



**DATA-SHEET
2020
IAI - Jamaica**

The Jamaican Government signed the Agreement Establishing the IAI in 1997 and is represented by the Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, National Commission on Science and Technology, and the University of the West Indies. This agreement implies a commitment to mutual cooperation, i.e., support of science in Jamaica by the IAI and support of Institute's operations by Jamaica.

1. ONGOING RESEARCH PROGRAM

Co-funded Small Grants Program: The role of ecosystem services in adaptation to global change for human wellbeing (SGP-HW)

The program focuses on research questions that are relevant to policy makers or other stakeholders, have strong scientific interest, and address concerns for human wellbeing and livelihoods. Projects are expected to support decision-making and adaptation action in a transdisciplinary approach that promotes using, conserving, restoring, and managing ecosystems so that the natural capital is preserved, while providing important services.

6 projects, 9 countries, investigating the following topics:

- Fires / air quality
- Small-scale fishing and marine ecosystem services
- Water governance
- Floodplain governance in over-built river basins
- Local and traditional knowledge for biodiversity conservation
- Resilience and adaptability to global change

IAI Parties and the region can benefit from the projects results and products.

[More information on the projects and progress](#)

2. STeP PROGRAM

The Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program is an innovative landmark program of the IAI to enhance human and institutional capacities in IAI member countries and to support the provision of expert scientific advice to policy makers for the development of public policy relevant to global change.

Scientist Fellows in the STeP program are placed at host government or private organizations to engage first-hand with policy and decision-makers and facilitate the uptake of scientific knowledge into decision making processes.

The STeP program is training future Latin American and Caribbean leaders to participate in the science-policy interface through hands-on learning supported by professional development and mentorship.

STeP Fellows will participate in the IAI Inter-American network of STeP peers and alumni and share best practices and lessons learned. This multinational network creates the means to integrate diverse knowledge and expertise across different sectors and countries in response to critical global change challenges in the Americas. The network allows for sharing resources, disseminating employment and other professional opportunities, and contributing to career development and work collaboration at the completion of the fellowship.

STeP is a new initiative of the IAI Capacity Building Program in collaboration with the work of the IAI on Science Policy. Please contact Ms. Ohira (marcella@dir.iai.int) or Ms. Ehlers (sehlers@dir.iai.int) for additional information including questions on participation. Information is also available on the STeP webpage: <http://www.iai.int/en/step>

3. CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) youth workshop, 27 - 28 June 2020, São Pedro, Brazil

The workshop aimed to expand involvement in IPBES' efforts and increasing use and uptake of IPBES products, among scientists, policymakers and practitioners in their early-career. The workshop explored nature's futures from the perspectives of the younger generation.

The IAI Directorate served as recommending institution for the workshop and recommended one Jamaican, Shaughna-Lee Steele, nominated by Dr. Rose-Ann Smith, University of West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. She was accepted and participated in the workshop.

The IAI Directorate received 31 nominations from IAI Parties, Associate members, Collaborative Research Network investigators and other partners and should list 10 candidates based on sectorial, geographic and gender balance. Priority was given to nominations from Parties, especially candidates working in government agencies.

The workshop provided an invaluable learning and networking experience for early career professionals and contribute in generating discussions on science development and policy in the areas of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

More information:

[IAI webpage on the workshop](#)

[Official site of the workshop](#)

4. PARTICIPATION IN THE IAI BODIES

Executive Council (EC)

The EC is composed of nine members, who are elected by the Conference of the Parties for two-year terms. The Executive Council develops policy recommendations for submission to and approval by the Conference of the Parties, and ensures that policies adopted by the Conference of the Parties are implemented by the Directorate.

Jamaica is part of the current composition of the EC, 2020-2022: Canada, Chile, **Jamaica**, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America, Uruguay.

Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

The SPAC was established by the CoP in 2013 to provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorate regarding the application and design of science in policy and decision making.

There is one member from Jamaica in the committee:

David Smith, University of the West Indies, Jamaica
Director of the Centre for Environmental Management
Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development
Appointment: 2020-2023