



**Science Diplomacy Center: a regional initiative
to foster Science-Policy Dialogue and Collaboration for a
peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable Americas**

Summary Report of IAI SDC Activities (2023 – April 2024)

Background: The IAI Science Diplomacy Center (SDC), the efficient implementation of science diplomacy concepts, tools, and processes is a growing interest worldwide. In the Americas, particularly Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), science diplomacy strengthens science and technology's role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is grounded in the pursuit of scientific excellence and international cooperation. It promotes the open access and exchange of scientific information relevant to global environmental change to support policy and decision-making for the benefit of society.

Vision: The Science Diplomacy Center shall contribute to the maintenance of a peaceful and sustainable Americas through innovative transdisciplinary collaborations to address the region's shared challenges and safeguard the livelihoods and well-being of future generations and the planet.

Mission: The Center shall enhance the capacity of Parties (IAI member states) to meet the objectives of the IAI Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening the interface between science and policy, establishing a science diplomacy knowledge hub, and developing open, just, and equitable programs and activities for the Americas to meet the challenges of global change.

The Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board: During the pre-establishment phase of the SDC, the IAI Directorate, with the support of the IAI Parties, established an advisory board. Current members are IAI focal points, members of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), Associates, and experts in science, policy, and diplomacy from the Americas and abroad. Currently the board consists of 11 members. Information about the members is available at <https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/SDC-Advisory-Board-Meetings>

First SDC Board Meeting, Uruguay in 2022: The first in-person meeting of the Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board took place from 11 to 13 November 2022 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Advisory Board members, IAI partners, collaborators, and IAI Directorate staff participated in this strategic planning meeting. The main discussion topics included:

- The design and development of the Center's strategy, programs, activities, and the relevant content and initial key training materials for building science diplomacy capacities in the region.
- Developing a funding strategy to secure resources for the Center's medium and long-term sustainability.
- Strengthening current and future partnerships and collaborations with other key national and international organizations to support the SDC and its programs.

The SDC Advisory Board also had the opportunity to interact with the next generation of science diplomats and science advisors from the Americas, who are fellows of the IAI Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program, as the meeting overlapped with the STeP Leadership for Science Diplomacy Workshop. Please see the SDC Advisory Board Meeting Report, Executive Summary, Uruguay ([Spanish](#), [English](#)), and the SDC Advisory Board Meeting Full Report, Uruguay ([English](#)).

SDC Board Meeting, USA in 2023: The IAI held a hybrid SDC Advisory Board Meeting at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, DC, USA, from 6 to 7 March 2023 to follow up on discussions from its first in-person meeting in [Punta del Este, Uruguay](#). Advisory Board members and IAI Directorate staff advanced discussion and activity planning on the following areas:

- Identifying the proposed top 2-3 priority/flagship activities for SDC
- Discussing the timeline for executing these priority activities
- Identifying opportunities for sustainably funding the Center's priority activities - SDC Fundraising Strategy
- Identifying key partners, stakeholders, Parties and IAI Associates to support the Centers' priority activities

The output of this hybrid Advisory Board Meeting was the decision to engage the IAI member states in the co-design process to determine the flagship or priority activities of the Center. Likewise, because of the initial work of the SDC Advisory Board, a draft SDC working plan has been developed, which will be presented to the IAI Parties at [CoP 31](#). Please see the meeting report here: SDC Advisory Board Meeting Report Executive Summary, Washington DC ([Spanish](#), [English](#))

The SDC Advisory Board Meeting also coincided with the AAAS Annual Meeting on March 4th, 2023 where members of the IAI Directorate presented in the session "*Science Diplomacy Fellowships for Stronger Public Policies.*"

Science Diplomacy Center Side Event at the IAI Conference of the Parties (CoP) 31 held in Panama in June 2023: IAI Party delegates, representatives from governments, academia, civil society, and other intergovernmental organizations attended the 31st meeting of IAI Conference of the Parties and its side event on science diplomacy that was held on 21 June 2023.

The objectives of this event were to present the vision, mission, and goals of the IAI's SDC, which was officially launched at CoP31, and discuss regional case studies on science diplomacy, identify needs in capacity building and processes related to science-policy, and explore how the Center can best support national and regional priorities as identified by Parties. Draft SDC Flagship Activities ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

This side event not only facilitated the engagement with member states, raised their interest in the work of the SDC, but also assisted in identifying the top three (3) flagship activities of the Center for the next three (3) years. The event was designed to foster active participation and facilitate dynamic discussions on specific topics related to science diplomacy and the role of the Science Diplomacy Center in the region, allowing for a diverse range of perspectives to be

considered. This ensured that member states collaboratively designed the Center's initiatives and reinforced their ownership and engagement in the SDC's activities. SDC Side Event Summary ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

Main outcomes: Summary Output from Side Event (DAY 1) for the SDC's 3-year plan (2023-2026): The side event was organized around three parallel "stations" running simultaneously.

- **Station 1:** Institutional Mechanisms for Science Diplomacy
- **Station 2:** Capacity Building in Science Diplomacy
- **Station 3:** Emerging Topics and the SDC Knowledge Hub

Attendees rotate among the 3 stations, thus participating and providing input to all 3 themes.



Institutional Mechanisms for Science Diplomacy

- **National Strategic Plans**
 - Address the spectrum of earth system and planetary boundaries to improve risk management and resilience
 - Collaborative learning
- **Regional Strategic Plans**
 - Identify regional projects and coordinate regional actions
 - Assist countries to build a common position to negotiate climate global priorities and to identify shared economical/financial opportunities
- **Communication Strategies**
 - Promoting synthesis groups/initiatives
 - Build connections and help understand key interfaces between different fields of knowledge
- **Capacity Building**
 - Build facilitation skills for the participatory process and conflict resolution
 - Train science communicators (including civil society and local governments) to more visibly explain scientific data from other countries or regions with different policies

Capacity Building in Science Diplomacy

- **Data**
 - Usability and relevance of scientific data for decision-making
 - Develop data visualization capacity; curate and access to data repository
- **Legal Framework**
 - Diplomacy, negotiation protocols, procedures, and mechanism
 - Technical legal expertise in multilateral environments - international law
 - Knowledge of regulatory impact, environmental law, human rights law
- **Conflict Resolution**
 - Ability to convene key sectors and partners (multi-sectoral collaboration)

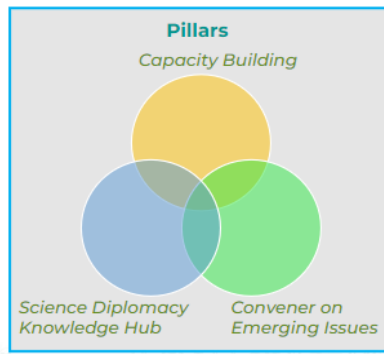
- Articulate and defend the country's position
- **Communication (knowledge translation and dissemination)**
 - Common language among governments, science diplomats, and scientists to value science as part of the decision-making process
 - Learn the language of international treaties and how to negotiate decisions at multilateral events
 - SDC help officials to use and transform scientific data into diplomatic strategies and national development plans, policy briefs and position papers

Emerging/Evolving/Innovation Issues and Science Diplomacy Knowledge Hub

- **Emerging Research Themes**
 - Linking emerging technology to support global environmental change objectives (AI, Quantum, and block-chain)
 - One Health or Planetary Health solutions
 - Understanding Climate Disaster Risks & Cascading Effects
- **Specific Themes**
 - Pandemic preparedness and Global health security
 - Understanding links to alleviate poverty, improve conservation and sustainability
 - Valuing SIDS, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and migration
- **Emerging Educational Challenges**
 - Valuing science-policy tools & Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion frameworks
 - How to define and prevent maladaptation and mis/disinformation
- **Resources to Develop**
 - Create a platform for national and regional data exchange, a database repository with actionable information
 - Co-design skills for researchers and policymakers to work together

SDC Priority Activities: the IAI Directorate based on initial conversations with the IAI Parties considered these initial activities for the SDC: 1) Introduction to Science Diplomacy: To develop effective governance mechanisms for science diplomacy by strengthening science in policy and priority areas for the Americas; 2) Negotiation Best Practices: To strengthen new/emerging generation of negotiators to understand the mechanics of the negotiating process within several multilateral frameworks, (e.g. the UNFCCC, CBD, G-20, etc); 3) A Science Diplomacy Knowledge Hub: A platform where countries can access training, information, regional case studies, scientific literature, policy papers, and national science diplomacy strategies, among others to foster knowledge sharing across borders; and 4) Convene webinars, conferences, and workshops: Convene relevant communities to promote collaboration, networks, and dialogue between scientists and decision-makers in the Americas on emerging issues.

As a result, the following three Pillars were identified as priority: 1) Capacity Building; 2) Knowledge Hub; 3) Emerging, Evolving, Innovation Issues



Pillar 1: Capacity Building - Strengthening regional capacities in science diplomacy in the Americas, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, The IAI Directorate Science Diplomacy Center has been working with IAI Parties in developing a series of training workshops in science diplomacy.

Science Diplomacy Training Program for Policy Makers in the Americas: The SDC held its inaugural workshop hosted and funded by SENACYT Panama (19-21 October 2023). Eleven (11) IAI Parties and focal points were engaged in this activity as organizers, hosts, speakers, and participants, and responsible for nominating national participants. The event attracted over 50 attendees, including government officials, scientists, and experts from the Americas. The workshop participants developed a science diplomacy declaration. The declaration is available at the IAI website at <https://www.iai.int/es/post/detail/Panama-Declaration>. In addition, at the end of the training workshop, 3 IAI Parties - Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay - expressed interest in co-sponsoring future science diplomacy training events in collaboration with the IAI Science Diplomacy Center.

Given the positive feedback of the inaugural workshop in Panama, SENACYT has requested the IAI SDC to hold a second science diplomacy workshop in Panama in 2024. Moreover, in partnership with member countries, the IAI Directorate has been planning a series of events and workshops in Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay in the coming years (2023-2027). The IAI Directorate is already actively communicating with representatives from the countries above, facilitating the organization. Furthermore, several other countries desired to host workshops contingent upon receiving funding from the IAI to enable their organization. This ongoing engagement is instrumental in strengthening the IAI's network and enhancing the impact of its educational and diplomatic efforts across the Americas.

Plans are underway for a second regional **science diplomacy workshop in June 2024, sponsored by SENACYT Panama** and in collaboration with the **Coiba Island Alliance Initiative Program**. This upcoming workshop will invite scientists and government officials, to discuss the role of science diplomacy in fostering international cooperation for the sustainable management of estuary ecosystems. One expected result is a research project proposal on Science Diplomacy and Estuaries that addresses science and policy concerns and that can provide scientific knowledge to support conservation policies.

The IAI Directorate is also collaborating with **Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation** to plan a workshop introducing Science Diplomacy for government officials. The workshop will be held in Brazil in **December 2024**. Additionally, a new partnership has been forged with **FAPESC** from Santa Catarina, Brazil, which is dedicating resources to support the STeP Fellowship program and regional Science Diplomacy and Transdisciplinary training, further expanding the reach and impact of these educational initiatives.

The government of El Salvador has also expressed interest in co-organizing and sponsoring a science diplomacy event with SENACYT Panama and the IAI SDC in El Salvador. The National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) is interested in building and strengthening professional and institutional capacities in science diplomacy for government officials. El Salvador is not an IAI Party. This collaboration with the SDC could strategically encourage El Salvador to join the IAI as a new member country.

