



LETTER OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH (IAI)

AND

THE BRAZILIAN PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (BPBES)

The objective of this Letter of Agreement is to provide a flexible framework for collaboration between the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) Directorate and the Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES) on scientific, technical, and capacity development programs, projects, and activities involving the interface between science and global environmental change policies including climate change, natural resource management and other related topics of common interest.

The IAI, having its headquarters at Av. Italia 6201, Ed. Los Tilos, Office 102-103, Montevideo, Uruguay 11500, is an intergovernmental treaty organization in the Americas, established through the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research which came into force on March 12, 1994 with the aim to develop the capacity of understanding the integrated impact of past, present and future global change on regional and continental environments in the Americas and to promote collaborative, well informed actions at all levels. IAI pursues the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation and full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global environmental change, to encourage decision makers by scientists throughout the Americas in order to jointly address the critical issues associated with global change.

The BPBES, having its headquarters at Rua Charles Darwin s/n, Block M, Campinas, São Paulo 13083-862, is a national organization established on February 20, 2017 with the aim to produce regular syntheses of the best available knowledge by academic science and traditional knowledge on Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and its relations with human well-being, to subsidize decision makers, and promote dialogues with different sectors of society. BPBES aims also to be a reference in the insertion of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as a strategic element of public policy, contributing to an innovative and sustainable model of socioeconomic development in Brazil. BPBES is guided by the principles of inclusion, ethic, collaboration, transparency, integrity and respect for diversity.



The Parties acknowledge and agree that they are separate and distinct entities, and that they are partners, rather than contractors.

IAI and BPBES agree to collaborate and develop synergies between the BPBES Voluntary Young Researcher Program (VYRP) and the IAI Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship program. Annex 1 to this letter of agreement provides a description of the VYRP, STeP programs and the collaboration between the IAI and BPBES. We sincerely hope that the success of these programs will lead to our continued collaboration.

By BPBES:

Dr. Carlos Alfredo Joly, Chairman

Date and Place: CAMPINAS, 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

Signature:

By the IAI:

Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva, Executive Director

Date and Place: Montevideo, 18 August 2021

Signature:



ANNEX 1 LETTER OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH (IAI)

AND

THE BRAZILIAN PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (BPBES)

Background

In this document (Annex 1), the first specific collaborative activity between the IAI and BPBES under the LoA is agreed. This will be the conjunction of the BPBES Voluntary Young Researcher Program (VYRP) and the IAI Science, Technology and Policy Fellowship (STeP) program. VYRP young research fellows will participate in the IAI STeP program as fellows (hereinafter referred to as BPBES STeP fellows). The Parties agree to collaborate and develop synergies between their VYRP and IAI STeP fellowship programs. Below is a description of each program.

The BPBES Voluntary Young Researcher Program has the following objectives:

1. The purpose of the BPBES is to help bridge the decision making and research communities in Brazil, including the development and translation of findings from biodiversity and ecosystem services science and assessment into knowledge and products that support resource and risk management in the country.
2. VYRP program will give technical support to young researchers to help connect science to critical societal needs related to biodiversity and ecosystem services to live in harmony with nature.
3. The program consists of an applied research positions not exceeding 24-months, and BPBES will pursue providing scholarships for the young researchers exploring all possibilities for such support. Furthermore, any opportunities for the fellows to collectively attend relevant regional scientific or risk management meetings will be exploited. The host or other partner entities may also provide additional funding or other support.
4. Fellows will be engaged in national assessment and community building efforts which will provide them with additional professional growth opportunities.



The IAI Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship program aims to strengthen the use of scientific information to support the formulation of public and private policies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

IAI STeP fellows will preferably be early career researchers interested in how science can help address national and regional and global change challenges and contribute to the sustainable development of the countries of the Americas.

The program provides a platform for early career researchers (within 7 years of completing a PhD or preferable postdoctoral level), to apply their scientific expertise to address issues of socio-economic relevance related to the challenges of global change, thereby facilitating the incorporation of scientific knowledge and methodologies into the decision-making process. In addition, the Fellowship will be a key training mechanism to support researchers interested in navigating between science and government and / or industry and working from their scientific background providing advice to policy makers.

General objective: Support the provision of expert scientific advice to policy makers for the development of evidence-based policy relevant to global change and sustainable development and enhance human and institutional capacities in IAI member countries.

