

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR  
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



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**Report of the IAI Directorate**

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## **Report for the period May-November 2006 to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the IAI Executive Council (EC), Panama City, Panama, 9-10 December 2006**

### **Highlights and Outlook**

The new CRN-II program has been successfully implemented, with all contracts signed. This represents a milestone towards a more mature, interconnected science program supported by more efficient, clearer administrative rules and agreements.

The analysis for CRN-I is ongoing: the book on policy relevance will go to the publisher in December 06, the initial workshop on climate-land use interactions have been successfully conducted with CPTEC and has resulted in recommendations for CRN-II, the training workshop on risk has been concluded with both institutional development and program recommendations and opportunities, and a workshop on the application of ecological knowledge to land use decisions will take place in Dec. 06. These activities represent a new direction in the IAI program: they integrate science and education / capacity building; and they engage the IAI in science synthesis activities to provide additional program outputs and guide future programming.

Funding has been obtained from the NSF for a new human dimensions program to integrate with existing CRNs. This will provide opportunities to balance the science portfolio and to make progress towards societal relevance of the research undertaken. IDRC of Canada will further promote socio-economic research in the IAI program as part of a large land use and adaptation initiative, planned between IAI and IDRC.

Institutional cooperations have been initiated with a number of international networks and institutions in Latin America – RIOCC, CYTED and IICA. This is an important step to place the IAI into the regional context and explore synergies between different regional initiatives.

Internal improvements and reforms are ongoing, providing for improved management, control, accountability and integration between staff.

### **Director's Meetings, Workshops and Outcomes:**

May 2-4: CRN-II meeting for Principal Investigators (PIs) and Authorized Institutional Representatives (AIRs) in Buenos Aires. Seminars on project management and preparation of reports and accounts. Contracts were reviewed and contract modifications initiated to reconcile varying legal requirements in different legislations. This was the basis for signing the complex CRN-II contracts. Discussions on network cooperations, and initiation of cooperative efforts between different terrestrial ecosystem CRNs. Follow-up on initiatives from the Edmonton meeting. Similar to the Edmonton meeting, this meeting was compulsory for CRN-II participants, and was highly appreciated by both PIs and AIRs. The dialogue initiated subsequently facilitated communication between the Directorate and the projects.

May 3: meeting with *Secretaría de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva* de Argentina (Ing. Agueda Menvielle) on Argentina-IAI cooperation, future joint activities and dues. An agreement was reached that Argentina would support meetings for the IAI. Suggested venues were in the provinces of Santa Fé, Mendoza, Santa Cruz and Buenos Aires. Follow-up on a Canadian request to initiate contacts for joint Argentina-Canada activities for the International Polar Year.

May 3: Meeting with UBATEC on project administration for CRN-II and other projects. UBATEC will continue to play an important support role in Argentinean projects, and in addition will provide support for projects in other countries where exchange controls hinder effective international project administration.

May 4: meeting with Roberto Benencia (CONICET-UBA) on initiating a human dimensions program to integrate with CRN-II. From this and other consultations, the Directorate received guidance towards the preparation of a proposal which has now been funded to start in 2007.

May 16-17: LBA planning meeting in Brasilia. Possible co-operations between a new phase of LBA and IAI were identified but no concrete program plans exist at this stage.

May 29-30: INPE workshop on capacity building, “the ability to set and achieve goals”, with seminars on tailor-made learning processes, project cycles, monitoring and Knowledge acquisition (rather than “transfer”). The workshop provided inputs to the IAI capacity building program.

July 17-28: IAI-DAAD summer school on land use systems in Latin America (Goettingen, Germany) for participants from Latin America. Although not a criterion for selection of participants, several CRNs were represented at the summer school. Two students took the course for credit as part of a M.Sc. program. In addition to lectures, there were discussion and planning groups. These developed a concept for a new network of NGOs and other agencies involved in environmental and global change research to support capacity building by universities. The goal is to establish a roster of applied research projects that can be accessed for undergraduate and M.Sc. thesis work. This could make a major contribution towards a more practice-oriented capstone program in universities. The focus of the network will initially be Central America.

July 31- Aug. 2: Meetings with Spanish Ministry of the Environment’s Office for Climate Change. Agreement for cooperation between IAI and RIOCC (Red Ibero-Americano de Oficinas de Cambio Global). RIOCC made their inventory of Latin American country priorities in global change research available to the Directorate. This will facilitate the IAI’s strategic program development.

