

Terms of Reference

CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP MATERIALS ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY RELATED TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THE AMERICAS

BACKGROUND

The IAI sits at the intersection of science and policy. As a regional intergovernmental organization, with 19 member countries of the Americas (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela), the IAI aims to provide nations with the tools and institutional capacities to better face the challenges posed by global change. Global change is defined by the IAI as the interactions of biological, chemical, physical and social processes that regulate changes in the functioning of the Earth system, including the particular ways in which these changes are influenced by and impact on human activities. This collaborative, multinational effort is guided by the understanding that global change is urgent, complex, dynamic, and with considerable uncertainties.

Innovative science and training approaches are needed to increase institutional and research capacities across the Americas. These efforts are grounded in the IAI's foundational principles, identified in the Strategic Plan: transdisciplinary (TD) science, participatory and inclusive design, innovative and solution based science, multi-scalar analysis and integration, open data/science, scientific outreach and knowledge mobilization, alignment with environmental governance frameworks, where appropriate, and strengthening capacities across the science-policy interface. For more details about the IAI's science agenda: <https://www.iai.int/en/research/agenda>.

IAI supports science that improves the Americas' ability to cope with and thrive under global change, making a positive impact towards the sustainability of the region. The following strategic areas have been identified: reduction of poverty and inequality; improving food, water, and energy security; climate change adaptation and mitigation; improved human health and wellbeing; conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems; clean air, water and soil. For more details about the IAI's strategic plan: <https://www.iai.int/pdf/en/Strategicplan-en.pdf>.

The Americas have a long-standing culture and history of scientific collaboration and of science diplomacy. The IAI is the result of such cooperation. As an inter-governmental organization, the IAI works with its member countries and with the scientific community to promote regional cooperation around transdisciplinary research on global environmental change. In many ways, a broad definition of science diplomacy reflects the objectives of the IAI given that the organization focuses on a transboundary approach to support science for policy formulation. By appreciating the different perspectives and responsibilities of stakeholders in the science-policy nexus, the IAI plays a key role in national, regional and international relationships and negotiations. In context

of the IAI, a science-diplomat is grounded in the pursuit of scientific excellence, international cooperation, evidenced based policies, and the full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global change.

SCOPE OF WORK

The IAI Directorate is developing a regional Center for Science Diplomacy (CSD) to promote science diplomacy training, best practices, networks, and activities in the America. As a result, the IAI Directorate seeks a consultant team to develop training materials on science diplomacy related to GEC in the Americas. These training materials should enhance the capacity of professionals and institutions across the Americas to better understand and practice science diplomacy concepts, tools, and processes, and to contribute to the development of more effective public policies, and international science-policy collaborations. Moreover, the materials should also contribute to the IAI Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship professional development training program in science diplomacy (<https://www.iai.int/en/step>) which implements a “Train the Trainers” methodology.

Training materials should aim to increase the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the IAI’s science and capacity building activities, and should address other considerations of equity, diversity and inclusion in GEC science and policy. Materials should target early to mid career professionals working in governments, academic institutions and private sector having an interest in participating in science diplomacy and the science-policy nexus. The selected consulting team will work closely with the IAI Directorate, the CSD steering committee, and a STeP Fellow hired and hosted by the IAI Directorate to assist in the implementation of the consultant team work plan.

Materials will be developed in close coordination with the IAI Directorate and key partners. The content should align with the IAI’s science agenda (<https://www.iai.int/en/research/agenda>), strategic plan (<https://www.iai.int/pdf/en/Strategicplan-en.pdf>), and IAI STeP program.

Deliverables

1. Inception report with detailed work plan, developed and submitted for approval by the IAI Directorate.
2. Coordinate with the IAI Directorate to produce a technical report with a series of Science Diplomacy case studies (15-25 examples) from IAI member countries, such as case studies that highlight the development and implementation of national and regional science diplomacy strategies, and the use of science diplomacy to inform adaptation and mitigation strategies for key GEC challenges. Case studies will be authored collaboratively by scientists, policy practitioners and other stakeholders from the Americas.

3. A simulation game that can be used in a virtual environment to teach about principles and best practices in Science Diplomacy relevant to GEC, drawing on real-world examples from the Americas.
4. Develop and launch a virtual asynchronous Science Diplomacy curriculum tailored to address GEC issues in the Americas. Content must include learning assessments and evaluation indicators. Training materials will showcase key principles, skills, and best practices in science diplomacy. The curriculum will draw on practical examples and case studies from Deliverable 2 and 3. The consultant team will work closely with the IAI Directorate and with the STeP program fellows to test the curriculum during the development stage. The curriculum will be hosted on a learning management system (LMS). The main contents should be available in Spanish and English (e.g., instructions, resources, assessments).
5. Design a comprehensive and integrated training package in Spanish and English on Science Diplomacy relevant to GEC in the Americas, based on Deliverables 2, 3, 4,. Additional materials to be developed and complement the training package will be welcome and considered a plus in the proposal. Implement the training package via virtual training through a series of live webinars, and via a presencial workshop in one IAI member country using a ‘train the trainer’ model. Travel and other expenses will be covered by the IAI Directorate, which will organize and manage the course.
6. Draft final report which includes a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework. This framework will assist the IAI in tracking the progress of the Science Diplomacy Center training and should include: key evaluation questions for each learning activity, indicators for monitoring, methodology for data collection on the indicators and potential evaluation activities to provide the IAI with a deeper understanding on ways to sustainably support the long term impact and success of the Science Diplomacy Center in alignment with the [IAI Strategic Plan](#).
7. Final report.

COSTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The consultancy is valued up to USD \$100,000, including local taxes, The intended start date is March 2022 and the period of implementation of the contract is twelve (12) months. No overhead may be charged, but accountable itemized administrative expenses may be considered.

REQUIREMENTS

Key experts on the consulting team should have the following expertise:

- At least 7 years of professional experience with GEC science-policy in the Americas

- At least 5 years of experience developing and conducting training or related work on Science Diplomacy
- At least 3 years of experience developing and implementing curriculum and other training in a virtual learning environment.
- Knowledge of transdisciplinary research and approaches, preferably on GEC
- Experience working in or with Latin America and the Caribbean
- Fluency in English and Spanish, written and verbal

The lead organization submitting the proposal must be from an IAI member country (<https://www.iai.int/en/structure/focal-points>) and must be independent of conflicts of interest.

Teams led by individuals from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Teams with representatives from multiple countries and experience in different sectors (schools of diplomacy and government, university, private sector, civil society) are encouraged to apply.

IAI POLICIES

The proposal should align with the IAI's policies as applicable.

Gender Policy:

<https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/Gender%20Policy%20on%20IAI%20Projects%20and%20Activities.pdf>

Open data/open science: <https://www.iai.int/index.php/en/post/detail/Open-Data>