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4 May 2022

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH**
Fifty-third meeting
Montevideo and Videoconference
14 June 2022
Agenda item 6c

Report from the Executive Council

Decision XXIX/9: Report on Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Executive Council in collaboration with the IAI Directorate.

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 29th meeting (2021, Videoconference), adopted Decision XXIX/9 where:

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 of the Conference of the Parties.

3. The Conference of the Parties also adopted Decision XXIX/10 which instructed the IAI Directorate to:

... disseminate information on the Initiative to Parties and partners and to encourage their participation in its activities.

The Initiative for conducting a national climate assessment in support of adaptation and mitigation: Training and capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean

4. This innovative Initiative is supported by United States agencies coordinated by the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and several Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries involved in AmeriGEO, in partnership with the IAI.
5. The goal of this initiative is to provide opportunities for partnerships to strengthen climate risk assessments that support local and regional decision making to help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. The Initiative plans to bring together researchers (e.g., IPCC assessment authors), decision makers and experts with experience in the mechanics of designing and carrying out such assessments and users of the risk assessments.
6. The Initiative would seek to leverage the efforts of those countries in LAC that have initiated relevant work (such as a national climate assessment, regional climate modeling and forest monitoring) to contribute their lessons learned and offer their expertise in the training series. The proposed activities would help participants to expand their knowledge while fostering meaningful connections.
7. The Initiative is at early stages of development, currently focused on planning, scoping, and partnership building. Financial support through seed grants may be made available to participants requiring assistance. The IAI Directorate has offered to assist the USGCRP in the administration of the grants.
8. Following discussions with the Chair of the Executive Council regarding the possible role of the IAI in support of the Initiative, the Directorate issued notification IAIUYDIR/2021/027 on 23 November 2021 inviting Parties and the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) to participate in a working group per Decision XXIX/29.
9. At the time of writing, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru and a member of the SAC joined the Working Group.
10. On 2 February 2022, members of the working group were requested to complete a questionnaire to allow for the compilation of information on the level of knowledge held and work achieved relevant to the objectives of the Initiative. The Directorate received a 71% response rate. The responses were compiled and submitted to the Chair of the Executive Council.
11. On 8 March 2022, the Chair of the Executive Council and the IAI Directorate participated in a meeting of the Coordination Working Group of AmeriGEO where the Initiative was discussed and the IAI introduced. Agreement was reached with AmeriGEO to coordinate activities with the IAI Directorate and to share the results of the questionnaire.

12. It is expected that implementation of the initiative will begin in the coming months. The first step will be to bring the working group members from USGCRP, IAI and AmeriGEO together for an initial meeting to determine the general scope of the program and to take stock of the assets that each partner can offer to the program. It is expected that a working plan and timeline will be derived during this meeting.
13. Updates related to the Initiative will be presented as part of the oral report to CoP-30.

Recommendation

14. The Executive Council is invited to take note of this report.