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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 22b**

**Decision XXVI/45: Report on implementation of the
IAI Open data policy and principles and the IAI open data portal**

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

Background

2. Article II of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* states, in part:

The Institute shall pursue the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the full and open exchange of scientific information, relevant to global change.

3. The Conference of the Parties, at its 2nd meeting (Rio de Janeiro, 1995) adopted the *Data policy statements of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* which is intended to facilitate the full and open exchange of data between the Parties of the Institute pursuant to Article II of the Agreement¹.
4. The Conference of the Parties (CoP), at its 25th meeting (Bogota, 2017) adopted Decision XXV/6 on *Open data policy and principles*, which states:

¹ *Data policy statements of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* (IAI/4.WD/March 27, 1995). See Information document IAI/COP/26/Info.1 (<http://www.iai.int/admin/site/sites/default/files/uploads/info1-cop26-e.pdf>)

The CoP directed the IAI Directorate to define and establish open data policy and principles taking into account the data policy document approved at IAI CoP 2. The document will be presented at the next CoP.

5. At its 26th meeting (CoP-26, Antigua, Guatemala, 2018), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXVI/45 on *Report on implementation of the IAI Open data policy and principles and the IAI open data portal*, 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. The IAI Directorate explicitly stipulates a number of requirements related to data in projects under the Collaborative Research Networks:

The IAI requires a continuing commitment from the Grantee and the PI to the establishment, maintenance, validation, description, accessibility, and distribution of high-quality data that results from research supported by the grant. PIs and Grantees shall act to facilitate exchange of data among researchers. International standards shall be used to the greatest extent possible for media and for processing and exchange of data sets. By accepting this grant from the IAI, the PI and the Grantee accept their responsibility to adhere to the IAI policy for the free and open Dissemination of Results.

Where applicable, a fully documented data set shall be submitted to the IAI for distribution on the IAI Data and Information System (IAI-DIS), or alternatively, the Grantee shall supply electronic metadata to the IAI-DIS.

7. The IAI Directorate also notes the adoption on 4 March 2018 by 24 of the region's countries of the *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*², known as the *Escazú Agreement*, which aims to ensure the right of all persons to have access to information in a timely and appropriate manner, to participate significantly in making the decisions that affect their lives and their environment, and to access justice when those rights have been infringed³.

Implementation of Decision XXVI/45

8. A description of efforts to develop and begin implementation of the *IAI Open data policy and principles* and the IAI open data portal is available in CoP-26 document no. IAI/COP/26/20a, *Decision XXV/6: Open data policy and principles*⁴.

² *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018 (see: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43583/1/S1800428_en.pdf)

³ *Ibid*, p. 7-8. (Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)

⁴ See: <http://www.iai.int/admin/site/sites/default/files/uploads/iai-cop-26-20a-e.pdf>

9. The IAI Directorate acknowledges the support of the Government of Uruguay Agency for Electronic Government and Information and Knowledge Society (AGESIC), which provided the framework, through the AGESIC open data catalog, to learn the requirements of establishing such a system and the requirements to administer it in the long-term.
10. Support from the Center for Earth Observation Sciences (CEOS) of the University of Alberta also made development of and ongoing work on the IAI data portal possible.
11. With the experience gained from use of the AGESIC open data portal and with the advice received from CEOS, the IAI Directorate entered into an agreement with the University of Harvard, and its Dataverse project⁵, to use its data platform for the development of the IAI open data portal.
12. Harvard University's Dataverse is an online data repository where research institutions, organizations and researchers are able to disseminate, share, preserve, cite, search, retrieve and analyze research data. It is being developed at Harvard's Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) and counts on the participation of research institutions worldwide.
13. At the time of writing, the IAI Directorate believes it may be possible to present the beta IAI open data catalog at CoP-27.
14. The IAI Directorate is grateful for the generous financial contribution by the NSF that made the development of the IAI data portal possible.

Other activities related to open data and open science

15. The IAI Directorate is working with the Committee on Data of the International Council for Science (CODATA), International Council for Science (ICS) and African Academy of Science (AAS) in the development of a *Collaborative South-South regional approach to the promotion of and adherence to open data and open science*.
16. This project aims to support innovative work related to open data and open science based on South-to-South cooperation. It will focus primarily on two areas, technical issues and issues related to governance in open data and science. The work on technical issues will include the promotion of and training in the use of: open and agreed data formats, protocols and standards, particularly metadata standards.
17. With regard to questions on governance, the project will focus on the provision of information related to intellectual property (IP) and the need to consider rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and national obligations to share data and information based on international governance, the *Regional Agreement on Access to*

⁵ See: <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/>

Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean being a case in point.

18. Parties and organizations interested in supporting this work are invited to communicate with the IAI Directorate.

Recommendation

19. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decision contained in the Annex 1 to the present document.

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Open data policy and principles

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXVII/xx. The IAI Directorate is instructed to strengthen its collaboration with the Committee on Data of the International Council for Science (CODATA), International Council for Science (ICS) and African Academy of Science (AAS) to ensure development and implementation of a Collaborative South-South regional approach to the promotion of and adherence to open data and open science.

XXVII/xx. The IAI Directorate is instructed to communicate with scientists and researchers in the Americas and encourage them to register metadata and data on the IAI open data portal related to results of their research on global change.

Directed to the IAI Parties

XXVII/xx. Parties are invited to support, as appropriate and in accordance to national legislation, the project on a Collaborative South-South regional approach to the promotion of and adherence to open data and open science.