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**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**

**Summary report of activities by the IAI Directorate during the
2022-2023 intersessional period**

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

Introduction

2. The summary below describes the primary achievements of the IAI Directorate during the 2022-2023 intersessional period, with recommendations received from the Parties, the Executive Council, the Science Advisory Committee, and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee.
3. Each achievement is aligned with and framed by the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the IAI Scientific Agenda and the IAI Strategic Plan.
4. The IAI Directorate notes that this report presents a brief linear summary of achievements. It does not purport to describe in summary detail each individual project and activity. Parties are invited to communicate with the Directorate for more information on any activity or project described below.

Report on science

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
XXX/6. The Conference of the Parties is invited to establish a Gender and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, in collaboration with the SAC, SPAC and Associates and with the support of the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities and to report on achievements at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.		The Directorate established and coordinated the gender and EDI committee with participation of Parties, SAC, SPAC, and the Belmont Forum.	The committee has drafted an implementation plan for the policy ¹ . An EDI plan is included as a requirement to all grant requirements and EDI training has been provided for grantees and STeP fellows. EDI dimensions have also been considered in reviewing grants and fellowship applications. Basic demographic data are now gathered (voluntarily) at IAI virtual events to provide baseline data.
	Theme I, Goal 1, Objective iv, Action a.: The Directorate, with the support of the SAC/SPAC, will continue with research	Members of the SAC/SPAC have been actively engaged in the planning and execution of diverse activities, including the course on climate and	The SAC/SPAC have provided key guidance to strengthen the research and capacity building activities of the IAI, increasing the

¹ See: https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/EDI%20Implementation_10April2023.pdf

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	activities and current capacity building program of the IAI.	health for Latin America, webinars on key topics, science communications plans with IPCC, and new funding opportunities with CAF.	impact of the work of the IAI. See the SAC/SPAC report for more details.
<p>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>Decision XXVII/25. The IAI Directorate is instructed to establish a mechanism to inform Parties, through their focal points, of outcomes and</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>Six projects of the small grants program (SGP-HW) were successfully completed (in 10 IAI member states). Activities are ongoing to synthesize key findings across the projects and to improve the dissemination of key policy results.</p>	<p>The IAI will be hosting a science policy briefing and a 1-day synthesis workshop with the 6 SGP project investigators, as side events during COP-31.</p> <p>A STeP fellow was hired to support synthesis activities across the projects over the intersessional period, including policy briefs, scientific publications, virtual or in-person events, and other activities.</p>

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results of IAI scientific projects that may assist in the development of public policy relevant to global change.			
XXVI/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.	SP: 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.	The Directorate implemented virtual and in person training and seed grants on the nexus of Climate, Environment and Health.	The Directorate partnered with PAHO and the Global Consortium on Climate & Health Education to implement the virtual training program: "Climate and Health Responder Course for Latin America." Twenty-five transdisciplinary teams from 14 countries and +50 individuals from governments participated. These teams then participated in an in-person training workshop co-hosted with the Ministry of Health of Neuquen in San Martín de los Andes from March 13-17, 2023. Nearly 100 experts (including SAC/SPAC) from 20 countries of the Americas came from academic, governmental, non-governmental and international institutions. The IAI

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			anticipates supporting 12 co-funded seed projects. The Directorate has continued to provide training through the ongoing virtual course, "Pan American Climate Resilient Health Systems.
		The Directorate implemented an emerging issues program to provide Parties with information on new issues that may be of interest or concern. Issues related to Solar Radiation Modification was the first theme under this program. Cloud computing was the second issue presented to Parties (see below)	The Directorate collaborated with the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, the Degrees Initiative, and the University of the West Indies in the organization of the Americas Conference on Solar Radiation Modification, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, 24 to 25 August 2022
		The Directorate partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to conduct webinars on the use of Cloud Computing.	The events with AWS focused on cloud computing for global health research and practice and disaster risk reduction and response (NASA participated in the second event.)

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		The Directorate has been working with an international consulting team to develop a virtual curriculum on transdisciplinary (TD) science.	The curriculum will be openly available and multilingual (English, Spanish, Portuguese) by early 2024, focusing on case studies and best practices from the LAC region. A steering committee with the SAC, SPAC, Belmont Forum, and Future Earth guides this effort. The training is aimed at TD researchers and practitioners in academia, government, civil society, and the private sector.
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		Published the IAI's first compendium on the Impacts of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean, including training of scientists and early career researchers in writing Op Eds.	This book ² is a compilation of 12 Op-Eds written by IAI STeP fellows and investigators, and published in major regional newspapers (available in English, Spanish, Portuguese). This publication aims to bring critical information on climate impacts and solutions to decision makers and the public.

