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**19 April 2024**

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH  
Thirty-second meeting  
Videoconference  
22-23 May 2024  
Agenda item 9**

**Summary report of activities from 1 July 2023 to date by the IAI Directorate**

1. This report was prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Introduction

2. The summary below describes the primary achievements of the IAI Directorate from 1 July 2023 to date to implement Decisions adopted at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties and past decisions.
3. Considering the information provided in this document, the Conference of the Parties is invited to assess and offer feedback on the work of the IAI Directorate.
4. The following topics are presented in the report:
  - a. Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on Tropical Forests
  - b. Science Diplomacy
  - c. Climate, environment, and health
  - d. Oceans, islands, and coastal systems
  - e. Advancing science on mountains
  - f. Multilateral science-policy convenings
  - g. Equity, diversity and inclusion
  - h. Open Data and Science
  - i. New IAI associates
  - j. Communication & Virtual Campus
  - k. Other Activities

## Activities of the Directorate

### **a. Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on Tropical Forests**

Decision 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.*

- The IAI Directorate continued to develop the Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Tropical Forests with FAPESP and the Belmont Forum. In-person scoping workshops were held with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress in Panama (June 2023) and in Leticia, Colombia, with SINCHI and Humboldt Institute (August 2023). Virtual workshops with stakeholders from Asia and Africa were also held in July and October 2023.
- The Tropical Forest CRA was approved at the Belmont Plenary in November 2023, and the call is expected to launch in June 2024.
- Under the IAI's Transdisciplinary Academy, a training program has been launched to accompany the Tropical Forest CRA and build research networks and capacity in the region. This program will include virtual and in-person training and the development of proposals to apply for seed grants. The training program will be held in partnership with FAPESC and FAPESP.
- The Transdisciplinary Academy program lead was contracted to coordinate these efforts.
- The IAI Directorate participated in the Brazilian SECTEI and CONFAP meeting (27-29 September 2023 – Santarem, Brazil) to present the work of the IAI, the Belmont Forum, and the upcoming CRA on Amazonia & Tropical Forest and to discuss collaborations with Brazilian state science and technology foundations.
- The IAI Directorate and the Belmont Forum collaborated with Brazil's focal point in promoting the CRA on Tropical Forests with G-20 member countries under the current presidency of Brazil. The Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation hosted a meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, on 11-14 March 2024 to encourage this discussion and science diplomacy collaboration.
- The IAI Directorate signed an [MoU](#) with FAPESC, the science and technology foundation of Santa Catarina, Brazil. As a result of the IAI-FAPESC collaboration, FAPESC joined the Belmont Forum. FAPESC will provide training and research funds for the CRA on Tropical Forests.
- The Directorate is also participating in the following CRAs: Integrated Approaches to Human Migration/Mobility in an Era of Rapid Global Change (3 projects currently funded); Climate, Environment, and Health (CEH2, projects under review), and Towards Scenarios on the Global Ocean by 2050: The Roles and Places for Biodiversity in Future Socio-Ecosystems (Oceans 2, scoping ongoing), Vulnerability and resilience management for socio-environmental systems in exposed territories (Risk 2, scoping ongoing), and Future Leaders. Efforts on CEH2 and Oceans 2 are detailed in sections 3 and 4 of this report.
- The IAI Directorate assumed the role of co-chair of the Belmont Forum.

## **b. Science Diplomacy**

Decision XXXI/19. *The IAI Directorate is instructed to develop and implement the activities under the Science Diplomacy Center, as appropriate and subject to the availability of external financial resources, and to report on its development at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.*

Decision XXXI/20. *The Parties are encouraged to work with the Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board with the support of the IAI Directorate in the development and support of the Center's programs and activities.*

Decision XXXI/21. *The Parties are encouraged to participate in the programs and activities of the Science Diplomacy Center and contribute to the work of the Center to foster science-policy dialogue and enhancement of collaboration related to global environmental change in the Americas.*

### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

#### Training

- The IAI's Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) launched the *Science Diplomacy Training Program for Policy Makers in the Americas with an inaugural workshop hosted by SENACYT Panama (19-21 October 2023)*. Eleven IAI Parties participated. A [science diplomacy declaration](#) was developed by the workshop participants. Three IAI Parties expressed interest in co-sponsoring future science diplomacy training events in collaboration with the IAI Science Diplomacy Center.
- SENACYT Panama has requested that the IAI SDC hold a second science diplomacy workshop in Panama in June 2024 to address science diplomacy and marine biodiversity conservation and estuaries.
- Brazil's MCTI is collaborating with the IAI to host the *Introduction to Science Diplomacy* workshop for government officials from LAC in Brasilia, Brazil, in November 2024.
- The SDC is completing the virtual open-access curriculum on Science Diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be hosted on IAI's virtual campus.

