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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-eighth meeting
Videoconference, 19 August 2020
Agenda item 12**

**Summary report of activities by the IAI Directorate during the
2019-2020 intersessional period**

1. This document has been prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Introduction

2. The extraordinary situation posed by the advent of COVID-19 prevented the IAI Directorate and the government of Paraguay from hosting the 28th meeting of the IAI Conference of the Parties (CoP-28) in Asunción, Paraguay. The IAI Directorate regrets that it will not be possible to meet in Asunción and is grateful for and acknowledges the efforts made by the government of Paraguay in the organization of CoP-28.
3. Several events related to the IAI Directorate's work during the intersessional period were to be presented and highlighted at the meeting. Additionally, other events focusing on research and science diplomacy were also planned.
4. In discussions with the government of Paraguay, the Chair of the Executive Council, and in consultation with other Parties, it was decided to delay CoP-28 until August 2019 and organize a virtual meeting via video conferencing systems.
5. It was also determined that CoP-28 would only address issues that require urgent and immediate attention such as the report of the Executive Council, the budget, and annual

report by the Directorate. Additional information on other topics relevant to the IAI Directorate's work program will be provided to Parties via notifications, communications and reports, and meetings during the 2020-2021 intersessional period.

6. The IAI Directorate notes that, at CoP-27 (Brasilia, 2019), Parties discussed the possibility of organizing meetings of the CoP on a biennial basis. They suggested that a biennial cycle to meetings of the CoP would provide many benefits including, but not limited to: increased time to implement decisions reached by the Parties, savings to the core budget, increased ability of the Directorate to focus on its work program as opposed to organization of the meeting, increased time to organize side events and invite researchers to present their results and more opportunities for the IAI Directorate to discuss with Parties their needs and priorities.
7. However, Article V, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, stipulates that *The Conference of the Parties shall meet at least once every year*. Changing the annual CoP cycle, therefore, would require an amendment approved by a two-thirds vote in the Conference of the Parties per Article XV, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement*. The amendment would only come into force sixty days after the date on which two-thirds of the Parties have notified the Depository, through diplomatic channels, that they have completed their corresponding domestic legal requirements.
8. Given the challenges in finalizing amendments, Parties made several other suggestions including the possibility of organizing truncated meetings and holding the meetings via video conferencing systems.
9. In light of the above, the situation created by COVID-19 provides Parties and the IAI Directorate with the opportunity to access the benefits of holding a virtual truncated CoP on a biennial basis. Face-to-face meetings would be held every other year and offer Parties a more complete accounting of work by the IAI Directorate particularly its programs in support of science, capacity building and science to policy.
10. Accordingly, the IAI Directorate will evaluate the success of organizing CoP-28 via video conferencing and make recommendations to Parties at CoP-29.
11. This report, therefore, presents a brief summary of achievements by the IAI Directorate during the 2019-2020 intersessional period. The IAI Directorate will provide additional in-depth information to Parties during the 2020-2021 intersessional period on its work and achievements via notifications, reports and face-to-face meetings.

Report on science

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
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<p>XXVII/5. The Science Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee are instructed to further revise and update the IAI Scientific Agenda in line with the IAI Strategic Plan to better reflect transdisciplinary research and science with special attention to human issues and systems.</p>	<p>Theme II - Science for the Sustainability of the Americas: The Articles of the Agreement Establishing the IAI state that IAI should support science that improves the Americas' ability to cope with and thrive under global change. By achieving the guiding principles, transdisciplinary research, and the scientific goals and objectives, the IAI expects to make a positive impact towards the sustainability of the region, address the cross-cutting challenges posed by climate change, and support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other multilateral targets within the context of national priorities.</p>	<p>The IAI has revised the science agenda, in coordination with the SAC and SPAC, to better reflect transdisciplinary research and science with special attention to human issues and systems. The Scientific Agenda will be discussed under agenda item 11 of the present meeting.</p>	<p>Future scientific activities supported by the IAI will be better able to address priorities for IAI parties (e.g., human issues and systems) via transdisciplinary research, in line with the IAI Strategic Plan.</p>
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<p>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.</p>	<p>1.i.a. By the end of 2019, the Directorate, with support of the SAC/SPAC and in collaboration with the Belmont Forum, will execute the Collaborative Research Network 4 (CRN4) to fund inter and transdisciplinary research to assist the Parties in advancing the understanding of global change issues.</p>	<p>In February 2020, the IAI submitted a 5-year funding proposal to NSF (currently under review) that would provide financial support for the development of a flexible funding mechanism for the Americas, allowing for alignment with Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions (CRA).</p>	<p>The IAI will bring together key national and regional funders to create a flexible Inter-American funding consortium for global change research to collaboratively finance multi-country TD projects in coordination with the Belmont Forum, Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) of Europe, and others.</p> <p>The IAI Directorate notes that it was planning to host a meeting of funding mechanisms and donors on the margins of the Belmont Forum Plenary meeting which was to be held in October 2020 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be re-scheduled for the 2020-2021 intersessional period.</p>
<p>XXVII/17. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue working in collaboration with</p>	<p>1.iv.a. The Directorate, with the support of the SAC/SPAC, will</p>	<p>(1) The IAI Directorate has designed and implemented a transdisciplinary</p>	<p>(1) The results of this project will guide the development of public health</p>

