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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Fifty-fourth meeting  
Montevideo and videoconference  
15 November 2022  
Agenda item 4a, Annex**

## **Progress on the Regional Assessment**

### **1. Overview of the Regional Assessment**

#### **1.1 Objectives**

This assessment aims to better understand the decisions made by the Parties that are impacted by global environmental change (GEC), to identify the knowledge gaps and uncertainties associated with specific decisions. The IAI will support and/or facilitate science and capacity-building efforts to target these information gaps and uncertainties.

The theoretical background and the timeline of the Regional Assessment is described here <https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/IAI-CoP-30-11d1Annex-en.pdf>

#### **1.2 CoP Decision**

The IAI Strategic Plan calls for a Regional Assessment for IAI-supported science and capacity-building efforts to better meet the needs of the Parties:

*Theme 1, Goal 2: Parties were able to make better informed and coordinated decisions on global change issues.*

*i. The Parties work with the SAC, SPAC and the Directorate to map their domestic and international global change policy and decision-making landscape. This will support the IAI in funding research that is policy-relevant for Member Countries.*

Decision XXIX/16 Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), to undertake such regional assessment, subject to the availability of external resources.

IAI/EC/54/4/a/i

## **2. Gathering information for the assessment**

The following actions have been implemented for the Regional Assessment of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI-RA):

- i. Scoping workshops were held in August 2021 by the Directorate with small groups of regional scientists and national focal points to explore themes and create the survey to be sent to decision-makers.
- ii. An information session was held for focal points on 17 February 2022, and focused on three main aspects: i) a description of the background and objectives of the Regional Assessment, ii) the proposed timeline for carrying out this initiative and iii) the content of the survey with a practical demonstration of its format.
- iii. The regional survey was distributed via email to IAI Parties' focal points on 14 March 2022. Seventeen of the nineteen IAI Parties completed the survey.
- iv. Four sub-regional listening sessions were held between 12-21 July 2022 with focal points of Parties belonging to Americas' sub-regions: Andean, Southern Cone, Central America and the Caribbean, and North America. The sessions aimed to present the preliminary survey results and further explore survey responses through a sub-regionally focused discussion. Representatives of eleven IAI Parties as well as members of IAI's SAC and SPAC met to discuss the following questions: i) what are the priority decisions and policies related to environmental change in your country and the sub-region?, ii) what transboundary issues related to environmental change are priority for your country and the sub-region?, and iii) how can we work together to overcome the barriers for using scientific information to inform decision-making in your country and the sub-region?
- v. National and regional policy documents will be reviewed in the next stages of the assessment.

## **3. Preliminary findings from surveys**

### **3.1 Global Environmental Change (GEC) Priorities:**

At the regional level, "climate action" is the most important current national priority (14 Parties). "Energy security" and "health and human well-being" are the most important emergent national priorities (7 Parties each).

### **3.2 Barriers and opportunities to the use of scientific information in decision-making related to GEC:**

The greatest barriers are the "lack of cross-sectoral collaboration" and the "lack of scientific information available for non-technical audiences" (10 Parties each). The greatest opportunities are "funding and international cooperation for GEC" and the "multilateral agreements/commitments that have to be addressed, like NDCs" (10 Parties each).

### **3.3. IAI Parties with similar priorities**

IAI Parties were classified and clustered based on their current and emergent national priorities related to GEC. The following three clusters of IAI Parties were formed based on current national priorities:

- i) Colombia, Uruguay, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica and United States shared “climate action”, “biodiversity and ecosystem services” and “clean air, water and soil” as their main current priorities
- ii) Peru, Panama, Mexico, Jamaica, Paraguay, Guatemala and Argentina shared “food security”, “energy security” and “climate action” as their main current priorities.
- iii) Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile and Dominican Republic shared “water security”, “climate action”, “biodiversity and ecosystem services” as their main current priorities.

#### **4. Preliminary findings from sub-regional listening sessions**

In the Southern Cone, climate action was the most frequently mentioned goal when discussing priority decisions and opportunities for multinational collaboration. For example, Chile and Paraguay are passing Climate Change legislation at the national level. Water security was the most relevant transboundary issue, for instance, in relation to the Del Plata Basin shared by Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

In the Andean sub-region, biodiversity and ecosystem services were the most frequently mentioned goal when discussing national priorities and transboundary issues. For example, Peru and Ecuador are promoting land-use planning in the Amazon basin. Food security was identified as an opportunity for multinational collaboration, for instance, to promote healthier, nature-based diets.

In Central America and the Caribbean and also for North America, climate action was the most frequently mentioned goal when discussing priority decisions and opportunities for multinational collaboration. For example, United States is implementing a National Climate Assessment and fostering partnerships with LAC countries in this topic. Biodiversity and ecosystem services were the most relevant transboundary issue, for instance, regarding illegal fishing in Central America and the Caribbean.

#### **5. Next steps**

The following actions will be conducted to advance the Regional Assessment:

- Information gathered through the regional survey and sub-regional listening sessions will be analyzed in depth.
- Regional and national documents will be reviewed to further understand the policies and decisions related to GEC, current and emerging priorities, and bottlenecks and best practices related to the use of scientific information.
- Results will be communicated to the Parties at CoP-31.