

**Views on how SBSTA might facilitate a more effective dialogue between Parties and regional and international global change research programs  
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)**

The IAI is grateful for this opportunity to share its views on how SBSTA might facilitate a more effective dialogue between Parties and regional and international programs. The IAI submission under this topic can be found in document **FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.8**.

The IAI is dedicated to pursuing the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation and the open exchange of scientific information to increase the understanding of global change phenomena and their socio-economic implications. The IAI encourages multidisciplinary and multinational global change research beyond the scope of national programs to increase the scientific capacity of the region. Recognizing the need to better understand the natural and social processes that drive large-scale environmental change in the region, the IAI encourages interactive exchanges between scientists and policy-makers. More information on current projects under IAI's Collaborative Research Networks can be found in document **FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.15**.

The IAI is an intergovernmental organization with 19 member countries in the Americas. The agreement establishing the IAI stated that its Science Agenda be dynamic and evolve to incorporate new scientific priorities and to address changes in the needs of member countries. Those country priorities are periodically reviewed by the IAI Conference of the Parties and Executive Committee. The IAI has established cooperation with regional and international organizations, including all the international global change programs of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), such as the World Climate Research Program (WCRP), the International Geosphere Biosphere Program (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP) and DIVERSITAS.

In its submission, the IAI highlighted steps taken to enhance communication with our member countries:

- The IAI is collaborating with the *Red Iberoamericana de Oficinas de Cambio Climatico (RIOCC)* to increase awareness of IAI among representatives from climate change offices in the region;
- By supporting representation of IAI scientists, where relevant, at UNFCCC expert meetings as a way to increase awareness of policy-relevant issues among IAI's scientific community. In that regard, we encourage the engagement of our scientists in the early stages of their projects so that they can, to the extent possible, address societal concerns into their research.

- By supporting national communication of IAI member countries by updating and distributing reports on IAI scientific, capacity-building and training activities to country representatives.
- By engaging IAI Parties in its evolving Science Agenda to engage in a dialogue on scientific priorities and needs of countries in the region; and
- In an effort to enhance communication with policy-makers and highlight important activities and findings arising from its research, the IAI regularly invites scientists from its projects to make presentations to IAI Executive Committee and Conference of the Parties.

As an intergovernmental organization, the IAI reports on scientific progress and findings to its 19 member countries. IAI's submission to the SBSTA outlined issues believed to be current obstacles to an enhanced and more direct dialogue between its scientists and policy-makers. Based on the IAI experience, we present our views of how SBSTA might facilitate a more effective dialogue between Parties and regional organizations.

The IAI is faced with two main challenges for more effective communication to take place. The first one is to identify mechanisms to channel scientific information to the most relevant stakeholders in our member countries. Scientific information produced by IAI research needs to reach concerned governmental departments, ministries or disaster preparedness units. In countries where information flow system is already in place, global change research information is distributed by IAI focal points to the appropriate governmental units. We believe that information flow at the national level is crucial for an effective communication with policy-makers.

While scientists are concerned about producing and analyzing data, policy makers need a synthesis and knowledge that is relevant for effective policy making. The IAI is working to improve mechanisms to effectively communicate scientific information to policy-makers.

Our second challenge is to identify the appropriate language and format to communicate scientific knowledge to this audience. We need to improve mechanisms to communicate scientific information to policy-makers.

The IAI believes that SBSTA can provide mechanisms for the science-policy dialogue and to enhance information flow at the national level and to public organizations. The IAI agrees with those views shared by other countries that SBSTA can make a significant contribution by highlighting the need for countries to work more closely with existing groups and maximizing the use of existing institutions in different regions.