Specific objectives: 1.) Facilitate institutionalized mechanisms for the effective use and incorporation of scientific knowledge into government and the private sector to address complex global problems by promoting a transdisciplinary collaboration between scientists, stakeholders, and decision makers. 2.) Develop and provide a two-year professional development program of core training activities tailored for scientists and policy makers working in Latin America and the Caribbean in the pillar areas of Leadership, Communication, and Science Diplomacy. 3.) Create an Inter-American networking platform for Fellows, host institutions and countries, international partners, and associates, and IAI alumni to exchange lessons learned and to share experiences and best practices in science-policy interface. 4.) Promote IAI work in host institutions and IAI member countries and strengthen international partnerships through the science-policy work of the Fellows, host organizations, and participating countries.

Responsibilities of BPBES

1. Support the participation of up to four (4) fellows every 12 months for 2 years in the IAI STeP program and liaise with the IAI STeP program management team.
2. Serve as the coordinating institution for the VYRP fellows for identification of and placement in host institutions, appointment of supervisors/mentors and ensuring the necessary conditions for fellows to develop their work program and expected outputs.
3. Contribute to the definition of the work program and expected outputs for the fellows based on the priorities and needs identified by BPBES VYRP.



4. Serve as the main entity in communication and negotiation with BPBES on any issue related to the implementation of the program and the funding of VYRP fellows.

6. Finance the international travel of the fellows (and possibly of the fellows' supervisors at the host institutions in Brazil) for their participation in the activities described in point 2 below (responsibilities of the IAI) when resources are available, and travel is feasible.

Responsibilities of the IAI

1. Provide Fellows up to a two-year professional development program of virtual and in-person core training activities tailored for scientists and policy makers working in Latin America and the Caribbean in the pillar areas of Leadership, Communication and Science Diplomacy. BPBES VYRP fellows may have the option to continue participation in the second year of the IAI STeP training.

2. Invite fellows to participate in 1-2 international events (virtual or presential) during their BPBES STeP fellowship program. These events may be workshops, meetings, scientific, institutional, political and science and policy conferences of the IAI or partner institutions.

3. Establish an Inter-American network of Fellows, host institutions and countries and IAI alumni and promote opportunities for international collaboration of fellows from other cohorts for the development of professional collaboration networks, exchange of knowledge, experiences, etc.

Joint Responsibilities of BPBES and IAI

1. Design, where needed, the call for Fellows (considering the priority areas and requirements requested by host country/institution) and its dissemination.
2. Jointly select Fellows, when needed, considering the priority areas and requirements requested by host country/institution and those of the IAI, and Fellow's profile.
3. Form a group of mentors, when needed, who will support the development of the Fellows' program by considering experts who have experience in science and decision-making processes.
4. Conduct evaluations and share progress reports related to capacity building, research, and work programs in order to monitor and evaluate the work of the Fellows during their participation in the STeP program.
5. Organize at least two meetings per year to plan, evaluate and manage themes of this collaboration and interaction with Fellows, Host Organization Supervisors, and Mentors.
6. Discuss possible adjustments in the development of the program during its execution, especially in each new cycle of call, selection and development of Fellows every year.
7. Develop, when appropriate, a manual of best practices, experiences and lessons learned based on the experience of the Fellows and Hosts, to help the IAI and Host Institution improve and develop future programs.
8. Disseminate this collaboration and the results and products of the program, through social networks, institutional websites, press releases, as well as possible publications presenting a summary of the impact and results of the fellowship program.



9. Jointly seek funds when appropriate to support additional program activities and future IAI BPBES collaboration.
10. Produce and disseminate outreach material about program impact, products, and results.

This specific collaboration will enter into effect on the date of the signature of the LoA by both Parties and will remain in effect for a period of 2 years (2 fellowship periods of one year each). This agreement may be renewed upon common agreement.

The Parties bear the costs of their participation in the planning and management of the activities in this annex and their administration costs. The financing of all the activities described in Annex 1 will be subject to the availability of funds from the BPBES and IAI budgets.

The Directors of the institutions will be:

By BPBES

Dr. Carlos Alfredo Joly, Chairman

Date and Place: *CAMPINAS, 10 SEPTEMBER 2021*

Signature:

By the IAI:

Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva, Executive Director

Date and Place: *Montevideo, 18 August 2021*

Signature: