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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 20b

Communications and outreach

Decision XXVI/40: Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal

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* 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.*¹

3. Article II, *Objectives*, of the *Agreement* states:

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;

e) Foster standardization, collection, analysis and exchange of scientific data relevant to global change;

¹ *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, IAI/LD-1/1992, p.

2. See: http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/agreement_establishing_the_IAI_en.pdf

f) Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments for the development of public policy relevant to global change; ²

4. The Conference of the Parties, at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017), adopted Decision XXV/28, *Augmenting science communication capacities in IAI research projects*, which states:

The CoP directed the Directorate to find ways to enhance the capacity of IAI research projects to communicate their results to stakeholders. ³

5. The *IAI Communication Strategy and Plan*, paragraph 4, states:

Communications efforts need to effectively engage the Parties, partners, current and past scientists involved in the IAI and funding agencies and mechanisms. It should also raise the interest of potential new donors and partners. Increased visibility and inclusion of the IAI in formal decisions adopted by multilateral environmental agreements is a first step in development of a framework to increase visibility and recognition of the importance of the IAI. [...]. ⁴

6. The Conference of the Parties, at its 26th meeting (Antigua, 2018) (CoP-26), adopted Decision XXVI/40, *Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal*, which states:

The IAI Directorate is instructed to communicate with editors of relevant peer reviewed journals for the publication of a special issue on the IAI, subject to the availability of financial resources, focusing on past and current scientific projects under the Collaborative Research Networks, among other projects, capacity building activities, the Small Grants Program, and the potential impact of these projects and activities on national and regional policies and decisions. ⁵

7. The Conference of the Parties, at CoP-26 also adopted Decision XXVI/45, *Open Data Policy and Principles*, which states:

The IAI Directorate is directed to use the IAI Open data policy and principles to provide open access, as appropriate, to data and information generated by IAI funded research. ⁶

8. The Third Round of Collaborative Research Networks (CRN3) projects has produced a wealth of knowledge on priority global change problems and potential solutions in the Americas. The results of the research of the 17 multinational teams focus on wide-ranging societally-relevant sustainability issues. Results also address many aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with perspectives on terrestrial, marine and atmospheric social-ecological systems in the Americas, including: climate

² Ibid., p. 2

³ *IAI/CoP/25/3/Approved Decisions and Actions of CoP-XXV*, June 13th-14th, 2017, Bogotá, Colombia, p. 4. See: <http://www.iai.int/pdf/en/IAI-CoP-25-3-Approved.pdf>

⁴ *IAI Communication Strategy and Plan*. See: <http://www.iai.int/admin/site/sites/default/files/uploads/iai-cop-26-18a-e.pdf>

⁵ *Decisions of the 26th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Antigua, Guatemala, 20-21 June 2018, p. 7. See:

<http://www.iai.int/pdf/en/cop-26-dec-e.pdf>

⁶ Ibid., p. 8.

variability and change, climate services, water security and freshwater risks, urban hydrological risk, bio-energy production, tropical and sub-tropical dry forests conservation and territorial planning, coastal and marine ecosystems, global change-related health issues, among others. The projects integrate natural and social sciences and are a step towards bridging science and policy needs.

9. This document summarizes the progress of work to publish a special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal.

Publication of a CRN3 Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal

10. The objective of this Special issue is to compile the results and findings generated by CRN3 projects and communicate this information to policy makers and stakeholders to assist in the development of public policy relevant to global change.
11. In addition to communicating its results to academia in a way that is useful to policy-makers, the Special issue will also increase the visibility and recognition of the IAI, showcasing its potential to possible new partners and donors. Moreover, synthesized results from the CRN3 program may help Parties achieve their obligations under multi-lateral agreements, such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the 2020 and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Frameworks, as appropriate and when identified by Parties.
12. The IAI Directorate informed Parties on the call for abstracts through notification no. IAIUYDIR/2018/021 on 19 October 2018. The call requested abstracts on topics that may promote science to policy discussions needed by governments for more effective decision-making.
13. A total of 25 abstracts authored by over a hundred researchers from eleven CRN3 projects were received in response to this call.
14. In consultation with the Science Advisory Committee (SAC)⁷ and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), the Directorate identified four high-impact journals that would be the most appropriate for the publication of the Special Issue. On February 2019, a proposal for an IAI Special issue was shared with the Editors-in-Chief of those four journals.
15. Communications with Editors-in-Chief resulted in expressions of interest from three journals: *Current opinion in environmental sustainability*⁸, *Environmental development*⁹ and *Ecology & Society*.¹⁰
16. The IAI Executive Director Marcos Regis da Silva will act as guest editor for the Special issue. SAC and SPAC members will serve as guest co-editors and peer reviewers.

⁷ As per section 4d of Article VII, The Scientific Advisory Committee, of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, p. 6. See: http://www.iai.int/pdf/es/agreement_establishing_the_IAI_en.pdf

⁸ Impact factor 4.186. See: www.journals.elsevier.com/current-opinion-in-environmental-sustainability/

⁹ Impact factor 2.344. See: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/environmental-development>

¹⁰ Impact factor 3.256. See: www.ecologyandsociety.org/

17. The Directorate is discussing with the SAC and the SPAC the selection of the journal. It is also in contact with journal editors to ascertain the requirements and costs associated with publication.¹¹
18. The Special issue will be published with open access. Parties are invited to contribute external financial resources to ensure the publication of this special issue.

Recommendations

19. The Conference of the Parties is invited to instruct the IAI Directorate to continue working jointly with the Science Advisory Committee (SAC), and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) on the publication of a Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal.
20. The Conference of the Parties is invited to instruct the IAI Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) to collaborate with the IAI Directorate on the publication of a Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal. by acting as guest editors, reviewers, and/or any other function that contributes to the publication of the Special issue.
21. The Conference of the Parties is invited to urge Parties to contribute financial resources to ensure the publication of this Special issue.
22. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

¹¹ The Special issue Proposal shared with the journals' Editors-in-Chief is available in Info Document IAI/COP/27/20b/1

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVII/xx. The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue working jointly with the Science Advisory Committee (SAC), the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) and CRN3 researchers on the publication of a Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal.

Directed to the SAC and SPAC

XXVII/xx. The IAI Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) are instructed to collaborate with the Directorate on the publication of a special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal, by acting as guest editors, reviewers, and/or any other function that contributes to the publication of the Special issue.

Directed to the Parties

XXVI/xx. Parties are invited to contribute financial resource to ensure publication of a special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal.