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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH**

Thirtieth meeting

Montevideo and videoconference

14-15 June 2022

Agenda item 11

**Summary report of activities by the IAI Directorate during the
2021-2022 intersessional period**

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

Introduction

2. The advent of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to pose challenges to the timely development and implementation of several IAI activities.
3. Nevertheless, the key programs of the IAI continued their progress and implementation during the 2021-2022 intersessional period. Additionally, the IAI continues to succeed in the establishment of several new partnerships resulting in the expansion of scientific and capacity building activities.
4. The summary below describes the primary achievements of the IAI Directorate during the 2021-2022 intersessional period, as framed by COVID-19, with recommendations received from the Parties, the Executive Council, the Science Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee.

5. Each achievement is aligned with by framed by the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and/or the IAI Strategic Plan.

Report on science

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions to the IAI Directorate	Results
<p>XXVII/16. The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue exploring alignment of CRN4 with the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action (CRA), especially in light of efforts to develop a flexible funding mechanism for the Americas.</p>	<p>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective i, Action a: By the end of 2019, the Directorate, with support of the SAC/SPAC and in collaboration with the Belmont Forum, will execute the Collaborative Research Network 4 (CRN4) to fund inter and transdisciplinary research to assist the Parties in advancing the understanding of global change issues.</p>	<p>The Directorate has received the grant funding from NSF and managed a competitive, peer reviewed call for Fellows with 34 applicants and consultants to work with the IAI to implement the goals of the proposal. The Directorate also issued a call for applicants for scholarships for students to attend the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI) 2022, in collaboration with Belmont Forum and Future Earth, and will be a sponsor of SRI 2022, increasing the participation of people from Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	<p>The Directorate and Belmont Forum has contracted 5 Fellows to support the implementation of the IAI's strategic plan and this grant. Two consulting teams have been contracted via a competitive process to create of virtual curriculum on transdisciplinary science and science diplomacy, tailored for issues of global environmental change in the Americas. 100 scholarships will be provided for students from Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the annual global conference of SRI 2022.</p>

	<p>Theme III, Goal 4, Objective ii: The IAI is successful in increasing funding through writing new proposals and targeting strategic partnerships</p>	<p>The Directorate completed two transdisciplinary projects in the Caribbean entitled, “Conduct of a vector-borne disease and gender dynamics study,” and “Integrating Climate Variability into the Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases” with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank via the University of West Indies (2020-2021) as part of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR). The Directorate is implementing a new EU-funded consultancy with PAHO and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) to continue to develop climate tools for the health sector. The Directorate completed a consultancy with the Wellcome Trust to landscape the modeling tools available for climate-sensitive infectious diseases, and conducted a series of workshops to disseminate the results.</p>	<p>The Directorate has successfully received external funding and worked with key regional and global partners to implement studies to support the development of tools that can be used by decision-makers to address the impacts of climate on health, such as early warning systems.</p>
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	<p>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective iv, Action a: The Directorate, with the support of the SAC/SPAC, will continue with research activities and current capacity building program of the IAI.</p>	<p>Members of the SAC/SPAC have been actively engaged in the planning and execution of diverse activities, including the course on climate and health for Latin America, webinars on key topics, science communications plans with IPCC, and new funding opportunities with CAF.</p>	<p>The SAC/SPAC have provided key guidance to strengthen the research and capacity building activities of the IAI, increasing the impact of the work of the IAI. See the SAC/SPAC report for more details.</p>
	<p>Theme II, Goal 6: Human health and wellbeing: Through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, the IAI informed policy and decision making resulting in fewer health crises and chronic diseases.</p>	<p>The IAI contributed to the IPCC 6th Assessment Report, WGII Chapter 12 on Central and South America, and to the WCRP's report, CH8. Science Underpinning Sustainable Development in the Andes.</p>	<p>The IAI contributed expertise on the effects of climate change and variability on health in the region.</p>
		<p>The IAI is chairing the working group on climate change adaptation for the Lancet Countdown: Health and Climate Change in South America.</p>	<p>The IAI is coordinating an assessment of the current state of climate change adaptation actions for the health sector in South America.</p>

		The IAI partnered with PAHO and the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education to implement an open virtual 5-week course on Climate and Health First Responders in Latin America.	Over 3000 people have registered for the course, building capacities across the region to respond to the challenges of climate change and impacts on human health.
		The IAI presented a symposium proposal to the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.	In November 2021, IAI chaired a symposium on "Earth observations for infectious disease early warnings: What can we learn from climate and disaster communities?" with participation of SAC members.

