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18 April 2023

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Thirty First meeting
Panama City, Panama
21-22 June 2023
Agenda item 11**

Agenda item 11: Discussions with Panama on the establishment of a regional office

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

Background

2. Theme III, goal 3, objective (i), action (a) of the *IAI strategic plan* states:

By 2022, the IAI Directorate will work with Parties to assist four nations in Central America and the Caribbean to join the IAI.

Report of progress

3. In light of Theme III, goal 3, objective (i), action (a) of the *IAI strategic plan* and with the agreement of the Chair of the Executive Committee, the IAI Directorate invited Panama to discuss the possibility of establishing a regional office with the view to increase visibility of IAI science projects and capacity building activities and promote accession by States not parties to the Agreement.
4. The generous offer by Panama to host the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-31, Panama, 2023) and also the 2023 Sustainability Research & Innovation (SRI2023) Congress further highlighted the need to increase the IAI's presence in Central America and the Caribbean.
5. Finally, of the 14 States not Party to the Agreement, 4 are in Central America and 10 in the Caribbean.
6. Informal discussions were held with the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation, Panama (Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (SENACYT)) during IAI Directorate missions to Panama on 6 to 9 February 2023 and 11 to 14 April 2023.
7. The IAI Directorate will continue to inform Parties on progress made related to the establishment of the regional office.

Recommendation

8. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this report.