IAI's Science, Technology, and Policy Fellowship (STeP) Program: The Directorate has effectively broadened STeP, with 47 fellows from 14 countries actively engaged in its third iteration. These fellows have completed training on crucial topics such as science diplomacy, the UNFCCC, conflict resolution, and diplomatic protocols for scientists' policy communication. Please refer to this cohort's [Orientation Training](#) and [Science Diplomacy and Communication Training](#). The STeP Leadership Conference is scheduled for 22-24 April 2024 in Guatemala ([see agenda](#)). This year's conference theme is "Consensus and Inclusion for Informed Decision-making". Fellows will also present their science diplomacy group projects as part of a joint event with Lancet Countdown at Universidad del Valle. Science Diplomacy group topics for this year include:

- United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) 2024.
- El Niño and Agriculture in the Caribbean and Central America: Exploring the Implications for Food Security.
- Analysis of Local Community and Indigenous Peoples (LCIP) Committees in international/multilateral organizations.
- Science Diplomacy and Emerging Issues Affecting Climate Change.
- Limited healthcare access in rural Oaxacan indigenous communities: One Health recommendations for addressing non-economic losses and damages.
- Where is the climate? Missing motivations and linkages in urban green development in the Americas.
- Analysis and Impact of Climate Governance.
- Impact of The Belem Declaration on Indigenous Communities and the Use of Natural Resources.

In addition to enhancing Fellow training, the Directorate has initiated new strategies to better train and support the fellow's mentors and supervisors, further enriching the program's overall effectiveness and impact.

In 2023, Virtual Campus was inaugurated, introducing asynchronous multilingual courses and initiating inauguration of Virtual Campus, and asynchronous multilingual courses and initiated a transdisciplinary training program under its Transdisciplinary Academy to bolster TD research across its member states.

Curriculum in Science Diplomacy: In response to an open call and a competitive process, the University of Sao Paulo received a grant from the IAI Directorate to develop a specialized curriculum in science diplomacy, which is scheduled to be launched in 2024 (in Spanish, English, and Portuguese with a University certificate). This curriculum is tailored to address the nuances and needs of the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, providing a synthesis and insights into applying science diplomacy within this regional context. The curriculum structure is composed of four distinct modules:

1. Science Diplomacy: Bridging Knowledge and Policy.
2. Innovation Diplomacy: Analysing the international political economy from a Global South perspective.
3. Practical negotiation concepts and techniques for science and innovation diplomacy.

4. The role of science diplomacy in addressing global environmental changes in the LAC region.

Additionally, the program will incorporate 16 regional case studies to illustrate the diverse applications of science diplomacy and a simulation game to provide practical experience in the complexities of science diplomacy. This initiative is designed to enhance understanding and build capacity in science diplomacy, specifically crafted to meet the challenges and opportunities unique to LAC countries.

Throughout the curriculum development process, frequent planning meetings with SDC advisory board members, and IAI Directorate staff were important to shape its framework. These meetings ensured a detailed and systematic approach to curriculum design. This approach facilitated a thorough, step-by-step definition of curriculum components, ensuring alignment with educational objectives and adherence to the program's strategic goals.

Pillar 2: Knowledge Hub, Summary of the structure and information to date: The pillar in question embodies an architecture, capturing the multi-faceted aspects of science diplomacy. It aims to foster synergies across various thematic areas within LAC, showing their interconnectivity. This strategy is intended to improve the formulation of responses to complex challenges today, by merging diverse perspectives from within the field of science diplomacy.

The hub development has started with a comprehensive mapping and systematic organization of critical information to optimize data management and accessibility, focusing specifically on how information can be stored, accessed, and utilized. A taxonomy of science diplomacy was established to support this, based on research on the topic, expected to enable more effective use of information.

The process will be systematically organized into distinct stages that will be subdivided into phases. Over the next six months, all stages and phases will be precisely defined, focusing specifically on addressing the unique needs and challenges of the region. This structuring will be undertaken while considering distinct types of data, each serving specific purposes:

- **Bibliography:** Creating a database of pertinent publications such as scientific articles, interviews, podcasts, white papers, and policy papers, categorized by type and their objectives. This bibliographic research is cross-disciplinary and foundational for understanding science diplomacy.
- **Actors and Experts:** Identifying key individuals and institutions influential or experts in science diplomacy is a collaborative effort to encourage broad collaboration and deepen understanding within the field.
- **Events:** Tracking both in-person and virtual events related to science diplomacy, including conferences and workshops, which facilitates ongoing learning and networking.

The initial, six-month stage will focus on identifying issues linked with capacity building, key stakeholders in LAC science diplomacy, and significant events. This task will be strongly supported by strategic partners like the DiploCientifica network and the University of São Paulo. The following three phases are planned:

- **Phase 1: Preparation and Preliminary Setup** - Setting up the necessary digital infrastructure and planning (in collaboration with IAI Directorate IT group)
- **Phase 2: Data Uploading and Verification** - Systematic uploading and verification of data.
- **Phase 3: Testing and Launch** - Finalizing the system online and ensuring operational functionality.

Each phase builds on the previous, ensuring an effective implementation that aligns with objectives and strengthens IAI's work in science diplomacy. This structured approach offers a comprehensive view, enabling effective management of the complex interplay between science, policy, and diplomacy,

Pillar 3: Emerging/Evolving/Innovation Science Diplomacy, one activity the SDC has explored to start advancing this pillar is to hold a series of training workshops in collaboration with partners working on entrepreneurship technologies. The SDC is working with the US National Academy of Sciences Global Sustainability and Development & Science and Technology for Sustainability Policy and Global Affairs Division, UNESCO's Section for Basic Science, Research, Innovation and Engineering, IEEE Entrepreneurship, and ETCube International. This partnership focuses on enhancing capacity building in science diplomacy, science, technology, and innovation policy, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship for sustainability and global environmental change. The initiative particularly emphasizes addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through planned training workshops across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Webinars: Advancing Science Diplomacy to address emerging, evolving and innovation issues

Main objective: Organize Webinars, conferences, and workshops. The goal is to convene relevant communities (policy and decisionmakers, diplomatic community, scientists, business, civil society) to raise science-policy awareness and promote dialogue, communication, and collaboration on current and emerging, evolving issues related to global change.		
Webinars	Anticipatory Diplomacy Nature-based solutions in the Anthropocene	Artificial Intelligence, entrepreneurship and global environmental change
Tentative date	3 May 2024	3 July 2024
Rationale	By bringing together policy makers, scientists and professionals from different fields, backgrounds, sectors, countries, these events provide an opportunity for interaction and exchange of ideas. This interaction can foster dialogue, help to build relationships, nurture constructive multilateralism, promote collaboration, and increase understanding between different groups and countries. This can also help to raise science-policy awareness, and support for the SDC towards partnerships and fundraising.	

Webinar 1: Anticipatory Diplomacy and Nature-based solutions in the Anthropocene, Science diplomacy has been identified as a tool to strengthen the science-policy interface to expand transboundary collaboration. By fostering cooperation between scientific communities, policymakers, and stakeholders, science diplomacy is crucial in addressing global challenges related to environmental sustainability, biodiversity loss, and climate change. It can also facilitate the development and implementation of solutions that harness the power of ecosystems to mitigate and adapt to environmental threats. The Webinar integrates the ability of Science Diplomacy and Nature-based solutions to tackle one of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change.

Nature-based solutions offer multifaceted benefits, such as carbon sequestration, flood

protection, and habitat restoration, while promoting social and economic development. However, controversies exist around its implementation, including debates over land use, resource allocation, and potential conflicts with existing land rights. In this context, it is imperative to foster a discussion and raise the voices of local communities and indigenous peoples, who often possess traditional knowledge and intimate connections to their environments. Including a diversity of voices ensures that nature-based solutions respect cultural heritage, prioritize community well-being, and uphold principles of environmental justice. By integrating local perspectives into decision-making processes, science diplomacy can enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of nature-based solutions, leading to more sustainable outcomes that benefit both people and the planet. Speakers: TBC