² See: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/IAI-Compendium-2022>

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their results to stakeholders.		The Directorate coordinated the participation of IAI researchers, SAC/SPAC members, and other partners the Science Summit at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77): https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Science-Summit-at-the-United-Nations-General-Assembly	More than 17 virtual sessions (open access, Eng-Spanish interpretation) were presented on topics related to global environmental change in the Americas, reaching a diverse global audience. In recognition of this success, the IAI has been invited to serve as a partner and co-chair on SSUNGA78, to increase the representation of science from the LAC region across the summit.
		<p>The Directorate is co-hosting the Sustainability, Research, and Innovation Congress (SRI2023), with SENACYT Panama, Belmont Forum, and Future Earth.</p> <p>The Directorate partnered with the University of Chicago to draft a proposal to host SRI2025 in Chicago, Illinois. The proposal was successful.</p>	The Directorate has co-ordinated the planning of SRI2023, has participated in the outreach, communication, and scientific program committees, and is providing financial support for in-person and virtual scholarships for early careers students from the LAC region.
Decision XXVI/38. The IAI Directorate is directed to organize with the UNFCCC and		The Directorate hosted IAI's Virtual Side Events to prepare member states for the UNFCCC CoP27. The Directorate and webinars to disseminate key messages	Four webinars (2 pre-COP and 2 post-COP) were held in partnership with LatinoAmerica21, UNDP, and PLOS Climate. The goal of the

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<p>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>		for Latin America and the Caribbean from the IPCC AR6 report.	webinars is to discuss among scientists, government representatives, journalists, and civil society the challenges and opportunities offered by COP-27 to the Americas. Two IPCC webinars were held to disseminate key policy messages for Latin America and the Caribbean with participation of the SAC/SPAC and other LAC IPCC authors.
		The IAI has strengthened its partnership with World Meteorological Organization to improve access to and use of high-quality hydro-meteorological and climate data as part of the early warning systems for all initiative and other priorities.	The WMO and IAI signed an MOU. WMO joined the IAI's Climate, Environment (CEH) and Health Steering Committee and participated as a key expert in the CEH regional workshop. The WMO also invited the IAI to participate in workshops at the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, a high-level meeting held in Uruguay in February 2023 to address (1) increasing engagement between the national disaster risk reduction agencies and national meteorological services

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			and (2) sharing lessons learned on the development of early warning systems.
		The IAI signed a letter of collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative to strengthen research and training in mountainous region of the Americas.	MRI joined the CEH steering committee and provided funding for the regional TD training in Neuquen.
		The Directorate partnered with the Organization of American States (OAS) to host a high-level meeting on disaster risk reduction in Dominica in October 2022.	Outcomes of the meeting include a regional strategy to improve the use of scientific information and data in decision-making to increase the resilience of nations in the Eastern Caribbean (CARICOM countries).
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.	SP: 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	The Directorate has strengthened its engagement with the Belmont Forum. The IAI is currently engaged in the following Collaborative Research Actions:	The Directorate continues to host of the Belmont Forum Secretariat, serve as an ex-officio member and as co-Chair. A STeP fellow was hired to provide support for IAI's involvement in CRAs.
		Pathways to sustainability	1 project (Fish2Sustainability) was selected with the IAI providing in-kind support. IAI is supporting investigators from Ecuador, Canada, Colombia, and Mexico.

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		Migration and Mobility	3 projects were selected for funding with financial resources provided by the IAI in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile.
		Climate, Environment and Health (CEH2)	The call for CEH2 pre-proposals opened in mid-April. The Directorate anticipates supporting 5 projects with participants from IAI member states in Latin America and the Caribbean.
		Amazonia and Tropical Forests	The IAI and FAPESP are co-leading this new CRA, which is in the scoping phase. In-person scoping workshops are planned during SRI2023 with STRI in Panama and in Leticia, Colombia, in August 2023 (with the Humboldt Institute and SINCHI). We anticipate launching this funding call in early 2024.
	Theme III, Goal 4, Objective ii: The IAI is successful in increasing funding through writing new proposals and targeting strategic partnerships	The Directorate is implementing a new EU-funded project for the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) to develop climate services for the health sector.	The Directorate has successfully received external funding and worked with key regional and global partners to implement studies in Barbados, St. Lucia and Grenada to support the development of tools

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			that can be used by decision-makers to address the impacts of climate on health, such as early warning systems.
		The Directorate is leading a project with CAF to develop a project identification form (PIF) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF): “Promoting the Integrated Management of Sargassum: Building Resilient Tourism and Fisheries Sectors through the Conservation of Marine Ecosystems”	This project will develop a PIF for the GEF to improve the capacity of countries to better plan and respond to the threat of sargassum. The project will be implemented in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Barbados. We expect that key findings can inform actions across other IAI member states.
		The IAI is a key partner on extramurally funded science projects related to the climate, environment, and health (CEH) nexus.	Getting to Zero: Satellite-Informed System to Support Elimination of Malaria in the Americas (SISTEMA). PI: Bill Pan (Duke University). Funded by NASA. 2022-2026 HARMONIZE: Harmonizing multi-scale spatiotemporal data for health in climate change hotspots. Funded by the Wellcome Trust. PI:

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			<p>Rachel Lowe (BSC).2022-2026</p> <p>IDExtremes: a modelling tool to predict the probability of infectious disease outbreaks given compound extreme climatic events. Funded by the Wellcome Trust. PI: Rachel Lowe (BSC). 2023-2026</p>
<p>XXIX/9. Conference of the Parties approves the establishment a working group, in collaboration with the SAC and SPAC and the IAI Directorate, to develop and implement activities under the Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean and to report on achievements at the 30th meeting</p>		<p>The Directorate continues its collaboration with USGCRP and AmeriGEO in the initiative, "Enhancing Capacity for Climate Risk Assessment and Catalyzing Partnerships to Inform Decisions in Latin America and the Caribbean (LACI).</p>	<p>The Directorate encouraged Parties to participate in the initiative and jointly facilitated ongoing virtual and in-person (at AmeriGEO) workshops to co-develop multinational pilot projects. The initiative aims to strengthen climate risk assessments that support local and regional decision-making to help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. designing and carrying out such assessments and users of the risk assessments.</p> <p>A proposal under LACI entitled "Data and</p>

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of the Conference of the Parties. Directed to the IAI Directorate XXIX/10. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to disseminate information on the Initiative to Parties and partners and to encourage their participation in its activities.			<p>information observatory for climate, environment and health services” was drafted jointly by the IAI Directorate, the Government of Uruguay, and RedClara received approval for seed funding. Other partners include Amerigeo, World Meteorological Organization, and interested Southern Cone countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay).</p> <p>The Directorate is also serving on the task team for the Amazonia pilot project.</p>

Report on capacity building

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
XXX/8. 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 providing	Theme I, Objective 3, Action iii: The IAI supports capacity building efforts in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, collaboration, and innovation.	The Directorate held its first in-person SDC advisory board meeting on 11-13 November 2022 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The Advisory Board discussed the vision, mission, goals, and	In the end of 2022, the IAI launched the SDC for the Americas. The purpose of the SDC is to act as a regional reference center to support activities related to science diplomacy, including, capacity building,

<p>participants with experience in and knowledge about the science-to-policy interface</p>		<p>ideas for the SDC's 3-year plan. It also focused on regional priority topics, relevant capacity building activities, potential audience, expected impact and raising awareness. Discussions were held on the development of a funding strategy to sustain the Center in the long term³.</p> <p>The Directorate held a hybrid Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) Advisory Board Meeting at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington DC, USA in March 2023. The output of the hybrid advisory board meeting in Washington, DC.</p> <p>The Directorate is planning a side event on Science Diplomacy at CoP 31. The side event will be a venue to present and discuss science diplomacy examples, cases, identify needs in capacity building and science-policy</p>	<p>research, exchange of best practices, networks, projects. In addition, the Center aims to enhance the capacity of professionals and institutions across the continent to better understand and practice science diplomacy concepts, tools, and processes, to support the development of national Science diplomacy strategies, and programs. The Center will support governments in the region to develop science diplomacy governance mechanisms to address global environmental change of national, transboundary, and regional priorities.</p> <p>As a result of the initial work of the SDC advisory board, a draft SDC working plan has been developed, which will be presented to the IAI Parties at CoP 31 for their consideration.</p>
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³ For more information see: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Science-Diplomacy-Center-Advisory-Board-Meeting>

		with IAI Parties the SDC will embark on over the next 3 years.	
XXX/9. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish, on its behalf, 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.		The IAI Directorate established the SDC steering committee/advisory board in the second semester of 2022. The SAC and SPAC nominated 2 representatives. One Associate (AAAS) with experience in science diplomacy was also invited to participate. The Directorate invited other experts to join the board.	The SDC steering committee/advisory board is composed of 11 professionals: 4 IAI Parties (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, USA), one associate (AAAS), 2 members of the IAI SAC and SPAC, and 4 experts in science diplomacy ⁴ .

