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3 December 2026
Agenda Item 3

Summary Report of Activities from 1 May 2026 to date by the Directorate

1. This document was prepared by the Directorate.

Introduction

2. This report describes the main activities of the Directorate from 1 May 2026, to date, highlighting the effective initiation of the implementation of decisions directed to the Directorate adopted at the 34th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the continuation of ongoing projects and activities.

3. Members of the Executive Council will recall that, at its 29th meeting (CoP-29, 2021, videoconference), the Parties agreed to schedule the first intersessional meeting of the Executive Council approximately halfway through the intersessional period, rather than immediately following the conclusion of the CoP, in order to provide the Executive Council with greater opportunities to exercise its role as the Institute's executive body, in accordance with Article VI of *the Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.*

4. Based on the information provided in this document, the Executive Council is invited to evaluate and comment on the work of the Directorate, take note of pending issues, and offer input on scientific and science diplomacy proposals.

5. Accordingly, this report describes current activities and projects.

CoP-34 Decisions Directed to the Directorate

XXXIV/4. The Directorate is advised to maintain strong linkages across the IAI network, including the scientific community, national focal points, working groups, and associates.

Actions by the Directorate and Results

- During the intersessional period, the Directorate continued to strengthen its ties with the scientific community in the Americas and other regions, as well as with national focal points. In this context, it established contact with Colombia's new national focal point and held meetings with representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Peru.

- The Directorate continued to strengthen institutional engagement with national authorities, scientific institutions, and regional partners through the activities of the IAI's Science Diplomacy Center (SDC). In Guatemala, consultations with the National Secretariat for Science and Technology (SENACYT) and the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) advanced preparations for a national workshop on science diplomacy. In Chile, the SDC maintained its academic partnership with the University of Chile and supported exchanges with government counterparts through the AAAS–IAI Ministerial Conversations Series. These activities helped link scientific expertise to national policy priorities and regional cooperation, and identified opportunities to continue the institutional engagement in 2027.

XXXIV/8. The Directorate is tasked with submitting a formal proposal to host the Amazon Institute of Technology (AMIT) to the Parties for revision, comments and evaluation at CoP35.

Actions by the Directorate and Results

- The Directorate is holding discussions with the coordinators of the Amazon Institute of Technology (AMIT) in order to obtain a formal proposal for subsequent submission and consideration by CoP-35. At the same time, progress has been made in drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that identifies areas of common interest for potential collaboration in research, capacity building, science diplomacy, and joint resource mobilization.

Other actions related to previous CoP decisions

XXXIII/9. The Directorate is instructed to facilitate greater engagement among national representatives to the IAI, members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), and the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee (IPAC), Associates, researchers from IAI-funded projects, fellows from the Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program, and other partners during the preparation of multilateral environmental conventions and other regional and international meetings that align with the IAI's scientific agenda and strategic plan, with the aim of strengthening the role of science in supporting the formulation of policies and plans.

Actions by the Directorate and Results

- Through its Science Program, the Directorate co-organized, together with UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) Program, the Third Mangrove Congress of the Americas, which took place from 20-23 July 2026, in Panama.

- The Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) collaborated with members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), and the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC) on science diplomacy activities with academic and government institutions, as well as on planning future events and workshops. In addition, IPAC members participated in the selection process for fellows of the STeP Program linked to the "Women as Guardians of Biodiversity" project, which promotes collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru.

- The Science Diplomacy Center participated in the hybrid meeting of the Steering Committee for *the "Women as Guardians of Biodiversity*" project, funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by Alinea Internacional. The meeting was held in Arequipa, Peru (20 October 2026), and was attended by representatives from Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian embassies in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, the STeP Fellow from Peru, local partners, and members of the participating indigenous communities.

XXXII/5. *The IAI Directorate is instructed to foster communication between focal points, SAC/SPAC members, and investigators of funded projects, and the larger scientific community, to strengthen the strategic exchange of information and knowledge relevant to global change science, to increase the use of science in decision making and policy processes, and to improve the implementation of IAI's Strategic Plan.*

Actions by the Directorate and Results

- The Directorate collaborated with twelve teams from the Climate, Environment, and Health (CEH) projects to develop policy-relevant syntheses with key findings for the Parties.

