

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



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Montevideo, Uruguay

Work Plan (July 2013- June 2014)

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IAI activities plan July 2013 – June 2014

Institutional:

The Directorate is in the process of implementing the tripartite structure, approved in June 2013. Host country agreements have been signed with Argentina and Uruguay, and a renewed agreement with Brazil is under review. During 2013-14, administrative operations and staff will move to Montevideo, and the Directorate office in Buenos Aires will be made operational in both administrative and strategic terms. It is expected that the office in São José dos Campos will also be staffed and made operational. After the dismissal of key administrative staff in October 2012, a transition of core functions will have to be initiated once the administrative headquarters move. Despite these dismissals, there have been no disruptions in operations, and the implementation of new administrative structures with new support staff is expected to maintain and improve operations.

The resignation of the IT manager in April 2013 has further complicated the web presence of the IAI, but also created the opportunity to restructure operations to achieve greater reliability and security. A new server is being configured in Buenos Aires, and will be mirrored in Montevideo. Webpage, publications, Twikis and data systems will be renovated during 2013-14 in collaboration with all staff to optimize the utility of information technology throughout the IAI.

A new Assistant Director for Science Programs will take her post in June 2013, and will contribute towards optimizing the research monitoring and guidance, as well as initiate collaborations with the two new directorate offices in Brazil and Argentina.

Research:

During 2013-14, additional CRN3 projects will be implemented. The task will be to better integrate natural and human sciences and improve cross-disciplinary work plans. Start-up meetings between investigators, directorate and Scientific Advisory Committee have highlighted the need for further administrative and scientific guidance in the CRN program towards the IAI mandate of fostering an integrated understanding of the environmental, economic and social effects of Global Change. The Directorate and a repleted SAC are expected to play major roles in this.

Having extended the CRN2 program to permit interactions between CRN2 and the starting CRN3, final reporting for CRN2 will now be done in July and August 2013.

The Directorate-led MacArthur Foundation funded project on impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the tropical Andes is continuing throughout the year.

Collaboration and co-funding agreements with CONICET of Argentina and FAPESP of São Paulo State will provide opportunities to add activities to the CRN3. The Directorate and SAC will collaborate in the selection of such proposals during 2013.

Capacity Building:

Two training events are being prepared for the period July 2013-June 2014: on [Adaptive Water-Energy Management in the Arid Americas](#) (24 June – 3 July, 2013, La Serena, Chile), and on Modeling Tools for the study of Complex Human/Natural Systems (tentatively scheduled for early 2014 in Antigua, Guatemala).

In the training seed grant program, the Directorate will assess results of the 2012-2013 grants; and select, support and oversee the seed grants for 2013-2014.

Linked to the CRN3 program, the Directorate will implement a capacity development program to co-design effective interdisciplinary research addressing complex global change problems. The goal is a true articulation of disciplines by interdisciplinary research teams towards science to support decision making.

The IAI-ECLAC joint publication “Urban Responses to Climate Change in Latin America” is being edited and will be available in the second half of 2013. Arising from this, the directorate will develop policy briefs from the findings and recommendations of the book.

A scientist from Venezuela is being supported under the current IAI-INPE/CPTEC Research Internship program for the period March-September 2013. The IAI will plan the program’s future development as the activities of the Science Development Directorate in Brazil begin.

The MacArthur Foundation-funded project “Climate-related vulnerability and risk assessments and improved decision making processes for conservation and land use planning in two Andean biodiversity hotspots” will finish its research activities in December 2013. The Directorate will work with the foundation and our Andean collaborators on training and dissemination meetings during the first semester of 2014.