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19 June 2018

**2nd SCIENCE-POLICY WORKSHOP OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Antigua, Guatemala, 19 June 2018**

Report of the 2nd Science-Policy Workshop of the IAI

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Introduction

2. The second Science Policy Workshop was held during the 45th meeting of the Executive Council in Antigua, Guatemala, on 19 June 2018.

Section I

Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

3. The 2nd Science-Policy Workshop of the IAI was held during the 45th Executive Council meeting which was held back-to-back with the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-26 2018).
4. The list of Parties and observers attending the Workshop is provided in Annex I, the List of participants, to this document.

Welcome by the Chairs

5. The Chair of the Executive Council welcomed the Chairs of the SAC and SPAC and asked them to convene the Science-Policy Workshop.

6. The Chair of the SAC welcomed the participants and introduced his hopes for a productive exchange of information among researchers and policy makers. He expressed his gratitude for Guatemala in hosting the meetings and highlighted the importance of hosting this meeting.
7. The Chair of the SPAC welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of linking science to policy, and of the opportunity for the Parties to interact directly with IAI researchers.

Agenda item 1: Introduction of the agenda

8. The Chairs of the SAC and SPAC introduced the agenda of the 2nd Science-Policy Workshop.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the agenda

9. The Chair of the SAC invited participants of the Science-Policy Workshop to approve the agenda.
10. The Agenda was approved by consensus.
11. The Chair of the SAC reported on the activities by the SAC and SPAC on 17 June 2018 related to the Co-funded Small Grant Program (SGP): the role of ecosystem services in adaptation to global change for human wellbeing, particularly their role to provide peer review to the pre-proposals received by the IAI Directorate. He also informed representatives on the results of the joint SAC and SPAC meeting which was held on 18 June 2018.

Agenda item 3: IPBES Regional Assessment: Americas

12. The Chair of the SPAC gave a presentation on the recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) *Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas*¹, intended to provide Governments, the private sector, and civil society with scientifically credible and independent up-to-date assessments of available knowledge to make informed decisions at the local, regional and international levels. It provides a critical assessment of the full range of issues facing decision-makers, including the importance, status, trends and threats to biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, as well as policy and management response options.
13. Following the presentation, the Chair of the SAC opened the floor to discussion.
14. Discussion points included:
 - The consideration of socio-economic factors in sustainability, governance, and the importance of urban areas in reaching sustainability goals;

¹ For more information see: <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/americas>

- The nature of complex systems and the need to use a systems approach to analyze tradeoffs. Participants suggested that this topic could be a topic of interest under the upcoming 4th round of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN4);
- The need to produce and adapt new technologies to address local challenges;
- That policy decisions do not occur in isolation, and they have consequences on both natural and human systems;
- That costs associated with not taking action should be compared to the costs of taking action; and,
- That workforce training, with a broad perspective in systems, multi-disciplinarity, and science-policy processes should be considered priority.

Agenda item 4: Introduction to the IAI Open Data initiative

15. The Chair of the SAC introduced the importance of Open Data in the work of the IAI in supporting the Americas and invited the IAI Executive Director to highlight the IAI Directorate's initiative on this topic.
16. The IAI Open Data Advisor presented the IAI Open Data Catalog, currently hosted by the National Agency for e-Government and Information Society of Uruguay. The Catalog is built on the platform of the Agency's Catalogo de Datos Abiertos. The preliminary workplan for the initiative foresees it evolving over a period of three years and would include prototyping, implementation, and outreach phases. Dr. Arturo Sanchez, who was key partner in the development and ongoing implementation of the project, spoke on the collaboration between the IAI, the University of Alberta, IBM, the United States National Science Foundation and other organizations.
17. The Chair of the SAC opened the floor for discussion.
18. The following discussion highlighted:
 - That the need is not only to provide open data but also for policy makers to understand how to use it, store it, and apply it.
 - Guatemala offered the support and lessons learned from launching of its open data portal and successful efforts to implement an e-government system².
 - That it is important to distinguish between official data in a country and data produced by scientific groups. Ideally these should be the same, but this may not always be true.
 - That data archiving is the first step. The archive itself can become a subject of research and how can we integrate metadata into national data archives.
 - That special attention must be taken with traditional and indigenous knowledge and that indigenous people should have prior and informed consent in the possible use of their knowledge.
 - That policy makers may be able to access these data but data need to be prepared by technicians, and these positions need to be supported.

² For more information see: Comisión Presidencial de Transparencia y Gobierno Electrónico (Guatemala): <http://www.transparencia.gob.gt/>

- That future research is needed on how to access and use the data. Support from the Parties is crucial for supporting this effort.

Agenda item 5: IAI Strategic Plan: the next 25 years

19. The Chair of the SAC introduced agenda item 5 and invited the IAI Executive Director to introduce the topic of Strategic Planning for the IAI.