#### Conferences/Events

- The Directorate participated in a panel in the MERCOSUR Science Diplomacy Seminar at the invitation of Argentina's focal points at the Ministry of Science and Technology (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3 August 2023).
- The Directorate participated in a panel on Science Diplomacy and Capacity Building at the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator Summit (Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 October 2023).
- The Directorate hosted a side event on Science Diplomacy at the Global Research Council (GRC) Americas annual meeting (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9 November 2023) upon invitation from Argentina's CONICET and Chile's ANID.
- The Directorate participated in the 1st European Science Diplomacy Conference: Panel on Science Diplomacy in the relations between the EU and Latin America (Madrid, Spain, 18 December 2023)

- The Directorate organized a panel session entitled "Nurturing Multilateralism: A Science Diplomacy Center for the Americas" on 17 February 2024 at the AAAS annual meeting in Denver, USA.

#### Partnerships

- The IAI Directorate and DiploCientífica, a network of Latin America and Caribbean experts in science diplomacy, are signing a collaboration agreement. DiploCientífica experts participated in the IAI SDC training workshop in Panama (October 2023), are supporting the upcoming IAI-SENACYT workshop in Panama in June 2024, and the IAI-MCTI workshop in Brazil in November 2024. In addition, DiploCientífica experts have published a white paper on "Recommendations for a scientific diplomacy strategy to safeguard the Amazon" in collaboration with the IAI Directorate.
- The IAI SDC is partnering with the US National Academy of Sciences/ Global Sustainability and Development & Science and Technology for Sustainability Policy and Global Affairs Division, UNESCO/ Section for Basic Science, Research, Innovation and Engineering, IEEE Entrepreneurship, "Eye-triple-E," the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and ETCube International. This collaboration aims at developing capacity building on the nexus of Science Diplomacy, Science, Technology and Innovation policy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainability and Global Environmental Change, particularly addressing SDGs through training workshops in LAC in 2024-2025.
- A new partnership is being developed with FAPESC, who are committed to supporting regional science diplomacy training.

#### Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship

- 47 fellows from 14 countries participated in STeP during the intercessional period.
- FAPESC, Santa Catarina, Brazil, joined the STeP fellowship program.
- Training has been completed on the following topics: science diplomacy, UNFCCC, conflict resolution, diplomatic protocols for scientists, and science policy communication.
- The STeP Program launched a mentorship and supervisor engagement program.
- An in-person training for fellows, with training on multilateral negotiations, is planned for April 2024 in Guatemala.

#### **c. Climate, Environment, and Health**

*Decision XXXI/5: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish a research and training program on the nexus of climate, environment, and health to support decision-making by Parties, considering human health and the health of all life systems, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other regional and global partners, to seek extramural research funding to support these activities, and to identify other relevant partners that may assist in addressing this issue at local, sub-national, national and regional scales and in global and multilateral fora.*

#### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

## Research funding

- Twelve research teams with participants from 15 countries were selected to receive seed grants to implement transdisciplinary projects on the nexus of climate, environment, and health.
- Belmont Forum Funding Collaborative Research Action on Climate Environment and Health (CEH2):
  - Reviewing and selecting pre-proposals for Belmont Forum CEH2 grants has been completed. More than 50 consortium pre-proposals requested funding from the IAI.
  - Thirty research consortia presented full proposals in March 2024 and entered the review process, leading to the selection of the projects to be funded by this call.

## Partnerships

- A [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) between PAHO and IAI was signed on 17 November 2023.
- A STeP fellow on climate and health has been placed at PAHO.

## Courses and Training

- Open, live certificate-based 3-week course “El Niño and the reduction of its impacts on the health sector” in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the UN Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education.
- Webinar series on Climate, Migration, and Health in Latin America and the Caribbean (March-November 2024) with the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education and other partners.
- In partnership with the World Meteorological Organization and Latinoamerica 21, the Directorate coordinated the edition of the IAI’s second compendium, titled “Health, Climate and the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean,” for which it provided science communication training to scientists and early career researchers. Twelve commentaries in English, Spanish, and Portuguese have been published in major regional newspapers.

