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

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

This document was prepared by the Directorate.

Introduction

The summary below describes the main achievements of the Directorate from 1 June 2025 to date, highlighting the effective initiation of the implementation of decisions directed to the Directorate adopted at the 33rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the continuation of ongoing projects and activities.

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 and 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 its Science Program, the Directorate is co-organizing with UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program, the III Mangroves of the Americas Congress to take place from 20th to 23rd July in Panama. The congress is a leading regional platform for knowledge exchange, connecting science, communities and solutions and is expected to convene approximately 400 participants.
- 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.
- The IAI Directorate partnered with the WMO Regional Office for the Americas, the Research Center for Global Change (CICAG) of the National University of Asunción, the National Council of Science and Technology of Paraguay (CONACYT), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to co-organize a thematic side event on 28 May 2025, on the margins of IAI CoP-33 in Asunción, Paraguay, titled *Droughts in the Americas: Regional Priorities, Early Warning Systems, and Sustainable Development*. The event convened experts, decision-makers, funders, private sector

representatives, and civil society to identify challenges and opportunities for drought early warning systems, exchange best practices, and advance regional collaboration on climate resilience and implementation of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative. Discussions and recommendations generated through the event informed a decision adopted by CoP-33 to strengthen regional cooperation on drought risk management, science diplomacy, and climate governance.

- On 3 July 2025, the WMO, the IAI Directorate, 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 titled “Regional Workshop: Translating advances in ENSO research to operations in Latin America and the Caribbean” 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, in early December 2025.
- The WMO is contributing to the thematic event for IAI CoP-34 hosted by the Governments of Colombia and Jamaica, to be held on 2 June 2026, titled *Strengthening Regional Scientific Cooperation for Climate Knowledge Sovereignty and Resilience in the Americas and the Caribbean*. The virtual event will convene representatives of IAI member countries, scientific institutions, regional organizations, and policy stakeholders to explore strategic approaches to strengthening regional scientific cooperation, including shared digital climate information infrastructures, climate risk intelligence, and sustainable pathways for research collaboration and financing. Discussions will advance dialogue on science-policy interfaces, regional governance mechanisms, and collaborative tools to support climate resilience and scientific autonomy in the Americas and the Caribbean.

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.

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 concluded in February 2026. As part of their final reports, project teams wrote 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 by the national representatives 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 participated at the CONECTATE A + in person assembly held in Lima Peru from 1 to 5 July 2025. The meeting aimed to improve integration within the network and with other networks focused on the Andes and climate change. For these events, one representative from each country that is part of the network (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, among others) participated, as well as representatives from other networks (AccelNET), local and regional level decision-makers were also involved to improve science-policy dialogue.
- 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.
- The IAI TD Academy hosted a webinar to disseminate the course *Advances in Transdisciplinary Research in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Held on 12 July 2025, the webinar welcomed Lily House-Peters, Gabriela Alonso Yanez, Cristina Adams, and Basirat Oyalowo. Speakers presented the structure of the course, its potential applications, and highlighted the specificities of a transdisciplinary course grounded in experiences from the Global South.
- The IAI TD Academy also hosted a workshop aimed at building a community of practice in transdisciplinary coordination and expanding the use of the online self-paced curriculum. The closed-door, invite-only workshop brought together key partners, including funding agencies, academic coordinators, and international organizations invested in training for and financing transdisciplinary science. The workshop sought to connect peers and institutions advancing TD practice in diverse settings and collaboratively explore pathways to expand the curriculum’s reach and impact.

- The IAI TD Academy produced and launched the report *Transdisciplinary Coordination: Building Bridges for the Future of Knowledge Co-Production*, in partnership with the Belmont Forum, Global Development Network, and Inclusive Innovation. The report outlines three core goals to strengthen transdisciplinary coordination, all critical for impactful and collaborative research:
 - **Shift Culture:** Transform how science is conducted and perceived to support meaningful change. Actions include strengthening TD communities, promoting multicultural and multilingual practice, empowering communities as changemakers, and sharing success stories.
 - **Transform Funding:** Increase democratic engagement and align research with pressing societal challenges by diversifying, improving, and expanding funding for TD research. Actions include engaging funders, updating monitoring and evaluation frameworks, extending research and reporting guidelines, exploring new funding mechanisms, and strengthening program management.
 - **Build Capacity:** Develop specialized skills essential for TD research, including facilitation, communication, and impact-oriented practice. Actions include training for impact, developing facilitation skills, promoting practice exchange, embracing open science, fostering communication, and preparing for conflict.

