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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH**
Twenty-seventh meeting
Brasilia, Brazil, 5-6 June 2019
Agenda item 17

**Report of the Directorate
Capacity Building**

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. The preamble of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* (IAI) states:

Considering that policy makers are in need of accurate information and sound analyses concerning the causes and the physical, social, economic and ecological impacts of global change;

Concerned that research on global issues requires cooperation among research institutes, among states and among the different parts of the Inter-American region, and with regional and international global change research programs.

3. Article II, Paragraphs a), d), f) and g) of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* (IAI) state:

a) *Promote regional cooperation for interdisciplinary research on aspects of global change related to the sciences of the earth, ocean, atmosphere, and the environment and to social sciences, with particular attention to impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, socio-economic impacts, and technologies and economic aspects associated with the mitigation of and adaptation to global change;*

d) *Improve the scientific and technical capabilities and research infrastructure of the States of the region by identifying and promoting the development of facilities for the implementation of data management and by the scientific and technical training of professionals;*

f) *Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to government for the development of public policy relevant to global change;*

g) *Promote cooperation among the different research institutions of the region.*

4. The Conference of the Parties, at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017) adopted Decision XXV/25, Enhancing activity of IAI Member Country Representatives which states:

The CoP encourages proactive participation by country representatives in IAI meetings, reporting on IAI research project results in their countries, and working for the timely payment of country contributions.

5. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting (Antigua, 2018), adopted Decision XXVI/27, which states:

The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue the development of capacity building programs and activities for professionals from the Americas; to engage with strategic partners, and support Parties by providing training in areas of national and regional interest, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

6. The same meeting adopted Decision XXVI/28, which states:

The IAI Directorate is instructed to develop a new Seed Grant Program associated with the Professional Development Seminars to be implemented in 2019-2020, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

7. CoP-26 also adopted Decision XXVI/29, which states:

The IAI Directorate is instructed to develop the IAI Science and Technology Policy Fellowships Program and submit it to the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for review and possible adoption, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

8. Finally, CoP-26 adopted Decision XXVI/30, which states:

The IAI Directorate is instructed to invite Parties to participate in the IAI Research Internship Program as research host organizations and report back at the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Introduction

9. Chapter 4, *Capacity Building: Detailed Findings and Recommendations of the Report of the External Review Committee Assessment of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*¹ states:

Finding 1: There is strong evidence that IAI capacity building activities are some of the most valuable contributions that the Institute has made to both science and society in the Americas. The IAI Directorate has employed a variety of approaches to capacity building, including short courses, workshops, and apprenticeships.

Recommendation 1: Continue to offer a broad range of capacity-building activities, including developing additional innovative approaches such as apprenticeships with government agencies, NGOs, and industry to broaden the range of opportunities for IAI-trained graduates.

10. In support of the above, during the intersessional period of CoP-26 (Antigua, 2018) and CoP-27 (Brasilia, 2019), a broad range of capacity-building activities was developed by the Directorate. These activities contributed to the training of graduate students, scientists, policy makers, and other professionals from IAI Parties in many areas, including, but not limited to, inter and transdisciplinary approaches, science diplomacy, networking building, and science-policy collaboration, among others.
11. Many of these activities should also be understood as part of the IAI Directorate's strategic effort to enhance participation of Parties in IAI programs and to increase membership in the IAI.

Capacity building in Science Diplomacy and in inter and transdisciplinary approaches to integrating policy and science

12. The Directorate engaged in a partnership with the Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo (IOUSP), the Institute of Advanced Studies (IEA/USP), with the support of INterdisciplinary CLimate INvestigation cEnter (INCLINE) and the Brazilian Network for Monitoring Coastal Benthic Habitats for the development of the *The São Paulo*

¹ American Association for the Advancement of Science Chapter 4, *Capacity Building: Detailed Findings and Recommendations. Report of the External Review Committee Assessment of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*. Washington, D.C. International Office, 2007.
http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/aaas_IAIreport_0607.pdf

*School of Advanced Science on Ocean Interdisciplinary Research and Governance*², which was held 13 to 25 August 2018 in São Paulo, Brazil. The School highlights include:

- The School was led by an IAI Collaborative Research Network (CRN) investigator from IOUSP. Other CRN scientists served as lecturers and presented scientific findings from their IAI projects.
- The focal point from Argentina, Directorate staff, and high-level government officials from Brazil, Canada, El Salvador and UNESCO participated as speakers and shared their experience in the science-policy interface.
- 109 graduate students from 22 countries from the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania participated in this School. In addition, the School had 1106 webinar entries.
- Participants visited Baixada Santista, a metropolitan coastal region in the state of São Paulo formed by 9 cities – where the group observed the Santos canal (which drains wastewater from the city to the ocean). The group also discussed the effects of coastal erosion that is taking place in Ilha Porchat at the city of São Vicente.
- Diversification of IAI funding sources. The School was funded by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) with resources of approximately US\$ 210,000.
- The School had an important news coverage with articles published in two of the most important economic newspaper (Valor Economico) and magazine (Exame) in Brazil.
- Finally, a few testimonies from the participants and the School leader: “*The School was important to understand how to apply knowledge in practice*”, said Francisco Soto from the Technical University Federico Santa Maria, Chile. *This event opened my mind to other points of view. It exceeded my expectations*”, said Pedro Marques from the Federal University of South Bahia, Brazil. Talking about the many aspects in which the School was enriching, he added: “*The School was an opportunity to get to know other programs, participate and grow professionally*”.
- The event also provided an excellent networking opportunity for all participants, resulting in plans for project collaboration: “*Students worked very intensively, looking for connections among the most varied areas in the marine sciences*”, said Alexander Turra, the Brazilian coordinator of the School. A concrete example of such connections was provided by the participant Pedro Marques: “*I made new partnerships for future projects like an exchange program in Canada.*”

13. The IAI Directorate is organizing an international seminar and graduate course titled *Integrating Global Change knowledge to decision-making processes: a transdisciplinary approach* from 8-14 September 2019 in Santa Fe, Argentina. The aim of this course is to contribute to the development of an inter and transdisciplinary academic curriculum for a master and doctoral program. In addition, the event will address several topics of global change sciences that are of socioeconomic relevance for the La Plata Basin. It will provide training not only to young scientists and students, but also to professionals from the agriculture, water resources, disaster risk reduction, from the public and private sectors from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The course will be hosted by the School of Engineering and Water Sciences of the Universidad Nacional del Litoral (FICH/UNL). Other collaborators are the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the La Plata Basin Intergovernmental Committee (CIC), the Argentine Association of Regional Consortiums of Agricultural Experimentation (AACREA), and the government of the city and province of Santa Fe.

² For more information, access the School webpage at: <http://www.iai.int/en/capacity-building/detail/sao-paulo-school-of-advanced-science-on-ocean-interdisciplinary-research-and-governance>

14. As part of the celebrations of the UNL 100th anniversary in 2019, on 12 September, the Directorate and UNL will hold a Forum on *Building a dialogue between Science and Policy in the framework of Global Change*. The event will be open to scientists, decision-makers and representatives from the public and private sector and will serve as a venue for reflection and dialogue about the challenges, opportunities and lessons learned in the communication between science and policy. It will also discuss ideas to strengthen the collaboration among several actors and provide insights to support the design of sustainable policies. In the development of these events, the IAI held a planning meeting with members of the course and forum steering committee. This meeting was held at Argentina's Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation and hosted by Argentina's focal point to the IAI.
15. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting (Antigua, 2018), adopted Decision XXVI/13 which invited the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to become an Associate of the Institute. Additionally, through Decision XXVI/16, the Conference of the Parties instructed the IAI Directorate to draft an invitation to AAAS to become an Associate of the Institute and prepare an Agreement of Association. On 14 September 2018, during the AAAS fourth annual science diplomacy conference, Science Diplomacy 2018, in Washington, DC, the IAI and AAAs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which outlines activities and issues to be jointly addressed by both organizations, particularly activities related to science-diplomacy. Since the signing of the MoU several activities have been developed by the IAI and AAAS. Some examples are as follow.
16. The Directorate participated as a guest lecturer in the AAAS workshop on *Science Diplomacy and Leadership* (25-29 June 2018 in Washington, DC). The course program was an immersion experience in the science diplomacy ecosystem of Washington D.C., combining academic lectures, field visits, professional development workshops, networking opportunities and leadership training. This was the third AAAS Science Diplomacy course that the IAI was invited to present its science diplomacy work in the Americas.
17. At the AAAS *fourth annual Science Diplomacy Conference 2018*, on 14 September 2018, the Directorate participated in a panel titled *Strengthening Ties, Strengthening Global Policy Making: Mechanisms in the Americas* with distinguished speakers, such as Mona Nemer, Chief Science Advisor, Government of Canada; Aisha Jones, Executive Director, Biotech R&D Institute of Jamaica; and Rita Colwell, Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, former AAAS president and former director of the US National Science Foundation.
18. In reply to a request from the government of Panama in January 2018, the Directorate partnered with AAAS and Panama's focal point, the Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología e Innovación (SENACYT) and organized a *Science and Diplomacy Workshop*. The event was held 17-19 October 2018 in Panama City. The workshop promoted an exchange of knowledge and experiences among scientists, managers and other experts and leaders from Panama and the Latin American Region, on various themes associated with global changes, i.e. health, energy, climate change, water, etc. Workshop highlights

