

10 October 2025

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Sixtieth meeting
Videoconference
8 January 2026
Agenda item 3**

Summary report of activities from 1 June 2025 to date by the IAI Directorate

1. This document was prepared by the IAI Directorate.

Introduction

2. The summary below describes the main achievements of the IAI Directorate from 1 June 2025 to date, highlighting the effective initiation of the implementation of decisions adopted at the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the continuation of ongoing projects and activities.
3. Members of the Executive Council may recall that at its 29th meeting (CoP-29, 2021, Videoconference), Parties agreed to schedule the first intersessional meeting of the Executive Council near the midpoint of the intersessional period rather than immediately following the conclusion of the CoP, to provide the Executive Council with greater opportunities to exercise its role as the institute's executive body, as per Article VI of the *Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*.
4. Based on the information provided in this document, the Executive Council is invited to assess and provide feedback on the work of the IAI Directorate, take note of outstanding issues, and provide input on science and science diplomacy proposals.
5. Accordingly, this document describes current activities and projects.

Decisions by CoP-33 directed to the Directorate

XXXIII/9. The Directorate is tasked with facilitating greater engagement between national representatives to the IAI, members of the SAC, SPAC, and IPAC, Associates, investigators from IAI-funded projects, STeP fellows, and other partners during the preparation for multilateral environmental conventions, and other regional and international meetings that align with the IAI's science agenda and strategic plan, to strengthen the role of science in supporting the formulation of policies and plans.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- IAI National Representatives, Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) and Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) Advisor Board members, representatives from Associates, and Directorate STeP fellows participated in a science diplomacy regional training workshop organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) of Brazil and the IAI SDC in Brasilia, in August 2025, prior to the COP30 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members are planning a webinar on the energy transition in Latin America aligned with the UNFCCC COP30. In addition, the Directorate discussed an engagement strategy with SAC, SPAC and Indigenous People Advisory Committee (IPAC) members on their participation in upcoming multilateral environmental meetings, and the Directorate is actively nominating SAC/SPAC/IPAC members to participate in side events of the UNFCCC COP30.
- The Directorate partnered with the Humboldt Institute, an IAI Associate, to organize a conference session on One Health during the AmeriGEO regional meeting in Colombia, in August 2025.
- The IAI has signed an agreement with Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) and the technical secretariat of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) to place a STeP fellow to support CMAR. The fellow started in July 2025 and is working on socio-ecological research project that supports fisheries management in all four CMAR member countries (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama).
- Through support from the SPAC Chair, the Directorate participated as a keynote speaker in the 15th National Congress of Mexico and the 7th Latin American Congress on Climate Change Research, emphasizing the role of science in preparation for the UNFCCC COP30.

XXXIII/11. The Directorate is tasked with sending an invitation to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association which shall specify the areas of the Scientific Agenda and/or programmatic activities that will be supported by the Associate, and the modalities of such support.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- On 13 August 2025, the IAI Directorate sent an invitation to the WMO to become an Associate of the Institute.
- The MoU signed between both organizations in March 2023 remains in force until March 2028. It focuses on collaboration on shared areas of interest, including science and technology knowledge exchange and dissemination, co-sponsorship of meetings and events, and technical cooperation.
- On 3 July 2025, the WMO, the IAI, and the University of Colorado Boulder co-organized a regional webinar on the state of the art in El Niño forecasting and modeling for operations and applications in the Americas. The event gathered over 700 participants, including scientists, operational forecasters, and technical staff from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and Regional Climate Centers across Latin America and the Caribbean. The main objectives were to analyze the operational implications of asymmetry in ENSO predictability, exchange experiences among WMO Regional Climate Centers, and strengthen collaboration between scientific and operational communities in the region.
- From August to October 2025, the IAI Directorate, the WMO and the University of Colorado, Boulder, held virtual meetings to plan the subsequent webinar on El Niño forecasting and modeling, planned for early December 2025.

XXXIII/13. The Directorate is tasked with sending an invitation to the American Geophysical Union (AGU) to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association which shall specify the areas of the Scientific Agenda or programmatic activities that will be supported by the Associate, and the modalities of such support.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- On 18 June 2025, the IAI Directorate sent an invitation to the AGU to become an associate of the Institute. On 19 June 2025, the Directorate met in person with the leadership of AGU to discuss areas of collaboration.
- The IAI Directorate and AGU signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), on 9 October 2025.
- The Directorate participated in the *Colloquium on Climate Change's Impacts on Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases*, at AGU Headquarters, Washington, D.C., USA, from 9 to 10 October 2025.

