

Report on the call and selection of Small Grant Program for the Human Dimensions SGP-HD

At its 22nd meeting, held in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil, from 26 to 28 July 2005, the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) noted that the proposals recommended for funding under the Second Round of Collaborative Research Network (CRN II) would “continue an imbalanced portfolio and that the human dimensions component of the IAI science program needed further strengthening”.

In response to that recommendation, the IAI has applied for and received a grant from the United States National Science Foundation (NSF) for US\$ 800,000 dollars for a 2-year period with which it has launched a new call for proposals under the Small Grants Program for Human Dimensions (SGP-HD) on 26 January 2007. The SGP-HD program is designed to strengthen the “Human Dimensions and Policy Implications” of the IAI Science Agenda and to develop a strong human dimensions program in conjunction with the projects approved under CRN II. The program was designed to support 4-6 research projects, each with up to US\$ 80,000 per year for up to two years.

Fourteen proposals were received by the deadline of 7 March 2007 involving 9 CRN II projects aiming at research in 15 countries and requesting a total of about 2.1 million dollars. A Review Panel composed of members of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and outside experts met at the IAI Directorate from 16 to 18 May 2007 to evaluate the 14 proposals. The SAC recommended that the IAI fund 6 proposals under SGP-HD. At the EC-CoP, the Scientific Officer will provide further details on the review process and the Chairman of the SAC will propose a list of projects to be funded under SGP-HD to the IAI Executive Council.

The main evaluation criteria used were: scientific excellence and technical soundness; interdisciplinary collaboration; networking; policy, societal relevance. Other factors considered in the proposal review included programmatic goals of the IAI, the appropriateness of the budget request for the proposed activity, geographical balance among IAI member countries and gender distribution.

Two proposals so closely corresponded to the SAC’s recommendations during the CRN II review that they will be funded using CRN II funds that were held back for that purpose.

Proposals recommended for funding are:

Title	PI/CRN2 Link	Overall Rating
Adaptation to the health impacts of air pollution and climate extremes in Latin American cities*	Alejandro León Universidad de Chile, Chile <i>CRN 2017, L Gallardo</i>	Very good to excellent
Coming Down the Mountain: Understanding the Vulnerability	Fernando S. Quezada Universidad de Chile, Chile <i>CRN 2047, B Luckman</i>	Very good
Information Flows and Policy: Use of Climate Diagnostics and Cyclone Prediction for Adaptive Water-Resources Management Under Climatic Uncertainty in Western North America	Robert G. Varady University of Arizona, USA <i>CRN 2048, G B de Raga</i>	Very Good
Climate Change and Irrigated Agriculture: Towards a better understanding of driving forces and feedbacks between decision makers and biophysical environment and their impacts on hydrological cycle and land use	Francisco J Meza Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile <i>CRN 2031, E Jobbagy and CRN 2047, B Luckman</i>	Good to very Good
Climate change, oceanographic variability and the artisanal fisheries of the SW Atlantic: a human dimensions approach*	Patrizia Raggi Abdallah Universidade Federal do Rio do Grande, Brazil <i>CRN 2076, A Piola</i>	Good to very good
Decision support system for risk reduction in agriculture, Phase II: Soybean DSS for Eastern Paraguay and R G Sul	Clyde Fraisse University of Florida, USA <i>CRN 2031, E Jobbagy</i>	Good
Conservation Policy Impacts in Tropical Dry Forest regional & spatially focused analyses given other social and natural drivers of land use	Alexander Pfaff Columbia University, USA <i>CRN 2021, A Sanchez</i>	Good
Designing a methodology to evaluate local knowledge on global change and its role in the construction of future land use scenarios by local actors	Jean F. Tourrand Universidade Federal de Brasilia, Brazil <i>CRN 2031, E Jobbagy and CRN 2061, M McClain</i>	Good

* to be funded with CRN II funds