

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



**EC-XXIV - CoP-XVII – EC-XXX**

*June 08-11, 2010*

*Brasília, Brasil*

**REPORT OF THE SAC XXIX - Montevideo**

**9.ECXXIX/CoPXVII/ECXXX/English/11 May 2010**

**Minutes - 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)**  
Montevideo, Uruguay 23-25 June 2009

**Invitees:**

**SAC members:** Juan Valdés (Chair), Walter Baethgen (WB), Telma Castro (TC), Carolina Vera (CV), Frank Muller-Karger (FK), Maria Carmem Lemos (MCL), Ramon Pichs (RP)

**IAI Directorate:** Ione Anderson, Program Manager

**Regrets:** Luis Mata (LM), Hal Mooney (HM), Paul Filmer (US NSF). Rana Fine (RF) joined part of the meeting via teleconference.

**1. Welcome by the SAC Chair**

**2. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of SAC-28 were approved with no objections.

**3. Report of the EC-COP**

MCL represented the SAC at the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> meetings of the IAI Executive Council (EC) and the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), held back-to-back in Bogota, Colombia, from 18 to 21 May 2009, where she made a short presentation on the SAC's mandate, criteria for nomination and electoral process. The presentation included a brief report on SAC activities during the past year. That presentation is contained in Annex I.

MCL reported that Paul Filmer and Lou Brown from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) suggested a change in the SAC Renewal rules to institutionalize the selection and election process and to push for the slate model. Venezuela, Cuba and Canada opposed to that change arguing that they wished to vote for each candidate separately. MCL argued that the SAC favored the slate model to reflect previous SAC discussions regarding scientific needs, interdisciplinarity and complementarity contemplated in the slate.

She reported that there was discussion was about the ability of the EC to nominate a member in the case of a last minute SAC vacancy. The text remained more or less the same with the EC in charge of making that nomination. A positive change was the institutionalization of the ability of the SAC and COP to nominate a member in case the Associates fail to do so. There was concern among SAC members over how the SAC election process may become politicized.

JV informed the SAC that 4 SAC members have reached the end of their terms and that the following will need to be re-nominated: MCL, HM, RP and CV. Rana Fine is reaching the end of her second term. JV informed RF during a teleconference that only HM, RP and CV would like to be re-nominated for another term.

**4. Reserved business**

**5. IAI Relations with the Directorate**

JV and MCL met with the IAI Director to raise issues regarding what the SAC sees as a lack of communication between the IAI Directorate and the SAC. Discussions under this item led to

discussions on the definition of the role of the SAC and subsequent recommendation, described under agenda item 6.

## **6. Definition of the Role of the SAC**

SAC members referred to the Agreement Establishing the IAI and its Bodies and made the recommendations under Article XII, which establishes the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The following recommendations are in square brackets below:

“The Scientific Advisory Committee shall”:

### **[a) Planning]**

“Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, long-range plans and annual program of the Institute”

- [SAC will evaluate, on a continuing basis, the Scientific Agenda and will make recommendations to the COP
- SAC will make recommendations to the development of the science component of the IAI Strategic Plan
- SAC will advise and assist the Directorate in the design of an annual plan of training institutes]

### **[b) Proposal Evaluation]**

“Direct the peer review system of the Institute, ensuring through its rules of procedure that individual Committee members do not participate in the evaluation of proposals, which they have themselves submitted”

- [Advise the Directorate on the evaluation guidelines/criteria for the proposals,
- Suggest possible reviewers for the proposals,
- After the peer review process, assist with the funding decisions by the Directorate,
- Rectify the absence of conflict of interest in the evaluation process].

c) “Adopt its own rules of procedure”;

- [Ongoing process]

d) “Establish scientific panels for particular issues”;

- [Invite experts/international scientific programs (ESSP, IPCC) to provide a perspective of the specific challenges related to the IAI science agenda
- Forthcoming...
- Commission the writing of white papers on specific areas, including the budget implications of this task considering joining efforts with other international/national institutions]

e) “Assess the scientific results obtained by the Institute”

- [The SAC will conduct a general assessment of the results of the IAI using:
  - The executive summary after the conclusion of the projects
  - NSF annual reports
  - Output of the PI meetings]

f) “Perform any other functions entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties”.

## **7. Nomination of members**

MCL suggested forming a Nominations Subcommittee to forward a slate of candidates to COP 30, 30 days or more prior to the next COP meeting. It was agreed that MCL would chair this Subcommittee, to be composed by WB and TC.

SAC Nomination Subcommittee: MCL, TC, WB.

Action Items:

- Establish areas of priority for rotating members
- Detailed definition of criteria:
  - Scientific excellence
  - Geopolitical balance
  - Gender balance
- Second tier considerations:
  - Interdisciplinary work
  - Representation of science in the Americas
  - Work across science and policy

It was decided that MCL would circulate within 2 weeks, the selection criteria for the nomination of future SAC members, based on the table below, contained in the minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SAC.

