

19 June 2026

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH
Thirty-fourth meeting
Videoconference
3–4 June 2026**

**Report of the 34th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research**

1. This document was prepared by the IAI Directorate.
2. The Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research held its 34th meeting (CoP-34) via videoconferencing, from 3 to 4 June 2026.
3. The accounts of the proceedings and discussions of the meeting are provided in Section I of the report.
4. The meeting adopted 8 Decisions, which are provided in Section II of this report.
5. The report of the special session *Strengthening Regional Scientific Cooperation for Climate Knowledge Sovereignty and Resilience in the Americas and the Caribbean* is provided as Annex I to this report.
6. The complete list of participants, including observers, is provided as Annex II of this report.

Section I: Proceedings of the Meeting

Introduction

7. In accordance with *the Agreement establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research*, Article V, *The Conference of the Parties*, paragraph 3, the 34th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research was held via videoconferencing, from 3 to 4 June 2026.

XXXI/8: The Conference of the Parties is invited to meet in person biennially and via videoconferencing during the intervening years, to increase equitable participation of

the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee and Parties, to begin the implementation of a sponsored delegates program for the provision of financial assistance to facilitate the participation of Parties at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and to reduce the carbon footprint of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

8. All IAI Parties and the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Chair of the Science- Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), and the Chair of the Indigenous People Advisory Committee (IPAC) were invited to attend along with IAI Associates. The following Parties to the Agreement attended the meeting with due accreditation, as reported by the Credentials Committee composed by Panama and Paraguay: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The required quorum was 10, and 12 accredited Parties attended the meeting. Mexico also participated in the meeting, pending completion of the accreditation process.
9. The following Associates attended the meeting: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the Humboldt Institution.
10. The complete list of participants, including observers, is provided as Annex II of this report.

Opening of the meeting

11. On 3 June 2026, the Interim Executive Director, Omar López Alfano, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. He invited the Host Countries, Colombia and Jamaica, to make opening statements.
12. Opening statements by the Government of Colombia were made by Ghislane Echeverry Prieto, General Director of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM).
13. Opening statements by the Government of Jamaica were made by Honourable Dr. Andrew Wheatley, Minister of Science, Technology and Special Projects.

Opening statements by Colombia

Opening statements by the Dr. Ghislane Echeverry, General Director of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM)

14. Ghislane Echeverry Prieto, General Director of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) of Colombia, welcomed participants and highlighted the growing challenges facing the region in the context of global environmental change. She emphasized the importance of strengthening regional scientific cooperation and advancing climate knowledge sovereignty through enhanced research capacities, institutional collaboration, data interoperability, and the production and use of scientific knowledge that responds to regional priorities.
15. She noted the important role played by the IAI over more than three decades in fostering interdisciplinary research, scientific capacity development, science diplomacy, and science-policy dialogue across the Americas. She stressed that the decisions adopted by CoP-34 would contribute not only to the future of the Institute but also to the

strengthening of regional scientific cooperation and evidence-based decision-making.

Opening statements by Jamaica

Opening statements by the Honourable Dr. Andrew Wheatley, Minister of Science, Technology and Special Projects of Jamaica

16. Honourable Dr. Andrew Wheatley, Minister of Science, Technology and Special Projects of Jamaica, emphasized the increasing impacts of climate change across the Americas and the Caribbean and underscored the importance of regional cooperation, scientific research, technological innovation, and evidence-based policymaking in addressing shared climate and development challenges.
17. The Minister highlighted Jamaica's commitment to strengthening climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, scientific education, digital innovation, and the responsible use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to support climate action. He further stressed the importance of regional partnerships, climate data sharing, scientific exchanges, and collaborative research initiatives, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
18. He reaffirmed Jamaica's strong support for the IAI and emphasized the Institute's unique role in promoting interdisciplinary research, scientific cooperation, capacity development, and science-policy engagement throughout the region.

Administrative matters

Election of CoP Bureau

19. Parties elected the composition of the CoP Bureau. The following Parties were elected for the first day: Jamaica (Chair), Colombia (1st. Vice-Chair) and Guatemala (2nd. Vice-Chair), and the following Parties for the second day: Colombia (Chair), Jamaica (1st Vice-Chair) and Guatemala (2nd Vice Chair).

