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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH**

**Thirty-first meeting
Panama City, Panama
21-22 June 2023
Information Document 9**

Regional workshop on Climate, Environment and Health

San Martín de los Andes, Argentina

13-17 March, 2023



**MINISTERIO
DE SALUD**

**NEUQUÉN
PROVINCIA**



The Americas needs to strengthen public institutional capacity to address and adapt effectively to environmental determinants of health (EDHs), prioritizing populations living in conditions of vulnerability. An integrated and evidence-informed approach within the health sector and in

partnership with other key sectors, such as climate, environment, and disaster risk management, is essential to addressing and adapting to the challenges of EDHs in the region. Identification of solutions must be context-specific, based on the needs and priorities of countries, and should encourage greater coordination, leadership, and communication among science, policy, and society.

From 13 to 17 March 2023, scientists from diverse disciplines, policymakers, and climate and health practitioners from across the Americas convened in San Martín de los Andes, province of Neuquén, Argentina, during The Regional Workshop on Climate, Environment, and Health. The Government of San Martín de los Andes, province of Neuquén, Argentina, was the local host and the IAI was the primary organizer. Other key partners included the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE), the Mountain Research Institute (MRI), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Regional workshop on climate, environment and health

Major Activities:

The workshop's main objective was to strengthen the capacities of researchers and decision-makers to address complex problems linking climate, environment, and human health in the region using a transdisciplinary and intersectoral perspective. Meetings with local authorities from the government of the province of Neuquén and other Patagonian provinces of Argentina, high-level national authorities from the government of Argentina, and representatives from international organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) focused on ways to develop greater national and regional collaboration through a coordinated agenda.

Specific Objectives:

- Enhance the development and implementation of seed projects by promoting capacity-building initiatives, providing funding, and ensuring their alignment with regional and national policy priorities.
- Develop a regional climate, environment, and health (CEH) community of practice in the Americas together with researchers, government officials, and other actors.
- Identify collaborative mechanisms for sustainable funding, technical support, and capacity building.
- Identify joint activities between regional/national organizations.

Significant Results:

Nearly 100 experts from 20 countries in the Americas representing academic, governmental, non-governmental, and international institutions attended the meeting. Thirteen transdisciplinary research teams also participated. Teams from IAI members state that complete seed grant proposals will receive IAI funding to implement projects to generate scientific knowledge to support decision-making in the Americas.

The Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action, Climate, Environment and Health II (CRA2) call for proposals was announced at the meeting. This global research funding opportunity will support innovative and transformative initiatives that generate evidence-based solutions to improve the quality of life of vulnerable populations. The IAI will fund teams from its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. More information: <https://www.iai.int/es/news/detail/Collaborative-Research-Action-on-Climate-Environment-and-Health-II>

ID	Proposal title	PI Name	Leading institution	Países participantes
SG-01	Vulnerabilidad multidimensional al dengue y la diarrea en el contexto de la crisis climática: Un estudio exploratorio con enfoque transdisciplinario en Caballococha (Loreto, Perú)	Marisol Yglesias González	Centro Latinoamericano de Excelencia en Cambio Climático y Salud, Universidad Peruana. Peru Cayetano Heredia.	Peru, EEUU, Costa Rica
SG-02	La capacidad institucional de salud pública para responder a la demanda de servicios relacionados al cambio climático	Gustavo Estrada	Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala	Guatemala, Argentina
SG-03	Climate change and health impacts: On the use of satellite data to assess the relationship between climatic factors, water quality and infectious diseases in Chile	Rayana Santos Araujo Palharini	Centro de Investigación para la Gestión Integrada del Riesgo de Desastres (CIGIDEN); Universidad Tecnológica. Chile Metropolitana (UTEM)	Chile
SG-04	Consulta y Cartografía Ciudadana sobre áreas verdes y su papel en la salud pública, caso: Calor Extremo en la Ciudad de México.	Leticia Gómez Mendoza	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Colegio de Geografía, México	México
SG-05	Sistema de alerta temprana del virus dengue y su vector transmisor sensibles al clima, con una acción comunitaria	Yazenía Linares Vega	Centro Meteorológico Provincial Habana-Artemisa-Mayabeque, Cuba	Cuba, Perú, Uruguay
SG-06	Mecanismo de resiliencia Ayllu para enfrentar los efectos del cambio climático a partir del diálogo de saberes de los conocimientos locales en combinación con tecnologías	Noemi Tirado Bustillos	Instituto de Genética, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia	Bolivia