<p>the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee on the design and implementation of transdisciplinary research on aspects of global change related to the sciences of the earth, ocean, atmosphere, the environment and the social sciences in alignment with the IAI Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>continue with research activities and current capacity building program of the IAI.</p>	<p>project entitled, “Conduct of a vector-borne disease and gender dynamics study,” with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank via the University of West Indies (2020-2021). This project is being implemented in Jamaica, St. Lucia and Haiti. In line with the Strategic Plan, the project addresses the goal of improving human health and well-being, and includes the participation of the end users (public health sector) from project design to implementation.</p> <p>(2) In May 2020, the SAC, SPAC and IAI Directorate established a working group on COVID-19, and developed a concept note, outlining key opportunities and areas of action for the IAI. This document highlights the regional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on priority areas identified in the Strategic Plan such</p>	<p>actions in the Caribbean that aim to reduce gender inequalities in health outcomes. This particular project is focused on arboviral illness (e.g., dengue, chikungunya, Zika) and gender considerations in the development of climate driven early warning systems for epidemics. This project will also strengthen the IAI’s collaborations with Caribbean Parties and regional bodies, such as the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).</p> <p>(2) The strategic areas identified in the COVID-19 concept note will be considered when developing the scientific programs, capacity building and outreach activities led by the IAI in the coming year.</p>
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	<p>as poverty and equality, food and water security, human health and wellbeing, biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate action, and clean air, water and soil.</p>	
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Report on open science and open data

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
<p>XXVII/34. The IAI Directorate is instructed to strengthen its collaboration with the Committee on Data of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), the International Council for Science (ICS) and the African Academy of Science (AAS) to ensure development and implementation of a Collaborative South-South regional approach to the promotion of and adherence to open data and open science.</p>	<p>1.iv.Improve the scientific and technical capabilities and research infrastructure of the States of the region by identifying and promoting the development of facilities for the implementation of data management and by the scientific and technical training of professionals working with global change issues.</p>	<p>A proposal was submitted to the European Commission for discussions regarding possible financial support.</p> <p>The IAI Directorate contributed to a submission to the UNESCO consultation on Open Science: <i>Open Science and the potential for South-South cooperation: lessons learned from Latin America and the Caribbean</i> (see info document no. IAI/COP/28/Info/1).</p> <p>The IAI Directorate also contributed to the Draft ISC Working Paper to</p>	<p>The advent of COVID-19 prevented a meeting with the European Commission scheduled for April 2020. The IAI Directorate is following up on possible future dates.</p> <p>This initiative and the submissions to UNESCO contributes to the objective of Article II of the <i>IAI Agreement. The Institute shall pursue the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the full and open exchange of</i></p>

		the UNESCO consultation on Open Science.	<i>scientific information, relevant to global change</i>
XXVII/35. The IAI Directorate is instructed to communicate with scientists and researchers in the Americas and encourage them to register metadata and data on the IAI open data portal related to results of their research on global change.	<p>1.v. Foster standardization, collection, analysis, exchange, and openness of scientific data relevant to global change, as well as interoperability among the systems where data are stored.</p> <p>1.i.d. Every IAI-sponsored initiative follows the IAI Open Data Policy</p>	The IAI Directorate continues to communicate with its researchers to register data on the IAI open data portal using recommended metadata and other recommended standards.	<p>The IAI open data portal contributes to the fulfillment of Article II, Objectives, paragraph (e) of the <i>IAI Agreement: foster standardization, collection, analysis and exchange of scientific data relevant to global change.</i></p> <p>All six currently funded SGP</p>