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

20. Following the election of members to the CoP Bureau, the Chair invited Parties to adopt the provisional agenda to CoP-34 (IAI/COP/34/1).
21. The Chair of the Executive Council, Milagro Mainieri of Panama, proposed the inclusion of an agenda item to allow the Conference of the Parties to elect a ninth member of the Executive Council and, subsequently, provide an opportunity for the Executive Council to convene and elect a 2nd Vice-Chair to fill the vacant position on its Bureau.
22. The Conference agreed to include this item under Agenda Item 3 concerning matters related to the Executive Council.
23. Parties approved the agenda by consensus, as amended.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the *Report of the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties*

24. The Chair invited Parties to approve the *Report of the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties* (CoP-33, 2026, Asunción, Paraguay, hybrid) (IAI/COP/34/2).

25. Parties approved the Report of CoP-33 by consensus.
26. The Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXXIV/1 provided in Section II of this report.

Agenda item 3: Report of the Executive Council Chair

27. The Chair invited the Chair of the Executive Council to present the report of the Executive Council.
28. The Chair of the Executive Council recalled that the Executive Council serves as the executive organ of the Institute, as stated by the Agreement establishing the IAI. She noted that, at the time of the meeting, the Executive Council was composed of eight member countries and informed Parties that the position of 2nd Vice-Chair remained vacant, following the withdrawal of the United States from the Executive Council.
29. She reported on the work undertaken by the Executive Council and the Ad Hoc Financial Restructuring Committee during the intersessional period. Following the Extraordinary Conference of the Parties held in March 2026, the Committee met on three occasions to assess the Institute's financial situation and evaluate options for ensuring sustainability.
30. The EC Chair explained that three operational scenarios had been considered: a conservative scenario based on an Interim Executive Director and a minimum institutional structure; an intermediate scenario with additional technical support; and a strengthened scenario involving a permanent Executive Director and expanded institutional capacity.
31. She informed Parties that, based on current financial resources and projected contributions, the Committee had concluded that the conservative scenario was the only viable option at the present time and therefore recommended its adoption. The scenario would allow the Institute to maintain essential operations, continue ongoing programs and projects, pursue new funding opportunities, and preserve core scientific and science diplomacy functions.
32. The EC Chair further reported that the Committee had reviewed the Institute's financial position, including available balances, country contributions, projected revenues, contractual commitments, and the financial outlook for the period 2026–2028.
33. Regarding the establishment of the Institute's operations in Panama, she informed Parties that the required consultations and administrative procedures with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama had been completed. She noted that the certifications required to initiate the transfer of the Institute's accounts from Uruguay to Panama had been issued and that the transfer process was expected to commence in June 2026.
34. She presented the recommendations of the Executive Council to the Conference of the Parties, including a) the election of a ninth member to restore the Executive Council to its full composition, b) support for the implementation of a sustainability and institutional strengthening plan aimed at increasing voluntary contributions from member countries and c) enhancing long-term financial sustainability, and the maintenance of the conservative operational scenario while periodically assessing the conditions necessary to transition to a strengthened institutional structure.

35. The EC Chair highlighted the approval of the GEF-8 Integrated Sargassum Management Project for the Caribbean and noted that the Institute would lead one of its components, strengthening its role in scientific capacity development and regional cooperation.
36. She also informed Parties of correspondence received from the Belmont Forum requesting participation in the Institute's restructuring process. In response, the Executive Council Bureau reiterated that the governance of the IAI is intergovernmental in nature and that decision-making authority rests exclusively with the Parties. While recognizing the importance of cooperation with external partners, the EC Bureau emphasized that any contributions to governance discussions should be channeled through the Institute's established governance mechanisms.
37. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the Executive Council and recommendations.

Election of a ninth member of the Executive Council

38. The Chair invited Parties to proceed with the election of a ninth member of the Executive Council.
39. The Directorate outlined the applicable procedures under the Rules of the Conference of the Parties governing the election of Executive Council members and the subsequent election of the 2nd Vice-Chair of the Executive Council.
40. The Chair appointed two tellers, Milagro Mainieri (Panama) and Soledad Noya (IAI Directorate), to oversee the election process and conducted a secret ballot for the election of the ninth member of the Executive Council.
41. Following an initial review of the ballots, the tellers informed that the Conference of the Parties elected Uruguay as the ninth member of the Executive Council by secret ballot.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Directorate

Overview of the activities of the Directorate

42. The Interim Executive Director introduced the report of the Directorate contained in document IAI/COP/34/4, which had been circulated to Parties prior to the meeting, and presented an overview of the activities undertaken during the intersessional period.
43. He reported on progress made in restoring the Institute's administrative and operational processes following the resignation of the former Executive Director, including actions related to the establishment of operations in Panama and the regularization of institutional financial and administrative procedures.
44. The Directorate highlighted efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships with regional and international organizations. Particular attention was drawn to a technical cooperation agreement with the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) to support the establishment of a scientific advisory body on biodiversity and productive development, as well as ongoing collaboration with FONPLATA (the Plata Basin Financial Development Fund), the Central American Higher Education Council (CSUCA), and other regional partners.
45. The Directorate reported on the continuation of scientific and science diplomacy

activities, including webinars, training initiatives, capacity-building programs, and engagement with scientific and policy communities throughout the Americas.

46. The Interim Executive Director also provided an update on resource mobilization efforts, including the submission, development, and advancement of project proposals with international partners and funding agencies aimed at strengthening the Institute's financial sustainability and programmatic activities.
47. Particular attention was drawn to the approval of the GEF-8 Integrated Sargassum Management Project for the Caribbean, a regional initiative valued at over USD 10 million. The Directorate noted that the IAI would lead one of the project components, strengthening regional scientific cooperation and capacity-building efforts related to the management of sargassum in the Caribbean.
48. Following the presentation on the initiative with CAF, the representative of Chile sought clarification regarding emerging concepts and initiatives related to biodiversity-positive and nature-positive development and their relationship to other approaches, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation. Questions were also raised regarding the extent to which biodiversity and climate change considerations were being integrated into the work of development finance institutions.
49. The Directorate explained that the proposed collaboration with CAF aims to strengthen the integration of scientific evidence into biodiversity-related financing and decision-making processes and noted the growing interest among regional and international partners in developing financial mechanisms that support biodiversity conservation, climate action, and sustainable development.

The Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) and the STeP Program

50. The Director of the Science Diplomacy Center (SDC) reported on the Center's activities during its third year of operation. She highlighted progress in capacity building, science diplomacy training, regional engagement, policy-oriented publications, and collaboration with governments, academic institutions, international organizations, and development partners.
51. She further reported on the growing demand for science diplomacy training and advisory activities across the region and noted the Center's continued efforts to strengthen the science-policy-diplomacy interface through regional cooperation, knowledge exchange, and professional development initiatives.
52. She also reported on the continued implementation of the Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program, highlighting its contribution to strengthening professional capacities and fostering engagement at the science-policy-diplomacy interface across the Americas.
53. The Directorate emphasized the importance of diversifying funding sources, strengthening partnerships, and expanding opportunities for scientific cooperation in support of the Institute's mission and long-term sustainability.

The Science Program

54. The Interim Executive Director presented the report of the Science Program and provided an overview of its activities during the intersessional period.
55. He reported that the Program currently oversees a portfolio of active and concluding

research projects involving institutions and researchers from across the Americas, including approximately 28 projects spanning 15 countries. He noted that the majority of existing project commitments had been fulfilled and that ongoing activities continue to support scientific collaboration and capacity development in the region.

56. The Directorate highlighted a range of training and outreach activities, including courses on satellite data applications, ocean sustainability, climate intervention techniques, and climate forecasting. It also reported on efforts to strengthen the visibility, accessibility, and use of scientific outputs generated through IAI-supported research, including initiatives related to open science and data sharing.
57. He emphasized the importance of continuing to connect scientific knowledge with policy and decision-making processes through webinars, training activities, and engagement with regional scientific networks.
58. The Interim Executive Director further presented an initiative to establish a partnership between the IAI and the Amazonian Institute of Technology (AMIT). He explained that the proposed collaboration would strengthen pan-Amazonian scientific cooperation, expand opportunities for research, innovation, and capacity development, and facilitate access to new sources of funding focused on the Amazon region.
59. It was noted that the proposal had been presented to the IAI's advisory committees, which expressed support for exploring the initiative further. Following the presentation, the Directorate requested guidance from the Parties regarding the continuation of discussions and proposed collaboration between the IAI and the Amazonian Institute of Technology (AMIT), aimed at establishing a formal partnership arrangement, including the possibility of the IAI serving as host institution for the initiative.
60. The representative of Brazil indicated that additional internal consultations were required before the proposal could be considered by the Parties and noted that the proposal had not yet been circulated for formal review.
61. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Directorate would prepare and circulate a formal proposal to all Parties for consideration and comment. Consideration of the matter was deferred pending further consultations.
62. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the Directorate.

