

Workplan for the science-policy liaison office

- 1. General approach:** The science-policy liaison strategy of IAI is guided by the purpose of increasing the relevance, legitimacy and credibility of IAI and its scientific production in the eyes of policy makers. Within this framework, the plan pursues three **general goals**: (a) the institutional goal to establish formal, functional mechanisms to broker and facilitate policy-science integration for IAI; (b) the communication goal to position global change as a relevant policy issue among institutions that will face the main regional challenges and opportunities of global change, and to consolidate the IAI as leading provider of scientific information; and (c) the substantive goal to spur collective action to address global change through use-oriented research and policy decisions.
- 2. 2013 Workplan June '13 – June '15:** For the next two years, the office shall focus on the following lines of action:

2.1. Establish the baseline: The goal of this activity is to establish a starting point against which the office can be monitored over the years. This baseline will describe the IAI's current standing with relevant policy making communities, the tools for science-policy liaison with which IAI already operates and the fit between IAI-sponsored research and international policy agendas. The baseline report will be produced through: (a) interaction with national focal points to assess IAI's positioning in their respective countries; and (b) the review of documents, in particular the 2005 AAAS report, annual IAI reports, proceedings of IAI and other international organizations' governing bodies, institutional agreements entered and assessment of participation in IAI activities. The report will be submitted to CoP 22, together with a report of progress made during the first year.

2.2. Interaction with IAI CoP and its SAC: IAI's **Conference of the Parties** must be acknowledged as a primary target audience for the science-policy liaison office. Through it, member countries express their policy interests. Hence, the office shall seek to establish a fluent relationship with the Executive Council and the CoP itself to work on the science-policy interface. This will include strengthening links with focal points to develop national activities (see points 2.3., 2.5. and 2.6. below), and with CoP representatives to develop international activities. The office shall also establish an active and synergistic relation with the **Scientific Advisory Committee**, engaging with it in science outreach to policy-making communities and in defining science requirements and directions for IAI.

2.3. Country contacts: The science-policy liaison office shall work with member countries in the development of activities aimed at different ministries and sectors with interest in global change issues. These will include the areas of foreign affairs, public works, health, agriculture, environment, and science and technology; both governmental and non-governmental institutions at different levels and in branches of government. The work will begin with a scoping period during which the office shall interact with focal points and stakeholders to map out relevant actors and identify issues and opportunities for engagement and outreach. Following this scoping exercise, the office shall develop targeted outreach materials, flexible and tailored by country and sector, and organize country visits. The nature and timing of these visits needs to be defined after the scoping period. To aid this process the office will seek to create synergy with (a) IAI's capacity building program, and (b) CRN3 projects (see points 2.5., 2.6. and 2.7. below).

2.4. International positioning: The office will support ongoing efforts by Directorate staff to position IAI with relevant international organizations and Conventions. The specific goal of these activities is to obtain formal recognition of IAI from these organizations and open or maintain

communication channels to feed IAI research into their policy-making processes. For this, and in coordination with staff already working with international organizations, the office shall help strengthen relationship with IAI member countries through their participation in regional groups and negotiating blocks at UN conventions, liaise with individual Party delegations and regional groups (G-77, GRULAC etc) to bring the work of IAI to their attention, and promote IAI sponsored investigators and SAC members in the main Conventions' rosters of experts. The office will continue to develop opportunities for collaboration (such as side-events, publications, participation in ad hoc groups and workshops, poster sessions, keynote speakers etc). Special attention shall be paid to (a) the Convention on Biological Diversity; (b) the Framework Convention on Climate Change; (c) the Convention to Combat Desertification; (d) the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; (e) the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and (f) the UN Open Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals that resulted from the Rio+20 process.

2.5. Science-policy related to CRN3 and other IAI research projects: CRN3 and other IAI research projects contain policy liaison activities, with varying degrees of development. The science-policy liaison office will engage with CRN3 and other projects to assist in strengthening their engagement and outreach activities, while seeking their support in the pursuit of outreach for IAI as a whole. The office, where agreed upon with CRN3 and other projects, will work on strengthening the legitimacy base and relevance of each project. To this end the office will explore whether research questions are aligned with audience interests, or will require further activities of translation, adaptation, support in process design, engagement and outreach strategies and other to be supported by the Directorate. Activities will make use of exchanges between CRN3 and other projects and with small grants and science syntheses to strengthen the overall capacity to link science and decision making.

2.6. Workshops for decision-makers and targeted research: Over the next two years, the office will cooperate closely with IAI's capacity building staff to strengthen the science-policy liaison aspects of seminars and workshops and jointly develop capacity building events aimed at fulfilling the IAI mandates. Also, the science-policy liaison office, jointly with the science development office and the capacity building team, will explore the development of targeted natural-social science linkages through small research projects.

2.7. Development of materials for media outreach: Over the next two years, the science-policy liaison office will not seek to reach out directly to particular media to position IAI. Rather, efforts will be aimed at (a) strengthening IAI partners' and projects' capacity to reach out to media themselves, and (b) develop relationships with science and environmental journalists and writers' organizations. The communication goal in these cases shall be to position the topic of global change rather than IAI as an organization, and activities will include (a) the development of outreach materials that can be used by associated third parties, and (b) offer participation in capacity building events to communicators.

2.8. Strengthen institutional linkages with other international organizations with strong science-policy interface work: IAI already has agreements with some international organizations, such as ECLAC, CATHALAC and CIIFEN. These agreements need to be strengthened where appropriate, and new agreements entered with other relevant organizations. The office shall work towards improving the Institute's network of institutional agreements.

Many of the activities in this workplan can overlap, and the office will actively seek to optimize resources by combining goals and activities wherever possible and convenient.