⁴ For more information see: <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Science-Diplomacy-Center-Advisory-Board-Meeting>

<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>STeP aims to build human and institutional capacities in IAI countries to provide expert scientific advice to support the development of public policy on global change. STeP fellows are early to mid-career scientists and policy makers interested in how science can help address national and regional challenges and support sustainable development. IAI facilitates their training, mentorship, and their connection to an Inter-American network of science-policy fellows to exchange information, experiences, best practices, foster cross-border collaborations and international career opportunities.</p>	<p>The STeP Program has expanded over the last 2 years. The growing number of STeP fellows, especially from LAC, shows the interest of IAI Parties in the program and the need to support science advice at various government agencies. The program grew from 17 fellows from 4 participating countries in the first year to a current total of 64 fellows in 13 countries (recent countries which have joined are Chile's Ministry of Science Technology Innovation and Knowledge, and Uruguay's National Agency for Research and Innovation -ANII), including the IAI Directorate which hosts 7 fellows. STeP provided training in communication, science diplomacy and leadership with 15 virtual and in-person training sessions during the 2022-2023 intersessional period. STeP fellows from 13 countries are fully funded by their hosts, national government, or other funders.</p> <p>A leadership statement developed</p>
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		<p>STeP program has provided several training and professional development opportunities. It has encouraged practical experience for early career scientists in policy and decision making while building expertise in the provision of scientific advice in several IAI Parties; developed a platform for professional development and networking for fellows and IAI alumni to enhance lessons learned; and shared science-policy experiences and best practices.</p> <p>Several Science Diplomacy and leadership virtual training sessions in addition to mentorship sessions were held up to Jan 2023. The IAI supported 30 fellows to attend the in-person training STeP Leadership in Science Diplomacy Workshop held in Uruguay (November 2022) to interact with each other</p>	<p>by STeP fellows, will be presented to the Parties at CoP-31 and at the SRI Congress in June 2023.</p> <p>STeP fellows will also present their science diplomacy projects, a practical exercise of the professional development training. Projects address science-policy issues that are transboundary and of regional relevance.</p> <p>As a result of the Directorate's partnership with the Journal of Science Policy & Governance (JSPG) for a special issue entitled "Development Policy and Global Change Science to Achieve the Vision of Sustainable Americas" and the training sessions for prospective authors.</p> <p>May 2023: US National Academy of Sciences and the Nobel Foundation: Nobel Prize Summit: Empowering Science Diplomacy Emerging Leadership Across the Americas.</p> <p>March 2023: AAAS Annual Meeting: Workshop Title:</p>
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		<p>alongside global experts from the new Advisory Board of IAI Science Diplomacy Center (SDC). In person training sessions included:</p> <p>Transdisciplinary Leadership and Principles of the TD Approach; Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and decolonization at the nexus of science and policy; a Science Diplomacy Simulation Game: Accident in a Marine Ecosystem off the Central American Coast; Behavioral science in science diplomacy for consensus building; Science Diplomacy group Work and project presentations; and Leadership Redefined: Fellows brought their rich cultural and professional diversity to the table and worked together to challenge the current definition and examples of leadership. This experience resulted in a draft leadership statement that embodies their vision of science diplomacy in the</p>	<p>Science Diplomacy Fellowships for Stronger Public Policies.</p> <p>February 2023: Canadian Science Policy Conference, Session title: Tools for Science Policy Education: How can the next generation advance the field of science policy?</p> <p>November 2022: IBRO-PEDECIBA Postgraduate Hybrid Course: Science Diplomacy Applied to Neuroscience for the Global South, Session Title: Science diplomacy to face the challenges of global change in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>November 2022: Global Research Council Regional Meeting: STeP Fellow Presentation of the Science Diplomacy Leadership Statement.</p> <p>September 2022: Science Summit of the 77 UN General Assembly (SSUNGA 77) Session Title: Perspectives from Emerging Leaders in the Global South: Building science advisory & diplomacy</p>
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		<p>Americas, presented to members of the Global Research Council (GRC), who met in Uruguay in Nov. 2022.</p> <p>In February 2023, STeP fellows presented their hands-on projects on science diplomacy. The STeP Science Diplomacy Project Forum was the culmination of the training program Generation 1 & 2 STeP fellows from 8 host countries in the region who worked through 2022 in multidisciplinary teams.</p> <p>STeP also offered training opportunities to improve communication skills, especially in science-policy. To support the development of outputs identified by each science diplomacy group, the IAI Directorate partnered with the Journal of Science Policy & Governance (JSPG) for a special issue: Development Policy and Global Change Science to Achieve</p>	<p>capacity to address the SDGs.</p> <p>September 2022: Mitacs Canada Science Policy Fellowship Orientation: Presentation on the IAI and the STeP Fellowship Program.</p> <p>August 2022: São Paulo Innovation and Science Diplomacy School (InnSciD SP), Session Title: Science Diplomacy to and from the Global South.</p> <p>June 2022: SRI Congress, Session Title: Perspectives of Emerging Leaders: Dialogue with an Inter-American coalition of early career fellows working in the science policy interface.</p> <p>April 2022: Encuentro Educativo Global Centro Internacional para el Desarrollo Sostenible (CIDES), Centro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible para América Latina y el Caribe (CODS) de la Universidad de Los Andes – Bart College. Session title: Entender el impacto de clima y salud en el centro y sur de las Américas y Capacitar la próxima</p>