Agenda item 5: Financial Report

63. The Director of Finance and Administration introduced the financial report and proposed Core Budget for FY 2026–2027 contained in document IAI/COP/34/5, which had been circulated to Parties in advance of the meeting.
64. She reported that expenditures during the reporting period had been reduced through cost-saving measures, including limitations on travel and operational expenses, in response to the Institute's financial situation and the withdrawal of financial support from the United States of America.
65. The Directorate informed Parties of ongoing efforts to secure outstanding contributions through direct engagement with National Focal Points, communications with member countries, and coordination with diplomatic representatives.
66. Referring to the work of the Ad Hoc Financial Restructuring Committee, the Directorate

recalled that the conservative operational scenario adopted by the Extraordinary Conference of the Parties had been recommended as the most viable option for ensuring the Institute's short- and medium-term sustainability.

67. It was noted that, under the proposed budget and institutional structure, currently available resources would allow the Institute to maintain operations through June 2027, while projected contributions and additional resource mobilization efforts would support the continuation of activities beyond that period.
68. The Directorate emphasized that the proposed budget sought to balance financial responsibility, institutional continuity, and operational capacity while preserving the Institute's core functions and supporting ongoing efforts to diversify funding sources.
69. The Directorate presented the proposed Core Budget for FY 2026–2027 and recommended its approval by the Conference of the Parties.
70. During the discussion, the representative of Uruguay requested clarification regarding the composition of the proposed Core Budget and noted that personnel costs represented a significant proportion of the projected expenditures. She inquired how the Institute's scientific, capacity-building, and other programmatic activities would be financed under the proposed budget.
71. The Directorate explained that the Core Budget primarily supports personnel, administrative, and other essential operating costs required to maintain the Institute's core functions. It further noted that many scientific, training, and outreach activities are financed through externally funded projects, programmatic resources, overheads, and initiatives such as the Science Diplomacy Center.
72. In response to further questions, the Directorate clarified that the proposed budget is based on historical patterns of contributions received from Parties and informed the Conference of ongoing efforts to strengthen contribution payments and diversify funding sources.
73. The Directorate further explained that the Institute operates through complementary funding streams, including the Core Budget, programmatic resources, and externally funded projects, which together support the Institute's scientific, administrative, and operational activities.
74. The Conference of the Parties took note of the clarifications provided by the Directorate.
75. During the discussion, the representative of Guatemala informed the Conference that administrative and procedural obstacles that had previously affected the country's ability to make contributions to the Institute had been resolved. He reported that Guatemala expected to settle outstanding contributions corresponding to recent fiscal years and resume regular annual contributions going forward.
76. The Conference welcomed the announcement and noted the importance of sustained contributions from Parties in support of the Institute's financial sustainability.
77. The Chair invited Parties to consider the proposed Core Budget for FY 2026–2027.
78. The Core Budget for FY 2026–2027 was approved by consensus.
79. The Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXXIV/3 provided in Section II of this report.

80. The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions during the first day of the meeting and reminded Parties that consideration of the remaining agenda items would continue on the second day of CoP-34.
81. The first day of the thirty-fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was adjourned.

Day 2

Synthesis of the thematic session co-hosted by Colombia and Jamaica: *Strengthening Regional Scientific Cooperation for Climate Knowledge Sovereignty and Resilience in the Americas and the Caribbean*

82. The Chair invited the representatives of Jamaica and Colombia to present a synthesis of the thematic session held on 2 June 2026 organized within the sidelines of the official sessions of the CoP-34, which had been co-organized by the Governments of Colombia and Jamaica through the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the University of the West Indies (UWI), with contributions from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
83. The representative of Jamaica, Samantha Aikman, reported that the session examined the growing climate challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean and highlighted the importance of strengthening regional scientific cooperation, climate knowledge, and evidence-based decision-making to enhance resilience across the region.
84. Presentations emphasized that climate-related risks, including extreme weather events, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, heat extremes, droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones, continue to intensify. Participants highlighted the importance of climate intelligence systems, integrated observation networks, data-sharing mechanisms, and interoperable platforms to support risk assessment and decision-making.
85. He further noted the role of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, climate data platforms, and early warning systems, in transforming climate-related data into actionable information. Participants stressed the need for improved governance frameworks, institutional coordination, workforce development, and sustainable investment in digital climate infrastructure.
86. The representative of Colombia, Giovanni Jiménez, complemented the presentation by highlighting the importance of strengthening the science-policy-finance interface and promoting regional cooperation mechanisms capable of translating scientific knowledge into concrete actions and development outcomes.
87. He noted that the region possesses growing scientific capacities and a highly engaged research community. However, challenges remain in connecting scientific knowledge with public policy, investment decisions, and implementation processes.
88. Participants of the session had emphasized the need to strengthen regional scientific networks, climate services, data interoperability, and shared analytical approaches. They also highlighted the importance of recognizing scientific diasporas as strategic partners capable of facilitating knowledge exchange, capacity development, and international scientific cooperation.