- The last CEH project concluded in February 2026. As part of their final reports, the teams drafted a summary for a non-technical audience, highlighting solutions and policy implications. Three principal investigators from the CEH program were invited to present their findings at the course *"How to Strengthen Health Adaptation Measures to Address the Challenge of Climate Change in the Americas*", co-organized with the Global Consortium for Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) at Columbia University.

- The Directorate facilitated Doriam Camacho's participation as a Principal Investigator (PI) in the project *"Community Participation Strategy for the Prevention and Management of Risk Factors in Dengue Transmission, with Perspectives on Climate, Environment, Society, and Culture"* at the regional meeting of the Climate Sensitive Infectious Disease Network (CSID Network), held 26-28 October at the University of Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, an event that brings together health professionals, climate scientists, and developers of public health tools.

- During the intersessional period, the Directorate, together with the GCCHE, continued the series of webinars focused on three research topics (dengue, extreme heat, and local knowledge and data). On 25 June 2026, the second webinar in the *"Extreme Heat Waves"* series was held. The final webinar in this series, *"Building Climate Resilience through Local Knowledge Systems, Digital Innovation, and Territorial Equity*," is scheduled for 18 November.

- The Directorate began a process of synthesizing the results of projects on tropical forests, with the aim of developing policy briefs in collaboration with the principal investigators. Additionally, a series of webinars is planned for 2027 to present the results and facilitate access to the knowledge generated available to the IAI Parties, decision-makers, and the scientific community.

- The Directorate participated in the Solar Geoengineering Research Governance Platform workshop at the Royal Society in London to promote inclusive international frameworks for climate governance. The event was co-organized by the Alliance for Fair Deliberation on Solar Geoengineering with the aim of ensuring that regional perspectives influence decisions on this critical issue.

- The Directorate continues to coordinate the implementation of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF). The CAF SAC will provide scientific and technical advice to support decision-making and the implementation of strategies by the Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Management Unit (GACBP). The Committee is expected to be fully operational by early 2027 and to participate in the International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held on 28 and 29 January 2027, in Panama.

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.*

<u>Actions by the Directorate and Results</u>

- Seed Fund Projects on Climate, Environment, and Health (SG-CEH)

    - On 14 May 2026, the first SG-CEH project reports were officially launched during the webinar “Climate-Sensitive Infectious Diseases: Dengue, Water, and Environmental Risk,” as part of the 2026 Webinar Series.
    - Project summaries were prepared for dissemination purposes and for a series of thematic webinars.
    - A summary of the SG-CEH process and transdisciplinary approaches was prepared.

- Collaborative Research Action *“Tropical Forests: Global Implications and Urgent Actions”* (CRA FOREST)

    - The Directorate continued to perform operational and coordination functions as part of the Thematic Program Office (TPO) of the Collaborative Research Action on Tropical Forests (CRA FOREST), in collaboration with the São Paulo State Research Support Foundation (FAPESP). Within this framework, it supported the proposal evaluation process, the activities of the expert panel, and the communication of the results of the call for proposals.

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 Directorate and Results

- The Directorate participated in the Third International Conference on Health and Biodiversity (Cohab 3), titled "Partnerships for People and the Planet," held in Ireland in September 2026. The event brought together researchers, decision-makers, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders to address the interrelationships between biodiversity, health, climate, ecosystems, and human rights. During the conference, the Directorate presented the results of the IAI's programs on climate, environment, and health, and tropical forests.

- The conference also provided an opportunity to explore potential collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Cohab Initiative, with a view to developing joint activities in the Americas.

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 Directorate and Results

- The course "A Transdisciplinary Look at the Future of the Oceans" was offered in Spanish and English, with a total of 547 registered participants (380 in Spanish and 167 in English). Of these, 55 successfully completed the course and received a certificate: 40 in the Spanish version (11%) and 15 in the English version (9%).