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		<p>the Vision of Sustainable Americas (press release). JSPG is an international, open-access peer-reviewed publication managed by and for students, policy fellows, and young scholars in science, technology, and innovation policy. A series of training sessions for prospective authors were held for the public and STeP Fellows. The Communication Training Sessions held from Oct.-Dec 2022 included: • Science Policy Writing Workshop on Transdisciplinarity and Communication; Transdisciplinarity in the Development of Science Policy and Diplomacy Outputs; Science Policy and Diplomacy Communication and the Global South.</p>	<p>generación de consejeros/diplomáticos científicos.</p>
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<p>XXVI/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>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vii: Promote cooperation among the different institutions of the region.</p>	<p>A consultancy call was published by the Directorate for the development of training materials on science diplomacy related to global change in the Americas. The Directorate established a review committee composed of Parties focal points, SAC and SPAC members, and other experts to review proposals and to participate in virtual interviews with proposing teams in 2022.</p> <p>After the selection of the team, the Directorate worked on a grant contract between the IAI and the University of São Paulo. The leader of the team has joined the SDC advisory board.</p> <p>The Directorate has engaged in several programmatic and fundraising initiatives to support the development of the SDC. Some examples are:</p> <p>1) IAI SDC was invited by Argentina CONICET and ANID Chile to organize a</p>	<p>A consortium led by the University of Sao Paulo (USP) entitled <i>Americas Science Diplomacy Initiative</i> (ADSI) was selected to carry out this work. The purpose of the training materials is to enhance the capacity of professionals and institutions across the Americas to better understand and practice science diplomacy.</p> <p>Several project and activity proposals have been submitted to develop, fund, and disseminate the work of the IAI Science Diplomacy Center. These efforts have been developed in collaboration with IAI Parties, Associates, and other partners.</p>
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		<p>side event at the upcoming meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) Americas in Buenos Aires, Nov. 2023, provided that CONICET-ANID proposal is accepted by GRC.</p> <p>2)The Directorate partnered with the University of Arizona in a project proposal submitted to the Carnegie Corporation's Call for Proposals addressing "Reimagining multilateral approaches to global challenges". If approved, the project will support capacity building activities to strengthen science, technology, and innovation (STI) capacities to achieve national and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Latin American and the Caribbean. This project will expand on an existing initiative referred to as the "STI for SDGs" which supports countries to prepare their "STI for SDGs" roadmaps and promotes</p>	
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		<p>innovative solutions to address global challenges.</p> <p>3)The Directorate is a partner in the project proposal submitted by the University of Sao Paulo to FAPESP to establish a large-scale “Research for Society Center on Science Diplomacy”. If approved, the Center will receive significant funding for an initial period of 4-8 years. This project could generate important research and capacity building resources for the IAI Science Diplomacy Center and STeP.</p> <p>4)The Directorate and AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy are working together on fundraising initiatives to support joint activities on science diplomacy for the Americas. AAAS has a decade of experience working in science diplomacy training in North America and other regions of the world (e.g., collaboration with TWAS in Europe). Its interest to</p>	
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		<p>support the IAI SDC and work collaboratively across the Americas (North and Latin America and the Caribbean) will position both organizations to be a major reference of science diplomacy in our continent. AAAS is an IAI Associate. This effort will be developed under the framework of the IAI-AAAS MoU. This activity is aligned with the work of the SDC.</p> <p>5)The Directorate is negotiating with Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation joint actions and collaboration within the scope of the work of the SDC.</p>	
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<p>XXVI/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>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vii: Promote cooperation among the different institutions of the region.</p>	<p>In 2022, the IAI Directorate developed a partnership with the Education Partnerships for Innovation (EPIC-N) in Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean (EPIC-LAC). EPIC-N aims at connecting the human capital of universities with local governments, and communities, to improve the quality of life and social wealth of local communities. Key partners joined an EPIC LAC Project Steering Committee (PSC) with the IAI as the executing agency for the first phase of expansion which involved a regional scoping process funded by UNEP and EPIC. EPIC LAC Phase 1 was a collaborative effort guided by the PSC and EPIC LAC Regional Coordinators. The project focused on scoping the potential application of the EPIC Model of university-community engagement throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in 3 sub</p>	<p>IAI-EPIC-UNEP partnership has also provided training contributions to students, early-career scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Activities of Phase 1 (June 2022 to March 2023) comprised a stakeholder and institutional mapping which involved contacting over 370 institutions and individuals in the region. Coordinators held focus group chats, pre-training workshops, and advisory group meetings depending on the level of engagement with relevant stakeholders, including: EPIC-LAC Training Workshop (Spanish) in Aug. 2022, and - EPIC-LAC Training Workshop (Portuguese) in Sept. 2022. Due to the success of the work of the Directorate in Phase 1, the EPIC LAC Steering Committee proposed a Phase 2. This second phase has built on the momentum of Phase 1, which reached out to 370 institutions and individuals in the region leading to an open call advertised in</p>