Building on this report, the IAI TD Academy developed an internal strategic plan that has guided activities and planning during the last intersessional period and may inform future planning processes.

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 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 Repository 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.
- Two one-hour Open Science training sessions were organized for all funded teams to strengthen data sharing through the IAI Harvard Dataverse and dissemination of publications through the IAI repository.
- The Directorate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with La Referencia, the regional open access repository for Latin America and the Caribbean, as reported elsewhere in this document under new partnerships. The key activity under this MoU has been completed: the integration of more than 600 IAI scientific articles and reports into the Ecosistemas repository of SENACYT, Panama’s node of La Referencia, enabling their harvesting and dissemination through the regional repository.

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 were implemented in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.
- 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 concluded in February 2026.
- The Science team collaborated with the Communications team to develop project briefs for dissemination and a Webinar Series 2026: Climate, Environment and Health for the Americas.
- On 14 May 2026, the official launch of the first SG-CEH project briefs, providing actionable insights to inform policy and practice across the region, will take place during the webinar Climate-Sensitive Infectious Diseases: Dengue, Water, and Environmental Risk, part of the Webinar Series 2026.
- An integrated summary of the SG-CEH process and transdisciplinary (TD) approaches is being developed to synthesize key outcomes, highlight lessons learned, and support broader dissemination of knowledge and applications for science-policy engagement.
- 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 hosted a series of three online events to strengthen project engagement and foster a community of practice. The engagement plan pursued three key objectives: (1) mentoring on the application of transdisciplinary approaches, open data, and EDI considerations; (2) promoting network-building and peer-to-peer learning; and (3) testing tools for disseminating results aligned with project objectives. Training for participating teams covered Equity, Diversity

and Inclusion (EDI) considerations, tools for knowledge sharing, open data and open science, and communication strategies for broader audiences.

- 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 former IAI Executive Director served 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, in 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 Directorate 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 Directorate organized 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 took place at FIOCRUZ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 17 to 20 November 2025. It was conducted in English and was fully supported through scholarships that cover travel, accommodation, and meals, thereby ensuring broad access to participants from across the region. This initiative was 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.
- The Directorate participated in the 5th Global Conference on Climate and Health, held 29–31 July 2025 at the Brazil International Convention Center (CICB) in Brasília. The Conference was hosted by the Ministry of Health of Brazil, in partnership with the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. The Conference featured a meeting of the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), focusing on advancing the action lines of the Belém Action Plan on Health and Climate. The event aimed to consolidate and share evidence on the implementation of health sector adaptation policies to climate change, while highlighting the health co-benefits of ambitious and equitable climate action at the international, national, and subnational levels.

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 co-developed 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 Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) as the implementing agency. Participating countries include Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Panamá, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. The PRODOC was 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 co-developed 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 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 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 is an active participant in the Diálogos Mutis de Biodiversidad, an annual international conference convened by CAF that brings together scientists, policymakers, and private sector leaders to advance biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and restoration in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain.
- As a result of the Directorate’s participation in the Mutis Dialogues, the IAI has entered into a Technical Cooperation Agreement with CAF to support the establishment and

operation of a Scientific Advisory Committee, providing scientific and technical expertise to inform CAF's biodiversity-related initiatives.