Webinar 2: Artificial Intelligence, entrepreneurship, global environmental change, Science diplomacy, artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurship are interconnected elements that have the potential to catalyze positive change in LAC. By leveraging scientific collaboration, technological innovation, and entrepreneurial skills, the region can address environmental challenges, drive sustainable development, and improve societal well-being. The webinar will provide a platform for experts from academia, policymakers, the private sector, and other professionals to discuss and explore innovative solutions at the intersection of these three domains. Speakers: TBC

Additionally, the work of STeP fellows in emerging technologies, and the plan to hold a series of webinars on emerging/evolving and innovation issues, and webinars will serve as initial activities of this pillar.

Fundraising Efforts and Partnerships: Fundraising and partnerships are pivotal in establishing and growing the SDC. The Center's ability to fulfil its mission and advance its initiatives heavily relies on securing adequate financial resources and fostering strategic collaborations.

Fundraising efforts are essential to kickstart its flagship activities during the first three years. These activities will lay the foundation for establishing the SDC within the political, diplomatic, and scientific communities and other stakeholders. By securing investments from various member countries, the SDC can ensure the implementation of key projects and capacity-building initiatives. In this context, ongoing negotiations with IAI Parties are taking place to provide financial and in-kind contributions to sustain the current activities and future developments. The SDC has successfully secured initial funding to support its activities from the National Science Foundation, SENACYT Panama, MCTI Brazil, FAPESC Santa Catarina Brazil. The IAI Directorate and the SDC are negotiating with other Parties and non-Parties to leverage additional financial resources. In addition to fundraising, partnerships are instrumental in amplifying the reach and effectiveness of the SDC's endeavours. Partners can also support leveraging of resources - expertise and funding. By developing joint proposals for conferences, science diplomacy training activities, and political events, the SDC can enhance its visibility, attract diverse perspectives, and foster knowledge exchange on a global scale.

- The IAI Directorate is renewing its MoU with its Associate, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), after a successful collaboration during the first years of the agreement's implementation. Strong IAI-AAAS collaborations were developed under the AAAS Science, Technology, and Policy Program (STPF) and IAI STeP Program, and in Science Diplomacy.
- The IAI Directorate signed an MoU with DiploCientifica in March 2024, one of the region's most important Science Diplomacy Networks. DiploCientifica is the largest network of professionals specialized in science diplomacy within Latin America and the Caribbean, offering a unique platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the

advancement of science diplomacy across diverse sectors. Because of this initial collaboration, DiploCientífica experts participated in the IAI SDC training workshop in Panama (October 2023) is supporting the second upcoming IAI-National Secretary for Science, Technology (SENACYT) workshop in Panama in June 2024, and the IAI-Ministry of Science, Technology Innovation (MCTI) workshop in Brazil in December 2024. In addition, DiploCientífica experts published a white paper on “Recommendations for a scientific diplomacy strategy to safeguard the Amazon” in collaboration with the IAI Directorate and the SDC in February 2024.

- The IAI Directorate signed an MoU with FAPESC, the science and technology funding agency of the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil. Due to the IAI-FAPESC collaboration, FAPESC joined the Belmont Forum. A joint work plan has been developed with the IAI. FAPESC will provide training, research, and capacity-building funds to participate in the IAI STeP program, Science Diplomacy Center, and TD training associated with the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on Tropical Forests.
- The IAI Directorate Science Diplomacy Center is working with partners at the US National Academy of Sciences/ Global Sustainability and Development & Science and Technology for Sustainability Policy and Global Affairs Division, UNESCO/ Section for Basic Science, Research, Innovation and Engineering, IEEE Entrepreneurship, “Eye-triple-E,” the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and ETCube International. This collaboration aims to develop capacity building on the nexus of Science Diplomacy, Science, Technology, and Innovation policy, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship for Sustainability and Global Environmental Change, particularly with the SDGs. This partnership will allow the development of a series of training workshops on Science Diplomacy and Entrepreneurship in LAC in 2024-2025. UNESCO, IEEE and ETCube are providing financial and in-kind contributions to this training.
- The Directorate is discussing potential collaborations with several other organizations, which are interested in Science Diplomacy. Some examples are the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI) with a particular interest in developing training for diplomatic schools in LAC; the Organization of American States (OAS) interested in developing training on Water Diplomacy; and the UN Coordination Office interested in providing training to a broader range of government officials and stakeholders, etc.