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 Directorate and Results

- The Directorate participated in the Workshop on Invasive Alien Species for Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity in Panama City from 5 to 7 May 2026.

- As a result of its participation in the workshop, the Directorate submitted a concept note to CAF's Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Management Division for the development of a potential project proposal within the framework of the ninth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-9). After receiving favorable feedback, the Directorate plans to continue developing the proposal, which calls for the implementation of two pilot projects—one in Central America and another in the Southern Cone. The IAI's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has helped identify potential areas of intervention and institutional partners.

The Science Diplomacy Center

XXXI/18. *The Conference of the Parties approves the creation of the IAI Science Diplomacy Center and its work plan for the first three years based on the recommendations of the Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board.*

Actions by the Directorate and Results

- From June During the reporting period, the Directorate, through the IAI Center for Science Diplomacy (SDC), implemented initiatives to strengthen science diplomacy capacities, promote dialogue between the scientific and policymaking communities, and foster regional cooperation. It also advanced proposals aimed at enhancing the Institute's programmatic and financial sustainability, including the accreditation process with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), described later in this report.These activities included identifying funding opportunities, strategically positioning the IAI at the regional and international levels, strengthening professional and institutional capacities, promoting cross-border cooperation, establishing new institutional partnerships, and developing knowledge products to support decision-making processes.

Capacity Building in Science Diplomacy in Support of the Parties

- As a result of the IAI's participation in a science diplomacy event organized by the "Central American Policy for Open Science, Technology, and Innovation (CTI)" project, held in the Dominican Republic in February 2026, the SDC established a collaboration with that country's Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology (MESCyT). At the request of MESCyT, the IAI organized the *Workshop on Science Diplomacy, Regional Governance*, *and Open and Inclusive Science, Technology, and Innovation*, held on August 26 and 27, 2026, in Santo Domingo. The workshop contributed to the dialogue on regional integration, STI policies, and progress in implementing the Santo Domingo Roadmap 2026–2028, within the framework of the Commission for Scientific and Technological Development of Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic of the Central American Integration System (CTCAP/SICA), with the participation of regional partners such as UNESCO and the Ibero-American Program for Science and Technology for Development (CYTED). The event was funded by MESCyT. Furthermore, as part of this collaboration, it was agreed to organize a scientific evaluation panel for the project proposals received under the FONDOCYT 2026 call for proposals, with funding from MESCyT (see the Science Program report).

- At the request of Peru's national focal point, the SDC organized the workshop *"Science Diplomacy, Climate Services, and Decision-Making in Public Policy*," in collaboration with Peru's National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (SENAMHI), the National

Council for Science, Technology, and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC), the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (IIAP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Training Center in Peru, the Swiss Embassy, and the Swiss Regional Center for Environmental and Humanitarian Cooperation. The program addressed challenges related to the 2026–2027 El Niño phenomenon, climate change adaptation, risk management, climate services, scientific advice, the Amazon, forest fires, and cross-border scientific cooperation. Representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Switzerland participated. The event combined capacity-building sessions, exchanges among technical specialists, scientists, and decision-makers, and a simulation exercise designed to identify barriers that hinder multi-stakeholder decision-making processes. As a result, a policy brief was developed with recommendations to strengthen the science-policy interface. The event was funded by SENAMHI, the WMO, and Swiss cooperation.

- At the time of writing this report, the Directorate is collaborating with the national focal points from Guatemala, the National Secretariat for Science and Technology (SENACYT), and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) to organize a science diplomacy workshop titled *"Strengthening Scientific Cooperation to Address the El Niño Phenomenon, Land Degradation, and Drought in Guatemala*," scheduled for 26-27 November 2026, in Guatemala City. The workshop aims to strengthen the linkages between science, public policy, and international cooperation through science diplomacy, with the goal of facilitating coordinated, evidence-based responses to extreme weather events. The plan is to develop a technical document that includes recommendations and identifies priorities, existing capacities, gaps, and opportunities for cooperation, as a basis for formulating a national position and a roadmap to address desertification, drought, and extreme weather events. This document will serve as input for planning future activities by SENACYT and MARN.