- 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 will participate in the Workshop on Invasive Alien Species for Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity in Panama City from 5 to 7 May 2026. The workshop aims to support Parties in implementing Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on invasive alien species, provide an overview of available tools and guidance, and identify the capacities and needs of Parties in the region related to implementation of Target 6.
- The Directorate was also invited by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to take part in the peer review process for developing unified indicators on biodiversity and health, following the adoption of a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health at COP 16. The Plan adopts a "One Health" approach linking ecosystem, animal, and human health, using integrated metrics to track progress under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- 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 registered the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC), the implementation of the IAI Gender and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Policy 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 Central American Higher Education Council (CSUCA), part of the Central American Integration System, through the program *Strengthening Inclusive Science and Innovation Systems in Latin America through a Collaborative Research Network*. Funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre, the initiative seeks to strengthen scientific exchange and collaboration across Central America and generate viable solutions to the region's most pressing challenges, particularly those affecting 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 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), 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 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, an MoU between the IAI and the UNCCD Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama, is currently underway.
 - The IAI, the UNCCD, the WMO and Paraguay, co-hosted a thematic side event on 28 May 2025, on the margins of CoP-33 in Asunción, Paraguay, titled *Droughts in the Americas: Regional Priorities, Early Warning Systems, and Sustainable Development*. Further details on the event and its outcomes are provided above in this report, under Decision XXXIII/11.
 - The UNCCD LAC Office also collaborated 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 session on science diplomacy for its delegates from LAC (see under Science Diplomacy Center).

- 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, however, participation did not take place due to budgetary constraints.
- 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, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 29 to 31 July 2025, and hosted by the Government of Brazil, WHO, and PAHO. This meeting contributed to the Belém Health Action Plan, in anticipation of 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

- The Directorate has advanced an active and diversified fundraising effort aimed at ensuring the sustainability and expansion of its programs, while benefiting IAI Parties by promoting funding opportunities, knowledge generation, technology transfer, and the strengthening of professional and institutional capacities. This effort combines the design of innovative multilateral proposals, bilateral partnerships, and co-financing mechanisms aligned with regional and global priorities in biodiversity, climate, bioeconomy, water, health, energy, environmental governance, emerging technologies, and capacity building, while reinforcing the Science Diplomacy Center's (SDC) role at the science-policy interface.
- At the time of writing this report, the Directorate is working on a science diplomacy initiative, having assembled a consortium of 8 institutions from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, and Jamaica on a proposal to be submitted to Wellcome Trust entitled "CATALYST AI Hub: Empowering Policy through AI-Assisted Evidence Infrastructure in Climate, Health, and Food Systems". The consortium brings together expertise in AI, the climate-health-food systems nexus, evidence synthesis, financial mechanisms to develop a Latin American and Caribbean hub to support the generation of timely and policy-relevant knowledge for decision making. If funded at £1.9 million, this project will support IAI Parties with evidence synthesis and strengthen capacity building in science and policy for users of AI tools. This initiative also aims to provide funding and technology transfer to national STI institutions of IAI Parties, while promoting regional and global connectivity and collaboration.
- In February 2026, the SDC submitted a pre-proposal to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Government for EUR 15 million over eight years, focused on biodiversity and nature-based solutions to develop financial mechanisms in Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia, implemented through a consortium of six partners, including the FONPLATA development bank. The pre-proposal is under review by IKI.

- In March 2026, at the invitation of ENRICH in LAC and Brazil's Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), the Directorate, through its SDC, submitted a proposal to develop a series of science diplomacy activities at FIOCRUZ. The proposed activities include webinars, a three-day international workshop, stakeholder mapping, the development of strategic documents and a FIOCRUZ case study in science diplomacy, support for the development of project teams and outlines for international projects, and other key science diplomacy actions aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and advancing health diplomacy collaboration between FIOCRUZ-Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Europe. The proposal and associated budget are currently under review by FIOCRUZ and Brazil's Ministry of Health. If approved, the activities will be implemented in the second semester of 2026 and are expected to create additional opportunities for professionals from LAC to enhance collaboration in the field of health diplomacy.
- In parallel, another initiative is under conceptual development with the U.S. National Academies of Sciences (NAS) for a US foundation. This program includes support for IAI research networks, high-impact regional projects, and capacity building in science diplomacy and transdisciplinary research.
- By invitation from the British Embassy in Panama, the SDC has presented a concept note for thematic events, including Forja Labs, an initiative on entrepreneurship designed to address the SDGs through science diplomacy instruments co-designed with strategic partners in the US, such as NAS, ET Cube, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and UNESCO, with potential for commercialization of start-ups and regional replication.
- A proposal is currently under development to establish a Transboundary Science Diplomacy Program focused on the binational hydroelectric power plants of Itaipu (Brazil–Paraguay) and Yacyretá (Paraguay–Argentina). The program emphasizes key areas including energy governance, water resource management, responses to extreme hydrological events, biodiversity conservation and invasive species management, capacity building, local community engagement, and science–policy dialogue in translational areas. The proposal outline has been presented to technical professionals from both Yacyretá and Itaipu to gather initial feedback and support. This initiative emerged as a key recommendation of the Science Diplomacy Workshop held in Paraguay in May 2025. It has the potential to engage technical and managerial representatives from other hydroelectric dams across the Americas that face similar transboundary challenges and share common interests.
- The following activities are presented in chronological order, starting with the most recent, to illustrate the contribution and participation of the IAI SDC in various events:
 - The Directorate, through its SDC, was invited to deliver a presentation on Science Diplomacy to delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the UNCCD training “How to Navigate the Legal Structures of COPs: Capacity Building on Negotiation and Environmental Diplomacy,” held on 24–25 April 2026 in Panama. Seventeen country delegations participated in the session. Several delegations expressed interest in science diplomacy training and recommended that the UNCCD regional office consider this need.
 - In March 2026, the SDC supported the participation of representatives of the IAI Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC) in a Global Science Diplomacy and Indigenous Peoples network, strengthening links among Indigenous leadership, youth, and international climate actors. Through this engagement,