	<p>Theme III, Goal 4, Objective ii, Action c: Increase collaboration with the Belmont Forum, including through setting up a similar co-funding mechanism for the Americas, for the design and development of Collaborative Research Action</p>	<p>The IAI conducted a series of virtual scoping workshops to identify regional priorities on climate, environment and health (CEH2) in the Americas to guide the upcoming CRA by the Belmont Forum. Through in-kind contributions, the IAI is supporting a team called Fish2Sustainability, funded by the Pathways to Sustainability BF CRA. The Belmont Forum presented upcoming opportunities to the SAC/SPAC, who provided strategic guidance on topics of interest for the region. The IAI will also be providing funding for teams from Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in CRA on Migrations and Mobility. The IAI is part of the CEH2 steering committee and anticipates providing funding once this CRA is launched in 2023. The IAI is part of the planning process for the 'Future Leaders in Sustainability' program. The IAI is also providing key training on transdisciplinary science and science-policy communication at SRI 2022, in partnership with the Belmont Forum and START.</p>	<p>The outcomes of the scoping workshop are being systematized and will be used to inform the focus of the CEH2 CRA and IAI's work in the coming year. The IAI is working with BF to support key CRAs through financial support and in-kind contributions such as trainings and networking.</p>
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	<p>Theme III, Goal 1, Objective I, Action e: The Directorate works with project Principal Investigators to provide timely project and other relevant information to the Parties, including through the organization of side-events, science-policy fora, and workshops</p>	<p>The IAI and SGP PIs participated in AmeriGEO week in Aug 2021. The Directorate presented 3 high level talks during the health and disasters session. The IAI also presented in the Conference on Climate Change and Health in Small Island Developing States.</p> <p>The Directorate is also organizing a workshop for students from the Small Grants Program (SGP) to share lessons learned and best practices in research and will be coordinating webinars for SGP teams to disseminate their findings.</p> <p>The IAI organized a session for SRI 2022 on opportunities for research and training at the nexus of climate, environment and health in Latin America and the Caribbean for SRI 2022. The IAI encouraged and monitored an approved session at the SRI lead by SGP PIs to share lessons on transdisciplinary research among the SGP projects entitled "Action-Oriented Solutions for Adapting to Global Environmental Change in the Americas: New Insights & Lessons Learned from Transdisciplinary Research Collaborative Networks"</p>	<p>These open regional meetings provide an opportunity for the Directorate to communicate science efforts to a broad audience of researchers and policy practitioners.</p> <p>The workshop for students provides an opportunity to build a community of practice around TD science in the Americas.</p>
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<p>Decision XXVI/24. The Directorate is directed to continue working in collaboration with the SAC/SPAC on the promotion of science by developing alliances, generating synergies with partners and seeking funds to develop scientific programs aimed at completing the scientific knowledge needed to respond to the challenges of global change, in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others.</p>	<p>Theme I, Goal 3, Objective ii: The IAI promotes regional cooperation for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on global change</p>	<p>The Directorate is working with SAC/SPAC members to develop a project on sargassum and impacts on health and tourism in the Caribbean region.</p>	<p>This project is being developed in partnership with a regional development bank to secure funding for a multi-year multi-national effort to address the impacts of sargassum.</p>
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<p>Decision XXV/28. Augmenting science communication capacities of IAI research projects. The CoP directed the Directorate to find ways to enhance the capacity of IAI research projects to communicate their results to stakeholders.</p>	<p>Theme II, Goal 3, Objective iii, Action c: outstanding early-career individuals from multiple backgrounds and disciplines will contribute to a pool of experts suited for contributing to future IAI research and to promote and disseminate the IAI's work in their home countries and organizations.</p>	<p>The IAI has hosted several virtual events around scientific publishing and science communications in partnership with PLOS Climate and Latinoamérica 21.</p> <p>STeP Fellows, members from 5 SGP research projects and IAI staff members have been progressively mentored to produce science communication texts for wide dissemination, including in the IAI Newsletter and IAI Updates, and for the first IAI Compendium. IAI staff and SAC/SPAC members are progressively participating in drafting publications for the broader public. A total of 25 individuals were mentored.</p>	<p>The events garnered interest and are archived for easy access in the IAI Youtube channel, for early career scientists and policy practitioners to learn about scientific and lay publishing and knowledge dissemination.</p> <p>The Directorate published an article in the PLOS journal blog with results of IAI's CoP- 29. The IAI mentored an SGP investigator from Uruguay to write a science-policy news article, which was published in several regional news outlets in October 2021. The IAI will publish its first compendium, focusing on the impacts of climate change, towards the end of 2022, with contributions from staff, STeP fellows, partners, research funds recipients and other stakeholders.</p>
