

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



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IAI activities plan July 2011 – June 2012

During the coming year, the entire training and scientific program of the IAI will renew. The CRN and Small Grant projects will finish in early 2012. Proposals for new programs have been submitted and reviewed and we hope to implement these programs during the second half of 2011.

I) Training Institutes:

Resulting from the success of the last training institute on **knowledge integration and geographic information** in Asuncion, a follow-up training will be held in Montevideo in September of 2011. This TI is an additional activity, not foreseen in the original plan, and is being organized with several institutions in Uruguay as a result of requests following the Asuncion TI to expand this capacity building effort in the region

Climate Information and Public Health (joint with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society/Columbia University and the Ministry of Health of Uruguay, November, 2011, Montevideo, Uruguay) will be the first TI of the new series.

Two **Colloquia in 2012 & 2013 Knowledge Integration at the Science-Policy Interface** (joint with the National Center for Atmospheric Research) will be planned during the coming year for implementation in mid 2012 with follow-up in 2013.

II) Science Programs

The joint synthesis for human dimensions and CRN projects is ongoing during 2011 until mid 2012.

The CRN and small grant synthesis has resulted in a major collaboration effort involving the US, Chile, Mexico and others on **water security**. This has led to the proposal of a first Centre of Excellence of the IAI. Such centers were already envisaged in the Agreement Establishing the IAI. We expect joint funding proposals and activities to begin in the second half of 2011.

A call for CRN3 will be issued mid 2011, pending approval of the program by NSF. Project selection following a process of "letters of intent" - preselection - final proposal preparation and full peer review will be the main task for the second half of 2011. We expect awards to be made in early 2012.

A **small grant** proposal has been submitted to NSF to allow further development of the most innovative and integrative (between social and natural sciences and policy applications) aspects of the CRN2 and current small grants programs. Projects have been selected with the help of members of the Scientific Advisory Committee, and implementation is pending approval by NSF.

IAI is entering into an agreement with NSF's **Program for International Science Technology** which promises to greatly enhance regional collaborations. The Directorate will be involved in proposal selection and coordination with its CRN program during the coming 10 months.

III) MacArthur project:

The proposal to MacArthur Foundation: *“Impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the Tropical Andes: climate-related vulnerability assessments and improved decision making processes for conservation and land use planning in two Andean biodiversity hotspots”*. has been funded and sub-awards have just been signed. The research program conducted with institutions in the Andean countries is commencing in June 2011.

IV) IAI-INPE/CPTEC Research Internships

The agreement between IAI and INPE/CPTEC has been renewed in June 2011. The first participants will commence the program in the coming months.

IV) Administrative issues

The instabilities in operations that have plagued the Directorate for the past 7 years will require resolution over the coming year. As activities of the Directorate have expanded, and Directors have taken direct responsibility for conducting some of the research in addition to running the long-standing programs, work loads have increased and greater operational stability is needed. This will be a task to be initiated by this Conference of the Parties.