also included:

- A gathering of over 30 scientists, diplomats and policy makers from nine Latin American countries, who came together to discuss strategies and experiences implementing science diplomacy in the region.
- Participants shared past experiences with science diplomacy (both successes and challenges) and exchanged ideas to build regional, collaborative science diplomacy networks.
- The workshop information will contribute to support the development of Panama's government new Science Diplomacy strategy led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SENACYT.
- This activity enhanced the participation of professionals, from IAI Parties and non-Parties in Central America and Spanish speaking nations in the Caribbean in IAI activities³.

19. In addition, the IAI Directorate was also invited to participate in the session titled *Embedding Science and Technology in International Relations Education and Diplomatic Training* at the AAAS 2019 Annual meeting, on 16 February 2019, in Washington DC. IAI focal points from Guatemala, Aldo López; Panama, Milagro Mainieri; and the United States, Paul Filmer participated in this session along with IAI Directorate staff. The event gathered professionals from foreign ministries, diplomatic academies, universities with international programs, and multilateral organizations to discuss approaches to incorporating science in diplomatic training.
20. The Director of the Science and Technology Policy Fellowships at AAAS, Jennifer Pearl, is a member of the Directorate's working group to develop the IAI Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program (see item 34 of this report). AAAS experience and expertise in this area will be a great contribution to the IAI program. Moreover, networking opportunities to be developed between the AAAS and the IAI fellows will enhance further collaboration in the science-policy arena of future professionals in Latin America and the Caribbean with the USA.
21. The Directorate's proposal to hold a session titled *Sustainable Cities: the construction of operational approaches for Latin America* at the Latin America and the Caribbean Open Forum for Sciences - CILAC 2018 was selected as one thematic session of the Forum. The session led by Directorate staff and vice-chair of IPCC working group II, Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez, was held on 22 October 2018 in Panama City. The session addressed four central themes of an operational agenda for sustainable cities in Latin America: 1) conceptual and methodological frameworks for the construction of operational approaches for sustainable urban development in Latin America; 2) lessons learned at international and regional level for urban sustainability; 3) the institutional, governance and financial dimension for the construction of sustainable cities; and, 4) the Sustainable Development Goals in the construction of a new sustainable urban agenda in Latin America. Another goal was to facilitate national and local dialogues on sustainable urban development, with

³ For more information, access the Workshop webpage at: <http://www.iai.int/en/capacity-building/detail/taller-de-diplomacia-cientifica-2018>

concrete examples, like the case of Panama City, which was presented by the mayor of Panama's capital city. The session was attended by CILAC forum participants, particularly stakeholders, such as urban planners, decision makers from the public and private sector, scientists, and international organization representatives⁴.