- The SDC continues to explore opportunities to strengthen the Parties' capacities in science diplomacy. In this context, potential activities are being evaluated for collaboration with institutions in Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and the United Kingdom, as well as with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, for implementation in 2027.

New Partnerships, Strategic Cooperation, and Funding Opportunities to Support the Sustainability of the IAI

- As a result of the science diplomacy workshop held in Paraguay in 2025, the Directorate initiated collaboration discussions with the binational hydroelectric entities Itaipú (Brazil-Paraguay) and Yacyretá (Argentina-Paraguay). A webinar on cross-border science diplomacy is being planned, focusing on the 2026–2027 El Niño phenomenon, its impacts, and the coordination of decision-making processes in the areas of influence of both hydroelectric power plants. The initiative aims to promote collaboration with the Hydroclimatic Forum—which brings together public and private institutions in Paraguay—and with the WMO, by creating a platform for exchange among experts, decision-makers, and institutions from Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, as well as other stakeholders in the La Plata Basin. This activity would constitute a first step toward organizing an in-person seminar on cross-border Science Diplomacy and the lessons learned from the 2026–2027 El Niño phenomenon, scheduled for 2027, subject to the availability of external funding. At the same time, proposals are being explored to develop cross-border summer schools aimed at building capacity, promoting regional scientific cooperation, and facilitating

dialogue between science and policy on challenges related to sustainability and the management of shared natural resources. Furthermore, the Directorate has held discussions with Paraguay's Center for International and Diplomatic Studies (CEID), which has expressed interest in developing a national Science Diplomacy agenda that could include binational and cross-border issues of importance to the country.

- The SDC has launched a collaboration with the recently established Science Diplomacy Center for the Environment and Society (CSDES) at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom. Within this framework, both institutions developed a proposal for the University's Explore 2027 International Awards small grants program, aimed at designing transregional micro-credentials in science diplomacy through the development of competencies, educational resources, and case studies. The proposal is currently under review. Furthermore, plans are in place to explore additional funding opportunities with the University and other UK organizations to develop a replicable pilot model for joint training between embassies and universities, including in-person workshops in Plymouth and in Latin America and the Caribbean. On 22 October 2026, the IAI also delivered a keynote address on science diplomacy in practice during the CSDES's official virtual launch event.

- The SDC has identified a growing demand for training in science diplomacy from diplomatic academies and schools in the region. In this context, it held consultations with representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs and the diplomatic academies of Bolivia, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic. This demand aligns with the recommendations made during the meeting of Ibero-American diplomatic training academies, held in Madrid in May 2026, which highlighted the need to strengthen diplomatic capacities in this area. In response, the SDC is working with regional experts to develop a course proposal and training materials tailored to the needs of these institutions, which could be supplemented by workshops and technical visits, subject to the availability of external funding.

- At the request of the Office of the Governor of the department of Tolima, Colombia, the Directorate collaborated on the drafting of a concept note to assess the possibility of the IAI serving as the Fund's managing entity for the "Multidonor Fund for Subnational Cooperation in the Andes Mountain Range." The initiative proposes establishing a financial mechanism led by Andean subnational governments to support ecosystem conservation and adaptation to climate change. Planned activities include funding the annual South American Meeting for the Andes Mountain Range (ESCA), establishing and operating the Andes Scientific Panel, and supporting regional projects related to the interface between science and policy and Science Diplomacy. The Andean region comprises more than 70 subnational governments spread across seven countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. The proposal sets an initial goal of incorporating at least 50 subnational governments into the Fund. This initiative could expand the IAI's participation in regional science diplomacy processes and strengthen its collaboration with subnational governments at the interface between science and public policy. It would also allow for the exploration of complementary financing mechanisms (*matching funds*) and the possibility for the Institute to assume administrative functions for the Fund, with reimbursement of indirect costs associated with its management.