Conferences and Events: The SDC has been invited to participate in and organize several national, regional, and international events in Science Diplomacy:

- SDC participated in a panel at the MERCOSUR Science Diplomacy Seminar at the invitation of Argentina's focal point at the Ministry of Science and Technology (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3 August 2023) sponsored by the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI).
- SDC participated in a Science Diplomacy and Capacity Building panel at the Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) Summit (Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 October 2023).
- SDC hosted a side event on Science Diplomacy at the Global Research Council (GRC) Americas Annual Meeting (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9 November 2023) upon invitation from Argentina’s CONICET and Chile’s ANID.
- SDC participated in the 1st European Science Diplomacy Conference: Panel on Science Diplomacy in the relations between the EU and Latin America (Madrid, Spain, 18 December 2023).
- SDC in the Third Edition Hybrid [IBRO/PEDECIBA](#) Postgraduate Course Science Diplomacy for the Global South with a focus in Neuroscience (Hybrid, Uruguay, 14 to 21, December 2023)
- SDC organized a panel session entitled "Nurturing Multilateralism: A Science Diplomacy Center for the Americas" on 17 February 2024 at the AAAS annual

meeting in Denver, USA.

SWOT Analysis for the SDC: The SDC has been developing a SWOT analysis for IAI's Capacity Building programs, which includes the Science Diplomacy Center. The analysis framework focuses on the Center's future vision to establish effective measures. The design of the SWOT specifies what opportunities the Science Diplomacy Center should take advantage of, what strengths need to be developed, which threats are to be reduced, and what weaknesses need to be overcome. Although the analysis captures IAI's effective capabilities, it goes beyond IAI and reflects on Science Diplomacy within the contextualization of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Opportunities for capacity-building programs abound and evolve around increased science and technology engagement, elevate the voice of diverse marginalized groups, science-policy support, address tools and ways to think from multiple disciplines and actors across scales and sectors, emphasize ethical, equitable, responsible, transparent, inclusive, and open processes as standard by bringing and mobilizing diverse minds and actions to solve longstanding complex challenges related to environmental, social and economic development are only a few pressing opportunities IAI's capacity training programs should continue emphasizing. Please consult the complete document [here](#).

The evaluated IAI SDC has been built upon a decadelong history of multinational collaborative research networks and capacity-building, presence, trusted networks, visibility, and outreach as significant strengths. IAI has access to relevant and innovative Science Diplomacy curricula for policymakers, the diplomatic community, and other decision-makers. The Science Diplomacy Center's vision for the future should advance scientific cooperation, science diplomacy communication strategies, and fairer political and diplomatic approaches to knowledge exchange. Please refer to a synthesis of major highlights [here](#).

The establishment of the Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) marks a significant stride in promoting science diplomacy, highlighted by regional training events and workshops. The SDC collaboration in the first training event with Panama, the upcoming workshops in Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay, and the development of a science diplomacy curriculum with the University of Sao Paulo are pivotal in fostering a robust science-policy interface.

Moreover, the Directorate's efforts in capacity are reflected in the expansion of the Science, Technology, and Policy Fellowship (STeP) Program and the Virtual Campus, which offer diverse educational opportunities in science diplomacy and transdisciplinary research. These initiatives are bolstered by the Directorate's and SDC's active participation in various international conferences and events, showcasing IAI's commitment to nurturing constructive multilateralism and advancing the scientific agenda in the Americas.

The meeting of the SDC Advisory Board in Guatemala City in April 2024 will be essential to strengthen the IAI's Science Diplomacy Center as a reference for supporting Science Diplomacy and Global Environmental Change in the Americas.