22. The Directorate was invited to participate in an event organized by BHP Minerals Americas, on 3 April 2019, in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile. The event was the company's official launch of the *Indigenous Peoples Plan* for fiscal years 2019-2023, which includes four working areas: Governance; Social and Cultural Support; Public Participation; and, Economic Empowerment. The Directorate staff interacted with representatives from Chile's indigenous communities, BHP directors and other professionals. It was an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to the collaboration between these communities and the public-private-local communities dialogue concerning territory, the environment, socio-economic development and governance. Investigators from Chile's Fundación Dialogos para la Naturaleza, who participated in an IAI Seed Grant project proposal in 2017-2018, are currently leading a governance project in San Pedro de Atacama funded by BHP. This group is working with the Directorate staff in the Governance lab initiative (see item 38 of this report, under fundraising initiatives – capacity building).
23. During the intersessional period of CoP-26 (Antigua, 2018), the Directorate developed and strengthened partnerships and collaboration with other international organizations, development banks and other programs.
24. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting (Antigua, 2018), adopted Decision XXVI/34 which instructed the IAI Directorate to initiate discussions with the Organization of American States with a view to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration and joint activities and research related to global change in the Americas.
25. On 19 March 2019, during an OAS session on strengthening the link between science and policy to enhance cooperation in integrated management of water resources, to celebrate World Water Day 2019, the IAI and the OAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding⁵. The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation mechanisms to provide stronger scientific contributions to policy responses and to build human and institutions capacities to support sustainable development in the Americas. The IAI Executive Director presented the work of the Institute to twenty-eight OAS member state delegations which attended the session. IAI Directorate staff also held conversations with representatives from Central America and the Caribbean region which are States not Parties to encourage ratification of the Agreement.
26. Since the signing of the MoU several joint activities are being planned by both organizations, especially in Central America and the Caribbean. These activities would aim to introduce the work of the IAI to States not Parties, encourage membership, promote

⁴ For more information, access the thematic session webpage at: <http://www.iai.int/en/capacity-building/detail/cilac-2018-sesi%C3%B3n-tem%C3%A1tica-%E2%80%99Ciudades-sostenibles-la-construcci%C3%B3n-de-enfoques-operativos-para-am%C3%A9rica>

⁵ More information on this topic is available in in CoP-27 document no. 18a, *Decision XXVI/34: Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States*.

the development of global change science and its applications to support policy processes, and leverage financial resources and fundraising with OAS donors agencies interested in supporting IAI-OAS capacity building, science and policy initiatives.

27. At the time of writing this report, OAS, IAI Directorate, and Belmont Forum Secretariat staff are jointly planning a *Regional Workshop on Drought in the Central American Dry Corridor: Prevention and Preparedness Actions before the Consequences of anomalous conditions associated with the El Niño* event to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in 2019.
28. Brazil focal point Jean Ometto, and the IAI Directorate staff, participated as lecturers in the *AmeriGEOSS Week 2018 International Cooperation Session* on 10 August 2018 in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil. Lecturers presented the work of the IAI in science and in capacity building, as well as the opportunities created by the Collaborative Research Network program in supporting interdisciplinary regional science networks across the Americas.
29. The Directorate participated in the seventeenth Session of Regional Association III (RA III-17) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which was held from 21 to 23 November 2018 in Santiago, Chile. Several IAI focal point institutions participated in this event from Costa Rica, Peru and Uruguay. As a result, the IAI was considered a key organization to collaborate with WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to strengthen research, capacities and services in the region. This collaboration was documented in the WMO official decision of the AR III-17 meeting under “Scaling up effective partnerships”⁶. Consequently, the Director of the WMO Americas, Julian Báez, visited the IAI Directorate on 12 March 2019 to invite the IAI to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with WMO. At the time of writing this report WMO and IAI are preparing the MoU, which should be signed in the coming months.
30. At the time of writing this report, the Directorate has been invited to participate in the meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank project titled *Design and initial implementation of a drought information system (monitoring, prediction, preparation and mitigation of impacts) for southern South America - SISA*⁷. The aim of the project is to build a drought information system for the South of South America (SAS in Spanish) with two main objectives: 1) to contribute to the reduction of the economic, social and environmental impacts that droughts have on agricultural production and hydroelectric generation in SAS, and, 2) to improve the governance of risk management associated with droughts, contributing to the collective development of national policies. The leading entity is the National Meteorological Service of the Argentine Republic (SMN), representing the Regional Climate Centre for southern South America (CRC-SAS),

