



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Ref: IAIUYDIR/2024/22

30 July 2024

NOTIFICATION

Subject: New IAI Science Director

Dear Madam or Sir,

The Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Omar R. López Alfano as its new Science Director.

Dr. López Alfano brings over 25 years of experience in scientific research and capacity building in the Americas. He earned his PhD in Biology from the University of Utah (USA) and had postdoctoral positions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA) and at the Center for Tropical Forest Science of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama).

Dr. López Alfano has been actively involved and played a leading role in the science-government interface and a longstanding experience with the Institute. He was Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the IAI for three years and was Chair of the Transdisciplinary Committee of the Sustainability Research and Innovation Conference (SRI 2023) held in Panama in partnership with the IAI, Belmont Forum, and Future Earth.

Before joining the IAI, he was the Technical Secretary of the National Research System (SNI) at the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT) in Panama, where he played a key role in the implementation of public science policies, knowledge dissemination and recognition of scientific productivity to consolidate a critical mass of researchers in the country.

The Directorate of the IAI anticipates that Dr. López Alfano will play a fundamental role in advancing the IAI's scientific agenda by strengthening engagement with countries in Central America and across the Americas region, and through the enhancement of scientific collaboration and innovation.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Anna Stewart Ibarra
Executive Director