These initiatives are at various stages of preparation, and their implementation is subject to institutional review processes, the formalization of agreements among participating institutions, and the availability of funding.

SDC's Participation in National and International Science Diplomacy Events to Strengthen Strategic Partnerships and Raise Awareness of the IAI's Work

- The SDC participated virtually in the inaugural meeting of the IBRO-PEDECIBA-UNESCO School on Science Diplomacy, Neuroscience, Technology, and Society, held 27-29 August 2026, and organized by the DICIENTS network with the support of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO). In this context, the SDC contributed to the opening session and participated in a roundtable discussion where it shared experiences on the role of science diplomacy in strengthening the links between science and public policy. Additionally, the SDC is scheduled to give a presentation on science diplomacy and global change during the in-person course to be held in Montevideo in December 2026. This participation aims to strengthen cooperation with scientific and academic institutions in Uruguay and promote interdisciplinary exchanges that link environmental science diplomacy with neuroscience and public policy.

- On 1 September 2026, the SDC participated, in collaboration with a member of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), in a virtual session of the graduate course *"Advanced Topics in Environment and Society"* at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) in Brazil. During the session, the IAI's work in the field of science diplomacy was presented, and the relationships between scientific evidence, environmental governance, public policy, and international cooperation were discussed.

- On 15 October 2026, the SDC collaborated with the Institute of International Studies at the University of Chile through a virtual session on science diplomacy and global change.

- The SDC participated in a workshop organized by the Amazon Research Consortium, held 21-23 September 2026, at Duke University and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, with the participation of representatives from indigenous communities, scientists, and decision-makers from Amazonian countries and the United States. During the event, the SDC shared experiences on science diplomacy and contributed to the exchange of knowledge on sustainable development, governance, health, and cross-border environmental challenges in the Amazon.

- The Office of the Chief Scientific Advisor of the Government of India, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), the Ministry of External Affairs, and Global Innovation Square, is organizing the annual *Technology Dialogue 2026*, in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), to be held from 30 November to 2 December, 2026. Under the theme "Charting Technological Convergence," the gathering will bring together government representatives, researchers, business leaders, and international experts to examine the implications of artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, biotechnology, neurotechnology, and other emerging technologies for governance. The IAI is expected to participate in discussions on technology diplomacy, evidence-based public policy-making, and multilateral cooperation.

  In-person participation in these events is funded by the organizing institutions, so it represents little or no financial cost to the IAI.

Publications and Other Media

- The SDC also contributed to the development of communication materials, interviews, institutional presentations, and *policy* briefs related to the workshops and institutional cooperation activities. These initiatives aim to facilitate access to the knowledge generated, preserve experiences and lessons learned, and promote the use of the results of science diplomacy activities by the scientific community and policymakers.

- As part of its science-policy dialogue and high-level engagement activities, the SDC continued to collaborate with the Science Diplomacy Center at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on the AAAS-IAI Ministerial Conversations Series. During the reporting period, progress was made in preparing interviews with Chile's Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation, Ximena Lincolao Pilquián, and Mexico's Secretary of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation (SECIHTI), Rosaura Ruiz. Both interviews are scheduled to be published in the coming months.

- In addition, content was posted on Instagram, LinkedIn, and the IAI website regarding science diplomacy events organized in collaboration with partner institutions in the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Guatemala. Publications from partner and co-organizing institutions (including SENAMHI in Peru and SENACYT in Guatemala) were also shared.

https://www.iai.int/en/news/detail/event-to-strengthen-science-diplomacy-and-regional-integration

https://www.iai.int/en/news/detail/IAI-strengthens-science-diplomacy

The Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program

- Since adopting a thematic approach in 2025, the Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program has continued to strengthen its contribution to the science-policy interface through specialized training, peer learning, and practical experience at host institutions. During the first year of the Biodiversity and Bioeconomy cohort, fellows participated in a professional development program that addressed topics such as science diplomacy, strategic communication, and leadership. For the second year, the program plans to delve deeper into these topics through at least seven new training and mentoring activities on subjects such as nature-based solutions, financial instruments, and transdisciplinary approaches. In October 2026, new fellows joined the program, including those associated with the Alinea International project and the Directorate.