	<p>and Principles.</p> <p>1.v.a. The Directorate will ensure that all IAI project data and metadata are discoverable on the IAI Open Data Portal, along with a plan for long-term preservation.</p> <p>1.v.b. Implement IAI's Open Data Policy and Principles as a requirement under all IAI sponsored research.</p>		<p>projects registered with the IAI Open Data portal as required by the terms of their grant agreements, a mandatory annual reporting requirement.</p>
<p>XXVII/36. The Directorate is instructed to establish partnerships with relevant organizations to eliminate duplication of work and to increase access to open data.</p>	<p>1.vii. Promote cooperation among the different research institutions of the region.</p> <p>1.viii. Promote cooperation with research institutions in other regions.</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate established a Memorandum of Cooperation with RedCLARA to work on a regional level for the standardization, enhancement of technical capacity and open access to information. This was announced by the IAI Directorate during a RedCLARA webinar on open data repositories (11 May 2020).</p>	<p>RedCLARA and the IAI are planning a number of joint activities during the 2020-2021 intersessional period.</p> <p>The IAI participated in a webinar on Climate and Health hosted by RedCLARA (11 June 2020)</p> <p>RedCLARA is also supporting the project on a Collaborative South-South regional approach to the promotion of and adherence to</p>

			open data and open science
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Report on capacity building

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
XXVI/34. The IAI Directorate is instructed to initiate discussions with the Organization of American States with a view to establish a Memorandum of Understanding related to mutual support and collaboration on research related to global change in the Americas.	Theme I - Meeting the needs of the Parties' to address global environmental change problems. Goal 3. Parties have worked collaboratively towards the Vision of the IAI to accomplish more together than any one country can achieve alone. Theme III - Sustainability of the IAI. Goal 2. The IAI has raised its profile	In March 2019 the IAI and the OAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation mechanisms to provide stronger scientific contributions to policy responses and to build human and institutional capacities to support sustainable development in the Americas. As a result, the	Development of joint IAI-OAS activities and fundraising in the Caribbean that would strengthen the participation of Caribbean countries in the IAI. In addition, the participation of IAI at OAS's meetings promoted the engagement of the IAI with the Ibero-American Program of Science and Technology for Development (CYTED), and the

	<p>among Parties and external partners. Goal 3. All nations in the Americas have become Parties to the IAI.</p>	<p>Directorate has participated in several OAS conferences on scientific and technological cooperation, in particular, the Prospecta Americas meeting on “Transformative technologies, transdisciplinary science-policy networks, and global change” and the meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCyT). Furthermore, IAI and OAS are jointly planning a High-Level Workshop: <i>Building a science-based agenda for improving decision-making on resilience in the Caribbean</i>, which will be hosted by the government of Dominica (event was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19). The Caribbean meeting will be funded jointly by IAI and OAS with additional financial resources from Amazon Web Services, and NOAA with resources from the</p>	<p>signing of an MoU between the IAI Directorate and Peru’s National Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC).</p>
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		US-Caribbean Resilience Partnership.	
XXVII/17. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue working in collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science Policy Advisory Committee on the design and implementation of transdisciplinary research on aspects of global change related to the sciences of the earth, ocean, atmosphere, the environment and the social sciences in alignment with the IAI Strategic Plan.	1.iv.a.The Directorate, with the support of the SAC/SPAC, will continue with research activities and current capacity building program of the IAI.	The Directorate has identified academic and policy collaborators interested in fostering TD training. It also engaged in fundraising to support the development of an international seminar and postgraduate course to contribute to TD curriculum development at a renowned academic universities in Latin America, the Faculty of Engineering and Water Sciences of the Universidad Nacional del Litoral (FICH/UNL), is a case in point. FICH/UNL is also a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Training Centre. The IAI also invited the private sector, the Argentine Association of Regional Consortiums of Agricultural	The IAI Directorate held an international seminar/postgraduate course and Science-Policy forum on <i>Integrating Global Change knowledge to decision-making processes: a transdisciplinary approach</i> in September 2019 in Santa Fe, Argentina. The IAI and partners developed an inter- and transdisciplinary academic curriculum for a master and doctoral training program at FICH/UNL. The IAI training was attended by graduate students, scientists, and professionals from the agriculture, water resources, disaster risk reduction, from the public and private sectors from 9 countries. Other collaborators and funders were the

