



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

28 April 2023

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

Thirty-first meeting

Panama City and Videoconference

21-22 June 2023

Agenda item 13(e)

**Update on partnership with the Belmont Forum and
Collaborative Research Actions**

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

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 27th meeting, adopted Decision XXVII/15 which invited the Parties to:

... work with the IAI Directorate in an effort to harmonize the upcoming fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks (CRN4) with their national priorities and plans, as appropriate.

3. At the same meeting, the Parties adopted Decision XXVII/16 which instructed the IAI Directorate 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.

4. Parties may recall notification no. 2017/003, published on 8 November 2017, which informed the Parties that, during the afternoon session of the meeting of the Belmont

Forum Plenary, which was held on 7 November 2017, in São Paulo, Brazil, the Belmont Forum Executive Council accepted the Expression of Interest submitted by the IAI Directorate to host the Belmont Forum Secretariat in Montevideo, Uruguay.

5. Additionally, notification no. 2018/020, published on 16 November 2018, informed the Parties that Belmont Forum members voted unanimously to welcome the IAI as a member of that association.
6. Parties may also wish to note that the IAI Executive Director assumed the role of co-Chair of the Belmont Forum during the 2022-2023 intersessional period.
7. The above has provided a collaborative environment of work where IAI activities, where appropriate, are aligned with those of the Belmont Forum and where synergies and opportunities for joint work are identified and promoted.
8. Among these synergies, IAI participation in Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action(s) (CRAs) have been the most fruitful. Below is a summary of IAI contributions and participation in CRAs.

IAI contributions and participation in CRAs

9. At the time of writing, the IAI Directorate is currently engaged in the following CRAs:
 - a) *Pathways to Sustainability*: One project (Fish2Sustainability) was selected with the IAI Directorate providing in-kind support to investigators from Ecuador, Canada, Colombia, and Mexico;
 - b) *Integrated Approaches to Human Migration/Mobility in an Era of Rapid Global Change*. Three projects were selected for funding with financial resources provided by the IAI. Investigators are based in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile;
 - c) *Climate, Environment and Health (CEH2)*: The following related actions were completed or are in planning:
 - i. The IAI Directorate met twice per month with an expert CEH steering committee to guide efforts related to the CEH2 CRA;
 - ii. The IAI Directorate issued a report with the regional priorities to inform the CEH2 scoping process¹;
 - iii. The IAI Directorate partnered with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) to conduct virtual capacity-building activities (three courses) for the Americas;

¹ See:

https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/CEH%20Scoping%20Workshop%20EXEC%20Summary%20%26%20Synthesis_IAI_2022%20final.pdf

- iv. The IAI Directorate hosted a week-long training workshop in Neuquen, Argentina, with the Minister of Health of Neuquen, PAHO, and GCCHE on the CEH science to policy nexus;
 - v. Twelve transdisciplinary teams have been selected to receive seed grants from the IAI Directorate, to support initial research activities in preparation for the CEH2 call; and,
 - vi. For the CEH2 CRA, the Directorate anticipates supporting 5 projects with participants from IAI member states in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- d) *Amazonia and Tropical Forests*: The IAI Directorate and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) are jointly leading this new CRA, which currently is in the scoping phase. It is anticipated that the call text will be presented at the Belmont Forum plenary in October 2023 and that the call would be launched in early 2024. The following activities were completed or are underway:
- i. The IAI Directorate, FAPESP, and the Belmont Forum established a working group, which has met weekly, to guide the implementation of this CRA;
 - ii. A scoping workshop with the participation of donors and partners will be held in October 2023;
 - iii. The IAI Directorate assisted in the organization of the workshop *Amazonia at the Crossroads: Setting the Agenda for International Transdisciplinary Research of Consequence*, which was held in Virginia, United States at George Mason University on 17 January 2023;
 - iv. The IAI Directorate has held monthly meetings with donors and partners, beginning in February 2023;
 - v. Stakeholder mapping;
 - vi. Scientific scoping (virtual) workshop held in mid-April 2023;
 - vii. In-person scoping with donors and researchers is planned with the IAI Directorate, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) during the SRI Congress in June 2023;
 - viii. In-person scoping with representatives from indigenous and local communities is being planned with the IAI Directorate, and the Humboldt Institute and the Sinchi Amazonic Institute of Scientific Research, Colombia, in August 2023;
 - ix. Virtual scoping workshops for Africa and Asia region planned prior to September 2023; and

- x. In-person regional training workshop with seed grants is planned to be held in March 2024. The location of the workshop will be announced in due time.
10. The IAI Directorate believes that the above activities framed by CRAs will offer the region increased opportunities to fund transdisciplinary research, enhanced collaboration among research institutions and greater awareness by the international scientific community of the important role played by the IAI in the development of projects identified by Parties to meet the challenges posed by global change.

Recommendation

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