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<p>Decision XXVI/31. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue to work with strategic partners, identify opportunities to facilitate the science to policy interface, including through science communication initiatives, and to facilitate dissemination of the scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national and international policies.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 2, Objective I, Action d: The Directorate increases media presence, including through social media and strategic partnerships.</p>	<p>The IAI has partnered with Latinoamérica 21 to publish columns by SGP research project members, SAC/SPAC members and STeP Fellows. A list of media contacts has been progressively compiled.</p>	<p>The IAI is producing newspaper columns that will be published in different national media in the region of the Americas. Media members are progressively receiving the IAI Newsletter, Updates email and emails focusing on IAI events.</p>
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<p>Decision XXVI/31. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue to work with strategic partners, identify opportunities to facilitate the science to policy interface, including through science communication initiatives, and to facilitate dissemination of the scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national and international policies.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 2, Objective i, Action a: The Directorate coordinates the development of project briefs based on ongoing IAI project result and</p> <p>Theme III, Goal 1, Objective I, Action e: The Directorate works with project Principal Investigators to provide timely project and other relevant information to the Parties, including through the organization of side-events, science-policy fora, and workshops.</p>	<p>The IAI has produced six bilingual briefs on the Small Grant Program projects which were launched at EC52 and disseminated widely.</p>	<p>IAI Parties, partners, stakeholders and the wider public have access to scientific information that may be used to increase awareness and support the proposals to develop public policy relevant to global change. The pre-EC meeting was an opportunity for knowledge exchange and, especially, feedback from the Parties on the resources that are used to make decisions and to keep up to date about GEC, and how scientists can engage with them and share their science.</p>
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<p>Decision XXVII/25. The IAI Directorate is instructed to establish a mechanism to inform Parties, through their focal points, of outcomes and results of IAI scientific projects that may assist in the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 1, Objective I, Action b: The Directorate continually develops and/or joins activities established by partners to link policy makers and scientists and invites focal points to these science and science-policy workshops, and Action e: The Directorate works with project Principal Investigators to provide timely project and other relevant information to the Parties, including through the organization of side-events, science-policy fora, and workshops.</p>	<p>The IAI held a pre-EC52 science-policy briefing for Focal Points, SAC/SPAC members, STeP Fellows and researchers from the SGP teams. Focal points have received invitations to the IAI webinars organized during the intersessional period, on topics including: 1. Academic publishing and editing, 2. Academic best practices, 3. Migration and health in a context of global change, 4. Perspectives on predatory publishing for Latin America and the Caribbean, 5. Software tools for climate-sensitive infectious disease modeling. English-Spanish interpretation was available and recordings are hosted in the IAI's Youtube channel.</p>	<p>The videos of the briefings are available in the IAI Youtube channel for further viewing by other researchers, focal points who may have been unavailable at the live briefing and other stakeholders.</p>
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<p>Decision XXVII/25. The IAI Directorate is instructed to establish a mechanism to inform Parties, through their focal points, of outcomes and results of IAI scientific projects that may assist in the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 1, Objective I, Action b: The Directorate continually develops and/or joins activities established by partners to link policy makers and scientists and invites focal points to these science and science-policy workshops.</p>	<p>The IAI re-launched the newsletter in July 2021 and has added an Updates email to the external communication portfolio, as a means to bring timely information on IAI events, current science, and training/funding opportunities to the IAI's network.</p>	<p>The IAI Newsletter has increased its readership threefold (as measured by the number of total opens) between July 2021 and February 2022 , and the Updates email readership has more than doubled between September 2021 and 2022. The Newsletter and the Updates email are available in English and Spanish.</p>
<p>Decision XXV/28. Augmenting science communication capacities of IAI research projects. The CoP directed the Directorate to find ways to enhance the capacity of IAI research projects to communicate their results to stakeholders.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 1, Objective ii, Action b: By the end of 2019, the Directorate formulates a presentation template for use by members of the IAI community to cohesively promote the mission and vision of the IAI.</p>	<p>The IAI has created presentation templates for use across the organization, including STeP Fellows, and by partners. A description of the IAI has also been created for standardized sharing across communication channels. The IAI virtual campus will have additional templates for use by course instructors and to extend certificates to participants.</p>	<p>We anticipate that these actions will support clear communication by the IAI and IAI network of relevant scientific information to Parties and other partners, and further position the IAI in the fields of global change and transdisciplinary science.</p>