XXXIII/15. The Directorate is tasked with sending an invitation to the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC) to become an Associate of the Institute and preparing an Agreement of Association which shall specify the areas of the Scientific Agenda or programmatic activities that will be supported by the Associate, and the modalities of such support.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- On 19 June 2025, the IAI Directorate sent an invitation to IVIC to become an Associate of the Institute. The IAI Directorate and IVIC met virtually on 13 August 2025 to discuss the draft MoU, which is under development.

XXXIII/18. The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to publish the revised Formal procedures for granting permanent observer status at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research on the IAI website.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- The Directorate published the revised Formal procedures for granting permanent Observer Status at the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research on the IAI website.

Other actions related to Past CoP decisions

XXXII/9. The IAI Directorate is instructed to monitor and evaluate the activities of the Directorate as dictated in the IAI's Strategic Plan, to periodically solicit feedback from the Parties to include in the evaluations, and to report on these outcomes during the annual Conference of the Parties.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- The IAI Directorate continues to monitor and report the progress of objectives and key results related to the IAI Strategic Plan on a regular basis through a digital system. This system allows for continuous evaluation of the IAI Strategic Plan's achievement levels, with periodic reporting of the outcomes to the Executive Council and the Conference of the Parties. The Directorate held a staff retreat in Panama in early June to evaluate progress with the Strategic Plan. The next retreat is scheduled for December 2025.

XXXII/5. The IAI Directorate is instructed to foster communication between focal points, SAC/SPAC members, and investigators of funded projects, and the larger scientific community, to strengthen the strategic exchange of information and knowledge relevant to global change science, to increase the use of science in decision making and policy processes, and to improve the implementation of IAI's Strategic Plan.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- The Directorate is engaging with the principal investigators and teams in the Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Integrated Approaches to Human Migration/Mobility in an Era of Rapid Global Change to develop policy-relevant syntheses with key findings for Parties. These projects reported their mid-term third year updates in November 2025. Results will first be shared with the SAC and SPAC members for feedback and subsequently with National Representatives, thus providing an integrated summary of critical results for decision-making and policy processes.
- The Directorate is engaging with twelve Climate, Environment, and Health (CEH) Seed Grants Principal Investigators and teams to develop similar syntheses. The last CEH project from this cohort will conclude in February 2026. As part of their final reports, project

teams must write a summary for non-technical audiences, highlighting solution pathways and policy implications. Three of the CEH seed grant project PIs were invited to present their results at the “*Scaling Up Health Adaptation Measures to Meet the Climate Change Challenge in the Americas*” course, co-organized in with the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) at Columbia University. A webinar series organized around three umbrella research topics (dengue, extreme heat, and local knowledge and data) is planned with GCCHE for the first quarter of 2026, when project teams will share and discuss key findings and lessons learned.

- In May 2025, the Directorate requested that National Representatives recommend science and science-policy experts to the IAI, aiming to provide the IAI community with specialists in various aspects of sustainability in the Americas. At the time of writing, 26 experts were recommended and added to the IAI Expert List, who are available for consultation by actors such as decision-makers, journalists, students, scientists, and civil society.
- The Directorate, in collaboration with the Alliance for Just Deliberation on Solar Geoengineering (DSG) and The Degrees Initiative, held a virtual workshop in June 2025 and an in-person workshop in Bogotá, Colombia, from 16 to 17 October 2025. These events were part of a series of regional workshops in 2025 titled *From Science to Policy: Navigating the Complexities of Emerging Climate Techniques in the Americas*. Representatives from 14 IAI Parties participated along with leading scientists from IAI Parties and representatives of the SAC, IPAC, and SDC Advisory Board. The primary goal of these workshops is to advance understanding of Solar Radiation Modification’s scientific, ethical, and governance dimensions and enable evidence-based participation in international decision-making in the Americas.

XXXI/14: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to update, monitor and guide the implementation of the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy for IAI Scientific Projects and Capacity Building Activities during each intersessional period and report on progress during each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

And:

XXXII/19. *The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to continue working on the design of two advisory committees, one with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and the other with representatives of Local Communities, based on the facilitation of consultations with representatives and leaders of these communities, and to report the results of these consultations at the next meeting of the Executive Council.*

Actions by the Directorate and results

- The Directorate held monthly ordinary meetings with the new members of the Indigenous Peoples Indigenous Committee (IPAC) and two extraordinary meetings for onboarding and document review.
- The Directorate led a participatory process of development of the rules and procedures of the IPAC. The document is in its final stage and is expected to be finalized by December 2025.

- The Directorate promoted the participation of IPAC members in international events including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Expert Meeting on Gender, Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 25 September 2025; Multilateral Simulation Workshop on Solar Radiation Management (SRM) Governance hosted by the IAI and the Degrees initiative held in Bogotá, Colombia, on 16 to 17 October 2025; the online Course “Scaling-Up Health Adaptation Measures to Meet the Climate Change Challenge in the Americas” hosted online in October 2025 by the IAI, the GCCHE, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization (WHO), Health Canada and EarthMedic EarthNurse; a side event to the UNFCCC COP30 at the Oceans Pavilion in Belem, Brazil in November 2025; and the Latin American One Health Congress in Lima, Peru, from 2 to 4 December 2025.
- The Directorate responded to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Notification 2025-100 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), documenting the process to establish the IAI IPAC. See Decision XXXI/7 below for further details.

XXVI/45. *The IAI Directorate is directed to use the IAI Open data policy and principles to provide open access, as appropriate, to data and information generated by IAI-funded research.*

Actions by the Directorate and results

- The Directorate continued implementing two open data platforms (the IAI Harvard Dataverse and the Database of Scientific Articles and Reports) to store and share data and information produced through IAI-funded research.
- The Directorate is using the updated policy to advance open access to data and publications produced through IAI-funded research. The process of updating the policy was implemented cooperatively with the Belmont Forum to align the Open Science policies of both institutions.
- A one-hour Open Science training was organized for all funded teams to improve sharing of data on the IAI Harvard Dataverse and publications on the IAI repository.
- The Directorate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with La Referencia, the open access repository for Latin America and the Caribbean, as reported below in this document, under *other new partnerships*.

XXVII/16. *The IAI Directorate is instructed to continue exploring the 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.*

Actions by the Directorate and results

- Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Integrated Approaches to Human Migration/Mobility in an Era of Rapid Global Change projects.
 - The three projects which successfully completed their second year are being implemented in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. The projects have four months remaining and can request a one year no-cost extension.

- Seed Grant (SG) projects on Climate, Environment and Health (CEH)
 - Twelve CEH seed grant teams were awarded in 2023, involving researchers from 15 countries of the Americas; eleven successfully completed their transdisciplinary projects. The final team will conclude in February 2026.
 - The Science team is collaborating with the Communications team to develop project briefs for dissemination and a series of thematic webinars.
 - An Integrated Summary of the SG-CEH process and TD approaches is envisioned upon conclusion of all projects.
- Collaborative Research Action on Tropical Forests: Global Implications and Pressing Actions (FOREST CRA)
 - The FORESTS CRA aims to coordinate multilateral actions and projects with a transdisciplinary approach, promoting innovative local solutions to the challenges facing tropical forest regions.
 - The FOREST CRA currently involves 22 funding agencies from around the world.
 - The CRA is testing, for the first time, a multilingual grant submission platform through the Belmont Forum's grant platform, allowing submissions in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.
 - The deadline for submitting full proposals for the FOREST CRA was 27 August 2025. A total of 34 full proposals has now been received and are ready to be evaluated by the international review team.
- Tropical Forest Transdisciplinary (TD) Training Program and Seed Grants
 - The Tropical Forest Transdisciplinary (TD) Training Program began in partnership with the Foundation for Research and Innovation of the State of Santa Catarina (FAPESC) in April 2024. In collaboration with FAPESC and the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT) of Panama, the IAI has awarded 8 seed grants of up to USD 50,000 each to selected projects, which are now beginning their one-year implementation phase. These projects are advancing transdisciplinary approaches to tropical forest research and strengthening collaboration among natural and social scientists and non-academic actors across the region.
- The Directorate is supporting the development of the CRA Ocean 2 "*Towards the Ocean We Want: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Sustainability for Nature and Human Well-being*", as described under Decision XXXI/6 below in this report.
- The Executive Director continues to serve as the co-chair of the Belmont Forum, and was present at the Belmont Forum Plenary from 19 to 20 June 2025.

XXXI/5: *The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish a research and training program on the nexus of climate, environment and health to support decision making by Parties, considering human health and the health of all life systems, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other regional and global partners, to seek extramural research funding to support these activities, and to identify other relevant partners that may assist in addressing this issue at local, sub-national, national and regional scales and in global and*

multilateral fora.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- Belmont Forum Funding Collaborative Research Action on Climate Environment and Health (CEH2) projects have been reviewed by the panel of experts, and the selection of projects was completed at the end of 2024. Six projects with investigators from Latin America and the Caribbean have received complete or partial funding from the United States National Science Foundation (NSF).
- The IAI's CEH steering committee met on 3 October 2025 to discuss updates from IAI's participation in various international events and discuss strategic actions and potential partnerships with other institutions.
- The Directorate served in an advisory capacity for several global climate and health initiatives including:
 - Co-chair of the Keystone Symposium global conference on Climate and Infectious Diseases, held in Germany, in June 2025.
 - Expert Panel on Climate and Health for the Canada Grand Challenges.
 - Expert Advisors on Climate and Health for the Rockefeller Foundation.
 - Health Task Team under the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) of the WMO, Sub-seasonal Applications for Agriculture and Environment (SAGE) project.
- The Directorate participated in a plenary panel session on One Health during the Sustainability, Research, and Innovation (SRI) Congress in Chicago, IL, USA in June 2025.
- The Directorate partnered with the Infectious Disease Alliance to co-host a virtual side event prior to the UNFCCC COP-30 focused on climate and health, planned for November 2025.
- As a member of the Global Forum on Humanitarian Health Research 2025 Steering Committee, the IAI is helping co-develop the international research agenda, prioritizing participation from low- and middle-income countries in alliance with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and Elrha (a global organization that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation).
- The Directorate participated the submission of a multi-year proposal for funding to the Pandemic Fund, led by Panama, and a proposal to the Wellcome Trust, led by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center. Both proposals are under review.
- The IAI co-developed a virtual course entitled, *Health Adaptation Measures to Meet the Climate Change Challenge in the Americas*, in partnership with the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE), the WHO, the PAHO, EarthMedic and EarthNurse Foundation for Planetary Health, and Health Canada. The sessions were held from 25 September to 30 October 2025 with interpretation in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and with materials available in Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French. Course content is available at the IAI virtual campus. 2718 people have enrolled.

- The IAI is organizing the HARMONIZE 4health Toolkit Training, a four-day hands-on course designed to provide participants with practical tools for integrating climate, environmental, and health datasets. The course will take place at FIOCRUZ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 17 to 20 November 2025. It will be conducted in English and will be fully supported through scholarships that cover travel, accommodation, and meals, thereby ensuring broad access to participants from across the region. This initiative is organized in collaboration with HARMONIZE, the Barcelona Super Computing Center (BSC), FIOCRUZ, the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE), Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Universidad de los Andes, Instituto Dominicano de Meteorología (INDOMET), the IAI, and Wellcome Trust.
- The Directorate is developing a new partnership with the Geneva Learning Foundation to support virtual peer learning on climate and health. IAI will partner on an upcoming virtual conference entitled, “Teach to Reach” which will include discussion special sessions in Spanish and Portuguese.
- The Directorate is a regional collaborator of the recently approved project “Production, health, and biodiversity: solutions for a more sustainable and competitive future in the context of climate change” led by the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences (FACEN) at the National University of Asunción, Paraguay, and funded by National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) Paraguay.
- The Directorate was invited to partner on the Third International Conference on Health and Biodiversity (Cohab 3) in Ireland, in September 2026, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, and other IGOs, NGOs, and governmental partners around the world.

XXXI/6: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to establish a research and training program on the nexus of oceans, islands, coastal systems aligned with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, to support decision making by Parties, to seek extramural research funding to support these activities, and to identify partners.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- The Directorate and the IAI Steering Committee on Oceans, Islands, and Coastal Systems met regularly during the intersessional period to support the scoping of the transdisciplinary research program and activities on ocean-related topics. The Steering Committee identified as a priority the development of a transdisciplinary training program on ocean science and diplomacy (see below) and prepared a statement outlining its strategic vision for the implementation of the Ocean Science Program. The SC also identified potential partner organizations to seek extramural research funding to support these activities.
- The Directorate is co-developing a PRODOC for the GEF8 entitled, “Promoting the Integrated Management of Sargassum: Building Resilient Tourism and Fisheries Sectors through the Conservation of Marine Ecosystems (SargMarine),” in partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the CAF as the implementing agency. Participating countries include Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Panamá, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. It is expected that the PRODOC will be submitted to the GEF8 for review in December 2025.

- The Directorate participated in the One Ocean Science Congress, organized by Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) and IFREMER (the French Institute for Ocean Science), which was held in Nice, France, from 3 to 6 June 2025. This UN Special Event served as the scientific foundation for the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3). The Directorate presented the advancement of its research and training program on the nexus of oceans, islands, and coastal systems, as well as related activities, during the session “Inclusive Science-Policy-Society Interfaces” on 6 June 2025.
- The Directorate participated in the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC), held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025. The Directorate attended plenary sessions and several side events to disseminate information on the Belmont Forum CRA Oceans 2, while supporting and networking with representatives of IAI Parties and potential partner institutions to strengthen collaboration within the IAI ocean research and training program. The Directorate was invited as a speaker at:
 - The official side event “*Recovering the Ocean Narrative: From Science to Society*”, co-organized by Philanthropy Cortés Solari, the MERI Foundation, and the Université Côte d’Azur, on 10 June;
 - The invitation-only dialogue “*Building Capacity for Marine 30x30: Pathways for Effective Conservation Governance, Partnerships, and Implementation*”, organized by the STRI and the Bloomberg Ocean Initiative, on 12 June.
- The Directorate is preparing a virtual course entitled “*A Transdisciplinary Look into the Future of the Oceans*,” developed jointly with the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR2) of Chile (an IAI Associate). The course comprises nine online modules delivered asynchronously in English and Spanish and will be hosted on the IAI Virtual Campus. This training program is closely aligned with the thematic priorities of the upcoming Belmont Forum CRA Oceans 2, aiming to strengthen regional capacities for developing transdisciplinary research proposals and projects. It also seeks to enhance collaboration and networking among IAI Parties, in alignment with the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the Fourth United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-4), to be co-hosted by Chile.
- The Directorate and the Belmont Forum participated in the Ocean Decade Fifth Foundations Dialogue, held in Tokyo, Japan, from 3 to 5 September 2025, under the theme “*Philanthropic Leadership for the Ocean We Need*.” Convened by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), this United Nations Ocean Decade event brought together philanthropic and funding organizations from around the world to strengthen cooperation and align contributions toward the Decade’s objectives. The Dialogue highlighted the deep cultural and ecological interconnection between people and the ocean, promoting innovative approaches to ocean governance, restoration, and the sustainable ocean economy. The Directorate and the Belmont Forum organized and contributed to discussions on the Belmont Forum CRA Ocean 2 and related transdisciplinary research and capacity-building initiatives aimed at mobilizing philanthropic support for inclusive, science-based action.
- The Directorate, in collaboration with the Steering Committee on Oceans, Islands, and Coastal Systems, prepared a proposal for research and capacity-building activities to be presented to the CAF. The proposal aims to explore future opportunities for joint work and funding, fostering synergies between scientific research, policy, and regional

development. It reflects priorities identified by the Steering Committee, such as advancing transdisciplinary research and strengthening regional cooperation, while aligning with CAF's strategic interests in the blue and sustainable economy, climate resilience, and environmental governance.

XXXI/7: The Conference of the Parties instructs the IAI Directorate to engage with IAI Parties during international multilateral science-policy convenings, such as the meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Science Summit of the United Nations General Assembly, among others, and to seek external financial resources to sponsor an IAI delegation comprised of senior and early career scientists to disseminate relevant research with a global community, to strengthen engagement with decision makers, to increase the visibility and participation of scientists from the region, and to increase the capacity of the region to participate in international negotiations.

Actions by the Directorate and results

- The Directorate continues to serve on the Regional Coordination Mechanism for the Americas and the Caribbean for the *Early Warning for All* initiative, organized by the WMO and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). This initiative aims to provide regional technical and strategic forecasting, monitoring, and guidance to support its implementation in the region.
- The Directorate continues to serve as a member of the new Collaboratory on Data and Science for Risk and Resilience in the Caribbean, hosted by the Organization of American States (OAS), which aims to bring together diverse stakeholders to address critical issues related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development in the Caribbean region.
- The Directorate was invited by the Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities (ABEMA) to participate in the Climate and Biodiversity House, an intersectoral space for side events on biodiversity and climate during the UNFCCC's COP30 in Belem, Brazil. Several coordination meetings were held to prepare two webinars co-organized by the IAI and ABEMA. As part of a joint strategic planning process, the webinars were scheduled for March 2026 within the pathway "from Belém to Yerevan," in preparation for the CBD COP 17. This adjustment aims to strengthen continuity and ensure alignment with the post-COP30 follow-up agenda, fostering synergies between biodiversity and climate conventions across the Americas.
- The Directorate participated in the UN Oceans Conference in June 2025 (see Decision XXXI/6).
- The Directorate, in line with Parties' Decisions XXXI/14 and XXXII/19 (see above) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), submitted an official contribution to the CBD in response to Notification 2025-100. The submission provided information registering the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC), the implementation of the Gender and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Policy at the IAI and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Policy at the Belmont Forum, the support for the PICLAs (Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-descendants) Declaration at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress

(SRI), as well as the inclusive scoping process, project co-design and co-implementation of the Belmont Forum CRAs. It also highlighted the multilingual grant submission platform available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. This process further advances collaboration among the IAI, its Parties and the CBD Secretariat, positioning the Institute as a regional partner supporting Parties in the implementation of the KMGBF, particularly in relation to Article 8(j).

- The Directorate is engaging with the Sistema Universitario Centroamericano (SUCA), which is part of the Central American Integration System (SICA) through the program *Strengthening inclusive science and innovation systems in Latin America through a collaborative research network*. This initiative, funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) aims at fostering scientific exchange and collaboration across Central America and provide viable solutions to the region's most pressing challenges, including those faced by vulnerable populations.
- The Directorate participated in the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27, 20 to 24 October 2025), the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J-1, 27 to 30 October 2025), and the Workshop on the Assessments adopted by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2024 and forthcoming assessments (SA-WS-2025-01, 18 October 2025), held in Panama City, Panama, under the framework of the CBD. During the SBSTTA-27, the IAI co-hosted the following side events:
 - "Integrating Biodiversity Restoration, Animal Welfare, and One Health: From Guidelines to Action and Evaluation" (21 October 2025), together with the World Federation for Animals (WFA), Born Free Foundation (BFF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the STRI, the IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group (CTSG), and the IUCN Forests and Grasslands team.
 - "Aligning Sectoral Priorities towards Policy Coherence, Science and Financing for Sustainability" (23 October 2025), in collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), the Development Bank of La Plata Basin (FONPLATA), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), IUCN, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNDP, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Belmont Forum.
 - The Directorate supported the Belmont Forum in co-hosting the side event "Enhancing the Role of Knowledge Holders in the CBD: Pioneering Capacity-Building Initiatives Across the World" (24 October 2025), in collaboration with CO-OP4CBD (Biodiversa+), the European Commission Joint Research Centre, the Secretariat of the CBD, the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), the ICCA Consortium, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP), the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), the Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB), and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

- The Directorate is working towards obtaining observer status with the UNCCD. In addition, a MoU between the IAI and the UNCCD Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama, is currently underway.
 - The UNCCD LAC Office is also collaborating with the IAI as a speaker at a side event during CBD SBSTTA-27 and during the International Congress on Disaster Risk Reduction hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Panama; both events were held in October 2025 in Panama City.
 - The UNCCD Regional Office has requested the IAI to organize a panel during the twenty-third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 23) of the UNCCD, to be held in Panama City, Panama, from 1 to 5 December 2025. In addition, the UNCCD Regional Office has also requested the IAI to plan a training session on science diplomacy for convention delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean in 2026.
- The IAI was invited by the UNFCCC COP30 Incoming Presidency and the Climate High-Level Champions to join the Activation Group #16, which will be established to deliver on the COP30 Action Agenda's key objective of "Promoting resilient health systems." Through the IAI Directorate, the invitation has been extended to the Belmont Forum in recognition of its ongoing CRAs.
- The Directorate requested accreditation for the UNFCCC COP30 Blue Zone and successfully secured three credentials to enable the Institute's participation in official sessions and events.
- One STeP fellow and one program lead from the Directorate participated in the 10th BRICS Young Scientist Forum, in Brasilia, Brazil, from 15 to 17 September 2025.
- The Directorate participated in the Global Conference on Climate and Health, Brasilia, Brazil, from 29 to 31 July 2025, hosted by the Government of Brazil, the WHO, and the PAHO. This meeting contributed to the Belem Health Action Plan, in anticipation of the UNFCCC COP30.

XXXI/18. *The Conference of the Parties approves the creation of the IAI Science Diplomacy Center and its work plan for the first three years based on the recommendations of the Science Diplomacy Center Advisory Board.*

Actions by the Directorate and results

- In collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the IAI Science Diplomacy Center is developing a Ministers' Conversation Series. This initiative builds on the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy series of interviews with Ambassadors in Washington, D.C. The second Conversation, published in October 2025, featured Dr. Eduardo Ortega-Barría, Panama's National Secretary of SENACYT in an interview titled "From Investment to Leadership: A Conversation with Dr. Eduardo Ortega-Barría, Panama's National Secretary of Science, Technology and Innovation." Secretary Ortega highlighted that the relocation of the IAI and the Secretariat of the Belmont Forum to Panama positions the country as a hemispheric hub for science-policy interfaces and international research collaboration and recognizes Panama's leadership in science diplomacy and its geographic and political connectivity across the Americas. The interview

is available [here, https://www.sciencediplomacy.org/conversation/2025/investment-leadership-conversation-dr-eduardo-ortega-barria-panamas-national](https://www.sciencediplomacy.org/conversation/2025/investment-leadership-conversation-dr-eduardo-ortega-barria-panamas-national)

- The SDC collaborated with Brazil's permanent representative at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) to host a workshop on introducing Science Diplomacy, in Brasilia, Brazil, from 5 to 7 August 2025. The event trained government officials from Brazil and directors of international collaboration from many countries in LAC in science and innovation diplomacy. The workshop was funded by the MCTI and served as a venue to discuss STI collaboration among countries in the Americas in preparation for the upcoming UNFCCC COP30 to be held in Belem, Brazil. The workshop was held back-to-back with the 7th Edition of the São Paulo Innovation and Science Diplomacy School (InnSciD SP), held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 6 to 9 August 2025. Both events were coordinated in close collaboration, developing synergies and offering participants from several IAI Parties the opportunity to engage in both activities. An evaluation conducted after the workshop reflected highly positive feedback from government officials, with an average rating of 4.85 on a 1-5 scale (5 being the highest). Some countries reported bilateral agreements that resulted from the workshop, including between Peru and Brazil, and Peru and Ecuador. Other countries expressed interest in organizing future science diplomacy workshops in collaboration with the IAI SDC in 2026. Additionally, a policy brief is being developed summarizing participants' recommendations to strengthen science diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The IAI and its SDC have been invited to participate as key partners in the *South American Meeting for the Andes Mountain Range 2025* (Tolima, Colombia, 23 to 24 October 2025). Within this framework, Andean subnational governments, in collaboration with the Andean Mountain Initiative (AMI) and with the participation of seven countries of the Cordillera, are promoting the establishment of the Ad Hoc Group for Subnational Cooperation, positioning the Andes Mountains as a natural laboratory for collaborative research and regional climate action. This Group is conceived as a permanent scientific, technical, and political platform to strengthen multilevel governance and cooperation among science, policy, and diplomacy in the Andes. As its first strategic action, it will foster the creation of the Andean Scientific Panel (PCA), which will prepare the *First Report on the Current State of the Cordillera*, integrating scientific knowledge, local perspectives, and community participation. Reinforcing the IAI's commitment to transnational science and science diplomacy for sustainability, the IAI will play a central role in conceptualizing the Panel and serve as manager of a trust fund, which will operate as the financial mechanism to channel contributions from subnational governments, multilateral agencies, and other cooperating partners.
- The fifth cohort (2025–2026) of STeP fellows is anticipated to commence in November 2025 with 5 participating countries: Argentina, through CREA and the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET); USA (AAAS); Brazil, through FAPESC/Secretary for Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services (MDIC); Colombia (Humboldt Institute); and Panama (STRI, CMAR). Having completed a 4-year pilot phase, the STeP Fellowship Program will now focus on areas of thematic interest identified by IAI Parties and program partners and funders. The 2025–2026 thematic focus areas include 1) bioeconomy and biodiversity; and 2) climate, environment and health.

Other new partnerships

- The IAI Directorate has recently signed collaboration agreements aimed at strengthening scientific capacity, open access to knowledge, and regional cooperation:
 - An agreement was signed with The Geneva Learning Foundation (TGLF), establishing a framework for joint capacity building initiatives and knowledge exchange.
 - The Directorate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with La Referencia, the open access repository for Latin America and the Caribbean, to foster open science in the region through collaboration and capacity building. Both institutions have been working on developing a digital infrastructure to aggregate IAI-funded publications to the repository of La Referencia through the Panama national node.
 - The Directorate signed an Agreement with REDLABOT to strengthen education on geospatial tools to respond to global environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The IAI continues to partner with EPIC-N to fund five projects focused on urban Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) in Latin America. The initiative applies a transdisciplinary approach through University–Community Partnerships to address key barriers to implementing EbA in the region, including gaps in financing, governance, and knowledge. Projects are in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico (2) and Panama. This program is funded by the Global EbA Fund, supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) of Germany, and co-managed by the IUCN and its partners.
- The Directorate participated in two in person convenings and one virtual convening of the Funders Forum, co-led by Belmont Forum and the Pew Charitable Trust. Over 40 funders from foundations, corporations, national governments, and investors have come together to foster cross-sector collaboration, develop strategic funding alliances, coordinate institutional innovation, align funding strategies and practices for impact, and spur action on funding gaps and research opportunities.
- The IAI is partnering with the Belmont Forum to establish the Belmont Forum Foundation (BFF), a fundraising arm of the Belmont Forum and the IAI. The BFF was granted 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization in the United States in October 2025
- The Directorate begun developing a partnership with FONPLATA, which serves Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
 - The IAI Directorate invited FONPLATA to participate as a speaker in the side event organized under the framework of the CBD during the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27), held in Panama City, Panama (see above Decision XXXI/7). For this purpose, the IAI nominated a FONPLATA representative as part of its delegation.
 - The IAI Directorate was invited by FONPLATA to participate as a speaker in its side event during the Pre-COP meeting on Water and Sanitation, co-organized with the Brazilian Association of State Sanitation Companies (AESBE). The event, titled "Pre-COP on Sanitation: Adaptation and Mitigation in the Water and Wastewater Treatment Sector", held in Brasília, Brazil, on 14 October 2025, and

focused on adaptation and mitigation strategies within the water and wastewater treatment sectors.

- The IAI and FONPLATA have drafted a collaboration agreement which is currently under review.

Communications, Website and Virtual Campus

- The Directorate has continued to promote through webinars, workshops, and social media two new self-managed, free and certificate-based courses, accompanied by case study books, in May 2025:
 - Science Diplomacy and Global Environmental Change in the Americas (in Spanish, Portuguese, and English). The course has 374 registered participants in progress.
 - Advances in TD Research on Global Environmental Change in Latin America and the Caribbean in (Spanish and English). The course has 454 registered participants in progress and 123 who completed.
- In August 2025, the Directorate, in partnership with NASA, National Geographic and Stanford University, launched the pilot of a five-week free, self-paced, certificate-based virtual course on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems. It is aimed at students and researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on the use of satellite data to monitor environmental change in the region. The course strengthens technical skills in processing and interpreting satellite images to detect changes in ecosystems, climate, and human dimensions such as health. Using open-access tools like Google Earth Engine, participants will learn to generate products relevant for land-use planning, including the identification of vulnerable areas. Combining technical learning with regional case studies, the course addresses issues such as deforestation, extreme events, air quality, and land cover, with the goal of promoting geospatial data use in science, policy, and sustainable development. It consists of five modules delivered through video tutorials, readings, exercises, and reflection questions. The content was developed by Liza Goldberg, a NASA Goddard researcher and global leader in initiatives that integrate satellite science, education, and climate action. It is anticipated that the course will open to the public in the last quarter of 2025.
- The content of the course on *Health Adaptation Measures to Meet the Climate Change Challenge in the Americas* described above in this report under Decision XXXI/5 will be uploaded to the IAI virtual campus in Spanish, English, French, and Portuguese after the online session concludes in November 2025.
- The Directorate is planning a new webinar on *El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Modeling and Forecasting* in partnership with the WMO Regional Office for the Americas and the University of Colorado at Boulder.
- The social media and mailing strategy has adapted to new trends in engagement, reaching 5,466 active email accounts and more than 18,000 LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram followers in the period from 1 June to 31 August 2025.
- The Directorate will launch the new IAI website in early November 2025. The new website will have four searchable databases: 1) Thematic experts available for consultation; 2)

STeP fellows (alumni and current); 3) Scientific publications funded by the IAI; 4) Science diplomacy knowledge hub.

- The Directorate will launch the virtual course entitled “A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Future of the Oceans”, developed in collaboration with the CR2 and the Belmont Forum. The course will be hosted on the IAI Virtual Campus and aligns with Decision XXXI/6, supporting the implementation of the IAI’s research and training program on oceans, islands, and coastal systems under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Outreach to new potential member states:

The IAI has actively reached out to potential new Parties including:

- The Directorate has supported El Salvador throughout the process to adhere to the IAI Agreement, through virtual and in-person meetings. The Directorate started its collaboration in science diplomacy with the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) of El Salvador at the end of 2023, which was instrumental in promoting the country's adhesion to the IAI. In May 2025, the Vice Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology presented the adhesion request to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs sent the process to the Presidential House, where it is currently being reviewed. From there, it will be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly, and if approved, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will deposit the document with the Organization of American States, to conclude the accession process.

Conclusions

6. This report does not purport to present a complete summary of the activities organized by the IAI Directorate. Updates on activities omitted from this report will be provided to Parties on an ongoing basis during the 2025-2026 inter-sessional period and the 34th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendation

7. The Executive Council is invited to take note of this report.