



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Science Diplomacy Center: A regional initiative to foster Science-Policy Dialogue and Collaboration for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Americas

Background

The Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) is a regional initiative to foster science-policy dialogue and collaboration for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Americas. In the context of the IAI, science-diplomacy is grounded in the pursuit of scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the open access and exchange of scientific information relevant to global change to support policy and decision-making for the benefit of society.

Over the last thirty years, the IAI has developed and strengthened a robust network of policy and decision-makers, science practitioners, collaborative research networks, as well as generated a wealth of scientific knowledge, training methodologies and transdisciplinary research approaches related to global change topics addressing key issues, such as climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem services, oceans and water resources, among others. However, there remained a need to further strengthen the science-policy communication and collaboration among communities and countries in the Americas; providing policy makers with opportune sound scientific information to support their decision-making processes to address the complex and transboundary challenges facing the region.

As a result, the **IAI Science Diplomacy Center** was recently launched as a context-specific regional initiative to foster a supportive environment for government officials, experts, and advisors to nurture multilateral science-policy processes and build and enhance collaborations in the Americas to address shared global change challenges. The SDC, as the institutionalization of the IAI's successful capacity building and knowledge generation efforts, is uniquely positioned to bring together diverse knowledge, expertise, and experience to serve member countries and the wider region.

The complex, interconnected and transboundary nature of global change requires the efficient implementation of science diplomacy concepts, tools, and processes - a topic of growing interest worldwide and in the Americas, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean region to strengthen science and technology to support the achievement of SDGs. The purpose of the SDC is to act as a regional reference and resource to support science diplomacy-related activities such as capacity building, research, exchange of best practices, networks, dialogues and projects. It aims to promote collaboration between scientists and decision-makers in the Americas and enhance the capacity of professionals and institutions to understand and implement science diplomacy. The Center also aims to contribute to the development of national and regional science diplomacy strategies, programs, effective public policies and support governments in the region to develop science diplomacy mechanisms to address global environmental change of national, regional and transboundary priorities.



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Vision: The Science Diplomacy Center shall contribute to the maintenance of a peaceful and sustainable Americas through innovative transdisciplinary collaborations to address the region's shared challenges and safeguard the livelihoods and well-being of future generations and the planet.

Mission: The Center shall enhance the capacity of Parties (IAI member states) to meet the objectives of the IAI Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening the interface between science and policy, establishing a science diplomacy knowledge hub, and developing open, just, and equitable programs and activities for the Americas to meet the challenges of global change.

Goals:

1. Build and strengthen capacities in science and policy through multinational collaboration and diplomacy
 - a. Identify and foster a curriculum and skill set necessary to develop an effective science diplomacy community
 - b. Implement the science diplomacy curriculum and skills through regional training activities to the relevant stakeholders: policy makers, diplomatic community, and other decision makers.
2. Develop a science diplomacy knowledge hub
 - a. Provision of science diplomacy knowledge, information, and resource to respond to the needs of diverse stakeholders
3. Convene relevant communities (policy makers, decision makers, diplomatic community, scientists, business, civil society) to raise science-policy awareness and promote dialogue of current and emerging global change issues.
4. Promote and facilitate evidence-based decision making by supporting science-policy communication, through multinational collaboration.
5. Promote and facilitate regional dialogue and international cooperation on shared global change challenges
6. Foster strategic communication to raise awareness, improve the flow of information and knowledge to various stakeholders, strengthen existing partnerships, attract new partners and funders, and engage policy makers.
7. Promote open, just, and equitable science by facilitating the inclusion of diverse communities, knowledge, systems and networks.



Annex: Proposed Priority Activities

GOAL 1: Build and sustain capacities in science and policy through multinational collaboration and diplomacy		
	Priority Activity 1	Priority Activity 2
	Develop training course for policy makers on: <u>Introduction to Science Diplomacy</u>	Develop training course for policy makers on <u>Negotiation Best Practices</u> (e.g. how to be sensitive to the negotiation process within a multilateral setting)
Rationale	To develop effective governance mechanisms for science diplomacy by strengthening science in policy, and priority areas for the region.	To strengthen new/emerging generation of negotiators to understand the mechanics of the negotiating process within the multilateral frameworks, (eg. the UNFCCC, CBD, etc)
Tentative Timeline	During the period 2023-2026 (3 years)	During the period 2025-2028 (3 years)
Resources	PARTIALLY FUNDED (in-person workshops)	NOT YET FUNDED (in-person workshops)

GOAL 2: Develop A Science Diplomacy Knowledge Hub				
	Priority Activity 1	Priority Activity 2	Priority Activity 3	Priority Activity 4
	Develop a SDC Knowledge Hub (i.e. database) of existing open access Science Diplomacy resources relevant for GC in the Americas (e.g. publications, case studies, projects, simulation games, science diplomacy strategies, institutions and networks, etc).	Develop a Booklet with a series of Science Diplomacy case studies (15-25 examples) from IAI member countries.	Develop and launch a virtual and in-person asynchronous Science Diplomacy curriculum (in English, Spanish and Portuguese) tailored to address science-policy relevant GC issues in the Americas.	Design a guide to expand Science Diplomacy for Cities and Countries within the Americas, as well as to work with one city or country as part of a case study or pilot exercise to see if the development of a SD strategy at the city or national level could be supported.
Rationale	To offer science diplomacy information, knowledge, examples, case studies, etc, to IAI member countries.	To offer science diplomacy training to IAI member countries. This will also serve as strategic content for the SDC knowledge hub and	To offer science diplomacy training to IAI member countries. This will also serve as strategic content for the SDC knowledge hub and other	To support the development of effective governance mechanisms for science diplomacy.



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

	This will also serve as strategic content for the SDC knowledge hub and other capacity building efforts.	other capacity building efforts.	capacity building efforts.	
Timeline	2023	2023	2023	2023
Resources	FULLY FUNDED	FULLY FUNDED	FULLY FUNDED	FULLY FUNDED (guide) PARTIALLY FUNDED (pilot exercise)

GOAL 3: Convene relevant communities (policy makers, decision makers, diplomatic community, scientists, business, civil society) to raise science-policy awareness and promote dialogue of current and emerging global change issues.			
Priority Activity 1: Convene webinars, conferences, and workshops with professionals (policy makers, decision makers, diplomatic community, scientists, business, civil society).			
	Climate, Environment & Health (CEH) Workshop- Argentina	Sustainability Research & Innovation (SRI) Congress- Panama	Global Research Council (GRC) Americas - Science Diplomacy Workshop Side Event
Rationale	By bringing together policy makers and professionals from different fields, backgrounds, sectors, countries, these events provide an opportunity for interaction and exchange of ideas. This interaction can foster dialogue, help to build relationships, nurture multilateralism, promote collaboration, and increase understanding between different groups and countries. This can also help to raise science-policy awareness, and support for the SDC towards fundraising and partnerships. Other events for 2024 onwards will be established based on consultation with IAI Parties, Associates and other partners and collaborators.		
Timeline	March 2023	June 2023	TBC November 2023
Resources	FULLY FUNDED (in-person workshop)	FULLY FUNDED (in-person workshop)	PARTIALLY FUNDED (in-person workshop)