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26 May 2021

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-ninth meeting
Videoconference
22-23 June 2021
Information document 1**

**Concept note: IAI Regional Assessment
IAI Strategic Plan**

1. This information document has been prepared the IAI Directorate

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 27th meeting, adopted Decision XXVII/14 which states:

The IAI Directorate, in collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee, Associates and other partners, is instructed to report on implementation of the IAI Strategic Plan at each Conference of the Parties.

3. The IAI Strategic Plan calls for a Regional Assessment in order for IAI-supported science to better meet the information needs of the parties:

Theme 1, Goal 2: Parties were able to make better informed and coordinated decisions on global change issues.

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.

Goals of the Regional Assessment

4. This assessment aims to better understand the decisions made by the Parties that are impacted by global environmental change (GEC), in order to identify the knowledge gaps and uncertainties associated with specific decisions. The IAI will support and/or facilitate science that targets these information gaps and uncertainties. Parties will be invited to provide a list of decisions where science information is needed, but not how they make those decisions.
5. This is an internal exercise within each Party to collect information from relevant branches of government at the decision-making level, on issues that address or are impacted by GEC, including but not limited to the following sectors: climate, risk management, health, environment, water, energy, agriculture, development and planning.

Purpose of this Regional Assessment

6. The results of this assessment will be used to guide science funding priorities and capacity building activities implemented by the IAI, which will support the production of science that Parties will need to make more informed decisions related to GEC. Parties that participate in the Regional Assessment will have the opportunity to drive the future science priorities of the IAI. Once the information needs are analyzed, these will be mapped to identify commonalities across countries in the Americas. In addition to guiding science funding priorities, these results will be used by the IAI to identify and/or facilitate collaboration among Parties with similar needs and priorities.
7. The Regional Assessment will adopt the following approach:
Scoping workshops with small groups of regional scientists and stakeholders to explore themes and review/test the template that will be sent to Parties.
Survey template disseminated to all Parties to complete electronically. This questionnaire will follow a template aimed to assist Parties in responding appropriately with guidance and clarity.
Follow up interviews with a subset of Parties as needed.
Data analysis to identify commonalities and points of divergence, infer science information needs based on decisions and desired outcomes, mapping of decisions/information needs across IAI Parties.
8. Expected timeline:
 - Creation of regional assessment subcommittee, May 2021
 - Concept note, May 2021
 - Present the concept note at CoP-29, June 2021
 - Create the survey instrument July and August 2021; includes scoping workshops
 - Distribute online survey, September 2021
 - Complete online survey (Parties), October-November 2021
 - 1st round of analysis, December 2021 -January 2022
 - Interviews, February 2022
 - 2nd round of analysis, March-April 2022
 - Finalize report for CoP, May 2022
 - Present results at CoP-30, June 2022

Recommendation

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this information document.,