89. The representative of Colombia further underscored the importance of mobilizing financial resources and fostering collaboration among governments, scientific institutions, development banks, and international partners to support climate action and resilience-building efforts.
90. The session concluded that strengthening climate resilience in the Americas and the Caribbean requires transforming scientific knowledge into climate intelligence, promoting regional cooperation, enhancing scientific capacities, and developing concrete initiatives capable of generating tangible benefits for communities and territories across the region.
91. The Conference of the Parties took note of the synthesis of the thematic session.

Message from Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to the IAI CoP-34

92. The Conference of the Parties viewed a video message from Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In her remarks, she recognized the IAI's contributions to strengthening regional scientific cooperation and science-policy dialogue in the Americas and emphasized the importance of regional institutions in addressing increasingly complex environmental, social, and economic challenges.
93. She highlighted the role of scientific cooperation, open exchange of information, capacity development, and evidence-based decision-making in supporting resilience and sustainable development. She further reaffirmed the importance of the collaboration between the WMO and the IAI and underscored the need for continued regional cooperation, integration, and dialogue between science and public policy to address shared climate and environmental challenges.
94. The Conference of the Parties took note of the message.

The Indigenous People Advisory Committee (IPAC), the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

Agenda item 6: Joint Report of the SAC/SPAC

95. The Chair invited the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Alexandra Mallet, and the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), Amparo Martínez, to present their joint report.
96. The Chair of the SAC introduced the joint report of SAC/SPAC contained in document IAI/COP/34/6, which had been circulated to Parties prior to CoP-34.
97. The Chairs of the SAC and SPAC recalled the mandates of their respective committees and provided an overview of their activities during the intersessional period.
98. The SAC reported on the continued work of its thematic working groups, including those focused on oceans, coasts and islands; climate, environment and health; and open science. It highlighted the contributions of committee members to webinars, training activities, scientific assessments, and regional capacity-building initiatives.
99. The SPAC reported on its efforts to strengthen the science-policy interface and support

the Institute's activities related to research, capacity development, gender equity, diversity, inclusion, and science diplomacy. It was noted that SAC, SPAC and IPAC members held regular joint and committee-specific meetings throughout the intersessional period.

100. The committees reported on their continued engagement with the Directorate and highlighted their contributions to activities related to the Science Diplomacy Center, responses to international policy processes, and the implementation of thematic initiatives addressing climate change, biodiversity, oceans, health, sustainability, and other emerging regional priorities.
101. The committees also highlighted the successful implementation of webinars, training courses, and collaborative initiatives organized in partnership with academic institutions, the Belmont Forum, and other regional and international partners. Particular attention was drawn to activities supporting ocean sustainability, climate and health, and emerging topics related to solar radiation modification governance.
102. Members noted the approval of the GEF-funded Sargassum project and welcomed the opportunities it would create for scientific cooperation and capacity development across the Caribbean and Latin America.
103. The SAC and SPAC reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the Institute's scientific agenda and institutional objectives and encouraged Parties to strengthen engagement between national focal points and the scientific communities of their respective countries.
104. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report.
105. The Conference of the Parties adopted draft Decisions XXXIV/3 and XXXIV/4 proposed by the SAC and the SPAC, provided in Section II of this report.