<p>Decision XXIX/15. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, to increase the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the IAI's science and capacity building activities, as appropriate and subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p> <p>Decision XXIX/8. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC, to continue to revise the Gender policy on IAI scientific projects and activities during the 2021/2022 intersessional period in light of comments and suggestions made by the Executive Council, Parties and partners for consideration by the 30th meeting</p>	<p>Guiding principle ii: Support the inclusion of underrepresented groups in science, including Indigenous Peoples, rural and urban poor, youth, women, and people with disabilities</p>	<p>The IAI is joining efforts with UNICEF LACRO (Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office) to work on including the needs and perspectives of children and youth in GEC research. The IAI is collecting demographic data on participants who attend IAI webinars, courses, workshops and other activities, and offered 100 scholarships for students to attend SRI 2022, with priority given to members of underrepresented groups. The IAI expanded its Gender Policy and has drafted a Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy to be presented at CoP-30 for consideration by the Parties.</p>	<p>It is expected that the IAI's activities, research proposals and reports will include more members of underrepresented groups, which will improve representation and the adoption of additional, diverse perspectives in the IAI's work at the science-policy interface and in knowledge dissemination efforts. The data collection to understand the IAI's baseline and the SRI 2022 scholarships are some of the steps the IAI is taking towards ensuring inclusion of underrepresented groups.</p>
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of the Conference of the Parties.			
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<p>Decision XXVI/24. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue working in collaboration with the SAC/SPAC on the promotion of science by developing alliances, generating synergies with partners and seeking funds to develop scientific programs aimed at completing the scientific knowledge needed to respond to the challenges of global change, in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 4, Objective I, Action b: IAI Directorate continually targets donors, private-sector foundations and Parties to raise funds for the Endowment Fund.</p>	<p>The IAI has met with the executive directors of EU-LAC Foundation (European Union – Latin America and Caribbean Foundation) and CC35 (Capital Cities Facing Climate Change of the Americas) to expand the IAI's network.</p>	<p>These actions serve to increase IAI's network of potential regional partners and funders.</p>
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<p>Decision XXVI/38. The IAI Directorate is directed to organize with the UNFCCC and other conventions, organizations and strategic partners, regional science communication initiatives such as a workshop and other outreach activities subject to the availability of financial resources, to improve the provision of data and information to policy makers, and dissemination of scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national, regional, and international policies in light of the Paris Agreement and other under multilateral environmental agreements.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 4, Objective II, Action d: Annually promote collaboration with various stakeholders, including partners, donor agencies and development banks, academia, private sector and constituent groups at various governmental levels. This includes partnering with countries outside the Americas.</p>	<p>The IAI has organized events with: AASPA (Alliance of Public Health Associations of the Americas), National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation of Panama, Universidad del Desarrollo, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Fundación Octaedro, InterAcademy Partnership, Latindex, Wellcome Trust and PLOS Climate journal. The IAI Directorate is also working with IPCC communications managers to disseminate materials produced by the IAI in relation to 6th IPCC report finds that are relevant to our region.</p>	<p>These actions serve to expand the IAI's network of regional partners.</p>
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<p>Decision XXIX/17. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the SAC and the SPAC, to work with national and international academies of science, scientific publishers, universities and other relevant partners to raise awareness of and prevent the growth of fraudulent and predatory publishing in the Americas.</p>	<p>Theme III, Goal 3, Objective iii, Action d: Continue to build on capacity building workshops and webinars, including those which focus on transdisciplinary research and project briefs.</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate contributed to the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) report on predatory publishing that is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, and different virtual discussions on the subject, including a webinar on predatory publishing hosted by the IAI in alliance with IAP, Latindex and Plos Climate.</p>	<p>The IAI has increased the attention, interest and engagement with regional concerns on the matter of predatory publishing in the region, as expressed by the high number of participants registered to become informed through the different events.</p>
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Report on capacity building

