



Ref: IAIUYDIR/2021/027

23 November 2021

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Invitation to Parties to participate in Co-design of an Initiative for *Enhancing Capacity for Climate Risk Assessment and Catalyzing Partnerships to Inform Decisions in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Dear Madam, Sir,

The Conference of the Parties, at its 29th meeting (Videoconference, 2021) adopted Decision XXIX/9 which states:

Conference of the Parties approves the establishment a working group, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC and the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean and to report on achievements at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This innovative Initiative is supported by United States agencies coordinated by the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and several Latin American and Caribbean countries involved in AmeriGEO, in partnership with the IAI.

The goal of this initiative is to provide opportunities for partnerships to strengthen climate risk assessments that support local and regional decision making to help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. The Initiative plans to bring together researchers (e.g., IPCC assessment authors), decision makers and experts with experience in the mechanics of designing and carrying out such assessments and users of the risk assessments. _

The Initiative would catalyze partnerships between and among LAC countries and the United States to design and facilitate training and capacity development in undertaking climate assessments toward adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Initiative is currently being developed and the objectives and activities listed below offer a broad framework to be refined by participants with a view to better reflect national needs. Initial key proposed objectives and activities include, but are not limited to:

- long-lasting and productive **regional engagement** and **partnership building**, through international coordination with the IAI, AmeriGEO and other regional and national networks including civil society and indigenous groups;

- **peer-to-peer learning & training opportunities** in topics including climate modelling, analysis of climate trends, and vulnerability and risk assessments; and,
- **data synthesis and analysis** by those who are directly engaged in planning mitigation and adaptation strategies in LAC countries.

The Initiative would seek to leverage the efforts of those countries in LAC that have initiated relevant work (such as a national climate assessment, regional climate modeling and forest monitoring) to contribute their lessons learned and offer their expertise in the training series. The proposed activities would help participants to expand their knowledge while fostering meaningful connections. The Initiative is at early stages of development, currently focused on planning, scoping, and partnership building.

Financial support through seed grants may be made available to participants requiring assistance. The IAI Directorate has offered to assist the USGCRP in the administration of the grants.

Possible outcomes arising from this Initiative includes support for and alignment with many of the recommendations found in *Assessment reports* issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Decisions adopted at the 26th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Glasgow, 2021).

Parties interested in participating in the Working Group proposed under this Initiative should contact Ms Patricia Puertas at patricia@dir.iai.int

The IAI Directorate acknowledges and is grateful for the generous support by the USGCRP through the US National Science Foundation that made this initiative possible.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Marcos Regis da Silva
Executive Director