		<p>Experimentation (CREA), and other formal regional organizations, such as the La Plata Basin Intergovernmental Committee (CIC) to collaborate in this activity.</p>	<p>WMO, CIC, CREA, and the government of the City and Province of Santa Fe. A broader impact generated by these events was the interest in various sectors of society (local government, private sector, academia and the press), how to address, in an integrated way, major issues of global change such as land use change agricultural expansion and its impacts on regional climate, hydrology and other socioeconomic impacts, particularly in La Plata Basin, one the most important agricultural areas in the world. The IAI activities raised the interest of the press which covered the events of the IAI/FICH/UNL and interviews with several officials and IAI scientists.</p>
<p>XXVII/18. The IAI Directorate is instructed to implement the IAI</p>	<p>Guiding Principles: viii. Build capacities that enhances the knowledge and</p>	<p>The Directorate invited Parties to nominate members to the IAI informal</p>	<p>The STeP fellowship program was officially launched in June</p>

<p>Science and Technology Policy (STeP) Fellowships Program, subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p>	<p>skills of institutions and individuals and strengthens the science-policy interface for global change, including climate change and biodiversity and ecosystem services for long-term human well-being and sustainable development</p> <p>Article II, paragraphs d), f) of the <i>Agreement establishing the IAI</i> state: <i>d) Improve the scientific and technical capabilities and research infrastructure of the States of the region by identifying and promoting the development of facilities for the implementation of data management and by the scientific and technical training of professionals; f) Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to government for the development of public policy relevant to global change.</i></p>	<p>working group to assist in the design and implementation of STeP along with SAC/SPAC and Associate members (AAAS, Future Earth). Party nominations came from Canada, Panama, Paraguay and the USA. The Directorate, with the support of the working group, developed STeP program goals, profile for fellows, host organizations, and STeP professional training pillars. Moreover, the Directorate designed additional aspects of STeP, developed outreach material, and negotiated the implementation of its first pilot in Latin America. The first pilot was developed with the private sector in collaboration with Consorcios Regionales de Experimentación Agrícola (CREA) in Argentina. The Directorate is currently negotiating with other Parties the</p>	<p>2020 with a first pilot developed in collaboration with the private sector in Argentina. CREA, the largest agricultural producer association in the country, is the IAI partner and host organization. Four STeP fellows will be funded by CREA and Argentina's CONICET from 2020-2022. CREA and CONICET will fund 4 fellows every two years for a first phase of 6 years.</p>
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		<p>implementation of STeP in their countries in response to science-policy and science advisement priorities and sectors identified by host agencies in the public and private sectors. The IAI is also developing 3 professional training modules to be offered to STeP fellows and host organizations, under a train the trainers' approach. The initial training pillars are Leadership, Science Communication, and Science Diplomacy. The IAI will also hold joint training and networking activities with fellows, host institutions, mentors and participating countries and establish an Inter-American Network of Science-Policy Fellows and Organizations to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices to address transboundary and regional issues of</p>	
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		global change priorities to the Americas.	
XXVII/19. The IAI Directorate is instructed to invite IAI Parties to participate in a new iteration of the IAI Research Internship Program and Practical Training Program. Parties will be invited to nominate national institutions, or endorse institutions identified by the Directorate, to serve as research and/or policy host organizations and report back at the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of external financial resources.	<p>Guiding Principles: viii. Build capacities that enhances the knowledge and skills of institutions and individuals and strengthens the science-policy interface for global change, including climate change and biodiversity and ecosystem services for long-term human well-being and sustainable development</p> <p>Article II, paragraphs d), f), g) of the <i>Agreement establishing the IAI</i> state: <i>d) Improve the scientific and technical capabilities and research infrastructure of the States of the region by identifying and promoting the development of facilities for the implementation of data management and by the scientific and technical training of professionals; f) Improve public awareness and</i></p>	In February 2020, the IAI submitted a 5-year funding proposal to NSF (currently under review) that would provide financial support for the development of a new program to Build Capacities for Science-Informed Policy for the Americas. One component of the program is to promote short-term science-policy training exchanges for scientists and policy professionals across borders.	The Directorate will start the implementation of the program and identify key research and policy institutions in IAI Parties to serve as research and policy host organizations (years 1-5 of the new program), subject to the availability of external financial resources.