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
<p>Decision XXVII/18. The IAI Directorate is instructed to implement the IAI Science and Technology Policy (STeP) Fellowships Program, subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p>	<p>Theme I, Objective 3, Action iii: The IAI supports capacity building efforts in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, collaboration and innovation.</p>	<p>Directorate works with its Parties, Associates and partners in the development and expansion of the STeP program throughout LAC.</p>	<p>STeP has expanded to 45 Fellows in 10 countries in less than 2 years. Current Fellows (12 males, 34 females) with 41 different advanced degrees/disciplines working in 30 public (executive and legislative branches)</p>

		.	and private institutions including IAI focal points (Canada, Panama, USA)
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<p>Decision XXVI/27.</p> <p>The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue the development of capacity building programs and activities for professionals from the Americas; to engage with strategic partners, and support Parties by providing training in areas of national and regional interest, subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p>	<p>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vii: Promote cooperation among the different institutions of the region.</p>	<p>IAI Directorate open call for consultancy for Science Diplomacy Training Materials: The Directorate issued a consultancy call for the development of training materials on science diplomacy related to global environmental change in the Americas in early 2022. The purpose of these training materials is to enhance the capacity of professionals and institutions across the Americas to better understand and practice science diplomacy concepts, tools, and processes, and to contribute to the development of more effective public policies, and science-policy international collaborations. Training materials will showcase key skills and best practices in science diplomacy by drawing on practical examples and case studies from the region, while leveraging the experiences of IAI's</p>	<p>The IAI Center for Science Diplomacy to be launched in 2022 will provide training in science diplomacy concepts, tools, and processes. The goals it to strengthen human and institutional capacities in IAI Parties, at national and international research and policy organizations, to support the development of more effective public policies, and science-policy international collaborations particularly on transboundary, regional, and continental challenges shared by several nations of the Americas.</p>
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		<p>network of scientists and policy practitioners. Moreover, these training materials would be hosted on the Directorate's learning management system (LMS), also called the IAI Virtual Campus. The Directorate received 24 Expression of Interest, where 9 applicants were selected to submit full proposals for the consultancy. The lead institutions associated with these 9 applicants represented countries across the Americas including Costa Rica, Brazil, Guatemala, Chile, the United States of America and Canada. A total of 5 full proposals were submitted and are currently under review. The consultancy team will be selected by the end of May 2022. In addition, the Directorate has developed, coordinated and launched a number of partnerships, collaborations, and joint-activities with</p>	
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		<p>several research, training and policy organizations. The goal of these partnerships is to provide IAI Parties with additional opportunities and leverage financial resources for joint programs and funding. Some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Directorate established a Letter of Understanding between the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) in February 2022 with the purpose of strengthening collaboration and the cross-promotion of initiatives in areas of scientific research and capacity development, among others. - Directorate implemented a letter of Agreement signed in 2021 with the Past Global Changes (PAGES) program to launch an “International mobility research Fellowship Program for Latin American and Caribbean early career scientists on past global changes 	<p>Greater transparency in the development of the Program and adherence to participatory and transdisciplinary approach to implementation.</p> <p>These agreements, collaborations and activities allow for further collaborations and opportunities to strengthen research, policy capacities of professionals and institutions from IAI Parties.</p> <p>The IAI is also seen as a resource for scoping and contextualization of successful international programs that want to move into Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
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		<p>sciences” from 2021-2024.</p> <p>The program is funded by PAGES and administered by the IAI. A joint call for fellowships was announced and 5 fellows from 5 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Guatemala and Mexico) were selected and have started their fellowship. A second call has been announced in April for a new cohort of fellows for the year 2022-2023.</p> <p>–Since November 2021, the IAI Directorate has administered a project on the Design and Implementation of an information system on droughts (monitoring, prediction, adaptation and mitigation of impacts) for southern South America (SISSA). This project is a grant funded by the European Union through its Euroclima+ initiative and the Spanish Agency for</p>	<p>Given the importance and relevant socioeconomic impacts of droughts in the Americas, several other countries in the region expressed interest in the SISSA project and have participated in the project meetings and workshops.</p>
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		<p>International Cooperation and Development (AECID). The IAI Directorate administers the grant to initially benefit 6 countries from South America and works closely with the technical research group in the implementation of the project activities.</p> <p>IAI- UNEP -EPIC LAC Program:</p> <p>IAI Directorate has signed a small-scale funding agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to support the IAI-UNEP/GAN-EPIC-N Project to establish the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC) Network in Latin America and the Caribbean: Phase I. EPIC-N works to connect the human capital of universities with local governments, and communities through the application of the EPIC Model to collaboratively</p>	
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		<p>address sustainability challenges. A team of consultants has been selected for Phase I of the project which is to conduct the preliminary scoping work to present the EPIC Model in 4 LAC target regions and one country: Central America, the Caribbean, the Andes, the Southern Cone, and Brazil. UNEP Global Adaptation Network (GAN) has worked in close collaboration with EPIC-N for several years to present the EPIC training model in several regions of the world, particularly Africa, Asia and now Latin America and the Caribbean with the IAI as the executing agency.</p> <p>-The IAI Directorate is leading a consortium with the Ibero-American Program of Science and Technology for Development (CYTED), and the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, Jamaica. After the</p>	<p>The IAI is seen as a regional resource for the contextualization of global programs to Latin America and the Caribbean. This project will further strengthen networks between universities and local governments working on issues of sustainable development.</p> <p>If approved for funding, this project will provide financial support to work with national science funding agencies from LAC for research that is inclusive, increase capacity building opportunities for more EDI experts in the region, and promote the IAI's newly</p>
