



A joint Inter-American Institute (IAI) - NCAR Climate Science and Applications Program: “Colloquia on Knowledge Integration at the Science-Policy Interface”

11-17 November, 2012, Dominican Republic (C2012)

8-12 April, 2013, Ecuador (C2013)

What?

Two Colloquia will be held in 2012 and 2013, the first in the Dominican Republic and the second in Ecuador. Participants will be guided to integrate knowledge, data and methods from different scientific disciplines for the understanding of a) risk and vulnerability to environmental change; and b) the institutional factors that influence the range, feasibility, effectiveness, legitimacy and fairness of risk management and adaptation responses. The two Colloquia are thematically linked, but participation in the first is neither a condition nor a qualification for the second.

Why?

An understanding of the potential impacts of global change requires a melding of social and physical sciences. It demands not only policy decisions informed by robust scientific knowledge, but also an understanding of the institutional factors shaping policy responses. The colloquia aim at training current and future decision-makers in the integration of social and physical knowledge at the science-policy interface.

Who?

Up to 22 participants from IAI member countries including: 1) decision-makers from different tiers of government working in global environmental change; 2) professionals from hydrology, climate, land use, health, sociology, geography and policy sciences; 3) stakeholders - NGOs, community organizations, business, managers and practitioners; and 4) early career scientists and technical experts.

Objectives and Content

Knowledge Integration (11-17 November, 2012, Dominican Republic):

The first colloquium will concentrate on decision-making in several sectors (risk, agriculture, cities, water resources, health, etc) to explore the concepts of climate change, vulnerability, risk and adaptation, data integration, GIS methods and tools, and the use of governance mechanisms and structures to generate recommendations towards decision making.

Decision-makers will present and analyze real-world issues with significant environmental change dimensions such as multi-year disaster response planning and operations, or responses to emerging vector-borne diseases. Participants will integrate diverse, multidisciplinary data and information to answer complex questions and set priorities. They will learn to use open source GIS tools (i.e., GRASS), collect quantitative and qualitative data using surveys and other social science methods, and deal with scientific uncertainty.

The Colloquium will build work teams around topics (e.g. disaster preparedness and mitigation, urban emissions and risk, human health, water management) to develop group research plans for the Training Institute Seed Grant (TISG) proposals. These small grants will be awarded at the end of the Colloquium to teams with successful interdisciplinary and multinational proposals that include several of the integrative methods and tools taught.

Governance (8-12 April, 2013, Ecuador):

The second Colloquium will place emphasis on governance, providing the approaches, tools and techniques to developing use-inspired science, and integrated assessments, policy and planning for sustainable futures. The Colloquium will examine the framing of issues; navigating change in organizational settings; sustainability initiatives; networks, and communities of practice. It will introduce participants to causal-loop maps, group model building, social experiments, role playing and decision support software (DSS-AquaDT). There will again be an opportunity for developing seed grant proposals but also to refine previous seed grant activities based on an analysis of their achievements and of the knowledge on governance attained.

Training Institute Seed Grant (TISG) Program: The program will fund projects at between US\$ 10-20,000 for 9-12 months. It will allow participants to join IAI's international and interdisciplinary networks, and promote application of research ideas and knowledge obtained in the training. During the Colloquia there will be a dialogue to develop proposal writing skills. Grants are expected to strengthen management capacity for international grants, and to increase the participation of small countries in IAI research programs.

Language requirement: The program will be carried out in English and in Spanish. Therefore, applicants must be proficient in one and have a sound understanding in the other language in order to understand, communicate, and participate in all activities.

Application process: Applications must be submitted on line, separately for the two Colloquia, acceptance for the second Colloquium will be communicated only after the first Colloquium. For further information about the application requirements, visit the website: http://iaibr3.iai.int/twiki/bin/view/Coloquia2012_2013

Applications are due **September 17, 2012 at 11:00AM São Paulo time, Brazil.**