## Conferences / Events

- Multiple side events on climate and health were presented at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai in partnership with Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, PAHO, Harvard University, and the Lancet Countdown for Climate and Health.
- The Directorate organized a side event on early warning systems during the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week in October 2023 in Panama City, Panama, and PAHO presented on health early warning in the region.
- The IAI Directorate co-led the One Health session at AmeriGEO in Costa Rica in August 2023 with NOAA and NASA
- The IAI Directorate participated in the Global Health Conference of the Americas in Colombia in September 2023, organized by Florida International University in alliance with

PAHO, FIOCRUZ, USAID, Universidad de Los Andes, Baylor College of Medicine and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

- Participation in the webinar “Bridging Biodiversity and Health: A Global Perspective” organized by Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.
- The Directorate gave a plenary presentation on global health partnerships at the Global Health Convening at Stanford University.
- The IAI participated in the Prince Mahidol Conference held in Thailand, focusing on Geopolitics, Human Security, and Health Equity.
- IAI is co-hosting the “One Blue Health” side event with Brazil’s Secretaria de Meio Ambiente do Governo do Estado da Bahia (SEMA-BA), a Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ), a Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa e Inovação do Estado de Santa Catarina (FAPESC), in collaboration with Federação das Indústrias do Estado de Santa Catarina (FIESC) e Federação das Indústrias do Estado da Bahia (FIEB).
- The IAI is co-hosting the event “Strengthening the climate change, health and public policy nexus: Evidence from Lancet Countdown Latin America and the IAI” with the Latin America Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change and the IAI STeP Leadership Conference on 24 April at the Universidad del Valle in Guatemala.

#### **d. Oceans, Islands, and Coastal Systems**

Decision XXXI/6: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish a research and training program on the nexus of oceans, islands, and coastal systems aligned with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, to support decision-making by Parties, to seek extramural research funding to support these activities, and to identify partners.*

##### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

Establishment of an advisory committee

- An invitation was sent out to Parties and members of the SAC and SPAC to nominate members of the Committee on Oceans, Islands and Coastal Regions. A total of 15 nominations were received with representatives from the SAC, Parties, Directorate staff, STeP fellows, and Associates.
- The committee has met four times and will continue to meet monthly.

Research Funding

- The French National Research Agency (ANR) presented a new collaborative research action (CRA) during the Belmont Forum Plenary in November 2023: *Towards scenarii on the global ocean by 2050: the roles and places for biodiversity in future socio-ecosystems (OceansII)*. The CRA was approved during the plenary to move into scoping. IAI expressed its interest in supporting scoping activities in the Americas to ensure that the region's priorities are represented in the call.
- The Oceans Advisory Committee is discussing how to support the Belmont CRA and participate strategically in national/regional meetings on oceans.

## Conferences/Events

- The Directorate participated in a side event on oceans during the Global Research Council Regional Americas meeting in Argentina and several side events on oceans during the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai.
- The Directorate participated in the seminar organized by FAPESP Brazil in April 2024 to launch the Program for the South Atlantic and Antarctica PROASA.
- The Directorate co-hosted the Working Meeting "Blue One Health: Opportunities for Scientific Diplomacy, Technical Cooperation, and Co-Financing in Latin America and the Caribbean", held on April 30, 2024, Brasília – DF. Organized by the Environmental Secretariat of the State Government of Bahia (SEMA-BA), Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Foundation for Research and Innovation of the State of Santa Catarina (FAPESC), and Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), in partnership with the Federation of Industries of the State of Santa Catarina (FIESC) and the Federation of Industries of the State of Bahia (FIEB).

### **e. Advancing Science on Mountains**

Decision XXXI/9: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to participate in the HydroClimate Research Program of the Andes (ANDEX), under the umbrella of the Global Energy and Water Exchanges Project (GEWEX) of the World Climate Research Programme, to link it with other regional and global platforms, to communicate the advances of ANDEX to the Parties, and to seek extramural research funding to support these activities.*

#### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

- A regional workshop on GEO Mountains Andes was held with the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), IDEAM Colombia, the Humboldt Institute, ANDEX, and AmeriGEO (Bogotá, Colombia, 20-22 February 2024). The workshop included 41 participants from 11 countries and 34 institutions who discussed about data needs and ideas for increased collaboration in the Andean region.
- The IAI Directorate participated in the workshop: AMazon-ANdEs ConnEctivity: impacts of climate-vegetation changes on the hydrology of the Amazon-Andes transition Region, Lima, Peru, 25 Sept 2023.
- The Directorate is engaged as a partner for the upcoming International Mountains Conference 2025 and will provide scholarships to students to attend a training course and the conference.
- The Directorate will attend the HydroClimate Research Program of the Andes (ANDEX) annual meeting in Lima, Peru, in May 2024. It will provide travel support for conference participants from Andean countries.