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		<p>successful submission of an expression of interest, the consortium was invited to submit a full proposal of our project entitled “CRECE: Connecting research efforts to promote collaboration and equity in science, technology and innovation frameworks in Latin America and the Caribbean” for a new grant opportunity with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada: Strengthening inclusive science and innovation systems in the Americas. If successful, this 5 million Canadian dollar grant for 5 years will:</p> <p>a) Contribute to the strengthening of human and institutional capacities of LAC Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) organizations and promote regional collaboration among</p>	<p>presented EDI policy as a potential model and reference for LAC.</p>
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		<p>them on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) research programs.</p> <p>b) Support the establishment of sustainable approaches to regional collaboration and peer learning to tackle common challenges in LAC.</p> <p>c) Encourage equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the participation and production of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) activities.</p>	
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<p>Decision XXVI/27</p> <p>27. The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue the development of capacity building programs and activities for professionals from the Americas; to engage with strategic partners, and support Parties by providing training in areas of national and regional interest, subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan,</p> <p>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vi: Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments of the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p>	<p>The Directorate has held 24 virtual training sessions and international conferences that are part of the STeP Professional Development Plan on Science-Policy, Science Diplomacy, Communication and Leadership and more are planned for the upcoming intersessional period.. Information is available on the IAI website at: http://www.iai.int/en/step</p> <p>In 2022, the IAI Directorate invested in developing a Learning Management System titled “IAI Virtual Campus.” The STeP program is the first to pilot the platform with a STeP Collab Space: This collaborative space is a “classroom” and meeting space inside the IAI Virtual Campus. The space is a central repository for resources, learning materials, bibliography, etc. It includes asynchronous discussion forums, surveys, announcements, and calendar to connect to workshops, webinars, or other courses.</p>	
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	<p>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective iii: Pursue, on a regional scale, research that is of the interest of and best pursued by several States or institutions and dedicate itself to scientific issues of regional importance</p>	<p>The Directorate worked on the development and implementation of various capacity building programs. Directorate staff working in the STeP Program has met with representatives from several countries including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Uruguay , Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. The IAI has corresponded with Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas Y Tecnicas (CONICET) Argentina, Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication of Brazil, Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation of Chile, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica (CONCYTEC), Chile Library of Congrass, Ministry of the Environment of Peru, US Embassy in Peru, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (Minciencias) of Colombia, Secretaría de Educación, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación in Mexico City, Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (SENACYT) , the Ministry of the Environment of Panama, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, and Ministry of Health and the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) of Uruguay, and Jamaica's</p>	<p>Capacity building programs like STeP are becoming well known among IAI Parties and non-Party states as a program that adds value by supporting more effective provision of scientific information for the development of public policy. STeP also increases engagement of current IAI Parties and serves as a strategy to encourage non-Party states to ratify the IAI Agreement..</p>
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		<p>National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST) to mention a few.</p> <p>The IAI Directorate works with its Associates and partners in the development of transdisciplinary training and science diplomacy capacity building projects, and in the organization of science to policy workshops and activities.</p> <p>STeP has welcomed new fellows from Canada's Mitacs and the US's AAAS to the Second Generation of fellows.</p> <p>During this reporting period, the IAI Directorate has negotiated several agreements with STeP Parties and partners, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Letter of Agreement with Brazilian Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (signed). -Letter of Agreement with University of West Indies Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (signed) -Memorandum of Understanding with the Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile to collaborate on Science Communication training (draft) -Memorandum of Understanding with SciTech DiploHub Barcelona to 	
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		<p>collaborate on Science Diplomacy training (draft).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negotiations with Future Earth's Leadership Program (former Leopold's Leadership Program) to collaborate on Leadership and Communication training (ongoing). - Negotiations with IPBES to implement a STeP cohort on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in LAC The Directorate has submitted a proposal to IPBES outlining the first activities to be realized under the MOU signed between IAI and IPBES in 2018 proposing funding and support for STeP Fellows to work on IPBES Assessments and strategy. <p>Informal networking events hosted with STeP Fellows and the US National Science Policy Network (NSPN) first focusing on IAI Special Issue in Environmental Development, second event was hosted in October 2021 with NSPN and the Global Young Academy (GYA) on the State of Early Career Researchers in LATAM</p>	
		<p>During Generation 1, five science diplomacy groups were established to advance teamwork among the fellows, their host institutions, and the four initial participating countries (Argentina, Mexico, Canada and the USA). The</p>	<p>One expected result of this exercise is to foster the development of an Inter-American Network of</p>