August 13-18: CRN-I & II workshop on Climate-Land use interface organized with CPTEC (Cachoeira Paulista). Synthesis of CRN-I, guidance for CRN-II and other research programs. One output from the workshop was a recommendation on which modules from models should be in connected for coupling of the LUCC and climate models. But considerable challenges were identified. Gaps in data and models were identified based on CRN-I experience, and strategies outlined for CRN-II to overcome some of the constraints. The workshop further enhanced the La Plata science initiative.

September 5-6: IAI presentation at Third World Academy of Sciences symposium on Global Change in Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The presentation was an introduction to IAI activities to TWAS, but the symposium was badly organized and attended. As a result, there are plans to develop a more comprehensive better planned meeting at a future TWAS in Mexico.

September 11-15: FAC meeting, São José dos Campos. In addition to routine FAC work, the procurement manual was further advanced with staff, and the external audit was conducted.

September 18: GEWEX/CLIVAR/VAMOS meeting in Guaratinguetá, São Paulo, Brazil. Continuing planning on IAI cooperation on climate-land use studies in the La Plata basin.

October 2-6: Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment executive meeting, Rome. An agreement was reached that SCOPE will perform state-of-the-art science assessments to aid IAI in Project and program planning. The first such assessment is now part of a proposal to IDRC for a major program on rural development, adaptation to climate change and biofuel production in South America.

October 10. Meeting with CYTED (*Cooperación en Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo*). An agreement was reached to cooperate with Secretariat in Brazil on joint programs. This may provide opportunities to link global change research and development-oriented activities.

October 11. Meeting with RIOCC. Agreement on cooperation in Land use and Biofuel program, that was also presented to IDRC of Canada, BMBF of Germany and the EU.

October 31 – Nov. 3: IGFA meeting Montreal. Presentation on current IAI activities and strategies. Discussion on the links between IAI and the global programs. Suggested cooperation between IAI and APN on the interface of development and global change sciences.

November 6: Meeting with IICA office in Ottawa. Preparation of joint IAI-IICA-SCOPE workshop to be held Dec. 11-15 in San José Costa Rica.

November 7: Meeting with IDRC on joint program on land use change and biofuel. Agreement to implement socio-economic research program on land use change and rural poverty in 2007 and beyond.

### **Institutional Agreements:**

An agreement was signed with CPTEC to facilitate joint activities such as the joint training event of Aug. 13-18. This was followed by the preparation of a formal MOU with INPE, which is currently under review by INPE's legal department.

The first interns for the CPTEC-IAI internship have been chosen and will begin their internship in 2007. An agreement for these internships had been signed by Gustavo Necco, but no funding had been assigned. Both timing and funding were adjusted to honour the agreement despite this problem.

A MOU was signed with the Asia-Pacific Network to cover strategic cooperations. One principal deterrent for project of program cooperation with APN are the high transaction costs. Topics of common interest are Urbanization and Coastal Zones. A more strategic issue that affects both the Asian and American networks is development and its constraints under global change. This was followed up at the IGFA meeting in Montreal.

Following the IAI's presence at the SBSTTA meeting, a brief was prepared on the future active role of the regional global change research institutions.

### **Internal Directorate Initiatives:**

A new Financial and Administrative Officer has been contracted. The FAC and the Directorate screened over 200 applications, drafted a short list of 5 candidates based on phone interviews, invited 2 candidates for personal interviews and offered the position to Rafael Atmella of Costa Rica. Rafael will start his position effective Dec. 1, 2006, and overlap with the previous FAO for 2 weeks of transition.

The independent audit of the Directorate has been concluded. The auditors have made no special observations and no management recommendations. The FAC, FAO and Financial Assistant are to be congratulated on this achievement after the problems of the past years.

The content and lay-out of the Newsletter were changed as part of an overall communications strategy that emphasizes science and capacity building content. This issue addressed specifically the new CRN.

The production of the Annual Report is now being linked to the Newsletter with the aim to provide more reliable production schedules and relevant content in 2007.

Again, as part of the communication strategy, the IAI website is under review. Initially corrections are being made to content and out-of-date material is being removed or replaced.

The Data and Information System (DIS) of the IAI has been technically improved, but remains underutilized. Jointly with CPTEC, which hosts the LBA DIS, strategies are being discussed.

### **Publications:**

A major effort has gone into the editing of the contributions from the IAI-SCOPE workshop in Ubatuba (Nov. 2006). Cross-cutting chapters were delivered in March 2006. The book has gone through the internal edits and external reviews, and the final chapters will be delivered to Island Press in December 2006. The book will be: Linking Global Environmental Change Science to Society and Policy, SCOPE 68, edited by H. Tiessen, M. Brklacich, G. Breulmann and R.S.C. Menezes, to be published in 2007 by Island Press, Washington.