Agenda item 7: Report of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC)

106. The Chair invited the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC) to present its report on behalf of the Committee.
107. The Chair of the IPAC, Cristina Fuares, presented an overview of the Committee's activities during its first full year of operation following its introduction at CoP-33.
108. The Committee reported that it had held regular meetings throughout the intersessional period and focused on strengthening its internal organization, reviewing the Institute's governing documents and strategic priorities, and defining modalities of work consistent with Indigenous knowledge systems and decision-making practices.
109. The IPAC informed Parties that it had developed draft internal operating procedures and documentation describing the establishment and evolution of the Committee. These materials are intended to support future work and provide a framework for continued engagement with the Institute.
110. The Committee emphasized the importance of strengthening the integration of Indigenous knowledge systems into discussions related to global environmental change and noted the need for improved understanding of the realities, priorities, and participation of Indigenous Peoples across the region.

111. The IPAC reported its contributions to several Institute activities and international processes, including inputs to biodiversity-related initiatives, discussions on traditional knowledge and innovation, and participation in workshops, conferences, and policy dialogues addressing climate change, biodiversity, oceans, and inclusive governance.
112. Members of the Committee highlighted the importance of intercultural dialogue, consensus-based decision-making, and multilingual engagement. The Committee expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Directorate in facilitating interpretation and participation during its formative period.
113. The IPAC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the work of the Institute and expressed its intention to continue contributing technical advice and perspectives from Indigenous Peoples throughout the Americas.
114. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report.

Agenda item 8: Renewal and appointment of advisory committee members

115. The Chair recalled that, prior to CoP-34, the Directorate had circulated Notification IAIDIR/2026/11 regarding the nominations received from Parties and the SAC following the expiration of terms and vacancies in the Institute's advisory committees.
116. The Chair invited the Conference of the Parties to consider the renewals and appointments of advisory committee members contained in Notification IAIDIR/2026/11.
117. The Chair invited the Conference of the Parties to consider the renewal of the appointments of Laura Ramajo and Pedro Laterra, both nominated by the Parties, for a second term as members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).
118. The Conference of the Parties approved by consensus the renewal of the appointments of Laura Ramajo and Pedro Laterra, for a second term as members of the SAC.
119. The Conference of the Parties further approved by consensus the appointment of Shaneica Lester and Juan Camilo Cárdenas as members of the SAC and Jeannette Ma. Arauz Muñoz as an alternate member of the SAC, all nominated by the Committee.
120. The Chair then invited the Conference of the Parties to consider the renewal of the appointments of Carlos Joly, Gilma Mantilla, and Inti Arcos, all nominated by the Parties, for a second term as members of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC).
121. The Conference of the Parties approved by consensus the renewal of the appointments of Carlos Joly, Gilma Mantilla, and Inti Arcos as members of the SPAC.
122. The Directorate recalled that the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC) was still in the process of finalizing its internal rules and procedures and recommended extending the terms of the current members for an additional year to ensure continuity of its work.
123. The Conference of the Parties approved by consensus the extension of the current IPAC membership for an additional one-year period.
124. The Conference of the Parties took note of the recommendations presented by the advisory committees and welcomed their continued contributions to the work of the Institute.

125. The Conference of the Parties adopted draft Decisions XXXIV/5, XXXIV/6 and XXXIV/7, provided in Section II of this report.

Overview of decisions adopted by CoP-34

126. The Chair presented the decisions considered during CoP-34 and invited Parties to review them.

127. The Conference of the Parties reviewed the decisions adopted during CoP-34, as contained in Section II of this report.

128. Referring to the discussions held under the Report of the Science Program, Parties recalled the proposal concerning a potential institutional relationship between the IAI and the Amazon Institute of Technology (AMIT).

129. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the Directorate should prepare and circulate a formal proposal outlining the nature, scope, and implications of a potential partnership between the IAI and AMIT for review and comment by the Parties prior to consideration at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

130. The Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXXIV/8 on this matter.

131. The Conference of the Parties adopted the eight decisions contained in Section II of this report.

Outstanding issues and conclusion of the meeting
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Agenda item 9: Date and venue of the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties

132. The Chair invited Parties to express interest in hosting the thirty-fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-35), tentatively scheduled for May or June 2027.

133. The representative of Venezuela reiterated the interest of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in hosting CoP-35. He informed Parties that, subject to national considerations and available resources, Venezuela would be pleased to host both the Executive Council meeting and the Conference of the Parties at the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC).

134. The representative highlighted the symbolic and strategic value of hosting the meeting at IVIC, noting its role as one of the country's leading scientific institutions and an Associate Institution of the IAI.

135. The Directorate welcomed the expression of interest and indicated that further discussions would take place with Venezuela regarding the feasibility and arrangements for hosting CoP-35.