SAC Renewal:

- a. Outgoing members in mid-2008 and discussion of profiles for new members is summarized below.

IAI Science Theme	Hal	Maria	Juan	<i>Fran</i> <i>k</i>	Carolina	Rana	<u>Luis</u>	Ramon	<u>Telm</u> <u>a</u>	<i>Mike</i> <i>e</i>
1. Climate				<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>				
2. Ecosystems	<i>X</i>		<i>X</i>				<u>X</u>			
BD, LU, WR										
3. Ocean, Atmos				<i>X</i>		<i>X</i>			<u>X</u>	
4. HD & Policy	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>					<u>X</u>	<i>X</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>Members completing 2<sup>nd</sup> term in mid-2008</i>						<u><i>Members completing 1<sup>st</sup> term in mid-2008</i></u>				

Science Gaps to be considered in next round of SAC renewal:

- Land use & cover change
- carbon cycle
- Vulnerability & Adaptation
- Policy-science nexus

Additional notes about expertise of existing SAC members:

- Hal, Ramon - environmental policy, international conventions
- Maria - Policy science, adaptation
- Luis – Environmental policy, adaptation, sustainability
- Mike – Human security and vulnerability

“The Scientific Advisory Committee shall be composed of ten members elected by the

Conference of the Parties to serve in their personal capacity for three-year terms and with eligibility for a single additional term. The Conference of the Parties shall elect six Scientific Advisory Committee members from nominations received from the Parties; three from nominations received from the Scientific Advisory Committee itself; and one from nominations received from the Institute's Associates. These members shall be scientists recognized internationally for their expertise in areas relevant to the objectives of the Institute, ensuring broad sub regional, regional, and worldwide representation, as well as representation from a variety of disciplines relevant to global change research".

## **8. Report of the IAI Directorate**

Holm Tiessen reported on the potential extension of the SGP-HD program and indicated that a proposal is under preparation to be sent to NSF but that funds will most likely not be in place when SGP-HD projects run out at the end of 2009. In terms of program reporting, he added that CRNII and SGP-HD reports are due in August and October, that a final report from McArthur is due in January/February 2010 and that the IDRC program will be reporting in March 2010. RP requested that his letter to NSF regarding his US visa denial to attend SAC-28 in Miami be attached to the minutes of SAC-28. JV requested the Directorate to annex that letter to the minutes of that meeting and to send the final minutes in pdf format to the SAC. It was agreed that MCL's notes from the EC-COP-EC meetings in Bogota would be attached to the minutes of this current meeting (SAC-29). MCL's notes are contained in Annex II.

CV presented a proposal for a Training Institute on the use of seasonal predictions for applications in Latin America. That proposal is contained in Annex III.

It was agreed that JV would send an email to the IAI Directorate to ask for the last draft of the Strategic Planning (SP) text and to recommend the involvement of RP and LM, who were the SAC members assigned to the SP committee.

## **Location and Dates for the next SAC meeting**

JV told members that a decision was needed on the number of meetings to be held a year (one or two). It was decided that SAC 30 will tentatively be held in March 2010, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> week. Location: TBA (Cuba, Chile, Colombia, DR)

## **Any other business**

None

## **Adjourn**

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## **ACTION ITEMS UP TO SAC-30**

- JV will request the Directorate to send the evaluation criteria for CRN II. RF, HM and JV will produce a draft evaluation criteria.
- JV will request the Directorate to send the timeline for current projects and future RFP.
- MCL will circulate, in the next 2 weeks, the selection criteria for the nomination of future SAC members.
- JV to request the Directorate to inform SAC of the nomination status of all the SAC members.

- The SAC will have a conference call in the next two months to clarify issues.
- Starting with SAC-29 the approval of the minutes will be conducted by email.

### **ACTION ITEMS FOR SAC-30**

- Organize special sessions for the next SAC-30 meeting to begin the discussion on the long-term science agenda.
  - Invite experts/international scientific programs (ESSP, IPCC) to provide a perspective of the specific scientific challenges related to the IAI science agenda,
  - Carolina, Frank and Juan will be a committee to organize the agenda of the special session
- Request that the Directorate, in advance, produce a preliminary report on the performance and findings of the CRN II and SGP-HD projects based on the results of the Montevideo PI meeting.
- Request that the Directorate produce a report on the performance and findings of the training institutes. The Training Officer should present this report at SAC-30.
- Request to the Directorate in advance to the meeting, an update of the progress of the IAI Strategic Plan including the current draft.
- SAC 30 will tentatively be held in March 2010, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> week. Location: TBA (Cuba, Chile, Colombia, DR).