### **f. Multilateral Science-Policy Convenings**

Decision XXXI/7: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to engage with IAI Parties during international multilateral science-policy convenings, such as the meetings of the*

*Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Science Summit of the United Nations General Assembly, among others, and to seek external financial resources to sponsor an IAI delegation comprised of senior and early career scientists to disseminate relevant research with a global community, to strengthen engagement with decision makers, to increase the visibility and participation of scientists from the region, and to increase the capacity of the region to participate in international negotiations.*

### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

#### Partnerships

- The IAI Directorate signed a Declaration of Intent with the United Nations, Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN / DCO LAC) on 6 July 2023, and a work plan has been developed for this intercessional period. An in-person meeting was held in Panama in July 2023, and a virtual meeting was held to present the IAI to the resident coordinators from Latin America and the Caribbean in March 2024.

#### Conferences/Events

- The IAI Directorate participated in the Amazonian Dialogues in Belem, Brazil, in a side event on the rapid biodiversity assessment hosted by OTCA/ACTO and in a side event to share the Amazonia and Tropical Forest Belmont Forum CRA (4-6 August 2023).
- The IAI Directorate participated in AmeriGEO Week in Costa Rica, August 2023, leading sessions on One Health, climate adaptation, and the IAI Regional Assessment.
- The IAI Directorate was a key partner of the Science Summit for the 78th UN General Assembly, facilitating 17 sessions with English-Spanish interpretation on priority topics for IAI member states.
- The IAI Directorate participated in the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week in October 2023 in Panama City, Panama, co-hosting a high level symposium with WMO, UNEP and UNDRR entitled, “Strengthening Collaboration between Ministries of Environment, Meteorological and Hydrological Services, and Disaster Risk Management Offices - Ensuring Efficient Climate Information Systems, Disaster Risk Reduction and Multi-hazard Early Warning in Latin America and the Caribbean,” along with participation in side events on early warning systems, climate change in Central America, climate services, and training for early career researchers on science-policy and advisement (STeP program).
- The IAI Directorate and members of the SAC/SPAC attended the UNFCCC CoP-28 in Dubai. They participated in or hosted more than 18 side events on science diplomacy, gender, climate and health, solar radiation, agriculture, oceans, and sustainability.
- The IAI Directorate supported the Guatemala/AILAC pavilion at the UNFCCC CoP-28, upon request from Guatemala. Guatemala has the presidency of the AILAC negotiation block, which includes Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru.
- The IAI Directorate participated in the 60th IPCC Plenary meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in January. The meeting defined the products and timeline for the Seventh Assessment Cycle.



## **g. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Decision XXXI/14: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Committee to update, monitor, and guide the implementation of the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities during each intersessional period and report on progress during each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Decision XXXI/16: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish an Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee (IP&LC-AC) to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the Scientific Agenda, IAI Strategic Plan, and the annual program of the Institute thereby strengthening the work of the Institute and facilitating the equitable participation and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.*

### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

- The committee on gender and EDI was established and agreed to meet monthly. Co-chairs were identified.
- The committee established the rules and procedures for its functioning.
- The committee worked on guidelines to establish the IP&LC-AC, which are included in this committee's report.
- A full report of the work of the committee and the Directorate's efforts to implement the EDI policy is available at the CoP-32 webpage: <https://www.iai.int/en/news/detail/CoP-32>.

## **h. Open Data and Science**

Decision XXVI/45. *The IAI Directorate is directed to use the IAI Open data policy and principles to provide open access, as appropriate, to data and information generated by IAI funded research.*

Decision XXVII/35. *The IAI Directorate is instructed to communicate with scientists and researchers in the Americas and encourage them to register metadata and data on the IAI open data portal related to results of their research on global change.*

Decision XXVII/36. *The IAI Directorate is instructed to establish partnerships with relevant organizations to eliminate duplication of work and to increase access to open data.*

- A committee was established to review and implement the [Open Data Policy and Principles](#) adopted at COP26.
- The committee has met monthly since September 2023 and will meet periodically during the 2024-2025 intersessional period with representatives of the SAC, SPAC, Party representatives, associates, and IAI staff.
- The committee is assessing ways to make IAI data and information more widely available to decision-makers in governments, to the general scientific community, and the public. A full report of the work of the committee is available [here](#).

