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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-ninth meeting
Videoconference
22-23 June 2021
Agenda item 14**

**Summary report of activities by the IAI Directorate during the
2020-2021 intersessional period**

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

Introduction

2. The advent of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to pose challenges to the timely development and implementation of several IAI activities.
3. Nevertheless, the key programs of the IAI continued their progress and implementation during the 2020-2021 intersessional period. Additionally, the IAI succeeded in the establishment of several new partnerships resulting in the expansion of scientific and capacity building activities.
4. The summary below describes the primary achievements of the IAI Directorate during the 2020-2021 intersessional period, as framed by COVID-19, with recommendations received from the Parties, the Executive Council, the Science Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee.

5. The IAI Directorate notes discussions during CoP-28 (Videoconference, 2020) on the possibility of scheduling the first meeting of the Executive Council during the new intersessional period a few months after the closing of the CoP. Accordingly, the 51st meeting of the Executive Council will be held in November 2021. Details on the organization of the meeting will be provided to Parties shortly after the conclusion of CoP-29.

Report on science

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
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.	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	The IAI submitted the revised science agenda to Parties and solicited additional revisions, as requested during CoP-28. Comments received from Canada, Argentina and Colombia were incorporated into the new version of the science agenda through guidance from the SAC and SPAC. The Scientific Agenda will be discussed under agenda item 12 of the present meeting.	Future scientific activities framed by the Scientific agenda will be better aligned with the Strategic plan. Parties are contributors to the evolving Scientific agenda. special

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	of national priorities.		
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.	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.	In February 2020, the IAI submitted a 5-year funding proposal to NSF, allowing for alignment with Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions (CRA).	Award letter from NSF should be issued prior to CoP-29. The budget was considerably revised in light of COVID-19. Additional funding was allocated to support seed grants for TD science, allowing for alignment with BF CEH2. Funding for the flexible funding mechanism and the regional assessment was removed from the proposal.
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	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. Theme III: The IAI is successful in increasing funding through writing new proposals and targeting strategic partnerships	(1) The IAI Directorate is executing two transdisciplinary projects entitled, "Conduct of a vector-borne disease and gender dynamics study," and "Integrating Climate Variability into the Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases" with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank via the University of West Indies (2020-	(1) The results of these projects will guide the development of public health actions in the Caribbean that aim to reduce gender inequalities in health outcomes, including early warning systems. This particular project is focused on arboviral illness (e.g., dengue, chikungunya, Zika), gender considerations, and the development of climate driven early

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<p>the social sciences in alignment with the IAI Strategic Plan.</p>		<p>2021). These projects are being implemented in Jamaica and St. Lucia. 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. The projects also support the new Gender Policy, through research on gender dimensions on global change.</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 as poverty and equality, food and water security, human health and</p>	<p>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>These projects also resulted in IAI being invited to submit a full proposal to a forthcoming EU funded study on climate and health with CARPHA (due June 2021)</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> <p>(3) Through a new collaboration with VKS, the SciTalks provided IAI Parties with information on the implications of COVID-19 on</p>

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		<p>wellbeing, biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate action, and clean air, water and soil. The SAC/SPAC intend to publish this commentary in 2021.</p> <p>(3) As a result of the COVID-19 working group, the IAI co-developed 3 SciTalks with Virtual Keystone Symposia (VKS). The SciTalks are on-demand scientific presentations featuring research that address compelling scientific and global health questions, followed by a panel discussion with experts in science and policy. SciTalk webinars were held for a regional audience monthly (Feb, Mar, Apr):</p> <p>-Food security and oceans during COVID: A case study from the Galápagos - 25 Feb 2021 http://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/SciTalk:-Food-security-and-oceans-during-COVID)</p>	<p>science-policy topics such as small scale fisheries in the Galapagos, forest fires and respiratory health in the Amazon, and nature based solutions for zoonoses.</p> <p>(4) The IAI is contributing to a feasibility assessment of climate and health early warning systems in the Americas for the IPCC.</p> <p>(5) Awaiting review and approval of the symposium proposal. This would provide the opportunity to bring together researchers and practitioners from the disaster risk reduction, climate and health sectors to identify research and policy needs/gaps across the Americas.</p>

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		<p>-Confluence of a pandemic with climate change and the results of deforestation- 26 Mar 2021 http://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Confluence-of-a-pandemic-with-climate-change-and-the-results-of-deforestation)</p> <p>- Nature-Based Solutions and Zoonoses - 22 April 2021 http://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Nature-Based-Solutions-and-Zoonoses)</p> <p>(4) Through engagement with a member of the SAC, the IAI was invited to participate as a contributing author to the IPCC chapter on Central and South America (WGIIAR6).</p> <p>(5) The Directorate submitted a symposium proposal to the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) annual meeting entitled: <i>Earth observations for infectious disease early warnings: What can</i></p>	

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		<i>we learn from climate and disaster communities? A member of the SAC is part of the symposium.</i>	
	<p>Theme II Goals: This project addresses climate action, human health and wellbeing</p> <p>Theme III: The IAI has raised its profile among Parties and external partners. The Directorate, with Partners, continues to hold regional science-policy workshops to address research gaps and policy needs</p>	<p>The IAI was invited to participate in the Consortium of Universities in Global Health (CUGH) Session hosted by NIH on <i>Closing the Gap Between Knowledge and Practice: Implementation Science Priorities for Health Adaptation for Climate Change.</i></p>	<p>The IAI contributed to an open discussion about the barriers and gaps in knowledge for the implementation of climate adaptation measures for the health sector, and the role of implementation science, and is currently contributing to a working group to author a commentary on this topic.</p>
	<p>Theme III: The Directorate works with project Principal Investigators to provide timely project and other relevant information to the Parties, including through the organization of side-events, science-policy fora, and workshops.</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate coordinated two meetings with SGP-HW PIs. Early career scientists and students had the opportunity to present research advances. PIs had the opportunity to learn about other projects and to meet investigators, thus supporting regional networking and scientific synergies.</p>	<p>PIs will present short videos with policy results at CoP-29. Project PIs discussed challenges and best practices in doing TD research during COVID-19. These experiences will be systematized in a scientific article in 2022.</p>

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	Theme III: 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 experience	The IAI participated regularly in the GeoHealth community of practice, hosted by NASA.	GeoHealth provided a global community and platform for IAI to disseminate information about events and publications, as well as participating in regular meetings to represent a regional perspective. Investigators in IAI's network were also encouraged to participate.
	Theme III: The IAI is successful in increasing funding through writing new proposals and targeting strategic partnerships	The IAI has been invited to lead a project funded by the Wellcome Trust on landscape tools utilised in climate sensitive infectious disease modelling with a focus on modelling tools used in LMICs.	Results of this analysis will be relevant to researchers and stakeholders working on climate and health modeling worldwide. This effort allowed the IAI to engage with a new funding partner, the Wellcome Trust.
	Theme III: 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 experience	In March 2021, the IAI helped to organize the first international environmental symposium on "Nature Based Solutions for a Sustainable Callao" with the Regional Government of Callao, Peru	This effort allowed the IAI to leverage its network of experts to bring science and policy knowledge to the Regional Government of Callao.

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	Theme III: Increase collaboration with the Belmont Forum, including through setting up a similar co-funding mechanism for the Americas, for the design and development of Collaborative Research Action	The IAI has established a steering committee guide the Directorate's activities in the areas of Climate, Environment and Health (CEH) with experts from the SAC/SPAC, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the USA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Wellcome Trust.	The steering committee will guide the regional scoping workshop for the Belmont Forum CRA on CEH2 (to be held in July 2021) and professional development seminars, with seed grants, to be implemented by the IAI in 2021-2022.

Report on capacity building

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
Decision XXVII/18. The IAI Directorate is instructed to implement the IAI Science and Technology Policy (STeP) Fellowships Program, subject to the availability of external financial resources.	Theme I, Objective 3, Action iii: The IAI supports capacity building efforts in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, collaboration and innovation.	Directorate works with its Associates and partners in the development of transdisciplinary training and science diplomacy capacity building projects, and in the organization of science to policy workshops and activities. The novel Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) fellowship program	STeP has been implemented in two countries. Eight Parties and one country not Party to the Agreement have expressed interest in participation

		was launched by the IAI in 2020.	
Decision XXVIII/7. The Conference of the Parties invites Mitacs in Canada to become an Associate of the Institute.	Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vii: Promote cooperation among the different institutions of the region.	<p>The Directorate has begun collaboration with Canada's Mitacs regarding the STeP program. Mitacs was nominated as the first Canadian institution to become an IAI Associate. Mitacs has accepted to become an Associate and the MoU will be finalized possibly prior to CoP-29.</p> <p>Discussions with international partners to provide IAI Parties with additional opportunities and leverage financial resources for joint programs and funding are ongoing. examples include: -Letter of Agreement signed in April 2021 with the Past Global Changes (PAGES) program to launch an "International mobility research Fellowship Program for Latin American and Caribbean early career</p>	<p>Greater transparency in the development of the Program and adherence to participatory and transdisciplinary approach to implementation.</p> <p>These agreements will allow for further collaborations between Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada with the IAI in research, capacity building and science-policy interface</p>

		<p>scientists on past global changes sciences” from 2021-2024. The program will be funded by PAGES and administered by the IAI.</p> <p>The IAI Directorate staff has also been invited to serve as a member of the selection committee for the AAAS David and Betty Hamburg Award for Science Diplomacy for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 cycles.</p>	
<p>Decision XXVI/27. The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue the development of capacity building programs and activities for professionals from the Americas; to engage with strategic partners, and support Parties by providing training in areas of national and regional interest, subject to the availability of external financial resources.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan, Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vi: Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments of the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p>	<p>The Directorate has held 20 virtual training sessions that are part of the STeP Professional Development Plan on Science-Policy, Science Diplomacy, Communication and Leadership for the Fellows and several more that are planned for the period May-September 2021. Information on these workshops is available on the IAI website at: http://www.iai.int/en/step</p>	<p>Enhanced human and institutional capacity, and regional networking among fellows and their host organizations across the Americas..</p>

		<p>STeP has been featured in recent publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Closing the Gap Between Emerging Initiatives and Integrated Strategies to Strengthen Science Diplomacy in Latin America” - https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frma.2021.664880/full - “Bridging Policymakers to Science through Communication: a perspective from Latin America” - https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frma.2021.654191/full - UNESCO / CILAC Publication on Science Diplomacy that points to the STeP program as a regional collaboration tool for scientific diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean (see attached page 20-21 that presents IAI and CYTED as examples) http://forocilac.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PolicyPapers- 	<p>STeP has been considered as an innovative program that will foster science diplomacy and communication in Latin America and the Caribbean. Greater awareness of the STeP program.</p>
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	<p>Themel, Goal 1, Objective iii: Pursue, on a regional scale, research that is of the interest of and best pursued by several States or institutions and dedicate itself to scientific issues of regional importance</p>	<p>The Directorate worked on the development and implementation of its STeP Program as well as met with representatives from several countries including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and the non-Party state Trinidad and Tobago. The IAI has corresponded with Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas Y Tecnicas (CONICET) Argentina, Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication of Brazil, Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation of Chile, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica (CONCYTEC) and the Ministry of the Environment of</p>	<p>STeP is becoming well known among IAI Parties as a program that can contribute to support more effective provision of scientific information for the development of public policy.</p>

		<p>Peru, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (Minciencias) of Colombia, Secretaría de Educación, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación in Mexico City, Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (SENACYT) , the Ministry of the Environment of Panama, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, and Ministry of Health and the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) of Uruguay</p>	
		<p>Five Science Diplomacy groups have been established to advance teamwork among the fellows, their host institutions, and the current four participating countries (Argentina, Mexico, Canada and the USA). The groups are addressing transboundary and regional themes of a science diplomacy topic</p>	<p>One expected result of this exercise is to foster the development of an Inter-American Network of Science-Policy fellows, host organizations, and alumni to share knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and best practices across the Americas on regional science diplomacy issues of common interest,</p>

		relevant to their fellowship, field of expertise, and institutional placement.	such as polar regions and climate change; circular economy; global data and global health, sustainable energy and sustainable agriculture .
		The IAI Directorate has also received several inquiries about STeP from foreign and international organizations. Some examples are The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Wallonie-Bruxelles International in Belgium, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) in Costa Rica, UNESCO, IPBES Capacity Building task force, to mention a few.	Possibility of external regional support and linking STeP with other initiatives and activities.