The material on Science, Society and Policy has received a lot of attention. As a result SCOPE and UNESCO are publishing a policy brief, based on the synthesis of the book by H. Tiessen for distribution throughout the ICSU, UNESCO, SCOPE and IAI networks. The brief should be available at the time of the EC meeting.

### **Science Activities**

The Scientific Officer (SO) will report on the science activities. He will provide an update on (closure of) the CRN-I Program. Although the program has officially been closed with the submission (1 Sep 2006) and approval (2 Sep 2006) of the final report to the NSF, several synthesis and dissemination activities are still ongoing with remaining CRN-I funds committed for this purpose before 31 May 2006. The final CRN-I report is provided to the EC as document 5.

The SO will provide an update on the status of the projects under CRN-II.

From 11-22 September 2006 the first joint IAI-NCAR colloquium was held at the NCAR MESA lab in Boulder, Colorado, USA. The colloquium with the title “Policy Planning and Decision Making Involving Climate Change and Variability” was organized jointly by IAI and NCAR funded through a NSF grant. It was attended by 21 participants (scientists and professionals) from 13 countries across the Americas. The SO will report on the event. Colloquium information is available at <http://www.sere.ucar.edu/iai/>

The 2nd START Young Scientists Conference, the START SSC and the 2nd Open Meeting of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) were held back to back in Beijing, China from 6 – 12 November 2006. The SO will report on IAI participation at both events.

On 14 July 2006 the IAI Directorate submitted a grant proposal “Small Grant Program for the Human Dimensions, SGP-HD” to the NSF. The grant was approved on 27 September 2006. The SO will provide details of the program.

The SO will also report on follow-up activities of the IAI participation at the 24th UNFCCC SBSTA in May 2006 in Bonn and the signature of a MoU with the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN).

During the reporting period (June – Nov 2006), the SO attended the following meetings:

- Meeting with APN Director and Executive Manager, Kobe, Japan, 11 Aug 2006. Discussion on potential inter-regional collaborations; delivery of signed MoU
- Carbon Management urban & regional, Mexico City, 6-8 Sep 2006. Brainstorming session on IAI ‘urban initiative’
- Joint IAI-NCAR colloquium “Policy planning and Decision making involving Climate Variability”, 11-15 Sep 2006, delivered keynote, participation in program
- 2nd START Young Scientists Conference, 6-8 Nov 2006, Beijing, China; chaired session on GEC priorities
- START SSC meeting, 8 Nov 2006; update on IAI activities
- 2nd Open Meeting of the ESSP, Beijing, China, 9-12 Nov 2006; IAI info booth, Co-convenor (with M. Brklacich) of IAI-NSF-SCOPE session “Collaborative Regional GEC Networks in the Americas: Opportunities for Stakeholders and Governance”

### **Training and Capacity Building Activities**

August 21-22: Meeting of the Principal Investigators of the IAI Training Institute Seed Grants (TISG) 2005. Sixteen PIs and co-PIs from 8 TISG grants representing 10 IAI member countries attended the meeting. The PIs meeting held at the IAI Directorate was organized back to back with the IAI-CPTEC Training Institute on Climate, Land Use and Modeling. PIs provided a brief project report which was followed by discussion about potential integration with CRN I, II or among TISG projects. Additional presentations and discussions were held on project management and administration of IAI research funds.

November 19-24: CRN-I & II Meeting and Science and Policy Forum on Climate-Disaster Reduction and Risk Management organized in collaboration with the UN-ISDR, CATHALAC, CRID, ANAM and FLACSO. Synthesis and dissemination of CRN-I work as guidance for CRN II and other research programs. A publication will be produced as an output from the meeting and forum, which will contain the main recommendations regarding further development of multidisciplinary science and integration and communication between the science and policy communities. The meeting encouraged exchange of information and cooperation among CRN I, CRN II, TISG and other on going research and application activities held in the region by other organizations (UNDP, GEF, CATHALAC, UICN, Red Cross, etc).

### **Institutional Collaboration and Country Engagement**

October 4-6: TO participated in RIOCC's Interamerican Climate Change Bureaux Network Annual Meeting, which was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. TO gave a presentation to RIOCC's partners about the IAI and discussions were held to further encourage collaboration between IAI and RIOCC.

October 6: TO visited Bolivia's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Science and Technology to discuss Bolivia's participation in IAI's activities and core budget contribution.

The Training Officer (TO) will provide further details on the training activities, particularly the Cachoeira Paulista and Panama City events, as well as initial results.

In addition, the TO will report on the development of the Training Institute Seed Grants (TISG) program (February 2006-February 2007).