20. The IAI Executive Director stated that there is an opportunity to reflect on the 25 years of science produced by the IAI and to work on the articulation of a vision for the next 25 years. The existing Strategic Plan is not in force per Decision XVIII/16 (CoP-18, Asuncion) which approved the Plan for one year only. The Executive Director spoke on the need to seek the advice of the SAC and SPAC in the development of the Plan and in assisting the IAI Directorate in better understanding national priorities in a regional context.

21. Following the presentation, the Chair of the SAC opened the floor for discussion.

22. Comments provided included:

- The ensuing dialogue during the meeting has resulted in a collective of ideas for the Strategic Plan, the role of the IAI in the region, and the role of the SAC, SPAC, EC, Parties, and IAI Directorate in collaboratively developing a new Strategic Plan;
- There was consensus that the IAI should be proud of its 25-year legacy of scientific excellence, enhancement of science capacity, and establishing partnerships. It is an opportune moment to reflect on the coming 25 years;
- There is a need to have a more fluid communication with the Parties and to make the results of the IAI more visible;
- There is a need to identify the priorities of the Parties, what they need to achieve targets under international environmental frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement, and what priorities are shared across the Americas;
- The new vision of the IAI should inspire new membership, increased engagement from Parties, and direct the IAI to serve as the regional capacity building organization for integrating science into policy.
- The IAI is not a funding agency, it has a role to play in bringing relevant science to Parties to assist Parties in meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda for the region;
- A Young Fellowship Program could be an important tool for training young scientists in transdisciplinary research and in introducing them to issues related to science-policy processes;
- The group discussed allowing States outside the region to join the IAI as observers thereby facilitating IAI access to expertise and resources in other regions;
- That sustainability, adaptation, water security and systems were brought to the table as topics the IAI should address to help inform plans such as National

Adaptation Plans. This could also allow the IAI to access international funds available for adaptation initiatives; and,

- Increasing participation of the Parties is a critical step to meeting the needs of the region.

Agenda item 6: The role of science-diplomacy workshops

23. The Chair of the SPAC invited the IAI Directorate to introduce a panel discussion with representatives from Panama, Guatemala and Uruguay.

24. Panelists discussed the importance of science-diplomacy, its role in the development of national and regional policies, and the role of IAI to develop more national capacities. Panama mentioned the organization of a science-diplomacy workshop to be held possibly in Panama City during fall 2018. The workshop would include Central American countries. Guatemala spoke about its science-diplomacy initiatives focusing on risk reduction and the enhanced collaboration with Mexico arising from these efforts. Uruguay shared its efforts on science diplomacy, particularly through the organization of training future leaders.

Agenda item 7: APN: Translating science to policy in Asia

25. The Chair of the SPAC gave the floor to the Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)³.

26. The Executive Director of the APN gave a presentation on regional collaborative research, scientific capacity development, science-policy linkages, proposal development for early-career scientists, and sub-regional science-policy activities in Asia and the Pacific.

27. He stressed that the mission of the APN is to enable investigations of changes in the Earth's life support systems and their implications for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through support for research and science-based response strategies and measures, effective linkages between science and policy, and scientific capacity development.

Agenda item 8: Science policy results and opportunities

28. The Chair of the SPAC invited the IAI Directorate to present on the progress of CRN3 and the IAI science program.

29. The IAI Directorate opened agenda item 8 by outlining the success of IAI-supported researchers in informing policy across the region. She reported on the state of CRN3 before introducing three CRN3 Principal Investigators who presented their work and how it has contributed to policy outcomes in the region. The three projects study dry forests and their ecosystem services, nitrogen cycling and management at regional scales and water security and water management in the Americas. Science-policy outcomes

³ www.apn-gcr.org/

included: informing a court case regarding protected areas in Brazil, assessment of effectiveness of Payments for Environmental Services Program in Costa Rica, the creation of an online course in Spanish that provides climate-change capacity for thousands of participants; how nitrogen cycles and management impact human health, ecosystems, climate and agriculture; and adaptation strategies for water security and water-energy-food nexus.

30. The SPAC Chair opened the floor for discussion.

31. The discussions following the presentation included:

- The communication of uncertainty to politicians who need to make policy decisions on where and when to invest. It was noted that it is important to distinguish the concepts of doubt, uncertainty, and error;
- That dialogue with stakeholders in both the public and private sector is necessary to translate the scientific information so that there is a shared understanding of the science and associated uncertainty;
- That using scenarios allows decision makers to work with uncertainty, although tipping points are also necessary to be included in research and communication of research.
- That it is important to recognize that information for decision-making is not the same as information for the development of policies.

Agenda item 9: Conclusions/draft recommendations to the COP

32. Recommendations in light of discussions would be made during EC-45.

Agenda item 10: Closing remarks and closure of the meeting

33. The Chair of the Executive Committee and the SAC Chair invited members to make closing remarks.

34. The 2nd Science-Policy Workshop was closed by the SAC Chair.

Annex

List of participants

2nd Science-Policy Workshop of the IAI

Antigua, Guatemala

19 June 2018 / 19 de junio de 2018

List of Participants

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