		<p>groups addressed transboundary and regional themes of a science diplomacy topic relevant to their fellowship, field of expertise, and institutional placement.</p> <p>One group used their project as practical experience to assist IAI Directorate and Belmont Forum in the CEH2 Scoping Event: Participants from the IAI STeP Fellowship Program included fellows from IAI, US NOAA, Mexico City Health Secretariat, Mexico City, Transportation Secretariat, Canada, NSERC and US NSF).</p> <p>New science diplomacy groups are currently under review with the Generation 1 & 2 cohorts to give fellows the option to continue with existing groups or suggest new Science Diplomacy project topics. Emphasis has been given to topics that align with needs of host institutions.</p>	<p>Science-Policy fellows, host organizations, and alumni to share knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and best practices across the Americas.</p>
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	<p>Strategic Plan,</p> <p>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vi: Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments of the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p> <p>Theme III, Goal 1: The Directorate's communication and outreach initiatives facilitated and promoted communication of science in the region with a view to achieving sustainability in the Americas.</p>	<p>The Directorate developed a series of communication and outreach material to showcase the program, its strategic partnerships and professional development training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STeP brochure in English and in Spanish - STeP E-brochure (A4 size) - Flyers of STeP fellows in Argentina and Mexico - Flyers of AAAS and Mitacs fellows participating in the STeP professional development training - Video of the STeP launch in Mexico with testimonies from the IAI Mexican partners, fellows, their host organizations. - IAI STeP website - STeP 2020-2021 Program overview https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hL6dLxu2Nzw&t=27s - STeP Science Diplomacy Project Forum - Fellows' testimonies. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8U1UyOdk84Y&t=3s <p>These materials are available on the IAI website at: http://www.iai.int/en/step</p> <p>The IAI created a social media account of the Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program in which the Institute showcases</p>	<p>Greater awareness of Capacity Building initiatives including the STeP Program by Parties, the IAI research community, and a broader international audience of potential partners and stakeholders.</p>
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		<p>the results and objectives of the STeP Program.</p> <p>The IAI participating in several international conferences to highlight capacity building initiatives and expertise (including the STeP Program). Examples include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) regional and national platforms/networks in the session for North, Central and South Americas and the Caribbean Region – 4 June 2021 2. DiploHub Barcelona. SciDip Talks: Science Diplomacy in the Global South. Challenges and opportunities – 10 June 2021 3. Future Leaders Collaborative Research Action (CRA) at the Sustainability Research Innovation - SRI2021 – 14 June 2021 4. São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Science Diplomacy and Innovation Diplomacy (InnSciD SP) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Science Diplomacy – 4 and 13, August 2021 	<p>The STeP program has generated a substantial interest in social media.</p> <p>Other social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram have grown in followers due to</p>
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		<p>5. AmeriGEO: Advancing collaboration and data integration for decision support – August 24, 2021.</p> <p>6. International Transdisciplinary Conference ITD 2021: Creating spaces and cultivating mindsets for learning and experimentation – 4 presentations of Fellow Sci Dip Projects – Sep 17, 2021</p> <p>7. INCIENCIAS COLOMBIA. "Hacia la construcción de la primera estrategia de diplomacia científica en Colombia" – September 22, 2021.</p> <p>8. Canada Science Policy Conference: Beyond boundaries: Building science diplomacy capacities and a transdisciplinary network of early career researchers across the Americas – November 22, 2021</p> <p>9. Chilean Comisión de Futuro, Ciencias, Tecnología, Conocimiento e Innovación de la Cámara de Diputadas y Diputados – November 24, 2021</p> <p>10. Global Research Council Regional Conference: Transdisciplinary science for global environmental change in the Americas – December 2, 2021</p> <p>11. AAAS Science diplomacy Affinity group – December 16, 2021</p>	<p>the impact of STeP.</p>
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		<p>12. Journal of Science Policy & Governance (JSPG). Improving science diplomacy interfaces to address global challenges – January 25, 2022.</p> <p>13. 2022 AAAS Annual Meeting Presentation: Science Diplomacy Fellowships: Crafting the pipeline to evidence-informed policy – February 18, 2022</p> <p>14. Encuentro Educativo Global: Análisis sobre las negociaciones y hallazgos en torno al cambio climático – COP26 y Sexto Informe del IPCC: Entender el impacto de clima y salud en el centro y sur de las Américas y Capacitar la próxima generación de consejeros/diplomáticos científicos – April 6, 2022</p> <p>15. Curso de Diplomacia Científica desde y para Centroamérica. San José, Costa Rica. This course is jointly organized by the University of Costa Rica, UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, in collaboration with the European Union delegation in Central America, SciDipGLOBAL, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the International Network of Government Scientific Advice (INGSA Latam). – April 26-29, 2022.</p> <p>Upcoming events:</p>	
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		<p>16. SRI Cngress 2022: Perspectives of Emerging Leaders: Dialogue with an Inter-American coalition of early career fellows working in the science policy interface (features 5 Fellows presenting work plans), June 2022</p> <p>17. DiploHub – SciDip Talks Barcelona – 31 May 2022.</p> <p>18. DiploHub Summer School Barcelona – 1-15 July 2022.</p>	
	<p>Theme I: Meeting the goals of the Parties to address global environmental change</p>	<p>Directorate implements the MoU signed with OAS. The IAI Directorate in collaboration with OAS is planning a High-Level Seminar on a science-based agenda for resilience in the Caribbean region. This event, to be attended by 15 CARICOM nations, will be hosted by the Commonwealth of Dominica. The meeting was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and re-scheduled to be tentatively held 20-21 October 2022 Other partners and funding agencies include Amazon Web Services, OAS, and the U.S. NOAA</p>	<p>Ongoing. IAI has established partnerships with and secured funding from the OAS and NOAA to support the participation of representatives from Caribbean countries.</p>
	<p>Theme I, Goal 3, Objective ii: The IAI promotes regional cooperation for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on global change.</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate staff has been invited to and participated on several national and international committees. Some examples are:</p> <p>a) a member of the WMO - WHO Service Commission</p>	<p>Linking of IAI activities with partners for increased synergies, greater collaboration, and better use of</p>

