishing management control, and to serve as a document for training and developing Directorate personnel, is being finalized in cooperation with the Financial and Administrative Committee.

The Directorate will further develop and fine-tune the IAI electronic proposal & report submission system: Electronic proposal submission has been used for the first time for the second round of the Small Grant Program (SGP II) in 2003 and has been developed further for CRN II. The system will now be extended to the submission of project reports, for registrations to the training institutes and to other IAI events, keeping track of registrations, programming and follow-up. The system is to be developed so that relevant information (e.g. publication titles, co-funding, names of students etc.) is fed into the IAI database keeping it automatically updated.

Improvements to the information technology sector to support science, training and

communication activities will continue, specifically: maintain the DIS portal and populate the DIS with metadata created from the IAI supported projects; integrate the current DIS with the system developed by the IAI funded cooperative research network at Florida International University; and maintain the data links with LBA; hold DIS workshops with PIs and collaborators from CRN II to facilitate technology adoption and optimize data access and availability; prepare promotional material for the DIS. In addition, we will implement a system for the control of reviews for future scientific programs, remodel the IAI data base and the website, and continue to assure full functionality, updating and security of all IT systems.

### **Science programming and management:**

A major effort is going towards the completion of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN I) program. The completion date of this program is 31 May 2006. The last project report is due 30 June 2006. The final program report to the NSF is due on 31 August 2006.

The CRN synthesis has been initiated with an IAI-SCOPE meeting in Ubatuba, Brazil “Linking the Sciences of Environmental Change to Society and Policy – lessons from 10 years of research networks in the Americas”. As Global Change is focusing increasingly on regional impacts, the IAI’s role as a regional organization is becoming more important. The regional impacts of global change have strong human dimensions both in the form of human drivers of change and in the impact of global change on the vulnerability and sustainability of societies, their institutions and their ecological support base. Nearly all of the CRNs had significant extension and policy components. The process initiated by the IAI-SCOPE workshop will advance the IAI science agenda, not only through the analysis of CRN I and the publication of a book in the SCOPE series in the third quarter of 2006, but importantly also by providing guidance to CRN II. The Directorate will play a pivotal role in steering this strategic planning process in the coming years. The book resulting from the IAI-SCOPE workshop is being edited by the Director, scientific officer and SAC chair.

Two further workshops are planned for the synthesis of CRN I, one focusing on issues of water resources that connect many of the CRN’s projects and provide a unifying theme, the other on the tools of global change research and the provision of the regional science capacity provided by the application of these tools in the networking efforts of the IAI. The hydrology theme will be further explored in a joint IAI-NCAR workshop, co-organized by the Directorate

in Costa Rica in 2007. Based on these activities full analysis of the 5 years of science efforts will be available by 2007.

CRN II will be implemented in 2006. Initial meetings of PIs and Authorized Institutional Representatives (AIR) have taken place. These meetings have had an excellent reception by PIs and AIRs. Participants from CRN I have provided lessons and strategies for project management. The Directorate is taking a much more proactive role in the design of CRN II than had been taken in CRN I. Given the still significant under representation of the human dimensions a further initiative to integrate with the approved CRN II program has been initiated. This constitutes a first step in a major effort by the Directorate towards developing a balanced science portfolio with policy relevance to the region, which will continue over the coming years.

Another part of the development of a strategic science portfolio will be the next Small Grant program (SGP) to be planned by the Directorate in collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Committee and to be implemented in 2007/08. The science programs will be more closely coordinated with Training Institutes to develop synergies and also to provide opportunities for successful trainees to compete in the different science programs.

As part of the IAI's strategy to raise its profile in its constituent nations, an intensification of the collaboration with Argentina, Brazil and Canada will take place in 2006. Argentina will host a number of joint IAI activities in the next years, starting in 2006.

A Program on Climate Variability in the Americas is being developed with the Center for Weather Forecast and Climate Studies, CPTEC. The Directorate is in the process to make CPTEC's parent organization, INPE an Affiliated Institution of the IAI. The objective of the cooperation is to offer the opportunity of co-sponsored research internships to scientific and professional personnel of IAI member countries. CPTEC offers computer time and support for model runs and interpretation, office space and low cost accommodation for the duration of the internship. The Program will have a duration of 2 years and be renewable. IAI will issue a yearly call for proposals and will select, in consultation with CPTEC, 3 to 6 proposals per year for 6 months of internship including travel and living expenses. Candidates will be required to submit a research proposal to IAI, curriculum vitae and 2 letters of recommendation, one of which provided by the employer. Selected candidates will produce mid term and final reports. Costs to IAI are estimated at US\$6K per participant, and to CPTEC at US\$20K per participant. Canada has expressed interest in activities on health, hydrology and urbanization. Details will be

developed during 2006. Joint Argentinean-Canadian activities are planned within the International Polar Year.

### **Training and Capacity Building:**

During the 2005 Training Institutes, a seed grant system was initiated which permits successful candidates to apply lessons from the training institutes and develop links with the wider IAI community. The Directorate's tasks for 2006 are to implement the selected projects, monitor progress and completion, and facilitate the integration of these projects with the over-all IAI science program. Interaction with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) which co-sponsored the seed grants, is hoped to lead to further cooperation, specifically on the links between climate variability and health.