IPAC representatives participated in coordination meetings with the organizers of the Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change (GIYSCC) and the global and regional teams of the GIYSCC 2026 process, bringing Indigenous perspectives from the Americas into a global, youth-led dialogue and increasing regional representation in international climate governance and science diplomacy spaces.

- The project “Central American Policy on Open and Inclusive STI,” led by SENACYT Panama and funded by IDRC Canada, officially adopted the IAI science diplomacy curriculum. The project team and the SDC staff collaborated on two science diplomacy trainings at the request of the governments Dominican Republic and El Salvador, focused on the integration of science diplomacy into open STI processes. The process culminated on 2 February 2026 with the symposium “Open and Inclusive STI: Redefining the Production and Exchange of Knowledge for Sustainable Development” in Panama, which convened stakeholders from across the Central American Integration System (SICA) region and reinforced regional dialogue and policy articulation. Examples of media coverage are available at: [here](#) and [here](#).
- The First Regional Workshop on Science Diplomacy and Open, Inclusive Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) was co-organized by the IAI on 5–6 November 2025 in San Salvador, El Salvador. The workshop brought together policymakers, scientists, private sector actors, and representatives of international organizations to strengthen regional capacities in science diplomacy and promote open science as a tool for cooperation and sustainable development. The event was organized jointly with and funded by the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) of El Salvador, within the framework of the Central American Policy on Open and Inclusive STI project (Proyecto: Política Centroamericana para la CTI Abierta e Inclusiva), with support from Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC/CRDI) and with the Central American Integration System (SICA) as institutional host. Additional collaboration included SENACYT from Panama and Guatemala, MESCyT from the Dominican Republic, CeNAT from Costa Rica, CamBioTec, and Ciudad del Saber. The workshop helped consolidate the convergence of two strategic agendas in the region: science diplomacy as an infrastructure for cooperation, and open, inclusive STI as a pathway to democratize knowledge, strengthen transparency, and promote collaborative innovation. It also contributed to regional dialogue on scientific advice, evidence-informed decision-making, and transboundary scientific cooperation. An example of media coverage is available [here](#).
- At the request of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCyT) of the Dominican Republic, in its role as National Office for Science and Technology and Pro Tempore Presidency of the Commission for Scientific and Technological Development of Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (CTCAP), the SDC supported a strategic training process in science diplomacy on 4–5 February 2026. The training was explicitly designed to generate inputs for the formulation of the Dominican Republic’s Science Diplomacy Plan. The course-workshop on Science Diplomacy and Regional Integration brought together national and international stakeholders to strengthen regional integration, foster innovation, and promote evidence-informed public policy. Beyond the training itself, the collaboration included SDC support in structuring and

consolidating the national strategy, strengthening interinstitutional coordination, regional engagement, and the country's international positioning at the science–policy–cooperation interface. Samples of media impact are available [here](#).