- The 2026–2027 cohort of STeP fellows from the "Women Guardians of Biodiversity" (MGB) project, funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), represents a new collaboration between the IAI and Alinea International, a private-sector institution, within the framework of the STeP Program. The initiative aims to strengthen women's leadership—including that of Indigenous women—in the conservation of high-mountain ecosystems, high-Andean wetlands, and peatlands at Ramsar sites in the Andean region. Through nature-based solutions and the strengthening of environmental governance, the project promotes science diplomacy and regional cooperation to support climate resilience and sustainable land management. During the reporting period, work focused on organizing the open call

for applications, defining the evaluation criteria, and selecting the fellows, whose enrollment in the program was scheduled for October 2026.

- The SDC coordinated the fellow selection process through an open call for applications and technical criteria defined jointly with Alinea International, with the participation of members of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC). As a result, fellows were selected for Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, and agreements were established with the respective host institutions: the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA) in Bolivia; the Universidad Técnica de Cotopaxi in Ecuador; and the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP) and DESCOSUR in Peru. These collaborations aim to strengthen local participation, territorial engagement, and the fellows' technical capacities.

- On 20 October 2026, Alinea International organized a webinar in which the IAI presented the STeP Program and the fellows' activities in the Andean region. The event was attended by representatives of local communities, institutions participating in the project, and officials from Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian embassies in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru.

- As part of the restructuring of the Directorate, an open call was issued in July 2026 to select a consultant and two STeP Program fellows who would provide support to the science, science diplomacy, and STeP programs. As a result of the process, three professionals joined the team in August 2026 and are working remotely from Argentina, Brazil, and the United States.

Strategic planning, institutional sustainability, the science-policy interface, and climate finance

- One of the IAI's strategic initiatives is the application process for accreditation as an accredited entity with the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, which would strengthen the Institute's capacity to support the Parties and expand its funding opportunities. Among the main anticipated benefits are the following:

1. **Strengthening the IAI's mandate to serve the Parties:** Accreditation would enable the Institute to support countries in implementing their climate commitments—including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation plans, and resilience strategies—in line with their national and regional priorities. It would also strengthen the IAI's role as a bridge between science, public policy, and climate finance.

2. **Direct access to international climate finance:** As an accredited entity, the IAI could submit project proposals to the GCF and mobilize resources for national and regional initiatives. This would help diversify the Institute's funding sources, strengthen its financial sustainability in the medium and long term, and generate resources through the recovery of indirect costs to support its operating expenses.

3. **Added value of science for decision-making:** Unlike other accredited entities, such as development banks and implementing agencies, the IAI possesses scientific capabilities, research networks, and expertise in generating evidence-based

knowledge. These capabilities would enable the development of climate projects grounded in scientific knowledge, improve the technical quality of funded activities, and strengthen national and regional capacities by leveraging the Institute's scientific networks in the Americas.

4. **Regional platform for cross-border projects:** Accreditation would facilitate the development of regional projects to address climate challenges shared by several countries, particularly in areas such as the Amazon, wildfires, droughts, water resources, the oceans, biodiversity, food security, and health.

5. **Greater visibility and international standing:** Accreditation would help strengthen recognition of the IAI as a regional institution capable of mobilizing international climate finance, expand opportunities for co-financing and cooperation with countries, donors, and other funding institutions, and encourage the incorporation of new Parties into the Institute.

6. **Strengthening national and regional capacities:** The IAI could support the Parties in preparing project proposals, strengthening institutions, and generating the scientific knowledge necessary to facilitate access to climate finance resources.

7. **Institutional strengthening of the IAI and compliance with the Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research o Agreement Establishing the IAI:** Accreditation would expand the mechanisms available to fulfill the Institute's mandate to promote the generation and use of scientific information relevant to decision-making, facilitating its application through concrete climate investments. It would also contribute to strengthening institutional governance through the adoption of policies and procedures aligned with international standards in the areas of fiduciary, environmental, and social responsibility, as well as project monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Accreditation with the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund is part of the IAI's strategy to strengthen its institutional and financial sustainability.