Further development of networks with other collaborators and sponsors of the Training Institutes including Diversitas, IGBP, PAHO, WMO, IRI, START/AIACC, IHDP, and the strengthening of links to the global programs are particularly important since the IAI acts as a link between regional scientists and the global community. The IAI co-sponsors the Young Scientist and ESSP conferences in Beijing in Nov. 2006, and the Directorate will be in charge of liaison and logistics for sponsored Latin American participants. The Directorate will also participate in planning, sponsorships and special sessions in the IHDP summer schools in 2006-08.

Two IAI-NCAR Colloquia will be held in 2006/7. The first will take place over two weeks and will include 20-25 participants and 6-8 lecturers. Two coordinators, one from the natural sciences and one from the social science will lead the workshop on the topic "Policy planning and decision making involving climate variability", with a focus on water resources management, land use changes and coastal resources.

Two IAI post doctoral fellows will participate in NCAR's ASP post doc program. The fellowships will be joint IAI/NCAR appointments. With some customization, ASP's selection process will be used. Two further fellowships will be implemented at CPTEC in Cachoeira Paulista.

In 2006, a two week course will be held at CPTEC, Cachoeira Paulista, SP, Brazil on regional weather and climate modeling guided by Joe Klemp, NCAR, and Maria Assunção F. Silva Dias, CPTEC. Thematically, the course will address 3 of the CRN II proposals and will

also be open to other scientists. In 2007, a second course will be held in Costa Rica on the water cycle, with emphasis on precipitation and land surface with David Gochis, NCAR, and Walter Fernandez Rojas, Universidad de Costa Rica.

GIS workshops will be organized for IAI principal investigators in 2006, to be conducted by Olga Wilhelmi and Jennifer Boehnert. IAI will provide social data for Latin America so that the demonstration can be customized.

In order to integrate the IAI and its constituents into global science programs, new institutional, programmatic and financial partnerships are planned with:

- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) – part of the CRN I synthesis;
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) – on risk mapping;
- International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of Columbia University, USA.

Several joint Training Institutes which are of policy relevance and promote the integration of science and policy are planned for 2006-8, among them:

- Disasters and Risk Reduction and Management (with ISDR);
- Climate Change, Climate Variability and their impacts on productive socioeconomic sectors (agriculture, water resources and health) (with IRI);
- Global Change, Climate and Agriculture production (with IICA);
- Fostering Science-Policy Interface in Global Change: Leadership for a Sustainable World - Practical Skills for Promoting Change (with LEAD).

For these Training Institutes, the Directorate will develop programs in a multidisciplinary and multinational approach - science based but with practical applications exercises; develop local, regional and international partnerships for institutional, programmatic and financial cooperation; raise funds, manage registration, selection and follow-up of participants and provide logistical arrangements (travel, local facilities, etc);

The Directorate will also develop Training Institutes and workshops with principal investigators of IAI CRN II projects to foster multidisciplinary research, involvement of early career scientists from Latin America and the Caribbean, promote discussion and brainstorming on the Science-Policy interface and the collaboration among natural, social scientists and policy and decision makers. The links between individual CRNs into larger networks have been established during the start-up meetings.

The follow-up on the 2005 IAI Training Institutes Seed Grants and the programmatic and financial reports will be done in liaison with sponsoring agencies: NSF (US\$ 330K), IDRC (US\$ 30K), WMO (US\$ 15K), START/AIACC (US\$ 5K) , IHDP (US\$ 5K). Fundraising, planning, implementing and follow-up for Training Institutes will be on-going activities in 2006-08.

### **Communication activities**

The Directorate will produce and distribute the 2005-08 IAI Annual Reports. The IAI Training Institute book on Global Environmental Change, Globalization and Food Systems (in Spanish) is being produced in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. The IAI Training Institute book on Urbanization in Latin America (in English and Spanish) will be produced in cooperation with the National Institute of Ecology of Mexico (INE) and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). Regular publishing work will include the production of new informational materials (brochures, CDs, posters, etc.). The Directorate will participate in international conferences on IAI areas of priorities (e.g. AGU, UN conventions) as needed and according to availability of funds. The scientific officer and the Director are editors of the joint IAI-SCOPE book on Linking Science to Policy – an analysis of 10 years of Global Change Science in the Americas. This publication will be a major milestone in the IAI's development of greater policy relevance. A policy brief will be prepared jointly with UNESCO. The newsletter will be published in a new format and with content to promote project integration and discussion for a.

Overall, the IAI Directorate will engage in substantially new activities over the next 3 years in order to further develop the IAI's strengths in networking, international science programming and capacity building, while also engaging in the dialogue required to make the program more relevant to its constituent nations and societies. Strategic liaisons with national and international programs and organizations will be developed to strengthen the base on which the IAI's proven excellent science program rests. This period of program refinement and development will result in a strategic plan for the IAI.