	<p>Strategic Plan,</p> <p>Theme I, Goal 1, Objective vi: Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments of the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p> <p>Theme III, 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.</p>	<p>The Directorate has also developed a series of communication and outreach material to showcase the program , its strategic partnerships and professional development training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STeP brochure in English and in Spanish - STeP E-brochure (A4 size) - Flyers of STeP fellows in Argentina and Mexico - Flyers of AAAS and Mitacs fellows participating in the STeP professional development training - Video of the STeP launch in Mexico with testimonies from the IAI Mexican partners, fellows, their host organizations supervisors - IAI STeP website <p>These materials are available on the IAI website at: http://www.iai.int/en/step</p> <p>The IAI STeP program was</p>	<p>Greater awareness of the STeP Program by Parties and the IAI research community</p>
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		<p>featured in several international conferences. Examples include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of São Paulo, Brazil. Scientific diplomacy: addressing challenges through research and innovation – June 26, 2020 2. University of Taubate (UNITAU) Brazil. The work of the IAI on Science Diplomacy for Science and Technology cooperation in the Americas – September 16, 2020 3. 4th UNESCO Colloquia CILAC - Inclusive science: Right to science – November 11, 2020 4. Canada's Mitacs Open Mic Session at the 2020 Canadian Science Policy Conference – November 17, 2020 5. Science diplomacy Affinity group from AAAS – December 16, 2020 6. AAAS Annual 	
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		<p>meeting – February 2, 2021</p> <p>7. S4D4C Global Meeting EU Science Diplomacy Beyond 2020 - Addressing Global Challenges Together: The Role of Science Diplomacy – March 17, 2021</p> <p>It was also invited to present at:</p> <p>1. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) regional and national platforms/networks in the session for North, Central and South Americas and the Caribbean Region – June 4, 2021</p> <p>2. DiploHub Barcelona. SciDip Talks: Science Diplomacy in the Global South. Challenges and opportunities – June 10, 2021</p> <p>3. Future Leaders Collaborative Research Action</p>	
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		<p>(CRA) at the Sustainability Research Innovation - SRI2021 – June 14, 2021</p> <p>4. São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Science Diplomacy and Innovation Diplomacy (InnSciD SP) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Science Diplomacy – August 4 and 13, 2021</p>	
	<p>Theme I: Meeting the goals of the Parties to address global environmental change</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate in collaboration with OAS is planning a High-Level Seminar to reach consensus on a science-based agenda for resilience in the Caribbean region. This event, to be attended by 15 CARICOM nations, will be hosted by the Commonwealth of Dominica (the meeting was postponed to later 2021 or 2022 owing to the COVID-19). Other partners and funding agencies</p>	<p>Ongoing. IAI has secured funding from the OAS and NOAA to support the participation of representatives from Caribbean countries.</p>

		include Amazon Web Services and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	
		<p>The Directorate co-hosted a virtual workshop 23-24 November 2020 on the planning of drought policies for Central and South America.</p> <p>Representatives from the Drought Information System for Southern South America countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) met to lay out a roadmap for the design and implementation of national drought policies in the region. Over 60 representatives from scientific and policy making communities attended the workshop, including several Parties, meteorological services, US/NOAA, risk and disaster management agencies, WMO, among others. Several other</p>	<p>Greater capacity and awareness on issues related to drought and water and food security in the region.</p>

		webinars and planning meetings to foster capacity building and science-policy interactions have been held virtually during the period 2020-2021.	
	Theme I, Goal 3, Objective ii: The IAI promotes regional cooperation for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on global change.	The Directorate has been invited to serve as members of regional and international organization consultations. Some examples are: The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has established an Advisory Group for the PAHO Regional Consultation on Climate Change and Health; WMO Service Commission Study Group on Health. This is the first formal mechanism for the WMO to consider the needs of the global health sector for climate, weather, and environmental information and services;	Linking of IAI activities with partners for increased synergies, greater collaboration and better use of scarce resources. Moreover, this is an opportunity to disseminate to a wider international audience the work of the IAI and scientific information generated from IAI supported programs

		<p>The IAI Directorate participated as a speaker, (co-)organizer or observer in a number of meeting related to capacity building, including:</p> <p>Participant. INGSA Global Week of Dialogue, 14-18 September 2020, Virtual.</p> <p>Webinar: The work of the IAI on Science Diplomacy for Science and Technology cooperation in the Americas. 16 September 2020, Virtual;</p> <p>Participant. AAAS Forum on Science & Technology Policy, 13-14 October 2020, Virtual.</p> <p>Workshop on the Development of National Drought Plans in Southern South America. 23 - 24 November 2020, Virtual.</p> <p>Session convener, moderator, panelist. AAAS Annual Meeting, 1-11 February 2021, Virtual.</p> <p>Session convener, moderator. S4D4C Networking Conference, 15-19</p>	
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		March 2021, Virtual.	
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Report on science-policy