⁶ For more information see *WMO-No.1228 Regional Association III (South America) Abridged Final Report of the Seventeenth Session, decision 20, page 104; RA – III 17-d03-6(2)-Partnerships – and – cooperation – approved_en* at webpage: <http://meetings.wmo.int/RA-III-17/English/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FRA-III-17%2FEnglish%2F2%2E%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20%28Approved%20documents%29&FolderCTID=0x0120002A00776CBAAA734881C79A95BFC9F77C&View=%7B45CE9C55-231D-4E8C-B56E-B32D0E0F9059%7D>

⁷ For more information, access the project webpage at: <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3308>

composed of multiple institutions, such as the meteorological services, agriculture extension services, and other research and policy organizations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. The meeting will be held from 24 to 25 April 2019 in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Fundraising initiatives (Capacity Building)

31. In support of Decision XXVI/27, in August 2018, the Directorate and the Institute of Biology/State University of Campinas (IB/UNICAMP), the Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES) submitted a proposal to hold a *São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Scenarios and Modelling on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to Support Human Well-Being (SPSAS Scenarios)*.⁸
32. The IB/UNICAMP – IAI proposal was approved for funding by FAPESP and the School will take place 1-14 July 2018 in São Pedro, Brazil. Over 100 graduate students and natural resources managers, from all over the world, will participate in this event. Young scientists and leading experts in the field will discuss the complexity of current changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services and the use of scenarios and modelling that has become not only a top research priority, but also an indispensable tool for decision making. The School is led by SAC member, Carlos Joly, from UNICAMP. Other collaborators are the Center for Environmental Studies and Research (NEPAM/UNICAMP), the Bioscience Institute/ University of São Paulo, the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) and the BIOTA-FAPESP Program.
33. At the time of writing this report, the Directorate is supporting the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) capacity-building task force in the organization of the *IPBES Youth Workshop* from 27 to 28 June 2019 in São Pedro, Brazil. The workshop will be held back to with the “*São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Scenarios and Modelling on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to Support Human Well-Being*”. It is organized in collaboration with the IPBES expert group on scenarios and models, the Norwegian Environment Agency, the Brazilian Platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (BPBES), the São Paulo Research Foundation's Research programme on Biodiversity, Characterisation, Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use (BIOTA-FAPESP) and the International Institute for Sustainability. The workshop is funded by the Norwegian Environment Agency. The IAI Directorate will recommend early-career professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the workshop. Participants nominated by the IAI Directorate will receive travel support from IPBES to participate in the workshop⁹.

⁸ For more information, access the School webpage at: <http://www.iai.int/en/capacity-building/detail/sao-paulo-school-scenarios>.

⁹ See Notification no. IAIUYDIR/2019/008, *Invitation to Parties to nominate early-career professionals and practitioners to participate in the IPBES Youth Workshop*.