- The Directorate organized a webinar on 2 December 2025 titled “New Approaches to Science Diplomacy: Strategies from the Global South,” which convened experts, policymakers, and institutional representatives from across the Americas and beyond. The webinar examined how science diplomacy can support public policy design, international cooperation, and the development of concrete responses to socio-environmental challenges. It also presented the curriculum and the open, free online course “Science Diplomacy and Global Environmental Change in the Americas,” developed by the IAI in collaboration with the University of São Paulo. The event featured brief presentations, a multi-stakeholder panel, and pre-recorded messages from high-level authorities from the Americas and Europe. The webinar became the most viewed video on the IAI YouTube channel in Spanish, reaching approximately 1,800 views, significantly expanding the visibility of the SDC’s training and outreach efforts and demonstrating strong regional interest in accessible capacity development in science diplomacy. The webinar and high-level video messages are available online.
- The Directorate, through its SDC, participated in the 68th meeting of the National Councils of State Research Foundations in Brazil – CONFAP (2–4 July 2025, São Paulo, Brazil), hosted by IAI associate FAPESP. The meeting addressed ways to promote international scientific cooperation, and the IAI was invited to contribute its regional experience in the Americas.
- The SDC collaborated with Brazil’s focal points at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) in the co-organization of a workshop on Science Diplomacy and Innovation (Brasilia, 5–7 August 2025). The event was attended by over 100 professionals, including directors and key government officials from Brazil’s STI ecosystem, directors of international cooperation from invited countries in LAC, and renowned international science diplomacy experts. The workshop was funded by the MCTI and served as a venue to discuss STI collaboration among countries in the Americas in preparation for UNFCCC COP30 held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. The workshop was held back-to-back with the 7th Edition of the São Paulo Innovation and Science Diplomacy School (InnSciD SP), held in São Paulo from 6 to 9 August 2025. Both events were coordinated in close collaboration, generating synergies and offering participants from several IAI Parties the opportunity to engage in both activities. An evaluation conducted after the workshop showed high positive feedback from government officials, with an average rating of 4.85 on a 1–5 scale. Some countries reported bilateral agreements that resulted from the workshop, including between Brazil and Peru, and Ecuador and Peru. 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.
- In collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), an IAI associate, the IAI SDC 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." Dr. 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, recognizing Panama's leadership in science diplomacy and its geographic and political connectivity across the Americas. The interview is available [here](#).

- The Directorate, through its SDC, was invited to serve as a speaker at the South American Meeting for the Andes Mountain Range 2025 (Tolima, Colombia, 23–24 October 2025). Within this framework, Andean subnational governments, in collaboration with the Andean Mountain Initiative (AMI), with the support of CAF, 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 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) to prepare the First Report on the Current State of the Cordillera, integrating scientific knowledge, local perspectives, and community participation.
- The Directorate was invited by the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI) to participate in the XII Ibero-American Congress on Science and Technology Indicators (RICYT), held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 25–26 November 2025. The Directorate contributed as a panelist in the session on Science Diplomacy, alongside other regional experts. In addition, at the invitation of the Uruguayan Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII), Uruguayan focal point to the IAI, and FAPESP, the Directorate attended the Global Research Council (GRC) Americas Meeting on 27–28 November 2025.
- Directorate staff also held meetings with senior officials from the Government of Uruguay, including the Minister of Defense and her team, to explore opportunities for collaboration at the intersection of science diplomacy and national defense. Further discussions were held with the President of the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA), who expressed interest in developing a cohort of STeP fellows to support evidence synthesis and science communication aimed at strengthening legislative decision-making processes in Uruguay.
- For 2026, the SDC has received formal requests for collaboration from IAI Parties and focal points, as well as international partners, reflecting growing interest in science diplomacy and recognition of the IAI SDC as a strategic regional partner in science diplomacy capacity building. These requests range from introductory workshops to specialized multi-day activities, services, and support for the development of national and sectoral science diplomacy strategies. They include the official use of the IAI science diplomacy curriculum and regional workshops for Central America and the Dominican Republic; support for the Dominican Republic's national strategy development process; an inter-institutional introductory workshop requested by Peru through its National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CONCYTEC), its National Meteorology and Hydrology Service (SENAMHI), and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a national introductory

workshop in Guatemala for its National Secretariat for Science and Technology (SENACYT) and its Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN); an international three-day workshop on Brazil–Europe cooperation with Fiocruz, Brazil's Ministry of Health, and the European Network of Research and Innovation Centres and Hubs (ENRICH) in LAC; the development of a strategic alliance with UNCCD on science diplomacy for desertification governance; and dialogue with the Government of Uruguay for collaboration in science diplomacy on defense, national security, and international scientific cooperation. Together, these requests demonstrate strong and growing regional demand for the SDC's expertise, curriculum, and institutional support.