	innovadoras para fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria en la comunidad de Micaya, Municipio de Colquencha-La Paz, Bolivia.			
SG-07	Proyecto transdisciplinario para el diseño de una respuesta temprana e integral ante olas de calor para personas mayores en la Ciudad de Buenos Aires	Ana Torlaschi	Equipo de Salud Ambiental de la Dirección General de Salud Comunitaria del Ministerio de Salud del Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina
SG-08	Construcción de problemáticas y estrategias sobre cambio climático, salud y agroecología desde un enfoque transdisciplinario.	Soledad Nión Celio	Departamento de sociología, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de la República, Uruguay	Uruguay, Argentina
SG-09	Climate-Health-Environment Nexus Risk in the 'Shared Economy' Hotel Sector: Assessment and Risk Reduction Planning	Kalim Shah	Biden School of Public Policy, University of Delaware, United States	EEUU, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago
SG-10	Integración de la Respuesta en Salud en la Evaluación Energético-Ambiental de Edificios para Reducir el Riesgo de Exposición al Calor Urbano: Caso de estudio Brasil	Andrea Lobato	Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp), Brasil	Brasil, Ecuador, USA, Colombia, Chile
SG-11	Hacia el desarrollo de una Plataforma digital integrada de Datos FAIR en el nexa Clima-Ambiente-Salud en la Región Sudamericana: Estudio de caso en Argentina.	Sonia Muñoz	Instituto de Investigaciones en Ciencias de la Salud (INICSA), CONICET. Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina.	Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Uruguay
SG-12	Estrategia de participación comunitaria para la prevención y manejo de factores de riesgo en la transmisión del dengue con perspectivas en clima, ambiente, sociedad y cultura.	Elizabet Lilia Estallo	Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas y Tecnológicas (Conicet-Universidad Nacional de Córdoba), Córdoba, Argentina	Argentina, Colombia, EEUU,

Closed-door meeting among high-level policymakers from Neuquen, Argentina, and representatives from national, regional, and international organizations from the Americas to discuss plans of work and identify opportunities for regional collaboration/alignment

A closed-door meeting was held among high-level policymakers from Neuquen, Argentina, and representatives from national, regional, and international organizations from the Americas. The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss plans of work and identify opportunities for regional collaboration and alignment on various issues, including climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and public health initiatives.

Key Initiatives:

1. **Municipal Network for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** The mayor of San Martin de los Andes shared that during a recent meeting, a network of municipalities in Argentina was established to work on mitigation and adaptation strategies to address climate change. San Martin de los Andes hosted an event that brought together mayors from various municipalities in Argentina to discuss the relevant problems faced by the country. This initiative aims to promote knowledge sharing, collaboration, and the development of effective strategies to face climate change at the local level.
2. **Climate Change and Environmental Health Initiatives in Neuquen Province:** Neuquen has been working with municipalities on several initiatives at the nexus of CEH. The following cities have proposed and implemented specific actions to address these challenges:
 - a. **San Martin de los Andes:** The municipality of San Martin de los Andes is focused on reducing transport-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It has been expanding accessibility for bikes and pedestrians, particularly in mountainous areas. Promoting active transport, such as walking and cycling, reduces reliance on motor vehicles and decreases GHG emissions. Additionally, the municipality is conducting a GHG inventory for the city to assess the impact of different sectors and identify opportunities for further mitigation.
 - b. **Municipality of Las Coloradas:** The municipality of Las Coloradas is working on designing semi-closed areas within parks where people can engage in recreational activities and sports. This initiative aims to promote physical activity, socialization, and well-being while fostering One Health concept. The municipality seeks to improve mental health and enhance community bonds by providing outdoor activities and social interaction spaces.
 - c. **Neuquen Capital:** The city of Neuquen Capital is focusing on strengthening laboratory capacities for epidemiology and vector-borne diseases. Specifically, the municipality aims to control the spread of ehrlichiosis and determine the presence of ticks and ehrlichiosis in its urban area. The municipality requires additional resources, such as licensed veterinarians and biologists specializing in environmental protection and the study of insects.
 - d. **Chos Malal Municipality:** The municipality of Chos Malal prioritizes the prevention of zoonoses in domestic animals, specifically dogs and cats. The municipality is promoting castration and vaccinations, enhancing surveillance for zoonotic diseases, and implementing communication and training strategies for the public.
3. **National Ministry of Health of Argentina:** The National Ministry of Health, represented by Minister Carla Vizzotti, acknowledged and highlighted the different local, regional, and national strategies implemented in these projects. The ministry emphasized the importance of human, financial, and infrastructural resources in ensuring the success of these initiatives. By showcasing these projects, the ministry aims to encourage further collaboration and resource allocation for similar efforts across the country.

Relevant session at the CEH Workshop:

- **Session on Regional Climate Sector Priorities**

The session brought together representatives from prominent regional and international organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), the International Research Center on El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN), the Regional Climate Center for Southern South America (CRC-SAS), the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. The primary objective of the session was to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with enhancing collaborative networks at the intersection of climate, environment, and health.

- **Session on Regional Health Sector Priorities**

The session on Regional Health Sector Priorities convened different global, regional and national health agencies such as The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Organismo Andino de Salud, Convenio Hipólito Unanue (ORAS CONHU), Comisión Intergubernamental Salud, Ambiente, y Trabajo del Mercosur (CISAT), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and Health Canada. The session addressed the most relevant challenges that the region is facing today, such as climate change and Covid-19, which exacerbate current vulnerabilities and deficiencies. The session addressed the main priorities and gaps in the Americas (e.g., access to clean and safe water, using carbon for cooking and warming up, poverty, lack of education, etc.). Recognizing that health lies at the heart of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and is an exceedingly complex issue, the session emphasized the need for collaboration and networking to address historical and future challenges.

Other relevant sessions:

- Training in transdisciplinary science
- CEH project team pitches proposal ideas
- Research publishing landscape from academic editors
- Policy dialogue and field experience at the climate, environment, and health nexus in Patagonia
- Green Climate Fund Readiness Projects for Health, Argentina
- Government representatives address participants about the CEH nexus and the role of science
- Communication at the science-policy interface
- Health Diplomacy
- Climate, Environment, and Health in Action: Field experiences with the Ministry of Health of Neuquén
- Hands-on CEH training experiences hosted by the Ministry of Health of Neuquén:
 - A – Estimation of the dog population in Barrio El Arenal
 - B – Management of health risks due to extreme weather events
 - C –Identifying Plants for Health in the forest: their biocultural value

* Next Steps

The IAI Directorate will continue to follow up on the work of the transdisciplinary research teams receiving IAI funding to implement seed projects to generate scientific knowledge to support decision-making in the Americas. The teams will receive support from facilitators and CEH experts.

Workshop participants were encouraged to participate in the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action, Climate, Environment and Health II (CRA2) call for proposals. The CRA2 seeks to support innovative and transformative initiatives that generate evidence-based solutions to improve the quality of life of vulnerable populations. The IAI will fund teams from its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Other funders and partners participating in this funding call are available here: <https://www.belmontforum.org/cras#ceh22023>.

Partner organizations
Government of Neuquen, Argentina
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
The Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Regional Climate Center for Southeastern South America (RCC-SSA)
Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno de El Niño (CIIFEN)