	<p><i>provide scientific information to government for the development of public policy relevant to global change; g) Promote cooperation among the different research institutions of the region.</i></p>		
<p>XXVII/20. The IAI Directorate is instructed to develop future Seed Grant Programs associated with the Professional Development Seminars that foster the development of transdisciplinary research teams and encourage the participation of scientists and professionals from IAI Parties, subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p>	<p>Guiding Principles: viii. Build capacities that enhances the knowledge and skills of institutions and individuals and strengthens the science-policy interface for global change, including climate change and biodiversity and ecosystem services for long-term human well-being and sustainable development</p> <p>Article II, paragraphs a), d), f), g) of the <i>Agreement establishing the IAI</i> state: a) <i>Promote regional cooperation for interdisciplinary research on aspects of global change related to the sciences of the earth, ocean, atmosphere, and the environment</i></p>	<p>In February 2020, the IAI submitted a 5-year funding proposal to NSF (currently under review) that would provide financial support for the development of a new program to Build Capacities for Science-Informed Policy for the Americas. One component of the program is to develop regional TD training workshops associated with a new iteration of a Seed Grant Program.</p>	<p>The Directorate will work on the development of a new iteration of a Seed Grant Program (years 2-5 of the new program) associated with the transdisciplinary training, subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p>

	<p><i>and to social sciences, with particular attention to impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, socio-economic impacts, and technologies and economic aspects associated with the mitigation of and adaptation to global change;</i></p> <p><i>d) Improve the scientific and technical capabilities and research infrastructure of the States of the region by identifying and promoting the development of facilities for the implementation of data management and by the scientific and technical training of professionals;</i></p> <p><i>f) Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to government for the development of public policy relevant to global change;</i></p> <p><i>g) Promote cooperation among the different research institutions of the region.</i></p>		
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Report on science-policy

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
<p>XXVII/23. The Parties are invited to establish a process or mechanism by which the IAI focal point would be able to present the outcomes and results of IAI scientific projects to decision makers for the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p>	<p>Theme I, Goal 2: Parties were able to make better informed and coordinated decisions on global change issues</p> <p>Per I.2.ii.c. of the Strategic Plan, Parties with shared priorities, request the Directorate to continually organize activities to address the challenges faced under those priorities as opportunities arise.</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate, along with key regional partners, organized two meetings, one in the Caribbean on resilience and one in Uruguay on drought, that were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IAI PIs were invited and included in the meeting agendas to allow scientific results to be presented to those IAI Focal Points in attendance as well as other partners and decision makers in the region.</p>	<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings have been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date in 2021.</p>
<p>XXVII/24. The Parties are invited to help the IAI Directorate to identify the priority areas</p>	<p>I.2.i. The Parties work with the SAC, SPAC and the Directorate to map their domestic and international global change policy and</p>	<p>(1)The first phase of the NSF proposal (under review) is dedicated to “conducting a robust regional assessment of the</p>	<p>(1) The Directorate anticipates commencing this mapping assessment with the Parties in the first quarter of</p>

<p>and research needs for policy and decision making related to global change.</p>	<p>decision making landscape. This will support the IAI in funding research that is policy-relevant for member countries.</p>	<p>national and regional gaps, needs and interests with respect to the global change science-policy nexus in the region. This assessment will allow countries to better inform the IAI Directorate on national needs in a regional context, offering insights into the policy processes, bottlenecks, and the leverage points where the provision of scientific information can be most effective.”</p> <p>(2) The Directorate has invited the Parties to share research needs and priorities for four Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions (CRA) in the intersessional period: Food Systems and Climate Change, Pathways to Sustainability, Towards Sustainability of Soils and Groundwater for Society, and a brand new CRA under development on Migration.</p>	<p>2021, pending approval of the grant by NSF.</p> <p>(2) The Directorate enabled and promoted the incorporation of LAC research needs and priorities into three Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions (CRA) in the intersessional period: Food Systems and Climate Change, Pathways to Sustainability, Towards Sustainability of Soils and Groundwater for Society, and will facilitate the inclusion of Parties’ priorities into a brand new CRA under development on Migration, with the first scoping workshop to be held virtually in July 2020.</p> <p>(3) The Pathways to Sustainability CRA will launch late July 2020.</p>
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		<p>(3)The Directorate advanced LAC participation in Belmont Forum CRAs by directly enabling and including our network of scientists, researchers, public and private institutions, decision makers, and stakeholders in the Pathways to Sustainability CRA through an IAI annex to the call text.</p>	
<p>XXVII/25. The IAI Directorate is instructed to establish a mechanism to inform Parties, through their focal points, of outcomes and results of IAI scientific projects that may assist in the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p>	<p>I.2.ii. The Directorate will identify knowledge gaps, find commonalities, and direct research and resources towards informing Parties' priority needs.</p>	<p>(1) Per I.2.ii.c. of the Strategic Plan, Parties with shared priorities, request the Directorate to continually organize activities to address the challenges faced under those priorities as opportunities arise.</p> <p>(2) The IAI Directorate is working with the PIs from two SGP projects with Uruguayan researchers and stakeholders to</p>	<p>(1) The IAI Directorate, along with key regional partners, organized two meetings, one in the Caribbean on resilience and one in Uruguay on drought, that were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IAI PIs were invited and included in the meeting agendas to allow scientific results to be presented to those IAI Focal</p>

