



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

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13 May 2022

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Today marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the IAI

Dear Madam, Sir,

I am delighted to announce that today, Friday, 13 May 2022, marks the IAI's 30th anniversary.

Thirty years ago, 16 countries in the Americas signed the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, which launched a visionary regional inter-governmental organization sitting at the intersection of science and policy. Today, 19 countries of the Americas have ratified the *Agreement* and are members of the IAI.

The uniqueness of the IAI lies in its understanding that no single research discipline or scientific methodology can identify possible solutions to the challenges presented by global change, that participatory and inclusive processes are fundamental to the success of any regional activity, and that multinational regional collaboration creates more significant opportunities for innovation, and that solutions to what may appear to be intractable problems must be based on authoritative scientific evidence.

In its 30-year history, the IAI has funded 209 interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary multinational research teams. Science programs are based on peer-reviewed scientific excellence, open competition, and the participation of multiple countries of the Americas. The IAI's Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs) for global change sciences have involved nearly 1000 investigators from over 350 research institutions from all IAI member states. The most recent iteration of the CRN resulted in almost 500 scientific publications, with over 500 students conducting research that contributed to their degree. Ongoing science projects funded by the IAI, or implemented by the IAI, are supporting national decision-making processes through the co-creation of an online wildfire monitoring platform in Western Amazonia, a drought information system (SISSA) in the Southern Cone of South America, and early warning systems for climate-sensitive diseases in the Caribbean region.

Additionally, IAI activities in capacity building contribute to the strengthening of national institutional capacities to address challenges related to global change. Several strategic and innovative programs have been implemented, including the IAI Interdisciplinary Summer Schools, the Transdisciplinary Professional Development Seminars and Seed Grant Program and the Science, Technology Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program. These programs have been fundamental in the development of more effective transdisciplinary research methodologies

and to the understanding of issues related to the provision of scientific information for the development of public policies.

The IAI Directorate invites Parties to celebrate this special occasion by disseminating information on the IAI and by continuing its support of innovative scientific projects across the Americas. Information on selected achievements of the IAI during this 30 year period is available [here](#)

At a time of urgent global challenges, the IAI, at its 30th anniversary, is needed more than ever.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva
Executive Director