136. The Conference of the Parties took note of the proposal.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the meeting

137. The Interim Executive Director expressed appreciation to the Governments of Colombia and Jamaica for their leadership and collaboration in organizing CoP-34 and the thematic session held within the sidelines of the official sessions of the CoP-34.
138. He thanked the Parties, advisory committees, associated institutions, and partners for their continued support to the Institute and highlighted the value of the discussions held during the thematic session, particularly those addressing the links between science, policy, and financing for sustainable development and climate resilience.
139. The representative of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the co-hosting Parties, thanked all participants for their contributions and reaffirmed the importance of scientific cooperation, innovation, and regional partnerships in addressing climate change and global environmental challenges in the Americas and the Caribbean.
140. The representative of Colombia and Chair thanked the Government of Jamaica, the Directorate, and all participants for their contributions to the success of the meeting. He emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and the collective commitment demonstrated by Parties in advancing the mission of the Institute.
141. The Chair declared the thirty-fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties closed.
142. The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. Panama time, on 4 June 2026.

Section II: Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-fourth meeting.

Decisions of the 34th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research Videoconference 3-4 June 2026

Day 1 / Día 1

Report of the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Directed to Parties

XXXIV/1. The Conference of the Parties approves the Report of the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Core Budget

Directed to the Parties

XXXIV/2 The Conference of the Parties accepts and approves the core budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

Day 2 / Día 2

Strengthening participation and linkages

Directed to Parties

XXXIV/3. Parties are encouraged to strengthen their participation in the IAI including both focal points and the scientific community related to global change research.

Directed to the Directorate

XXXIV/4. The Directorate is advised to maintain strong linkages across the IAI network, including the scientific community, national focal points, working groups, and associates.

SAC composition

Directed to Parties

XXXIV/5. Parties accept the renewal of Laura Ramajo and Pedro Laterra for a second term in the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) both nominated by the Parties; and the proposed new SAC members nominated by the SAC itself: Shaneica Lester and Juan Camilo Cárdenas as standing members and Jeannette Ma. Arauz Muñoz as alternate member.

SPAC composition

XXXIV/6. Parties accept the renewal of Carlos Joly, Gilma Mantilla, Inty Arcos, for a second term in the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC).

XXXIV/7. Parties accept the renewal of IPAC members, for an additional year in the Committee.

Formal proposal to host the Amazon Institute of Technology (AMIT)

Directed to the Directorate

XXXIV/8. The Directorate is tasked with submitting a formal proposal to host the Amazon Institute of Technology (AMIT) to the Parties for revision, comments and evaluation at CoP-35.

Annex I

SPECIAL SESSION

Strengthening Regional Scientific Cooperation for Climate Knowledge Sovereignty and Resilience in the Americas and the Caribbean

2 June 2026, Thirty-Fourth Conference of the Parties (CoP-34) to the IAI

Introduction

The thematic session of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-34) of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) was co-organized by the Governments of Colombia and Jamaica through the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and The University of the West Indies (UWI), with contributions from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and other regional and international partners.

The session brought together representatives of governments, international organizations, development banks, universities, research institutions, and regional networks to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities for strengthening scientific cooperation, climate knowledge sovereignty, digital climate intelligence, and resilience-building across the Americas and the Caribbean.

Discussions explored how scientific collaboration, technological innovation, artificial intelligence, open data systems, and regional partnerships can support climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, and evidence-informed decision-making, with particular attention given to the role of regional institutions in fostering cooperation, strengthening climate services, and connecting scientific knowledge with policy and financing mechanisms.

Summary of Presentations and Discussions

Speakers emphasized that climate risks are becoming increasingly systemic, interconnected, and transboundary, requiring responses that extend beyond national approaches and strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms. Participants highlighted the need to move from fragmented climate information systems toward integrated regional climate intelligence frameworks capable of supporting anticipatory action, resilience planning, and long-term development strategies. Several speakers noted that climate resilience increasingly depends on the capacity of countries and institutions to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to complex and cascading risks.

Several presentations focused on the concept of climate knowledge sovereignty, underscoring the importance of strengthening regional scientific capacities, data infrastructures, and collaborative research networks. Speakers noted that knowledge sovereignty should not be understood as isolation from international cooperation, but rather as the collective capacity of countries and institutions to generate, access, interpret, and apply scientific knowledge relevant to regional priorities.

The session highlighted the growing role of digital technologies, Earth observation systems, and artificial intelligence in climate monitoring, forecasting, and risk management. Presenters discussed opportunities to improve climate services through the integration of satellite observations, predictive analytics, machine learning tools, and interoperable data platforms. At the same time, participants stressed that artificial intelligence should complement, rather than replace, human expertise and decision-making processes.

Discussions also underscored the importance of ensuring that digital tools and climate information systems are co-designed with policymakers, practitioners, and local communities to ensure their usability, accessibility, and relevance for decision-making. Participants emphasized the need to bridge the gap between information generation and practical action by strengthening science-policy interfaces and investing in user-centered climate services.

Speakers highlighted the importance of regional and interregional cooperation as a means of accelerating learning, sharing good practices, and strengthening collective responses to climate risks. Particular attention was given to the value of harmonized indicators, shared data infrastructures, collaborative research initiatives, and structured policy dialogues among countries and institutions.

The role of scientific diasporas in international scientific cooperation was also discussed. Participants emphasized that scientists working abroad can serve as important bridges between scientific communities, institutions, and knowledge systems. It was noted that greater efforts are needed to understand the impacts of diaspora engagement and to incorporate scientific diasporas into long-term regional strategies for scientific cooperation, capacity development, and knowledge resilience.

Representatives of regional development institutions highlighted the importance of strengthening links between scientific knowledge and financing mechanisms. Discussions emphasized that scientific cooperation should increasingly support the development of concrete projects, including climate-resilient infrastructure, monitoring systems, knowledge products, and decision-support tools. Participants noted that effective collaboration between the scientific community, governments, and financing institutions is essential to translating knowledge into measurable development outcomes.

Throughout the session, speakers reaffirmed the importance of strengthening regional institutions, investing in scientific capacity development, expanding access to climate information, and fostering long-term partnerships capable of supporting resilience and sustainable development across the Americas and the Caribbean.

Key Messages

The discussions highlighted the following key messages:

Climate Knowledge Sovereignty and Regional Cooperation

- Regional scientific cooperation is essential for strengthening climate knowledge sovereignty, enhancing resilience, and addressing transboundary climate challenges.
- Climate knowledge sovereignty depends on strong regional scientific capacities, open access to information, collaborative research networks, and the ability of countries and institutions to generate, interpret, and apply knowledge relevant to regional priorities.

Climate Risk and Resilience

- Climate risks are increasingly systemic, cascading, and transboundary in nature. Extreme events affect interconnected sectors and systems simultaneously, including water resources, energy, health, infrastructure, food security, and livelihoods. Addressing these challenges requires integrated risk assessment, interdisciplinary research, and coordinated regional responses.
- Continued investment in scientific capacity building, climate services, and science-policy interfaces is essential for strengthening resilience and supporting evidence-informed decision-making.

Climate Intelligence and Digital Innovation

- Climate resilience depends on the ability to transform climate data into actionable climate intelligence capable of supporting timely and effective decisions.
- Strengthening interoperable climate data systems, shared analytical frameworks, regional knowledge platforms, and early warning systems is critical for advancing climate services and resilience planning.
- Artificial intelligence and digital technologies should augment human capabilities, improve coordination, and support preparedness, forecasting, and decision-making processes.
- Climate information systems and digital tools should be co-designed with policymakers, practitioners, and communities to ensure their accessibility, usability, and relevance for decision-making.

Governance and Institutional Coordination

- Many of the challenges associated with climate resilience are no longer primarily technological, but institutional and governance-related. Strengthening cooperation requires improved interoperability among institutions, harmonized standards, effective coordination mechanisms, and greater capacity to integrate scientific information into policy and operational processes.

Scientific Networks and Partnerships

- Scientific diasporas represent valuable assets for international scientific cooperation and should be incorporated into long-term regional strategies for knowledge generation, capacity development, innovation, and resilience.
- Stronger partnerships among governments, scientific institutions, development banks, regional organizations, and international partners are necessary to mobilize financing and resources, strengthen long-term cooperation, and implement concrete actions that support climate resilience and sustainable development.

Concluding Message

The thematic session reaffirmed the importance of regional scientific cooperation as a foundation for climate knowledge sovereignty, resilience-building, and evidence-informed decision-making, while highlighting new opportunities to strengthen collaboration across sectors, institutions, and regions.

Annex II

34th Meeting to the Conference of the Parties Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research

3-4 June 2026, virtual.

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