- An Open Data and Science Specialist was contracted to support the implementation of the plan developed by the committee.

#### **i. New IAI Associates**

Decision XXXI/12: *On behalf of the Conference of the Parties, the IAI Directorate is tasked with drafting an invitation to the University of the West Indies to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association.*

Decision XXXI/13: *On behalf of the Conference of the Parties, the IAI Directorate is tasked with drafting an invitation to the Centro de Investigación para el Cambio Global (CICAG) to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association.*

- The IAI Directorate and the University of the West Indies completed an [MoU](#) on 4 March 2023.
- The IAI Directorate and the Centro de Investigación para el Cambio Global (CICAG), of the Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA) Paraguay signed an [MoU](#) on 1 November 2023.
- The Directorate is exploring joint training events and research activities with the new associates.

#### **j. Communication & Virtual Campus**

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 facilitate dissemination of the scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national and international policies.*

- Launching of first Virtual Campus courses on “Transdisciplinary Research at the nexus of Climate, Environment, and Health” (in English and Spanish), “Science Communication,” and “El Niño and Health.”
- The IAI website has launched two new sections to raise awareness on topics relevant to global environmental change, one marking international days and another sharing positive initiatives from the region.
- The IAI Directorate has approved restructuring the website and interface design, which are being applied to the new website. Programming is underway.
- A new communications intern has joined the IAI team and is supporting with drafting press releases, news items, social media posts, and Virtual Campus tasks.
- A new STeP fellow is supporting the communications team by helping to improve media relations and tactics and the science communications skills of collaborators.
- Notifications, courses, and other events continue to be distributed in English and Spanish to members of the press in the region.

- The IAI published a brief in English and Spanish titled “The 6th IPCC Report on Water Security in the American Continent - Supporting Decision-making for Climate Action”, focusing on the importance of governance, equity, social participation, and indigenous knowledge in formulating effective policies.
- The Directorate reviewed the scientific publications funded by the IAI in the past ten years to identify distribution across the eight topics of the Strategic Agenda.

#### **k. Other activities**

##### **Partnerships**

- On 19 September 2023, the IAI Directorate signed an [MoU](#) with Uruguay’s Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII). Two initial collaborative activities include the participation of ANII in the IAI STeP program and in the Belmont Forum CRA on Climate, Environment and Health (CEH2).
- In December 2023, the IAI Directorate became a supporting partner of Red Labot (Network of Earth Observation Laboratories) along with NASA, Amazon Web Services, ESRI Panama. This scientific, academic and institutional community works to address the gaps and challenges in disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The IAI Directorate is supporting the creation of a research network for Central America: Red Centroamericana de Ciencias de Cambio Climático RC4. The network held an event during the AmeriGEO annual meeting (Costa Rica, August 2023).

##### **Conferences/Events**

- The IAI Directorate co-hosted an in-person workshop to assess the impacts of the drought in Uruguay with the Drought Information System project (SISSA, in Spanish) and the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay (Montevideo, Uruguay, 6 November 2023).
- The IAI Directorate participates in the strategic board of the International Transdisciplinarity Conference (ITD) 2024, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity Beyond the Buzzword: Educational Pathways for Sustainable Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research Collaborations organized by the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD Alliance), Network for Transdisciplinary Research (td-net), and the Interdisciplinary Education Programme (IDO) of Utrecht University, the Netherlands, and will take place 4-8 November 2024.
- The IAI Directorate participated in the Climate Finance in the Americas Meeting and the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development, organized by the Organization of American States (Bahamas, 1-4 October 2023).

##### **Scholarships and Seed Grants**

- In 2021, the IAI Directorate and the Past Global Changes (PAGES) project signed a Letter of Agreement to develop the PAGES-IAI “International Mobility Research Fellowship Program for Latin American and Caribbean Early Career Scientists on Past Global Changes.” This year, the 2023-2024 cohort comprises three early career scientists from 3 countries (Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia).

- Following the Strategic Plan Decision XXVI/27 Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vii: Promote cooperation among the different institutions of the region. The IAI Directorate continues to serve on the Education Partnerships for Innovation (EPIC-N) in Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean (EPIC-LAC) LAC Steering Committee. The project steering committee approved ten seed-funded-funded projects from Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Chile, and Brazil supported until mid-2024. In January 2024 the IAI and EPIC-N were awarded a grant from the (International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Global Ecosystem Based Adaptation Fund Secretariat.

### Conclusions

5. This report does not purport to present a complete summary of activities organized by the IAI Directorate.

### Recommendation

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