

# Science Diplomacy for Drought Management in the Agricultural, Energy, and River Transport Sectors

## Concept Note

May 26 & 27, 2025, Asunción, Paraguay

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### Background and Justification

Science diplomacy is a key tool to strengthen international cooperation, facilitate knowledge sharing and develop joint solutions to global problems such as droughts, based on scientific knowledge. In a context of increasing climate uncertainty, the agricultural, energy and river transport sectors in Latin America face critical challenges that require coordinated approaches based on scientific evidence. Through this event, the use of science diplomacy will be promoted as a fundamental instrument to articulate efforts between governments, scientific institutions, the private sector and other key actors, with the objective of improving resilience and response capacity to extreme climate events.

### Objectives of the Event

The IAI Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) Science Diplomacy Training Workshop, in addition to training stakeholders in science diplomacy (SD) concepts and practices, will create a space for international collaboration of experts, decision makers and representatives of productive sectors on a central issue of science diplomacy in Latin America, which is drought management.

This workshop will mobilize the concept of CD in the face of a real problem, allowing these actors to work together in the design of effective drought management strategies. It will also promote dialogue, discussion and the possible development of guidelines for the use of climate services for drought management that could benefit the host country and other countries in the region. The objective is to support decision making in key sectors such as agriculture, energy and river transport.

As a science diplomacy event, this workshop will address how transnational cooperation can strengthen access to and use of climate information, foster strategic agreements for climate risk management and structure sustainable implementation mechanisms for the instrument.

### Expected Results

- Promotion of science diplomacy as an essential instrument with a focus on drought management and climate resilience.

- Establishment of guidelines for the use of climate services for drought management that could benefit the host country and other countries in the region.
- Identification of key actors and strategic alliances, including governments, scientific institutions and productive sectors.
- Identification of regional and international initiatives for the use of climate services for drought management.
- Capacity building in science diplomacy, focused on climate change adaptation, drought management and the use of climate data for decision making.

## Agenda

- 26-27 May: Science Diplomacy Workshop with interactive sessions, technical roundtables and case studies on droughts, focusing on how scientific cooperation can facilitate joint solutions.
- May 28:
  - Side Event “Regional Priorities in Early Warning Systems, Droughts and Sustainable Development” at the IAI Conference of the Parties, with presentation of results and discussion of public policies for climate risk management, highlighting the role of science diplomacy in decision making.
  - IAI Executive Council meeting to discuss strategic priorities and key decisions for the IAI science and policy agenda in the region.
- 29-30 May:
  - IAI CoP-33, where strategies for regional scientific cooperation, climate change governance and consolidation of international agreements will be discussed.

## Relationship with IAI CoP-33 and the Side Event “Regional Priorities in Early Warning Systems, Droughts and Sustainable Development”.

The workshop will serve as a key input for the side event “Regional Priorities in Early Warning Systems, Droughts and Sustainable Development”, which will address the importance of early warning systems for drought management and their impact on strategic sectors. In addition, the results and recommendations arising from the workshop sessions will be integrated into the IAI CoP-33 discussions and the IAI Executive Council meeting, allowing the agreements and strategies outlined in Paraguay to be considered in international fora and regional cooperation frameworks.

## Key Actors

- Representatives of government agencies, productive sectors and academia.
- International organizations and scientific networks.
- Experts in science diplomacy, meteorology, hydrology and risk management.

## Agenda

Day 1 – Monday May 26th	Themes and speakers
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Opening session</b>  <b>Presentation of the objectives of the workshop</b>  <b>Keynote speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drought management for productive sectors and Science Diplomacy as a tool to address priority issues of governments</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:10 – 11:50	<b>Panel 1</b> <b>Science Diplomacy as a tool to address priority issues: problem definition and the use of Science Diplomacy</b> <b>Science Diplomacy in Paraguay</b> <b>Case studies for drought management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science diplomacy for river navigation: The negotiation of the Government of Paraguay with Itaipu Binacional</li> <li>Science diplomacy and the agricultural sector: Assessing the economic impact of drought</li> <li>Science diplomacy in action: Actors, mechanisms and international collaboration</li> </ul>
11:50 -13:20	<b>Lunch</b>
13:20-14:50	<b>Panel 2</b> <b>Science diplomacy and drought management: Tools for monitoring, forecasting and cooperation models in national and regional contexts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer and use of climate information in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current status, challenges and opportunities</li> <li>From underutilization to action: How to improve drought management building on what already exists</li> </ul>
14:50-15:05	<b>Break</b>
15:05-16:35	<b>Sectoral Table 1</b> <b>Scientific diplomacy for the agricultural sector: Drought management, climate services and information transfer to agribusiness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Droughts and vulnerabilities: Challenges in monitoring, forecasting and adaptation strategies.</li> <li>The La Plata Basin in Paraguay: Contrasts between the Western (Chaco) and Eastern regions.</li> </ul>
16:35-16:50	<b>Coffee break</b>

16:50- 17:45	<b>Working Groups - part 1</b> 1. Climate Services, the Agricultural Sector and Science Diplomacy 2. Climate Services and the Energy and Inland Navigation Sectors and Science Diplomacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guideline: ideas for research and science-policy-diplomacy projects</li> <li>Policy brief: information, knowledge and recommendations for decision-makers</li> </ul>
17:45-18:00	<b>Working group presentations</b> Questions, discussion

<b>Day 2 – Tuesday May 27th</b>	
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Panel 3</b> <b>Science diplomacy and sustainable development: Integrating transdisciplinarity and scientific advice in decision making</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to communicate science and to whom? Strategies of knowledge translation</li> <li>Science diplomacy in Latin America: Case studies, challenges and opportunities (including presentation of IAI curriculum)</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Sectorial Table 2</b> <b>Impact of droughts on hydroelectric generation and the navigability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cases of Yacyretá and Itaipú: Energy and navigation in the La Plata Basin</li> <li>Drought management in the La Plata Basin: Challenges for the energy and river transport sectors</li> </ul>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:45	<b>Panel 4</b> <b>Science and technology funding agencies: Support for strategic priorities in the La Plata Basin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of scientific knowledge in short, medium and long term planning</li> <li>The importance of adapting communication strategies to different socioeconomic sectors and their impact on the creation of (multi)platforms.</li> </ul>
15:45 – 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00 – 17:00	<b>Working Groups - part 2</b>

	<p><b>1. Climate Services, the Agricultural Sector and Science Diplomacy</b></p> <p><b>2. Climate Services and the Energy and Inland Navigation Sectors and Science Diplomacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Guidelines:</b> ideas for research projects and science-policy-diplomacy</li> <li>• <b>Policy brief:</b> information, knowledge and recommendations for decision makers</li> </ul>
17:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Final presentation of the working groups and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines</li> <li>• Initial Draft Policy Brief</li> </ul>
17:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Closing Workshop</b></p> <p>Next steps and integration with IAI CoP-33 and international forums</p>