



STeP into your community and shape science for society



About STeP

The Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program aims to enhance the capacities of IAI member countries to use scientific evidence to support public policy relevant to global environmental change. Fellows in the STeP program are early to mid-career scientists and policymakers placed at government agencies or private organizations. They engage first-hand with policy and decision-makers and learn how to facilitate the uptake of scientific knowledge into policy processes and improve science-policy dialogue and communication. Through a comprehensive two-year professional development program and mentorship, the STeP program trains future science advisers and leaders across the Americas.

Professional Development

Building Power Skills in the Next Generation of Science Policy Advisors Across the Americas

STeP is the first Science, Technology, Policy Fellowship program implemented at the regional level across the Americas. The IAI Directorate provides up to two years of professional development through virtual and in-person training. The program focuses on three training pillars: Science Diplomacy, Communication, and Transdisciplinary Leadership. Activities are conducted with experts from across the Americas and explore the diversity of opportunities and challenges faced in the region. In addition, Fellows have tailored work plans that are defined with their host institution supervisors and contribute to the goals and priorities of national and regional agendas.

Aims of STeP Training Pillars

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY:

Equip fellows with knowledge and skills to understand and navigate the intersection of science, technology, and innovation with local to global policies, international affairs, geopolitics, and global governance for sustainable development to address regional challenges and create opportunities for multinational collaboration related to global environmental change.

COMMUNICATION:

Synthesize scientific information to inform global environmental change policy and practice. Develop techniques for credible, clear, and consistent communication effectively understood by target non-specialist audiences.

LEADERSHIP:

Gain leadership skills. Foster equitable partnerships and transdisciplinary processes to work collaboratively with diverse partners to identify solutions relevant to global environmental change and sustainable development.

STeP
Science Technology Policy Fellowship

2020
2025



Inter-American Network

The IAI STeP Fellowship Program convenes an Inter-American network of early-mid career scientists and with policymakers, researchers, mentors, host institutions, countries, and strategic partners. This community of practice fosters the exchange of expertise, experiences, and lessons learned at the science-policy nexus while building relationships with lifelong collaborators, friends, mentors, and future employers. STeP is a model of effective and equitable partnerships across the Americas.



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Countries

- Argentina
- Barbados
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Panama
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Uruguay
- USA

Program Partners:



Why become a fellow?

- Contribute scientific expertise to public and private policy processes.
- Develop skills to communicate science more effectively to wide policy and societal audiences.
- Broaden career options with experience in diverse sectors beyond academia.
- Gain critical power skills in science diplomacy, communication, and leadership, including transdisciplinary leadership.
- Become part of a powerful network of Inter-American science-policy peers and mentors.

Why host a fellow?

- Gain advice on pressing global environmental change science issues and access to specialized expertise within your organization.
- Broaden competitiveness, networks, and collaborations across sectors and countries of the Americas.
- Create job opportunities for the repatriation of national scientists living abroad.

Why fund a fellow?

- Support critical training for early to mid-career scientists and policy makers in science diplomacy, communication, and transdisciplinary leadership.
- Facilitate the design of evidence-based policies, and the use of scientific information in policy processes in key government and industry sectors.
- Promote the development of training materials tailored to America's diverse science-policy contexts.
- Encourage the repatriation of national scientists living and working abroad.
- Sponsor activities of multinational networks of science-policy fellows to exchange expertise, experience, working on shared transboundary, regional and global challenges.

STeP fellow profile



Early to mid-career scientists (in the final year of Ph.D. or within ten years of completing a Ph.D. or equivalent - D.Ph., EdD, DVM, MD, JD). Early career individuals with graduate degrees (Master's degree equivalent) and five or more years of relevant professional experience will also be considered.

- Postgraduates in relevant global change fields, including biological, physical, social sciences, and engineering, in key sectors (e.g., health, water, energy, agriculture, emerging technologies).
- Early to mid-career policymakers working in the science-policy interface in government agencies or with the private sector.
- Interest in working in evidence informed decision making and multilateral collaboration.
- Citizens and residents from IAI member countries.
- Fellows are placed at a host institution in an IAI member country, such as a foundation, private sector entity, public sector agency, or ministry at any level, sector, or branch of government.

The IAI is open to negotiating the program requirements to accommodate each country's priorities and needs.

Who we are:

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) is an intergovernmental organization serving 19 countries of the Americas. The IAI is dedicated to pursuing scientific excellence, international cooperation, capacity building, and the full and open exchange of scientific information to increase the understanding of global environmental change phenomena and their social-economic implications. The IAI enables a well-informed, inclusive, and sustainable America to meet the challenges posed by global change.



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