34. In support of Decision XXVI/29, at the time of writing, the Directorate is developing the IAI Science, Technology, Policy Fellowship Program (STeP Fellowship Program) and its implementation plan. The Directorate is grateful for the support of the STeP Fellowship Program working group, which has been established to provide advice on the development of the program. The group is composed of members of the SAC, SPAC, a representative from AAAS, and may also include representatives from Parties¹⁰. The Directorate wishes to acknowledge the support from the US National Science Foundation which made this initiative possible.
35. With regards to decision XXVI/28, in September 2018, the IAI Directorate submitted a concept note titled *Innovative Climate Change Solutions to Reduce Risk and Vulnerability in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Science for Policy Action Program (SPAP)* to the KR Foundation. The program would support the development the Directorate's Seed Grant Program in 2019-2020. In early 2019, the Directorate was invited to submit a letter of intent based on the foundation's initial interest in the concept note. However, the foundation's feedback was that due to a very large number of applications this year it was unable to support the proposal at this time. The Directorate is now considering other potential donor agencies to request funding to support this program.
36. IAI Capacity Building Seed Grant Programs were implemented by the Directorate in the past with high impact and low cost. Seed Grant Programs included scientists and other professionals from all 19 Parties, from the civil society, and the public and private sectors. In addition, the program contributed to the development of transdisciplinary research networks and the training of young principal investigators who are currently leading the recently approved IAI projects under the Small Grants Program-Human Wellbeing (SGP-HW 2019-2020).
37. At the time of writing, the Directorate is collaborating with the Belmont Forum and representatives from government agencies and universities in the Andes to hold a *Professional Development Seminar on Climate, Environment and Health* in 2020. The Directorate will encourage the development of transdisciplinary research teams to propose Seed Grant research projects, which will be implemented subject to the availability of external resources. Seed Grant teams would be further encouraged to compete for external grant funding and participate in the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Climate, Environment and Health.
38. The Directorate is collaborating with experts from the Latin American Research Center at the University of Calgary, Canada, and the Fundación Dialogos para la Naturaleza, Chile, to launch a Collaborative Territorial Governance Laboratory (CTGL). The Laboratory would support research, capacity building, science-policy conferences, through multi-institutional and multi-sectorial dialogue with transdisciplinary approaches. The overarching goal of the CTGL is to address complex challenges, including meeting sustainable development goals, such as food and water security and their relationship with natural resources and extractive industries, among other areas of work. In January 2019,

¹⁰ See Notification IAIUYDIR/2019/009, *Invitation to Parties to submit nominations for representatives to the IAI Science, Technology, Policy Fellowship Program working group*

the University of Calgary has submitted a proposal to the Calas Foundation in Mexico requesting funds to support the initial design of the Laboratory. In addition, the Fundación Dialogos para la Naturaleza has requested funds to BHP Minerals America to fund a case study of the CTGL in Chile.

39. The IAI Directorate participates in a research project proposal titled *Socio-hydrOlogical soURCES of migration flows* – SOURCES. The \$7 million euros proposal led by the Institute for Environmental Studies of the University of Amsterdam is a global initiative of a group of 20+ research, interational and government organizations, as well as NGOs. The proposal was submitted to the H2020 call on Climate change and migration of the European Commission in February 2019.
40. The Directorate staff met with Carlos H. de Brito Cruz, FAPESP science director, Jean Ometto, Brazil focal point and member of FAPESP climate and global change program, Carlos Joly, SAC member and coordinator of FAPESP Biota program, and Reynaldo Victoria, SAC chair and coordinator of the FAPESP climate and global change program on 14 August 2018. FAPESP and IAI representatives discussed opportunities for future science activities to be developed under the IAI-FAPESP agreement. In a follow up meeting on 9-10 October 2018, Drs. Joly and Victoria visited the IAI Directorate to develop a work plan with specific activities. The plan included potential FAPESP funding to support research fellows in the IAI Small Grant Program: SGP-HW, engagement of IAI investigators in projects funded by FAPESP, and themes and research groups for future FAPESP's Schools of Advance Sciences to be developed jointly with the Directorate.
41. On 14 August 2018, FAPESP representatives Carlos Joly and Reynaldo Victoria, and IAI Directorate staff met with Uruguay's National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) president, Fernando Brum, and the coordinator of cooperation, Laura di Giovanni. IAI and FAPESP representatives presented the work of the IAI, the ongoing collaboration between FAPESP and the IAI, and the collaboration with the Belmont Forum. IAI and FAPESP representatives discussed with ANII the potential benefits of an Inter-American funding mechanism to increase support for global change research.
42. During the intersessional period of CoP-26 (Antigua, 2018) the IAI Directorate hosted three undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Oregon (United States), the University of Michigan (United States), and Korea University (Korea) at the Directorate in Uruguay. Interns have learned about international environmental governance and the work of the IAI in its relations with Parties, preparation of institutional meetings - such as the Conference of the Parties - and the development of programmatic activities, such as training workshops, scientific meetings, etc. Internships have been funded by the Tinker Foundation Fieldwork Grant, the Christianson Grant, InterExchange Foundation, and the Korean Ministry of the Environment for International Environmental Expert Training Program.