		<p>enable project results to be presented to the Uruguayan Focal Points and to align the ongoing projects with Party needs.</p> <p>(3) During the regional mapping assessment outlined above, the IAI Directorate will liaise with Parties to identify a process by which project results can best be presented and shared with Focal Points for possible inclusion in policy making, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Points in attendance as well as other partners and decision makers in the region. These meetings will be rescheduled for a later date.</p> <p>(2) The IAI held a conference call with SGP PIs from Uruguay on 30 June to identify priorities and facilitate the presentation and uptake of results by the Uruguayan Focal Points.</p> <p>(3) The Directorate anticipates commencing the regional mapping assessment in the first quarter of 2021, pending approval of the grant by NSF.</p>
XXVII/26. The IAI Directorate is instructed to assist the Parties in identifying priority areas	I.2.ii. The Directorate will identify knowledge gaps, find commonalities, and direct research and resources towards	The IAI Directorate will work with the Parties to identify and map national and regional science-policy priorities in the first	The Directorate anticipates commencing this mapping assessment in the first quarter of 2021, pending

and research needs for policy and decision making, as appropriate, related to global change and wherever possible, use this when designing and implementing its science program.	informing Parties' priority needs.	phase of implementing the NSF proposal currently under review (see Decision XXVII/24 above).	approval of the grant by NSF.
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Report on global outreach and communication

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
XXVII/21. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue to explore collaboration with the Green Climate Fund Secretariat, to act as a Readiness Delivery Partner in Latin America.	<p>Theme 2. 5. Climate Change iii. Support studies that monitor the evolution of the goals of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or other multilateral agreements of the Parties in the Americas, and studies that investigate the possible impacts of inaction.</p> <p>Theme 3., 1.i. Transfer relevant IAI-generated knowledge to the Parties for the</p>	<p>The Directorate met with the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Uruguay and SGP investigators working in Uruguay, to identify possible projects.</p> <p>The Directorate organized a teleconference with the Green Climate Fund Latin American Country Programming Division in March 2020 to discuss the required documentation for the IAI to become</p>	<p>The Directorate is considering the submission of a proposal on the impacts of climate change on Uruguayan fisheries and coastal zones, to be further discussed, following the identification of priorities by Uruguay.</p>

	<p>development of national, regional and international activities to assist in the development of evidence-based policy-making</p> <p>2.i. Provide evidence-based information to Parties to assist with the development of national, regional and international policies and activities, such as meeting national obligations related to the frameworks under multilateral environmental agreements and organizations</p> <p>4.ii The IAI is successful in increasing funding through writing new proposals and targeting strategic partnerships.</p>	<p>an Accredited Entity (national and regional entities require nomination by a NDA) and a Readiness Delivery Partner.</p>	
XXVII/22. The IAI	Theme 3.4,ii,d. Annually promote	The Directorate organized a	BMBF informed the IAI Directorate that