- In parallel with the preparation of the accreditation application to the GCF, scheduled for December 2026, the Directorate is working on drafting an accreditation application to the Adaptation Fund. Both processes share institutional and governance requirements, which allows the IAI to leverage the documents and procedures developed for the respective applications.

- The proposals *"Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Finance and Planning in Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia*," submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in February 2026, and *"CATALYST AI Hub: Accelerating Evidence-to-Policy through AI-assisted synthesis infrastructure at the Climate, Health, and Food Systems Nexus"*, submitted to the Wellcome Trust in April 2026, were not selected for funding. Although both proposals received favorable evaluations, one of the main factors cited was their regional scope, focused on Latin America and the Caribbean, in a context where various funding agencies are prioritizing initiatives with a global reach that involve countries from two or more continents in the Global South. According to the feedback received, the proposal met 12 of the 13 evaluation criteria, with its geographic scope identified as the remaining limitation. Based on the feedback received, the Directorate plans to submit a revised

version for the 2027 IKI call for proposals by incorporating partner institutions from Africa and/or Asia, in collaboration with partners from Latin America and the Caribbean.

New Partnerships

- The IAI Directorate recently signed collaboration agreements aimed at strengthening scientific capacity, open access to knowledge, and regional cooperation:

    - The Directorate established a Framework Agreement for cooperation with the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA) in Bolivia. Beyond establishing framework guidelines for collaboration on global change, this agreement aims to implement the Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program, IAI-Alinea cohort 2026–2027.

    - The Directorate established a framework for cooperation with the Technical University of Cotopaxi, Ecuador, with the aim of implementing the STeP (Science, Technology, and Policy) Fellowship Program, IAI-Alinea cohort 2026–2027.

    - The National Center for High Technology (CeNAT) of Costa Rica and the Directorate established a framework agreement to promote regional cooperation on issues of Science Diplomacy and interdisciplinary research on global change—particularly regarding ecosystems and biodiversity—as well as associated socioeconomic aspects.

    - The Directorate established a framework cooperation agreement and, subsequently, two specific agreements with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology (MESCYT) of the Dominican Republic with the aim of jointly developing capacity-building initiatives in Science Diplomacy and actions aimed at the scientific and technical evaluation and categorization of project proposals received under the FONDOCYT 2026 Call for Proposals.

Communications: Website

- The Directorate conducted an analysis of the operation of the website, which was migrated from Drupal to WordPress in January 2026, with the aim of evaluating its technical performance, functionality, security, maintenance costs, ease of use, and suitability for the Institute's needs, including its compliance with the standards and requirements applicable to an intergovernmental organization (IGO).

- The analysis identified various technical difficulties and errors that affected the site's operation. These difficulties were exacerbated by the departure—due to financial constraints—of the staff previously responsible for its management and maintenance. Given the current context of limited human and financial resources, it was determined that continuing to maintain the new platform and resolve its issues was neither technically nor operationally feasible.

- Furthermore, comments received regarding the site's design and the user experience, as well as concerns about the platform's security and its vulnerability to potential cyberattacks, were taken into account and incorporated into the overall assessment.

- Based on these factors, the Directorate decided to reinstate the previous Drupal-based website, which can be managed, updated, and maintained internally with currently available staff and at a lower operating cost. This platform offers security, scalability, and data management features suited to the institution's needs, while also allowing for greater control over site administration and providing accessible, user-friendly navigation.

- The decision aims to ensure the sustainability and effective operation of the Institute's digital communication tools, promoting the efficient use of available resources and guaranteeing the security and continuity of institutional information dissemination.

Conclusion

6. This report does not intend to provide a complete summary of the activities undertaken by the IAI Directorate. Updates on activities not included in this report will be provided to Parties on an ongoing basis during the 2026–2027 intersessional period and the 35th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendation

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