



**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**13 October 2023**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL  
CHANGE RESEARCH  
Fifty-sixth meeting  
Videoconference  
14 November 2023  
Agenda item 7**

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

1. This document has been 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 effectively begin implementation of Decisions adopted at the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties and continue implementation of ongoing projects and activities.
3. Members of the Executive Council may recall that at its 29th meeting (CoP-29, 2021, Videoconference), the Conference of the Parties agreed to schedule the first intersessional meeting of the Executive Council during the month of November, as opposed to immediately following the conclusion of the CoP.
4. During discussion on this topic, Parties agreed that scheduling the meeting near the midpoint of the intersessional period would afford the Executive Council with greater opportunities to exercise its role as the executive organ of the Institute, per Article VI of the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.

5. In light of the information provided in this document, the Executive Council is invited to assess and offer feedback on the work of the IAI Directorate, become aware of outstanding issues and offer feedback on science and science diplomacy proposals.
6. Accordingly, this document describes current activities and projects.

### **Decisions by CoP-31 directed to the IAI Directorate**

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

- Launching of first virtual campus course on “[Transdisciplinary Research at the nexus of Climate, Environment, and Health](#)” (in English and Spanish).
- Open, certificate-based 3-week course “[El Niño and the reduction of its impacts on the health sector](#)” in partnership with PAHO, WMO and GCCHE.
- Webinar “[Bridging Biodiversity and Health: A Global Perspective](#)” organized by Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.
- Twelve research teams with participants from 15 countries will receive seed grants to implement projects on the nexus of climate, environment and health.
- CEH seed grant teams were trained in science communication to author Op-Eds which will be published in regional newspapers and compiled in a compendium (to be published in 2024).
- Review and selection of pre-proposals for Belmont Forum CEH2 grants has been completed. More than 50 consortium pre-proposals requested funding from the IAI.
- The IAI Directorate co-led the [One Health session at AmeriGEO](#) in Costa Rica in August 2023 with NOAA and NASA.
- The IAI Directorate submitted a climate and health side event to the World Health Organization (WHO) pavilion at the UNFCCC CoP 28 with Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE).
- 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.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PAHO and IAI is under development.
- A STeP fellow on climate and health has been placed at PAHO.

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

- 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, staff, STeP fellows and associates.
- The committee has met twice, and will continue to meet monthly.
- A side event was presented to the Oceans Pavillion for COP28 in Dubai.
- The committee is discussing how to support an upcoming Belmont CRA on Oceans and participation in national/regional meetings on Oceans.

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

- 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 will be held in Panama on 23 October 2023.
- 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 [will participate in the LAC Climate Week](#) in October 2023 in Panama City, Panama, hosting and participating in a high level symposium and 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 will attend the UNFCCC CoP-28 in Dubai and participate in, or host, side events on science diplomacy, climate and health, solar radiation modification, and oceans sustainability.
- The IAI Directorate received a request from Guatemala to support the Guatemala/AILAC pavilion at the UNFCCC CoP-28. Guatemala has the presidency of the AILAC negotiation block, which includes Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru.

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 is under development with the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), IDEAM Colombia, the Humboldt Institute, ANDEX, and AmeriGEO (Bogotá, Colombia, 20-22 February 2024).
- 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.

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.

#### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

- The IAI Directorate sent an invitation to become an Associate of the Institute and a draft MoU to the University of the West Indies (UWI), on 27 July 2023. The IAI Directorate and UWI met virtually on 31 August 2023 to discuss the draft MoU, which is under development.

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.

#### Actions by the IAI Directorate and results

- The IAI Directorate sent an invitation to become an Associate of the Institute and a draft MoU to the Centro de Investigación para el Cambio Global (CICAG), of the Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA) Paraguay, on 24 July 2023. The IAI Directorate and CICAG developed the MoU and reached a final version on 12 September 2023, which is expected to be signed in October 2023.

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.