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
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>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 hosted a joint science-policy webinar, primarily for Uruguayan stakeholders on 18 November 2020: "Science-policy interface: contributions for the management of continental and marine-coastal ecosystems in South America," which featured two SGP projects: <i>Transformando la gobernanza del agua en América del Sur: de la reacción a la adaptación y la anticipación</i> (GovernAgua) (Micaela Trimble) and <i>Small-scale Fisheries and Marine Ecosystem Services: Adaptation and Transformation to Secure Human Wellbeing</i> (Jeremy Pittman).</p> <p>The Directorate</p>	<p>The IAI Directorate is establishing indicators for the implementation of its Strategic Plan. These indicators will enable the Directorate to determine if actions taken are indeed meeting the goals of the Strategic Plan. While the IAI Directorate hosted and partnered on many virtual activities to present the results and outcomes of scientific projects and address global change challenges, it remains to be seen if Focal Points and Party policy makers were indeed able to develop evidence-based policies related to global</p>

		partnered with Virtual Keystone Symposia (VKS) to develop three SciTalks and associated science-policy webinars (See Decision XXVII/17 in the Science Report above for further details).	change. See Decision XXVII/17 in the Science Report above for further details on the number of webinar attendees.
XXVII/24. The Parties are invited to help the IAI Directorate to identify the priority areas and research needs for policy and decision making related to global change.	I.2.i. The Parties work with the SAC, SPAC and the Directorate to map their domestic and international global change policy and decision making landscape. This will support the IAI in funding research that is policy-relevant for member countries.	The Directorate established a working group with the SAC and SPAC to develop a template for the regional assessment as described in the IAI Strategic Plan. See activities associated with the Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program under XXVII/18 in the report on the capacity building program.	The working group is developing a draft, preliminary template of the regional assessment to be approved by the SAC and SPAC for consideration at CoP-29. See results of the Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program under XXVII/18 in the report on the capacity building program.
XXVII/25. The IAI Directorate is instructed to establish a mechanism to inform Parties, through their focal points, of outcomes and	I.2.ii. The Directorate will identify knowledge gaps, find commonalities, and direct research and resources towards informing Parties' priority needs.	See XXVII/23 above. The IAI Directorate works closely with the current six SGP-HW projects to disseminate their results to date.	See XXVII/23 above. All six SGP-HW projects have been transdisciplinary (TD) from the outset, with stakeholders,

<p>results of IAI scientific projects that may assist in the development of public policy relevant to global change.</p>		<p>Quarterly PI meetings are also held virtually.</p>	<p>practitioners, policy-makers, and concerned local communities involved. Here's their societal impact to date:</p> <p>The MAP-FIRE team (led by Dr. Liana Anderson) has developed an on-line fire monitoring platform to subsidize the monitoring of fire occurrences in the MAP region (triborder Amazon region - Brazil, Bolivia, Peru), with user guides in English, Portuguese and Spanish. The team is now inserting its tool into the public school system to develop online modules that promote scientific methodologies for understanding and diagnosing wildfires risk and impacts in the students' lives and in their region. The outreach and publicity of this project in the backdrop of the devastating 2019 Amazon wildfire</p>
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			<p>season has expanded the use of the tool into the health sector.</p> <p>Dr. Jeremy Pittman's team is able to provide specific adaptations and solutions to the climate-driven stressors on yellow clam fisheries in Uruguay. The team is also looking to find similar solutions for small-scale shrimping communities in Brazil. The team's work was featured in the Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post series <i>2°C: Beyond the limit: Dangerous new hot zones are spreading around the world.</i></p> <p>The GovernAgua project seeks to improve water governance in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, by strengthening capacities for adaptation, anticipation and co-creation of</p>
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			<p>knowledge with key actors in the water basin case studies. Sectors of actors include different levels of government, social organizations, industries, the scientific-technical sector, companies providing services (drinking water and sanitation), etc. The project has found that through its intense outreach and work with the public, several actors have expressed interest in relating the results of the project for water governance in other water basins.</p> <p>Dr. Alonso's project's analysis of the policy context in all four case studies has allowed them to identify topics of interest across cases including: a) forms of state organization, b) relationships with civil society, c) engagement with international organization. The</p>
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			<p>project contributes to on-the-ground implementation of global policies, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the 2011-2020 period (Strategic goals C, D, and E, and Targets 11, 14, and 18).</p> <p>Dr. Diaz's project intends to be relevant to different stakeholders, such as decision-makers in the different governmental bodies, as well as medium- and large-scale agricultural producers, small-scale diversified producers, peasants and farmers, and different civil society organizations working on human and natural wellbeing in the territories. The project, through stakeholder workshops, brings together stakeholders who, to a large extent, don't often find</p>
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			<p>themselves together at the table.</p> <p>The project led by Dr. Marques has identified the economic importance of recreational activities which enables policies designed by municipal government to address tradeoffs in use by targeting those most likely to benefit a larger number of local inhabitants in the long run and protect the most vulnerable ones as well. The project has also more clearly identified, to local municipal government, the importance of restoring the flow regime in the whole Parana River, providing sound and scientifically based support for the creation of public policies that protect the ecosystem and regulate activities that depend on it.</p>
XXVII/26. The IAI Directorate is instructed to assist the	I.2.ii. The Directorate will identify knowledge gaps, find	(1) See XXVII/24 above. (2) The Directorate	(1) See XXVII/24 above. (2) The Directorate