		<p>Study Group on Health. This is the first formal mechanism for the WMO to consider the needs of the global health sector for climate, weather, and environmental information and services;</p> <p>b) a member of the selection committee for the AAAS David and Betty Hamburg Award for Science Diplomacy for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 cycles.</p> <p>c) a member of a project led by Stanford University on Transdisciplinary research, which gathers the world experts on TD science, training, and policy to develop a TD training curriculum, methods and tools.</p> <p>d) a member of a national/regional commission for a training School on “A Sustainable and Inclusive Amazon” led by the State University of São Paulo (UNICAMP) and the Brazilian Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services with Brazil’s leading experts on Amazon research.</p> <p>In September 2021, the IAI created the Transdisciplinary Academy. The IAI TD Academy provides training on Transdisciplinary Science (TD) approaches and skills to advance knowledge and practice of global environmental change research and to inform decision-making in the public and private sectors. The</p>	<p>programmatic, institutional, and financial resources. Moreover, this is an opportunity to disseminate to a wider international audience the work of the IAI and scientific information generated from IAI supported programs</p>
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		academy also facilitates sharing information, best practices, and regional dialogue.	
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Report data and information

	Theme I, Goal I, Objective iv, Action a: The Directorate will support open science by making all literature produced through IAI funded research freely available or by requiring that articles be available on the IAI webpage or be deposited in a public access compliant repository within 12 months of the journal's final publication date.	<p>Part of the drafting group coordinated by the Inter-Academy Partnership that issued the report: <i>Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences</i></p> <p>Part of the drafting group coordinated by UN ECLAC that issued the report: <i>Experiencias existentes y potenciales de América Latina y el Caribe para el aprendizaje entre pares en el contexto del nuevo Marco Mundial de Biodiversidad posterior a 2020: Integración de la biodiversidad en otros sectores.</i></p> <p>Part of the advisory group to the International Science Council which issued the report: <i>ISC strategy in the intergovernmental system</i></p>	Greater awareness by the region on urgent global challenges, including biodiversity loss, mainstreaming biodiversity, improvement of the science to policy interface at the global level and promoting ethics in scientific research.
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Report on implementation of the IAI Strategic Plan

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions to the IAI Directorate	Results

<p>XXIX/16. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, to map the domestic and international global change policy and decision-making landscape through a regional assessment, subject to the availability of external resources.</p>	<p>Theme I, Goal 2, Objective I, Action a: In order to inform research funding decisions, the Directorate will submit a template to assist Parties identify their priorities and emerging priorities for Party consideration at CoP 28.</p>	<p>The Directorate designed a template (survey) to assist Parties identify their priorities and emerging priorities. The survey was distributed to Parties on 18 March 2022.</p>	<p>To date, 14 Parties have completed the online survey and sent their responses. The theoretical background and methodological approach of the Regional Assessment are described as an annex to this report.</p>
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Report on the IAI's 30th year anniversary

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions to the IAI Directorate	Results
	<p>Theme 3, Goal 1, Objective ii: Encourage Parties to support and amplify IAI's communication activities aimed to promote the mission and vision of the IAI</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate has produced a 30th anniversary logo together with a series of infographics, Twitter threads and videos to mark the creation of the IAI and commemorate past activities, highlighting exemplary projects and stakeholders.</p>	<p>The IAI and Party members have material to demonstrate their work and contributions to the region of the Americas, and the longstanding leadership of the IAI in global change science in the continent. Current and former collaborators are able to showcase the benefits of the IAI for the region, the collaborative networks that have been created with support from the IAI,</p>

			and the progress in capacity building and scientific research to confront the challenges of global change through transdisciplinary science.
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Conclusions

6. This report does not purport to present a complete summary of activities organized by the IAI Directorate. Updates on activities omitted from this report, if any, will be provided to Parties during the 2022-2023 intersessional period.
7. The IAI Directorate notes that activities described are fully supportive of Decisions adopted by the CoP and are aligned with the IAI Strategic Plan.
8. The IAI Directorate is grateful for the support received from Parties and its partners that made achievement of the IAI work plan possible.

Recommendation

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Capacity building

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXX/xx. The Directorate is instructed to establish a steering committee, with the participation of Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, Associates and experts on science diplomacy, to assist in and advise on the design and development of the IAI Center for Science Diplomacy and its programs and activities.

Directed to the Conference of the Parties

XXX/xx. The Parties are encouraged to participate in the training and education activities of the IAI Center for Science Diplomacy as lecturers or instructors with a view to provide participants with experience on and knowledge about the science to policy interface.