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 agreed to meet monthly. Co-chairs were identified.
- The committee agreed they would work on guidelines to establish the IP&LC-AC during this intersessional period, which would be presented at COP-32.
- The committee is currently analyzing existing EDI data from IAI programs.
- The IAI Directorate is participating in the proposal, “Women as Biodiversity and Climate-Resilience Guardians in Peatland Landscapes of the Andes (Women as Guardians),” which aims at enhancing the empowerment of women, including women of Indigenous heritage, to conserve highland wetland/peatland ecosystems for increased climate resilience in the Andean regions of Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. This proposal was submitted for funding by Alinea International, an international development consultancy, to Global Affairs Canada in September 2023.
- The IAI Directorate is funding early career scientists and individuals from underrepresented groups to participate in regional meetings including the following:
  - 53 early career researchers received scholarships and mobility funds awarded to attend SRI 2023 virtually and in person
  - 32 undergraduate and graduate students [received scholarships to attend the 15th Biennial Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry](#)

- Four early career researchers received scholarships to to participate virtually in the WCRP Open Science Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.
- [Scholarships will be awarded](#) to attend the Global Development Network GDN Conference 2023 in November, 2023

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.

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.

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

- The 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). Several IAI Parties and focal points have been involved in the development of this activity as organizers, hosts, participants, and responsible for nominating national participants. A subsequent workshop is under development with MCTI Brazil for 2024.
- The IAI Directorate participated in a panel in the MERCOSUR Science Diplomacy Seminar (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3 August 2023).
- The IAI Directorate will participate in a panel at the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator summit (Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 October 2023).
- The IAI Directorate was invited by Argentina's CONICET, and Chile's ANID to host a side event on Science Diplomacy at the Global Research Council (GRC) Americas annual meeting (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9 November 2023).
- The IAI Directorate submitted a proposal for a side event on Science Diplomacy at the UNFCCC CoP-28 to be held in December 2023 in Dubai.
- The IAI Directorate continues to implement the Science, Technology and Policy Fellowship (STeP) with 45 fellows from 14 countries. Trainings have been completed on the following topics: science diplomacy, UNFCCC, conflict resolution, diplomatic protocols for scientists, among others. An in-person training for fellows, with a training on multilateral negotiations, is planned for April 2024 in Guatemala.

## ***Other actions related to the strategic plan or past CoP decisions.***

### **Capacity Building and Science**

- 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).
- 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 is working on a collaboration agreement with FAPESC, the science and technology foundation of the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil.
- The IAI Directorate will participate 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 is participating in 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 continued to develop the CRA on Amazonia and Tropical Forests with FAPESP and the Belmont Forum. In-person scoping workshops were held with STRI at SRI Panama, and in Leticia, Colombia, with SINCHI and Humboldt Institute. Virtual workshops with stakeholders from Asia and Africa were also held in July and October 2023. This call for research grants will be presented at the Belmont Plenary in November 2023, and the call is expected to launch in June 2024.
- 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).
- The Project Identification Form (PIF) for a proposal to Promote Integrated Management of Sargassum to be presented to GEF-8 continued to be developed with CAF personnel and representatives from potential country participants including Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- 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).

- A committee on Open Science and Open Data was established following various instructions from COP27:

XXVII/34. The IAI Directorate is instructed to strengthen its collaboration with the Committee on Data of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), the International Council for Science (ICS) and the African Academy of Science (AAS) to ensure development and implementation of a Collaborative South-South regional approach to the promotion of and adherence to open data and open science.

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.

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.

The committee has met twice with representatives of the SAC, SPAC, Party representatives, associates and IAI staff. The committee will convene monthly to look into ways to make IAI data and information more widely available to decision makers in governments and to the general scientific community and public.

### **Communications, Website, Virtual Campus**

- The IAI Directorate continues to develop multilingual courses on transdisciplinary science and science diplomacy related to global change in the Americas, with case studies from Latin America. The courses are anticipated to be launched in the IAI's Virtual Campus in the first half of 2024.
- The first steps towards web re-structuring have been taken; a specialist conducted a statistical analysis of usage by visitors and the communications team drafted two proposals applying a user experience perspective, which have been used to discuss internally to make a final decision on content distribution.
- A new communications intern has joined the IAI team and is supporting with drafting press releases, news items and social media posts, and the compilation of a list of experts who agree to being contacted by the IAI community.
- Notifications, courses and other events are being distributed in English and Spanish to members of the press in the region.
- The IAI published 24 press releases in the platform AlphaGalileo to promote the sessions supported by the IAI at the Science Summit of the UN General Assembly 78.



- The IAI co-hosted the [Sustainability and Research Innovation Conference SRI](#), which was held in Panama and online, together with Belmont Forum, SENACYT Panama and Future Earth.

### Conclusions

7. This report does not purport to present a complete summary of activities organized by the IAI Directorate. Updates on activities omitted from this report will be provided to Parties on an ongoing basis during the 2023-2024 intersessional period and during the 32nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### Recommendation

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