### **Information Technology**

The maintenance contract for the IAI-DIS with Oak Ridge ended in September/2006. The IT Manager and Luiz Horta, from LBA, will now drive the conversion from the Mercury (commercial software, Blue Angel) search to open-source software (Apache Lucene). The benefits of moving to Lucene, include greater flexibility in adding new features and in handling query results. Cost should be lower since there is no license fee for open source use. Oak Ridge is in the process of conversion right now and the new updated system will likely be up in the first quarter of 2007. IAI continues to use the old system until January 2007 without renewing the maintenance contract. In January, IAI will reinstate discussions in order to negotiate the new annual cost.

The IT Manager is analyzing currently available data and information systems in order to identify alternatives for the IAI, in case Oak Ridge decides to maintain the current high maintenance costs. Current options are to (1) look for another partner organization, but it will not be easy to find a group with the same technical expertise as Oak Ridge, and (2) stop using XML formats for metadata files and consider the use of a conventional database, but this against current trends. Although still underused, the system is referencing 535 metadata created in (<http://disbr1.iai.int>) by researchers and by the IAI staff; mostly publications from CRN-I and SGP-II projects.

The IAI-DB is being re-structured in order to integrate additional information about contacts, projects, events, training, etc. We are promoting the use of IAIDB as one unique source of

information to the website, reports, country profiles, etc. The US subscribers of the newsletter are now integrated in the IAIDB. NSF is using this information for the distribution of the newsletter. The website is being updated. IAI staff is providing feedback on both design and content to the IT staff. The Twiki site is also being updated and more information is being made available. INPE has supplied IAI with 6 new computers for staff.

## Financial Status (as of NOV. 2006)

### CORE BUDGET

#### Contributions from Member Nations

The following table shows the status of the contributions received from the member countries as of November 23, 2006.

	Arrears from Previous FYs	Contribution for FY 06/07	Paid Jul-Nov/06	Due as of November 2006
Argentina	175,025.00	50,000.00	(50,000.00)	175,025.00
Bolivia	20,000.00	5,000.00		25,000.00
Brazil	0.00	85,000.00		85,000.00
Canada	0.00	125,000.00		125,000.00
Chile	5,000.00	5,000.00	(15,000.00)	(5,000.00)
Colombia	40,000.00	10,000.00		50,000.00
Costa Rica	1,991.64	5,000.00		6,991.64
Cuba	15,066.56	5,000.00		20,066.56
Dominican Republic	45,000.00	5,000.00		50,000.00
Ecuador	25,000.00	5,000.00		30,000.00
Guatemala	45,000.00	5,000.00		50,000.00
Jamaica	10,000.00	5,000.00		15,000.00
Mexico	(60,000.00)	60,000.00		0.00
Panama	(5,000.00)	5,000.00		0.00
Paraguay	50,000.00	5,000.00		55,000.00
Peru	40,000.00	5,000.00		45,000.00
Uruguay	40,000.00	5,000.00		45,000.00
USA	0.00	595,000.00		595,000.00
Venezuela	166,981.43	30,000.00		196,981.43
	<b>614,064.63</b>	<b>1,015,000.00</b>	<b>(65,000.00)</b>	<b>1,564,064.63</b>

% Received

6%



As of November 2006, only 6 % of the approved contributions were collected. These contributions were received from two member countries: Argentina (cancelled 1 year of contributions) and Chile (cancelled 3 years of contributions).

Reminder letters, informing the value of the approved contribution and the arrears (if any), were sent to the following member countries:

- Bolivia
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican republic
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Jamaica
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

These letters were accompanied by a brief note detailing the support received by the researchers of the country from IAI.

Individual contacts with country representatives were also made by IAI Officers during business trips. PIs and/or Co-PIs from the country, participating in IAI research programs, also participated in these meetings.

PIs and co-PIs from the following countries also contacted their local authorities in order to give an additional support to the efforts of the Directorate in the collection of the country contributions:

- Bolivia
- Peru
- Colombia
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Guatemala

Telephone follow-ups were done with the following countries:

- Canada (Environment Canada)
- Brazil (Ministry of Science and Technology)
- Venezuela (Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Environment)
- Mexico (Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales).

Based on the level of contributions received in previous years and in the contacts already made with the member countries, we can expect to collect 90% of the approved contributions for 2006/2007. This is a conservative estimate based on the information collected as of mid November.

In a separate presentation we will address the analysis of the Core Budget Expenses as of November 30, 2006, the analysis of the cash position and forecasts until the end of the fiscal year 2006/2007 and the status of the Program Budget as of November 30, 2006. In this presentation we will also report about the Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2006.