- The SDC is collaborating with its focal points in Guatemala and Peru to develop and implement science diplomacy training activities tailored to national priorities. These events will address key themes related to global change and regional collaboration and are scheduled to take place during the second semester of 2026.
- The SDC has been invited to participate in international events and deliver talks that expand its visibility. The SDC was invited to give the keynote talk at the international event “Voices from Latin American Science,” to be held on 6 May 2026 in Brazil and organized and funded by Albert Einstein Hospital, a private institution in São Paulo ranked among the leading hospitals in Brazil and Latin America and among the top 22 hospitals in the world by Newsweek in 2026. Einstein Hospital co-funded the São Paulo School of Science Diplomacy in August 2025 and is interested in supporting health diplomacy and international scientific collaborations.
- Additionally, the SDC has been invited to develop a training session on Science Diplomacy for the graduate-level course Advanced Topics in Environment and Society for PhD and master's students at the State University of São Paulo (UNICAMP) on 1 September 2026. The course is part of UNICAMP's graduate internationalization initiative. Similarly, the SDC will participate in the kick-off meeting of the IBRO-PEDECIBA-UNESCO School on Science Diplomacy, Neuroscience, Technology, and Society (Montevideo, Uruguay, 27–29 August 2026), as well as in the course to be held on 7–18 December 2026.
- In March 2026, the SDC contributed as a speaker at the State University of Santa Catarina (UDESC) in Brazil with the lecture “Global Challenges and Science Diplomacy in the Americas.” Similar to UNICAMP, UDESC is also interested in fostering internationalization strategies.
- In September 2025, the SDC was also invited to participate in a webinar on Science Diplomacy held in honor of Costa Rica's Ambassador Carmen Claramunt, a member of the SDC's Advisory Board. The webinar was organized by Costa Rica's National Council of University Presidents (CONARE), representing the five main public universities in the country, and the National Center for High Technology (CeNAT), which plans, coordinates, and funds higher education initiatives and fosters scientific research and technological innovation. CONARE and CeNAT are currently discussing collaboration in science diplomacy and the possible signing of an MoU with the IAI.
- With external financial resources, SDC fellows participated in high-level international events such as GESDA in Switzerland, the BRICS Young Scientist Forum in Brazil, the Second EU Science Diplomacy Conference in Denmark, Science House of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, and UNESCO's International Day of Women in Science in Paris, among others. These

engagements have contributed to strengthening the SDC's international profile, expanding strategic networks, and showcasing perspectives from the Americas in global science diplomacy discussions.

- The IAI's Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program updates are:
 - Following completion of a four-year pilot phase, the IAI Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program has supported 90 fellows representing 27 nationalities and 55 disciplinary areas, with participation across 16 countries (Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and the United States).
 - The program has transitioned to a thematic focus aligned with priority areas identified by IAI Parties, program partners, and funders. The fifth cohort (2025–2026), which commenced in November 2025, focuses on Biodiversity and Bioeconomy and involves host institutions in four countries: Argentina (CREA and CONICET), Colombia (Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute), Ecuador (National Biodiversity Institute), and Panama (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, with regional collaboration through the Tropical Eastern Pacific Marine Corridor). Professional development activities for the current cohort include 14 synchronous sessions (28 hours) delivered through November 2026, complemented by an asynchronous virtual course in Science Diplomacy (20 hours). Fellows are implementing institution-embedded work plans that support science–policy integration through technical contributions in areas including bioeconomy value chains, ecosystem services and natural capital accounting, biodiversity monitoring and management, applied geospatial analysis, and regional governance cooperation.
- The IAI SDC and the Transdisciplinary Academy, in collaboration with the EPIC Network, are implementing the project “Catalyzing Unconventional Collaborations in the Global South for Urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA).” The \$249,512 project is funded by the Global EbA Fund, with support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), and is co-administered by IUCN. Through this initiative, the IAI provides financial and technical support to five implementation projects in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico (two projects), and Panama. The projects apply transdisciplinary approaches and the EPIC university–community partnership model to address priority barriers to urban EbA, including financing constraints, governance challenges, and limitations in the generation and application of actionable knowledge. The project has been granted a no-cost extension through January 2027 to enable the completion of planned activities and the consolidation of results. Details on project implementation, including the dates of delivered workshops, are provided below.
 - Colombia – Medellín / La Estrella Project SERES Project: Sustainability and Ecology for the Restoration of Social Ecosystems, implemented by Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana. Grant amount: \$32,500. The in-person workshop was held from 24 to 27 January 2026. Project implementation is progressing as planned and remains slightly ahead of schedule.
 - Argentina – Junín, Buenos Aires Project CheCiencia: Sustainable management of natural environments by a Mapuche community in the face of climate change impacts, implemented by Universidad de Buenos Aires. Grant amount: \$32,500. The in-person workshop is planned for 28–30 May 2026 (date to be confirmed). Implementation has experienced delays due to national-level institutional

