



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

10 April 2019

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-seventh meeting
Brasilia, Brazil, 5-6 June 2019
Agenda item 20a**

Report of the Directorate

Decision XXV/36: IAI long-term communication strategy and plan

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

Background

2. Article II, paragraph (f), *Objectives*, of the *Agreement* states:

Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments for the development of public policy relevant to global change;

3. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting, adopted Decision XXVI/36, *the IAI Long-Term Communications Strategy* which instructed the IAI Directorate to:

...adopt the IAI Communication strategy and plan to increase awareness of the IAI scientific agenda, the IAI capacity-building program, and the activities related to provision of data and information to policy makers and other stakeholders.

4. Additionally, the Conference of the Parties at the same meeting adopted Decision XXVI/37 which instructed the IAI Directorate to:

... support Parties in promoting synergies and to cooperate with multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations in the design and implementation of science communication activities and projects.

5. Decision XXVI/38 directed the IAI Directorate to:

...organize with the UNFCCC and other conventions...regional science communication initiatives such as a workshop and other outreach activities subject to the availability of financial resources, to improve the provision of data and information to policy makers, and dissemination of scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national, regional, and international policies in light of the Paris Agreement and other under multilateral environmental agreements.

Implementation of the Long-Term Communications Strategy and Plan

6. The IAI Long-Term Communications Strategy proposes a flexible 5-year action plan to:

- a) *Take into account the work in support of intergovernmental agreements relevant to national priorities;*
- b) *Promote co-design of scientific research where scientists work jointly with policy makers and stakeholders to design, implement and apply research that directly addresses relevant governance and policy challenges arising from global change;*
- c) *Provide project and other relevant and timely information to the Parties, including through the organization of side-events, science-policy fora, and workshops at meetings of the multilateral environmental framework agreements;*
- d) *Provide information to Parties via notifications, information data sheets, website and social media, among other communication mechanisms;*
- e) *Promote collaboration with various stakeholders, including partners, donor agencies and development banks, academia, private sector and constituent groups at various governmental levels;*
- f) *Increase media presence, including through social media, through the development of strategic partnerships.*

7. During the 2018-2019 intersessional period, the Directorate developed a joint publication with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), eight project briefs, two social media outreach campaigns and one outreach brochure. These products are aimed to enhance science communication and increase public awareness and fundraising opportunities.

8. The Directorate is developing two publications in collaboration with UNOSSC and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which are described below.

These activities will improve the provision of scientific information generated by IAI-funded research and the dissemination of that knowledge to policy makers and other stakeholders.

9. As part of UNFCCC Climate Week 2018, hosted by Uruguay, the IAI and the UNOSSC organized a joint workshop on 20 August 2018, in Montevideo, Uruguay (*IAI Notification IAIUYDIR/2018/016*). The IAI national focal points Mr. Mariano Jordan (Argentina), Ms. Gladys Santis (Chile) and Mr. Ignacio Lorenzo (Uruguay) joined a science-policy dialogue with municipal officials from the cities of Buenos Aires, Santiago and Sao Paulo, to enhance South-South cooperation on the challenges posed by global change in urban areas throughout the Latin American and the Caribbean region. The publication *South and Triangular Cooperation on Climate Technologies, a Regional Perspectives* that resulted from the Climate Week and this workshop was published by the UNOSSC in March 2019 and is available at: <http://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/workshop-on-south-south-cooperation-for-climate-and-sustainable-development-progress-latin-american-and-caribbean-climate-week>
10. The joint publication with UNOSSC *South-South and Triangular Cooperation on the Management of Urban Space and its Impacts in Addressing Climate Change and Fostering Sustainable Development* is scheduled for publication in December 2019. This publication will share examples of how 10 cities in different regions around the world are designing and implementing policies and programs on the management of urban spaces that could lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions, climate resilience governance and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Chapters will be co-authored by one or more municipal officials and scientists. The publication will be developed in collaboration with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and UN Habitat.
11. The experiences shared in this volume are aimed at promoting South-South and triangular cooperation and partnerships, and also connections between municipal authorities and scientists to share lessons learned and provide cities with the information needed to face challenges posed by global changes. This publication is a direct result of the IAI Directorate's co-designed urban initiative, which led to the submission of a proposal to the QIAO Plan by the IAI Directorate, with the official support from the cities of Buenos Aires, Santiago and São Paulo. Publication chapters will be co-authored by representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Secretaria do Verde e do Meio, Ambiente da Prefeitura do Município de São Paulo and the Governo do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil, and the Ministerio de la Vivienda y Urbanismo (MINVU), División de Desarrollo Urbano del MINVU and Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Chile.
12. In response to Decision XXVI/38, the Directorate will partner with the UNFCCC to organize a joint regional communication workshop. The Directorate is currently working to identify external financial resources to implement this Decision.
13. In collaboration with the UNFCCC Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and the Technology Executive Committee, the Directorate is working with Third Round of Collaborative Research Networks (CRN3) investigators to contribute findings from their research for a publication on the topic of technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones. This publication will be the result of an expert dialogue that will convene leading experts, practitioners and policy makers to discuss and share information on technologies for coastal zone risk assessment, risk retention recovery and rehabilitation, including case studies from different geophysical environmental settings. The

publication will be made available to delegates attending the UNFCCC COP-25 to be held in Santiago, Chile in December 2019.

14. Eight project briefs have been developed synthesizing CRN3 information. The project briefs are available to CoP-27 delegates in English and Spanish on the IAI website. They are: Nitrogen management policies urgently needed (CRN3005), The Importance of studying tropical dry forests (CRN3025), From climate knowledge to action (CRN3035), Land use, climate and infections in the Western Amazonia (CRN3036), Arid America: a challenge to guarantee water for society and environment (CRN3056), The state of American lakes and lagoons (CRN3038), The secrets of the ocean (CRN3070), The silent benefits of the ocean: the importance of phytoplankton (CRN3094), The risk of rodent-borne diseases (CRN3076)
15. In addition, as reported in document IAI/COP/27/b, the *Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal*, will be published in an open access journal. It is hoped that the publication will increase the visibility and recognition of the IAI, particularly with regard to the importance of its CRN program, in the scientific and other communities.
16. The Directorate organized a side-event during the UNFCCC COP-24, which was held on 4 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland, in collaboration with the German Committee Future Earth. The event had the participation of the United Nations Climate Summit Special Envoy Ambassador to COP-24, H.E. Luis Alfonso de Alba, the Green Climate Fund General Counsel, Mr. Douglas Leys, the Vice-Chair of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Dr. Thelma Krug, Lead Author of the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), Mr. Jean-Pascal van Ypserle, the Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15), Ms. Daniela Jacob. Participants of this event discussed the outcomes of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15) in light of the upcoming UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) to be released in September 2019.
17. Since COP-24, the Directorate has been discussing with the Internews Environmental Programs and the Earth Journalism Network possible involvement of journalism students in communication activities of the IAI in support of Decision XXIV/9. Parties will be informed on the results of these discussions in due time.
18. On the occasion of the Centennial Meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU100), in Washington DC from 10 to 14 December 2018, the IAI provided a platform to engage participants in a discussion of how scientific data can guide the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In partnership with the Pvblic Foundation and the SDG Data Hub, participants were asked: how can your data be better used to guide governments? What is the potential to improve lives and track the SDGs at the local, national, regional level? How to use your data to guide policy for social good? What is the role of the private sector to help address our sustainability challenges? A video of activities during the event is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7vRPBASC-U&feature=youtu.be>
19. The Directorate created an online Interview Series leading up to CoP-27, in observance of United Nations designated days¹. IAI investigators were selected based on the relevance of their work

¹ The United Nations observes designated days, weeks, years, decades and anniversaries, each with a theme, or topic. By creating special observances, the United Nations stimulates interest in United Nations activities and programmes in these areas, and promotes international awareness and action. The majority of observances have been established

to commemorate a designated days. The interviewees were: Dr. Sandra Diaz, Principal Investigator of SGP-HW090, International Women's Day, Dr. Gerardo Perillo, Lead Investigator of CRN3038, World Water Day, Dr. Celeste Saulo, co-investigator of CRN3035, World Meteorological Day, Dr. Jaime Miranda, co-investigator of CRN3036, World Health Day. The last interview of the Series, in celebration of World Biodiversity Day, the Directorate invited former member of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Dr. Harold Mooney, a recognized expert on the biology of global change.

20. According to Google Analytics data, the online Interview Series was the third most visited page on the IAI website (the first and second pages are the IAI homepage in English and Spanish) during the period of 8 March to 7 April 2019.
21. Over the 28-day period, the IAI Directorate's Twitter account showed an increase of 216.6% on impressions and 258.3% on mentions, largely due to the Interview Series. For example, the Interview Series tweets resulted in a total of 13,309 impressions and 251 engagements. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a key partner in the IAI's communications plan, were active in promoting this initiative on social media.
22. The IAI's Massive Open Online Course on the Impacts of Climate Change in Latin America reached ten thousand registered participants on 26 March 2019. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Multilateral Environmental Agreements Knowledge Management Initiative, InforMEA, have approached the Directorate, expressing interest to make this course available through their learning platforms. The IAI Directorate notes the need to update the course with new materials and also update its technical platform.
23. Finally, Decision XXVI/39 adopted the Outreach brochure. which was distributed to CoP-27 delegates. The brochure will be updated to reflect new content, projects and initiatives prior to CoP-28.

Recommendation

24. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this report.

by resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, although some have been designated by UN specialized agencies. (From: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/index.html>)