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		<p>regions and one country: 1) Mexico, Central America & Caribbean; 2) Southern Cone; 3) Andes/Amazon; and 4) Brazil. Several focus meetings and training events were held virtually to inform and identify potential partners and participants. Pre and post training surveys helped inform a strategy document for the region.</p> <p>The IAI Directorate administers the project “Drought Information System for Southern South America” (SISSA) funded by EUROCLIMA + and Spain’s Cooperation Agency (AECID). SISSA provides tools and information on droughts and their impacts to governments, non-governmental and private institutions, and individuals in six countries of the Regional Climate Center for the South of South America (CRC-SAS): Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. The</p>	<p>November 2022 followed by 4 technical and informational sessions, review, selection and funding of 10 seed grants to community/university programs in LAC with funding from EPIC and UNEP. The project steering committee approved 10 seed funding proposals from Mexico, Peru, Chile, and Brazil. Projects will be supported until February 24.</p> <p>The SISSA project has made important contributions to replace reactive actions (after) a drought with a proactive approach that allows managing risks and reducing vulnerabilities. Preparedness for a drought requires data, analysis tools and information on (i) the current state of the drought, (ii) predictions or perspectives on the onset, course and end of a dry event, and (iii) an understanding of the nature and magnitude of the expected impacts (specific to each region and sector) given the observed or forecast conditions.</p>
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		<p>ultimate purpose of SISSA, a new approach against drought, is to replace reactive actions (after) a drought with a proactive approach that allows managing risks and reducing vulnerabilities.</p> <p>The IAI is also leading the implementation of the project, “Latin America and the Caribbean regional landscape and opportunities analysis (October 2022-May 2023) funded by Wellcome Trust. The objective of this project is to conduct a regional analysis of the political and research funding landscape in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), particularly as it relates to three urgent health challenges: mental health, infectious disease, and climate and health. This regional landscape analysis will inform the identification of opportunities and potential points of entry for future</p>	<p>SISSA has four pillars that guide the implementation of the information system on droughts: 1) Monitoring and prediction; 2) Characterization of risks and impacts; 3) Planning, preparation and mitigation; and 4) Drought plans or policies. Likewise, three sectors have been prioritized: hydro-energy, fluvial transport, and agriculture. More information is available at https://sisa.crc-sas.org/</p> <p>The IAI-Wellcome Trust Consultancy – “Latin America and the Caribbean regional landscape and opportunities analysis” has strengthened IAI’s contribution to science in climate and health, including mental health in LAC. The IAI has identified and reached out to a relevant number of stakeholders working in research, policy, and funding, in the health sector in LAC. The IAI CEH training workshop held in Neuquen, in March 2023, was a key activity for this project.</p>
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		<p>collaboration with the Wellcome Trust.</p> <p>The Directorate signed a Letter of Intent with PAGES in 2021 to implement a “Program for International Mobility Research Fellowship for Latin American and Caribbean” from an initial period from 2021 to 2024. The program supports early career scientists on past global changes. PAGES Secretariat funds the program and the IAI administers the funds and the program. IAI and PAGES have collaborated in the dissemination of the call, review, and final selection of the applicants with the participation of PAGES and IAI scientific committee members. The IAI is also responsible for the financial management of the fellowship with the awardees, and the reporting process. The specific objectives of the Mobility Program are to: 1) Develop and promote</p>	<p>Several participants, partners, and co-organizers (PAHO, WMO, ministries of health, meteorological services, universities, etc.) were interviewed as part of the project. The IAI has demonstrated its convening power to bring together experts from the Americas, particularly LAC working on the nexus of climate, environment, and health, and to working with these TD networks in the co-design and development of research projects addressing key topics for the region.</p> <p>The IAI-PAGES International Mobility Fellowship Program has supported two cohorts (2021-2022 and 2022-2023) of early career researchers from Latin American countries. Ten scientists have been funded to participate in the program. Participating countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay. The IAI-PAGES fellows have written a short scientific report/article that is published either</p>
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		<p>collaborative research among Latin American and Caribbean researchers (South-South scientific and training collaborations); 2) Publish the results of their research and present them at international conferences (PAGES and IAI should be acknowledged); 3) Become involved as active members in PAGES and IAI programs; 4) Develop international collaborations, such as bilateral/multilateral research projects between their home, host and other institutions; 5) Contribute to the promotion and development of local paleo science communities; 6) Contribute to the development of or participate in existing scientific networks devoted to paleo science; 7) Contribute to the principles of open science and open data; 8) Contribute to a greater understanding of the Earth's past climate</p>	<p>in PAGES Magazine or the IAI Newsletter and PAGES and IAI websites. In March 2023, IAI and PAGES co-organized a webinar on "Interdisciplinary and international collaborative networks to promote past global change research in Latin America and the Caribbean" At the webinar, fellowship awardees shared their experiences and the unique benefits of the mobility program. They were accompanied by renowned paleoclimate scientists from Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico) to discuss the challenges and opportunities of international and interdisciplinary collaboration and pathways to involve researchers from low- and middle-income countries in this network.</p>
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		and environment to improve projections of future climate and environment and inform sustainability strategies.	
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Report on implementation of the IAI Strategic Plan

