

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



Minutes of EC-XXXVIII

August 14, 2014

Mexico City, Mexico

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Opening Remarks..... 3

2. Approval of the Agenda..... 4

3. Election of the EC Bureau..... 4

4. Approval of the Action List of the EC-37..... 4

5. Review of CoP-22 items for action by EC-38 and implementation strategies for action items from EC-37 and CoP-22..... 4

6. Other issues arising..... 6

7. Future Meetings & Sites:..... 6

8. Adjourn..... 6

Action List of EC XXXVIII
Acronyms

Note: This report is not a chronological record. For completeness, greater clarity and readability it grouped discussions of an agenda item together under the first occurrence of the topic.

Approved – August 2014

**38th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council (EC)
14 August 2014– Mexico City, Mexico
AGENDA**

Approval of the Agenda
Approval of the Action List of EC-37
Review of CoP-22 items for action by EC-38 and implementation strategies for action items from EC-37 and CoP-22
Strategies for strengthening member country involvement and IAI funding
Other decisions arising
Future meetings and sites
Adjourn

1. Opening Remarks

Carlos Ereño opened the meeting and welcomed the new members of the Executive Council. After the introductory remarks, the EC determined that the quorum was present
Participants at the meeting were:

EC Country Representatives

Argentina:	Carlos Ereño (Vice Chair elect)
Brazil:	Jean Pierre Ometto, Pablo Braga Costa Pereira
Canada:	Eric Gagné (Vice Chair elect), Lauren Walshe Rouseel
Chile:	Gladys Santis
Costa Rica:	Roberto Villalobos
Paraguay:	Fernando Méndez Gaona
Peru:	Elizabeth Silvestre Espinoza
United States:	Maria Uhle (EC Chair elect), Farhan H. Akhtar
Uruguay:	Jorge Rucks

Observers:

Mexico:	María Amparo Martínez Arroyo, Ana Cecilia Conde Alvarez, Alejandra López Carbajal, Misael Perez, Socorro Almaraz Muñoz, Rodrigo Márquez, Alejandro Rivera Becerra
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Observers – Other Institutions

CONACyT :	Luis G. Hernández-Sandoval
ICSU-ROLAC	Jose Arturo Martinez, Angela Guzman
APN	Lou Brown

IAI Directorate:

Holm Tiessen (Executive Director), Rafael Atmetlla (Director, Finance and Administration), Marcella Ohira (Director, Capacity Building), Elma Montaña (Director, Science Programs), Nicolás Lucas (Communications and Policy Specialist), Tania R. Freire Sánchez (Assistant to the IAI Director), Paula Richter (IAI Publications Editor), Louis Brown (SCRIP Chair), Elvira Gentile (IAI Directorate support).

IAI SAC Chair

Frank Muller-Karger

2. Approval of the Agenda

The EC approved the Agenda of its Thirty Eighth Meeting, with the addition of one item: "Using Technologies to connect scientists: Research Gate". (*Action 1*)

3. Election of the EC Bureau

The EC elected its Bureau: Maria Uhle, from the US as the EC Chair, Carlos Ereño from Argentina as the First Vice-chair, and Eric Gagné from Canada as the Second Vice-Chair (*Action 2*).

4. Approval of the Action List of the EC-37

The EC approved the action list of its Thirty Seventh Meeting with modifications already included (*Action 3*).

5. Review of CoP-22 items for action by EC-38 and implementation strategies for action items from EC-37 and CoP-22***CoP Advisory Committee for Science-Policy Liaison***

The CoP 22 decided that members of the Advisory Committee on Science-Policy Liason (SPAC) would be Luis Basterra, Yolanda Kakabadse, Carlos Henrique de Brito Cruz, Boris Graizbord, Bob Corell, Brigitte Baptiste, Emilio Moran, Walter Baethgen, Maria Netto Schneider; alternates are Janet Ranganathan, Anthony Clayton, and Max Campos. The CoP also decided that the SPAC elect their Chair and draft a program of self-organization including their terms of reference, rules of procedure and the definition of appointment terms. The CoP encourages the SPAC to maintain linkages with the SAC. The SPAC will report on these issues at the next CoP. (*Action 8, CoP 22*).

The members of the EC discussed guidelines for this initial SPAC regarding the term of members, first convener, functions, ToRs, rules of procedure and interaction with the SAC.

The EC discussed issues and guidelines for the initial Science Policy Advisory Committee: the term of all nine members will be one year; the EC decided to ask Bob Corell to be the convener of the first meeting of the SPAC in conjunction with the Directorate; the SPAC should identify key partners to be contacted in various regions; SPAC members should get in contact with the country representatives; the SAC and the SPAC should find mechanisms of interaction. For the next CoP the SPAC should review its ToRs and develop its own Rules of Procedure.

Nominations for the coming year should include term lengths between 1 and 3 years in order to achieve a staggering of terms to guarantee future continuity. In the future, term lengths should be the same (3 years) for all members.

The EC would during the year discuss criteria of science-policy expertise in order to review candidates for the committee (*Action 6*).

The EC decided that in case one of the original candidates for the SPAC declines the invitation, an alternate would be selected from the list who meets the desired geographical and gender balance (in that order) (Action 7).

Statement for UNFCCC CoP 20 in Peru

The CoP decided to make a statement to the UNFCCC CoP-20 to be held in Peru, that global change adaptation aspects are important to Latin America and need to be strengthened. This adaptation component needs to be based on science and technology (Action 4, CoP 22).

The EC established a committee composed of Peru, Brazil, Mexico and the SAC Chair to draft a pronouncement on the importance of adaptation to the UNFCCC CoP-20. (Action 4).

The EC accepted the draft text of the pronouncement (in Spanish) and charged the Directorate with editing and translation. The final text will be circulated among CoP members and upon approval will be submitted to the CoP-20 by Uruguay on behalf of the IAI (Action 5).

Final text in Spanish

“El Instituto Interamericano para la Investigación del Cambio Global (IAI), como organización de tratado intergubernamental entre 19 países del continente americano, identifica la adaptación a los impactos del cambio climático como un tema de la más alta relevancia, que la región debiera abordar mediante la colaboración científica.

Es por ello que la Conferencia de las Partes del IAI hace un llamado a la comunidad internacional representada en la Vigésima Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, a que, con la participación de los pueblos de la región, se dediquen esfuerzos a la búsqueda e implementación de estrategias viables de adaptación, mediante el desarrollo de las capacidades regionales y el apoyo a la evolución de nuevas tecnologías.

El IAI sigue principios de excelencia científica, cooperación internacional e intercambio libre y abierto de información y datos relacionados con el cambio global y sus consecuencias socioeconómicas. La Conferencia de las Partes del IAI pone a disposición la experiencia científica acumulada por el Instituto a lo largo de 20 años y su visión integral de los problemas de la región en materia de medio ambiente, cambio global y dimensiones humanas, para colaborar con la Convención.”

Final text in English

“The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), as an intergovernmental treaty organization of 19 countries in the Americas, identifies adaptation to the impacts of climate change as an issue of the highest relevance that the region should address through scientific collaboration.

That is why the Conference of the Parties of the IAI calls upon the international community represented at the Twentieth Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to make efforts for finding and implementing viable adaptation strategies, with the participation of the peoples of the region and through the development of regional capacities and support to the development of new technologies.

The IAI follows principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation and the free and open exchange of information and data related to global change and its socioeconomic consequences. The Conference of the Parties of the IAI offers to the Convention the scientific expertise accumulated by the Institute for over 20 years and its holistic view of the problems of the region in terms of environment, global change and human dimensions.”

6. Other issues arising

Using Technologies to connect scientists: Research Gate

Eric Gagné talked about collaborative technologies that scientists in Canada are using widely today. He introduced Research Gate, a social networking for scientists and researchers to share papers, ask and answer questions, and find collaborators. It has many of the features that are typical among social network sites (e.g. facebook) such as user profiles, messages that can be public or private, and methods for finding other users with similar interests. It has 5 million scientists with peer-reviewed publications. It differs from other social networks in that it is designed for researchers and scientists. Conversation strings focus on a research interest or paper and you can "follow" a research interest, in addition to following individual users.

Research Gate indexes self-published information on user profiles to suggest members to connect with those that have similar interests. It also has private chat rooms where scientists can share data, edit shared documents, or discuss confidential topics.

These new collaborative technologies are a way to enhance linkages among scientists in the Americas, to make connections and share publications openly. Eric Gagné informed he would be in contact with the IAI Directorate to see if in the next year's EC CoP Canada brings forward or shares their policies in open science.

Mexico: this can be a very interesting tool for young scientists and essential for networking.

USA: It is a very potent tool. IAI needs to realize that it's future is in the young people. We need to learn how to move forward using innovative technologies.

The EC accepted to introduce the use of Research Gate to connect IAI scientists (*Action 8*)

7. Future Meetings & Sites:

The EC requested invitations from member countries to host the next EC-CoP meetings. In case no offer is tendered, the Directorate will start working with the host country, to have the meetings at the Directorate headquarters as stated in Rule 13, Chapter 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (*Action 9*).

8. Adjourn

The EC Chair thanked Mexico for its hospitality. He also thanked all the delegates, the IAI staff, and the interpreters. The meeting was adjourned.

**38th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council
14 August 2014, Mexico City, Mexico**

Action List

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2. The EC elected its Bureau: Maria Uhle, from the US as the EC Chair, Carlos Ereño from Argentina as the First Vice-chair, and Eric Gagné from Canada as the Second Vice-Chair.
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7. The EC decided that in case one of the original candidates for the SPAC declines the invitation, an alternate would be selected from the list who meets the desired geographical and gender balance (in that order).
8. The EC accepted to introduce the use of Research Gate to connect IAI scientists.
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Acronyms

CoP	Conference of the Parties / Conferencia de las Partes
CRN	Collaborative Research Network Program//Programa de Redes de Investigación Cooperativa
EC/ CE	Executive Council / Consejo Ejecutivo
INPE	Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais
NSF	National Science Foundation – USA
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee / Comité Asesor Científico
SPAC	CoP Science-Policy Advisory Committee
ToRs	Terms of Reference
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change