Party representatives participation in IAI events

43. Argentina IAI focal point from the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation, Mariano Jordán, participated, as a speaker, in the “*The São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Ocean Interdisciplinary Research and Governance*”, which was held 13 to 25 August 2018 in São Paulo, Brazil. Moreover, Mariano Jordán also hosted the planning meeting of the IAI international seminar and graduate course titled *Integrating Global Change knowledge to decision-making processes: a transdisciplinary approach Forum on Building a dialogue between Science and Policy in the framework of Global Change* that will be held in September 2019 in Santa Fe, Argentina. The meeting was held 26 to 27 February 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina
44. Paraguay IAI focal point from the National University of Asuncion, Fernando Mendez, is a member on the steering committee of the IAI international seminar and graduate course titled *Integrating Global Change knowledge to decision-making processes: a transdisciplinary approach* and *Forum on “Building a dialogue between Science and Policy in the framework of Global Change in the La Plata Basin region.*
45. Panama IAI focal points from the National Secretary of Science, Technology and Innovation, Milagro Mainieri and Luz Cruz, served as hosts and collaborators with the Directorate and AAAS in the *Science Diplomacy Workshop* for Central American scientists and policy makers. The course was held 17 to 19 October 2018 in Panama City, Panama.
46. Guatemala IAI focal point from the National Secretary of Science and Technology, Aldo López, participated in the SENACYT Panama-IAI-AAAS *Science Diplomacy Workshop* in Panama. Furthermore, the Guatemalan focal point also accompanied the Directorate staff in a meeting at the division of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS) on 15 April 2018. The meeting discussed the activities of the Trifinio Acifer project in Central America, which is managed by OAS.

IAI Directorate staff meetings with Party representatives

47. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Directorate staff visited and met with Party representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the USA and Uruguay. The Directorate also met with the focal point from Colombia, virtually.
48. At the time of writing this report upcoming meetings have been scheduled with representatives from Ecuador and Paraguay. A face-to-face meeting with Colombia is also planned.

Recommendation:

49. The Conference of the Parties is invited to encourage Parties to support the Directorate in the development of capacity building and science-policy activities on global change sciences that are relevant to national priorities. The Directorate would welcome the

development of joint-activities and further collaboration with Party representatives to strengthen the scientific and policymaking capacities of professionals from the Americas.

50. The Conference of the Parties is invited to support the development of the IAI Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program and its implementation plan. The program will strengthen the science-policy training of early-career scientists from Latin America and the Caribbean, subject to the availability of external resources.
51. The Conference of the Parties is invited to encourage Parties to collaborate with the IAI Directorate, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee in the development of a new iteration of the IAI Research Internship Program. The program will offer fellowships for early-career scientists to develop a research project at prestigious national and international research centers. The Directorate successfully implemented research internship programs with Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) through the Center for Weather Forecast and Climate Studies (CPTEC), and the United States National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) during the period 2006-2012. IAI Parties will be invited to nominate national institutions, or endorse institutions identified by the Directorate, to serve as research host organizations and report back at the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of external resources.
52. The Conference of the Parties is invited to support the development of future IAI Seed Grant Programs associated with capacity building activities. Seed Grant Programs have been implemented by the Directorate and has contributed to the development of transdisciplinary networks and training of young principal investigators who are now leading IAI research projects under the Science Program. Moreover, Seed Grant Programs have involved professionals from the civil society, the public and private sectors coming from all 19 Parties.
53. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Capacity Building

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVII/ . The IAI Directorate is instructed to implement the IAI Science and Technology Policy (STeP) Fellowships Program, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

XXVII/ The IAI Directorate is instructed to invite IAI Parties to participate in a new iteration of the IAI Research Internship Program. Parties will be invited to nominate national institutions, or endorse institutions identified by the Directorate, to serve as research host organizations and report back at the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of external financial resources.

XXVII/ . The IAI Directorate is instructed to develop future Seed Grant Programs associated with the Professional Development Seminars that foster the development of transdisciplinary research teams and encourage the participation of scientists and professionals from IAI Parties, subject to the availability of external financial resources.