<p>Parties in identifying priority areas 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.</p>	<p>commonalities, and direct research and resources towards informing Parties' priority needs.</p>	<p>has invited the Parties to share research needs and priorities for four Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions (CRA) in the intersessional period: Migration and Mobility, Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production, and the 2nd Climate, Environment and Health (CEH2).</p> <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>(4) See activities associated with the Science, Technology, Policy</p>	<p>enabled and promoted the incorporation of LAC research needs and priorities into three Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Actions (CRA) in the intersessional period: Migration and Mobility, Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production, and the 2nd Climate, Environment and Health (CEH2).</p> <p>(3) The Pathways to Sustainability CRA has selected 13 projects to be funded (pending final approval). The IAI will connect LAC researchers and stakeholders on two projects. This is the first time the IAI is providing support through network and capacity building LAC researchers on Belmont Forum projects.</p> <p>(4) See results of the STeP Fellowship Program under</p>
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		(STeP) Fellowship Program under XXVII/18 in the report on the capacity building program.	XXVII/18 in the report on the capacity building program.
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Report on publications, data and information

Decision	Strategic Plan	Actions by the IAI Directorate	Results
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.	Theme I Goal 1 Objective vi: Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments for the development of public policy relevant to global change.	.The IAI has published a special issue in the Journal Environmental Development, vol. 38 (2021) on the results of the CRN3. Editors to this special issue included Susanna Ehlers, Marcos Regis da Silva, Susana Adamo, Tereza Cavazos, Evelia Rivera Arriaga. Articles will be available under open access. At the time of writing, the IAI Directorate is finalizing requirements to make the articles open to the public.	Parties have information on the cutting-edge program under the CRN3 for the development of more effective public policy. Researchers and decision makers in the Americas and elsewhere are aware of the IAI and its transdisciplinary research.
		The IAI Directorate is a member of a “Harnessing the world’s academies to combat predatory academic journals and conferences” organized by the Interacademy	Promote quality scientific publishing and prevent the growth of fraudulent and predatory publishing in the Americas.

		Partnership	
	Theme I Goal 1 Objective vi Action a: The Directorate will support open science by making all literature produced through IAI funded research freely available or by requiring that articles be available on the IAI webpage or be deposited in a public access compliant repository within 12 months of the journal's final publication date.	A database of scholarly articles generated from IAI projects and activities was developed. The database is available at: http://www.iai.int/en/article	IAI research is made more widely available to Parties and the research community in the Americas and elsewhere.

Conclusions

6. 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.
7. The IAI Directorate notes that activities described are fully supportive of Decisions adopted by the CoP and are aligned with the IAI Strategic Plan.
8. The IAI Directorate is grateful for the support received from Parties and its partners that made achievement of the IAI work plan possible.

Recommendation

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider adopting the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

Draft decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Science

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXIX/xx. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, to increase the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the IAI's science and capacity building activities, as appropriate and subject to the availability of external financial resources.

XXIX/xx. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Parties, the SAC and the SPAC, to map the domestic and international global change policy and decision making landscape through a regional assessment, subject to the availability of external resources.

Publications, data and information

Directed to the IAI Directorate

XXIX/xx. Instructs the IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the the SAC and the SPAC, to work with national and international academies of science, scientific publishers, universities and other relevant partners to raise awareness of and prevent the growth of fraudulent and predatory publishing in the Americas.