challenges and macroeconomic constraints, including labor actions and currency volatility.

- Mexico – Tijuana Projects: Two implementation projects are being carried out in Tijuana, Mexico: a) Cañón Los Laureles: Promoting community resilience and restoring biodiversity, implemented by Universidad Iberoamericana (IBERO). Grant amount: \$20,000, and b) Ecosystem-based adaptation in the Tijuana River Basin, with a focus on recycling construction waste and glass, implemented by Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC). Grant amount: \$32,500. The original in-person workshop was scheduled for 24–28 February 2026. However, due to deteriorating local security conditions, in-person activities could not proceed as planned. The projects were successfully adapted to a virtual format, and the workshop was delivered from 11 to 13 March 2026.
- Panama – Chitré Project Territorial Planning and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation of Wetlands in the City of Chitré, Bahía de Parita, Panama, implemented by CATHALAC. Grant amount: \$32,500. The in-person workshop was conducted from 15 to 18 April 2026. Project activities are being implemented as planned.

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 an MoU 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 developing a digital infrastructure to aggregate IAI-funded publications into 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 Directorate signed an MoU with the Consejo Superior Universitario Centroamericano (CSUCA), a dependency of the Sistema de Integración Centroamericana (SICA), to foster regional capacity building on climate change and sustainable development.
- 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. More than 40 funders from foundations, corporations, national governments, and investor organizations 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 began working in 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", was 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 signed an MoU in December 2025 and have initiated collaboration on two science diplomacy project proposals.

Communications, website and virtual Campus

- The Directorate launched a new self-managed, free and certificate-based course: "Satellite Data to Monitor Regional Environmental Change", in partnership with National Geographic, in March 2026. The content was developed by Liza Goldberg, a NASA Goddard researcher and global leader in initiatives that integrate satellite science, education, and climate action. The course is offered in English and Spanish, with a first cohort of 420 students.
- The Directorate held a 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, on 3 December 2025. More than 1,000 people registered and more than 550 people attended the live event. A recording is available on the IAI's YouTube channel.
- The social media and mailing strategy has continued to expand the IAI's audience, reaching 6,481 active email accounts and more than 20,000 followers on LinkedIn, Facebook, X, and Instagram in April 2026.
- The Directorate launched the new IAI website in early November 2025. The new website has three searchable databases: 1) thematic experts available for consultation; 2) STeP fellows (alumni and current); and 3) scientific publications funded by the IAI.
- The Directorate launched the virtual course entitled "A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Future of the Oceans", developed in collaboration with the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR2) based in Chile and the Belmont Forum, with more than 500 registered students. The course is offered in Spanish and English, free of charge, through 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 Directorate has supported El Salvador throughout its process of accession to the IAI Agreement through virtual and in-person meetings. The Directorate began 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 accession to the IAI. In May 2025, the Vice Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology presented the accession request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs subsequently forwarded 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 accession instrument with the OAS to conclude the process.

Conclusions

- This report does not purport to provide a complete summary of the activities undertaken by the IAI Directorate. Updates on activities not included in this report will be provided to Parties on an ongoing basis during the 2025–2026 intersessional period and at the 34th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendation

- The Conference of the Parties is invited to assess and provide feedback on the work of the Directorate, take note of outstanding issues, and offer guidance on science and science diplomacy proposal.