<p>Directorate is directed to identify viable avenues to engage Parties in partnership with the Initiative by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany to strengthen cooperation across countries and continents on issues of climate change.</p>	<p>collaboration with various stakeholders, including partners, donor agencies and development banks, academia, private sector and constituent groups at various governmental levels. This includes partnering with countries outside the Americas.</p>	<p>teleconference with BMBF to discuss implementation of joint programs in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	<p>COVID-19 has delayed internal discussions on a partnership with the IAI Directorate. They will inform the Directorate in due time.</p>
<p>Decision XXVI/31. The IAI Directorate is directed to continue to work with strategic partners, identify opportunities to facilitate the science to policy interface, including through science communication initiatives, and to facilitate dissemination of the scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national and international policies.</p>	<p>Theme 3.1.d. The Directorate facilitates and promotes topic networks for communication and collaboration, as well as South-South cooperation aimed at making full use of global change science to enhance the exchange of shared experiences.</p>	<p>The Directorate and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched a publication on 24 June 2020. The joint publication, “City-to-City Partnerships and South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Sustainable Urban Development”. The publication is available as information document no. IAI/COP/28/Info/1.</p> <p>The Directorate held a teleconference with the Caribbean Community Climate</p>	<p>A UNOSSC webinar, with Directorate participation, was held on 30 June 2020 to promote discussions on South-South cooperation. The IAI and the UNOSSC have agreed on an MoU and will finalized it at a future event.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing following this initial contact.</p>

		<p>Change Centre (CCCCC) to explore collaboration.</p> <p>The IAI Directorate is one of the authors to the final outcome document of a meeting organized by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean on post-2020 global biodiversity governance.</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate will continue to promote the objectives of the IAI as an integral element of documents related to the post-2020 biodiversity framework (see first paragraph in the first chapter of information document IAI/COP/28/Info/3).</p>
<p>Decision XXVI/36. The Directorate is instructed to adopt the IAI Communications strategy and plan to increase awareness of the IAI scientific agenda, the IAI capacity building program, and the activities related to the provision of data and information to</p>	<p>Theme 3.1.a. The IAI activities are communicated through official notifications, web postings and social media. Parties, SAC, SPAC, investigators and partner organizations are encouraged to disseminate those messages to relevant governmental agencies and focal</p>	<p>The Directorate is exploring collaboration with the Keystone Symposia and Virtual Keystone Symposia (VKS) to produce 4 ScienceTalks highlighting COVID-19 and IAI research. Topics and speakers are under discussion with the IAI-COVID working group of</p>	<p>The Directorate and VKS will produce 4 SciTalks to be made available online as of late August 2020.</p>

policy makers and other stakeholders.	points.	the SAC/SPAC.	
XXVII/27. Parties are invited to consider contributing financial resources, as appropriate, to ensure publication of a special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal.	Theme 3, Goal 1, The Directorate's communication and outreach initiatives facilitated and promoted communication of science in the region with a view to achieving sustainability in the Americas.	At CoP-27, the Guatemala Focal Point expressed interest in supporting publication costs for those papers with Guatemalan co-authors.	One manuscript invited to the Special Issue features Guatemalan co-authors. The IAI Directorate will communicate with Guatemala Focal Points pending the final review, revision, and acceptance of said manuscript.
XXVII/28. The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue working jointly with the Science Advisory Committee (SAC), the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) and CRN3 researchers on the publication of a Special issue on the IAI in a peer reviewed journal. XXVII/29. The IAI Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) are instructed to collaborate with the Directorate on the publication of a special issue on the	Theme 3, Goal 1, The Directorate's communication and outreach initiatives facilitated and promoted communication of science in the region with a view to achieving sustainability in the Americas.	Members of the IAI Directorate and the SAC and SPAC are currently serving as guest editors for the CRN3 Special Issue, <i>Bridging Science and Policy through Collaborative, Interdisciplinary Global Change Research in the Americas</i> , in the journal <i>Environmental Development</i> .	11 papers have been submitted by CRN3 researchers and are under review and revision. Publication of the special issue has been delayed due to personnel changes in the editorial board, challenges in securing reviewers with appropriate expertise, a switch in Elsevier's online editorial management platform, and setbacks related to COVID-19.

IAI in a peer reviewed journal, by acting as guest editors, reviewers, and/or any other function that contributes to the publication of the Special issue.			
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Conclusions

- 12. This report does not purport to present a complete summary of activities organized by the IAI Directorate. Updates on activities omitted from this report will be provided to Parties during the 2020-2021 intersessional period. Unreported activities have not been completed due to the advent of Covid 19.
- 13. The IAI Directorate notes that activities described are fully supportive of Decisions adopted by the CoP and are aligned with the IAI Strategic Plan.
- 14. The IAI Directorate is grateful for the support received from Parties and its partners that made achievement of the IAI work plan possible.

Recommendation

- 15. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this report.