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions to the IAI Directorate	Results
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.	Theme I, Goal 2, 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.	The Directorate is leading a regional assessment of the policy and decision-making landscape related to global environmental change in IAI member states.	The Directorate organized subregional scoping workshops and information sessions, as well as an online survey of the priorities and needs of member countries. The Directorate reviewed available policy documents. The Regional Assessment will allow for the identification of priority research topics for each country and sub-region, as well as the shared interests and needs among countries

	<p>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 strengthened its communication via the IAI website, emails and social media presence. Consultants were hired to provide web and IT support and to manage social media platforms.</p>	<p>In the past year (2022), the IAI website had almost 39,000 users (21% than the previous year), representing almost universal access by countries in the Americas and other regions. The IAI is engaging audiences across diverse social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, among others. The Directorate continues to send email newsletters with key updates.</p>
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Conclusions

5. The achievements described in this summary report reflect the priorities and needs identified by Parties.
6. The IAI Directorate will continue to communicate with Parties to implement Party-driven activities and projects.
7. The Directorate acknowledges and is grateful for the invaluable assistance and support received from the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee in the development and implementation of the activities and projects described.
8. The IAI Directorate also acknowledges and is grateful for the generous financial support received from the United States National Science Foundation, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Wellcome Trust, the Degrees Initiative, and the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (C2G) which made these achievements possible.

Recommendation

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